



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

December 20, 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of SVdP School,

*On this Christmas day, God comes from above;
let us open our hearts to receive His love.
~from the kindergarten Christmas play 2016*

Although theologians may use more sophisticated words, our kindergarteners' simplicity of language communicates the same profound message of Christmas. Beginning tomorrow, we are not just taking a winter break. We are not just entering into a best practice of giving our bodies and minds a needed rest from hard work. We are not just visiting families and giving thoughtful and well-selected gifts to our loved ones. Before all else, we are remembering and entering more deeply into the truth that God came to earth, entered into human history, and nothing has been the same since! We are remembering and celebrating a kind of love which human beings are hard-pressed to fathom, let alone imitate and practice. It is a love which creates, forgives, redeems, converts hearts, changes lives, and opens up eternal life. This is something worth celebrating for 2 ½ weeks!

I encourage you during this Christmas break, as often as you can, to sit before a nativity scene – an image on a Christmas card, a favorite heirloom set in your home, or a life size set in a church – and ask God to help you (and all of us) to better understand the no-strings-attached love that He wants to pour out on us; and in understanding, then to better receive it in our own hearts. Among the readings we hear at Mass during the Christmas Octave is the story of the wise men who set out to find this King whose star beckoned them from the east. We are told this detail: that after they went and offered their gifts to the infant King, they “returned home by a different route.” They travel through life in a different way because they are changed by the encounter with Christ. They are changed by experiencing something of the God who came to earth. We, too are invited to be changed and to walk a different way, but we must be ready to encounter Him. With the wise men, let us approach this scene with faith, seeking an encounter with God who presents Himself in poverty, in weakness, and in total love.

With prayers for a very Merry Christmas,

Sister Dominic, O.P.
Sister Dominic, O.P.

THANK YOU!

SVdP parent Stefanie Liley has taken the lead in developing an inventory and process for the scrip program, known at SVdP as Crusader Cards. As we formalize a process which will help to spread out the work load, Mrs. Liley has spent hours upon hours in ordering, researching, training others, accounting, and fulfilling orders, often with young child in tow and always with a great smile. We've sold nearly \$10,000 in scrip cards and reloadable grocery cards. Thank you, Stefanie, for your gift of time this fall/winter! Thank you to so many parents who have remembered to stop by to order these cards or sent in orders to be fulfilled. This can be an extremely successful program for our school.

MANY THANKS TO OUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPE VOLUNTEERS

Our Christmas Shoppe was very well received this year!

Cynthia Hass, Catherine Turner, Mimi Goodwin, Jeanne Desautels, Maria Ramirez, Marie Dimelow, Sonja Russell, Natalie Urruty, Kelly McFadden, Courtney Ranson, Julie Wright, Julie Smith, Mary Reddy, Sheryl Prentice, Kelly Carfora, Sarah Riopelle, Darby Barfield, Shannon Tiger, Therese Anderson, Hayley Foresman, Julie Buckley, and Michelle Wasson became Christmas Shoppe elves assisting our students with their gift selections.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

PRE-KINDERGARTEN EXPANSION OF HOURS AND OPTIONS

We recently surveyed our parents with young children to determine how we might best meet the needs of our families at Saint Vincent's by expanding our offerings in the preschool. While there is a possibility of expanding into a second classroom, that does not seem probable for the coming school year. However, we are preparing a program for the 2017-2018 school year which:

- More closely mirrors the drop off time for the K-8 students (8:00am)
- Extends until noon for those choosing a part time seat (part time seats will be offered)
- Continues to allow for part time afternoon seats
- Allows for several full time, full day seats which mirrors the upper school (8:00-3:00)
- We are not currently planning to offer "extended care" time after 3:00 for these three and four-year old students

**Note: because we follow a curriculum, it is neither practical for the classroom, nor in keeping with the mission of SVdP to simply provide drop-off daycare environment.*

PARENT EXPERTISE NEEDED

The school is exploring an outdoor classroom/building project and is looking for parent expertise in landscape/architecture/building. If you are able to offer initial advice, guidance, act as consultant or offer ongoing expertise, please contact Sister Dominic through Fast Direct.

PARENT COFFEES

Sister Dominic would like to schedule another round of parent coffees several mornings after drop off to share some of the initiatives the school has been working on, to get input and feedback, and to hear from the parents how the year is going. These will begin after Catholic Schools Week which begins late January. Look for the schedule in an upcoming Crusader newsletter.

PARENT VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES

- CALLED TO PROTECT

In January each year, the sixth grade students view a video teaching them healthy physical and social boundaries. They will do this within the context of the C4G (Created for Greatness Program oriented toward middle school growth). A preview of the video will be available for parents on January 12th following all-school Mass and parents from all grade levels are invited to view the film. It is an hour long, and discussion can follow for whomever is interested. If you would like more information about it, but are not available to view it at the scheduled time, please contact our counselor, Mrs. Dirrane at tdirrane@svdpk8.com.

- SCREENAGERS

Have you heard of the documentary, Screenagers, which presents the medical research on the effect of screens on our children? Screenagers is coming to SVdP with two different evening viewing options on January 25th and January 26th with a 7:15pm start time each night. The documentary will be shown during the school day the same week to our 6, 7, 8 grade students. Parents of all grade students are invited and encouraged to attend. You are welcome to bring your children to the evening viewing if you wish. Find the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQx2X0BXgZg>.

LICE CHECKS

We are aware that several/many of our children have been treated for lice this year, across grade levels, but perhaps hardest hit were grades 3, 6, and 7. I understand that this is not unique this year. Some considerations:

- Some cases can be harder to treat than others. One of our parents offered contact information of a woman, Linda Holmes, who is a licensed medical technician who is willing to come to your house to treat the lice and will do follow up appointments to be sure it is gone. She can be reached at 720-829-6474.
- Please do not send your child back to school if s/he still has lice
- It may be helpful to not share Santa hats with friends at this point, or any other hats.
- The CDC website has additional information: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/>

RECENT CONCERT/MUSIC VIDEO

We are pleased to share the following link to a concert produced by our parish liturgist/musician, MaryBeth Church. The link/video can also be found on the parish/school facebook page <http://saintvincents.org/2016/11/28/sacred-song-in-a-sacred-space/>

FACEBOOK MERGE

The parish and school have been working to merge facebook pages. Please find us at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Parish and School: <https://www.facebook.com/svdp2375/>

NOTEWORTHY DATES:

December 20 th	Grades 1-3 Christmas program in the Church at 6:30 pm
December 21 st	Noon Dismissal/No extended care
January 9 th	First day back after break
January 10 th	7 th grade presents The Lion King at 6:30 pm in the gym
January 12 th	Called to Protect Viewing following all school Mass (school auditorium)
January 13 th	End of second quarter: half way through the year
January 18 th	Card-writing in the garden room at 2:15.
January 19 th	No hot lunch available – students pack lunch and eat in classroom

Deadline for Crusader Connection: Monday at 6:00am of the week it is to be published.



SVdP Roaring 20's Gala Saturday, March 4th 2017 The Westin Downtown

The Gala website is up and running! Check it out at <https://svdpch.ejoinme.org/svdp2017gala> for helpful information on tickets, hotel & parking, mobile bidding and much more!

We continue to need the help of SVdP parents over the next few weeks for item donations. We will continue to accept any donations through **January 13th**. While you are out doing last minute Christmas shopping, consider picking up an extra item as a Gala donation. A great idea for the active boarder or skier is a GoPro Camera. How about a cool bike rack from RockyMounts, a Boulder company, or a Fujifilm Instax camera or printer for the iPhone? More ideas are listed under the “Item Wish List” tab on the website. Donation forms can be found on the website or at the front desk of the school.

We hope to see you in March for this primary community and fundraising event for our school. Typically, over 400 people attend. It is so much fun!!!

Overstock Sale

For St. Vincent de Paul Grade School — Select items are now 25% off! Discount available in-store only, while supplies last.



SHORT SLEEVE GIRLS' POLO

· with Logo

item # 08200A-CE6-

colors: navy 067 red 095 light blue 005



NAVY V-NECK PULLOVER

· with Logo

item # 065000-CE6-067



SHORT SLEEVE JERSEY POLO

· with Logo

item # 08300A-CE6-

colors: navy 067 red 095 light blue 005



NAVY V-NECK SWEATER VEST

· with Logo

item # 066000-CE6-067



LONG SLEEVE JERSEY POLO

· with Logo

item # 08300C-CE6-

colors: navy 067 red 095 light blue 005



NAVY 1/4 ZIP SWEATSHIRT

· with Logo

item # 093000-CE6-067



GIRLS' NAVY V-NECK CARDIGAN

· with Logo

item # 064300-CE6-067



NAVY V-NECK CARDIGAN

· with Logo

item # 063000-CE6-067



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