

Library Upgrades Impactful for Students



At the heart of every school is the library. It is where students seek the answers to their questions and where they learn the power of information. In our increasingly technologically savvy world, libraries are changing and St. Augustine's library is no different. Since 2003, Sister Frances Betz has had a passion for taking up the mantle that librarian Rosella Blackbird began.

In 2003, a February snowstorm blew Sister Frances off course on her return home from a meeting; however, there was divine inspiration waiting for her. She was able to make an unscheduled stop at the library of the Guardian Angel School in West Point, Nebraska, where she learned about the Follett Automation System with Alliance Plus Online for Cataloguing and Circulation. The three interrelated programs she saw were just what was needed at St. Augustine. The "Rosella Blackbird Library Automation Memorial" was born. Donations from Black Elk School in Omaha and from St. Augustine's sister parish of St. Vincent DePaul in Andover, Kansas were directed toward the library project. By the fall of 2003, and with the assistance of a

volunteer assistant cataloguer in Sally Reinert, the library was updated to include an automated system.

Over the subsequent years, additional changes were undertaken to include installing the Scholastic Reading Counts and Scholastic Reading Inventory programs. These programs enabled St. Augustine students to identify individual reading levels, generate custom book lists, and take on-line quizzes. Access to these tools in the library reinforced important and steady progress in acquiring reading skills. Subject searches of the library holdings have been used for everything from classroom projects to research for the science fair.

Black Elk School and St. Vincent DePaul Parish continue to support the library. The Backpack Adventures reading program for kindergarten and first grade students was developed, financed and introduced to the school by a parent group from Black Elk School. This past month, Black Elk School delivered two boxes of books for the library and a check from a fundraiser their students held on behalf of St. Augustine. The students raised \$4,000. Since 1999, Black Elk School efforts have resulted in over \$35,000 of support. The impact on the library is truly significant and the influence on students is life-long. Our thanks and appreciation go out to both groups!



Our work on the Library continues. Wish list items for the Library include:

- *Corkboard for the library walls*
- *Library furniture to include: easy chairs, tables with chairs, padded benches, computer tables and study carrels*
- *display cases*
- *a television hook-up with video/DVD player*
- *contributions toward audio books for the collection*

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ST. AUGUSTINE INDIAN MISSION the Trumpet Call

April, 2007

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Easter Greetings from Winnebago! Our 40 day Lenten journey is over and now we are in the midst of our 50 day celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. Blessed be God!

I wish I could write that the beauty of spring is in the air, but it has been uncharacteristically cold for this time of year here on the reservations. I'm glad that we have a warm place for our students to study, but being the person who always has to be concerned with the budget, I know that this late cold weather is going to put us over and above what we budgeted for heat.

You might recognize a theme in this issue of the Trumpet Call, focusing on science and technology. We have some good news to share in that department. When I first came to the Mission, we were getting donations of used computers so that we would replace really old computers with slightly newer ones. Thanks to our friends George Knockenhauer, Dave Mahoney and the good people at IBM, we are upgrading all of our computers in the classrooms with new units! I love it when people have the mindset that our children here on the reservation deserve to have some of the same opportunities as other students. I happen to agree with them!

As you can see in the article on the new pharmacy in Winnebago, there are growing job opportunities for people with a higher level of education. It is also important to have people with good moral character for these jobs. Here at St. Augustine Indian Mission, we are trying to lay a solid foundation for both.

May God bless and keep you for helping us provide a brighter future for these children!

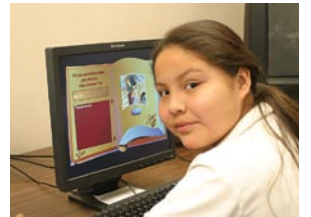
Easter blessings, Fr. Dave Korth



Technology Triumphs at St. Augustine

Technology continues to advance at St. Augustine Mission School due to the generous gifts of benefactors and matching gift programs.

IBM allows employees to purchase their latest technology at a discount if the equipment is used in grade K-12 schools for educational purposes. Last year, two IBM employees, both members of St. Leo's parish in Omaha and former parishioners of Mission Director Father Dave Korth, were responsible for a matching gift that allowed the school to place twelve new IBM computers in the sixth and seventh/eighth grade classrooms and on three teacher's desks. This year the school received eight new computers as a result of the continued generosity of these two people. The fifth grade classroom and one teacher reaped the benefits of these computers. Mr. Don Blackbird, the information systems manager for St. Augustine, determines the classroom needs based on the school's technology plan. Due to these important gifts, the children at the Mission School are able to have the latest in computer technology in their classrooms.



Also essential in this technological learning environment is access to affordable telecommunications and internet services. St. Augustine is receiving these services to the students through a grant from The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as "E-Rate". St. Augustine has been fortunate to have received this funding for the past several years. Last year the school was able to upgrade to high speed internet service, placing their access to high-tech services on-par with their peers in other schools.

High-tech resources such as these allow the children at St. Augustine to be knowledgeable and conversant with technology. Not all students have access to these technical opportunities at home which increases the importance of having these resources available at St. Augustine Mission School.

St. Augustine Hosts All Nations Science Fair



Membrane Madness

Do you know what a geode is? How about what passes through the membrane of an egg? Zandraya and Winona can tell you. Their projects excelled during the All Nations Science Fair at St. Augustine in March. The science fair featured projects submitted by students from Santee Public School, St. Augustine School, Umonhon Nation Public School, Walthill Public School and Winnebago Public School. Students in fifth through eighth grade were in one division and high school students were in another. This year, St. Augustine hosted the competition which is rotated among the participating schools.

St. Augustine students began preparing for the competition months ago. The goal was to have projects developed early enough to compete at the local level and qualify to move on to the regional and state levels of competition. Through the collaborative efforts of teachers at St. Augustine, representatives of Little Priest Community College, Ho-Chunk Inc., Thurston County Extension, community volunteers and Father Pat McLaughlin who served as a technical advisor, the competition was well organized.

Zandraya delved into the interesting world of geodes. She chose her project topic while rummaging through a “box of rocks” with her teacher, JoAnn Donner. Zandraya researched the geode, created criteria for discovering its origins and explained her findings. Winona began her pursuit of knowledge last year. Her project involving “membrane madness” took months of preparation



Awesome Geodes

and research. She took first place at the St. Augustine competition. Winona and Zandraya as well as 14 other St. Augustine students went on to compete at the regional competition in Fremont.

Judges for the local competition were selected from the community-at-large by representatives of Thurston County Extension and Little Priest Tribal College. Julie Humbert, Special Education Instructor with Winnebago Public Schools, judged both categories of projects and said, “The teachers and students of St. Augustine should be extremely proud of the quality of their science fair projects. Several students did projects similar to those of some of the high school students participating in the science fair. The projects from the much younger St. Augustine students far surpassed those of the older students. Congratulations!”

When asked about this year’s competition, Winona said, “It was fun!” Winona’s project, which explores the permeability of membranes using eggs with their shells dissolved off, will advance to the state level of competition in Omaha this summer. Zandraya and her geode project qualified at the state level as well.

This year’s Native Nations Science Fair served as a golden opportunity to engage in the sciences, learn about competition with their peers and help set St. Augustine students’ sights on next year’s competition.

“Message: Stay in School!”

Lance Morgan and Annette Hamilton of Ho-Chunk Inc., discuss with older students the future opportunities waiting for St. Augustine students who choose to stay in school. With the development of projects like Native Plains Pharmacy, the jobs created will require students to stay in school and develop skills for the business climate of the future.



Ho-Chunk, Inc. Opens Native Plains Pharmacy

This spring, Native Plains Pharmacy will open as the latest of Ho-Chunk Inc.’s businesses and will send out its first prescriptions to customers. The facility, housed in the HCl Distribution warehouse in Ho-Chunk Village, was blessed and dedicated in January. This national and regional mail order pharmacy has the latest in technology. The operation features state of the art computers and a robotic dispensing system which can fill up to 150 individual prescriptions per hour. This rate is five times as many prescriptions as a human pharmacist can fill each hour. The robotic arm identifies the correct bin of medication; accurately counts out the pills and labels the bottles which can be shipped once checked and

signed off by the pharmacist. Native Plains currently has a staff of six. There is a future potential for a full time staff of 40 -50 employees.

Having students be prepared to take high-tech jobs represented by the pharmacy and other future business development projects is inherent in St. Augustine’s pursuit of infusing technology throughout the educational program and at all grade levels. The school seeks to provide the tools and skills that future pharmacists or pharmacist techs will need to succeed.