

Saint Vincent de Paul School

Bi-monthly Newsletter



December 4, 2014

Dear St. Vincent de Paul Community,

When the calendar flips to December many become immersed in the hectic business of decorating homes, purchasing gifts, and attending holiday parties. It is refreshing to be at St. Vincent de Paul School where there is the opportunity to talk about the true significance of this Advent season and to share our abundance with others. Yesterday was the St. Jude Math-a-thon. Students enthusiastically participated in family groups to solve a wide range of math problems. The money raised is sent to St. Jude Hospital to assist in the care of ill children. Meanwhile, the third graders reminded all of us about the need for warmth during these chilly, wet days. Their video presentations, shown during assemblies, thanked God for the rain, but reminded all of the importance of donating coats and jackets to the coat drive. Your generosity to both of these causes is a wonderful example of the importance of selfless gift-giving during this Advent season.

We wish to acknowledge our eighth graders, their parents, Ms. Nejasnich and Fr. Ken who helped put the "giving" back into Thanksgiving. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving the eighth graders cooked and served a pasta dinner for the Interfaith Winter Shelter sponsored this month by St. Boniface Church. They served dinner to sixty people, then returned to St. Vincent de Paul to share food with classmates and parents and to reflect on the experience.

For the very first time our school will participate in the Academic Junior High Decathlon. This is an academic competition involving 6th-8th grade students. Our ten person team will compete against teams from other schools in the following areas: logic, English, literature, science, mathematics, current events, social studies and fine arts. This is a rigorous competition requiring students to read and analyze texts for the specific areas of the competition. After school study sessions will support students in preparing for the Decathlon. This opportunity is academically enriching, but at the same time is an enormous undertaking for both students and teachers. Because of the time commitment and the rigor of the Decathlon, students were invited to participate based on grades and test scores.

The week of December 8th is designated as Computer Science Education Week. The week,

sponsored by Code.org, is intended to promote the expansion of student participation in computer science. For the past three years SVdP's junior high students have participated in the Hour of Code. This year, we are excited to implement and explore the Hour of Code (and beyond!) with the whole school, kindergarten through 8th grade. Learning the fundamentals of coding, which include logic, systems thinking, process oriented discovery, and pattern recognition will help students gain an appreciation for computer science, as well as aid them in math, science, and numerous other subjects. Kudos to Mr. Purtil for bringing the Hour of Code to St. Vincent de Paul School.

If you are looking for a little holiday cheer, don't forget to join the Parent Guild and the Women's Club at the annual cookie exchange on Tuesday, December 9. This takes place in the Parish Hall immediately following assembly. Hopefully, you have already marked your calendar for Wednesday, December 17. This is the night of the annual Christmas program which is a lovely event. In the meantime, enjoy this Advent season of waiting for the birth of the Child Jesus.

Blessings,

Nancy Barrett
Co-Principal

Marguerite Pini
Co-Principal

Calendar reminders:

December 17	Advent Concert at 6:30pm
December 18	Last paper copy of family envelopes go home! We are going <i>GREEN!</i>
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 this time of year
- Those who are suffering from loneliness and depression

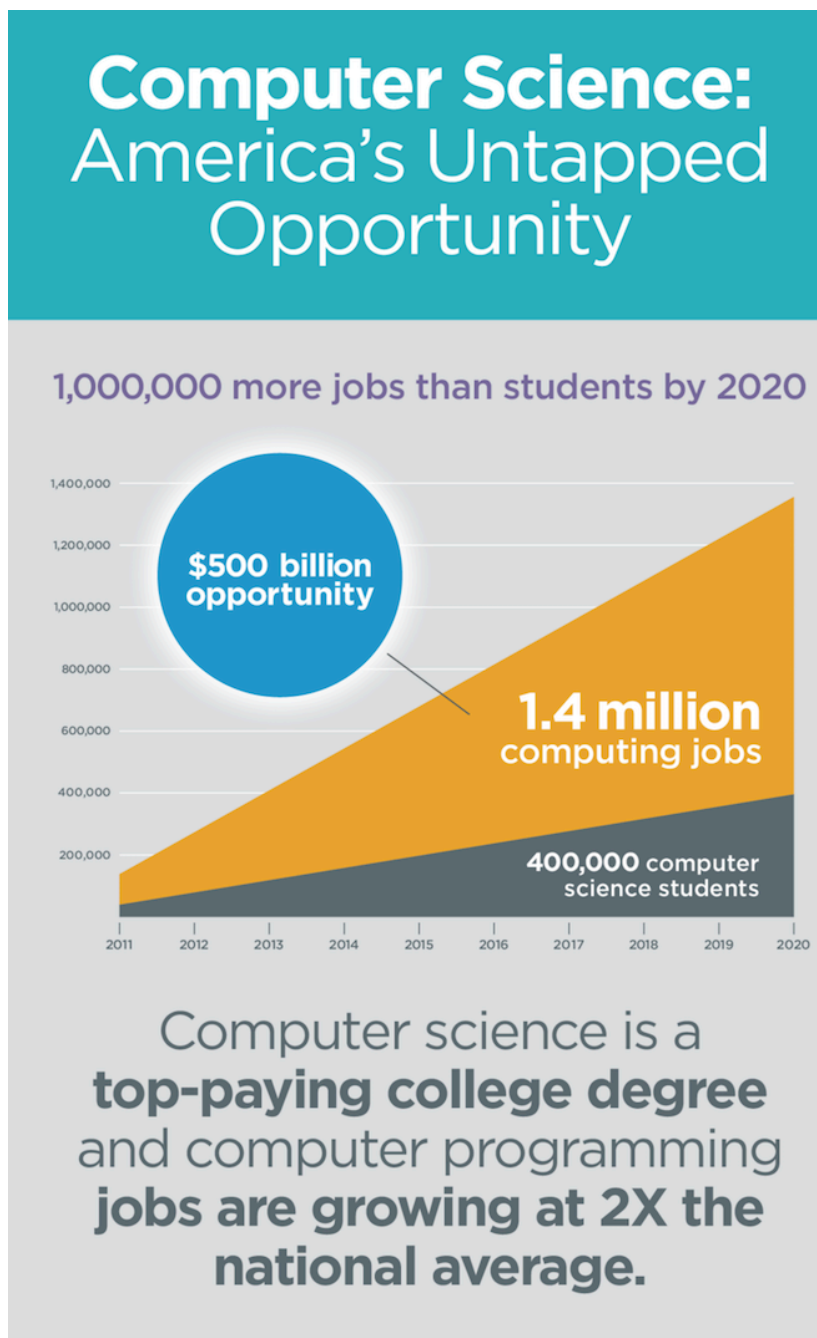
Computer Science Education Week

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. Only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and less students are studying it than a decade ago.

That's why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The

Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 8-14). Last year, 15 million students tried computer science in one week. This year, we're joining students worldwide to reach 100 million students!

Our Hour of Code is a statement that St. Vincent de Paul School is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills.



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.

Family Envelope

Flyers you will find inside:

Community Letter sent home with each student.

Mingle Jingle

Saturday, December 13

6:00-9:00 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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