



Images of Community at St. Brigid-St. Augustine Partnership School

The Home School Association (HSA) at St. Brigid St. Augustine Partnership School (SBSAS) is made-up of a vibrant community of parents from a variety of cultures and backgrounds united in a common bond to raise funds for the school. Although many of the Latino parents are new to SBSAS, they have eagerly looked for engaging yet creative ways to raise money to support the school's fundraising goals.

Always committed to their children's success, several parents suggested that they create on-going theme focused picture day fundraisers. Their dedication was on full display this Halloween when, among others, several Latina parents worked together to plan a "Halloween Picture Day Fundraiser" to capture images of their little ghosts and goblins.

The event was initially coordinated by SBSAS' Office Assistant, Marissa Ainzuaín, who also translated for a few Spanish speaking parents. Their recent Halloween Picture Day in October, was one of several photo opportunities planned for upcoming holidays throughout the year. Numerous items from parents' personal Halloween collections were utilized and several parents, including Milagros Pinedo, Perla Valdez, and Johanna Asenjo, spent many hours creating the set



design for the photo shoot and making the event happen. Jade Thomas, another school parent and owner of Nicolas Photography 1 (and winner of the "100 Men of Color Award" at the Bushnell Theater for the Performing Arts this past October), agreed to volunteer his



services for the Halloween Picture Day, as well as for future picture day fundraisers.

The first picture day was scheduled on Valentine's Day 2017 and several others are being planned for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter holidays. The Home and School Association receives a percentage of the money raised from the picture sales, and the remainder supports the parents' fundraising activity initiatives at SBSAS.

The photo days have helped to build a strong community at the school where parents feel that they are an integral part of the St. Brigid-St. Augustine Partnership School "family."

Considering this wonderful school community, Ainzuaín beautifully expresses what binds them all together, "We are not just Latina parents! We are parents first and foremost committed to the success of our children. We are like everyone else. Some of us may have a limited English vocabulary and some may not speak English at all, but the one thing we all want is the best for our children and that is universal."