

From the Office...

September 8, 2016

Dear Parents,

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start! It is wonderful to have all the students back in school and hear all of their summer stories! This first Weekly Update is quite long, but there is a lot of information that will be important for you to know or be reminded about for a smooth transition into life at school. I promise they won't always be this long!

Traffic Safety Guidelines were sent out to all parents this morning. Please review them carefully.

Gates - The gates to the Courtyard will be locked each day from 8:30am to 2:30pm and then again overnight. When gates are locked, please enter through the Main Entrance on 7th Avenue and report to the Office. Thank you.

When exiting from the Courtyard during school hours, please use the Arbutus Street exit as other gates are locked from the outside and the inside.

Absent/Late Students

A reminder that if your child is going to be absent or late, please remember to notify the Office by e-mail. This may be done by going to the website and clicking on the icon of the sick child. In your e-mail, please indicate your child's name, grade and teacher, the date/time in which they will be absent, and the reason for their absence or tardiness.

If your child is late for school, please remember that the gates will be locked from 8:30am to 2:30pm and students will need to enter the school at the Main Entrance on 7th Avenue and report to the Office before going to their classroom. Thank you.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open each Friday afternoon from 2:30 - 3:30pm on Fridays that school is in session for the full day.

Volunteer Portal - the volunteer portal is up and running for the 2016-2017 school year. An introductory e-mail has been sent from the Volunteer Coordinator regarding the portal. Please go to the portal frequently to obtain the most up to date information about volunteer activities.

Hot Lunch - information regarding hot lunch has been e-mailed to all families from our hot lunch provider. Hot lunch will once again be provided on Tuesday and Thursday.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in covering books for the library as part of your volunteer time, please come to the school for our first training session on Monday, September 12 at 8:30am. No previous experience necessary.

After School Club - the After School Club is off to a great start. A reminder that if your child is enrolled in the club and will not be attending ASC, please call 236-988-1077 and leave a message. Also, if you have not done so already, please

hand in the form indicating the extra days (Pro-D/half days) that you are requesting ASC service. This form is due by September 15. After that we will open up these opportunities to the general school population.

Database Updates - if you know of any parent who is not receiving e-mail, but should be, please have them contact the Office. Thank you.

Upcoming Items:

Grade 8 Reunion - Friday, September 9

Meet the Teacher Night - Thursday, September 15 (at least one parent is expected to be in attendance. Adults only please)

Parent Teacher Conferences - Friday, September 16 -Forms are now past due. Specific times will be assigned by teachers and sent home on Monday. If we did not receive a form today a time will just be assigned to you.

IEP Meetings - September 19 and 20th

Ministry of Education Attachment - Please see the attachment for the Minister of Education.

Wishing you all many blessings for a wonderful school year ahead!.

Heidi Battiston
Secretary
St. Augustine School
2154 W. 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6K 0E3
604-731-8024



September 2, 2016

Ref: 190266

Dear Parent:

The start of a new school year is an exciting time for students and families. It is also an exciting time for the education sector.

We have a lot to be proud of here in British Columbia. Student outcomes continue to improve. Today 15 percent more students are graduating than in 2001. BC's education system is ranked first in the English-speaking world for outcomes in reading, science and mathematics. Students are finding success in music, in academics, in sports—and in every subject in between.

But we have to remember our world is changing. Rather than rest on accomplishments—we need to build on our success to make sure your child's education remains among the best in the world. BC's new curriculum is how we are going to do that.

Our new curriculum will still teach students the basics—reading, writing and math, but in a way that connects them to collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills, which are so important after high school. These are the core skills universities, colleges and employers tell us they are looking for. We are also bringing a new core skill into schools—coding, which teaches students the critical thinking and logical approach crucial for success in tech careers and in almost every other field. We are providing \$6 million for teacher training and technology purchases for schools to bring coding and the new curriculum to life.

During the last school year, we introduced draft new curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 9. This year, that curriculum will be fully implemented and draft curriculum will be available for Grades 10–12. Teachers will have the option to provide feedback and use this draft curriculum in their classrooms.

While we call it “new” curriculum, it is also a reflection of what has been happening in our classrooms for years. It is the kind of innovation in action that I have seen first-hand, through visits to more than 30 school districts last year.

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Changes are also being made to the graduation program. Provincial exams in two core subjects will now be written between Grades 10 and 12, testing the bedrock skills of success—literacy and math. These are the core skills that cut across every subject and are what universities and colleges look at during admissions. And in science and social studies, there will be rigorous classroom-based exams, assessments, tests and projects to measure student progress.

Finally, over the coming months we will ask parents like you, how you want to hear about your child's progress in the classroom so you can have input on any changes. We will reach out directly later this fall.

Your children will graduate into a changing and exciting world—and the new curriculum will help make sure they are prepared to meet that future head-on and are equipped for success no matter which path they choose.

For more details on our curriculum, please visit <http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernier", with a small dot at the end.

Mike Bernier
Minister