



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

February 21, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of SVdP,

When I stopped into Mrs. Gerken's first grade class this week, I got caught in a conversation in which several children were reaching into their mouths and giving cheesy smiles to show me their loose teeth, missing teeth, and growing-in teeth. Each one wanted to tell me how many s/he had lost so far or how many were now loose. I pondered aloud with sincere curiosity, "I wonder why it is that children lose their teeth?" One future entrepreneur responded with excitement, "so we can make money from the tooth fairy!"

This year, we, like our first grader, want to make some money for our special paddle raiser project. Although the paddle raiser occurs at the gala, you do not have to attend the gala to contribute to the project. The paddle raiser this year is dedicated to building an outdoor ecology lab. In response to the New Evangelization to bring the beauty and the power of the Gospel to the post-Christian, post-modern, digitally-dazed men and women of our time, we are designing the outdoor lab for all of our students at SVdP. The cross-grade, cross-curricular, STEM-inspired initiative offers a variety of key elements including: raised garden beds for herbs, vegetables and flowers; a greenhouse for experiment in hydroponics; a butterfly garden for hatching chrysalis cocoons; and a coop for raising chickens, collecting and selling eggs. Other potential aspects include solar panels on the coop, composting, and grapevines which tie in with our hallmark Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program, Grades K-6.

At this point in history, the entire educational enterprise from preschool through university level is both in transition and rediscovery. Most have acknowledged that the current system is in a failed state with a need for revival. Our current system for career-tracking has effected a fragmentation in knowledge for the sake of specialization at earlier and earlier years. The approach to education at SVdP seeks to be holistic and based on the understanding of the nature of a child, and how to develop all of his human powers. To this end, we wish to re-propose the original and primordial classroom: the world in which we live. When God created Adam and Eve, His purpose was to create beings with whom He could share His own divine life. So setting them within this world, He revealed Himself in and through the creation which surrounded them. Adam and Eve would not only find delight and joy in the study of these things, but these things were designed so that Adam and Eve would come to know something about the One who created them. By their study of, and interaction with the environment, Adam and Eve became the first governors, the first explorers, the first astronomers, the first engineers, the first architects of culture, the first farmers, the first builders, the first chemists, the first botanists, the first chefs, and so on. (And after the Fall – the first lawyers!) In several billions of years, we have not yet exhausted what there is to know about the world around us, and it continues to hold us in a state of awe and wonder when we are willing to study it and let it reveal itself to our intelligence. We are made to enjoy and be fascinated by the way the world works, and what it means that we are stewards of it. Confident in this design, our educational approach at SVdP seeks to rediscover wonder as the primary tool for learning, beginning with the outdoor ecology lab.

A few logistical details to help you envision this paddle raiser project:

- Location: lower playground along Columbine fence line from teacher parking lot to trees in raised beds
- Cost: \$45,000 would enable us to begin this March and have the program completely embedded into the school in an 18-month time frame. The short list of materials and building plans include: underground water & electric to the site, concrete removal and total preparation of the ground, possible tree removal, repositioning corner of fence, raised beds, walking paths, coop, storage shed, brooder box, incubator, greenhouse, bushes, plants, student gardening supplies. Additional costs include instructional materials, teacher professional development, consultation fee/stipends for building the curriculum. If we do not meet the \$45,000 goal, we will phase in the elements in a limited way as best makes sense for the program.
- All students prek-8 will be involved in one or more aspects of the ecology lab
- A variety of partnerships are available to us including university level programs, DPS educational programs, partner schools.

- Anticipated timeline is to begin with small projects this spring in scattered grade levels, physical building beginning in spring and completed in fall, curriculum integration completed in summer, and teacher professional development beginning in spring and continuing through the entire 2017-2018 school year.

So far, the project has found wide appeal. I hope you will consider making a generous contribution to the paddle raiser project this year. You can donate via online bidding the night of March 4<sup>th</sup>, while bidding on other items/buying your party slots. You can also just drop a check off at the school office with "2017 Gala Paddle Raiser" in the memo line and it will go toward our goal. Finally, please let me know if you are interested in being involved in additional ways; we will be looking for volunteers throughout the project.

With prayers for your families,

*Sister Dominic, O.P.*

### **T-shirt Design Contest**

The 2017 Faith Rally is coming up on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Student-artists are invited to submit a design for the t-shirts which will be given to all students for the Faith Rally. Following is the rubric:

- DUE: March 1<sup>st</sup> by 2:30 pm
- Submitted on 8 ½ X 11" paper
- Use the spiritual theme for the year "Keep your thoughts fixed on things above."
- Keep in mind that only one color will be printed on the t-shirt

### **From the Business Office - Tuition Assistance Applications**

New and returning families requesting consideration for tuition assistance are required to apply each year. In past years, a software program known as PSAS was used. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, applications will be submitted through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment.

Applications are completed online and the link is active on the school website, [www.svdpk8.com](http://www.svdpk8.com). Click on the *Admissions* tab, and select *To Register with FACTS*.

This link may also be used to access your FACTS Tuition Payment Plan. There is also a tab, *FACTS Questions and Answers*, containing instructions for completion of the forms. The fee for submitting your application is \$27.00 and is handled directly with FACTS as part of the application process.

If you have questions or encounter a problem, please contact a FACTS customer representative at 1-866-441-4637. Additional information is also available at [www.FACTSmgt.com/grant-and-aid](http://www.FACTSmgt.com/grant-and-aid).

The application deadline including submission of applicable tax forms to FACTS is March 15, 2017. Please refer to the Question and Answer sheet for details regarding uploading and/or faxing tax forms to FACTS. **Also, be sure to include your FACTS applicant ID on all faxed or mailed correspondence.** If you choose to mail your tax documents, send them to:

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment  
P. O. Box 82524  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2524

We also request that you download and complete our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Application. There is a link to the form under the *Admissions* tab, *Tuition and Financial Assistance*. Please bring or mail the completed form to the school office prior to the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**NEW DEADLINE – the deadline to apply for financial aid is March 15, 2017.**

## **Golf Tournament**

After some consideration and discussion, the church and school have decided that we will not continue with the annual golf tournament as a fundraiser for the SVdP School Teacher Fund. I want to express, on behalf of the pastors, principals, and teachers, past and present, our gratitude to Bob Lowry who originally began the tournament, and to Nick Burns, who has chaired the event and made it successful the past several years. At this time we plan to commit our efforts in a different. Thank you to so many who have annually sponsored or played in the tournament.

## **Water Test – Came Back Negative**

Our SAC liaison for facilities, Mr. Joe Powers, recently had the water at the school tested for both lead and bacteria. We are happy to report that both of these tests came back negative.

Joe Powers is also organizing a spring beautification effort. Please let him know if you are interested in helping, and look for a date and further details in a coming Crusader.

## **BOX TOP Competition Results**

Congratulations to the **House of Saint Luke** for winning the February 13-17 weeklong contest for collecting Box Tops. They earn a **free dress day for this Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Thank you to all who spent time clipping Box Tops. One of our volunteers submits these several times each year for a financial return to the school.

St. Luke – 639 box tops collected (Check handbook for free dress guidelines. Students failing to meet handbook guidelines will not be permitted to participate in the next free-dress opportunity)

St. Mark – 467

St. John – 438

St. Matthew – 331

## **7th Grade Kicks Off Gabriel House Diaper Drive Ash Wednesday!**

As part of their service initiatives this year, the SVdP 7th graders will be hosting a diaper drive on behalf of Gabriel House. Gabriel House is a division of Catholic Charities assisting Denver by providing necessary supplies to mothers and families with young children. The students will run a diaper collection for two weeks, then deliver and stock the donated items to several local Gabriel House locations. The diaper drive will begin Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 and continue until March 15th. While diapers of any size are greatly appreciated, there is a strong need specifically for sizes 4, 5, and 6, as well as baby wipes. Additionally, Gabriel House accepts donations of baby toiletries and gently used baby blankets and clothing. We are grateful for every donation, and we would like to thank you in advance for contributing to this most meaningful endeavor!

## **Class Challenge Results**

Thank you for all of your outreach efforts related to the Class Challenge this year. We raised \$6,276.58 from the students which exceeded our goal by over \$1,200! Thank you especially to Sara Neumann for her leadership and guidance on the Class Challenge. And thanks to Stephanie Carreira, Kay Watson and Sara Neuman for their thoughtful strategy and creativity in motivating the students to get involved in the fundraising process for the school.

## **Screen Safety**

The following is a handy site which contains brief videos to help make parents aware of the content and/or use of current, popular apps. <https://safesmartsocial.com/what-is-wattpad/>

Additionally, Scepter Press released the book *Digital Families* by Alfred Domingo in 2016 which has been recommended as a helpful resource.

## **Parent & Student Presentation at St. Mary's Academy – "It's Not the 70's Anymore"**

On Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Academy High School

"It's Not the 70's Anymore" helps educate kids and parents about the laws, constitutional rights, and issues such as sexting, drug and alcohol use, shoplifting, domestic violence, harassment, and sexual assault. The presentation also focuses on how Facebook and other social media can be used against its users. This presentation is geared toward HS and MS parents and students. There is no cost to attend. Please contact Kathleen Hogan at [khogan@stmarys.academy](mailto:khogan@stmarys.academy) if you wish to attend.

## **NEW FAMILY NOTES:**

### **What is the Faith Rally?**

Each year Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic School organizes into households named after the four gospel writers. These households are further divided into houses of about 15-20 students. The faith rally is a day set aside to spend in our houses in mixed-grade groups in fellowship, in learning, and in prayer and adoration. In the past it has involved a couple of lessons, a craft, a leadership opportunity for our junior high students, and a praise and worship concert at the end. Because we are in mixed age groups all day, we do not have standard lunch shifts so we ask all students to bring snack, lunch, and drinks for the day. This is often among our students' favorite day of the year. There is a limited need for volunteers, so look for a sign up in a future Crusader. The date of the Faith Rally this year is April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **NOTEWORTHY DATES:**

February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Moms' Holy Hour 6:30-8:15, confessions available
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fifth grade Night of Notables 7:00-8:00 pm
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fifth graders will engage in a public speaking activity for parents and community members, delivering their biographical book report in first person.
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ash Wednesday/ All School Mass at 8:10
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	The Gala – Roaring 20's
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show – 6 <sup>th</sup> grade
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Used Uniform Sale 10am-12pm
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	No school – mandatory teacher in-service day with the Archdiocese
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Faith Rally – bring your own lunch/snack
TBD	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls/Moms Night with Mrs. Lynn Grandon
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparents/Special Friends day will be April 28 <sup>th</sup>
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Spring BBQ

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



**The SVdP Roaring 20's Gala is right around the corner! Here are some of the exciting events happening during the Gala:**

Make sure you have registered for the Gala to bid on items—including Parties—even if you are out of town or cannot attend! Parties open for bid/purchase on Saturday, March 4 at noon - get those party spots purchased before the festivities begin!

### **Pop, Fizz, Clink Champagne Pull**

This year's Gala has an exclusive surprise in store for one of our returning SVdP school families – and it comes with 1 in 100 odds! Among the 100 bottles of French Champagne available to purchase for \$25 each, is a bottle which is worth a \$1,200 credit toward tuition at SVdP for the 2017-2018 school year! The more bottles you purchase, the greater your odds of winning!

In addition to a bottle of French Champagne generously provided by the Krier Family, you will receive a delicious cookie from the award-winning Gateaux's Bakery, which specifies your champagne bottle number available for pick up and enjoyment at Gala check out. The announcement of the lucky \$1,200 tuition credit winner will be made during the Loud Auction. Best of luck to everyone!

### **Paddle Raiser**

Another exciting event during this year's Gala is the Paddle Raiser -The SVdP Outdoor Learning Lab! (You do NOT have to register for the Gala to donate to the Paddle Raiser.)

In response to the New Evangelization of the Catholic Church, SVdP School introduces a brand new school-wide experience in education! The SVdP Outdoor Learning Lab! A few of the cornerstones of this exciting project include: a greenhouse, raised garden beds, butterfly garden and the experience of raising chickens!



## **\$100 Loud Auction Raffle Drawing is now open!**

Stop by the School office to purchase your \$100 raffle ticket between now and Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Select one of the below prizes you wish to win at the time of purchase.

### **Eligible prizes are:**

#### **The Fort Restaurant (Dinner for 6 people)**

- Dinner for 3 couples or 6 people
- Unique Colorado restaurant experience
- Four course dinner which includes 2 bottles of Colorado wine
- Copies of “Shinin’ Times at the Fort” cookbook and “Sissy Bear” children’s book (3 copies each)
- Reservations required at least 2 weeks in advance; Expires February 2018; Does not include gratuity or taxes or other alcoholic beverages.

#### **Hot Air Balloon Extravaganza**

- Hot Air Balloon ride for 2 adults & 2 children
- \$550 gift card to Four Seasons
- \$250 gift card to The Capital Grille
- Balloon flight date subject to availability and expires 3/4/18. Gift cards to Four Seasons and The Capital Grille do not expire

#### **Private Dinner for 8 at Sushi Den**

- Dinner for 4 couples or 8 people in their “Denchu” (Chef’s Table)
- Six course meal including premier sushi and sashimi shipped directly from the renowned Nagahama Fish Market in Japan
- Dinner has no blackout dates but subject to availability. Does not include tax and gratuity. Max of \$960 on gift card. Does not expire.

#### **Terranea Oceanfront Resort Stay**

- Resort located on a 102 acre private peninsula outside of Los Angeles
- Certificate good for 2 night stay for 2 people in an ocean view room (Expires 3/4/18; no blackout dates; subject to availability.)



- Includes Catalina Island excursion for 2 on the Catalina Express plus upgrades to Commodore lounge seating. (Expires 12/31/17; no blackout dates; subject to availability.)

### **Diamond Earrings**

- Earrings are color: I, clarity: S12, cut: class one proportion; total carat weight 1.12CT.
- Surrounded by a total of thirty brilliant cut diamonds (total carat weight .30CT)

### **Brown Palace Tea for 12 People**

- Enjoy a holiday tradition at one of Denver's premier historic hotels. Afternoon tea at the Brown Palace set amidst the holiday decor of the atrium lobby is a magical experience.
- Along with freshly brewed tea, you will enjoy a selection of scones, tea sandwiches and assorted pastries.
- Reservation good ONLY for 12 people on Thursday, December 28, 2017 and cannot be changed.

Note: We only sell 100 of these raffle tickets! If not all tickets are sold before the Gala, you can buy an extra chance to win the night of.

**Drawing to be held at 8:00 PM Saturday, March 4, 2017.**

**YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

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*Remember, you do not have to attend or register for the Gala to donate to the Paddle Raiser—but you **MUST** register to purchase auction items and buy party spots—so please register so you don't miss out on all of the fun!*

**Get your dinner tickets or register for online bidding only, if you'll be out of town, at:**

**<https://svdpch.ejoinme.org/svdp2017gala>**

**Hope to see you all at the Gala!!**