

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



November 1st, marked a very holy day in our Church calendar – the day that we commemorate all the saints of the Church – both those that are named, and the many, many unknown saints who have lived. We are blessed to have our very own Catholic school where, each and every day, we are called to model and teach our children how to live courageous, good and holy lives themselves. Even to someday for us all to become saints ourselves!

We mark the end of our first month in ‘our school all bright and new’ – and it’s been an amazing 27 days for us! We are very quickly finding our way, exploring the new possibilities that our beautiful school allows us to enjoy and have been busy welcoming many into our school for hosted events. We began with our blessing ceremony with Archbishop Miller, and hosted open houses for neighbours, tours following weekend masses, and have enjoyed the many from our parish and alumni students and parents who have taken the time to come and visit us. It’s been so wonderful to watch so many others begin to fall in love with our newest school.

I wish to personally thank each family for all that you’ve done to make this transition as seamless as possible. We are grateful for everyone’s adaption to the changes that have transpired... and we know we can count on your continued support as we move forward in our next stages of development of our school site. In the coming weeks, you can expect:

- That we have temporarily eliminated the use of the LANE on the west side as demolition plans begin to close the lane while the office section of the hold school is taken down
- That the major portion of the old school is planned to be demolished on November 9-10, and over the following 2 weeks, materials will be removed from the site
- That drop off by car will continue ONLY ON 8th AVENUE – the city is policing 7th Avenue and will be ticketing drivers who stop at the front door to drop off students
- That the front door and the gate on Arbutus street will be our ENTRANCE and EXIT places for the coming week; **we ask all parents who are able to WALK and pick up children at the entrance way on 7th Avenue**
- That we will have to further adjust when we are informed by contractors inform us IN ORDER TO KEEP STUDENTS SAFE

Upcoming events of interest:

- Meeting for Grade 7 students and their parents on the topic of HIGH SCHOOL, Thursday, November 5, 7:00 PM

- Retreat for Grade 2 and 7 parents preparing their children for Sacraments, Saturday, November 14, 8:45 – 12:00 in the Parish Centre
- **Remembrance Day** paraliturgy, hosted by the Grade 5's in our Church on Tuesday, November 10th at 9:45. All are welcome to join us!
- Within a month's time, I will be sending home a survey about our plans to run a **SUMMER CAMP**, July 2016. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to us – your feedback will be most helpful in our designing the three week programme to really fit the needs and wants of our parents and their children.
- If any parents are wishing to consider our **After School Club** in the future, please call the office and let *Mrs. Battiston* know if you have not already done so. (I have begun to interview parents of incoming Kindergarten students for the 2016-2017 school year, and a number have requested spots for their little ones. I want to make sure that we've met the needs of current parents first). At present we have 26 students enrolled and we need to know what might be needed into the future.

Volunteering at school:

With our beautiful new school, there is much needed and potential for new volunteer positions. I am seeking feedback if you are interested in any of the following:

1. Helping in the office on a weekly basis. Ideally, this would be in 2 hour shifts and could include answering the phone, doing filing, some data entry, keeping the copy and first aid rooms stocked and tidy
2. Being able to provide weekly or bi-weekly support for myself – this could involve organizing spaces, taking on projects that I need help with at this time
3. Helping to maintain some of the building's facilities – tasks could include glass cleaning (we've lots of it!), tidying up various general spaces, cleaning kitchens on a bi-monthly basis

Teachers may also have jobs that they need help with; I know that you always are generous and we want you to know that we appreciate all the time that is shared with us.

Please send an email to me, detailing your availability and

skills you would bring to the potential tasks.

Thank you – and for those of you who are working during the day, there may be tasks you could do on weekends... just let me know of any availability and we'll do our best to match your generosity with our needs.

A reminder – in the past number of weeks, to support our **FALL CAMPAIGN**, some very helpful parents have been **CLASS CHAMPIONS**, encouraging every family to support our financial needs. We are grateful for their time, and ask everyone to do all that they can to fulfill the commitments that you made last spring with registration. Our goal is **100% participation** – please be prayerful and generous.

Thank you to all of the families that helped out in the last 3 weekend masses: as greeters, gift bearers, or bringing your children to mass in their uniforms. We are grateful for the students who acted as commentators, lectors, altar servers or came to sing in the 4 masses that we hosted. **Thank you everyone – your presence was noticed by the parishioners!**

Take good care of yourselves – with winter coming soon, maybe we all need to slow down a bit and rest.

Blessings to all,



Catherine Oberndorf, *Principal*