

Volume XI No. 5 June 2012

ST. AUGUSTINE C.H.S. *ORACLE Newsletter*



*O*pportunity • *R*eligious & Spiritual Growth • *A*ssessment Evaluation & Catholic Curriculum • *C*onnected Learning Community • *L*ife-Long Learning • *e*Learning

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As this academic year comes to a close and preparations for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year begin, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our entire school community.

There is a common expression that "it takes a village to raise a child". This adage is an appropriate one here at St. Augustine: all of us share in the educational, social, and spiritual nurturing of our students and staff. Thank you to all of our teachers and support staff for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to our students. Thank you to our custodial staff who are always there for us in setting up and closing down the many large-scale events we have during the day and at night.

Thank you to the Catholic School Council for their active engagement in the support of the school and its goals in enhancing our students' education and in providing a critical set of lenses on school culture and direction.

Thank you to our wonderful parent community who entrust their most precious resource, their children, to our care. We are so grateful for your prayers and financial support which permits our school to achieve goals in the areas of academics, athletics and spiritual development. Thank you to Mrs. Susan LaRosa, Director of Education and Mrs. Pat Preston, Associate Director: Leading Learning, for their ongoing care and dedication to the St. Augustine school community. Many thanks to Mrs. Mary Cosentino, Superintendent of Education: School Leadership (Secondary), for her presence and commitment to St. Augustine and for joining us in a number of our school events. We are grateful to our school trustee, Mrs. Carol Cotton, for her ongoing support of the school.

Finally, but by no means least, a special thank you to our students who work, play and pray in the finest traditions of our school community. For all your participation on our teams, our clubs, committees and councils, for your work in supporting so many important social justice initiatives and events and in responding to the needs of others in our community and beyond, I express my deepest thanks. You should know that these are things that God calls of us to do in living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To the graduating class of 2012, I wish you all the success that life can offer you, and I hope that God's blessing and grace be with you each day of your life.

It is with regret we bid farewell to two of our vice principals, Mr. Livio Iannucci and Mrs. Eleonora Morcos, who are being transferred to St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS in Aurora and Sacred Heart CHS in Newmarket, respectively. I know you will share with me our warmest wishes as we say goodbye and thank them for all their work, energy, and passion they brought to our school community.

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Angela Capozzolo to our school community as our new Vice-Principal. Mrs. Capozzolo comes to us from Holy Cross Catholic Academy where she just finished her first year in Administration.

On behalf of the entire St. Augustine school community, I extend my best wishes for a relaxing, restful, and re-energizing summer holiday.

With God's Peace and Blessings,

Bernie Smith
Principal

SCHOOL
BEGINS ON
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

2012-2013 STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Presidents:	Aaron Lobo Rayhan Pitigala
Chairperson:	Vivian Tong
Secretary:	Carmen Chan
Treasurer:	Jeffrey Lee
Minister of Public Relations:	Kira Chong
Technical Advisors:	Lisa Ye Rochelle Joseph
Student Advisor:	Daniella Laferriere
Grade 12 Representatives:	Sophia Chan Jennifer Liao
Grade 11 Representatives:	Angelo Serrentino Abigail Tung
Grade 10 Representatives:	Alex Ho Adrian Garcea
Grade 9 Representatives:	TBD

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS DURING THE SUMMER

The school office will be closed for the summer on Friday, July 13, 2012.

**The office will re-open
Monday, August 20, 2012.
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Transcripts will be printed at the YCDSB office to accommodate students during the summer when secondary schools are closed. A fee of \$20.00 will be charged.
Please call the Reception Desk at 416.221.5050.

Anyone wishing to register a student should contact our Board office at 416.221.5050 and ask for the Admissions Department.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

If you have not changed your home address, your child's transportation arrangements will remain the same as last year and you do not need to take any action to receive transportation in September.

You may access the following internet site to obtain further information:

www.schoolbuscity.com

H.E.A.R.T. RAISES \$ 10,000.00 !!!



This year for the third time HEART: Helping Education in Africa: Reaching Together, has raised \$10,000 for our partner schools St. Charles Lwanga Secondary and Sacred Heart Primary, Kulungu Town, Uganda, Africa.

The monies raised through food fairs, talent shows, civvies days, and marketing sales help subsidize tuition fees for students attending our partner schools. These schools administered by the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart are committed to educating young people, mainly those whose parents are dying with AIDS. Many of these students have lived in conditions of extreme destitution and want. Few had little hope of becoming even partially literate. Because of the efforts of our HEART Committee and the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart, their lives have become one of promise and hope.

Our partner schools are far from modern and well facilitated. Some children sleep in small cots while many are forced to lie on floor mats. Cooking facilities are minimal and often there is little food to cook. School furniture and school supplies are sparse. Since shipping supplies to Africa is risky and expensive, each year St. Augustine CHS initiates a "Sponsor a Student" Drive. Most years we have raised \$3,000 to \$7,000. This year, we once again made the great achievement of raising \$10,000.00.

Over the years, letters and correspondence exchanged between students at St. Augustine CHS and our partner schools have helped deepen our relationship with one another. This relationship is founded on and inspired by the Christian imperative to love.

As Jesus said, "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do unto me."

News from the Catholic School Council - Mrs. Diane Olmstead

It has been a busy year for the Catholic School Council (CSC). We started by asking parents to list any questions they had about the school, policies and practices. Topics were addressed by Mr. Smith, Mr. Lefaive and Mr. Iannucci over the course of several meetings.

The Fundraising Committee oversaw the annual fundraising drive. Approximately \$36,000 was raised thanks to the generous donations of St. Augustine families.

The Budget Committee reviewed requests for items from Department Heads and allocated the donated funds towards the purchase of over two dozen items to benefit our children and enhance their experience at St. Augustine.

Please take a few minutes to check out the CSC section of the school's website at <http://stau.ycdsb.ca/CSC/>. It has been fleshed out with links to useful sites for parents, CSC meeting agendas and minutes and resources. Meeting dates for the school year were listed.

The CSC Constitution was in need of refreshing as it was the original from when the school opened in 2001. It has been updated and reflects current practices. It is also on the website.

This spring we applied for a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant offered by the Ministry of Education. We hope to have community professionals come and speak to parents one evening in the fall on the topic of 'Strategies to Assist Parents with Teen Emotional Issues'. We will find out over the next couple of months if the application was successful.

Thanks to all the members of the CSC for their participation and hard work over this past year. Thanks to our Principal and Vice-Principals for their ongoing support and hard work as we partnered to achieve our goals.

Thanks also to the many parents who came out to meetings. All are welcome and we hope to see many more of you attend meetings the next school year.

God's Blessings to you all and enjoy the summer.



It is with mixed emotions that we bid a heartfelt farewell to our two graduates, Carol Bozzi and Isabelle Cheng.

Carol and Isabelle have been two very important members of St. Augustine CHS and will be remembered for their enthusiasm and kindred spirit.

We wish them many blessings as they journey into the next chapter of their life.

Canadian and World Studies Department - Ms. S. Young

It's been a busy year for the Canadian & World Studies Department

It is hard to believe another year has come to a close, and what a busy year it has been - punctuated with competitions, hands on learning, and new technologies throughout the CWS Department.

This year, several grade 9 & 10 students competed in The Canadian Geography Challenge organized by Ms. Iorio. Congratulations to our champion - Ivan Co.

Students were engaged with hands on learning this year. In our classes students had the chance to:

- touch historical artifacts in the Canadian History Antiques Road Show,
- become Indiana Jones through archaeology in Ancient History,
- recreate a 1920s Jazz Age speak easy and Model T Ford Assembly line,
- participate in a CSI investigation in the Library.

On the technology front, new this year was the introduction of a class-set of iPads in our Grade 9 Applied Geography program. By all accounts, the students were delighted to put their learning in hand with the many geography apps and tools to help them with their studies. Next year, our Grade 10 Applied History program will also be working with iPads in the classroom.

Grade 10 classes attended a dramatic production – From the Fires – that looked at the events of the Holocaust of the Second World War. Students were fortunate to have in attendance a US war veteran who was one of the soldiers who liberated a concentration camp. His story was one the students will long remember.

This year over twenty students participated in the school's Model UN Club, coordinated by Ms. Chalmers. Model UN members participated in our school board's Model UN (UNYCA) with good results.

It was also a very rewarding and successful season of competition for the St. Augustine Mock Trial Team, coordinated by Mr. Tomei. This year the team competed at two events: The Judges Cup & the OBA regional tournament. Our team performed admirably at both and Tyler Murray was presented with an award for "Best Witness" at the Judges Cup tournament.



For 2012-13, the Department is delighted to introduce a new course for our students – Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology. Congratulations to all our students and especially to those who are graduating this year.



A FOND FAREWELL

We must bid a sad farewell to some of our staff members. Melissa Botelho is leaving to join the staff at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS. We thank her for her contribution to the school, not only as a teacher, but as coach and supervisor of student events.

Ms. Bertha Yetman, who is a St. Augustine CHS pioneer, is retiring and she is off to follow her dreams.

We also bid farewell to Mrs. Anne Coutts, Maplewood secretary and Mrs. Dhanwatie Lautan, Educational Intervenor, who have accepted positions in other schools within our Board.

Thank you to the following teachers who have worked with us this past year as Long Term Occasional teachers. We hope that they will be able to return to us in the future. These teachers have made a significant contribution to the St. Augustine school community as coaches, supervisors of student events and club moderators for a number of activities and groups: Ms. L. Au, Mrs. M. Chiaravalloti, Mrs. S. Dametto, Mr. M. DeCaria, Ms. V. Le, Ms. A. Parlagreco, Ms. T. Petosa, Ms. I. Pinto, Mrs. R. Quarin, Mrs. A. Rooney, Ms. S. Vitale.

Good Luck and God Bless

CLASS OF 2012

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES !!



Chaplaincy News - Mr. P. Dziedzic



Frank Mangialardi, Grand Knight Council 11708, of St. Justin Martyr Parish, presents Mr. Smith and Mr. Dziedzic with a copy of the new Roman Missal for our Chapel.

The Missal is used by visiting clergy for readings from the Sacred Scripture for our Eucharistic celebrations and paraliturgies.

The St. Augustine CHS school community is grateful for the prayers and support of the Knights of Columbus. They are present in our school life as Graduation Honour Guards, they provide financial assistance for the March to Life rallies and defray the cost of students attending the annual Ordinandi dinner. Truly, they have acted in the spirit of the Gospel in promoting all of us to live out Jesus' life and message of hope, justice, compassion and forgiveness.

News from the FSL Department - Mrs. J. Buljan

French Trip to the Toronto International Film Festival

On Wednesday May 23 2012, grades ten, eleven, and twelve students taking French had an opportunity to view a film at the Toronto International Film Festival. This unique and wonderful event was organized by the French teachers in conjunction with "Cinéfranco", which promotes French films and culture in Toronto. The students enjoyed the French film "Neuilly Sa Mère" which is a French comedy. It is the story of a teenager who moves from the housing projects to Neuilly-sur-Seine, an upscale neighbourhood in Paris. This film gave students greater insight to contemporary French language and culture. After the film, students enjoyed lunch in the downtown area. Overall, this provided an enhanced learning experience. At the end of the day the students expressed that this was a wonderful opportunity which they thoroughly enjoyed! We are looking forward to future opportunities to view French films in order to compliment our language learning experience here at St. Augustine Catholic High School.

Titans Athletics – A Year in Review

by Mrs. McFadden

We have had another amazing and fun-filled year in Titans Athletics. We are extremely excited that there were over 300 students who participated in our athletic program on 31 teams. These students learned to recognize the value of team membership and were not only able to develop sport and leadership skills, but were able to enhance character traits such as perseverance, responsibility, and respect. Most importantly, our athletes had FUN!! We also had over 40 coaches, teacher and community coaches, who volunteered their time and talents to our program in order to help our young athletes develop physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

There are some teams and individuals that deserve special recognition for their accomplishments. Our 'Special Olympians', comprised of our FLS students, took home the YRAA Bocce Championship yet again. What a courageous display of teamwork and dedication. Stephanie Chu, who represented our girls' golf team, advanced to OFSSA where she, along with a team of girls from the YRAA, won the gold trophy for their overall low team score. Our swim team members advanced from the YRAA Regionals to OFSSA! Louis Wong dominated the individual events and took home a gold medal in the 100m open boys freestyle, a silver medal in the 50m open boys freestyle, and was a member of the boys relay team along with Matthew Stubbs, Justin Tanandar and Christopher Lee who won the silver medal in the 4 X 50m open boys medley relay.

In badminton news, Avery Lee won the silver medal at OFSSA in the Championship B flight senior boys singles. Our girls tennis pair of Priscilla Bulandres in Gr. 11 and Heather Hills in Gr. 9, played an amazing championship game and won the gold medal in the open girls doubles tennis. All of our OFSSA winners had the privilege of being recognized by the YCDSB during a special awards ceremony on June 12.

In other news, our junior and senior girls basketball teams were both undefeated throughout the regular season and just fell a little short in the championship games. Our boys ice hockey team was victorious at the York University Christmas Freeze tournament where the team won the overall championship. They also were silver medalists at the Cabernet Cup and claimed second place at the York University March Mini Matches. In the spring season, the girls senior soccer and slo-pitch team advanced to the championship game in their divisions but were faced with some tough competition....second place still rocks! Finally, our varsity girls rugby team, who played over 20 games this season, won the YRAA tier 2 championship. Girls from grade nine to twelve came together as a force to be reckoned with and beat Bill Crothers in the final game to win the title.

Our Titans Athletic Season culminated with an "Evening in Paradise" athletic banquet. Congratulations to the award winners.



TITAN OF THE MONTH



MARCH
Conrad Wong



APRIL
Annabel Chan



MAY
Brenna Llewellyn



JUNE
Barbie Wong

Titans receive a Titan of the Month certificate, a voucher for lunch at Nella's Catering and a token of appreciation from the school.

Health & Physical Education Department - Mrs. A. McFadden

At St. Augustine Catholic High School, our health and physical education teachers are firm believers that health and physical education is vital to student health and strongly linked to academic success. We offer a very exciting and diverse health and physical education program at St. Augustine. Some of the highlights of the program this year were:

- The grade nine and grade ten students participating in a self defence unit where they receive certification.
- An exciting indoor wall climbing program where the gym is set up with high ropes, climbing walls, zip lines, giant swings and other challenges.
- Amazing hip hop and Latin dance performances by our grade nine, ten and eleven girls.
- Hikes to the Rouge Valley and the Seaton Hiking Trails.
- Exciting activities in the community in our grade eleven and twelve classes that include curling, trampoline, golf, tennis, squash, and skating on Markham's new outdoor rink
- An amazing Leadership program where our senior students mentor the FLS students and help them develop their motor and social skills.
- Our annual cycling trip from Edward's Gardens down along Toronto's beautiful bike trails to Ashbridges Bay on the waterfront.
- Ski Days for our senior students.
- The grade eleven & grade twelve girls "Fit for Life" day where we travelled to Centennial Community Center and spent a fun-filled day taking kick-boxing, nutrition, team building and yoga classes.
- Opportunities for our senior fitness classes to participate in weight training, step box, pilates, aerobic, and running programs.
- And the Sr. Girls Fitness classes participating in the annual "Unionville 5 km Fun Run" where our STA girls finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the female high school age category!





ORACLE INFO.....

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Fax: (905) 887-6163
YCDSB Trustee: Carol Cotton (905) 713-1211

WIZARD OF OZ 2012



there's no place like home.....there's no place like home.....

