

# The Principal's Vine

Saint Augustine of Canterbury School



July 2018

## Summer Is Slowly Sliding Away With Good News About Transportation Funding

In June, we were longing for the summer days to rest and relax to be free of a school schedule. It is my prayer that those desires of your heart are being filled with an abundance of good things: rest, relaxation, family, friends and church.

The staff is working very hard to get the school ready for a new year. Definitely we are ready to move forward with high expectations with our theme: "Renewing the Promise as Joyful Disciples."

Good News added hope as we move forward that the funding for transportation was restored in the state budget. We will continue to receive monies towards textbooks, nursing services and supplies, technology and security.

Through careful planning we have seen our monies allocated already and submitted to the township with the exception of transportation.

Thank You! Thank You! to our faculty and parents who responded to the Budget Alert sent out on Constant Contact, a Honeywell, Face Book and on our website by making your voice heard to the state legislators and Governor and it was. Our voices and the voices of parents across New Jersey changed "the tide."

Upon hearing the news we responded immediately to our townships and bus companies. Transportation was increased from \$884 to \$1000 per pupil.



*"So come with a spirit of commitment to learn and a willingness to be challenged. May you be inspired and inspire others within a Christ-centered community and experience a great year."*

## Alumni Highlights Our Graduates Continue to Shine Brilliantly

June brought us wonderful news about the achievements of our students. Several parents were so proud of our graduates that they brought in newsletters from the various high schools and/or announcements.

The class of 2018 high school graduates are ready for, and

looking forward to, the college experience. Many are continuing Catholic Education in college.

We are proud of the success stories of our college graduates. Their careers have brought them far and near achieving their long desired dreams.



The graduating class of 2018 from St. A's have taken advantage of the sports programs and other activities offered to the freshmen during the summer months.

Alumni, share your story on our website, Alumni Page or in person. Spread the word and stay in touch.

*"God has blessed you with life, and with differing talents and gifts. Through these you are able to serve Him and society in various ways. While some people's contributions seem great and others more modest, the witness values of our efforts is always a sign of hope for everyone."*

**Pope Benedict XVI**



## WE DID IT THE SMART WAY!

Your support in the fundraisers is making a difference in our educational programs for the school year 2018--2019. Each teacher will be greeted by new students in a newly painted classroom. The faculty and staff will continue to receive in-service training for the innovative teaching tools that will make learning exciting and fun.

Graduate after graduate returns and says, "Sister we have more than the high schools and some colleges." We can be very proud.

Through the state technology funds we have been able to complete our 1:1 Chromebook initiative for Grs. 4-5. New lights for the parking lot are being installed, new locks on classroom doors, and a middle school hallway camera.

The school-wide project this year is to enhance our *Science/Math* and *Reading Programs*. Our goal is to have each teacher integrate it with the curriculum within the classroom. Last year, the students created *phenomenal integrated projects in the*

*area of Language Arts., Social Studies and Science. (STREAM)*

*The quality was superior.* The projects could have been published and we are only an elementary school. Writing will receive specialized instruction beginning in Grade 5 this year to connect with Middle School. Our Faith theme this year is **"Renewing Our Promise as Joyful Disciples."** Many activities and events are planned for the year.

## Connecting Home and School \* Parents Smile

Again this year, Power School *will enable parents* to log on and view *their child's grades at any time*. Parents will be able to see at a quick glance what assignments, quizzes, tests and projects have been assigned. It will become *crystal clear* as to what is going on in school. *You will be free* from worrying what may be "buried" at the bottom of the locker and/or the desk or the book bag. Communication be-

tween home and school is simply a *click of a mouse*. Each family has or will have a log-in and a password. Kindergarten and new families will receive information on how to access Power School. Constant Contact and our Website are two other tools that keep us connected instantly. Google Classroom is another tool used from Grs 4-8.

*"Children learn through gentle direction and persuasive teaching"*

## We Needed Your Hands HSA Scholastic Book Fair A Success

Our Scholastic Fundraiser last year was a huge success, netting us \$5300, which enabled us to purchase 300 STEM books for Grades K-5, based on the Next Generation Science Standards. This collection will allow the students and teachers to read books based on the particular Science Standard they are currently learning in class. Additionally, we were able to

expand our Makerspace/STEAM Program, with the purchase of Coding/Robots called Cubelets, and a Sphero STEAM Pack and Stars Wars Droid. "

Along with a Wonder Workshop DASH Robot kit that was won by Mrs. Knox, the students will now have access to learn about coding with robots.



Thank you to Kim Swietek, Sister Veronica, Mrs. Karen Wilhelm and the moms and dads who helped set up and take it down. Thanks to all parents who supported it.

The students loved coming to the Fair.





# WE'VE MET THE CHALLENGE OUR SPIRITS ARE CHARGED TO REACH NEW

**Problem Solving  
Critical Thinking!**

**Creativity! Self-Motivated!**

Yes, Saint Augustine of Canterbury School has many students who love to be challenged and parents who welcome this opportunity for their children.

The students and faculty worked very

hard again this year in setting forth on the path of excellence.

We are very proud that our scores in the Iowa Tests are above the national percentiles.

Many of our students also tested out of the comp-ed program.

Reading continues to be an area where we want to challenge our students to

become readers. Steadily and surely we *move ahead* this summer with our summer and activities.

I-Ready and our Reading Program now in Grade 6 will provide support and challenge and on-going evaluation and learning.



## Farewell and Welcome

Farewell and Congratulations to Mrs. Jennifer Oliva. She will be a stay home mom. She will be missed as a resource teacher. We are grateful that she will be returning as a substitute teacher. Mrs. Karen Wilhelm will continue in the new school year as the fourth grade teacher. Let us receive them in a spirit of hospitality and openness. Our newlywed Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Maiman, who re-

located during the school year made the decision to stay closer to home. We are in the process of interviewing teachers for this special position to ensure a great school start for our kindergarten class. An orientation is planned for late August. More information to follow.

While change is challenging it invites us to look with new eyes and see the

many possibilities. *Teaching in a Catholic School is a special vocation in the Church.* Maxime Greene quoted in the book "To look through others' eyes more than I would have and to imagine being something more than I have come to be; while reaching others, I have been feeding my soul. And all of this happened while answering a teacher's *calling*."

**"May the blessings of light be upon you, Light without and Light within. And in all your comings and goings, May you ever have kindly greeting from them you meet along the road."**

## Looking Back to June and Forward to September



*There shall be eternal  
summer in the grateful  
heart.  
~Celia Thaxter*



# Bulletin Board

## CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Your child's Homeroom Teacher will be sending you a "Welcome" postcard shortly, introducing herself/himself as your child's teacher for the upcoming school year.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The School Calendar will be distributed on the first day of school. If your child does not bring home a calendar, please call the School Office at (732) 297-6042. *The calendar is updated as needed and posted on our website.*

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

### Students K-8 need the following:

- ◆ To be in complete uniform.
- ◆ A book bag with supplies that were purchased outside of school. It would be appreciated that *students not use book bags with wheels.*

## FORMS TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY AUGUST 22

- ◆ All required forms enclosed and signed.
- ◆ Publicity Form
- ◆ Emergency Form. The School Office will fill in "B" or "W" on the forms when classes begin on September 5.

## BOOKS

- ◆ Every *Textbook* is to be covered by the date requested by the classroom teacher. However, *no later than the first week of school. No contact on hard cover books.*
- ◆ All *Workbooks* are to be covered with clear contact. For the younger students it is strongly suggested to put a piece of cardboard behind the front and back cover of the workbooks before covering them. They get a lot of "wear and tear" during the course of the school year.
- ◆ The Handbook will be posted on our website.
- ◆ Please sign the Acknowledgement of Handbook form.

## SCHOOL MAILINGS

*Electronic Kids Mail and Constant Contact* are also used to communicate information.

### *Kindergarten Students and Parents*

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**

**9:00-10:30 AM**

**Cafeteria/ Classroom**

*The first day of school for Kindergarten will be on September 6 with a noon dismissal*

### *Middle School Students and Parents*

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**

**9:30-11:00 AM**

**Gym/Classrooms**

*New Families*

**Grades 1-8**

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**

**11:00-11:45 AM**

**School Library**

### *Pre-K 3 Children and Parents:*

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**

**1:00—2:30 PM**

**Entrance Classroom**

### *Pre-K 4 Children and Parents:*

**Thursday, August 30, 2018**

**1:00—2:30 PM**

**Cafeteria/ Classroom**

*The first day of school for Pre-K will be on Monday, September 10*

*Meet and Greet Day*

**Tuesday, September 4**

**Pre-K—Grade 8**

**9:00-10:30 AM**

**No Uniform Day**