

NEWSLETTER

MAY 31, 2012

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of St. Augustine School:

One might ask “What has Mrs. Oberndorf been up to?” as in the past number of months I’ve not written a NEWSLETTER... and for that I apologize. I’ve come to rely on Mrs. Luttrell’s very informative and timely bulletins, on stories on the website and on public events held in the past number of months to “communicate” – and I know it is not enough. Please allow me to do some catch-up and looking forward.

April found so many of us deep in CAMP programmes – and loving the experience of coming to share so many special experiences with our students. We had a lead story on the website (www.faithandfoundation.com) with accompanying photos and look forward to next year’s event. We are delighted to share that next year we have finally been able to book for the four days following the long weekend: May 21-May 24! Our primary students and staff all reported that Primary Camp day was so much fun – so all in all, everyone enjoyed their camp experiences.

Pass the Torch was our biggest APRIL celebration with its Hollywood theme! The huge effort that our Parish and School made to see this 11th PTT event be so successful is in the most part due to you, are amazing parents! Thank you to every parent who volunteered his/her 5 hours +, helped to set up, host or clean up from the event and to all those who attended - a huge THANKYOU! The leadership team for the event will let us know the results soon - Watch for news of next year’s date and put it on your calendar for sure!

May is our month to celebrate Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation as well as honour all the mothers in our community with Mothers’ Day. All the children were so well prepared by their parents and teachers, and the Grade One and Six parents who



hosted the receptions were generous with their time and with their donations of food. Just like with Pass the Torch, the hospitality that was exhibited to our community and to all our guests was a reflection of the goodness of our Parish and School. Thank you to everyone!

With a slight move of dates, we hosted our annual Talent Show on Tuesday, May the 15th ~ and we had a whole morning of acts to entertain us. Dancers, singers, instrument players, both solo and duets, and poetry recitations showed us what lots of practice, confidence and an opportunity to showcase talent can mean in our school. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us in the audience!

Over the past term, our Grade K,1,2, and 3 classes have been engaged in a safety program provided by the Archdiocese titled, I’m a Gift from God. It is the intention that all our children will be taught strategies for protecting themselves from anyone who would do them harm. We are finding the children to be attentive, respectful, and some already well-informed on what to do if any person attempts to impose themselves on the child. The booklets that the children have been work-

ing on at school have also “travelled home” to be shared and practiced with their parents. We are grateful to the teachers for providing such life-long safety instruction to our children as they learn to be confident, expressive and capable of responding to any abusive situation.

And now, wherever you turn in the school, it's SEUSSICAL, JR. the MUSICAL. Students are humming the songs, practices are happening at any opportunity, costumes and props are being gathered, staging is being created, backdrops are being painted - and there is a real electric energy all over the school as a result. We thank: Mrs. Luttrell and Miss Kinsella for their leadership, Mr. Arntzen for his musical expertise, and all the teachers and parents for their adjustments to schedules and the students for their commitment to the practices that are required. Just a reminder that performances are:

Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 PM

Thursday, June 7 – 1:00 and 7:00 PM

During these past couple of weeks in May, Mrs. Yule has been away from school, and for health reasons will not be able to return to school for the balance of this year. It's hard to have Anna away as she is such a vital link for all of us to what is good about St. Augustine's: She is steady, patient, generous and respectful of all – and we simply miss her presence in the community. With her recommendation, Miss Kristine Siy is teaching for Mrs. Yule. Miss Siy has been the class' Special Education Assistant, as well as being a certified teacher. This has made the transition for the Grade 3's very smooth from Mrs. Yule's care to Miss Siy.

We thank all those parents, staff and students who have kept Mrs. Yule in their prayers, as well as sent cards, notes or tokens of their affection which we have delivered to her. (If you wish to send a card, please leave it in the office and we'll make sure that she receives it.)

If it seems like it's very busy around here, just wait for JUNE! For those new to the school community this year and as a reminder to others, here are some key events which you may wish to participate in – Note – there are some changes from the calendar published in our School Planner.

June 5: Dress Rehearsal for the Play (during school time)

June 6: Play at 7:00 PM (parents and guests)

June 7: Play 1:00 Matinee for students and guests;
7:00 Performance

June 8: Pro-D Day – NO CLASSES for students

June 12: Neighbourhood OPEN HOUSE (about our New School)

*This is for our neighbours to share with them what we are planning to do in building our new school.

June 13: Thank you Reception for Grade 7 Parents at the Parish Centre, 7:30 PM – adults only

June 14: Reception for the Incoming Kindergarten Parents, Parish Centre 7:00 – 8:30 PM – adults only

June 15: FUN DAY – 8:40 – 12:00 All welcome to join us! – Outside for the morning, followed by a hotdog lunch and noon dismissal

June 17: Father's Day

June 19: ARTS'S Day 9:00 (We will begin with our Kindy class, and advance up to Grade 7's. Classes will perform both a choral speech piece and a musical selection.) Final PEC meeting for the school year: Staff room, 6:00 PM

June 22: Farewell for Grade 7's: 7:00 Mass, followed by awards and reception, hosted by the Grade 5's

June 26: BEACH DAY: 8:40 – Noon - we will not be in session in the afternoon this year

June 27: Closing Mass, hosted by the Kindy's, followed by recognition by Grade by the teachers, and

Start of SUMMER HOLIDAYS

June 28: Staff working day –

June 29: Final Morning for staff - and the start of their SUMMER HOLIDAYS!


If your child is not at school during this final month on days that teachers are assessing their work/progress, it will be reflected on his/her report card as missed. Also, if students are not in school to pick up their report cards, we do not mail them or allow others to pick them up. Any left reports will be kept in the office and can be picked up at a later date.

PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO RETURN TO THE SCHOOL ANY ITEMS THAT BELONG TO US IN THE COMING WEEKS – INCLUDING LIBRARY AND TEXT BOOKS. THANK YOU.

A precaution: a number of parents were ticketed last week by the City parking authority for infractions against the parking by-laws that surround our school. Our neighbourhood is extremely pressed for any available, lawful parking spots, and the City will continue to do these periodic checks. Read the parking signs carefully, perhaps make plans to come earlier in the morning and if you park and leave your car, you are liable. (As a point of information: we have been required to do a transportation survey for the city in anticipation of building our new school – it is good that a number of families have formed carpooling arrangements, and we can only encourage more of that.)

Please keep all of us in your prayers - there is always the need to express our gratitude to God for the good that is in our lives, and to bring before God those things and situations that are big challenges. Know that we keep you in our daily prayers here as we move into our last month of the school year.

Blessings to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Quernaart".

Principal