

MARCH 1, 2015

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



From the comfort of my home on this rainy Sunday night, there are a number of important messages to share with you. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read through this NEWSLETTER.

This evening at Sunday Mass Fr. Mark Blom, OMI, gave a compelling homily on this second Sunday of Lent, reminding us that we might use this holy time to draw closer to the God who loves us with His whole heart, who gave us His Son, who is always present, and seeks only what is best for us... You are invited to join us for Mass this coming Wednesday at 9:30, hosted by our Grade 5 class. Know that each day in every class in the school you are prayed for, and when our little community takes up the challenges of LENT: prayer, acts of mercy and goodness and almsgiving – that we are making the very difference that Jesus asks of us.

Our New Hot Lunch program is being launched for



Term 3, and on the front page of our website, upper right corner is the link to ordering your choices for each of your children for the months of March and April. As Mrs. Battiston's

Thursday Updates have informed you, there will be more choices, two serving sizes in some cases, and a **personally labeled lunch** delivered hot on THURSDAYS. Payment is done on line, and you can communicate directly with the coordinator of the program at Calhouns if you have any questions.

Last week, we worked through a mock order and found it so user friendly that we think you'll be very pleased. You can choose all the THURSDAYS during this period or skip one if you wish. (There will be one more opportunity to order for May and June.) We will be asking for input for 2015-2016 later in the spring. If your child has participated, you might have some constructive comments to add to that survey.

Parking, drop off and early dismissal

The City of Vancouver is consistently ticketing on 8th Avenue – park only in spaces that will not incur a fine. We ask all parents to re-commit to driving safely on 8th Avenue – double parking, u-turning and speeding all put our children at risk. If you have your child leaving school at 2:50 in the WALKERS, BUSERS, BIKERS group – we ask that they exit the drop zone ASAP, making the drop zone safer and less crowded. All those students exiting at 3:00 are asked to be watchful for the person authorized to pick them up, thus expediting the car traffic on 8th Avenue. MOST FAMILIES HAVE BEEN AMAZINGLY SUPPORTIVE IN THIS PAST 13 MONTHS – we seek 100% support in this.

Closing of Term 2:

Learning Fair, Conference and Reporting

Thank you to everyone who supported students in any way during term 2. The Learning Fair story and photos

will soon be on the website, and we thank all the children and parents who participated in Conferences last week. It was wonderful to see the children's pride and confidence and to have so many adults share in the amazing display of learning.

Teachers are concluding the work on Term 2 reports, and it's my privilege to read them all this week. Reports will be sent home next week and then you, too, can see the results of your children's work.

Provincial Assessments... were completed by our Grade 4 and 7 students throughout the month of February. As prescribed by the Ministry of Education these curriculum based Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA's) can be marked by the respective schools in which they are administered. Along with Immaculate Conception School, we collaboratively completed this task last week, and again, are very pleased with the overall results of these assessments for our students. The resulting test booklets, an explanation letter from me, and the individual results for each Grade 4 and 7 student will be sent home on Monday. I thank all our teachers and support staff for the work that they do over the years to ensure student success.

A temporary change... *Mrs. Kozak* will be away from School from the end of March till the Fall. She will be having hip replacement surgery – and we ask that you keep her in your prayers as will we. Knowing how Mrs. Kozak loves the children and her work, it will be challenging for her to be away, and we are so glad that she is going to be able to return to full health. We are grateful to have **Mrs. Dorothy Patzer** teaching PE in her stead, as well as teaching the Grade 5 religion program. Mrs. Patzer is known to many of you as she is the parent of two of our younger students. She has an extensive PE background and has been teaching at *St. Patrick's Elementary School* for the past year, as well as doing TOC (teacher on call) for us here at St. Augustine's. We welcome Dorothy to our staff, and know that you will do the same.



Watch my blog... there are so many changes to our building site, that once again, I'll be posting stories and photos on the BLOG frequently.

Over the coming month, I will be working with one of our parents on a PROJECT to manage our BIG MOVE. I am so grateful for the many parents who have expressed support, and we will be linking the results of our work into the on-line volunteer programme that was announced at the AGM.

As a reminder, we will be counting on all our families, including our new ones, to contribute **5 hours each**, giving us almost 1,000 hours of service. The list will be long, broad, deep and traverse seven months of time. **Watch for our notification of the SIGN UP.**

Every month, I write and Sonja Moylan posts our NEWSLETTERS on the website - I thank Sonja for her faithfulness to our School. The Moylan's are 'alumni' parents, and such loyalty and goodness is so appreciated by our school team.

I think this is a countdown period... over the coming 12 days, we are counting down to SPRING BREAK – and in every way I am so proud and grateful for the amazing work that our entire staff does to support our school. Thank you for your continued prayers, support and care.

Fondly,

C. Quendaart
Principal