



Teacher Denise McFaul in her grade 4 class

St. Augustine's Staff of 2019: TEAM JESUS!

Each year during our Fall Campaign, we focus on a theme or unique aspect of our community. This year - our 108th since the school was founded and our 5th in the new building - we thought we'd take a closer look at the single largest group of people in the school: our staff.

When we built the new school with the capacity to double-stream classes, we also had to increase the staff. Today, we have 43 teachers and support staff caring for more than 350 children.

They're a wonderful group of women and men. Some are in their very first year of teaching, others have over 35 years' experience. Some were students in our elementary school and another did her practicum here at St. Augustine. A few were...

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2019 Fall Campaign Kicks-Off

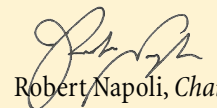


This year, as our third child enters kindergarten, we feel blessed to have a second chance to begin anew at St. Augustine School and grateful for the wonderful teachers that care for and educate them.

Each Sunday at 9 a.m. mass, I smile as I see the pews seemingly hollow out, as the kids come up for *Liturgy of the Word for Children*. So many little ones trying to be the first to get "this Cross and this Book" from Father Andrzej!

There are so many young families choosing St. Augustine as their faith community. It feels like, through the Holy Spirit, we are weaving a beautiful tapestry of people here at St. Augustine, searching for a spiritual home.

Thank you on behalf of the Faith & Foundation Committee for your continued support. This Fall Campaign we ask again for your help as we continue to build the new St. Augustine School, one step at a time.



Robert Napoli, Chair of the Fall Campaign

Fall Campaign Key Dates

Week 1

October 17 Donor Recognition Event
October 19-20 Campaign Video

Week 2

October 26-27 Teachers' Testimonials
School Tours

Week 3

November 2 School - Parish Dance
November 2-3 Community Testimonials

St. Augustine's Staff of 2019...

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born and raised in Vancouver but most have travelled west from the prairies and Maritimes or from even further abroad from Ireland, Australia, Korea, Philippines, Asia, and New Zealand to name a few.

Some have graced the cover of an educational magazine showcasing their talents, others helped to write the new CISVA Christian Education curriculum. In their home parishes they are lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, leaders of Children Liturgy and, workshop and retreat facilitators. In their local communities



Cheryl Bastone helping a student

they are involved in activities and organizations that promote social justice, overseas missionary work, and environmental stewardship. In addition, most are raising families and many have had their children in our school.

Although different in background, personality, gifts and skills, there are two qualities that they all share. Each one has a deep understanding of his or her personal discipleship and relationship with God and each one is committed to our community and to the work they do.

Every morning the staff meets to start the day with scripture and prayer. This faith sharing and the intentions offered each morning, remind us of our vocation, the importance of our faith and the call to be Christ-like in all we do.

Twice a year the staff goes on a retreat. At the most recent summer retreat, a day was planned to learn more about the history of our school and focus on the Catholic Independent School of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CSIVA) theme ... which is *I can do all things through Christ*.

With creative flare and holy humour, the staff declared themselves to be **TEAM JESUS!** – and the annual welcome bulletin board was born!

Like all teams, there are players on staff who are new and just learning the ropes, those who have belonged for a couple of years



Kindergarten Teacher Alix Smith with students

and contribute to the team's success and accepted its challenges, and those who have been 'on the team' for many years, and help to carry the School's story and its hope for the future.

An idea began to take shape for our Fall Campaign newsletter: what if the staff were invited to share their individual stories? What themes might arise and how might they bring to light the staff's commitment and love for our School?

Three Questions

The staff were asked three simple questions. *If you are new to St. Augustine in the past couple of years, what brought you here? If you are in the middle years, what keeps you here? And if you have chosen to continue to commit to St. Augustine School as a senior staff member, how do you see your role with the community?*

What came through these passionate, articulate, and faith-filled people were three central themes: that St. Augustine School is **home**; that **gratitude** permeates their entrance into the community and fuels their reasons for remaining, and that their **shared faith** binds the community together through difficulty, loss, challenges and into new beginnings.

The following excerpts from staff stories written or shared orally carry the voices of all the staff.

Home

On the team for four years, **Rebecca Kelly**, Education Assistant Rebecca moved to Vancouver from Dublin four years ago to experience life in Canada. She said of her time with us: "I really struggled in my first year [in Canada], being so far away from home...[and having worked in Catholic school in Dublin], I was blessed to discover that there was a vacancy for an EA at St. Augustine. The warm and welcoming atmosphere made me feel a part of the St. Augustine family straight away.

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I was welcomed by every member of staff, as well as by the children and parents and fell in love with this community. ... after only one year, I realized that Vancouver was now my second home!

"This is my fourth year at St. A's and I cannot imagine working anywhere else and feeling this happy and at home in my work."

A member of our team for 6 years as French teacher
Nancy McLean

"Little did I know how much I would feel like a member of a family at St. Augustine School. I was welcomed with open arms and well-supported as I started my new job as French teacher in the old school. Just like family, my school community encourages me professionally, celebrates my accomplishments, listens and prays with me in my times of need and continues to help me grow in my Catholic faith."

New to our team 2 years, **Sarah Corcoran**, Grade 2 teacher

Sarah shared her Irish family story. She is one of eight children, whose father passed away when she was only 12, and the support of her extended family and the unwavering faith of her mother gave her great comfort. Sarah wrote that her faith was rooted in daily prayer, family rosary on Friday night and being active as a member of her parish church. "...My faith is a very important part of my identity and to find myself in St. Augustine School in this new country, Canada, has given me a sense of coming home.... I was elated to accept and have the opportunity to work with the children as they prepare for their continuing journey with Jesus."

Gratitude

New to our team, **Soo Kim**, Grade 3 teacher, who taught previously for 8 years in another CISVA school

"After spending a year at SAS, I am beginning to understand why God called me here. Immediately, I sensed the presence of a faith-filled community...that practises and lives out their love for God, not only in words but in sincere, whole-hearted willingness. ...God's abundant grace and love for me, knowing me better than myself [has taught me] that I needed this community to grow professionally and spiritually."

On the team for 2 years, **Hector Cortez**, Maintenance

Hector wrote of St. Augustine School: Initially I was looking for a job and what I discovered was a wonderful loving community

that flows through the lives of the teachers, students and parents, making it a joyful place to work."

On the team a year, **Jason O'Sullivan**, Learning Resource Team teacher

"For me," Jason said, "gratitude is the key ...[as St. Vincent de Paul often said], 'the grateful heart doesn't want for anything because you cannot be both grateful and unhappy at the same time. Family to me means honesty, loyalty, kindness, patience, gratitude and love. I am now part of the extended family at St. Augustine School .. the future is bright!"

On the team for many years, **Donna O'Hara**, Grade 7 teacher

Donna wrote: "I am forever grateful for the many ways that the community has, over the years, supported me through



personal challenges and losses, encouraged me to grow in my teaching profession and faith, and celebrated me in so many ways. ... As a veteran teacher, I know that one of my roles is to help

pass along the history and story of our community, and in particular, the charisms of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Sisters of St. Anne and their education dream, and our call to understand that we are not just doing, "good work", we are doing 'God's work'. It delights me to say that, although there have been a number of significant changes in our school over the past years, the roots and spirit of the community are alive and strong."

Shared Faith

A team member for a number of years: **Dorothy Patzer**, Vice Principal and Intermediate PE teacher, Dorothy quoted the song, 'For Good' from the musical, Wicked:

"I've heard it said, that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn and we are led to those who help us most to grow, if we let them, and we help them in return."

Dorothy's response to her chosen quote personalizes its impact for her. "These lyrics resonate with me as I continue my journey as a teacher. I truly believe that God places... people into our lives ... [and for me] to teach me life's lessons, to help me take risks, to help me make a difference in the community and to challenge me to grow in my faith."

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St. Augustine's Staff of 2019...

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We work hard together to create a place where children grow up to be independent thinkers who are compassionate, humble and who are cognizant of the positive impact that they make in the community.

The most important thing that I believe I can do is to give back to this wonderful community that continues to help me grow as a faith-filled individual."

Cecilia Ramirez, Grade 5 teacher who taught in an another Catholic School

"I am so grateful to have grown up with devout Catholic grandparents and parents that have passed down their faith and love of God to me. They encouraged and nurtured



the gift of faith in me. And here at St. Augustine's [I have experienced]... daily prayer and staff retreats that have shown me the sincerity and dedication of this community... and it has truly shown me the power of prayer."

In Conclusion

Each and every day, our children are in the presence of passionate, caring, empowering men and women of Faith. We are grateful to the many on staff who embraced the challenge to share their stories of **Home, Gratitude and Shared Faith.**

We Remember

Patricia Proudfoot 1928 - 2019



Respect, affection and gratitude underlay the Faith and Foundation leadership team's thoughts and prayers as we honour and celebrate the life of Justice Patricia Proudfoot.

Patricia has been a long-standing parishioner at St. Augustine and, due to an introduction by Father John Brioux, OMI, Pat came to know about our Parish School and its goal to build a much needed new facility for its children.

Over the course of 20 years, she made a significant impact on our Archdiocese, Parish and our School. Championing the rights of the underprivileged found Pat supporting the Sisters of the Atonement and their impactful presence in the Downtown Eastside. She sat on Boards and Committees, provided professional expertise to the Archdiocese when called upon and contributed her resources to many charities and organizations committed to children and young adults.

Once Pat learned of our Capital Campaign (as Faith and Foundation was originally called), she accepted the challenge to join the leadership team, and inspired many by her contributions of time, professional input and financial support.

Pat came to love our little old school – and could be seen driving up in her red sports car, bearing treats for the staff and visiting in all the classrooms. She was famous amongst staff for her serious chats with the students about being responsible, listening to their parents and working hard. She particularly loved visiting the little ones in Kindy and watching them learn and grow under the loving support of their teacher.

As new school was completed, Pat thoroughly loved joining in its various activities, particularly our school plays, advent concerts and Seniors' lunches. Perhaps her greatest joys were the relationships that she fostered with her Grade 7 prayer...

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partners and the affection and respect that students showed her on Sundays when she would come to Mass.

Although Pat's trailblazing career in British Columbia's justice system might have been how others knew her – our relationships with Pat were simple. She loved inspiring young people to be the best that they could, and we all were inspired by her courage, dedication, tenacity and spirit of hope.

Pat passed away at her home on October 9, 2019.

Thank you
to the staff of
St. Augustine School

2018

Financial Report

This Financial Report provides donors to St. Augustine's Faith and Foundation Campaign with a summary of our gifts and pledges, other income and costs incurred during 2018.

We thank all of our donors for their faithful support over the past 18 years as we build and complete all phases of our new school. Our combined fundraising efforts during 2018 yielded \$872,600, in addition to a bequest of \$181,000.

The start of our Campaign

St. Augustine's campaign to build a new school commenced in 1999 when then-Pastor Father John Brioux, OMI assembled a group of parish leaders to study the needs of our aging elementary school. This review included an engineering feasibility study that found that it would be more cost-effective to replace the school than repair or renovate the existing structure. A fundraising campaign was launched in 2000.

Role of the provincial government and Archdiocese in funding a new school

The Provincial Government funds operating expenses for independent schools like ours equivalent to 50 percent of the cost to educate a child in the public school system, with the remainder financed through school tuition. Provincial funding is not available for capital costs, such as building a new school. The Archdiocese will provide some interest subsidies.

Campaign administration costs

In 2018, we spent \$60,700 to administer the Campaign from funds that were raised through our annual Pass the Torch event. Our administration costs represent approximately 6 percent of all funds received and is considered very low when compared to other philanthropic organizations in Canada.

We are fortunate to have so many people who volunteer their time to the Campaign. There are some activities that require paid part-time support to undertake the weekly and detailed administration require to process, track and manage hundreds of donor transactions. There are also expenses for financial service charges, mailing, printing, equipment and general office costs.

Campaign financial accountability

The Faith and Foundation Campaign is accountable to the Pastor, finance committee and the parish pastoral council. We report on all activities.

We have many checks and balances in our donation management system between the Campaign, Parish and Archdiocese. Donations are receipted and accounted for according to Canada Revenue Agency requirements. All donor information is held in strict confidence with access limited to the very few people required to manage this work. We maintain the accuracy of our records by ensuring the health of our pledge commitments.

Management of funds and discussion

All funds raised are directed at fulfilling the monthly mortgage payments and paying down the debt's principal as quickly as possible. As a result, the parish was able to reduce its debt by more than \$700,000 to \$3.27 million by the end of 2018. By May 2019, the debt has been further reduced to \$3 million. Today it stands at \$2.73 million.

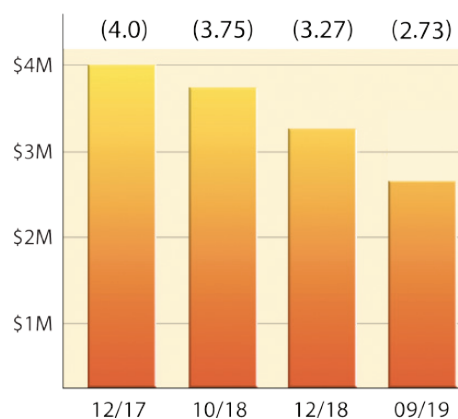
Faith and Foundation is committed to promoting broad-based support for the

campaign in order to reduce the debt as quickly as possible. Once achieved, we will be able to start planning for the final phase of the school, which includes replacement of the old gymnasium, semi-underground parking and other amenities.

In both 2017 and 2018, nearly 100% of school families made donations to either the spring or fall campaigns. We also continue to see strong support from the broader parish community. Individuals or families who do not currently have children attending the school have shown their support through the fall campaign, legacy giving and participation in major events like Pass the Torch.

Approximately 40 % of registered parishioners make annual contributions to our fund-raising efforts.

Parish Debt on New School Construction



Financial Report January - December 2018

New School Construction

Outstanding loan amount as of December 31 st (1)	\$3.27million
Amortization Period	20 years
Average Monthly Interest & Principal Repayments ⁽²⁾	\$28,375

Faith and Foundation

Statement of Fundraising Receipts & Expenditures Actual For the Year Ended December 31, 2018 2018

Receipts

Annual fundraising	\$ 598,300
PTT event	195,800
Loan interest rebate	41,400
GST Rebate	600
Other	36,500
Total Fundraising	872,600

Expenditures

Loan interest	137,000
Administration (salaries, office, bank charges) ⁽³⁾	60,700
GST Expense (third floor completion)	1,300
PTT expenses	38,800
Total Expenditures	237,800
Excess (Deficiency) Before Other Items	634,800

Other Expenditure Item

Add: Bequest	181,000
Less: Capital expenditure ⁽⁴⁾	24,500
Excess (Deficiency)	\$ 791,300

- (1) The outstanding loan amount as of May 30, 2019 was approx. \$3 million.
 (2) Higher interest rates have increased monthly interest payments to \$12,500.
 (3) Includes office expenses, bank charges and salaries for two part-time staff who are responsible for managing the donor database and supporting Faith and Foundation.
 (4) School driveway-related construction costs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Linda Arnold, Director of Administrative Services
 604-736-4455 Ext. 229
Faith & Foundation Office
 604-736-4455 Ext. 231

Pass the Torch 2020 - *Save the Date!*



Thank you

to our school families and parishioners for your generosity over so many years!

Thank you

to all of the school children who will be participating in our Fall Campaign as lectors, altar servers, hosts, singers and bearing Offertory gifts.

From Our Principal



It's been a great start to a new school year! What a wonderful first month and a half of school! I hope you share the same sentiment with me as we find ourselves well into autumn. Amidst the often hectic and full weeks ahead, let's not forget this year's Catholic Schools' theme: "WE CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST".

In this month of Thanksgiving, which is also the Month of the Rosary, as we work towards recognizing that all our joys and strength come from God, let us begin to seek Him in all things, turn to Him for all things, and be grateful for all the blessings in our lives, not only in our homes but also in the common home that we share - our parish and school.

Let us pray for those less privileged and be examples of Christian gratitude, service, and love and a source of joy for others, all of which make up who we are as members of the St Augustine family.

As our school continues to grow - we now have over 350 students and almost 250 families - our staff also grows. We are blessed to have 43 staff members, among the most respected teachers, education assistants, and support staff in the CISVA. We are grateful for the staff's continued dedication and undying commitment to our community, Catholic education and the children in their care.

To Father Andrew, our friends at the parish, all the students, parents, teachers, and staff, thank you, as always, for your undying support and commitment! I am truly grateful for all that you do, and I am looking forward to another incredible year with all of you!

God bless,

Michael Yaptinchay



Grade 6 teacher
Nancy Vales (r) and
EA Alison Earle

A Few Words From Our Pastor

*Dear parishioners and friends
of St. Augustine:*



In the five eventful years since I became Pastor of St. Augustine's a new school has opened its doors to a growing student body.

Along with students and their families, our teaching staff has expanded; we sincerely thank all our staff for their long hours of dedicated service. It is because of our teachers and staff that the spirit of St. Augustine School remains true to our Catholic values.

The work to realize this next phase is just beginning but with your efforts and God's blessings we will see a fully completed school soon.

Let us continue to support each other as we carry forward to the day when we have a new gymnasium, improved parking and other amenities.

Fr. Andrzej Stendzina, OMI
Pastor

THANK YOU

Total Donations and Pledges*:	\$ 9,744,977
Pledges Outstanding:	\$ 243,679
Total Donors:	1199
Total Gifts:	4397

*Faith and Foundation Funds are held in a separate Parish/Archdiocesan account strictly for the purpose of completing the new school at St. Augustine's.

