

Saint Vincent de Paul School

Bi-monthly Newsletter



October 23, 2014

Dear SVDP Community,

St. Vincent de Paul School will be promoting a Red Ribbon Week Celebration, a nation-wide alcohol and drug prevention event. SVDP will be participating in age-appropriate prevention activities during the week of October 27-31.

Red Ribbon Week has grown into a far-reaching and well-known drug prevention event in America. It began to honor a drug enforcement agent who was killed in 1985 while working undercover. In response, friends and family wore red ribbons in memory of his crusade against illegal drug use in this country. Today, schools across the nation continue the tradition of wearing red ribbons to promote choosing a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

In order to raise awareness SVDP will be participating in a variety of activities this next week.

RED RIBBON WEEK TIPS FOR PARENTS

Drug prevention can start at any age. Talking with young children will look different than talking with a teenager. The earlier we begin a dialogue with our children about alcohol and other drugs the more comfortable they will be asking questions in the future. Family discussions are the best way to pass on values and expectations.

FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:

- Explain how drugs interfere with the way our bodies work and can make a person very sick or even cause them to die.
- Explain that medicines prescribed by a doctor and administered by a responsible adult may help during illness, and they are different than "drugs." However, prescription medicines can be harmful if misused.

Children may ask:

Why would people want to put bad things into their bodies?

- One answer might be that the person does not realize the potential danger of drugs. Another answer is that sometimes people start using a drug just to see what it feels like, but it then turns into an addiction (like cigarettes). At that point, it is very hard to stop using. Another reason may be that the individual is not taking care of himself or herself.

Why can't I taste that "grown up" drink?

- A small amount of alcohol has a much greater negative effect on a child's body than on an adult's; even a small amount can sicken a child or interfere with brain development.

Praise your children for taking good care of their bodies and avoiding things that might harm them.

FOR MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

- The most important thing parents can do is talk to their children about alcohol and drugs, even when unsure of what to say. Children will get the anti-drug message when a parent tries to communicate this information. The message is that you care about them and that you know they are facing difficult decisions. It is important for parents to discuss issues and listen to the concerns of their children.
- Make sure your children know that the younger they are when they first try alcohol, the **MORE LIKELY** it is that they could become addicted.
- Clearly state your expectations about your children's involvement with alcohol and other drugs. Set clear limits and consequences **BEFORE** a situation arises. If a situation occurs, don't demand a "confession." Talk to the child about the behavior and express your concern. Then provide an appropriate consequence.
- Role model positive behaviors. If you drink, drink responsibly. Model healthy ways to deal with stress.



RED RIBBON WEEK
Activities

Monday: "Love Yourself, Be Drug Free" -- Student Families will gather to create posters of our theme and will pledge to live a healthy life style

Tuesday: "Love Yourself, Be Drug Free" - Students wear red tops and blue jeans

Wednesday: "Don't Get Mixed Up in Drugs" - Crazy Sock Day: Students can wear mismatched socks

Thursday: "Team Up Against Drugs" - Students can wear sports clothing

Friday: "Spook Out Drugs" - Students wear Halloween costumes and join the school parade at 2:00 p.m.

Keep in your prayers...

- Those in the SVDP community who are ill or hospitalized
- Those who are currently fighting Breast Cancer and those who are survivors

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Saint Vincent de Paul School is to educate our students in the Catholic tradition. We aspire to teach as Jesus did, with a focus on the gospel values. As facilitators of learning, we recognize parents as the primary educators of their children. We encourage our students to be responsible and sensitive to church, school, and neighboring communities. We challenge our students to build their moral intelligence and become self-motivated lifelong learners who will share their gifts with the world.



SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS
The goal of Saint Vincent de Paul School is to graduate students who are:

God-Centered Individuals who
Develop a relationship with God through scripture, prayer and community.
Appreciate and respect Catholic sacraments and traditions.
Make choices based on Gospel values.
Share personal gifts in service to others.

Responsible and Globally Aware Citizens who
Recognize local, national and worldwide issues.
Acknowledge and value diversity in society.
Respect and care for the earth and all living things.
Take responsibility for their actions and resolve conflicts peacefully.

Outstanding Lifelong Learners who
Demonstrate curiosity and a desire to learn.
Communicate effectively both in speaking and in writing.
Demonstrate skills and knowledge in all curricular areas.
Work cooperatively and listen actively.
Use 21st century tools appropriately.

Well Rounded Individuals who
Balance their social, emotional and physical well-being.
Practice respect for self and others.
Appreciate and participate in a variety of activities.
Demonstrate appropriate manners for all occasions.



Common Sense Media is a great resource for families and educators. Visit the website by clicking the provided link and check out the posted tip-sheets for families.

<https://www.common sense media.org/educators/educate-families/tip-sheets>

Family Envelope

Flyers you will find inside:

Community Letter
Book Fair Information
Golden Gate Boys Choir Wreath order form

Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 4-6

*Register through
Schoolspeak under the
Administration tab*

Noble Saint Vincent de Paul,
beloved servant of the poor,
may we follow your example and do good works
among those whom society has abandoned,
enslaved, or forgotten.
Amen.

STAY IN TOUCH



2350 Green Street, San Francisco, CA - 415.346.5505

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