

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 8, 2013

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



Where do the years go, and how did it become 2013 so quickly? It is with great excitement and hope that we return to school following our Christmas holidays, and we pray that for you and your families this time was one of grace, rest and renewal.

December was very exciting here at St. Augustine's – and prayerful. We deepened our Faith in a variety of Advent prayer services, welcomed all to our Advent Evening of Song and Praise (Advent Concert), hosted our "Parents' Night Out Evening", and concluded the month with our annual Christmas Sing Along --- complete with a visit from Santa and his elves! Our School choir shared their beautiful music on four different occasions: trips to VanDusen Gardens, to Youville Residence, to Stanley Park and within our winter Seniors' Outreach Lunch as the entertainment. All in all, they were wonderful occasions for our children to share in the hope and joy of the Christmas season.

Over the Christmas holidays, families were involved in many activities that either supported the Church or people in need. Many of our families are now involved in serving the Church in its Ministries: Sacred Spaces, Children's Liturgy of the Word, as members of Choirs, ushering, lectoring or as Eucharistic Ministers and as office evening support. School parents are the exclusive

hosts to Sunday hospitality after the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses, and many families helped in either bringing something for the Giving Tree, or helped to sort out the abundance of gifts to be distributed charities around the city. The modeling of commitment that you, our parents provide really does influence the children's sense of belonging and contributing to the Faith Community of St. Augustine's.

Over the holiday, Father Joe Rossiter, OMI, passed away. Father Joe had been pastor here at St. Augustine's in two separate periods, and was well-known to many. Father was a humourous, humble and compassionate priest who touched the lives of many, and we offer the Oblate Community our condolences.

Although not named on our January calendar, we remind **all Grade 4 parents and parents of any new intermediate students** of our Camp meeting, Thursday, January 10, 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Grade 7 classroom. **It is a mandatory meeting for the parent of ANY child who has not previously attended our Camp.** Thank you.

January's greyness is in deep contrast to the energy and delight that comes with welcoming families back to the community. These special months of our second term of school will see us involved in many experiences and events that affirm the good work of Catholic education and allow us to share with members of the broader community the evidence of students' successes. The list is long and deep: Our Grade 7 students are writing entrance exams, interviewing for prospective High School settings; we host our second Sacramental Retreat for Grade 2 parents; we host an introductory meeting for the parents of our Grade 4 and new intermediate students to share with them

what Camp will be all about; all the students in the school will be involved in our Learning Fair projects which demonstrate major learning in a particular field of study. We also host our annual Valentine's Day Thank You Tea for parents, grandparents, alumni and parish friends. Students will be involved in Chess Club, Choir and basketball, and so you can be certain that the energy level will be high and the children happy! Watch our monthly calendars and check the website's annual calendar to make sure you include yourself in as many activities as you can!

Watch out for upcoming news on Pass the Torch – April 27, 2013. Soon tickets will be available, and with our plans to start building our new school this year, PTT should be extraordinarily exciting! Gather together some close friends, and plan to buy your table tickets early – and think about what you might contribute to the auction!

On behalf of the **Davids Family**, I wish to thank everyone who has been so concerned for them in these past three weeks. Siobhan was a Special Education Assistant in our kindy class, and the Davids boys attend our school. She is seriously ill. She recently returned home from the hospital, and she will be receiving daily medical treatments as an out-patient. Know that Siobhan and Carsten are most grateful for the prayers and offers of support. (We must also be of Siobhan's need for rest, and the family's need for rest and some privacy.)

At this time, if you want to offer support, these are areas of need:

1. **Prayers** – As a vibrant and believing Catholic community, prayers are welcomed for the Davids family. Should you wish to send a card, you may leave it in the office and we will ensure that it arrives at their home.
2. **Transportation** to and from school is being coordinated by *Helen Velazquez*: [helenvelazquez@gmail.com](mailto:helenvelazquez@gmail.com). There is a January schedule in place, and you are invited to add your name to the list (they live on the eastside, 28th Avenue.)
3. If you are able to prepare a meal to be brought to the school beginning in the week of January 21, please email Siobhan's friend, who will be coordinating meals. *Contact: [angelabaumgard@shaw.ca](mailto:angelabaumgard@shaw.ca)* Use **FOOD** in the subject line, please, and tell her the day of the week that

is best. (She will be creating a schedule, and will keep you informed of the date.) Food should be brought to the school on the day prescribed, and it will be taken home by the driving parent at the end of the day. This person is coordinating this aspect of our support, and would be most grateful for your contribution. (Please plan to bring your items non-returnable containers.)

Other offers of support have been given – and all are forwarded to Carsten so that he can determine what is needed.

Over the course of the coming months, we will be sending out messages sharing whatever news/updates or requests for support we receive. I know you will do all you can in your response.

There will be direct news in the very near future from the FAITH and FOUNDATION team, with dates on the success of the Fall Campaign and the school's involvement. We were delighted with the response that the Campaign received, and thank everyone for their tremendous support.

We welcome Mrs. Lynette Vetro to our school team, knowing that she will be a great asset to Mrs. Moffat and the kindy's in Mrs. Davids absence.

Attached to this email is an additional note regarding Jacket donations – this might be a perfect time to search through your closets to see what “gently used and clean” coat you might donate to this project at St. Paul's Hospital. Also, a notice went home today regarding our Student Conferences later in the month. Please read these carefully.

Blessings to all of you in this New Year, and may be grace and peace of Jesus filled everyone's heart.

Fondly,



Principal