

NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



HAPPY ADVENT, SAS!

Waiting. Nobody likes waiting. Lines. Traffic. Doctor's office. Waiting drives us crazy. So, we fight it. Rushing, running, planning, speeding, doing. GPS in the car. LTE and 5G networks for cell phones. Overnight shipping. One-minute meals. Instant gratification. **Waiting time is wasted time, and none of us can afford to waste even a minute.**

So what do we do when God asks us to wait?

God's waiting is an active waiting. It requires not that we do nothing, but that we do only what we can do. **Waiting actively means not trying to do God's work for Him.** It requires that we know our limits, which, in turn, requires slowing down and listening. This Advent let us learn to more actively wait by leaving the results up to God — the grade, the award, the promotion. We actively wait by not doing. Advent is a time of waiting. Let it be a time of active waiting.

As Catholics we are an Advent people. We live in hope and waiting for the coming of Christ. We will be focusing during the month of December on waiting for the coming of Jesus. His arrival is preceded by prayerful and watchful, active waiting. In a world that treasures activity and productivity, waiting is often considered as passivity; waiting, however, injects meaning into every arrival. Though crammed with busy and exciting Christmas activities, our duty this month is to keep our children's attention on Advent in preparation for Jesus' birth and arrival into our lives.

May you and your family have a blessed Advent. May you prepare for Christ's coming, and may His grace truly permeate your home this season.

Have a wonderful and holy Christmas with your families, St. Augustine! Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy New Year!

Mr. Yaptinchay

ADVENT NIGHT OF SONG AND PRAYER THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 7:00PM

At our Advent Evening of Song and Prayer, it is our custom to take up a collection for the Oblate Missions. Over time, our school contributions have made a significant difference for the lives of people in Kenya by helping to build a school, ensure clean water systems are built and maintained, and supported many other services.

We ask that you once again consider a donation as part of your Advent giving. This year, the Oblates have asked that any donations received be used to fund the first year of formation for one of the young men wishing to become a Missionary Oblate in Kenya. A donation envelope will be sent home over the next week with your child. Please, place your donation in the donation envelope and place it in the collection baskets at the concert. We will forward all contributions to the MAMI Offices in Saskatchewan. A tax receipt will be issued by them for all donations of \$20.00 or more. Please, ensure that you provide your name and address if you wish to receive a tax receipt. Thank you.

The doors of the Church will be open at 6:30pm.

Primary students stay with their parents until 6:45pm and then they go to the Parish Centre.

Intermediate students take their spot in the back of the church when they arrive.

Clothing will be discussed in class and will be communicated to you by your classroom teacher.

There will be a collection midway through the evening - envelopes will be sent home if parents want to have their donation ready for Thursday night.



REPORT CARDS**THURSDAY, DEC. 8: REPORT CARDS GO**

HOME! Term 1 Report Cards will be distributed at the end of the school day. Please, ensure you sign the back of the report card cover and return both the cover and the envelope to the school. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please, contact his/her teacher directly. Stay tuned for information about

changes to this year's report cards that reflect certain changes to the curriculum.

NO SCHOOL Friday, Dec. 9 (PRO-D)

A reminder that there is no school Friday, Dec. 9. As explained in the November Newsletter, the teachers will have a day of Professional Development dedicated to the the BC Redesigned Curriculum.

MOVEMBER AT SAS

Thank you to all who participated in our MOverner Day last month. It was a fun day for an important cause. We raised over \$550 which will be donated to Prostate Cancer Canada. Thank you, SAS!

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Ongoing collection until December 8 (helping families in need in the Lower Mainland). Sadly, there are families right here in the Lower Mainland who struggle to meet basic needs and create a special Christmas for their children. This year we, again, are helping 2 families who have met with very difficult circumstances, but are trying to make it on their own.

Family 1 - Mother and Three Children (12 year old boy – size 14; 10 year old boy – size 12; 7 yr old girl –size 8)

Family 2 - Father and Son – (8 year old boy size 8-10)

Your donations will be their Christmas presents. We are looking for new or very

gently used items. Families always are very grateful for gift cards to the Dollar Store, Walmart, etc., and the children will enjoy any toys that your children will enjoy. Thank you in advance for your support and for working on our CISVA year theme to Care for our Common Home by helping the less privileged this Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our first Student Christmas Market was an incredible success. Thank you to all who donated things for the students to purchase for the special adults in their lives. Student gift purchases will be sent home with your child to put under your Christmas tree on Friday, December 16. All proceeds from the Student Christmas Market will be donated to the St. Augustine's Parish refugee fund. We raised almost \$1700! Wonderful work, SAS!

CHRISTMAS GIVING

Ongoing collection until morning of December 15 (helping Sancta Maria

House) Items that are of need are the following: Dollar Store Journals, pens, brooms, mops, Kleenex, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, HE laundry soap, dish detergent, coffee, hot chocolate, cake mixes, canned goods, tuna, salad dressings, dry cereal, cleaning products, peanut butter, honey, gift cards from Super Store. However, any non perishable food will be gratefully accepted.

SAS BOOK FAIR

Our annual school Book Fair will take place from Dec. 12 to Dec. 15. There will be opportunities before and after school for parents to purchase books. Students will have library time slots and other in-class times to browse and purchase books. Thank you in advance for supporting our book fair this year!

RED AND GREEN DAY

Continuing with our spirit of service and giving during the Advent season, students are asked to wear green and/or red (no uniform) on

Friday, December 16. All students are asked to bring a toonie (or more if you are able to!) on this special day. The monies collected will go towards the Door Is Open, a Catholic Charity in the downtown eastside.

LAST SCHOOL MASS BEFORE CHRISTMAS FRIDAY, DEC. 16 AT 9:30AM

Please, join us on the last day of school to celebrate mass as a faith community on Dec. 16. There will be **NO MASS December 7.**

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Friday, Dec. 16 is the last day of school before Christmas Break. It is also a 12pm dismissal.



COACH'S CORNER

As we come to the end of Term 1, St. Augustine's Athletics has a lot to celebrate!

Running Club

Our Fall Running Club was packed with 45 enthusiastic Grade 4-7 athletes who pursued their personal goals to run further and become stronger. Together we logged over 400 km in 10 sessions. The Running Club is open to all students, regardless of ability, who commit to being healthier and doing their best, and to parents who wish to develop their fitness levels and be part of the team. Much thanks to coaches: Mrs. McFaul, Mrs. Hannebauer, Mrs. Bastone, Mrs. Chau, Mrs. McLean, Ms. Faherty, and dedicated parents: Ms. Co and Mr. Labossiere. The more faithful support, the more enjoyable for students and staff.

CISVA Cross Country Championships

This year we had 88 of our Lions representing St. Augustine at Swangard Stadium. We reached our goal of finishing in 10th place overall out of 35 schools! Students from all grades are becoming more ambitious about running competitively and further establishing a foundation for a physically active lifestyle. Special recognition goes to Tait Moffat in Grade 7 who finished in 7th place, and to Hazel Clay who finished 3rd. Both runners competed against 140

racers in their categories. Congratulations, Lions, and a huge thanks to the dozens of parent volunteers who looked after our racers from warm-up to cool down, and getting us safely there and back. See you next year!

Volleyball

Our season was marked again with development and success, in sport, but also in body, mind, and spirit. Players learned about commitment, consistency, self-discipline, working together, and developing the resilience to play in victory and defeat.

Our **Grade 5 girls** team went 3-0 in the season, and lost the semi-finals in a close game against St. Pius. Wonderful work, Coach Yule!

Grade 6 girls worked steadily improved in their skill levels and confidence, steadily narrowing the gap between losses and wins. They are on a good path for 2017. Thank you for your dedication, Mrs. Vales!

The **Grade 7 girls** played with an increasing confidence and understanding of the game and made it handily to semi-finals where they lost to Holy Trinity. Keep up your skills, and we hope to see you in your high school leagues. Thank you for your knowledge and enthusiasm, Coach Moffat!

The **Grade 5 boys** came to practice with energy and enthusiasm. They learned the importance of directing energy which led to considerable

growth this year. Many thanks to the courageous Grade 4 students who played up to help field a team. Thank you for all your leadership, Coach Patzer!

Grade 6 boys showed increasing determination and self-discipline throughout all practices which transferred into their games. They remained calm and courageous in high-pressure games which went past 25 points and into the 3rd match. This resiliency while under pressure will serve them well.

The **Grade 7 boys** team once again had a remarkable year. Anyone would be impressed to see their play. Clear and controlled play, they demonstrate understanding of the game and of their teammates' roles and skills. This continued growth and commitment to the sport and team won them their repeat title of CISVA Champions!

Congratulations to our Grade 7 Lions and to Miss O'Hara!

Basketball

Please watch the school web-site and e-mails for updated schedules for basketball practices. The coaches' meeting is December 5, at which time, the game schedule will be determined. Please honour the St. Augustine Athlete's Commitment agreed to at registration and mark games and practices in your calendars. Commitment is fundamental to team success.

FALL CAMPAIGN UPDATE and ONE LAST PUSH

With the calendar year fast approaching, fall turning into winter, and on the eve of the construction of the 3rd floor, thank you to all the families who have so generously contributed to the fall campaign so far. Here is the update of contributions by grade level. We are so very close to reaching our school goal of 100% participation. Thank you for your generosity and, if you haven't yet been able to contribute, thank you for prayerfully considering doing so for one last big fundraising push before the Christmas holidays to reach our goal, SAS!

