



A Salute to our Principal Susan Roffmann

“I am retiring.” This was the simple beginning to a recent heartfelt letter sent by Mrs. Roffmann to families this spring. Her footprint on the style and character of St. Vincent de Paul Elementary school has been one of strong and caring leadership over the past thirty years. Having started in 1984 as the seventh grade teacher, then serving as the eighth grade teacher, she became principal in 1991. She grew up in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, but now feels the mild chills of California weather are enough for her! She has a wonderful husband, Doug, and two great children, Elizabeth and Matthew, both graduates of SVES and SVHS.

When asked what she has liked most about our school, Mrs. Roffmann said she has enjoyed the community feeling at SVES. She has witnessed many changes over the years in the economy and seen the struggles of families. In the past thirty years, tremendous progress has been made in technology and how it affects students and families. Mrs. Roffmann agrees that the digital world has given us many opportunities and also many challenges. Even with all of these sweeping changes happening, she has maintained a standard of excellence with her teachers and their methods. She and her faculty team have *consistently* earned the highest rankings each and every time the WCEA/WASC renewal accreditation review boards visited campus. Despite these wonderful accomplishments, a modest Roffmann still maintains

There is nothing permanent except change.
The only constant is change.
Change is the only constant.
Change alone is unchanging.
— Heraclitus

she best enjoyed the curiosity of the children and the collegiality of the faculty.

She has been a leader who was never above doing any task. We would often see her bandaging a scraped knee, lugging a full bucket to clean up after a sick child, or escorting a frightened child into admissions testing. She has directed numerous dramatic plays over the years and helped to coach award winning speech teams. Having still taught the 7th grade English class for many years as principal, there will not be a student of hers who will not somehow retain to their dying day how to diagram a sentence.

“I am very happy to be retiring, but I am also sad. I will miss the hugs from the children, lunch room conversations with the faculty and staff and the daily interactions with the parents.”

When thinking about this next chapter of her life, she appropriately shares that she loves to read, and will surely have many interesting books to capture her attention with the

additional leisure time. Many of her students may not know that she has an avid interest in science fiction and space (even Star Trek!) so you’ll know in which section to find her in the book store or library!

Mrs. Roffmann, you will be missed. We will do our very best to honor your legacy of fine character, honoring education as a priority and being living examples of the very best of our faith.



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Our Mission Statement

As a Catholic elementary school, a vital ministry of St. Vincent de Paul Church, our mission is to provide an education within a faith-filled community in which all students develop skills as caring and compassionate Christians, critical and creative thinkers, responsible citizens, and lifelong learners.

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You are the best advertising we have as ambassadors for our school. Thank you for encouraging families to come on a tour!



Faith • Academics • Service

The strength that we have can only be ensured in the future if this generation of alumni and supporters accepts our obligation and duty to keep this school strong for those who come after us.

Please give to the SVES Annual Fund in honor of one of our retirees!

Mrs. Diane Benjamin

Art Teacher and K-3 Resource



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Mrs. Benjamin began working here at SVES in 1989, teaching seventh grade until 1997. She changed roles the following year and became the art teacher. Five years ago, she took on the position of Language Arts Support teacher for the primary

grades. A California native, Mrs. Benjamin grew up in San Carlos and earned her bachelor's degree and teaching credential at San José State University.

She has thoroughly enjoyed her time with the students and working alongside the faculty and staff. She is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, John, and visiting her daughter, Christine, who graduated from SVES and SVHS and is now living in Los Angeles and working for the Sundance Institute. Mrs. Benjamin is looking forward to taking up oil painting again and pursuing other interests, including volunteering with her increased free time in retirement.

She is very grateful for all the wonderful people she has encountered and the meaningful experiences she has had while working for SVES. We will miss her caring attitude with students and coworkers.

Mrs. Nadine DeVost

Eighth Grade Teacher



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Mrs. DeVost began teaching at SVES twelve years ago after having served one year as the aide for the eighth grade classroom with Mrs. Dalton. When Mrs. Dalton retired, Mrs. DeVost applied for the position. Having grown up in San Francisco

and the East Bay, Mrs. DeVost earned a B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from San Francisco State University, then completed a certificate in composition. She has been married for thirty-five years to Vance DeVost, who retired as stage manager for the San Francisco Symphony two years ago. Their children, Erec and Adriana, graduated from SVHS and went on to earn graduate degrees. Erec works for an environmental engineering company and Adriana teaches at a Catholic school in Chicago.

Mrs. DeVost feels that teaching at SVES is very liberating because foundational skills and the application of those skills are taught across a rich curriculum, while students are guided in developing their faith and values. Mrs. DeVost looks forward to catching up on Hemingway scholarship and criticism, and on literature in general. She has treasured her years at SVES and is very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with wonderful students and their parents as well as with engaged colleagues, and to have grown in her profession and her faith.

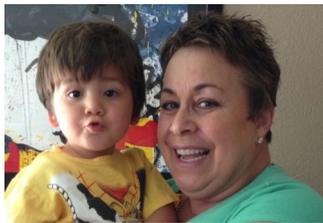
"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank...but the world may be a better place because I made a difference in the life of a child."

– Forest Witcraft

Mrs. Kathy Asmussen

Administrative Secretary

Having served SVES for 24 years, Mrs. Asmussen will be moving on to explore her passion for glass art at the end of this year. She started out part time in the office, then worked full time with mornings as a 2nd grade aide and afternoons in the office for four years, then came back to the office full time. She grew up in South San Francisco and attended All Souls Catholic School, followed by San Mateo Junior College where she received an Associate of Arts degree in criminology. Mrs. Asmussen has also taken numerous



art classes, some featuring fused glass. She lives with her husband, Richard, and enjoys time with her son, Thomas (SVES & SVHS alumnus), daughter-in-law, Evelyn and grandson, Thomas, Jr., now two years old.

Mrs. Asmussen has been impressed with the warm feeling of community from the families, students and her coworkers, best displayed by the return of children of past graduates, which just reinforces what a wonderful place this is! One of the biggest changes she got witnessed here at SVES was the renovation of the campus, which she says was very gratifying. She looks forward to spending time with family and friends and traveling. Her talents in glass fusing and glass blowing will also be given some more creative time. She wishes to thank everyone who has touched her life during her time at St. Vincent's, and her experiences at SVES have helped make her the person she is. She will miss everyone a great deal.

We will miss Mrs. Asmussen's welcoming smile in our office and her kind spirit in efficiently serving us so well.



*With our gratitude and best wishes,
know that you will be missed.*

Mrs. Emily Jenkins

Science and Math Teacher

Mrs. Jenkins will be leaving SVES at the end of this school year. Having grown up here in Petaluma and an alumna of SVES (2000) and SVHS (2004), Mrs. Jenkins (née Doolittle) has taught here for the past four years. She took the place of then retiring Mrs. Chris Giacometti and has been teaching science to grades 4-8 and the high school algebra class to advanced eighth graders. Mrs. Jenkins has also been a reliable source for help with the administrative side of setting up the Beehively computer system as well as other technological reporting.



Having come from a long line of family who attended St. Vincent's since 1952, she has continued their contribution of service to the community that she admires for its supportive atmosphere. During her second year teaching here she married her husband, Charlie, and this past October they

welcomed their first child, Sydney Renée. Mrs. Jenkins has found that the busy job schedule, combined with a challenging commute helped her to decide to make a change. She wants to have more time to be at home and watch her daughter grow. She will be missed by students and coworkers alike.

Facility Notes

The science and computer labs in the basement are enjoying **new blinds on their windows**, thanks to funds raised from the Jog-a-thon in September.

Funds from the recent PFO Auction will help **purchase utility carts** on which the teachers will put their classroom projectors and computers. These funds will also cover projection screens for the classrooms.

Familiar Faces

Our thanks to **Mrs. Chris Giacometti** and **Mrs. Maureen Nelson**, who returned to our campus this year from their own happy retirements to serve as substitute teachers during the maternity leaves for Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Telucci. Mrs. Giacometti taught science and advanced math for Mrs. Jenkins and then two math classes for Mrs. Telucci.

Mrs. Nelson steps in frequently to help us as a substitute teacher and has been covering Mrs. Telucci's reading and social studies subjects. We are grateful to have teachers with such a rich history at SVES to help us in the absence of our full time faculty.

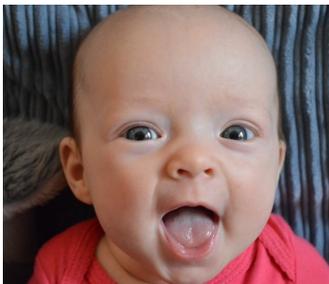


Calendar of Events

May 2-Fri	Jr. High Dance
May 3-Sat	Science Olympiad (team from grades 4-6) Hosted by SVHS
May 5 - 8	Book Fair
May 9-Fri	National Jr. Honor Society Induction Ceremony
May 16-Fri	PFO Golf Tournament
May 19-Mon	West Side Relays
May 19 - 23	Green Week
May 26-Mon	Memorial Day (no school)
June 6-Fri	8th Grade Graduation

Baby News!

We welcomed Mrs. Jenkins, science /math teacher, back to her Lab classroom in March. Her daughter, Sydney Renée, is a beautiful and healthy baby who enjoys playing with the family dog, Tillie.



Mrs. Elise Telucci, math, reading and social studies teacher, gave birth to a happy baby girl on April 10th, weighing in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces. Little Mary Rose is also adored by siblings, Angelo and Elisabeth and Daddy Steve.

