

Nov 15, 2023

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auguston.abbyschools.ca

Principal's Message



What a Fall we have had so far! Summer seems to be a distant memory as we have had a full schedule of events since coming back to school. September saw our smiling faces returning to school and celebrations like our Meet the Teacher Ice Cream Party, the Terry Fox Run and our visit from the Cops for Cancer team. Add to that our soccer and cross-country teams and we were busy on a lot of our afternoons! October was equally busy with picture day, World Teachers Day (we thank our generous parents for spoiling our teachers that day!), Parent Teacher conferences, our initial safety drills of the year and a petting zoo and pumpkin patch for our youngest classes. And all of this was topped off with celebrations around Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en! We have a number of events planned for this month as well and you can find more detailed information about them in the sections below.

We continue to work on using our 'helping hands' to solve conflict on the playground here at Auguston Traditional. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in rough play and hands on behaviours outside recently.

During our Friday Friends whole school buddy time, we have been talking about using this valuable tool when we have a disagreement. We hold our hand open and work our way through the steps:

- 1 - Say 'stop, I don't like it when you _____, because _____'. It's everyone's responsibility to stop when they are asked to stop and we are working on that, too,
- 2 - Ignore the behaviour,
- 3 - Walk away from the situation,
- 4 - Find something else to do or someplace else to be, and
- 5 - Seek help from an adult on duty.



Not only does this strategy help our students have a voice and advocate for their needs, but it also frees up our duty parents and teachers to deal with any bigger issues that may arise. We have 'helping hands' posters up around the school and will continue to work on this throughout the year. We are seeing progress, and a lot of students are finding their voice in this – which is really great to see. We appreciate your support from home in this as well as we try to curb those hands on behaviours.

I have truly enjoyed getting to know our students as our classes have settled into their routines this Fall. Each of our teachers brings a special gift to our school and it is awesome to see them share their passions with their students. I love checking in with classes and wandering through to see what's happening and what students are learning about. I know that we have a great thing going here at Auguston Traditional and I'm so proud of our staff and students every single day!



Looking forward to a busy but amazing November with them! Here are a few updates and reminders as we settle in for the cold weather.

Kris Sward
Principal
Auguston Traditional Elementary School

Fundraising updates

Earlier this year we had a number of fundraising initiatives that we took part in as a school. Our online fundraisers collected donations for the Terry Fox Foundation (thru our No Uni fund) and \$360 for Cops for Cancer. We used our 'no uni for a toonie' day funds to top both those donations up to \$500 from our school and we have also donated \$400 from our 'no uni' funds to the BC/Yukon Legion Foundation in recognition of Remembrance Day and the poppies that were given to each student and staff member.

TAC Committee

Being parents of students at Auguston Traditional automatically makes you members of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), but did you know that you are members of our Traditional Advisory Committee (TAC), as well?

Our TAC Committee meets two to three times a year to talk about aspects of Traditional Schools that make us different from other schools in the district. Last year we reviewed our behaviour expectations and this year we hope to continue that work and focus on updating our Code of Conduct expectations. We will also talk about things like wearing uniforms, parents being partners in their child(ren)'s education, and some really cool events that we have planned for our students to meet other students that attend Traditional Schools in the district. Sound interesting?

We are looking for parent and student voice at our upcoming meeting – this Thursday, November 16th, from 3:30-5:00pm at Abbotsford Traditional Secondary. If you are interested in joining us, please let Mrs. Sward know as soon as possible. Space will be limited to two parent reps, two student reps and two staff reps. Future TAC Committee meetings will be held on January 18th, 2024 and April 18th, 2024.

Dress for the weather

As our cold, wet weather approaches, we can already feel winter edging its way in. Please ensure that your children have warm weather gear and rain proof jackets as we will be heading outside as much as possible at recess and lunch times. Those fresh air breaks do wonders for our growing brains – keeping them clear and ready for learning - so we will continue to go outside every day unless it is really heavy rain or extremely cold.

Christmas Concert

You may have heard online (or in the PAC meeting minutes or previous newsletters) that our Christmas Concert will once again be held in an online format this year. In years past Auguston has had an entire committee passionate about pulling out all the stops for our concert performances. Unfortunately, as staff has changed, no one is left with the time and passion to lead the charge with this event. Though the amount of energy, organizational skill and time required to practice and pull together a concert is more than we have capacity for this year, we still wanted to partake in the spirit of the season and share some songs and performances from each of our classes. Our teachers will be sharing their videos with me in early December, and I will pull together a video file for your family and friends to enjoy. The goal is to share our concert file with you on December 15th and students will get a chance to watch it with their buddy classes as part of our Friday Friends activity that afternoon.

I know that this has caused a certain amount of disappointment amongst some of our parent group (though I've received numerous votes in favour of the online format as well). This is not an event that can be pulled together by one person, and we talked at length about this in our initial staff meeting in September. Staff agreed that the online format would work, as it did last year, and will be practicing their class performances in the coming weeks. Please know that the decision was not made lightly, and staff are aware how beloved our previous concerts were, knowing they were a highlight for many families. We have come to this compromise as a team and appreciate your kindness and consideration around our decision.



And something to remember – the positive aspects of an online concert are still there.

You will be able to watch the Christmas concert when it's convenient for your family from the comfort of your own living room, everyone will be able to enjoy it as we won't need to have a lottery for tickets resulting in the exclusion of some of our community members, you will be able to watch it multiple times if you want – because we all love to hear that one song over and over and over again!, you can fast forward or rewind to all the best parts, and you can enjoy it with family members who might not otherwise be able to join in as it will be accessible over the entire Christmas holidays. Last year's concert had 714 views so hopefully this year's will be just as successful! We look forward to being able to share it with you on December 15th.

Afterschool Programs

We have been able to bring the Abby Community School Society on board this year to run some pretty amazing afterschool programs for our students. Mondays are [Drama](#) workshops for our grade 4/5 students, Tuesdays are [Storybook Art](#) for K/1s and Wednesdays are [Arts and Crafts](#) for grade 2/3s. We started another new group last week that will see some grade 3-5 students meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays after school for a [Caring Kids Collective](#). It's great to have so many awesome

extra-curricular opportunities for our students. If you didn't get in for the Fall session – keep an eye out as there will be new sessions starting in the Winter and Spring terms!



No Parking Zones



Please be mindful of our no parking zones out front of the school along Stephen Leacock Drive. Things can get really busy around our school during our drop off and pickup times, and we appreciate you keeping all of our families safe out there. Please remember to GO SLOW and be aware of our students as they are moving around our school property and crossing the road. If you are dropping off or picking up in one of our bus loops, please be mindful of everyone's time and DO NOT PARK in either loop. You must remain in your vehicle in order to keep traffic moving and get everyone safely on their way. If your child(ren) aren't there when you pass through the loop – please do another loop so traffic behind you can move through. The 'no parking zones' are coned off and we appreciate you keeping sight lines in mind as you approach our crosswalks. Thank you!

Pink Shirt Day Contest



Pink Shirt Day is still a ways away, however, we are holding a contest to

design our very own Auguston Traditional Pink Shirt for the second year in a row! This contest is open to all students. Students can create their own black and white design (for easy transfer) on a 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper and submit it to their classroom teacher by November 24th. We will then vote on our favourite design and have t-shirts made for students to purchase in the new year. Stay tuned for our winning design!

Expansion Project

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for permits to be approved for our expansion project. I look forward to having more exciting updates for you once things get moving again!

Cold and flu season



As cold and flu (and COVID) season is now upon us, please continue to do a daily health check for your child(ren) each morning. If

they are unwell or have a fever, please keep them home until their symptoms have subsided and they are feeling strong enough to last the school day. We will continue to keep up with our hand washing and respiratory etiquette here at school and appreciate everyone doing their part by staying home when they are sick.

[Fraser Health's Guide to Protect your children from respiratory illnesses this winter](#)

Respiratory season and fall immunizations guide brought to you by [Fraser Health](#).

[Read more](#)



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Better health. Best in health care.



Upcoming Dates in November

Thurs, Nov 16	Red Robin Orders Close at 3pm TAC Committee meeting 3:30pm at ATSS - <i>we still need parent and student volunteers!</i>
Fri, Nov 17	Fire Drill 10:40am
Nov. 21-25	Scholastic Book Fair
Tues, Nov 21	Auguston PAC Meeting 7pm
Wed, Nov 22	Sun Hang Do presentations in gym for all classes
Fri, Nov 24	No Uni - Jersey Day Red Robin Hot Lunch Day
Nov 25-26	Auguston Christmas Market and <i>Grade 5 Entrepreneur Fair in the gym all weekend! Family pictures and wreath making workshops, too!</i>
Tues, Nov 28	Fruit & Veggie Day - Mandarins
Wed, Nov 29	Div. 13-15 to Clearbrook Library

Auguston Arrows Leadership Club



We will be starting the Auguston Arrows Leadership Club for all Gr 4/5 students. If your child has not already done so, they are welcome to fill out a leadership application and return it to **Mrs. Small** (Div. 7 teacher) and **Mrs. Smith** (Div. 8 teacher) if they are interested in joining! The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30 (meetings will take place once a month on Thursdays).



Reading Link Challenge

Interested Grade 4 & 5 students will meet on Thursday, November 16, after lunch to find out more about the Reading Link Challenge.

Participating students will meet every Monday at lunch (after the eating period) starting November 20 until the end of February to read and quiz each other on books. Students will read up to 6 books and then get quizzed on the books in teams.

Thank you, **Mrs. Deol** (Div. 4 Teacher), for coordinating this activity for students.

ABBOTSFORD CANUCKS

**SCHOOL
SPIRIT NIGHT**



AUGUSTON TRADITIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ONT vs ABB

TUES. JAN. 16 | 7PM

Show your school spirit and win prizes while cheering
on the Abbotsford Canucks at the Abbotsford Centre

Each game, three (3) students will be selected to ride the zamboni at intermission.



SCAN TO VIEW

- Special rate tickets
- Prizing for students



PLEASE CONTACT

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ABBOTSFORD.CANUCKS.COM

School Photos

See school photos on the website at:

<https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/blog>



*Thank you, Tina Howe,
(parent and teacher) for
taking many of our school
photos!*

Remembrance Day Assembly



Diwali Celebration



Costume Day



Movie Night



School Garden Pumpkin Patch





Remembrance Day Assembly



Pay for School Activities and Give Consent Online

Consent forms are **ONLINE** in **SchoolCash**. Consent includes Request for Email Address, Photograph/Video and Media, Off Grounds and for Field Trips.

We would like to encourage **ALL families** at our school to utilize the online option for consent & payments **EVERY** time! We are currently at **99.72%** who have signed up. Let's make it even 100% Auguston and **PLEASE USE the online option every time!**

Open in [Schoolcash](#):

* [Div. 13-15 to Clearbrook Library](#) * *School Planners* * *Kindergarten School Supplies* * *Email Consent*
* *Off Grounds Consent* * *Photo/Media Consent* * *Extracurricular Athletics Consent*
* *Damaged or Lost Library Books* * *Fruit & Veggie Consent* * *No Uni for a Toonie for the year!*

Thank you to parents who have set up your schoolcash account and utilize this option. You will be receiving reminders and messages about new items being added to your child's 'cart' when field trips and other items arise. A suggestion is to purchase a **prepaid credit card** to make purchases if you are concerned about online shopping. The district site is a secure site which does not hold account information.

SchoolCashOnline limits the amount of cash/cheques handled in schools, reduces paperwork, and results in more focused instructional time in the classroom. The Abbotsford School District now uses SchoolCashOnline for all schools. With SchoolCashOnline, parents have the convenient and secure option of paying for school items using their credit card online, 24/7. You can pay for school items such as trips, club/athletic fees, and spirit wear. It will save you time too! **Register for Schoolcashonline in 4 simple steps! If you haven't yet done so, please click on the link below to sign up TODAY!**

Pay School Fees Online

Secure credit card payment
24/7 convenience
Easy registration

[Click Here!](#)

SchoolCashOnline

