

# NEWSLETTER

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear St. Augustine's Parents,

With Hallowe'en behind us, the time is right to reflect upon another important day in November: Remembrance Day.

With Remembrance Day just around the corner, it is important to pause and think about all who have passed away and sacrificed their lives for freedom and democracy in the countless wars around the world throughout history including today. We remember the victims of war and all those who have died to help bring freedom and to help make the world a better place to live in. Remembrance Day, however, is also a stark reminder that our world is deeply broken and divided because of human violence.

For Christians, Remembrance Day also presents a unique opportunity for us to meditate on the way of peace. God calls us to look to Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace.

In the life and teachings of Jesus we see that God establishes peace in his world in an unconventional way. Jesus does not enter into physical battle in order to defeat the enemies of God. Instead, Jesus chooses the way of non-violence. He lays down his life and dies at the hands of violence. Only then does God raise Jesus from the dead in the victory over sin and death. In the person of Jesus we see the perfect example of humble obedience, sacrificial love, and life-giving peace.

With this in mind, Jesus' words in John 20:21 come into sharp focus: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." We are all sent by God – ambassadors for Christ – commissioned by the Holy Spirit to announce the good news of God's peaceable kingdom. What's more, we are called to *embody* God's peace in the world. God leads us to be his peacemakers.

During this month of "remembrance" let us seize the opportunity and prayerfully take to heart Jesus' message of peace and follow His way of reconciling love. Let us discern together the ways in which God is calling us to be peacemakers in His world as we continue to proclaim Him in our lives.

God bless.

Mr. Yaptinchay



## SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH



We would like to offer up special prayers for one of our student's (Graeme) grandfather as well as Ms. Gastaldo's uncle who recently passed away; we pray for the repose of their souls and pray for their family and friends during this difficult time. We would also like to pray for and congratulate the Roberts family for the birth of their baby boy last month.

A note to parents that a special prayer basket is set up at the prayer table outside the office. If there is ever anything you would like to pray for, simply write it down on the slip provided and place it in this basket. The teachers meet daily for staff prayer, and we will offer up the intentions we collect in the prayer basket.



**WELL DONE, ST AUGUSTINE!**

Congratulations, SAS! We collected just over **\$37,000** with several families left to submit their pledges. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families for their hard work in making our 2016 SAS

Walkathon another success! Our community has stepped up to the challenge. This year, we were once again blessed with beautiful weather, and the rain stayed away. An excellent sense of community was felt by all who attended.

Because we came so close to our school goal, we celebrated a non-uniform day as a school.

Congratulations to our top earning class (average per student), Ms. Agregado's grade 1 class! They have earned a special field trip of their choosing.

Congratulations and thank you again, everyone, for all your efforts fundraising for this year's Walkathon! Stay tuned as we tackle the school outdoor space for different play and landscaping projects!

**HALLOWE'EN AT S.A.S.**

On Monday, October 31, we enjoyed a day of Hallowe'en fun at St. Augustine. Thank you to Ms. Moffat and her team of teachers and parents who hosted this year's Halloween Carnival in the gym. Thank you to the Grade 7's for our "Halloween Haunted House" and a special thanks also to all the parents who dressed up in costume and helped in the classrooms and gym. SAS raised almost \$2000 for the Holy Childhood Association! Click [here](#) for photos from our Carnival Photo Booth.



**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE**

**(NOVEMBER 9)**

Our annual Remembrance Day Service will be held at

8:45am on Wednesday, November 9. The assembly will take place in the gym. All parents are welcome to attend this important memorial service.



**SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SAFETY & RESPONSIBILITY**

With the advent and ease of use of social media such as Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to name only a few, children are increasingly using social media to express themselves and post photos and even videos. Please, ensure you are aware of what your children post to these sites. A photo or video that your child posts may seem innocent to him or her, but may not necessarily be to us. If your children create these videos,

ensure also to obtain consent from parents of other children who appear in these photos/ videos before they are posted to the internet.

As you know, the internet is a very powerful tool. It must be used responsibly. We must keep in mind that it is, unfortunately, also a breeding ground for social predators and is accessible to all. A photo innocently posted that has one of our students in uniform with the school logo visibly exposed makes it that much easier for anyone to locate your child. It is essential that every parent take every precaution to know the activities that their children are engaging in on the internet at all times.

**BULLYING, CYBER-BULLYING, AND INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION**

On November 21 at 7pm, you are invited to a special bullying prevention

presentation presented by Straight-Talk Prevention Services for our SAS families. This evening's presentation will focus on what bullying is and is not, direct and indirect bullying, the bystander effect, cyber-bullying, and internet safety. Of course, practical strategies will be presented on how to prevent bullying/ cyber-bullying and what to do if you suspect bullying is happening.

All parents from all grades are invited and are encouraged to attend this FREE presentation. The evening is for parents only. There will be special student workshops on bullying prevention for all grade levels during the school day the Friday prior, November 18.

An online form will be emailed to you to sign-up for this workshop the first week of November. Stay tuned!

**S.A.S. SCHOOL UNIFORM**

As you know, there are many different ways that we encourage our students to show pride in our school. This sense of pride and school spirit can be shown through neatness in school work, organizational skills, strong academic standing, involvement in school clubs and sports, respect for others, among many, many things. An area that we particularly take great pride in is our school uniform. We ask that you, as parents, help ensure that your children come to school in

complete uniform. Our uniform is a display of instilling a sense of discipline among our students as well as a way of creating a stronger, visible sense of community.

Over the next few months we will be working to address challenges with the school uniform and looking to making a concerted effort to establish clearer and definitive expectations with regards to our school uniform. Thank you for your cooperation and support with this very important and

visible indicator of school pride at St. Augustine's.



**FALL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

A reminder to support our FALL CAMPAIGN.

Thank you to our CLASS CHAMPIONS who have been 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 the families who have helped the last couple of weekends in October during the campaign 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 as members of the grade 3 and intermediate

choirs. Thank you, everyone ! Your presence was noticed by the parishioners!

A reminder that the campaign extends into the first weekend of

November. Thank you to all families involved at the masses, and we look forward to seeing many of you there again.

Below is a summary as of October 31, 2016.



**REDESIGNED CURRICULUM & REPORT CARDS**

In the CISVA, as we embrace the changes that come with the redesigned curriculum, teachers will be working hard to ensure that the best possible Catholic education is provided to your children. As we begin to implement this new curriculum, our schools will share and learn together in order to continue building vibrant Catholic learning communities. We will be placing particular and renewed emphasis on integrating our Catholic faith into student learning.

A further change will occur in how we communicate with you about your child's progress. This year our CISVA schools will be exploring a variety of ways to do this. At St. Augustine's, as you may have already noticed, teachers are more frequently communicating the learning that is happening in their classrooms. This will continue to expand and become even more personalized and student-specific as the year progresses. Please, also note that report cards may

look different from previous years (and from school to school). This first term, there will be some changes to the report cards, which we will communicate to you before they are distributed. Later in the year, we will be asking for your feedback about the reporting process you have experienced. This will be an important step toward ensuring that progress is communicated to parents in meaningful and effective ways.

**IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER**

- NOV. 1 - PHOTO RETAKES
- NOV. 2 - SCHOOL MASS
- NOV. 5 - SPIRIT DAY (GRADE 7)
- NOV. 9 - REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY
- NOV. 11 - NO SCHOOL
- NOV. 19 - GR. 2 AND 7 SACRAMENTAL RETREAT (HALF DAY)
- NOV. 25 - NOVember at SAS (details to follow)

- NOV. 27 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**NO SCHOOL NOVEMBER 11**

A reminder that there are no classes on Friday, Nov. 11 (REMEMBRANCE DAY).



**LOOKING AHEAD**

This year, as the CISVA continues the transition to the new curriculum, schools will add 5 hours of non-instructional time to their school year calendar. This additional time will be used for the purpose of enabling teachers to participate in professional development related to the implementation of the new BC curriculum. St. Augustine will have a Pro-D on Friday, Dec. 9 (NO SCHOOL) for this purpose.