

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Summer 2025



#### St. Brigid School - A Foundation for Life

For several years, going to Merrill Auditorium for their Cheverus High School graduation ceremony, St. Brigid School alumni have returned to take a picture together at the place where many began their educational journey.

Some groups gathered on the steps of the church, but in more recent years, the alumni have gathered in front of the sign at St. Brigid School.

They come to pay homage to the place that helped form them during some of the most important years of their lives.

While at St. Brigid, they grew together in faith, they learned important life skills, and they realized the value of having a supportive, loving community of people in their lives.

This year, on June 2, a few students began trickling into the schoolyard.

Thanks to the efforts of Lucy Johnson, twenty-two of our former St. Brigid School students came back for one more photo together!

To see how connected they remained in the commonality of their roots was truly beautiful!

It was a privilege to see how they have grown, how much light they have within themselves, and to witness the promise of another group of young people embarking on the next chapter of their lives.

To these, and all St. Brigid School graduates, know you will always be welcomed here.

Please keep in touch and stop by to see us in the future.

# In this newsletter you can expect:

Development Update

In Memory of Mrs. Caiola

Recap of 2024-2025 in Pictures

End of Year Letter from Principal Burke

Thank you to our sponsor: Portland North Dental



## **Development Update**







Online Auction and Celebration

The Online Auction and Kentucky Derby Themed Spring Celebration raised \$80,950.68! Next year's Online Auction is April 1-10, and the Celebration is April 11, 2026. Save the Date!

The proceeds from this year's paddle raise allowed us to purchase:

- A new public address system for the main building, The Father Hayes building, and the school yard.
- New water fountains for the gym and lobby of the Father Hayes Building.
- A new oven and freezer for the \$20,000 upgrade to our kitchen.
- A utility sink for the hallway of the first floor wing.





Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a day to give, collaborate, and show generosity.

At St. Brigid School, we teach our students to be generous. We are grateful for those who give to us. With your support, we raised \$2,700 on Giving Tuesday 2024!
This year Giving Tuesday is December 2, 2025.
Where will you show your generosity?



Walk-A-Thon

Students love doing their part! This year they walked for a cause and had so much fun raising \$26,148 for their school.

The school spirit was alive with music, laughter, and healthy competition. We look forward to doing this again. Getting fit while giving back to the community with friends has made this a favorite fundraiser for students.



This year's Annual Appeal invited constituents to "Be Part of Something Special".

This school is truly something special, from the teachers, staff, parents, grandparents, friends, parishioners, and like-minded supporters. St. Brigid is special because we believe in the value of faith, education, and community.

Thank you for helping us raise \$83,721.68 in this year's appeal.



Harvest Fair

The Harvest was a huge success! This event raised \$25,421 through sponsors and the events and activities.

Planning is underway for this year's event. Mark your calendar for October 18, 2025. To learn about sponsor opportunities, contact Brooke Reid, Director of Development. brooke.reid@portlanddiocese. org or 207-797-7073

#### Remembering Mrs. Caiola

Mrs. Jaqueline "Jackie" Caiola, beloved Physical Education teacher, passed away on May 26, 2025. She is remembered fondly by generations of the St. Brigid School community for her kindness, faith, and the joy she brought to her classes and everyone she encountered.

Mrs. Caiola taught at St. Joseph's School and as a young teacher, she brought skills, fun, faith and love to her classes. Whether it was training for the Presidential Fitness Test, teaching basketball skills, or square dancing, disco dancing and how to do the Hustle, no one was allowed to sit out. She encouraged even the shyest participants to do their very best.

In 2007, the very last St. Joseph's School yearbook was dedicated to Mrs. Caiola. dedication described her well. We were blessed to have her continue on as the Phys. Ed. teacher at St. Brigid School. She received another honor in 2014 when the yearbook was dedicated to her again. Mrs. Caiola retired from St. Brigid School in 2016. She was always dedicated to her craft, to her students, colleagues, friends, and the mission of the school.

We are grateful to the Caiola family for designating donations to St. Brigid School in Mrs. Caiola's memory.





# Thank You for Your Gift in Memory of Mrs. Caiola\*

Susan Larrabee
Margaret & Paul
Sylvester
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Sherry Chase
Philip Tinkham
Gary & Betsy Winship
Jim & Marti McCarthy
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Stuart & Sylvia Infantine

\*Donations received to date

Cheryl White Lorraine (Rizzo) & Bruce Hirdler Kenneth Kunin

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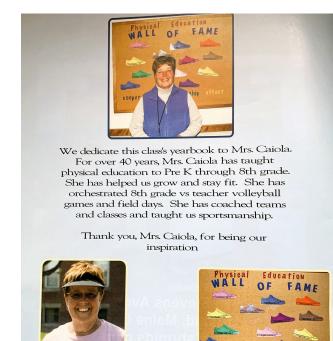
#### Dedication

It is with great pleasure that we, the Yearbook Staff, dedicate the 2007 St. Joseph's Parish School Yearbook to an individual who helps keep our school in "great shape". This individual is always ready to encourage us in whatever areas we are pursuing. Whether it is assisting a teacher on a field trip, giving a student a friendly "Hi" in the hallway, attending our sporting events, or just checking to see how we are doing, she is always there for us.



For many years she coached various levels of basketball, teaching not only skills but also the importance of good sportsmanship. She has supported the Jump Rope for Heart program to encourage us to remain active. She initiated our annual Field Day, which began in the St. Joseph's school yard. Now this is an annual event that involves every student and culminates our school year. For 31 years, she has been contributing positive elements to St. Joseph's Parish School.

For her high spirits, for her cheery attitude, for her ability to make our journey more enjoyable, we dedicate the 2007 St. Joseph's Parish School yearbook to Mrs. Jackie Caiola.





## Highlights of the 2024-2025 School Year





























St. Brigid School





Mr. Burke's End of the Year Wrap Up - Looking Forward to the 2025-2026 School Year

Dear Friends of St. Brigid School,

The summer months mark both an ending and a new beginning—a time to reflect on the past year and to envision what God has in store for us in the coming year.

Our Newsletter offers us the opportunity to express our gratitude to the teachers, staff, and students who have dedicated years to teaching, supporting, and learning in our classrooms. It allows us to look back at the recent academic year through photos that showcase our mission: to educate the whole child within a Catholic community, providing them with a strong foundation for life. Additionally, we celebrate our planned growth, including school-based faith formation and expanding athletic and extracurricular opportunities, which enrich the experiences of both students and their families.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to our success by sharing your children, time, talent, and resources. Our school continues to thrive, thanks to the generosity and dedication of people like you, who share in our vision and mission to form children with the ability to live a life guided by the gospel message of Jesus. I am grateful for your continued support of our school as we look towards 2025-2026 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Bill Burke Principal





These beautiful children are the reason your support means so much to us!

We are grateful to you for helping us exceed our goal by raising \$83,721.68 in the 2024-2025 campaign! The goal for the 2025-2026 Annual Appeal is \$135,000.

Please consider investing in our students' future by donating to the Annual Appeal.

Scan this QR code to make a tax-deductible donation today.



If you would like to learn about other ways to give, contact Brooke Reid, Director of Development at brooke.reid@portlanddiocese.org or call 207-797-7073





### Dr. Chris"Topher" Pochebit

2004 graduate of St. Brigid and 2008 graduate of Cheverus. Graduated dental school at UNE. Dr. Pochebit is a family dentist and finds joy in all aspects of dentistry. With a gentle approach and a commitment to patient Cosmetic Dental comfort, Dr. P has built a reputation for making dental visits a positive experience. Outside of his professional life, Dr. Pochebit is a devoted family man. He is married to his wonderful wife, Brittany, and together they have three sons: Daniel, Zachary, and Ryan. Dr. P enjoys spending quality time with his family on Little Sebago along with their yellow lab, Franklin. He is an avid golfer and hockey player and is currently the team dentist for the Maine Mariners hockey team.



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