

2023 Fall Campaign Takes Flight



We are now well into the third decade of our Parish's commitment to completing a new Catholic school on the same site where two previous parish schools were built

since the parish was founded in 1911. We are the blessed recipients of the foresight, vision and commitment that it took to accomplish this task.

When we as a family took a step back to reflect on what brought us to St. Augustine's and keeps us here, we know that primarily it's impact of faith formation on our child and family. Sharing our daughter's First Holy Communion Mass and reception last Spring confirmed for us that we had made the best of choices.

So, with faith at the centre, a strong community to live and grow with, and opportunities to offering our time, talent and treasure, we are grateful for our family's life here at St. Augustine's.

Please join the school families in considering making an annual gift during this year's Campaign – and thank you to those who continue to donate each year.

Lisa Hermanson,
Chair of the Fall Campaign



Father Vince James, OMI with friends at the Seniors' Outreach Lunch

Connected by Faith: Home. School. Parish.

Our St. Augustine's Parish seniors are a treasured lot! They enjoy one another's company, love to dress up for our Seniors' lunches, look forward to meeting their Prayer Partners every Fall, and thoroughly delight in the presence of our Grade 7's who serve as their hosts.

Eight years ago, once our new school was built, we began this Seniors' Outreach.



Currently, our five annual lunches are hosted at the Parish Centre. It is our After School Club that financially supports this initiative in thanksgiving for the many years that our seniors have been so faithful to our Parish and School.

Two of our treasured seniors, Sr. Edna Walsh and Sr. Nancy Brown recently shared their thoughts about the gift of this time:

"The Seniors' lunch is a service of hospitality, a collaboration of school and parish, that teaches Grade seven students how

cont'd on page 3

CAMPAIGN GOAL
\$500,000
RAISED TO DATE
\$285,984

Fall Campaign 2023 Key Dates

- Week 1:** October 21 / 22 Fall Campaign launch, including video
- Week 2:** October 28 / 29 Parent testimonials, school choirs at 9 & 11am masses
- Week 3:** November 4 / 5 Parent/Parishioner testimonials, school tours after all masses
- November 7** Donor Recognition Event, 7pm, St. Augustine School

What is Faith and Foundation?

Sometimes we forget to keep retelling our Parish story, about the dream to build a new school. Recognizing that many know this story, we offer it to those who may be learning about Faith and Foundation for the first time.

In 2000, once the Parish Council and Father John Brioux, OMI Pastor, approved this dream, a small committee was formed by Father John comprised of parishioners, Finance Committee members and School administration. Over the course of 20 years, this volunteer team was charged with the task of the financial oversight and responsibility for the project on behalf of the Parish. Over that same period, five pastors served our Parish and all of them bringing a great love of the school.

Faith and Foundation became the 'name' that was adopted to provide vision and purpose to what we were doing. Yes, our Parish was committed to building a new School, but more



New school construction in 2014

importantly, to creating a space where FAITH would be at its FOUNDATION. Many of the original members of the team have continued to offer their time and talent to this essential service to our Parish.

Our mandate remains to continue to raise the funds that will be required to complete the final phase of our School project: a new gymnasium, outdoor play space and other amenities.

Key annual initiatives that Faith and Foundation undertakes include:

- School registration (spring) where parents are asked to make a donation commitment. This process includes orienting new families to the meaning of Faith and Foundation.
- Fall Campaign – a three weekend effort focusing on donations from the broader Parish community, including additional school parent support.
- Donor Recognition Event – a wine and cheese celebration for our donors.



Pass the Torch Gala 2022

- Donor Thankathon - F&F team members call all of the year's donors to thank them for their pledges, gifts and donations.
- Publishing at least two Faith and Foundation newsletters.
- Establishment of After School Club to support family childcare needs while, if possible, donating available funds to various groups both within and outside of the parish.
- Pass the Torch gala – dinner, auction, dance for our school and parish community. All funds go towards the school building fund.

Many of the diverse tasks of F&F are fulfilled by parents, staff at the school and parish office, and parishioners – and without their faithful support and generosity of time and talent we could not offer these opportunities. Thank you to everyone for all you do to support the efforts of Faith and Foundation

How do I make a gift to the Campaign?

Faith & Foundation welcomes gifts in the form of pledges, outright financial gifts and gifts of stock/securities or gifts that are the result of a bequest.

You may donate by cheque, credit card or direct debit.

You may also donate online:

<https://my.charitableimpact.com/send/to/group/-faith-and-foundation-st-augustine-school>

You may complete a pledge form at the parish or school office or donate by phone **604-736-4455 (Extension 231)**

Please contact us at the same number or send us an email at donate@faithandfoundation.com if you have any questions.

Thank you from the Faith and Foundation team.

In Prayerful Thanksgiving

John Lancaster 1938 – 2023

John Lancaster was born in Victoria in a strong Anglican family and chose to commit his life to the sacred Ministry of the Anglican Church. During his early years, he met and married Miriam Roberts of Trail BC. In 1965, they were blessed with the birth of their daughter, Jordan.

Vancouver Island was the Lancaster’s home as John served in ministry from Sooke to Port Renfrew, onto Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria and ultimately at St. John the Divine in Courtney from 1981 until his retirement in 2004.

John chose a full life of service, sitting on boards and supporting initiatives for young children and seniors alike. He grew to love gardening and adopted his famous traffic circle garden at 13th and Yew in Vancouver.

Upon retirement, John and Miriam moved to Vancouver, joined the Catholic Church and established themselves as parishioners at St. Augustine’s. Over the course of nineteen years, John gifted our parish as a lector, attended daily mass, and became known to so many for his kindness, positivity, deep devotion to the Eucharist and his generous offering of service to the Church. He joined our Seniors’ lunch group from its inception, further expanding his attachment to the school, its students and the work of Faith and Foundation. As Miriam recently wrote: “I am sure you know how much both the school and the church meant to John. His attachment to both places gave meaning to his retirement.”

We thank John for the many quiet, gentle and sincere ways in which he touched the lives of fellow parishioners and the staff and children at our School.

May the fullness of God’s love and peace follow him and bring comfort to Miriam and Jordan.

Connected by Faith: Home. School. Parish.



Grade 7 teacher Donna O’Hara and her students at Seniors’ Outreach Lunch

cont’d from page 1

to serve and relate to senior members of the parish. Seniors who have given years of service are treated to a delicious lunch, cooked by volunteers who generously give of their time and talent.”

As Seniors gather together to form

community, they have the opportunity to purchase crafted goodies from the Busy Hands table to support the Oblate Missions... It’s all about SERVICE!

Ms. O’Hara, teacher of the Grade 7 class, asked her students to write a brief reflection on their first Seniors’ lunch experience:

“Seniors are one part of our community that we should always respect and today we got to serve them lunch. It was a wonderful experience; not only were they kind and caring, they also have great senses of humour.”

“As I was serving the seniors, I was thinking that I actually have seen a lot of them at Mass, and now I can get to know them better.”

“We all got along well, and shared stories about the school. One senior was telling us about her experience with a prayer partner and she got teary-eyed. I loved seeing how much impact this event can have on their lives [and ours].”

If we had a way to record the “buzz” in the Parish Centre that day, everyone would understand how much this event is treasured throughout the year by our Seniors and Grade 7 students alike. Witnessing this coming together of our youth and seniors is a blessing to all.

• SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE •



Pass the Torch 2024 – Saturday, April 27

Dinner, Auction and Dance

This annual major fundraiser event celebrates the Parish’s commitment to completing the 3rd phase of our School Building Project. Put the date on your calendar and join us for this wonderful event! Tickets will be available online at a future date.

• SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE •

From Our Principal



It's been a great start to a new school year! Where has September gone? In the weeks that have passed since school started, I have already witnessed so many wonderful things that make our school community what it is.

The one thing that stands out, however, is love. One cannot help but feel the love that exists at St. Augustine's - a love for our work, a love for our classmates, a love for our teachers, a love for our students, a love for our friends, a love for our families, a love for each other, and, above all, a love for God.

I am so grateful to be part of such a loving community rooted in our faith.

As we explore this year's Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese's (CISVA) theme "Living our Faith", I know that the remainder of the year will continue to be marked by this love and passion for all that we do and all that we are.

This year, let us celebrate and rejoice in what we are called to do as disciples of our faith by listening to Jesus, seeking out and living what He wants of us: to live a sacramental life of prayer and service, a life of love that bears witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. He wants us to be holy — in our school, in our homes, in our parish, in our communities, and in our lives.

To Father Ignacy, our friends at the parish, all the students, parents, teachers, and staff, thank you, as always, for your undying support and commitment! I am forever grateful for all that you do. I am looking forward to another incredible year with all of you!

God Bless,
Michael Yaptinchay

Thank You

2000 - 2023

Over the past 23 years, school parents and parishioners have given generously and consistently to support this mission. As we start our 2023 Fall Campaign, we are so grateful for all of those who brought us to this day. We're fortunate that our donors come from all parts of our parish and a broad range of backgrounds and experience – those within the school, former school parents and those who may not have children or whose children may have not attended our school. We know the commitment to advancing Catholic education is deep as evidenced by our community's generosity.

Total Donations and Pledges*: **\$14,156,974**
 Pledges Outstanding: **\$ 209,634**
 Total Donors: **1391**
 Total Gifts: **5978**
 Current building fund: **\$ 2,013,839**

*Faith and Foundation funds are held reserve in a Chancery Deposit Account with the Archdiocese of Vancouver for the sole purpose of completing the St. Augustine school building project.

A Few Words From Our Pastor

Dear parishioners and friends of St. Augustine:

Greetings to you all!



It is hard to believe that we have been walking together for almost a year now.

I want to say that I truly enjoy travelling together with you all,

growing and learning, sharing the faith, with love, dedication and hope for our community.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all of our students, staff, parents and volunteers. I would especially welcome all of those of you who are joining us for the first time.

I want to thank our parishioners and all people of good will for the support and faithfulness to our 23-year campaign. I believe we can all see the fruits of it in many wonderful ways.

We can witness that when we celebrate the sacraments and school masses, in classrooms, on the playground and through various good works done by our students, such as by our grade seven class.

We would not be where we are, and we would not have the strong hope for the future we have, without the generosity of parents and parishioners who donate annually to our Fall Campaign. We have 112 years of great tradition of our parish school which is truly a blessing for the entire community.

I would humbly ask you again, dear parishioners, and everyone who has a heart for St. Augustine's to be generous and prayerful.

May God bless you all.
Fr. Ignacy Warias, OMI