



Remaining Connected, with Gratitude for Community

Campaign reflects on 20 years of collaboration

This year's theme for our Fall Campaign is rooted in remaining connected while living out our lives in gratitude for the community of our Parish and School.

We all long to be connected – to our families to our neighbourhood communities, to our friends and to our Parish – especially now in this coronavirus time.

Where do we look for models of this?

We have chosen to remember the lives of six parishioners who called St. Augustine Parish their home. All of these previously longstanding members have passed away over the past 20 years. Some did not have children or did not have children in...

cont'd on page 2

2020 Fall Campaign Kicks-Off



More than ever as we embrace our new reality, it is so important for us to keep our relationships and connections strong.

Our theme for the Fall Campaign, *Remaining Connected with Gratitude for Community*, reminds me of how important we are to each other, and how grateful I am to be part of our Parish community.

We hope our Fall Campaign this year will serve as a catalyst for us to reconnect in new ways, and inspire us to continue the mission of building our new school. I am sure it will be filled with hope and many blessings! Just you wait!

Thank you on behalf of the Faith & Foundation Committee for your faithful support.



Robert Napoli,
Chair of the Fall Campaign

Fall Campaign 2020 Key Dates

October 22

Parish Update & Special Announcement

October 24/25

All masses livestreamed
Campaign Video & Newsletter

October 31/ November 1

Testimonies at all masses
School children participate as lectors

November 7/8

Testimonies at all masses
School children participate as lectors

CAMPAIGN GOAL
\$500,000

RAISED TO DATE
\$276,104

Donations received until Dec. 31, 2020

Remaining Connected...

cont'd from page 1

...the school during this time. But all chose to demonstrate their connection to our community through their generosity.

We are honoured to share their stories with you.

Looking for signs

Following the Parish's decision to build a new school, then-Pastor **Father John Brioux** remained somewhat concerned about how our Parish could accomplish such a big task.

Father John was always searching for what he called a 'sign' – some demonstration that our intention was linked to what God would desire for us.



Gertrude & Ralph Hughes

Our Parish received one of the first 'bigger' gifts in the form of a donation of a penny-jars contents from **Gertrude and Ralph Hughes**. They LOVED the Oblates and were among the first Honorary Oblates. Their \$25,000 gift humbled us all – and provided a launching point for gifts to come.

Trudy Thompson was another enthusiastic, engaged parishioner. She enjoyed our Parish Fairs and social functions, and appreciated the presence of the children in the Parish. Her gift given in a bequest, matched that of the Hughes family. The year was 2000.

With this second 'bigger gift', Father John was inspired to compose our SCHOOL PRAYER, which was recited for years at each mass within the parish:



Trudy Thompson

*Mary Mother of Eternal Life, Good Joseph faithful and just;
Jesus morning star so bright, in You we put our trust.
On this day we ask most fervently as we place our need with you,
A home for faith and community – a school all bright and new.*

Margaret Mahoney's legacy is marked by her work in social services, within the Archdiocese as the Executive Director of Catholic Charities for 15 years, and as a very active member of our parish. She demonstrated her commitment to Catholic

education and our Parish's children through her bequest of *more than \$50,000*. Again, quietly given in gratitude.

These initial larger gifts were continually being added to by the many children, parents, parishioners and friends who believed in the idea of our Parish building a new school. Our 'signs' were continuing to bless us. Our Campaign was moving forward.

More signs - journey continues

In the spring of 2012, our Parish was the blessed recipient of a very significant bequest from a woman deeply loyal to its goal of providing an excellent Catholic education. She herself had attended St. Augustine's first school building and, due to family needs, was unable to graduate from Grade 12. At one time, St. Augustine's included a high school. She was required to enter the work force to help her family.

Over 60 years later, her love of St. Augustine's was still deep when she bequeathed a large gift to our school's campaign.



Maureen Sweeney

Maureen Sweeney's gift inspired so many that in 2012, our school and parish community matched her gift and ended up raising well over \$1,000,000 during that year's campaign.

As a sign to Maureen's family, we received permission from the Superintendent of Catholic School's to present them with an Honorary Degree of Graduation as a small sign of our gratitude for her immense generosity.

By then, the leadership teams of the Parish could see how these amazing big and small gifts were making it possible for our shared dream to become a reality.

By 2013, work was begun doing studies, reviewing the Parish's finances, making financial projections, hiring an architect, exploring design ideas, and meeting with other parishes and schools throughout the Province who had done big projects such as ours. We expanded our fundraising vision, and working with the Archdiocese, the City of Vancouver and other authorities we created a proposal to build a new school.

Throughout all this time, our school community had been highly encouraged to become more involved in the Parish – to accept responsibility for important tasks that would build our connections within the Church.

The school began to host receptions in the Parish Centre following the Sunday morning masses, school parents joined

cont'd on page 3

Remaining Connected...

cont'd from page 2

various parish ministries and committees – such as *Art and Environment, Music, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Choirs,* and *Moms and Tots* to name a few. Things were changing for our Parish and we were so grateful for everyone's whole-hearted support.

Seniors giving and praying forward

One such group we were blessed to 'inherit' were our seniors. In years past, our seniors would gather a couple of times a year at the Parish Centre for a lunch. Once our new school was built, we



Grade 7 Students host a Seniors lunch at the school (Fall 2019)

invited them to begin 'lunching' with us at the school. Our intention was to demonstrate our deep appreciation for their presence in our Parish, while expressing our gratitude for their commitment over many, many years to the survival and eventual success of our Parish's Campaign to build a brand new school.

Donna O'Hara, our Grade 7 teacher, suggested that her students help make the lunches, host the meal, and seek a '**Prayer Partner**' to act as a companion as they prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

And a beautiful, life-giving and joyful tradition was created between our Grade 7's and their prayer partners.



A dear friend of the school, highly respected former Supreme Court judge and decades-old parishioner, **Patricia Proudfoot**, was one such senior. Mrs. Proudfoot absolutely loved our School and its children.



Pat Proudfoot

One sign that our students had deeply impacted Pat's life was when her executor-nephew asked that her Prayer Partners read the Prayers of the Faithful at her funeral Mass.

Mrs. Proudfoot's connection and love of the school combined to create her determination to make a notable contribution through her will. In the Spring of 2020, our Parish was the blessed recipient of her \$1,250,000

bequest. Such abundant generosity will impact our Parish and School community long into the future.

Please hold these generous, long-standing former parishioners in your prayers. We know that Father John Brioux's prayer continues to be answered each year. We thank all who have chosen to be a part of our Parish: a community committed, connected, grateful and generous.

Take a (Virtual) Walk Through Our School

As we begin our new school year with the theme 'Walk with Jesus: Our living Hope', we invite you to symbolically walk through the school to get a real sense of who makes up our school community for the 2020-2021 school year.

Our new school, now 5 years old, continues to feel like home. We have 381 wonderful students, ages 4 - 13, from 267 families with diverse cultural backgrounds.

The school spans 8 grade levels divided into 14 classrooms. Kindergarten through Grade 5 are now double streamed (2 classes per grade); Grade 6 and 7 are still single stream.

Accompanying our students and families are 50 staff members. This talented group of adults includes 2 administrators, 16 classroom teachers, 8 specialty teachers covering French, Physical Education, Music, Library, and Learning Resource, 19 Educational Assistants, and 5 support staff. Together they work to provide a positive faith-based environment in which our children's faith is nurtured, their academic skills increase, and friendships flourish.

Although we are growing each year, we are one family, sharing a common vision of providing an outstanding Catholic education to all those who walk through our doors.

Pray for us this year as we continue to pray for you!

Patricia Proudfoot:

A Model of Faith, Determination and Generosity

It is with gratitude that our Parish leadership acknowledges and celebrates the gift that Patricia Proudfoot has been to our Parish and School.



Patricia was born on her family's farm in Saskatchewan in 1928. The youngest of ten children, the values of family, faith, and education took early root deep within Patricia.

Her parents believed deeply that a formal education would ensure that each of their children could both contribute to society and be ensured of stable futures.

Patricia's father saw the possibilities: he knew her to be thoughtful, hard-working and determined to right those things that she saw created injustice: she set her sights on law and never looked back.

Having earned her undergraduate and law degrees from UBC, Patricia established herself in private practice and entered the judicial court system upon invitation in 1974 as the first woman to be appointed to the Provincial Court. Just three years later, she was again the first woman to be appointed to the BC Supreme Court.

Patricia went on to many other appointments in her life time of service to Canada.

How did a child of the dust-bowl era become so attached to St. Augustine Parish?

Having joined our Oblate Parish in the 1980s, Patricia developed strong personal relationships with both Father Joe Rossiter and Father John Brioux. These friendships forged a loyalty that Pat expressed through her commitment of time, the sharing of her talents and contributions of her treasure.

Patricia's parish involvement deepened upon her retirement: she was a member of the CWL, a loyal Sunday mass attendee, an early contributor to Faith and Foundation, and later, was as a highly respected member of Faith and Foundation's leadership team. She also treasured her time with the members of the Parish's 'Busy Hands' group.

For those within the School, it was her faithful and influential presence within our School community that touched the lives of students and staff alike. She loved the impact that she could see the School was having on its youth and she obviously was determined to be a part of its history.

With her faith and school-centred bequest received by the Parish in 2020, Patricia chose to connect her living faith with her

practice of generosity. The \$1,250,000 she shared with our Parish came as a joyful surprise. But Pat knew that it would help to complete paying for our school.

Patricia Proudfoot was choosing to live out what great mentors do: they root their choices in something bigger than themselves, inspire hope for the future and demonstrate abundant generosity. May her gift inspire others to loyalty and generosity.

Prayer Partners

A Student's Point of View

Covid-19 has brought immeasurable changes to the lives of many people. For me, one of these changes has been the nature of my relationships with others. Since the middle of March, we have all experienced difficulties being able to fully connect with friends and family in the typical ways in which we have become accustomed to.

However, upon reflection, I have realized that the most important relationships in our lives can not only survive, but actually thrive, even in the face of a world pandemic.

During our Grade 7 year, we hosted several lunches for the seniors in the parish. At the first luncheon of the year, students were paired with a senior prayer partner who prays for them during the year leading up to Confirmation.

Until this time, Ms. Geri Fujisawa and I were acquaintances, but



Geri Fujisawa and Victoria Battiston

since we locked eyes at the first luncheon, a blossoming relationship has flourished. At the time, I thought nothing of it, but little did I know, what a huge blessing God had placed into my life.

Over these months, our relationship has grown from acquaintance, to organized prayer partner, to true friendship. Now not only do I get the pleasure of talking to 'Auntie Geri', as I now call her, but I have grown closer to her siblings, Auntie Marie and Uncle Eugene as well.

I am so grateful for everything Auntie Geri has taught me. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful, wise, humble and kind person not only praying for me, and I for her, but Auntie Geri is now a wonderful part of my life and will be into our futures.

Victoria Battiston, Grade 7



Our 2020 graduates celebrate in June

Class of 2020: A graduation to never forget

Although the 2019 – 2020 school year began as usual, it had an unprecedented ending. This group of grade 7 students were well on their way to a positive and productive academic year and had found many ways to use their time and talents in leadership and service activities. Then in March, the pandemic forced in-class instruction to be suspended and school facilities closed.

At SAS we are blessed with new and updated technology that has been gained through the generosity of many. For the remainder of the year, the grade 7s continued to learn and develop their skills and competencies through daily Zoom lessons and posted assignments. As well, special activities such as taking the annual field trip to Victoria and participating in Holy Thursday retreat, Sports Day and Camp were changed in to a virtual experience.

Although almost all activities stopped, the students did continue to reach out and connect with their prayer partners. Phone calls, emails and waving from the sidewalk were some of the ways that the students checked in on and stayed in touch with the seniors.

Some even did grocery shopping and errand running for them so that they could be safe at home.

Working with this group of students during this unprecedented time was a gift. Their joyful spirit, flexibility and adaptability as well as excellent technology skills made each day a successful and positive experience.

Although their Confirmation was postponed to the Fall of 2020, the school did host a Farewell assembly on Zoom and a drive-in Farewell ceremony. The playground was decorated with balloons, staff were in the windows with signs and noise makers and the students' families were in their cars cheering as students were called up to receive a special package filled with gifts, good wishes and his or her certificate of completion.

As the event ended and each car drove away, I couldn't help but think that St. Patrick Secondary, Little Flower Academy, Vancouver College, Kitsilano High School, Hugh Boyd, Magee Secondary and West Point Grey Academy are blessed to have these enthusiastic, creative, capable young people, and their families, as part of their learning communities.

Donna O'Hara, Grade 7 teacher

STAY CONNECTED TO OUR PARISH

- Visit our parish website: www.staugustineschurch.ca for the latest parish information, *registration to our masses* and links to our *live stream mass*.
- Take a minute to provide your updated email address and other contact information so we can keep you informed. Call the Parish office at **604-736-4455** or email us at: parish.saug@rcav.org
- If you'd like to receive our **online bulletin**, please go to the front page of the parish website where you can hit our "*subscribe*" link and fill in your contact information.

The Gatares – Our Parish's Sponsored Refugee Family



The Gatares with their "Pedals for The People" bikes.

Tenacity, perseverance, faith and joyfulness are words that describe the Gatare Family - our Parish's refugee family, who came to Vancouver last December from Kenya.

These past ten months have proved to be exciting, challenging and fun, brim-filled with learning about their new home. They began the year with great hopes and were eagerly anticipating employment, while looking forward to university some time in the future.



Resumes were updated and ready to go!

And then the pandemic hit: everything was shut down, including their job training and

opportunities for work experience, eliminating paid work experiences and language training for the parents. Like all of us, they were secluded in their home for many weeks - all nine of them.

As of mid-September, however, due to their hard work and determination, four of the young adults in the family are working full-time, one part-time and one has a promise of work beginning in late September. We are so pleased for them! Mr. and Mrs. Gatare, along with a few of their children also had a short experience working in a laundry.

We know the Gatare's to be a hardworking crew. Jordan, the youngest family member is currently in Grade 11 at Holy Cross High School in Surrey, where he earned A's and B's in his last report!

Three members of the family have received their driving learner's licences and have taken several driving lessons. A couple are

out on the roads and doing well. The third has just begun to drive, having taken one lesson.

Through the generosity of others, various contributions have made life better for the Gatare family. Thanks go to "Our Community Bikes" 2429 Main Street, that donated, through their "Pedals for The People" program, five refurbished bikes in excellent condition to the family. We are so happy that this additional means of transportation is now available to the Gatare's!

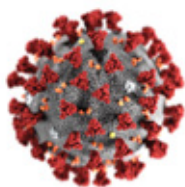
Also, several desktops and laptops have been donated.

Health wise, everyone is doing well, having attended walk-in clinics, hospitals, and dentists. While emergency medical and dental is provided for the first year of a refugee's entrance to Canada, the family has all had dental check ups.

To all the Parishioners who helped in any way to sponsor this very deserving family, the Refugee Committee expresses its gratitude. The Gatare's are very grateful and overwhelmed by the generosity shown to them in this, their first year in their new country!

Marian McDermott
Co-ordinator, St. Augustine Refugee Committee

In 2019, St. Augustine Parish joined Christ the Redeemer Parish to support the sponsorship of the Gatare family who were living as refugees in Kenya for more than 10 years. The family was originally from Rwanda. Refugee committees from both parishes collaborated to find and furnish a home for the Gatares and assist in countless ways to orient them to life in their new country. School families joined parishioners on our refugee committee. The school also raised funds for the family in the years preceding their arrival to Canada.

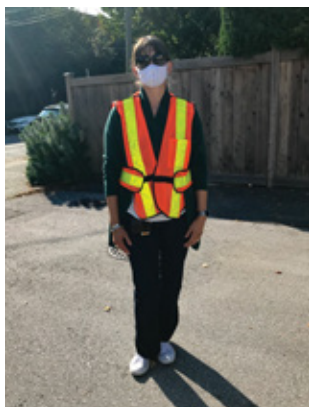


COVID – and 10 ways that our School has adapted

Beginning in mid-March 2020, with input from the Ministries of Health and Education, and the CISVA, St. Augustine School 'adjusted' its educational plans:

1. The School expanded its capacity to support teachers.
2. All programmes were transformed to on-line, virtual platforms.
3. Parents made significant adjustments at home.
4. By June, SAS had to redesign its physical space, acquire the appropriate signage, adjust staffing, and ensure that all the safety items prescribed by the Ministry of Health were in place.
5. With 110 returning, 250 students remained at home in June.
6. Some teachers and educational assistants returned to School to support in-school learning; others remained at home supporting education on-line.
7. Summer months were used to plan for the full return of students.
8. Parish Centre was offered to the Grade 7 class to accommodate the needs of physical distancing and safety.
9. The leadership and staff are continually required to make on-going adjustments as the Ministry of Health and Education respond to expanding COVID situations.
10. For September, a 'transition' plan was announced, and families were given the choice to remain enrolled with their school (51 for SAS), with 329 returned to their respective classrooms.

The School remains positive, determined and united in its goal to provide an excellent education for all of its students!



From Our Principal



It has been a wonderful start to the new school year! The entire community (staff, parents, and children) have been incredible in supporting each other and following the new protocols to ensure our school is safe for all. I cannot be prouder of our community.

Though we know the year may be filled with challenges because of the pandemic, I trust it will be filled with many successes as well, by students, parents, and teachers and staff alike. Most importantly, we take on the upcoming year

determined to continue to mould the minds and spirits of our children as a faith community.

This year's theme for all Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese is **"WALK WITH JESUS, OUR LIVING HOPE!"** During these unprecedented times, "May the God of hope fill (us) with all joy and peace in believing, so that (we) may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." May our faith give us the strength and the hope to persevere and accomplish anything — in our school, in our homes, in our communities, and in our lives.

As we work to remain connected this year, we begin by ensuring that our families find strength and support in each other as a faith community through the Eucharist, even if only virtually. If you and your family cannot attend Mass in person, remember to join us for our live-stream mass Sundays on our parish Facebook page or YouTube channel.

I cannot emphasize enough how important this is for families and especially our children. Also, once a month, usually the first Wednesday of the month, we celebrate a school mass, which is also live-streamed. You are all invited to join us on social media as our classes take turns to lead mass throughout the year. Simply visit the parish website and click on the Facebook or YouTube link to subscribe.

Let us continue to invite Jesus to walk with us as we journey through this exceptional year. It is indeed HE who gives us hope through all of this.

Together, let us have a safe, wonderful, and faith-filled school year!

God bless,

Michael Yaptinchay

A Few Words From Our Pastor

*Dear parishioners and friends
of St. Augustine:*



Welcome back to all our hardworking teachers, students and parents as we begin another exciting school year.

These past few months have challenged each of us in different ways. The support of our school and parish community is our valued and shared connection. Our small but mighty community relies on one another and takes care of one another.

As we work together, we live our faith and answer God's call by finding new ways to stay connected and show our gratitude for each other. We are all in this together ~ we are never alone.

Let us take up the challenge of these extraordinary times and move forward as a unified group, giving thanks each day for the good we are blessed with and for the community we serve.

Fr. Andrzej Stendzina, OMI
Pastor



THANK YOU

2000 - 2020

Total Donations and Pledges*: \$ 11,491,422

Pledges Outstanding: \$ 200,101

Total Donors: 1244

Total Gifts: 4794

*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.

2019

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 2019.

We thank all of our donors for their faithful support over the past 20 years as we build and complete all phases of our new school. Our combined fundraising efforts during 2019 yielded \$776,785.

The start of our Campaign

St. Augustine's campaign to build a new school commenced in 2000 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 formal fundraising campaign was launched in 2001.

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 provides interest subsidies.

Campaign administration costs

In 2019, we spent \$63,533 to administer the Campaign from funds that were raised through our annual Pass the Torch event. Our administration costs represent approximately 8 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 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 \$730,000 to \$2,536,658 by the end of 2019.

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.

Over the past three years, nearly 100 percent of school families made annual donations.

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 percent of registered parishioners make annual contributions to our campaign.

October 2020 Update

As a result of a generous bequest in 2020, the parish's debt on the school building project has been reduced to approximately \$1.1 million.

The prospect of completing the third and final phase of the school has taken an enormous step forward as the Parish is very close to eliminating its debt. Once that has happened, the Parish leadership will be in a position to approach the Archdiocese to review next steps in the building program.



Financial Report January - December 2019

New School Construction

Outstanding loan amount as of December 31, 2019	\$2,536,658
Amortization Period	20 years
Average Monthly Interest & Principal Repayments	\$19,000

Faith and Foundation

Statement of Fundraising Receipts & Expenditures Actual For the Year Ended December 31, 2019 2019

Receipts

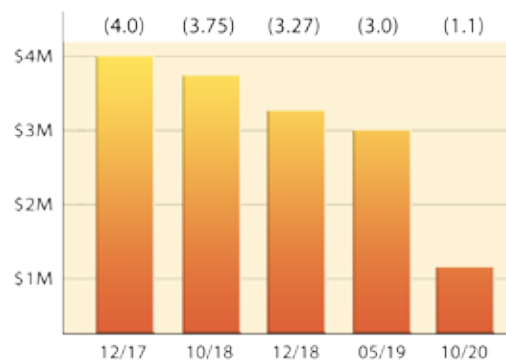
Annual fundraising	\$ 502,110
Interest	2,046
Special Donation	50,000
Leasehold Income	35,000
Loan Interest Rebate	30,184
PTT event	157,445
Total Fundraising	\$776,785

Expenditures

Loan interest	116,365
Administration*	53,533
Total Expenditures	169,898
Net Income	606,887

*Administration costs include office expenses, bank charges and salaries for two part-time staff responsible for managing the donor database and supporting Faith and Foundation.

Parish Debt on New School Construction 2017- 2020



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Linda Arnold, Director of Administrative Services
604-736-4455 Ext. 229

Faith & Foundation Office
604-736-4455 Ext. 231

