

Saint Vincent de Paul School

Bi-monthly Newsletter



November 20, 2014

Dear St. Vincent de Paul Community,

Thank you to all who supported us during this year and a half of WASC preparation and during last week's visitation. The report given to the school by the WASC accreditation team is extremely positive and affirms all that we do here at St. Vincent de Paul School. The team repeatedly stated that the students were wonderful, articulate, and engaged in learning. While we are happy to take credit for some of that, we know that you play a huge role in your children's success. Thank you for the many ways you are nurturing good citizens, students of strong character, and children who express interest in learning. Attached you will find the preface to the final WASC report as well as the main items in our action plan. Over the next months and years you will hear more about this action plan.

Kudos to the eighth grade! If you were fortunate enough to attend Wednesday night's play you know what an incredible performance our 8th grades gave. Producing a play is not easy. Thank you, Ms. Powelson! Learning lines, creating sets, and working as stage crew members all require commitment and focus. In addition, several of the actors visited the classrooms of the younger students prior to the performance helping them understand Romeo and Juliet. We are very proud of our thespians and impressed with how well they learned the English of Shakespeare!

Wonderful student art was displayed in the gym for all the theater goers to enjoy. Currently, the art students are creating decorations for our Christmas tree which will be displayed at Davies Symphony Hall. We appreciate the work of Ms. Bamsey as she continues to provide our students with opportunities to express themselves artistically.

We kicked off our Thanksgiving Food Drive at Monday's assembly. Second graders reminded us of the food we love to eat at Thanksgiving. They then requested that each class bring in particular food items to help build the perfect Thanksgiving meal. Each day at assembly students were reminded by other students about our abundance while others in the community have less. The St. Vincent de Paul bins in the main hallway are overflowing, a testament to your generous donations.

If you would like to join us for liturgy on Tuesday, we will be celebrating a Thanksgiving Mass at 11:00am. The sixth grade has planned and organized this celebration and invite all of you to be present.

With grateful hearts we wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful vacation shared with family and friends!

Blessings,

Nancy Barrett
Co-Principal

Marguerite Pini
Co-Principal



Calendar reminders:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| November 21 | Iowa Assessments mailed home |
| November 25 | School Mass at 11:00am |
| November 26 | No School |
| December 17 | Advent Concert at 6:30pm |

December 18 Last paper copy of family envelopes go home!
We are going *GREEN!*

December 19 Christmas Pageant at 11:00am
Minimum Day Dismissal

Keep in your prayers...

- Those in the SVDP community who are ill or hospitalized
- Those who have no food and shelter at these time of year
- Those who are suffering from loneliness and depression

WASC Information

The following is the Preface of the WASC Visiting Committee's report:

We, the Visiting Committee, wish to commend you, the pastor, administration, faculty, staff, parents, and student body of St. Vincent de Paul School for working together to make the school a loving, caring and learning environment. We pray that the good work that you have done and the plans that you have made for the future will help you become an even better school.

The team found our three days at St. Vincent de Paul School professionally rich and personally rewarding. We experienced a community where everyone is striving to provide a Catholic environment where quality education is a priority.

We wish to thank all of you, pastor, principals, board members, faculty, staff, parents, and students for your warm and gracious hospitality.

May the Christ we serve bless you with every success as you journey into your future and ensure that all of the St. Vincent de Paul School students GROW in their faith and knowledge and global citizenship.



As you might imagine, the above was a truly positive opening to the WASC Visiting Team's Report of Findings. This preface set the tone for the rest of the report that indicated that St. Vincent de Paul School is effective and highly effective in all areas.

We also wish you to know that as part of our SVDP WASC Report, faculty and staff identified two long range goals which we will work on over the next three years. These goals

(listed below) were affirmed by the Visiting Team as critical areas with a plan that includes "thoughtfully organized strategies and activities for their implementation."

Goal #1: integrate technology across all grade and curricular areas

Rationale: Faculty and staff believe the integration of technology is critical to assisting students in the development of twenty-first century skills. Teachers envision classrooms where students construct understanding and demonstrate learning through independent and collaborative exploration. A digitally rich learning environment can promote high achievement for all students where differentiation occurs naturally and engagement is obvious.

Goal #2: implement strategies to differentiate student instruction

Rationale: In an effort to meet the needs of all students St. Vincent de Paul faculty recognizes the importance of implementing a variety of teaching/learning strategies. Utilizing differentiated instructional strategies will provide opportunities for enrichment and remediation within the same classroom. It can create new learning avenues for a wide variety of students with diverse interests and learning needs. This goal promotes the high achievement of all students and supports the refinement of all curricular areas.

If any parent wishes to read either the St. Vincent de Paul WASC report or the Visiting Team's Report of Findings, a copy will be available in the main office for reference.

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.



Iowa Assessments are being mailed out to parents this Friday. Provided below is a link to the Iowa Assessment parent letter for those interested in learning more about the assessments.

Click the link to retrieve the attached document: [Iowa Letter for Parents](#)

Family Envelope

Flyers you will find inside:

Community Letter
Parent Guild Letter
Book Fair: Thank you Letter
WASC Update

Fall Fest
Friday and Saturday

6:30-9:30 p.m.

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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