

St. Augustine School: Connected & Caring Spring 2020

St. Augustine School in Wilcox, SK always looks forward to the season of Lent. Beginning with a pancake breakfast on Shrove Tuesday and an Ash Wednesday Mass led by Father Parker Love, the staff and students eagerly welcome the season of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

An ongoing tradition for the staff and students of St. Augustine School is to establish “Prayer Pals”. This is an opportunity for each individual to pray for, encourage and acknowledge one another’s Lenten promises in a secretive way. Each person, child or adult, picks a name out of a hat and keeps it secret until the return from Easter break. During Lent, the staff and students leave cards, prayers and sometimes even little gifts to remind their “Pal” that they are being thought of and prayed for while they are working towards fulfilling their Lenten promises. As the school year was interrupted with the move to remote learning due to Covid-19 restrictions, the “Prayer Pal” identities remain a secret!

This year, St. Augustine decided to raise funds for Autism Canada, an organization very near and dear to the hearts’ of staff, students and community members. Although the fundraising efforts came to a sudden halt due to COVID-19, the students raised almost \$300.00 in two weeks through ‘hat days’, coin collections and a popcorn sale combined with a trivia night. The students and staff will continue to raise funds for Autism Canada during next year’s Lenten Project.

Resorting to Google Meets and Hangouts as well as other social media platforms to continue the school year has clearly demonstrated how blessed St. Augustine School is to be able to gather together virtually, having the opportunity to check in on one another while being as safe as we can. The Holy Spirit continues to work through each and every one of the St. Augustine students even as the school year is finished at a distance.

