



The graduating class of 2019

And Now We Leave the Playground For the Last Time: A Family Reflects

Sixteen years ago, our young family had the good fortune to become part of this community. It is hard to believe our time has now come to hold our youngest child's hand – the youngest of four children in our family to graduate from St. Augustine's School - and walk off the playground for the last time.

We blinked and nearly two decades went whizzing by. What an incredible privilege it has been. And so, as we depart, a few thoughts about what this community has meant to our family.

Confidence is one of the greatest gifts that teachers and parents pass onto children. It takes years of selfless love and guidance to give each child the strength and freedom to become their best self. Our children, and all of their friends, found that safe, supportive and loving environment here. Wherever the future takes each child once they leave St. Augustine's school – they go with confidence in themselves and their unique gifts, ready to share them with the world.

As graduates pass through these doors, new doors open in front of them. Not just as they head into high school, but throughout their lives. Behind each new door will be change, challenge, and opportunities that we – and they – cannot yet imagine. In the many years ahead, they will reflect back upon their formative years here as an incredible time in their lives. A time and place where they were supported on all sides by people who loved them, protected them, guided them, and finally – gave them their wings.

To every graduate, we would like to pass on a few simple words: You will not always have the answers - that's OK. Confidence will always give you the strength to ask the right questions, make good decisions, take chances, try new things, make changes when necessary, and - whether you win or lose - to do your very best. That is the sum total of what everyone here has been preparing you for. When we look

at you, we know the future is in good hands.

To our amazing teachers and staff: Wow. We are truly inspired by each of you and what you do here day after day, year after year. Without each of you, our school – whether old or new – is just a building. Because of you this is a home for learning, community, faith - and a source of optimism for the future. You help to build the foundation... the future is built on top of it. It is difficult to imagine a greater impact. Our families are forever in your debt.

Finally, to the parents and members of our parish community – past, present, and future: You are incredible role models. Together, through your actions, you are teaching all of our children the importance of community. You have patrolled the playground in the pouring rain, helped families in times in need, relied on one another, and given of yourselves and your resources over and over to create the heart and soul of St. Augustine's. Thank you to every member of this community over the past

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And Now We Leave the Playground...

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Max, Paulina, Katia and Lizzie Hnatiuk with Donna O'Hara, Grade 7 teacher St. Augustine school

20 years that has contributed selflessly to make the dream of a new school a reality - whether or not their own children would benefit from it. This is what community is all about. The unspoken lessons of these actions ensure that our children will, one day, like us, love and give without counting the cost.

Steve & Chiara Hnatiuk

Congratulations Class of 2019

Mattia Bianchin	MacKenzie Morin
Julia Bohnen	Adriana Mugica
Bella Callaghan	Kaitlan Nagalingam
Kate Clay	Alex Napoli
Jonathan DeMuy	Sarah Patzer
Hannah Elworthy	Matias Pini
Mateo Estrada	Andrew Poston
Mia Garcia	Frank Reid
Claire Hennebery	Maya Taker
Paulina Hnatiuk	Eileen Tian
Gabby Jimenez da Silva	Isa Ubeda
Fen Maine Wood	Iris Velazquez
Maria Min	Sara Vizi-Ashenden
Ema Mlinar	Liam Yu
Pepe Montessori	Linden Yu

Sisters of St. Ann honoured at school assembly

On June 6, 2019 the provincial leader of the Sisters of St. Ann, Sister Marie Zarowny, was a special guest at our school's morning assembly.

Principal Michael Yaptinchay took the opportunity to tell the story of the Sisters' historic mission in the Pacific Northwest that stretches back to more than 160 years. Part of that journey included founding our school with the Oblate Fathers in 1911 where they remained as administrators and teachers until the 1970s.

We've been able to maintain our connection in various ways as the Sisters continue to pray for us, often join us at special events and have been very generous in contributing to our building campaign.

In addition, the school has raised funds during our Advent Evening of Song and Prayer for the Sister's mission work in Haiti where they administer and teach in 12 schools (and health clinics) in one of the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere. There are over 40 Sisters of St. Ann now working in Haiti.

We also keep their spirit alive in our school in other ways. A few years ago the Sisters donated some artifacts from a hospital they administered in Victoria. In the lobby of the school you will



Sister Marie Zarowny, provincial leader of the Sisters of St. Ann, speaks at the morning assembly

see two beautiful stained glass windows that the Sisters offered to us to find a home in the new school.

These, along with the totem pole and the Oblate crosses in each of the classrooms are visible reminders of our shared history with the Sisters and Oblates and their enduring commitment to Catholic education.

Music man leaves deep imprint after twelve years

We asked Tom Arnzten's permission to share his notice of retirement that he sent to the Parish leadership late last year. St. Augustine's has been blessed many times over by his presence and passion teaching our children the power of music. Please read...

Hello, good friends and colleagues at St. Augustine Parish,

It is with great sadness that I am informing you that this will be my last year at St. Augustine school. Upon careful reflection, I have decided to retire from classroom teaching at the end of June 2019.

This was a really tough decision to take. This year in particular has been a wonderful teaching year, with amazing, engaged and creative students and the loving, committed staff who I call my close friends. And the 50 new kindergarten kids... they are simply inspiring little people. My decision has everything to do with my need to find time to achieve new goals in professional music, my desire to change the course of my musical life while my vocal instrument is still healthy, and to reduce the impact on my body (mainly my voice and ears) that classroom teaching demands.

My 12 years at St. Augustine school have been an amazing gift to me. Creatively, I found an outlet for my playwriting, songwriting, singing, lesson planning and piano playing that has been exciting, gratifying and affirming. My teaching practice has been guided by all the master teachers here, the whole staff have helped me in countless ways. I have enjoyed working on many musical projects with my teaching friends. The professional development and educator conferences I attended inspired me to be a better teacher, and provided many inspirational ideas for songs.

Interestingly, I have been able to perform and record songs that I wrote as a result of being a teacher in this community, and to



Tom Arnzten at this year's "Sing Into Spring" Concert at St. Augustine

share them with the wider world, because the universal truths taught here translate perfectly to many spiritual communities.

I have grown spiritually; when I make music with the children, when I engage in prayer with my friends here, and when I talk about the big questions in the world during staff retreats.

I never really knew how to pray before I came here; now the morning staff prayer is one of my favourite times of the day. I have come to appreciate the human connections that get formed when friends gather for the simple joy and comfort of being together, finding a way to make sense of the world by being closer to God.

All the people here, parents, staff, and students, exemplify the best in a spiritual community. I have really enjoyed learning more about the Catholic faith as well, and have appreciated all the spiritual guidance that being around faith-filled people can give. My friends at St. Augustine school have never judged me in any way, they simply model what it means to be a good Christian. This practice was demonstrated to me during my first year here, and continues to this day.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to ease the transition to a new staff member to take my place, I will do my

best to make this as smooth as possible for everyone. I am actively involved with Michael in sourcing a qualified Music Specialist.

Thanks to everyone in the PEC for your generosity to me over the years. Thanks also to Father Andrew for your guidance in leading music during Mass, and to my Principal, Michael, for your wonderful creative spirit, leadership and dedication in helping me do my job. I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to my former Principal Cathy Oberndorf and our dear departed Father Brioux, who believed in me and gave me the chance to prove myself.

I will miss my friends at the school and the church, and the beautiful children of the school, who have taught me more and brought me more than anyone can imagine.

Tom Arnzten



From Our Principal



How time has flown by! We have experienced exceptional moments, magical moments, and created memories that will be fondly remembered in the years ahead. We have been blessed with another wonderful year!

This year's theme was "What Do You Want of Me, Lord?" As we look back over the last year, undeniably we have been successful answering this question as a faith community in God's presence as we served others, lived the Gospel, and continued Christ's Mission in our community at home, at school, in our parish, and in our lives. How proud I am and

how blessed I feel to be part of this loving, faith-filled parish school family.

To our graduating class of 2019, congratulations! We are incredibly proud of you! May you continue to be Christ-like in the future, and may you always lead by example and work hard to fulfil your dreams. We wish you everything that you so richly deserve in the years ahead. It has been an honour and a privilege watching you grow up to be the fine young individuals you are!

To Father Andrew, our friends at the parish, all the students, parents, teachers, and staff, I wish to thank you for all you have done for our community this year! Have a wonderful and blessed summer!

God bless,

Michael Yaptinchay



Grade 7 students' trip to the BC Legislature

A Few Words From Our Pastor

Dear parishioners and friends of St. Augustine:



It's hard to believe that another school year has come to an end.

How excited we were last September in welcoming many new students and their families

into our School and Parish life!

We are grateful for the enthusiastic and committed support of our teachers, our students and our parents. Each of you forms a vital part of the spiritual and academic fabric of St. Augustine's.

We look forward to opening our hearts to those who will join us next September for the first time.

Wishing each of you a safe and blessed summer,

Fr. Andrew Stenzina, OMI
Pastor

THANK YOU

Total Donations and Pledges*: **\$ 9,760,404**

Pledges Outstanding: **\$ 327,488**

Total Donors: **1194**

Total Gifts: **4313**

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



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.

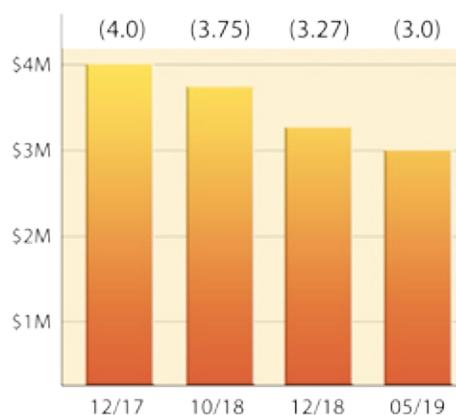
Faith and Foundation is committed to promoting broad-based support for the

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 31st (1) \$3.27million
 Amortization Period 20 years
 Average Monthly Interest & Principal Repayments(2) \$28,375

Faith and Foundation Statement of Fundraising Receipts & Expenditures For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Receipts	Actual 2018
Annual fundraising	\$ 598,300
PTT event	195,800
Loan interest rebate	41,400
GST Rebate	600
Other	36,500
Total Fundraising	872,600

Expenditures	Actual 2018
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	Actual 2018
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 2019

Pass the Torch Gala 2019 was a huge success! Our net revenue was approximately \$160,000 – bringing us one step closer to our goal of paying down the school mortgage.

Thank you to Father Andrzej, all of the parishioners, SAS parents and all our sponsors for your unending support of our school. Our children are so fortunate to have such a wonderful community surrounding them.

Thank you to all our volunteers, it was a huge endeavour to put this year’s PTT Havana Nights together. We were blessed to have 367 volunteers that contributed about 3500 hours. We are humbled and so grateful for all your time and support, without which we would never have been able to put together such a stunning and successful gala fundraiser.

With Gratitude,

Pass The Torch Gala Committee



Special “thank you”

Over the past 19 years, our Faith and Foundation team has had the pleasure of **Helen Velazquez’s** involvement and leadership. With the graduation of her daughter from the school this year, Helen will be stepping down from her work on the PTT committee. We are also grateful for her efforts over the past year to help mentor our two new co-chairs, *Marta Beynon* and *Jenneh Kearns*. She leaves a wonderful creative legacy that has elevated the stature and admiration that Pass the Torch evokes in the broader community. From all of your coworkers at Faith and Foundation and those who served with you on the PTT committee, we thank you for all that you’ve done.



Helen Velazquez (l) with Alicia Maine at this year’s PTT