

# From the Office...

November 3, 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy November Everyone! A shorter Update this week..

**Parish Education Committee** - please see the attached letter from the PEC regarding Class Gifts. Thank you.

**School Mass** - thank you to Mrs. Yule and the Grade 3 class for a lovely Mass on Wednesday. Please remind your children to wear their school sweaters on Mass days.

## Photos

All picture forms have been sent to Mountain West. If you still wish to order pictures, please do so online via Mountain West Studios. Thank you.

**Carnival for the Missions** - October 31 - What a great day! Fun was had by all, students, staff and parents! Almost \$2,000 was raised and will be donated to the Holy Childhood Association. Thank you to all!

## Hot Lunch

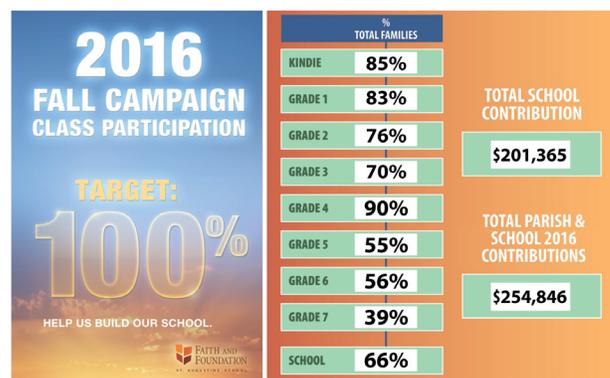
A reminder from Calhoun's, our hot lunch provider, that if you did not order hot lunch from November 2 until January, and would like to, please do so as soon as possible. Just a reminder to parents that if you do not get an e-mail from Calhoun's/Munchalunch stating what your child

has ordered for lunch the next day, a lunch has not been ordered and therefore your child will not have a lunch.

## Got Candy?

Please continue to drop off candy donations at the Office on or before Wednesday, Nov. 9th.

**Capital Campaign** - This weekend is the final weekend for our Capital Campaign. Once again we ask that all students wear uniforms (including sweaters) at all masses this weekend to continue to raise awareness for the capital campaign. Thank you to all students and families who have volunteered to be lectors/commentators, or act as greeters/gift bearers.



**Spirit Day** - Grade 7 will be at Spirit Day this Saturday, November 5

**Remembrance Day Assembly** - Wednesday, November 9th at 8:45am (hosted by Grade 5). All are welcome.

**Remembrance Day** - Friday, November 11 - no classes

**Sacramental Retreat** - Saturday, November 19 (Grade 2 and Grade 7 parents)

**Internet Safety Parent Meeting** - Monday,  
November 21 at 7:00pm.

**Camp Counsellor Meeting** - Thursday, Nov. 24th  
at 4:30pm in the Grade 7 Classroom. Any alumni  
who are currently in Grade 11 (Grade 10 &12  
Students also welcome), and are interested in  
being a camp counsellor, please come to the  
meeting.

**Extra-curricular Update**

**Volleyball** - Congratulations to our many teams  
that have qualified for the playoffs.

**Chess Club** - the club is well underway and the  
tournament will start in approximately November  
15th.

**Remember to set your clocks back one hour on  
Saturday night**

Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

**Heidi Battiston**

Secretary

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## Class Gifts

The generosity of the school community is no more evident than in the wonderful new school that we can all now enjoy and share in. That same sense of generosity and gratitude also extends to gifts given to the teachers and staff at the school. Imparting a Catholic education and being an important part of the growth of the students and their families is a labor of love for the teachers and staff, in large part due to the children being so wonderful and the trust that is shown in them. Some families feel the need to express their gratitude for the wonderful St. Augustine experience. A kind word, sharing a picture or story or a “thank you” (or sympathies for having to supervise indoor recess on the third rainy day in a row) are appreciated by the staff more than you know. Whether a classroom teacher, specialist teacher, part of the special education or learning assistance team or office staff, all appreciate hearing that their efforts really do touch the lives of the children and families.

Some families feel the need to express their gratitude and happiness in a more tangible fashion in the form of a card or gift given to the teacher or staff member. Whatever the form, it truly is the thought that counts. As Mother Theresa said "it's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving".

Some classes organize a “class gift”, organized by one or more parents in the class. In the past, decisions regarding the class gift have been made solely by the parent or parents organizing the gift (usually with input from the other parents in the class); there has been no direction given by the school administration or PEC on any aspect of the class gift. Because of this, sometimes unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances arise. For instance, requiring a “suggested” donation may not seem unreasonable until one considers families with multiple children at the school and the widely differing financial situations (perhaps temporary) between families at the school. Although that same spirit of generosity and gratitude is in everyone, the level of “treasure” is different for everyone; it is important to take into account that everyone wants to feel that they have contributed and have done their part in the token of appreciation that the gift is meant to represent. As well, when organizing the class gift it is difficult for the organizing parent(s) to account for non-teaching staff or for the fact that different staff have differing levels of interaction with the student body (ranging from one-on-one for the special education teachers to the specialist teachers that teach all of the students in the school).

Our teachers and staff, who are so deserving of our recognition, undoubtedly feel immense appreciation for the thought, organization and generosity involved in a class gift, regardless of its size. But the reality is that there is a wide disparity in the gifts being received and this is due to the lack of information and direction given to those organizing the class gift. We would like to correct that. We would ask that if your class is intent on organizing a class gift, that the organizing parent contact myself or a member of the PEC for some guidance to ensure that all families, teachers, staff and the school administration can feel good about all of the gifts that are given and received. We sincerely hope that you read this message in the spirit in which it is written, from a place of gratitude and service, and an attempt to ensure parents, teachers and staff feel only the joy of giving.

God Bless  
Robert Carvalho, Chair PEC