

Saint Vincent de Paul School

Bi-monthly Newsletter



November 6, 2014

Dear SVDP Community,

The days are getting shorter and the evenings cooler as we enjoy these autumn days. The excitement of Halloween and the anticipation of Thanksgiving remind us of the abundance of this season. The oranges and yellows of fall colors brighten our homes and school. During this time we hope that each of you is blessed with the beauty of these days.

For us, this time brings the fruition of a year and half of challenging work. Faculty and staff spent many long hours writing our WASC/WCEA report. Last month all 155 pages of it was collated and given to the accreditation team. They have read it and will visit us next week for the onsite portion of the accreditation process. The feedback we have already received from the chair of the accreditation team is incredibly positive. We look forward to the assessment the team will give us next week.

Those of you who attend morning assembly have heard the students recite our Schoolwide Learning Expectations using the acronym GROW. In leaving the gym yesterday morning, a parent commented that he could explain GROW and understood its meaning in our school context. How wonderful it is to have all of us united for the same educational purposes: developing God-centered individuals who are responsible and globally aware citizens; increasing our curiosity and desire to learn by becoming outstanding lifelong learners and well-rounded individuals.

Today ends parent-teacher conferences. We hope your meeting with your child's teacher has created a partnership between you and the teacher. We are both invested in the success of your child. In the future, please feel free to contact the teacher if any concerns about your child's progress arise.

Thank you to all of you who purchased books and/or helped at our annual book fair. The enthusiasm of both children and parents demonstrates a love of learning and reading. St. Vincent de Paul School is a recipient of "book money" as a result of your purchases. This allows books to be purchased for the library and for individual classrooms. We appreciate

your support.

Please keep in mind that EVERYONE must check in at the main office. This rule applies to ALL parents. Teachers have found it disruptive to the learning process to have parents go directly to their classrooms. Our front office can deliver messages and projects, as needed. Thank you for understanding this policy.

We wish to remind you of some calendar changes:

Wednesday, November 12 - normal Wednesday dismissal at 2:15pm

Thursday, November 13 - dismissal at 2:15pm

Friday, November 14 - No School

Please keep us in your prayers during next week's WASC accreditation.

Blessings,

Nancy Barrett
Co-Principal

Marguerite Pini
Co-Principal

Calendar reminders:

WASC	Early Dismissal at 2:15 p.m. on November 13th
No School	Veterans Day Observed on November 14th
School Mass	Begins at 11:00a.m. on November 25th
No School	Thanksgiving break begins November 26th

Keep in your prayers...

- Those in the SVDP community who are ill or hospitalized

The Daily Five and The CAFE

Creating a learning environment that supports independence through literacy.

You may have already heard your child talking about "The Daily Five" or "The Daily Three." The purpose of this letter is to fill you in on what the program is all about. Therefore, you don't have to nod your head while wondering what in the world your child is referring to.

The Daily Five is a way of structuring the reading block so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research-based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently, while the teacher provides focused instruction to individuals and small groups of students as needed.

When it is up and running smoothly, students will be engaged in The Daily Five tasks: Read to Self, Work on Writing, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, and Word Work.

There are very specific behavior expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. We have spent most of September and early October working intensely on building our reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviors of The Daily 5, and creating a strong classroom community. We will also spend time learning about your child's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan for each student's instruction.

Your child will be taught to select "Good Fit Books" or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they will read during Daily 5. They will be spending most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. We anticipate the motivation and enjoyment of reading will skyrocket when this gift of choosing their own books is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

Please think of our classrooms as you visit garage sales or clean your own child's bookcase. It is our goal to make our classroom libraries as appealing as your favorite bookstore for browsing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your homeroom teacher. We'd be happy to explain more about this exciting way of structuring our reading block.

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.



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.commonsensemedia.org/educators/educate-families/tip-sheets>

Family Envelope

Flyers you will find inside:

Community Letter
 Fall Festival information
 Spirit Store ordering form
 Golden Gate Boys' Choir Registration
 GGBC Wreath order form

School Holiday

November 14th

Veterans Day Observed

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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