



January 16, 2014

Dear St. Vincent de Paul Community,

Happy 2014! Welcome back Bridget Lemos! The coming of the new year brings resolutions and new beginnings. Two weeks into the new year many of our individual resolutions may be forgotten. Here at St. Vincent de Paul our resolution to continue to strengthen our school remains strong and the promise of beginning and implementing new projects looms large.

Currently, we are engaged in the project of re-wiring the school so that our wifi and internet access will support the activity and traffic of over 200 devices at the same time. The wiring work is being done in the evening and, thus, does not interfere with the school day. When the work is completed we will provide a full report of what was accomplished.

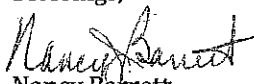
Our resolution to support an educated and professional staff continues as our teachers and staff regularly engage in professional development. Throughout the year all teachers and co-principals participate in religious training and faith formation classes through the archdiocese, thereby keeping their religion certification current. The co-principals will also attend a retreat for elementary school principals next week. Math teachers have participated in several workshops designed to assist them in the implementation of the Common Core Math curriculum. Earlier this week Marguerite Pini and Jenifer Spinale joined other diocesan leaders in a planning session for the next math workshop. Ms. Spinale is one of the diocesan coaches for Common Core Math. Not to be out done by her colleagues, our bookkeeper, Gwen Aponte spent two days furthering her skills with QuickBooks at a conference designed to assist individuals in better understanding and using this accounting software.

Communication is always a priority. You will notice that this letter is in hard copy form in your envelope. It also is being sent to you electronically. Before Christmas each of you received a survey about our school-parent communication. Eighty-nine of our families responded. Almost everyone agreed that the Thursday envelope was an effective means of communication. Very few people were interested in receiving communication via Facebook or Twitter. A majority of respondents believe that the website is in dire need of a facelift. (We agree and have begun investigating a new look and current content.) Many commented that the posting of homework on SchoolSpeak and feedback from teachers was important. There was also consensus that the means of communication need to be streamlined. Add all of these to our list of New Year's resolutions!

Two very important events are scheduled for next week. The first involves our third graders who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, January 22 at 5:00 pm in our church. The children have prepared for this significant moment in their faith journey and are eager to participate. We celebrate this occasion with them. At 7:00 pm on that very same evening, our eighth graders will entertain us with their production of *Twelfth Night*. We hope to see you there.

On Monday we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and remember his non-violent fight for justice and equality. During this new year we, too, are challenged to continue to fight for justice as we recall the words of the prophet Micah "to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

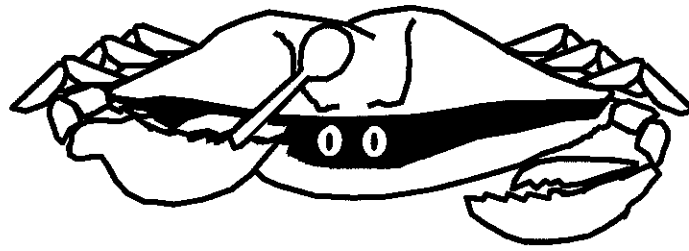
Blessings,


Nancy Barrett
Co-Principals


Marguerite Pini
Co-Principal

The St. Vincent de Paul Parish Men's Club Cordially Invites You To

Festa Cioppino

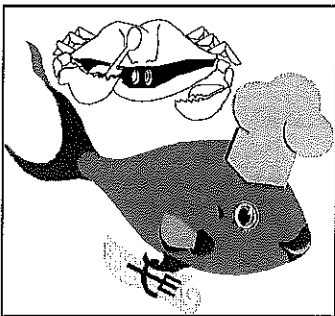


SATURDAY – JANUARY 25, 2014 – 6 to 11 PM
In The St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall and Cafeteria

TICKETS: \$60 EACH

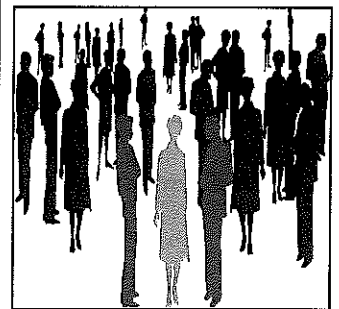
*The Ticket Price Includes Everything: Open Bar, Cioppino Dinner
with Fine Wine and Music*

SEATING IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY!



I can out swim that crab, but
not the Men's Club Cooks!!!

**JOIN US AND BRING YOUR
FRIENDS FOR AN EVENING OF
GREAT DRINKS, A DELICIOUS
CIOPPINO DINNER
ALL FOR ONE GREAT PRICE!**
(if crab isn't your thing and you want to join the
party, just let us know and we'll make you a steak!)



Look! Everyone's been
starving themselves for this!

R.S.V.P. REQUIRED BY MONDAY, JANUARY 20th

For questions, call Rick Gandolfo at 921-5012 or Aldo Congi at 296-2170

Detach this coupon and mail to: **Mr. Rick Gandolfo, 3429 Divisadero St., San Francisco, 94123**

You may pick up your tickets at the Parish Hall on the night of the dinner.

Enclosed is my check payable to **St. Vincent de Paul Men's Club**

_____ Tickets @ \$60.00 each Total \$ _____

NAME _____

PHONE (day) _____ (evening) _____

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS: I would like to sit with _____

I am looking to make new friends, I'll sit anywhere I am not a fan of crab, make me a steak

Mathematics @ SVDP School

POM: Problem of the Month

Dear Parents,

Problem solving is a fundamental goal of any strong mathematics program. Our school is committed to making each of our students a problem solver. It is never too early or too late to develop the real life learning skills of problem solving. Therefore, our school is embarking on a Problem of the Month program to help achieve this important goal.

Each month we will present our students with a non-routine problem for them to attack and solve. The problem will have several levels so that all students at our school will be able to work on a part of the problem appropriate to their learning development. All students should start with level A and work through the different tasks. It is understood that some students will not get too far into the problem. The process of attacking and struggling on a non-routine problem is important to learn. When your child has reached the maximum level of his/her understanding, please celebrate their progress.

Trials, errors, and retries are key attributes of good problem solvers. We ask you to encourage your students to persevere. Many students might want to initially give up. The best support for your student is encouragement through good questions. Some good questions are: *What have you tried? Why do you think it doesn't work? Have you tried to make the problem simpler? What do you need to know to be able to solve the problem?* There are many other good questions; however, leading or guiding questions are not helpful. The process of finding and understanding a solution outweighs the benefit of having a correct answer. Doing the problem for the student actually hurts the problem-solving process. Many students will receive the hidden message that they can't solve problems by themselves, and will learn to stop and wait for someone else to answer.

You will play an important role in supporting your child's work on these problems. Once students have reached their level of understanding, they are asked to complete a write-up of their findings. Students should communicate how they went about solving the problem as well as the solution they found. This write-up helps students understand how they think and approach new problems. We look forward to a partnership with you around problem solving. Thank you for supporting your child.