

# ***Saint Vincent de Paul School***

## **Bi-monthly Newsletter**



**December 18, 2014**

Dear St. Vincent de Paul Community,

With Christmas carols still ringing in our ears and the seasonal scripture words in our minds, we thank Steve Meyer and the entire student body for the wonderful celebration of Christmas that occurred last night. Preparing music, readings and procession with a student body of 265 is quite a task. Mr. Meyer is to be congratulated on the lovely performance he orchestrated.

Please feel free to join us tomorrow (Friday) at 11:00am in the Church for the Nativity program sponsored by 3rd and 5th grades. This, too, is a lovely way to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Last week's Hour of Code event at SVDP generated excited interest in learning more about coding and computer science. With the help of the faculty, lead by Mr. Purtil, along with the support of many enthusiastic parents, SVDP students wrote over 16,000 lines of code last week alone! This is definitely a great building block as we continue to spark student interest in the ever-evolving world of technology.

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce a special opportunity for fifth through eighth grades. On February 5th Dr. Melba Beals will speak with the students in these grades. Many of you will recall that Melba Beals was a member of the Little Rock Nine who attempted to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. Dr. Beals chronicled her experiences in a book entitled *Warriors Don't Cry*. All fifth through eighth graders are asked to purchase the juvenile edition of this book over Christmas break. The ISBN number is: ISBN-13 978-1416948827. Each student is asked to read chapters 1-10 by January 12. The students will discuss the book and participate in lessons that will assist them in understanding this historic time, all in preparation for Dr. Beals' visit. We are most grateful to Marie Schieber who organized this opportunity for us!

We are planting our feet firmly in the 21st century. This is the very last time you will receive a hard copy Thursday envelope. Beginning in the new year all of the normal Thursday

communications will be delivered electronically.

As we reflect on the first part of this school year, we feel enormous gratitude for you and your children. Your many contributions to our school community are so appreciated. Your feedback, both positive and constructive, assist us as we continue to develop all of our programs. Your children are constant sources of inspiration! We send the peace of the season to you and your family and ask God's blessing on each of you as you celebrate the wonder of Christmas. As we begin 2015, we will look forward to seeing you once again on January 5th.

Blessings,

Nancy Barrett  
Co-Principal

Marguerite Pini  
Co-Principal

### Calendar reminders:

January 5	School resumes
January 9	Geography Bee
January 16	Spelling Bee
January 16	End of second quarter
January 19	School Holiday
January 25	School Mass at 10:00 followed by Open House
January 30	Grandparents Day 12:30 Minimum Day dismissal

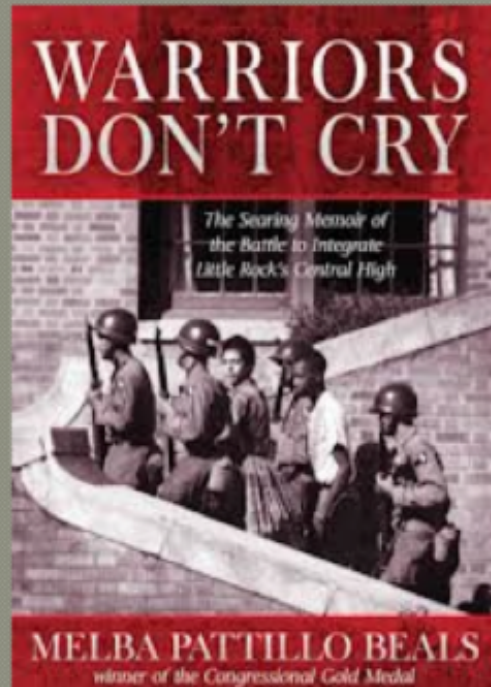
Keep in your prayers...

- 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

## Project: Social Justice SVDP grades 5-8

In January the middle school will work on a unit of study focused on Social Justice. To prepare for this unit students in grades 5-8 are required to read the book *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals.

- Purchase the juvenile version of the book during Christmas break
- Students will be required to read Chapters 1-10 by January 12th
- Students will discuss Social Justice in the historical context of the book
- Culminating Event: Meet the author on February 5<sup>th</sup> with a book signing opportunity



The book chronicles the experience of those who fought against segregation in our schools. Some difficult issues arise throughout the story. Please make sure to purchase the juvenile version of the book. ISBN# 978-1-4169-4882-7

**Catholic Schools Week**  
**January 25-31**

**National Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Catholic Schools Week is on January 25 - 31. The theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service."**

**We will begin the week with an *Open House on Sunday, January 25 after the 10:00 am Mass until 1:00 pm.* If you know someone who is interested in a great Catholic education for their children, please encourage them to come and see what we are all about.**



#### **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.



## Family Envelope

Flyers you will find inside:

This is the last hardcopy of the family envelope. All future information will be sent home electronically.

We are going **GREEN!**

Merry Christmas

*School Vacation  
December 22-January 2*

*School resumes  
January 5*

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.



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*Try it FREE today.*

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