

Saint Vincent de Paul School

Bi-monthly Newsletter



September 10, 2015

Dear St. Vincent de Paul Community,

Beginning in December, Pope Francis will invite the global community to commit to an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy. In a message from his most recent encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis reminds us that, "...all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect" (#89). The thirty-one members of our second grade class responded to this call for mercy by making over 125 sandwiches yesterday. As the students so ably told our morning assembly, their sandwiches were going to people who did not have food. Imagine the gratitude of the women and children of Star Community Home, a Catholic Charities outreach program, when they received this gift from the second grade.

Extra-curricular programs began this week. A cacophony of sounds emanated from the music and kindergarten rooms on Tuesday afternoon as kindergarten through fifth grade students began to experiment with a variety instruments. On Wednesday afternoon K-5 students focused their young minds on chess. Many students, from kindergarteners to eighth graders, have chosen to dance away their Thursday afternoons. All of these activities enrich the lives of our students and provide added enjoyment for those involved.

We wish to remind you of our traffic situation and ways we hope to minimize the pick up chaos. All of us need to practice patience, difficult we know, when you are sitting in the midst of traffic. We are asking that everyone drive west on Green Street. Please do not attempt to turn onto Green from Steiner. This will prevent us from blocking the bus and any emergency vehicle. It may take a few seconds longer, but it will be safer for our parent drivers and walking students. We ask that you help us keep everyone safe.

Thank you for the great turnout at the first Parent Guild meeting. The topic was focused on the Olweus Bully Prevention Program. If you were unable to attend, you will find information attached to this newsletter. We look forward to kicking this program off at a special student assembly on Monday.

We are always grateful for the support of our parents. You are generous in sharing your time by volunteering for a number of school activities. We also count on your generosity in contributing to our Annual Campaign. As you know, the money raised supports many school activities that directly enhance your child's experience at St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you in advance for your contributions. They are greatly appreciated.

Don't forget to join us at the Installation Mass and Dinner/Dance, It's a Small World, on Saturday, September 19. The parent committee is working hard to ensure that this is a fun-filled, exciting evening. We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Nancy Barrett
Co-Principal

Marguerite Pini
Co-Principal

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program

Thank you to the Parent Guild members that attended our meeting last Tuesday to listen to our guest speaker, Jasdeep Mahli, our liaison and appointed Olweus trainer. Mrs. Malhi presented to the parents a summary of the Olweus program and modeled the format and structure of the program with parent volunteers.

If you were unable to attend, here are the **key points** about how this program will unfold in our school, and how you, as a parent, can support it and talk with your child about relational issues that take place during the school day.

- Don't let the title fool you! The Olweus program is a preventative program that gets folded into our already existing faith based education.
- The focus of the program is on **inclusion** and the building of a common language around the issue of bullying behavior.
- Our school kick-off date is Monday, September 14th at 11:45 a.m. Our student Council will introduce the student body to the Olweus program by focusing on our school year theme **JOY: Jesus, Others, Yourself**. Joy begins when you put others first.
- On Thursday, September 17th, all our students will participate in their first classroom meeting where teachers and students will set the norms of behavior and learn our shared definition of bullying.
 - **Definition of bullying:** *A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.*
- Recognize that as this topic gets discussed in our classrooms, students will begin to talk about this at home. If your child voices concern or asks questions, listen with a discerning ear.
- During next four weeks each classroom will be focusing on one of the four school

adopted rules:

- We will not bully others.
- We will help students who are bullied.
- We will include students who are left out.
- If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

More information can be found on SchoolSpeak under the SCHOOL tab titled Parent CONNECT.

It's a Small World

2015 Back to School Dinner and Dance

*September 19, 2015
6:15-9:00pm
right after 5:15 mass*

Wear attire from your favorite international destination!

Student SchoolSpeak Profile

All SVDP families **must** update their student profiles on SchoolSpeak. If your student's profile information has not changed, we ask that you review the information and **submit** it again.

Profile information is used in emergency situations. If you are having difficulty accessing your account please contact techsupport@svdpsf.com

Donate TODAY!

You will be receiving an Annual Giving envelope at the end of this week or you can donate NOW through [Square](#) or schedule a one time donation through your [FACTs](#) account.

Fall 2015

St. Vincent de Paul School

Annual Giving Campaign

"A Message from Adam Taisch, Annual Giving Chair" found on SchoolSpeak

As always the primary goal of the campaign is to achieve **100% participation** from our school families.



Tuition Raffle:

For every \$1,000 donated by January 31, 2016 members will be entered for a chance to win a year free tuition for one student.

Through your generosity, the Annual Giving Campaign allows us to create a learning environment that keeps pace with the expanding needs of the school, by supporting enrichment programs that enhance our students' education, by providing state-of-the-art equipment, and by making improvements to our facilities.

Since 100% Participation is our number one objective, we ask each family to consider making your tax-deductible donation at a level that is appropriate for you. On behalf of the SVDP Community, thank you in advance for your participation.

What we support...

- Drama program
- Homework Café
- Field trips
- School Garden
- Technology upgrades
- Facility Improvements




Join the Annual Giving Campaign...get on the BUS!

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.

Electronic Family Envelope

Flyers:

[Year at a Glance 2015-2016](#)
[Yearly Events Calendar 2015-2016](#)


September 14
Teacher In-Service

Minimum Day
12:30pm

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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