



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

February 7, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of SVdP,

Have you ever just enjoyed contemplating the relationship of a long-time married couple whose mutual love through the years has taken on different forms of expression -- the zeal of young love, giving way to the faithful sacrifice involved in family life, and culminating in the fidelity and devotion of the older years? How did they manage to protect this love as central to their lives through all these stages? Or have you ever stared, against all etiquette, at a brand new mom, so in love as she gazes on the face of her firstborn? What promises can you hear her whispering into his ear about caring for his every need throughout life?

This week our second graders will make their first reconciliation. Our children have learned that God, Creator of all things and the One who orders and designs this wondrous universe, *desires* to be in relationship to His human creatures in a special way, different from the way He relates to any other created thing. Even when we turned our back on God and made ourselves His enemies, He continued/continues to offer His friendship. Our second graders have learned that God's gift of His friendship is offered as the central love of our lives. What other culture or religion could fathom that an omnipotent God would desire this and would do everything He can to make it come about?!

This offer of love from our God is the central point of decision for our entire lives. If we say yes to this offer, then we will also work to protect this love, in the way that our old and faithful married couple did. And we will make promises we intend to keep to care for this love all the days of our lives, as the new mom made to her newborn child. Reconciliation is nothing other than putting this love back in the center of our lives through our words and actions. If a husband is late over and over again for scheduled family dinner time, his wife will understand; but, a time comes when an apology is due, and a resolve to recommit to this time, showing his wife by words and deeds that this love is central to his life. Or, to be fair, if a wife continually overspends beyond the agreed-upon budget, causing her husband to re-work the books, to work overtime, to get an additional job, he understands her desire to decorate and furnish the house or to buy nice things for the children; but, the time comes when an apology is due, and a resolve to recommit to working together to manage the family's needs within the budget. With her words and actions, she needs to show that this love is central to her life.

Reconciliation is not just for second graders! Right now they are immersed in the zeal of young love, as we once were. They are excited about this relationship with God and eager to protect it. But love grows and changes and deepens. We may mistakenly look on reconciliation and confession as something for children or for initiation into the practices of our family's faith. But confession is about protecting a relationship that, once upon a time, we chose to make central to our lives. God could not be more explicit in His desire to be in relationship to us, and not just a Sunday relationship, but a daily one. At the beginning of Lent, the words in the Mass say to us, "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." So if today, if this week, you hear the Lord, in His great love and mercy, call you to confession, make it a priority to go. What peace there is when our primary relationships are in right order. If you are looking for peace in your life, make your relationship with God central to all else. Regular time for confession for the entire family is a tremendous blessing on your home. Consider if God is inviting you to something more through this gift of a sacrament.

Congratulations to our second graders; please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Sister Dominic, O.P.

Iowa Assessments and CoGAT Testing February 13-17

Archdiocesan students are tested annually in grades 2-8 using the Iowa Assessment. The CoGAT (Cognitive Ability Test) is administered in grades 3, 5, and 7. These nationally normed tests assist with assessing delivery and mastery of the curriculum. Results inform individual grade-level goals, school-wide goals, and also guide professional development days. As is well known, the best way to prepare for this kind of test is to get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast, balance exercise and down time in the afternoons, and be on time to school. Please note:

- Students who arrive after their class's testing has begun will not be admitted to class until the teacher takes a break in between the tests
- Students who miss a test due to being late or due to a full day absence have only one day to make up the test: Friday, February 17th
- Students who have not completed tests by Friday, February 17th will not have a calculated composite score from the Iowa Assessment this year

Operation: Giving Thanks

February 15th, 2:15-3:30

Garden Room

*All students younger than 5th grade must be accompanied by a chaperone.

Operation: Giving Thanks is an opportunity for St. Vincent de Paul students to express their gratitude through card making. On the third Wednesday of every month after school, students are invited to the Garden Room to bring their creative energy to design and decorate cards for anyone they want to give thanks. In addition to personal notes, Operation: Giving Thanks will also be creating cards for the military and seniors living in nursing homes who would love to receive a greeting card to brighten their day. Materials will be provided. All are welcome to drop in for some or all of the time, however, if your student is in Kindergarten through the 4th grade, a chaperone is required.

If you have questions, please email Lara O'Shaughnessy.

February 16th: Marriage Night led by Fr. John Ignatius

There are so many activities that compete for our time and we have to say no to many good choices in our lives. Please think twice before declining this invitation. Father John Ignatius is bringing a powerful presentation to St. Vincent's which can serve to heal, strengthen, and/or enrich your marriage. The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres at the school at 6:00 pm with the presentation following very shortly after. Please remember to pray for marriages in our community.

**As a bonus, we will give out of uniform passes for children of those who attend.

Financial Aid for Tuition for the 2017-2018 School Year

Everyone who wishes to be considered for financial aid for the 2017-2018 school year will need to apply online through FACTS. Even if you received aid this school year, you need to apply for next year. The link to apply is being prepared and will be available on our website beginning Monday, February 13th.

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

Tech Talk Follow Up

The turnout for the viewing of Screenagers totaled about 250 people, in addition to our middle school students who viewed the documentary during the school day. The Health and Wellness Committee from Home and School offers the following resources to help keep you abreast of this fast-changing sub culture which our children inhabit each day:

- Not sure if your kids should watch a certain movie, read a particular book, or play a certain video game? Read reviews from media professionals, parents, and kids to better understand the content and age-appropriateness for your child: <https://www.common sense media.org>
- Want to be “in the know” on the latest apps with tweens/teens along with good solid information from professional counselors? Check out this blog: <http://www.raisingboysandgirls.com/raisingboysandgirls-blog/>
- Great resource geared towards MOMS for handling the daily questions of how to handle technology in our children’s lives:
 - <http://www.imom.com/category/parenting/kids-technology/#.WI-QCbGZOi4>
- Get help creating a Family Media Plan: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx#wizard>
- DADS, this one’s for you...<http://www.allprodad.com/category/dad-advice/kids-and-tech/>

Math Skills Expectations

As we move through the second half of the year, we are looking at the basic math benchmarks that our students need to master prior to moving on to the next grade level. Competency in math requires strong memorization and number sense. Students need to be fluent in lower level concepts in order to be free to learn the higher math skills. Students who have not sufficiently memorized facts and absorbed sufficient number sense are not truly free to learn algebraic concepts intermediate and upper grades. This is a good time of year to review the basic math benchmarks with your child at home. Attached to the Crusader this week is a chart which identifies the skills you can reinforce with your child at home.

Volunteers Needed for Jamba Juice and Fun Food

- to help serve Jamba Juice during lunch shifts on one or more Tuesdays this spring. Please contact Katie Staib. Lunch is served by grade band between 11:00 and 1:00 each day.
- to help serve Fun Food during the 7/8 lunch shift on one or more Thursdays this spring. The 7/8 lunch shift is from 12:30-1:00. Parents of 8th graders are especially needed.

Crusader Cards/Gift Cards

If you made a special Valentines order, please remember to stop in the front lobby on Friday, February 10th or Monday, February 13th to pick up your Crusader Cards. If you indicated you wanted them sent home in kid mail, please check your child's folder on Friday and Monday. This is also a good time to come in and browse our current inventory. Let's keep shopping while giving back to our wonderful school.

Last Call for Student Pictures for Gala Slideshow

We are developing a slideshow for the gala and would like to include a picture of every child in the school. This is intended for internal use only to be shown at the gala. Please send a picture of your child/ren to Mark Weiland at mweiland@svdpk8.com by February 10th.

House Competition for Box Tops February 13-17

Our second Box Tops competition will be held February 13-17. Please call grandparents and friends and ask them to send you their Box Tops for the SVdP School House competition. House winners will earn a designated free dress day.

News from the Archdiocese

- The Archdiocese is engaged in a feasibility study with regard to beginning new Archdiocesan Catholic High Schools. They have asked that we disseminate this survey to all of our families with children 14 years and younger. Please take a moment to complete the survey to help with large-scale decision-making. <http://saintvincents.org/2017/02/02/catholic-high-school-feasibility-survey/>
- You may have heard that the recent nominee for the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch, attended grade school at a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Denver. Because of this connection, one of the morning news shows interviewed our current Superintendent of Schools, Kevin Kijewski. You can find the interview here: <http://kdvr.com/2017/02/01/supreme-court-judge-nominee-has-deep-ties-to-colorado/>

NOTEWORTHY DATES:

February 15 th	Operation: Giving Thanks 2:15-3:00 in the Garden Room
February 16 th	No hot lunch – all students pack lunch and eat in classroom
February 16 th	Fr. John Ignatius – Marriage Night
February 23 rd	Moms' Holy Hour 6:30-8:15, confessions available
February 23 rd	Fifth grade Night of Notables 7:00-8:00 pm
February 23 rd	Fifth graders will engage in a public speaking activity for parents and community members, delivering their biographical book report in first person.
March 1 st	Ash Wednesday/ All School Mass at 8:10
March 4 th	The Gala – Roaring 20's
March 11 th	Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show – 6 th grade
March 11 th	Used Uniform Sale 10am-12pm
March 17 th	No school – mandatory teacher in-service day with the Archdiocese
March 27 th	Spring Break

SAVE THE DATES:

April 25 th	5 th Grade Girls/Moms Night with Mrs. Lynn Grandon
April 28 th	Grandparents/Special Friends day will be April 28 th
May 5 th	Spring BBQ

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



RECONNECT REKINDLE
MARRIAGE NIGHT
STRENGTHENING THE BOND

FEBRUARY 16, 2017
THURSDAY, 6PM-9PM

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

We welcome **Fr. John Ignatius** for an evening of encouragement for couples! Fr. John was especially commissioned by **Pope Francis** during the Jubilee Year as a Missionary of Mercy.

Don't miss this evening which starts with appetizers at 6pm followed by a testimony from **Jen and Josh Farnell**, and reflections by Fr. John.

RSVP: SRMTHERESE@SVDPK8.COM



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

It's not too late to get involved with the Gala – volunteers are needed! This is a fun environment and a great way to help the school while meeting other SVdP parents. Several 30 - minute volunteer shifts are available the day of and evening of the Gala. Please click on the link to access the SignUpGenius.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F45A4AF23A5FC1-roaring>

Remember to buy your Gala tickets today! Save \$10 per ticket when you purchase before February 17th! Don't know who to sit with? Don't worry, we'll do our best to seat you with other parents in your grade(s).

Can't attend the Gala? You can still bid online for our exciting auction items and parties. Stay tuned for the live auction link.

We hope to see you in March for the primary fundraising event for our school!

MATH BASIC SKILLS EXPECTATIONS			
Grade Level	<i>What students should know at the beginning of the school year:</i>	<i>What students should know by the end of the 1st semester:</i>	<i>What students should know by the end of the school year:</i>
Kindergarten	Count to 10 and identify all the numbers from 0 to 10.	Know all the combinations of 2 numbers that add up to 10 (i.e., 2+8, 3+7, 4+6, etc.).	Skip count by 2's, 5's, and 10's up to 100.
First	Read numbers to 100 and correctly write numbers in words from 1 to 10.	Fluently, know the addition facts up to a sum of 10.	Fluently, know the addition facts up to a sum of 20 and the subtraction facts to 10.
Second	Fluently, know the addition facts up to a sum of 20 and the subtraction facts to 10.	Correctly complete 30 addition and subtraction problems of numbers from 1-10 in one minute.	Fluently, know the addition and subtraction facts for numbers from 1-12.
Third	Fluently, know the addition and subtraction facts for numbers from 1-12.	Fluently, know the multiplication facts of numbers from 0-6.	Fluently, know the multiplication and division facts for numbers from 0-10.
Fourth	Fluently, know the multiplication and division facts for numbers from 0-10.	Fluently, know the multiplication and division facts of numbers from 0-12.	Know how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, fractions, and decimal numbers.
Fifth	Know how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, fractions, and decimal numbers.	Know how to simplify powers of numbers and know the squares of the whole numbers from 1-10.	Know how to add, subtract, multiply and divide negative and positive integers.
Sixth	Know how to add, subtract, multiply and divide negative and positive integers.	Know how to use the Distributive property to solve multi-step equations.	Fluently, know the squares of all whole numbers from 1-12.
Seventh	Fluently, know the squares of all whole numbers from 1-12.	Interpret data by calculating the mean, median, mode, and range.	Fluently, know all of the squares of integers from -25 to 25, and know how to solve multi-step equations.
Eighth	Fluently, know all of the squares of integers from -25 to 25, and know how to solve multi-step equations.	Know how to solve and graph systems of equations.	Know how to simplify radical equations with quadratic expression in both the numerator and denominator.

"Fluently" means to perform this skill without hesitation.



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 13, 2017

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This letter is to remind you of the upcoming *40 Days for Life* Fall campaign (March 1 - April 9). I encourage you and your parishes to promote this national and local effort, especially as this year marks the 44th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.

40 Days for Life is an ecumenical effort that promotes a culture of life and the love of Christ. I encourage priests to speak about *40 Days for Life* from the pulpit and provide information to the faithful. I also recommend that everyone set aside an hour during the 40-day campaign to pray in front of the abortion facility at 7155 East 38th Ave, Denver, CO 80207, or one in your area. To sign up for a vigil time, please call the Denver Respect Life Office at 720-799-9299.

Since everyone cannot pray outside this facility, please encourage others to pray at their parishes and in their homes, making prayers and sacrifices for the cause of life. Pray especially for the conversion of those who promote abortion and a culture of death, and pray in reparation for the many sins committed against the dignity of human life. Parishes may wish to have a special time to pray a Rosary for life or hold a full day of Eucharistic Adoration for the conversion of those who support abortion, that their hearts and minds may be open to the truth of the dignity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. These are just some ideas of ways that everyone can participate in this campaign in addition to keeping vigil at the abortion facilities.

As you know, the concept of 40 days of prayer is biblical. God has used 40-day periods to transform individuals and human history. Thus there is a great value in accepting the gift of this time for prayer dedicated to ending abortion and protecting the most vulnerable.

For those priests who would like to offer Mass at the vigil site, they may contact the local coordinator at 40Days@ccdenver.org to be placed on the schedule. I give general permission for priests to celebrate Mass at the vigil site during the campaign.

Our goal is to turn the hearts and minds of our local community to embrace a culture of life – to clearly understand that every person is created and beloved by God in his wisdom. For more information and materials, please contact the archdiocesan campaign at:

40Days@ccdenver.org - 720-799-9299 - <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/denver>

Thank you for your attention and commitment to this life-changing effort. With the assurance of prayers, I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.
Archbishop of Denver

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dynamic, Life-Changing Speaker Presenting to Denver's Catholic Parents and Youth on Valentine's

Denver, Colorado – January 30th, 2017 – Calling all Catholic parents who ever wished their son or daughter could have a life-changing encounter with God and kick-start their Catholic faith! This is an opportunity for your entire family to experience a powerful transformation in your relationship with one another – truly a Valentine's Day that will not soon be forgotten.

Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Park Hill (bscs-denver.net) has invited Justin Fatica to give a presentation, hosting an event for Parents and Youth on **Tuesday, February 14th from 6:30-8:30PM in the Harvey Gym**. After an unforgettable presentation last year, which had a tremendous impact on the student body at Blessed Sacrament, school administration decided to invite him back and open it up to the broader Denver Catholic community.

Justin Fatica (founder of Hard as Nails Ministries in New York) has impacted millions across the globe. In 2007, he was the subject of an HBO documentary that allowed the world to come to know him as an intense, passionate, and genuine communicator. Fatica has been featured on *Good Morning America*, *ABC Nightline*, and Sirius Satellite Radio. In 2015, the Catholic cable network, EWTN, featured a 10-episode reality show called *You're Amazing*, which followed Justin and his team doing ministry across the country.

A passionate speaker with a powerful message, Justin Fatica will inspire you to take responsibility for getting what you want out of life. Best known for his work with youth, Justin is now brings his message to Catholic and public schools, parents and leaders across the globe.

Tickets to the event are \$10 per family and can be purchased at the door of the Harvey Gym. Blessed Sacrament is hopeful to partner with other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese as a way to come together to respond to the Church's call to share our faith and strengthen our families. Please help share the news of this event with your friends, family and local Catholic school and/or visit www.bscs-denver.net

Contact:
Dr. Carla Capstick
c.capstick@bscs-denver.net
1953 Elm Street
Denver, CO 80222
Office: [303-377-8835](tel:303-377-8835)

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**BLESSED
SACRAMENT
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Presents

YOU'RETM AMAZING

**NO PROBLEMS
JUST OPPORTUNITIES**

February 14th, 2017

1953 Elm Street
Denver, CO 80220

10 am – 12 pm

**Grades 6-8 Assembly
with area schools**

1:30-2:30 pm

K-5 Children's Book Reading

6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Youth and Parent Event
\$10 per family**

HN

Join us for an event with nationally known speaker Justin Fatica and the Hard as Nails Team, who will bring a message of HOPE that will change your life forever. Be encouraged, challenged, and inspired like never before, and realize just how amazing you are!



Men and Women with and for Others

REGIS JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

*Cordially invites all current 6th & 7th grade students to attend a
Varsity Basketball Home Game*

Boys Varsity Basketball

Wednesday, February 15
Regis Jesuit v. Chaparral
7:00pm

**Check-in will open at 6:30pm in the
Boys Division Tradition Hall*

Girls Varsity Basketball

Tuesday, February 7
Regis Jesuit v. Mountain Vista
7:00pm

**Check-in will open at 6:30pm in the
Girls Division Northeast Entrance*

**Please register via your online admissions
account by Tuesday, February 14th**

** 2 complimentary tickets per family**

Registration is requested for this event

**Please register via your online admissions
account by Monday, February 6th**

** 2 complimentary tickets per family**

Registration is requested for this event

Please visit our Admissions Website to
Log in or create an Online Admissions Account

<http://regisjesuitlife.com/>



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