



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

October 25, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends of SVdP School,

As morning dawned today, I was indignant at the white and grey clouds which threatened to block out the sunshine for a day! As a newbie to the area, I am still enthralled with the radiance and the particular quality of the sun of which Coloradans can rightly boast. I've lived on the east coast, the west coast, and in the south, all of which have their beauties and even their sunny days/weeks/months, but there is a particular brilliance when you are 5280' high. The Sisters and I have made it out on about a half-dozen hikes since arriving in (or returning to) Denver two months ago. On our most recent hike in Roxborough, I was especially struck by the beauty, the variety, the abundance which marked the views, not least of which was the fall colors painting the entire landscape. There is exquisite natural beauty in Colorado, and I hope it never gets old or becomes too familiar for me to appreciate while I am here.

The beauty, complexity (and simplicity), and power of nature seemed to speak to us that day – or in this case *shout* to us – of God as Creator. The unrelenting line of evergreens, the shimmering gold of the Aspens, the curious red rocks jutting out of the earth, the sheer breadth of the mountain horizon and the distant white caps set in relief against the deep blue sky were a vision to behold, made possible only by the power of the light of the sun and the corresponding power of our eyesight. Without the light of the sun, not only would we not have enjoyed the views from the peak, but the chances of us making it up the trail would have been difficult to impossible. The light of the sun enabled us to see the trodden path, to avoid a cliff to the right and to the left, and to take extra caution on the gravel. Without the sun, we would have had to grope along the path unaware of the security of the next step and unable to anticipate dangers ahead, let alone enjoy the colorful delights along the way.

Consider the correspondence to the spiritual life. Just as the sunshine and our eyesight work together to enable us to see (and navigate according to) God's visible creation, so also faith, and the power of spiritual sight work together to enable us to see (and to navigate according to) what God revealed to us in the spiritual realm: the Trinity – God as an eternal exchange of love, the transforming graces of the sacraments, the Incarnation of God come to earth, angels, the Beatitudes. Faith is the power that enables us to see what we would not otherwise be able to see. If the sun lost its light, we would not be able to see all there is to see in the visible world – our spouses, our children, the mountains, oceans, camels, ladybugs, even clouds! The sun does not *create* these things, but simply shines light for us to see them. Similarly, the light of faith does not *create* spiritual realities, but simply shines a light that enables us to see what is there. And more, the light of faith enables us to hike securely along the trail toward heaven, to avoid the fatal cliffs of sin to the left and to the right, and the slippery dangers of mediocrity and lukewarmness that would make us lose our footing if we are unaware.

God is constantly talking to us, isn't He? Constantly providing, delighting, challenging, and calling. The first revelation of God comes to us through creation. We in Colorado have opportunity to be great contemplatives, drawing close to God through His creation. Before this fall ends, let's see if we can take a day or a weekend to slow down and to contemplate on a hike or even in the back yard, listening for the One who tells us that each human soul is infinitely more beautiful than the entire created universe. Let's continue to pray for one another.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Sister Dominic, O.P.*

Sister Dominic, O.P.  
Principal

## News:

Introducing Kelly Archer: Hello Parents, Guardians, Students, and Friends of SVdP! My name is Kelly Archer and I am greatly looking forward to beginning my journey at St. Vincent's helping to prepare families and students for one of the most beautiful and important days of our Christian (and entire!) lives. As Sister Dominic mentioned in the previous publication, I come with an Elementary Education background, having taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in Tulsa, Oklahoma, before coming to Denver to serve the homeless and live in an intentional Catholic community being formed in the faith with *Christ in the City*. I'm currently pursuing my Master's Degree in Theology and am often amazed at God's goodness and faithfulness in my life. Thank you for your patience in waiting for my appointment in this role. I want to assure you we will hit the ground running and with lots of prayer and graces, I'm confident beautiful things will happen this year. Please know I'm always more than happy to grab coffee at a local coffee shop (next to rainy days, coffee is my favorite thing!) or chat with you as I learn about the parish, your hopes and desires in Sacramental Prep, and begin walking towards the Sacraments and therefore, Jesus' heart, with you. Please contact me at [kelly@saintvincents.org](mailto:kelly@saintvincents.org) or 303-777-3812 extension 135. Thank you for allowing me this honor to help prepare your children. I look forward to the joy ahead!

(Reminder – first meeting for parents of children being confirmed is Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the cafeteria.)

Mother Ann Marie is coming November 10-14. Some of you may have met Mother Ann Marie, O.P., Prioress General of the Congregation of Saint Cecilia, when she visited Denver three years ago. It is the practice of our Order to have a general Visitation to all the houses of the Congregation every three years. In addition to experiencing how we are living our religious lives in the convent, Mother will also be interested in hearing about how the school is running, its successes and the challenges it faces this year and in years to come. Sister Mary Agnes, Director of Education for our Congregation, will accompany Mother Ann Marie and will spend a couple of days at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School and a day at Bishop Machebeuf High School. Please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome Mother Ann Marie and Sister Mary Agnes to SVdP if you happen to see them.

Safety and Security: The ongoing efforts of the Safety and Security Committee have greatly improved the overall safety measures at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School. We're proud to share with you that over the past couple of years we have:

- Organized safety assessments performed by third-parties to recommend most immediate needs and long-term goals.
- Added security cameras at building access doors as well as scattered throughout several major hallways and smaller pockets of the building.
- Maintained locked building access doors and the doors were re-keyed requiring a magnetic fob to enter, limiting access to those who have a reason to be in the building.
- Hired Officer White to be a weekly visible presence at the school. He crosses the students to Mass and remains at Mass with us and crosses the children back.
- Completed a schedule of evacuation drills, lockdown, lockout, and shelter/tornado drills. (The Fire Department was scheduled at SVdP last week to analyze our evacuation drill which we did in 70 seconds. Prior to the drill they told us that 90 seconds would be reasonable for a building of this size. We scored high marks on their overall report.)

- Recognized that the most important part of our safety measures is the daily supervision of the teachers who recognize and respond to potential dangers, who maintain class management so that the students will respond appropriately when needed, who use good judgment on a day to day basis in the handling of groups of students.
- Thank you to the Safety Committee which has been working for nearly six years to ensure our children are safe. Any imminent threat of safety or potential danger that requires parents to be alerted would be communicated out to the parent community using the usual methods of communication for weather delays.
- Volunteer Needed: To this end – our most vulnerable times are a.m. and p.m. carpool. Traffic patterns are put in place for the safety of our children. We are looking for a couple of parent volunteers willing to help direct morning traffic flow for 2-3 weeks to be sure we all are driving, stopping, parking, and moving according to the prescribed patterns. Please contact Sister Dominic or Denise Whittington if you are willing to volunteer at morning carpool for a limited time.

Going Green with Online Directory: The Family Directory is housed online this year and can be printed for your convenience. A few copies will be available in the front office if you would like a hard copy in addition to the electronic access. For instructions on accessing the directory information, please visit the school website and click on the Parent tab. In the drop down menu click on Forms & Resources and then scroll down to the SVdP Buzz Book and Calendar instructions.

Veteran's Day Reception and Assembly: Our annual Veteran's Day Reception and Assembly is quickly approaching. If you have a friend or family member who served in our Armed Forces, please invite them to this event so that we can honor them and show our gratitude for their service. Please have guests RSVP by calling the Front Office or by clicking on the following link:  
<https://goo.gl/forms/3fVBx883CTasr1mS2>

The reception will begin at 1:30 in the Garden Room, followed by the All School Assembly at 2:10 in the gymnasium.

### **Noteworthy Dates**

- October 31<sup>st</sup>: Dress down day. Shorts are permitted on this day (an exception to the handbook for this one day). Simple accessories from costumes may be worn but should not be an excessive distraction. No blood, guts, gore, weapons, etc.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>: House of Saint Luke – congratulations on winning the Box Tops competition and please enjoy a free dress day today (according to handbook guidelines).
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: Parent Teacher Conferences. Information will be coming home in October with your child/ren. (Information available October 11<sup>th</sup>)

A decorative gold Art Deco border with geometric patterns and lines, framing the central text.

In celebration of our school's 90<sup>th</sup>  
year, we would like to announce  
this year's Gala theme:

A graphic of a marquee sign with a dotted border, containing the text 'THE ROARING TWENTIES' in a stylized, illuminated font.

THE  
ROARING  
TWENTIES

Save the Date

Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2017  
The Westin Downtown

Interested in volunteering?  
Please contact our Gala chairs Sharon Alton & Marissa Ogden via  
fast direct

# SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1164 South Josephine Street • 303-777-3812 • www.svdpk8.com

## OPEN HOUSE

Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>  
8:45 am – 2:00 pm

PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES INTERESTED IN  
POSSIBLE ENROLLMENT ARE INVITED TO  
ONE OF TWO INFORMATION SESSIONS  
OFFERED AT 8:45 AM AND 12:15 PM.

TOURS WILL BE OFFERED THROUGHOUT  
THE ENTIRE DAY.

- Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade fully licensed faculty consisting of Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, TN, and lay teachers
- The faith life of the school community, rooted in the truth and love of Jesus Christ, permeates every day
- Formation of the whole child and a strong curriculum are enriched by a strong support staff
- Rigorous academics with above grade level test scores
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology Integration: Robotics Program, iPads, SMART Boards
- Strong parental involvement



[www.svdpk8.com](http://www.svdpk8.com)

*Tours are available everyday, call to schedule*

The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese, under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop, and at the direction of the Superintendent, attest that none of the Catholic schools discriminates on the basis of sex in its admission policies, its treatment of students or its employment practices.





**Contact:** Sarah Rlopelle  
303-777-3812  
[info@saint-vincents.org](mailto:info@saint-vincents.org)

## **St Vincent De Paul School Robotics Program is a Success**

### *Robotics Makes Learning Fun in the Classroom*

DENVER, COLO. – October 21, 2016 - St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School in Denver is focused on providing a state-of-the-art education experience to its students and is bringing its Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum to life in the classroom with the use of robotics. STEM education is a national initiative to ensure that all students understand how to integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics in order to solve problems. The robotics program allows the students at St. Vincent de Paul to explore the STEM disciplines through an interactive hands-on experience all while making the learning experience fun and engaging. “Robotics has proven to be an excellent resource and method of teaching that engages the students, makes learning relevant, and challenges the varying learning styles of each student, giving them experiences and skills that prepares them for high school and beyond,” says St. Vincent de Paul Principal, Sister Dominic Quinn, O.P.

The robotics program began last year at St. Vincent de Paul and will continue again this year in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. The younger students built a variety of robotic mechanisms from the LEGO® Education WeDo and the middle school students used the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 robotic systems. The students first built the Lego® based robots, incorporating all the appropriate bricks, parts and robotic sensors. Once built, they designed programs on the computer to instruct the robots to perform specific tasks and multistep challenges. Lastly, the students tested and redesigned the programs until the robot completed the assigned tasks. Throughout the entire process, the students worked cooperatively with partners, recorded observations and communicated their results. From chomping alligators, dancing birds, soaring airplanes, soccer stars to task oriented robots, robotics provided the students with an interactive learning experience that enhanced each student’s technological literacy and understanding of each of the STEM disciplines.

Mrs. Jane Bancroft’s second grade Computer Science class explored robotics and technology all while building and programming robotic alligators. After building the Lego® alligators, the students programmed the motion sensors located on the alligator’s jaw to snap when something was near its mouth. In addition, they added a chomping sound to the activated motion sensor. “The children enjoyed programming the alligators and were quite creative in exploring all the sounds the alligators could make. The task really emphasized technology and engineering, including, the concept of sensors and their ability to respond to external stimuli. Robotics enables us to engage and motivate the students in a fun and interactive way,” says Mrs. Bancroft.

The students in Mrs. Beth McConaty's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Science classes built and programmed the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 robots to perform a number of complex and detailed challenges, including navigating through a three turn maze and even participating in a class wide robotic "wave." In addition to robotics and technology, programming the robots to perform these tasks required the students to incorporate a number of scientific and mathematical principles. To successfully navigate the maze and wave in sequence, the students needed to consider programming arrangements and commands, physical conditions, and units of measurement and timing. "The excitement of successfully completing the task was apparent in the classroom and in each student's educational development in the STEM disciplines. Robotics challenged each of my students, regardless of their learning style, to think critically and explore new ways of learning," explained Mrs. McConaty.

By working collaboratively in pairs to build, program and test the robots the students learned how assumptions, predictions, equations, planning and observations result in solutions and successes. Throughout this collaborative process the students engaged with one another honing their communication, critical thinking and creativity skills. "Robotics provides our students with the opportunity to apply critical thought processes in a more creative and collaborative environment. It is a fun way to engage each student and to develop each student's critical thinking and problem solving abilities," said Mrs. McConaty. These skills, are essential for a student's success now and in the future.

As a result of the students' enthusiasm and the valuable lessons learned last year, the use of robotics in the STEM curriculum will be expanded this year at St. Vincent de Paul. Building upon what was learned last year, the students will construct more complex robots and program these robots to complete more detail-oriented tasks. This will continue to develop each student's technological literacy and their knowledge of robotics and the STEM disciplines.

There is a long-standing tradition of academic excellence at St. Vincent de Paul School. The school's rigorous, time-tested curriculum, taught by committed faculty in a faith-based and nurturing environment, results in a measurably accomplished academic achievement. St. Vincent's Open House (Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) is **Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.** with tours for prospective families. A brief presentation will be given at 8:45 a.m. 12:15 p.m. The location is 1164 S. Josephine Street, Denver. For further information on St. Vincent de Paul School, visit [www.svdpk8.com](http://www.svdpk8.com).

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***Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic School is located in Denver, Colorado and serves students from 3-year-old Preschool through Eighth Grade. St. Vincent de Paul School is led by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia and first opened its doors in 1927. The school is rooted in the Truth and Love of Christ and his Church and is committed to Educating the Whole Child for the Future. Visit [www.svdpk8.com](http://www.svdpk8.com) for more information.***

***The Catholic schools and the Archdiocese, under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop, and at the direction of the Superintendent, attest that none of the Catholic schools discriminated on the basis of sex in its admission policies, treatment of students or its employment practices.***

# SVdP Buzzbook and Calendar

## SVdP Buzzbook

The SVdP Buzzbook (the student directory) can be found on the FastDirect system. The following steps will help you navigate to the BuzzBook either on a desktop/laptop or a mobile device.

### On a Desktop/Laptop

Step 1. Navigate to the FastDirect System, either via an email alert you might have received or directly to the FastDirect website: <https://ssl.fastdir.com/stvincentdepaul/>

Step 2. Login to the system using the username and password that has been provided to your family:

St. Vincent de Paul

CRUSADERS  
VINCENT DE PAUL

Home  
Bulletinboards/Calendars  
Cafeteria Menu  
Links  
Privacy Statement  
Parent Activation  
Visit FastDir.com  
Technology Sponsors

# Saint Vincent De Paul Catholic School

FastDirect School Information System

1164 South Josephine Street Denver, Colorado 80210 Phone: (303)777-3812  
Sister Dominic, O.P., Principal

ScreenName: p506  
Password: ●●●●  
Log on  
[Forgot your ScreenName or password?](#)

Step 2: Login

Step 3. You will be taken to your inbox.

3a. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the inbox web page until you see the Buzzbook buttons.

Brendan & Sarah McGuire  
Log Out

09/29/16 at 1510  
09/29/16 at 1413  
09/27/16 at 1237  
09/26/16 at 0855  
09/25/16 at 2013

Options available	Grade	Progress Report	Report Card	Gradebook (1st Quarter)	Assignments Calendar	Class Schedule
Lily McGuire	K	Not available	Not available	Not available	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
Patrick McGuire	3	Not available	Not available	<a href="#">View 1st Quarter</a>	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>

No financial transactions found.

**BuzzBook**

[Students - class order](#) [Students - A-Z order](#) [Parents - A-Z order](#)

[Change My ScreenName](#)  
[Change My Password](#)  
[File Manager](#)

BuzzBook Buttons

Step 3a: Scroll to bottom of page

3b. On a desktop/laptop, when a BuzzBook button is selected, directory information will open in a new tab or window and is displayed in a spreadsheet layout. NOTE: Information shown as UNLISTED means that family has elected to keep the information out of the school directory.

St. Vincent de Paul 404 active students by class 404 shown				
Mr. Demo Teacher - Demo Teacher				
Student	Parents	Phone	Address	Email
Demo Student1	Demo Parent1		Unpublished.	
Mrs. Sheri Jeske - Preschool				

There are three options for viewing the directory information:

*Students – class order: Use this to see directory information for students by classroom.*

*Students – A-Z order: Use this to see directory information alphabetically by student last name.*

*Parents – A-Z order: Use this to see directory information alphabetically by parent last name.*

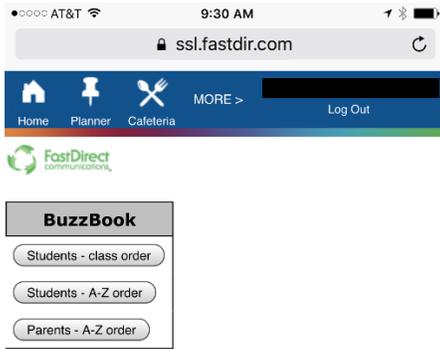
### On a Mobile Device

Step 1. Navigate to the FastDirect System, either via an email alert you might have received or directly to the FastDirect website: <https://ssl.fastdir.com/stvincentdepaul/>

Step 2. Login to the system using the username and password that has been provided to your family:

Step 3. You will be taken to a FastDirect Menu. Select the BuzzBook option.

3a. On the BuzzBook page you will see three options for viewing directory information.

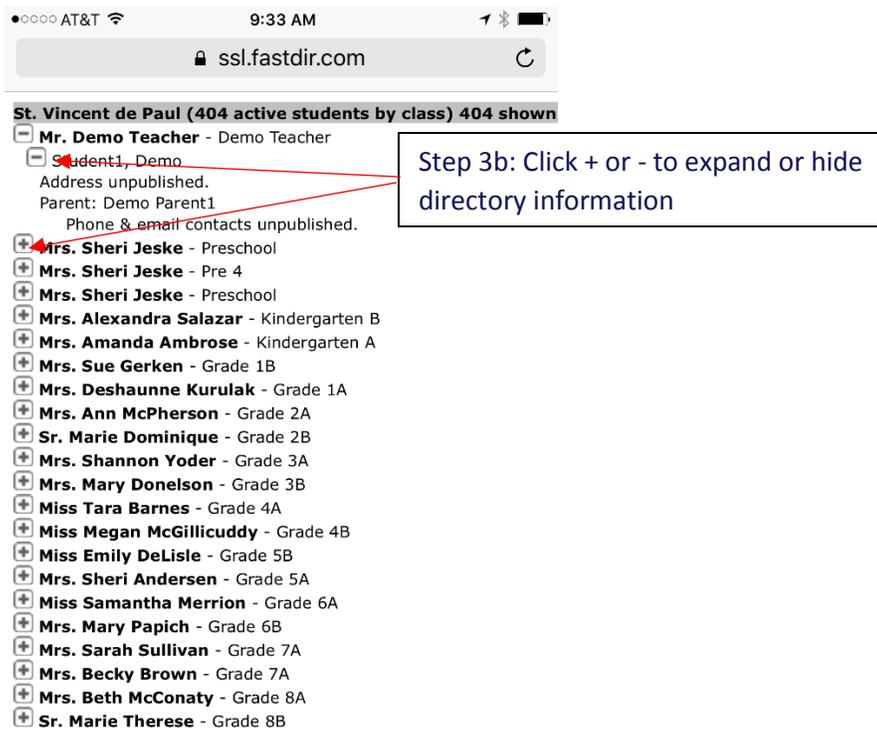


*Students – class order: Use this to see directory information for students by classroom.*

*Students – A-Z order: Use this to see directory information alphabetically by student last name.*

*Parents – A-Z order: Use this to see directory information alphabetically by parent last name.*

3b – Once you have selected a BuzzBook option and the directory window has appeared, you will need to expand the headings to see additional information. Click the “+” button next to each heading to see expanded information. To hide the information, click the “-“ button. NOTE: Information shown as UNLISTED means that family has elected to keep the information out of the school directory.



## SVdP Calendar

The SVdP School Calendar is viewable on the school's webpage: <http://www.svdpk8.com/>

Step 1. Navigate to the school's webpage: <http://www.svdpk8.com/>

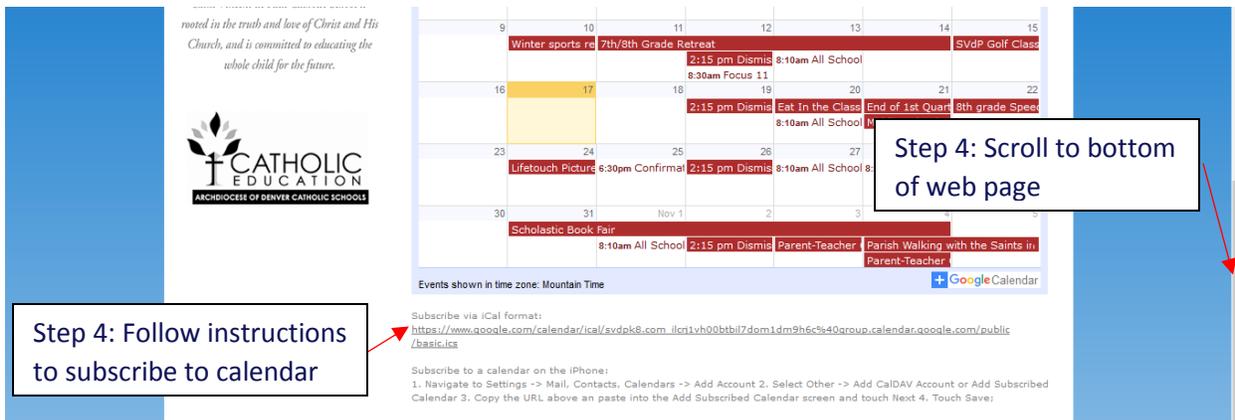
Step 2. Select the Forms and Resources tab, under the Parents tab on the main page:



Step 3: Select SVdP School Calendar

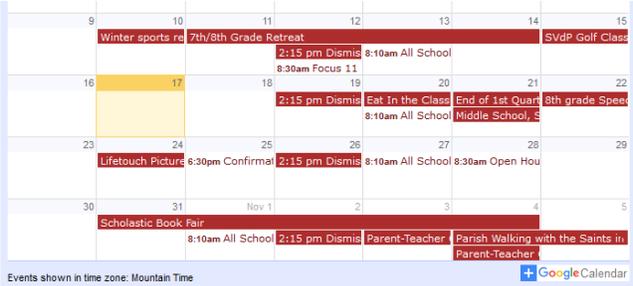


Step 4: To Download the calendar to your computer, scroll to the bottom of the page and follow the instructions to subscribe:



Step 5: To download the calendar to your mobile device, follow the above instructions to navigate to the calendar page while using your mobile device. **NOTE FOR IPHONE USERS** - In order for updates to the calendar to sync with your device, you will need to follow the iPhone instructions to subscribe to the calendar.





Events shown in time zone: Mountain Time [Google Calendar](#)

Subscribe via iCal format:  
[https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/svdpk8.com\\_llcr1vh00btbl7dom1dm9h6c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics](https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/svdpk8.com_llcr1vh00btbl7dom1dm9h6c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics)

Subscribe to a calendar on the iPhone:  
 1. Navigate to Settings -> Mail, Contacts, Calendars -> Add Account 2. Select Other -> Add CalDAV Account or Add Subscribed Calendar 3. Copy the URL above and paste into the Add Subscribed Calendar screen and touch Next 4. Touch Save;

**Step 5: iPhone Users - Follow instructions to subscribe and sync calendar.**