

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 27, 2013

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

This week marks the beginning of our third and final term of school. In every way we have much to look forward to and much to celebrate as we both look back and forward from this time.

We always think of term two as one in which we can accomplish much learning and growing here at St. Augustine's. All students are fully engaged in their class based learning, and each child became involved in a "project" that teaches a variety of skills, demonstrates learning more in depth on a particular topic and culminates in our public display that we call "**Learning Fair**". Through demonstrations of learning in Science, Social Studies, Visual Arts and Language Arts and Night of the Notables, students were able to explore many interesting topics, and we, the audience, were able to see



the quality and presentation of over 200 projects. This is a testimony to the school's passion for excellence.

Thank you to

everyone for all the ways in which students were supported – and for the many people who chose to come on Sunday after the morning Masses and view the remarkable displays.

At the conclusion of each term, I have the unique privilege of reading through each child's personal report card and I can confidently say each student is making progress. In many of our students' reports, teachers have affirmed you, our parents, for the work, time and resources you make available to your child to be successful. Thank you, on behalf of your child, our teaching and support staff and the school community.

The PEC, Mrs. Luttrell and I thank you for your tremendous support and participation at our **Annual General Meeting** on March 13th. We hope that you found the presentations helpful, and that Mr. Bevacqua's talk on youth and technology both informative and encouraging. By bringing your registration packages with you to the meeting, Mrs. Luttrell and her team were able to make a huge task more reasonable.

About PTT - there is growing excitement and anticipation around this year's event, "A Night in Paris" ... the great team of leaders, everyone's commitment to volunteer their family's 5 hours, donations coming to us, tickets being purchased and sale of raffle tickets – these all combine to bring us closer to the APRIL 27th event! (We need everyone to purchase their tickets ASAP, as we look forward to a "sold out" evening of food, friendship, fun and generosity.)

April is AUTISM AWARENESS Month...

on behalf of our staff and Ms. Kristine Siu, coordinator of this year's efforts, here are some items for your consideration:

April 21nd – **Autism Awareness Day** for us at St. Augustine's with a focus at our Assembly on bringing attention to autism. To celebrate together, this day is a NON-UNIFORM day – all students are encouraged to wear blue and green (CANUCK'S colours), in support of the Canucks Autism Network/We can be Friends program.

The We Can be Friends program is a curriculum-based elementary school program that teaches all learners the values of friendship, empathy and inclusion by using grade appropriate lesson plans, autism specific resources and awareness raising activities for the entire school.

During the month of April, students will learn more about ASD, developing further understanding of the differences that children with autism experience, and learn ways in which friendship, empathy and inclusion benefits all children.

We will again take part in our special **HOLY THURSDAY RETREAT**, tomorrow, March 28. During that day, our Grade 7 students will host four gatherings in our gym through a shadow play telling the story of Jesus journey to the Cross. The schedule for the day was posted in an email yesterday by Mrs. Luttrell – please feel welcome to come and join us for any portion you can. As we conclude this holy season of Lent, all families are encouraged to take part in the Easter Triduum serves held in all Catholic Churches. Please see our Parish website: www.staugustineschurch.ca for times of the Masses and celebrations, so that your family keeps Jesus at the centre of this holy weekend.

April, May and June will be very busy here at school as we prepare for PTT, our Talent Show, Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Intermediate Camp and our Spring Musical. Running club, ARTS day, Pro-D days and year end events will fill our days as we head toward summer... Please consider joining us for as many events as you can – your children love it when you are here!

Blessings to all in this Holy Week!

Fondly,



Principal