

*“Together We Are a Vine of Strengths Rooted in Christ”*

**Saint Augustine of Canterbury School**

[www.staugustinenj.org](http://www.staugustinenj.org)

September 19, 2014

- **Congratulations to Grades Pre-K-8** for making the first weeks of school great ones.

*Saint A's On the Map!*

- **We are a school selected to be visited by the AdvancEd External Team and are very proud to represent our Diocese in this process.** What does this mean? On Tuesday, October 7 on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the evaluation team will be greeting, meeting and visiting our school community. Classrooms will be visited. Our Pastor, Principal, Faculty and Staff, Students and Parents will be interviewed. The following areas will be evaluated: *Purpose and Direction, Governance and Leadership, Learning and Assessing, Operational Vitality and Continuous Improvement.*
- **Professional Development.** The teachers participated in workshops on the Best Practices for teaching and learning. Language Arts workshops were provided for the elementary and middle school teachers. They learned about the components of the new program and how to implement it in the classroom. Video-Conferencing at St. A's enabled 18 teachers to participate in a religion workshop given by Anita Foley, Professor from Seton Hall University and representative from Benizger Publisher.
- **In Math all grades Pre-K to 8** are learning how to apply mathematical skills to solve word problems.
- **Kindergarten has a head start.** They are leading forward in Reading. Hands-on activities and iPads are favorites.

*Writing Skills Emerging Early in the Year*

- The Intermediate and Middle School teachers are beginning the writing process with personal narratives. Through literature, the integration of grammar and "Kick Your Socks Off" Vocabulary the writing is improving. *We have many resources in our midst that facilitate learning at Saint Augustine School.*
- Opening School Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 23 the actual day of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish. The celebration will begin in the gym at 10:00 AM with opening prayer led by Father Bob, our Pastor. Then students will process to the Church for the re-dedication and Mass celebrated by Father Edmund Luciano, a vocation of our parish. The students will be treated to free lunch and an ice-cream treat.

Teachers found websites that have value.  
Check them out.

- [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)
- [www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com)
- [www.internet4classrooms.com/langelem.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/langelem.htm)
- [www.webmath.com](http://www.webmath.com)
- <http://dir.yahoo.com/science/mathematics>



*"Together We Are A Vine of Strengths Rooted in Christ"*

**Saint Augustine of Canterbury School**

www.staugustinenj.org

**Homework.** Students are expected to copy their homework assignments from the blackboard before the end of the class. Every student has a homework pad. Grades Pre-K - Grade 1 are given a homework sheet prepared by the teachers.

**Homework on the Website.** Homework posted on the website is only a "back up for parents and students." It is also helpful if a student is absent from school. Students are expected to have the good habit of listening and copying the homework in their homework pad. It is not posted to later in the day for this very reason.

Each student needs to be responsible.

**Tests.** A good practice is to study the notes every night so as to be prepared for a test. It eliminates cramming for a test but ensures that it will be part of long-term learning. Most of the textbooks are on line therefore, students do not need to be weighed down by heavy book bags. Passwords were assigned last week. If you misplaced them kindly notify Mrs. Knox.

**Performance Projects.** Simple and Long-term Projects will be assigned as part of the assessment of learning. Rubrics and reasonable time lines will be given by the teachers.

**Class Web Pages.** Class web pages for September and October will be posted by next week. They contain highlights of what the students are learning and suggest web sites that support in class learning.

Photos and rubrics are also posted on the pages.

**School Web Site.** It is a strong suggestion to view the school website at least once a week. The calendar is posted along with recent revisions and important messages to parents.

**Constant Contact.** Parents need to log themselves on to Constant Contact. Kindly open the communication when it is sent. If you chose not to keep it delete it. Clicking and Reading helps you to be connected to the school.

**Power School.** New families received information on Thursday. Parents who have siblings in the school and now have another child attending need to created a new account for him/her. Strongly suggest having your child's grades sent to your e-mail address at least once every week. Progress Report reviews can be valuable only if there has been weekly reviews.

**In Class Support.** In an effort to support learning for all the students in Grades K-5, the class room assistants and Ms. Capolino, Art Teacher, with special education background will be assisting in Language Arts when needed. In the Middle School, Mr. S. Rezac and Sr. Barbara will be the extra set of hands when necessary.

Thanks to our parents for taking time to complete the survey from Back To School Night. Thanks to our HSA Board for planning for our school resources through fund-raising. Thanks to our parents for volunteering for lunch and playground.

Thanks for supporting our efforts.  
You are the best! Great team work.

