



HOME & SCHOOL

February Newsletter

Important Dates

February

- 2nd- Family Sundays at SVdP
- 4th- Gala All Hands Meeting
- 5th- First Reconciliation
Modern Market Dine-Out
- 6th- All School Mass
- 7th- K-5th Adoration
- 9th- THRIVE Youth Group
- 10th- Junior Great Books
- 13th- Valentine's Parties
All School Mass
- 14th- 17th- No School
- 19th- Confirmation/ First
Communion
First Reconciliation
- 20th- All School Mass
7th Grade Musical
- 21st-22nd- THRIVE Middle School
Retreat
- 22nd- 7th Grade Speech
National Margarita Day
- 24th- Junior Great Books
Trimester 2 Ends
- 26th- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
3rd Grade
- 26th- Noon Dismissal
All School Mass (Ash
Wednesday)
- 28th- Spirit Wear Day

March

- 1st- Family Sundays at SVdP
- 3rd- Gala All Hands Meeting
- 4th- First Reconciliation- optional
practice
- 5th- 5th Grade Liturgy at the Cathedral
All School Mass
- 6th- K-5th Adoration
- 7th- Academic Decathlon
First Reconciliation
- 8th- THRIVE Youth Group
Daylight Savings Time
- 9th- Junior Great Books
- 11th- Confirmation/First Communion
- 12th- All School Mass
- 13th- No School
- 19th- All School Mass
- 22th- THRIVE Youth Group
- 24th- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon-
2nd Grade
- 25th- Spirit Wear Day
Noon Dismissal
- 26th- All School Mass

Catholic Schools Week

Thank you families, teachers and staff for making this year's Catholic Schools Week a great success!



Crusader Corner - Mrs. Cohen



When Mary Cohen returned to SVdP in 2016, she originally planned on only working part-time. Mrs. Cohen had spent 7 years at SVdP in the 90's as a 5th grade teacher before leaving to work as an Assistant Principal at St. Peter and Paul, Principal at St. Mary's of Littleton, and as an Associate Superintendent with the Archdiocese. SVdP has always been home to Mrs. Cohen though (her own daughter is an alumni) and she especially enjoys working with the Dominican Sisters stating, "working to support their mission has been my mission." The SVdP community is very fortunate that Mrs. Cohen accepted

the full-time Assistant Principal position and continues to work side-by-side with Sister Dominic to ensure the highest level of education through support for our teachers and our students.

Mrs. Cohen wears many hats here at SVdP and best explains her position as to "truly assist the principal in any area needed!" She oversees the junior high classrooms as well as grades K- 2nd, meeting with the teachers and conducting evaluations to ensure academic standards. She works with the Resource Teachers to help brainstorm and initiate ways to meet student needs. She solves the puzzle of scheduling, hiring substitutes, and manages federal funding the school receives, including grants for professional development.

Her passion for continuing to develop new ways for teachers and students to excel is apparent. Even when she was beginning her career teaching the 5th grade, she was always wondering "what do children need to be fully educated." During her time at the Archdiocese, Mrs. Cohen developed curriculum for Denver's Catholic Schools, striving to bring the best in academics to our community. One of her initiatives was bringing Singapore Math to the schools. She knows that the "beloved bar models" may confuse even the parents, but the end result is children with advanced problem solving skills, critical thinking, and the ability to visualize abstract math.

At SVdP, Mrs. Cohen has also spearheaded Staff Professional Development. On the recent staff day in January, SVdP's team of teachers participated in the last of a series of trainings held by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. This series focused on the latest cognitive research on the brain and how learning is best achieved. You may have heard your children mention they take a "brain break" in class for example, or perhaps they have a homework assignment that involved movement (e.g., spelling in motion). These, and other, new exercises are all designed to stimulate learning in our children. Mrs. Cohen is also leading internal staff training with Sister Dominic focused on creating a "Culture of Excellence" for our students. This training teaches our staff to question "what does quality work look like, how do we strive to get to rigor and quality thinking" and hold not only their students, but themselves, accountable to these standards. Mrs. Cohen truly strives for everyone here at SVdP to "embrace and celebrate the gifts you have and use them."

In her spare time, Mrs. Cohen enjoys hiking and snowshoeing with her husband of 32 years! She always enjoys visiting her daughter who now lives in Dallas, working as a financial analyst for Southwest Airlines.

**We hope to see you all at our next dine-out on February 5th
at Modern Market on Colorado Blvd from 5-8pm!!!!**

Oh...The Places We Go..And Learn!

While certainly they are fun and a change of pace for students, Field Trips also serve as an important learning tool, enabling students to see firsthand what they have read in their books and learned in their classrooms. Read what a few grades have done so far in taking lessons from the classroom to the city to create a memorable learning experience!

Learning about Mother Nature

A tradition in first grade, students went to the Botanic Gardens to learn how pumpkins grow, walk through the fields and pick their own pumpkin. In second grade, the teachers expanded upon the lessons learned in our own Outdoor Learning Lab to a local family-owned farm—Miller Family Farms. The students furthered their exposure on planting and harvesting and brought home many bags of vegetables! Some of the 2nd graders even made tomato sauce on spaghetti squash with the vegetables they picked! In addition to the planting and harvesting lessons, many of the 2nd graders read "Farmer Boy" by Laura Ingalls Wilder, and were able to compare the farming lifestyle of the book to that which they saw at Miller Family Farms.

Experiencing the Performing Arts

Did you know one of our newest faculty members, Ms. Ariel McKinney of 3rd grade, sings for Opera Colorado!? When Ms. McKinney joined SVdP, she knew immediately she wanted the students to attend one of Opera Colorado's student matinees, which runs just under 2 hours, and curtains are kept open to watch scene changes. The entire 3rd grade attended this year's Opera, Rossini's *Barber of Seville*; Ms. McKinney spent time in the classroom teaching the history and story to the grade before going. "Being exposed to beautiful music and art as a young child greatly impacted my own career and hobbies, and I wanted my class to have that same exposure. Who knows who it will inspire!..... They were engaged the whole time and went on and on about how much fun it was!"

For the 5th Grade, our music teacher, Mrs. Kathryn Smeltz arranged a field trip to Colorado Symphony's "Beethoven's Birthday Bash." This performance is also tailored for young audiences (grades 3-8) where students heard music by Beethoven, composers who influenced him, and by composers who were affected by him. This performance came at the end of the 5th grade's Music History unit, in which they studied these composers, as well as studied the symphony orchestra and practiced using effective vocabulary to describe music.

We are so thankful to our teachers for their forward planning and our parents for their time and flexibility to drive and chaperone! St. Vincent's cannot make this happen without all of this.



3rd Graders enjoying Opera Colorado

Preparing for Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 26th this year. It is the time of fasting, alms giving and prayer that Christians use to prepare for Easter. There are so many ways for all of us to grow closer to God during this time. Here are just a few ideas that you can do at SVdP and at home. Circle some ideas that could work for your family.

- Try to have quiet time in the car without the radio on.
- Or, if you want music - listen to religious music.
- Light a candle at dinner or before bed and each share a prayer intention.
- Say a decade of the rosary at night together - or the whole thing!
- Start a bean jar and have the entire family add to it when they do or notice others doing good deeds.
- For parents, come to school mass or sign up to help on the school service project April 8th.
- Pick something as a family to give up. It could be eating out, gossiping, or buying new clothes.
- For kids, clean up at home without being asked.
- Read a devotional as a family.
- Cook: make pretzels and think how they are shaped like arms folding in prayer, or make hot crossed buns on Good Friday.
- Take time each week to call a family member out of state or write a letter. Kids can even take turns calling.

School and Church also have more specific events to help us prepare for Easter:

- Family Sunday at 10:30 March 1 and April 5
- Confession every Saturday at 3:30
- Stations of the Cross, Fridays at 6:00 during Lent
- April 2 - 8th grade Passion Play
- April 12 Easter

Spelling Bee Club

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee team, led by Ms. DeLisle. After months of practice, members of the team participated in the Intermediate Spelling Bee at Good Shepherd on January 11th. There was some tough competition, but the SVdP team did well, sending multiple spellers to orals. Congratulations to Owen Meyer who made the first round of orals, and Natalie Bradac who progressed to the finals for orals!



2020 Gala News

We are cruising to our **February 22 deadline** for all donations - items, gift cards, and parties! Thank you to those who have already turned in forms.

Our biggest needs are tickets to sporting events and concerts and restaurant gift cards, as well as overnights in the mountains. Reach out to Kate Crisham or Jackie Wilson with any ideas. **No donation is too small!**