



# HOME & SCHOOL

## Monthly Newsletter

### Important Dates

#### April

- 10<sup>th</sup> – 8th Grade Passion Play
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> – All School Service Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Grandparents Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Alive Middle School Youth Ministry
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Parish Fish Fry
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
- 17<sup>th</sup> – All School Mass (Wednesday)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Diaper Drive ends
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Holy Thursday Noon Dismissal
- 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> – No School Easter Break
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – No School Teacher Inservice
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Teachers Luncheon Hosted by 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> – Archdiocesan Art Show
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Spirit Wear Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spaghetti Dinner
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scout Troop Yard Sale

#### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Noon Dismissal
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – May Crowning Mass
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Spring BBQ
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Spirit Wear Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Kentucky Derby Gala
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Vocations Talk for Parents
- 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> - Teacher Appreciation Week
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Catholic Schools Night at the Rockies
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Art Show Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Spring Concert 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades
- 16<sup>th</sup> – All School Mass - Steffes Award
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Teacher Luncheon
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Rehearsal for Confirmation
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation
- 27<sup>th</sup> – No School Memorial Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Last day for Preschool Angels
- 31<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Last day for Saints & Montessori

### Faith Rally 2019



SVDP's annual Faith Rally took place on Thursday, March 21, and despite a week delay due to snow, generated characteristic enthusiasm from students and faculty alike.

The day began with a beautiful Mass and then shifted into faith family time, with students across K through 8th grades assembling to engage with each other and share fellowship. Our faith families allow our 7th and 8th graders to cultivate leadership skills and all our students to get to know each other in smaller settings. All students were given SVDP spirit socks, to boot!

Adoration, accompanied by beautiful music from Mrs. Smeltz, occurred shortly thereafter. Students behaved beautifully and respectfully during this most reverent and holy time.

As the afternoon began, 6th graders flexed their leadership muscles and led younger grades in a carnival featuring saint bingo, relay races, face-painting, halo ring toss, and much more! Over in the cafeteria something special was happening as 7th and 8th graders, led by Rise Against Hunger, assembled 10,000 meals in just 1.5 hours. It was a true testament to hard work, cooperation, and selfless focus as they worked uninterrupted to accomplish this amazing project that will feed so many. Catholic Relief Services will distribute the food in Burma.



"The service project made me think of how not to waste

food to see how simply other families eat. I was impressed with how efficient the process was once everyone got into a rhythm," noted 7th grader Caroline Watson.

Finally, the day wouldn't be complete without a little praise and worship music, once again courtesy of the Bad Boys of Worship! The gym was rocking as students sang their hearts out.

Special thanks to all the parent volunteers who made the day run so smoothly!



### Volunteer Appreciation

Heartfelt  
**THANKS**  
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our school year has been focused around our guiding scriptural theme "In all circumstances give thanks." (1 Thess 5:18). Sister Dominic, the SVdP faculty, and Home & School wanted to take the time to express our sincere gratitude for all of our amazing volunteers during Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 7-13<sup>th</sup>). Our school events, classrooms, Gala and so much more wouldn't run as smoothly as they do without

the helping hands of our wonderful parents, grandparents, special friends, and SVdP parent owned businesses. We are humbled at the generosity of our volunteers' time and talents that are shared with our students and staff on a daily basis. As a small token of our appreciation, we hope you all enjoyed the volunteer appreciation gift that was handed out during morning drop off on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you goes out to Kay Watson for creating the beautiful key chain we will all enjoy. If we missed you at drop off, you can stop by the front office and pick up your gift through the 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you again to all of our volunteers for the impact you have made on SVdP throughout the year.

Don't forget to RSVP by April 17th for the SVdP Gala on May 4th, 2019!

## Junior Great Books

What do the *Declaration of Independence*, *Little Women*, *Proverbs*, and the *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* have in common? They are just a few titles of the 40 classics that students read in the entirety of the Junior Great Books program.

Junior Great Books is a 59-year-old extracurricular activity for high achieving readers in 5th-8th grade who are nominated by their teachers. Students are challenged to read outstanding books and discuss the significant ideas using the Socratic method of questioning. The aim is to help students learn to think clearly and logically, to communicate ideas effectively and listen with understanding and tolerance.

Between September and March, our SVDP students read 10 challenging books in their free time and met every other Monday evening with students from Christ the King and Good Shepherd. This year, St. Vincent de Paul represented the largest group participating at about 50 students in 5th-8th grade!

A special congratulations is deserved for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders (pictured here) for completing 40 classics! We would also like to extend our gratitude to Bonnie Sutherland, who has led the St. Vincent de Paul JGB program for 15 years and we welcome Marie Dimelow as our new fearless leader! If you have any questions regarding the program, feel free to reach out to Marie - [pommetts@yahoo.fr](mailto:pommetts@yahoo.fr).



## 3rd Graders Coming in Hot!

Spring is officially here! The flowers are starting to bloom; we are enjoying after school laughs at the upper playground, and a little something spicy is popping up in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. At SVdP our teachers are always looking for innovative ways to teach their curriculum and what better way to study the life cycle of a plant than making a salsa garden. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders began their culinary efforts by first spending time with Sister Dominic observing and planting the seeds. The seeds were separated in individual containers that the students were able to shake and inspect from all angles. They drew

pictures of what the seeds currently looked like and what the plants would look like when they are fully grown. Each student helped plant 3 types of peppers, cilantro, and tomatoes into containers. The seeds were then transferred to the greenhouse and the students are eagerly waiting for their plants to grow. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has enjoyed their visits to the greenhouse to take care of their plants and track the growth progress. They are counting down the days until they can collect their produce and use Sister Dominic's recipe to make a tasty salsa. Not only have the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders used the greenhouse to fully witness the life cycle of a plant, but Mrs. Donelson and Miss Lee will also incorporate teaching measurements when they make their salsa. This fun and interactive project has not only incorporated many learning opportunities for the students, but has allowed them to experience the joy of growing their own garden. H&S will be the first in line with a bag of chips for this salsa party!

## Crusader Corner- Meet Mrs. Kovar

While Mrs. Kovar, our Resource Coordinator, is a new face to many of us, her first year in this position actually marks her return to SVdP. Years ago, Mrs. Kovar was not only a parishioner here, but also taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade. After taking time off to raise her three children, Mrs. Kovar returned to work 9 years ago at Saint Mary's of Littleton. Ready for a change, she was thrilled to return to SVdP explaining, "SVdP has always held a special place in my heart, and I'm excited to be back working with such a joyful, supportive community."

As a Resource Coordinator, Mrs. Kovar works with students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. With the younger students, Mrs. Kovar provides both literacy interventions and enrichment, meeting with students daily in small groups. In the upper grades, she works with teachers, students and parents to identify needs and provide support to help each student reach their full potential. She also teaches a small-group algebra class. She is thankful of the support from the community here at SVdP stating, "The SVDP community is exceptionally welcoming. The Dominican Sisters bring a sense of joy to all they do, and the parent community is extremely supportive. I have particularly enjoyed having a colleague to collaborate with, and having the time to be in primary classrooms working with students daily. The administration at SVDP values and understands the importance of providing early interventions and gives the resource department the time and support that are needed to provide meaningful interventions for students."

The connection Mrs. Kovar develops with her students is what she truly enjoys most about her position. "Every day I get to learn with them, laugh with them, support them as they persevere and celebrate with them as they succeed," she explains. "Each student provides a unique challenge and a new opportunity to learn. I am constantly taking classes and pursuing professional development opportunities so that I can better meet the needs of all my students. I am blessed and couldn't imagine doing anything else."

Outside of SVdP, Mrs. Kovar enjoys time with her husband Kelly, and her three children, Jake (21), Chiara (almost 18) and Caleb (turning 16 this month). While the past few years have been "consumed with student drivers" (be sure to tell her if you see a student driver magnet accidentally left on her car!), the family also enjoys hiking, fishing, boating or paddle boarding together, as well as an annual road trip to their family cabin in Minnesota.

