



# The Bulldog Bugle



Volume 1, Issue 3

December 13, 2011

## Letter from the Editor

Hello fellow students, staff and parents of St. Brigid School. Happy Holidays! Please remember that the winter weather will soon be upon us, so it would be in everyone's best interest to dress warm. Our student council will be starting again soon, so if you have any ideas that will help make this school year better in anyway, please share them with us.

Our annual Holly Jolly Store was open on December 9, and was a huge success. Many members of our community took part in purchasing gifts for their loved ones for the holidays. We are thankful that the

proceeds will be going directly back into the school.

The Bulldog Bugle is accepting new staff from students in grades 6-8, so if you are in any way interested, talk to our moderators, Mr. Douglas and Mr. Donahue, or find a member of our editorial staff: Seyenah Lopez, Kaitlin McGuire, Lina O'Neill, or myself.

The first marking period has recently ended, so let's make the second period even better. Also, middle school parents and students will now have access to grades, homework assignments and other resources online. Parents or guardians will receive a password to log in to view



their child's grades.

Christmas is coming soon, so let's remember to give presents to others, write letters to Santa, hang up our decorations, sing Christmas carols, and most importantly, enjoy the holiday season!

Elhan Mohamood



### December

- 19: PreK3 & 4 Christmas Concert, 9:30am
- 21: K-8 Christmas Concert, 6:30pm
- 23: 11:45 Dismissal  
NO AFTER CARE
- 24-Jan.2: Christmas Recess  
NO SCHOOL

Please check out our school website for any schedule changes:

[saintbrigidsschool.org](http://saintbrigidsschool.org)

### Christmas Fun Fact

1.76 billion Candy canes are made during the Christmas season.



### The Bulldog Bugle Staff

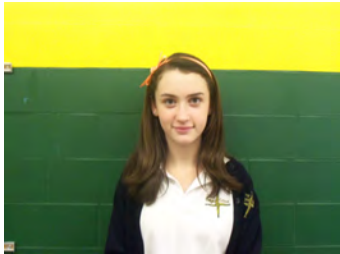
Editor-in-Chief	Kaitlin McGuire, 8
Assistant Editor, Sports	Lina O'Neill, 8
Assistant Editor, Features	Seyenah Lopez, 8
Assistant Editor, Photos	Elhan Mohamood, 8
Moderators	Mr. Patrick Douglas Mr. Blair Donahue

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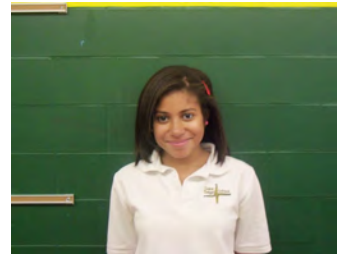
# THE BULLDOG BUGLE STAFF



Kaitlin McGuire  
Editor-in-Chief



Lina O'Neil  
Asst. Editor, Sports



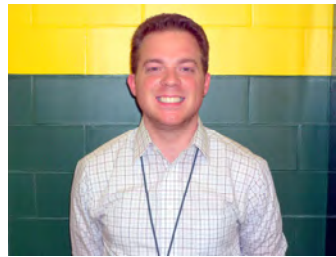
Seyenah Lopez  
Asst. Editor, Features



Elhan Mohamood  
Asst. Editor, Photos



Mr. Patrick Douglas  
Moderator



Mr. Blair Donahue  
Moderator

## Additional staff coming soon...



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



3	Nichelle Miller	3rd
5	Cynthia Ortiz	K
5	Taylor Battle	7th
6	Declan Corradino	K
8	Virginia DeFrances	5th
9	Giada Arigno	K

# December



11	Catherine Pettit	7th
14	Isabella Lugo	PK4
16	Olivia Craig	7th
16	Sadie Chasse	8th
21	Byron Jones	8th
28	Mrs. Christine Pettit	

# From the Principal's Desk...



December 13, 2011

Dear Parents,

As we reflect upon this past year and all its natural hardships, we find it so important for our students to take time and reflect on the gifts that life presents them. Advent is a time for all of us of all faiths to reflect, prepare, and practice our family traditions. No matter your faith, we need to keep those who may be going through difficult times in our prayers and hearts. We need for our children to give of themselves in small ways.

We will be focusing primarily

on Advent during this time. Our students will be given lessons on what Advent is and the Catholic traditions that come with it. We pray with our Advent wreath each morning. It is a spiritual season of preparation before Christmas celebrated by many Christians.

The Advent wreath has four candles. Three are purple signifying the color of royalty, demonstrating the anticipation and reception of the coming King. The pink candle signifies the joy or rejoicing and reveals the shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration.

We as a school will be celebrating Advent by doing for others. We will be baking cookies for parishioners, shut-ins, and a convalescent home down the road. Our students will participate in the baking of the cookies, packaging of them and delivering them. We would like as many students to participate on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>,

as possible. A sign-up sheet is going home for St. Helena and St. Brigid morning Mass. We will hand out cookies to parishioners at the end of both Masses. Our students will attend Mass in uniform. It is important to remember our parishioners who donate to the school on a regular basis both monetarily and the gift of time. We hope that all our families enjoy the holidays to the fullest and relax over the vacation.

Merry Christmas to you and yours from all of us here at Saint Brigid School!

Graciously Yours,  
Pamela Belury & Staff



As many of our students who have eyeglasses prescribed are not wearing them, we will begin a campaign to encourage eyeglass wear. A photo will be taken of all students wearing glasses. This unnamed photo will be part of a school showcase featuring eyewear. It will be colorful and fun to look at, and hopefully encourage students to wear their glasses in a

positive way. If you have any objection to having your child's photo taken, please call us.

Parents, please remember that the students go out to recess most days. They will need a warm coat, mittens, and a hat, and leg coverings for the girls. A sweatshirt is not enough for the winter. Thank you for your cooperation.



**By Mrs. Sue Couture, R.N. and Mrs. Hilary Sherrill, R.N.**



# SBS In Action



Msgr. Clancy takes a moment following the Veterans Day service to thank two of our parents who serve in the military. (Lina O'Neill photo)



This young Pre-K4 student sits quietly while working on an activity. (Mr. Donahue photo)



While Mr. Lally checks on his kindergarten art class, Jordan Ramirez begins creating another masterpiece. (Mr. Donahue photo)



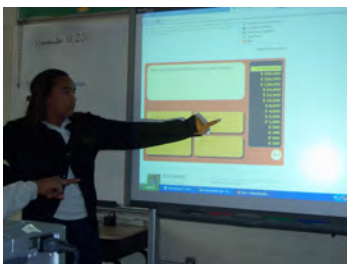
Eighth grader Sadie Chasse carefully traces with a stencil during an art club meeting. (Elhan Mohamood photo)



Second graders Emily Gaudet and Nevaeh King make sure they have the right answer before raising their hands. (Mr. Donahue photo)



Fifth graders Yoshika Tsuruki and Jadon Jimenez diligently take notes while Dylan Errico patiently awaits for directions. (Mr. Donahue photo)



Eighth grader Sierra-Anne Jackson takes a turn at the SMART-Board with the help of her classmates. (Mr. Douglas photo)



This young lady in the Pre-K4 class is eager to move on to the next activity in her day. (Mr. Donahue photo)



Fifth grader Christian Rodriguez concludes his reading while Kiana Woods listens for a follow-up question. (Mr. Donahue photo)

# Looking In On... Giovan Cuevas, Amaia Jackson, & Jun Yeop Ahn

By Seyenah Lopez and Kaitlin McGuire

## *When is your birthday?*

Giovan Cuevas: May 4.  
Amaia Jackson: November 22.  
Jun Yeop Ahn: September 16, 1998.

## *What is the scariest thing you have ever encountered?*

GC: My first haircut.  
AJ: Not being with my mom when she was in surgery because I didn't know what was going to happen.

JYA: A roller coaster.

## *If you were trapped on a desert island and could only have three people with you, who would they be?*

GC: My dad, my uncle, and my cousin.

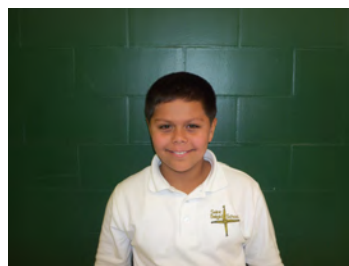
AJ: My mom, my brother, and one of my closest friends, Karina.

JYA: A cook, Carlos Sierra, and my sister.

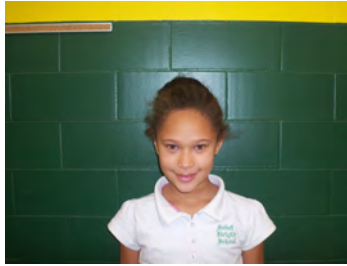
## *If you could be any fictional character, who would you be and why?*

GC: Thor because he has a really cool hammer and he's a god.

AJ: Amelia Bedelia because she is silly, and very funny.



Giovan Cuevas, Grade 3 (Elhan Mohamood photo)



Amaia Jackson, Grade 4 (Elhan Mohamood photo)

JYA: SpongeBob because he is very funny.

## *If you were a celebrity, who would you be and why?*

GC: Michael Jackson because he was a really good dancer.

AJ: Selena Gomez because she's my favorite and she is kind, fun, and funny.

JYA: Barack Obama because he is the President of the United States.

## *What three things can you not live without?*

GC: Food, water, and sun.

AJ: My family, education, and dance.

JYA: A computer, a MP3 player, and money.

## *What is your dream car?*

GC: A green Lamborghini with the doors that go up.

AJ: a sports car preferably lipstick hot red.

JYA: A bus.

## *Where is the farthest place you've traveled?*

GC: Colombia.

AJ: North Carolina.

JYA: The U.K.

## *What is your favorite color?*

GC: Light green.

AJ: Baby blue, purple, hot pink, and neon colors.



JYA: Black.

## *What is your funniest childhood memory?*

GC: Something that happened to me.

AJ: When I used to say "Gaggle, Gaggle, Gaggle."

JYA: My sister's birthday.

## *What is your favorite type of food?*

GC: Colombian food.

AJ: Italian food.

JYA: Japanese.

## *If you could live anywhere, where would you live and why?*

GC: In a mansion because they are big and fun.

AJ: : In the Northeast region because of the season changes.

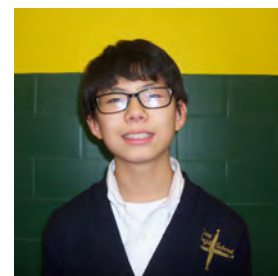
JYA: A school because it is very big.

## *What would you do if you were the President of the United States?*

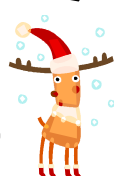
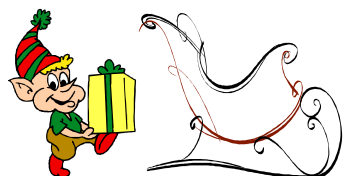
GC: I would stop world hunger!

AJ: I would make sure that everyone in need of something has what they need and I would make sure its poor people not greedy people.

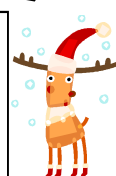
JYA: I would make everybody have no school!



Jun Yeop Ahn, Grade 7 (Elhan Mohamood photo)



**Christmas Fun Fact**  
An average household in America will mail out 28 Christmas cards each year.



# From the Teacher's Desk...

## PreK-3: Mrs. Kaiser

We have been working hard on learning the letter of the week and pre-literacy skills. Along with the letter of the week we have the word of the week (T is for Tree). All of the children are excited that the Christmas season has begun. The Holy Family, the birth of Jesus and the love of Christ will be our focus for the month. We are all anticipating the birth of Jesus and marking each week with our Advent Wreath. We will have a Christmas party on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00. I will have a sign up in the classroom for goodies.

## PreK-4: Mrs. Dunn

We are all excited that it is December and Christmas is almost here! In addition to all of our regular activities, we will be learning about the importance of Advent and the true meaning of Christmas. It will be a very busy month in Pre-K. so please be sure to check our folders each night for the many activities that will be coming home. I know that this is a very busy time for all of us, but I ask that you spend some time helping your child write their first name in upper and lowercase letters. Some of our children are still having difficulty with this skill. We hope that you enjoy all of the projects that will come home this month.

## Kindergarten: Miss Carpenter

I continue to be amazed each day about how much each child has grown since the first day of school. I truly feel very blessed this Christmas season. We are moving right along. This month good reading strategies have been introduced into our literacy program. We have been working diligently on identifying the beginning, middle and end of stories, as well as identifying

characters, setting, and favorite part of stories.

This month we will continue to reinforce and introduce good reading strategies. December will be a busy and festive month. We are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and the unconditional love He has for us all.

## Grade 1: Mrs. Hickey

We had a great Thanksgiving breakfast. Thank you to everyone who donated items. December is a very exciting month, but we are still very busy academically. Please continue to practice the reading words, spelling words and math addition and subtraction flashcards.

Our Christmas concert will be on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. This is always a wonderful night. It truly reminds us of the "real reason" that we celebrate Christmas. I hope that your family has a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

January will be a great time to settle in after all the excitement of December. Please remember that we do not start back to school until Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Merry Christmas!!

Mrs. Hickey

## Grade 2: Miss Perkins

Please watch for information about the Christmas concert, classroom Christmas party, and class prayer service.

## Grade 3: Mrs. Oakes

This month has been very busy for the third grade. In our Religion class we have daily prayers and activities to get prepared for Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Math class is still focusing on subtraction, now with regrouping. Also, in Phonics we're learning about plurals, suffixes and contractions.

We have wrapped up theme 2 in Reading. And now ,

# From the Teacher's Desk...

we're ready to begin Theme 3" Incredible Stories". In English, we're beginning verbs, the present ,past and the special verb "be'.

Unit 1 has been completed in Social Studies. We will have our test before vacation. And in Science, we are halfway through Unit A Life Science. We will have a test next week on Chapter 2 "How Animals Live".

The third grade and I want to wish everyone at Saint Brigid School a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!

## **Grade 4: Mrs. Konkol**

Fourth graders have been working hard on improving their writing skills. We are currently writing job descriptions, which we started after reading a selection in textbooks about a boy named Marvin who worked with lumberjacks in the Great North Woods in the 1930s. In social studies we are learning how to read different kinds of maps, and in science we are studying electricity. Dominick Mealha's father, who is an electrician, will be visiting our class and conducting a demonstration for us. He will also be telling us about electrical safety. We are solving loads of long division problems in math class and will soon be measuring angles, as we start learning about geometry. Since it is now December, we are focusing on the importance of our families during Advent and trying to do extra things to make our families happy at this time of year.

## **Grade 5: Mrs. Furlong**

We are marching right along in fifth grade! The students are preparing for the birth of Christ with a beautiful class-made Advent wreath in the classroom and a "Come, Baby Jesus" bulletin board in the hallway. These two focal points have sparked wonderful discussions.

In math, we have moved into division. Again, it is vital that your child knows the multiplication tables. This will ease into the basic division tables. Writing is becoming stronger with the many assignments they have had to sharpen their skills. Finally, December will be spent learning about various Native American tribes in Social Studies. Keep watch for a very exciting project on this topic!

## **Middle School**

### **Ms. Bernaiche**

Many parents ask us how they can assist their child in being successful. Middle School students will be ahead of the game if they can learn these simple study skills. This is where parents can help:

#### **Beat Procrastination**

Their worst enemy is procrastination. Steer them away from it by using weekends to get ahead on long-term or lengthy assignments. Try breaking up the regular study routine in order to make the task seem less monotonous.

#### **Organize Class Materials**

They should have specific notebooks and/or folders for every one of their classes. The date as well as the chapter or unit being covered should be prominently displayed on each page. When asked to read from the textbook, students should take their own notes. Have them store class handouts, completed homework, tests and quizzes until the end of the year. With this system, they will have a much better chance of reviewing material.

#### **Take Class Notes**

A big advantage to taking notes is that they can immediately see, when reviewing for a test, how much class time the teacher spent on each area. Plus, the process of taking notes forces them to pay attention.

**(Continued on p. 8)**

## From the Teacher's Desk...

We strongly recommend a nightly review of all notes from every class. It only takes a few minutes, but students will find that this helps them retain the information.

### **Annotate a Book**

Teach your child to be an active reader, not a passive one. After reading a page or two from a literary work, students should write a quick note stating key points. By doing this, they are trained to summarize the main points and their minds will not wander as much. In the long run it will make your child a better and faster reader who retains more of what he/she reads because he/she learns to look for specific types of details, for relevant information, and for meaning.

### **Mr. Donahue**

Seventh grade is moving into the winter months in good shape. Literacy Circles are in full swing and a big hit. Students are also successfully utilizing their Reading Logs for both personal enjoyment and academic success. In anticipation of a snowy winter, all Literature homework is now available online. That "any time" access will be available for the entire year.

Remember that though we are taking a break from academics, our Christmas vacation should be used to not only rest and rejuvenate, but to also appreciate and celebrate our family, friends, and faith. Have a great vacation.

### **Mr. Douglas**

As the seasons are changing, so is the structure of our middle school math program. Our students have been split into two classes per grade to best accommodate the needs of every student. The division into two classes does not mean your child will remain in their initially assigned class for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Bernaiche and I will be continuously monitoring the progress of each student and shifting your child to the appropriate class should the accommodation be necessary. On behalf of the middle school team, I would like to wish everyone the safest and happiest of holidays, and happy and joyous New Year!!

### **Miss Johnson**

The religion periods of the Middle School will focus on the beginning of a new Church year with the season of Advent. This four-week period can be very rich in a month that sometimes finds us caught up in preparations for Christmas without taking time for the spiritual preparation that Advent affords. There are many beautiful customs such as the Advent wreath, the Jesse Tree, or the O Antiphons to name a few.

With the beginning of Advent comes changes in the Roman Missal which require the worshipping faith community to adapt to new translations for responses during Mass. Some classes will be devoted to explaining these changes as well.



### **1st Marking Period Honor Roll**

**Grade 8:** High Honors- Seyenah Lopez, Kaitlin McGuire, Zacharie Mega and Jeffrin Thomas; Honors- Jack Grahn, Sierra Jackson, Roberta Linares, Elhan Mohamood, Lina O'Neill and Taheim Patterson.

**Grade 7:** Honors- Olivia Craig, Jordan Gabbidon, Elliot Garcia, Maeve Kearns, Shane Kearns, Claudius McNish and Virgil Rona; Honorable Mention- Catherine Pettit, Lorenzo Ross and Joshua Vallera.

**Grade 6:** Honors- Nicole Mealha, Kayla Midney, Panashe Mutsengi, and Abena Obeng; Honorable Mention- Alexia Cuevas, Patrick McMahon, Xavier Rouleau, and Savanna Sierra.





# Deck the Halls



S I Y A T E R Q L Y G P V V R S A H O E  
 K W F R L N N E S C S B Q U Q L A A R O  
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ANGEL  
 CAROLS  
 GABRIEL  
 JESUS  
 KWANZAA  
 MISTLETOE  
 PRESENTS  
 SANTA CLAUS

BETHLEHEM  
 CHRISTMAS  
 GALILEE  
 JINGLE BELLS  
 MANGER  
 NOEL  
 REINDEER  
 SLEIGH

CANDY CANE  
 DECEMBER  
 HANUKKAH  
 JOSEPH  
 MARY  
 ORNAMENTS  
 RUDOLPH  
 STAR