

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year, SAS! I hope that everyone's Christmas holidays involved both rest and spending quality time with loved ones. It is important to remember that, in Christian tradition, Christmas, just as Easter, is celebrated as a period of time, a season of the Church year, rather than just a day. Christmas begins with Christmas Day December 25 and lasts for twelve days until the Epiphany, January 6, which looks ahead to the mission of the Church to the world in light of the Nativity. As we ring in 2017, let us work to keep Christmas alive in our hearts the entire year. With this, I share with you a post-Christmas reflection:

"Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains.

The Child in whom we rediscover God's great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate his selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world in love...

May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away; May we welcome the adult Messiah and his challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the new year."



Happy New Year once again, SAS! All the very best in 2017! God bless!

Mr. Yaptinchay

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME!

By December 16, SAS delivered countless items to and supported the Sancta Maria House, families in need, the Syrian Refugee Fund, and the Oblate Missions. What a fantastic and wonderful way to celebrate Christmas by continuing the mission of Jesus and the work of the Church!

Thank you to all who so generously donated to our Advent Giving initiatives!

As we begin this new year, we want to continue, as a faith community, to CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME through acts of charity. Our post-Christmas

work will involve the collection of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank through the months of January and into February. More details will follow.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2017/2018

If you have a sibling who will be 5 years old by December 31, 2017, please, fill out the online registration form found [here](#). **The deadline for sibling registration is Friday, January 15, 2016.**

OPEN HOUSE and INFORMATION EVENING (January 5, 2017)

We are hosting an information evening Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 7:00pm in the School Learning Commons for parents of prospective Kindergarten students.



WINTER CLOTHING

As we weather an exceptionally cold Vancouver winter, we ask that all children be sent to school with proper rain/snow and cold weather attire, which includes boots, winter jacket (hoodies don't count!), mitts/gloves, and hats or toques.

ADVENT CONCERT

If you were in attendance on Dec. 8, I am certain you would agree that this was once again a beautiful Advent Evening of Song and Prayer that our school celebrated. Just as last year, the church was filled! It was so beautiful to hear your children's voices as they sang so passionately that evening! Congratulations to Mr. Arntzen for his fantastic work preparing the songs, harmonies, and melodies with the students! A special thank you to all grades for

their beautiful singing and to our teachers and staff, in particular Ms. O'Hara for her work planning and coordinating the event. A special thank you to Father Andrew and the Oblate Fathers, as well as to all the teachers, students, families, friends, and alumni who took time out of their busy pre-Christmas schedules to celebrate this special evening with us.

COACH'S CORNER

Our basketball season is in full swing. Thank you to the teacher and parent coaches, as well as our teacher sponsors, without whom this school sport would not be possible.

FAMILY LITERACY AND DRESS-UP DAY (JAN. 27)

Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. There will be organized before school and after school activities for parents

and their children in the Learning Commons. Stay tuned for details.

The same day, we will have our first "Literature Dress-Up Day" at SAS! As part of our literacy initiatives, all students are asked to dress-up as his/her favourite author or character from a book. Along with a costume, please, bring in a copy of the book that inspired the costume choice. Costumes must be school appropriate and violence-free. This is a non-uniform day!

PICK-UP REQUEST

We love having parents and friends at the the school and we hope you all feel welcome. One small request, however, would be helpful at pick-up. If you are inside the school at dismissal, we ask that you wait in the foyer by the school office and not by classroom doors. This will allow students to focus on the dismissal routines in their classroom at the end of the school day. The last 10-15 minutes just before

dismissal are an important time for students to remain focused on packing up and preparing their supplies before leaving school. The fewer distractions the better for the entire class and classroom teacher. Thank you for your understanding and support with this request.

SNOW DAYS (OR SCHOOL CLOSURE)

In case school is closed due to snow, the school will notify you by email. Please, also check the school website, as well as CKNW AM980 and Global News. This announcement will be made by 6:30am at the latest.

If the school is open despite snow falling, you will also be notified by email regardless. If you find it is unsafe to come to school in the morning, please, make the decision to stay home. We do not want anyone to risk injury or an accident if you feel it is not safe to drive to school from where you live.

THE EPIPHANY



Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day," is commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas. The feast celebrates the manifestation of God in the form of human flesh through Jesus Christ, his Son.

The word *epiphany* means "manifestation" or "revelation" and is commonly linked in Western Christianity with the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ child. Through the Magi, Christ revealed himself to the gentiles. In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany puts emphasis on the baptism of Jesus by John, with Christ revealing himself to the world as God's own Son. Likewise, on Epiphany some denominations commemorate Jesus' miracle of turning [water into wine](#), signifying the manifestation of Christ's divinity, as well.