



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

May 3, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of SVdP,

Thank you for sharing your parents (our children's grandparents) and special friends with us last Friday. The day was very special for our community and I appreciated meeting so many of our grandparents whose happy faces matched those of their grandchildren – it was delightful in every way!

Congratulations to our second graders on the occasion of their First Holy Communion this past Saturday morning. I realize the snow can be an inconvenience to travelers, and a horror to those in white communion dresses, but on Saturday morning on my way to the Church, I couldn't help but think of St. Therese of Lisieux. On the day she was to receive the habit of the Carmelites, she was dressed as a bride, all in white, as was the custom in religious communities at that time. She was leaving the world and making a lifelong commitment to Jesus, similar to the lifelong commitment a man and woman make to each other on their wedding day. Although it was a warm winter in France that year, Therese prayed very hard for snow so the ground would be covered in white, just as she was on her clothing day (receiving the habit). Of course, her prayer was answered and the unexpected snow fell between two warm days. France sounds an awful lot like Colorado!

It was clear that our children on Saturday morning were well prepared, eager, and ready to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. The reverence with which they approached the altar, the care they took in bowing, walking, focusing on what they were doing is a good reminder to all of us who at one time or another have received the Eucharist as altogether routine. By an act of faith, we need to remind ourselves that indeed, God gives Himself to us in and through the Eucharist. This is no earthly matter, though our senses would deceive us in this. Let us take this occasion to think and pray deeply about our relationship to Jesus in the Eucharist. How do we approach Him there, both during Mass and outside of Mass? How do we receive Him? Would onlookers understand that we were entering into a most sacred moment? Are we convinced that one Eucharist, well received, is fully capable of transforming us into saints? It is God whom we receive, and were it not for the humble appearance of bread and wine which disguise the glorious divinity, we would never approach the altar. The second graders have reminded us of this incomprehensible gift. Let us allow it to take deeper effect in our lives each time we receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

With prayers for your families,

Sister Dominic, O.P.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Teacher change:** With the expansion of our preschool, we wanted to find a teacher who has experience in curriculum-based preschool and also understands how to prepare students for kindergarten. It is exciting for us to announce that Mrs. Alexie Salazar, one of our current kindergarten teachers, will take this position and help us with the expansion of our preschool program. She ran a Montessori preschool in Peru before coming to the United States, and brings tremendous knowledge of pedagogy and child development. We have hired Miss Sarah Miller to replace Mrs. Salazar in the kindergarten classroom, and we will share more about her in a future Crusader.
- **School Store:** Seventh grade students are currently developing business plans for an SVdP School store, guided by their teachers and two business men in our community who are donating their time to initiate this project. Thank you to Dave Bacon and Gary Doppes who are giving their expertise to help students develop ideas and a strong business plan for the store. Shark Tank style presentations for competing ideas will take place later in May with the anticipated store opening early next school year
- **BBQ Appreciation:** Thank you to so many who have signed up to volunteer at the BBQ Appreciation this Friday. (Still room here volunteer on this sign-up: <http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090F45A4AF23A5FC1-spring>.) We look forward to seeing you there. Let's celebrate this day with an ***out of uniform for our faculty and students this Friday, May 5th***. Please follow out of uniform handbook guidelines. (Avoid: sandals and open toe shoes, backless shoes, tank tops, any open-back style shirt, leggings, short shorts or tight shorts).
- **Calendar Items 2017-2018:** Reminder that there will be NO regular early dismissal on Wednesdays next school year. However, the following half days are currently scheduled on the calendar.
 - o Aug 21 – NO EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE (first day of school)
 - o September 20 – Extended Care available from 12-6pm
 - o October 18 - Extended Care available from 12-6pm
 - o November 15 - Extended Care available from 12-6pm
 - o March 21 - Extended Care available from 12-6pm
 - o April 18 - Extended Care available from 12-6pm
 - o May 16 - Extended Care available from 12-6pm
 - o June 1 – NO EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE (last day of school)

FOR PARENT CONSIDERATION AND AWARENESS:

- **13 Reasons Why** Lately, we are hearing that many young teens are watching a new Netflix series, *13 Reasons Why*. This series is based on a young adult book, *13 Reasons Why*. This book portrays a girl who commits suicide and prior to her death sends 13 cassette tapes to a friend that explains her reason for committing suicide. Attached is an article that may help you understand some of the concerns from mental health advisors about young impressionable teens believing everything in this series. Catholic News Agency ran an article this weekend recommending caution viewing the Netflix series "13 Reasons Why". Here's a link to the article: [Catholic News Agency – “13 Reason Why”](#)
- **May 27th SVdP Spring Spruce Up** of school grounds. Please RSVP to joe@powcon.biz if your family can help between 9:00am and 3pm. Volunteers are needed to help spread mulch, river rock, pull weeds, sweep and clean up. If you have materials at home that you are willing to share, please bring: gloves, wheelbarrows, 5 gallon buckets, plastic rakes, shovels, tarps. Moms, dads, grandparents, and students are all invited. We will be adding 14 yards of Pathfinder mulch around the school grounds to refresh the areas, 1.5 tons of 1.5” river rock in areas that are sparse, and pulling weeds to beautify the landscape for spring and summer. Please RSVP by 5/13 by emailing Joe Powers at Joe@powcon.biz, his cell 303-915-9860, or by clicking on this Signup: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ba5ad28abf94-svdp
- . Thanks, and we hope to see you out at the spring spruce up!
- **Summer School Work:** At this time of year our teachers are preparing summer review work for students based on their specific needs according to a variety of indicators. Parents/students who do not receive specific recommendations do not show particular need in a given area and should plan a general review of the current year and preparation for the coming year. It is ALWAYS helpful to ensure that math facts are committed to rote memory by appropriate ages. *Summer Solutions* workbooks in Math and English provide a strong review of skills, and comes highly recommended. You may have already received an email from *Summer Solutions* or you will shortly. If you have questions about where your child should concentrate summer efforts of review and preparation for next year, please contact your teacher in late May for recommendations.
- The growing rack of **Lost and Found**, which is maintained outside of the Extended Care room, will be out on display at the Spring BBQ on a table near the school access door by the teacher parking lot. Please stop by the table to see if any of these nearly brand-new jackets or water bottles belongs to your family. All items will be donated after the BBQ.
- **Fidgets** and other hand-held “toys” are being used in the classroom in increasing numbers and are causing distractions and disruption to instructional time. The students in grades K-8 are asked to not bring any kind of toy or similar hand-held item to school. If they do, because they use it in the car or at extended care, these items should remain in the backpacks during the school day. Teachers are notifying students that they will take these kinds of items from the students and return them at a suitable time. Thank you for supporting this effort.
- **Survey Follow Up:** We received 160 responses for our survey which is 64% completion rate. It is statistically a very high response rate for a survey and I THANK YOU for participating and sharing feedback. The survey helps us to determine where to focus our efforts for the coming year and makes us mindful to sustain and strengthen the aspects of the school that are going very well. We did not reach the 80% response goal, so I cannot award an out of uniform for this challenge.

However, the May 5th out of uniform was a free-bee dress down day we wanted to give anyway for the Spring BBQ Appreciation.

- **EduKits:** Saint Vincent De Paul will offer the EduKit program again this year as a convenient option for busy families to order school supplies for the upcoming 2017/2018 year. EduKits are custom made to include the supplies selected and approved by our teachers and school. Order online at <https://www.edukitinc.com/page.asp?id=15&schoolid=277> between May 2 and June 15 for **FREE shipping right to school!** Your child's EduKit will be in the classroom on the first day of school. Any questions feel free to contact: Shannon Novak, denverskymuffin@aol.com, 303-482-6482.

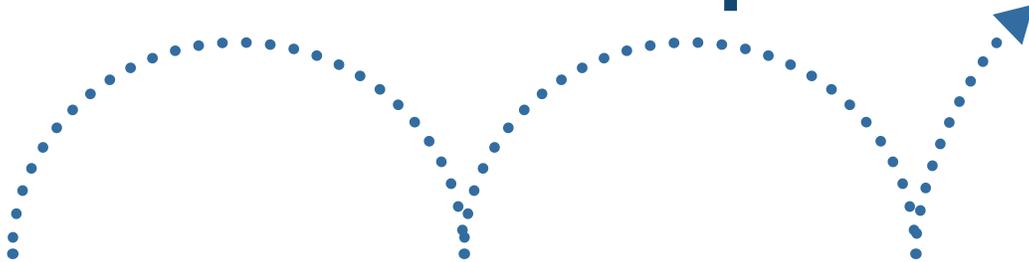
- **Parent Volunteers for 2017-2018:** We Need your Help! We are looking for some volunteers to help with the following positions for the 2017/2018 School Year.
 - o Jamba Juice & Fun Food
 - o Fall Festival
 - o Girls on the Run
 - o Book Fair
 - o AR Point Exchange
 - o Car Line
 - o Please contact Kate Ennis at kennis1272@gmail.com with any questions or interest

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 4th: May Crowning Mass
- May 5th: Adoration in the church for grades K-5
- May 5th Archdiocesan Art Show at Mullen High School
- May 9th Alumni Reunion Party: Please spread the word to SVdP alum who are graduating from high school this year. The reunion for this class will be Tuesday, May 9th from 3:30-5:00 pm in the Garden Room.
- May 9th Progress reports posted
- May 12th: No School. Teacher in-service day.
- May 18th: No hot lunch served; please send children with packed lunches.
- May 20th: Spring Spruce up 9:00am-3:00pm
- May 26th: 8th Grade Graduation – All are welcome!
- May 29th: Memorial Day. No School.
- June 1: Field Day grades 1-7 11:30 am dismissal
- June 2nd: 9:30am Light of Leadership Mass. 11:00 dismissal. Last day of school.

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

Keep the two steps forward. **Lose the one step back.**



Summer learning loss puts students at a serious disadvantage.

This is when skills and knowledge are lost over the summer months, causing students to move backwards instead of progressing.

By spending just **minutes a day** with *Summer Solutions*, students get the practice they need to keep moving forward. It was designed to help students return to school after summer break confident in the skills they've already learned and ready to master new ones.

**Your child worked hard all year. Make sure that progress sticks.
Give your child the advantage of *Summer Solutions*.**

To order, go to www.summersolutions.net
and enter _____ by _____.



iPad Mini Give-a-way! Order before May 16.
Every customer who orders is automatically entered
to win. The drawing will be on **May 17**.



Parents,

Can you believe that the school year is almost over and we're already thinking of next year?!?! Well, we are and that means that it's Edukit time!! There are so many reasons to purchase an Edukit and there are two that stand out the most. First, our school earns about \$10 per Edukit ordered which is fantastic. Secondly, and my personal favorite, is that once I order my kids' Edukit, I don't have to worry about school supplies come August! That means more time by the pool!! The cherry on top is that if you order between 5/2 and 6/15 the Edukit will be delivered right to SVdP and you can check off a trip to Target on your "Back to School" to do list!! You don't have to worry about possibly forgetting an item on the teachers list and then having to make another trip back to the store. Edukit works closely with our teachers and makes sure that they have everything they need to help our children learn and grow. I know that many kids like to do their own shopping and pick out their own notebooks, folders etc. Edukits are cheaper than going out and purchasing your own school supplies and they use quality name brands such as Crayola and Mead, just to name a few. If your kiddos still want to purchase their own fun, flashy folders or one special item that they have to have they are welcome to do so. However, items in the Edukit cannot be replaced and they come as the teachers have requested. So, avoid the back to school madness and running from store to store looking for a Mead 3 ring binder with built in shoulder straps that convert into a one man tent with laser beams and order your Edukit today!!

* If you order between 6/16-8/1 the Edukit will be sent to your home *

Catholic Schools Private Night



Friday, May 19, 2017 from 5 pm – 10pm

Exclusive offer for Catholic School Families

Only \$25.99 each (Save \$24 off Main Gate)

Season Pass only \$64.99 (Save \$5 per pass)

2017 New Ride – Starflyer!

Children 3 and under are free. Purchase, Print and Play!

www.tinyurl.com/CatholicPrivateNight

Questions? Call 303.595.4386 x 162

GroupSales@ElitchGardens.com



Elitch Gardens Catholic Schools Private Night

Friday, May 19, 2017 from 5pm – 10pm

Save \$24 off Main Gate!

Special Offer - 1 free Ticket For Every 15 purchased!



Contact Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Email: _____

of tickets purchased _____ x \$25.99 ea. = _____

of Meal Deals _____ x \$11.00 ea. = _____

of Parking Vouchers _____ x \$12.00 ea. = _____

Sub Total: \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ELITCH GARDENS)

+ Processing Fee: \$5.00

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Check or Money Order Enclosed

Please Charge to: AMEX MC Visa Discover

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Account #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVN: _____

Fast & Easy Ways to Order

Purchase, Print, & Play Online

Go to ElitchGardens.com and enter
CATHOLIC in the promo code box

Go directly to:

www.tinyurl.com/CatholicPrivateNight

Or Fill Out This Order Form

Email: GroupSales@ElitchGardens.com

Or mail to:

Elitch Gardens, Attn: Group Sales
299 Walnut Street, Denver, CO 80204

Call: 303.595.4386 x 162

SVDP CROSS COUNTRY (“XC”) – 2017 (FALL) REGISTRATION FORM

The 2017 SVDP XC team registration is now open. Runners (boys and girls) in the **6th, 7th, and 8th** grades (**Fall**) are eligible to be on the team. The SVDP XC program has an exceptional history of fostering successful athletes and we look forward to another sensational season!

Form Deadline: If you would like your runner(s) to join the team, please complete the registration form below (one for each runner you are registering) and either return to the front office or deliver via e-mail to: orr_liza@yahoo.com by **June 1, 2017**. **DO NOT MISS THE DEADLINE!** There will be no runners accepted after the deadline (except in cases of new students to the school (Fall)). In addition, only those who have registered by the deadline will be included on the XC Parent Summer Letter distribution.

Schedule: Official practices will begin on the first day of school (Fall). We will have pre-season fun runs in August. Meets and practices run through the end of October. Practices occur 3 days a week right after school. The team will compete against other schools in the Catholic Schools Athletic League (CSAL) and the greater Denver area at invitational meets (distances vary from 1.5 miles to 5k). The season concludes with the Colorado Middle School State Championship Meet. Practice and (tentative) meet schedules, as well as other important information, will be included in the XC Parent Summer Letter (which will be emailed to you this summer).

CSAL Registration: Please note that in addition to this registration, you will be asked to register with CSAL (www.CSALDEN.org) in July. You will be notified by email when that registration is open. There is no fee associated with the CSAL registration.

XC Fee: There is no fee due at this time. The registration fee of \$70 per runner will be due in the Fall (on the first day of practice). Further details will be covered in the XC Parent Summer Letter.

Parent Volunteers: If you are interested in supporting our XC community by biking along with us at practices or helping with meets, please check the volunteer box below and a SignUp Genius link will be sent to you prior to the official start of the season.

Contact: Liza Orr - (703) 919-6089 (cell) or (orr_liza@yahoo.com).

Runner’s Name _____ Grade (Fall 2017) _____

Parents’ Names _____

Phone Numbers () _____ () _____

Parents’ Emails* _____

***NOTE:** Email is our primary form of communication, so please be sure and list applicable (and correct) email addresses in order to receive all information pertaining to the XC program, including the XC Parent Summer Letter.

Runner’s T-shirt Size (please circle one): **XS S M L XL (adult sizes)**

I am interested in volunteering

Please complete one form for each runner you are registering and return to the front office or e-mail to: orr_liza@yahoo.com by **June 1, 2017**.