



Saints Peter & Paul Salesian School

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3rd Graders take center stage at the World Mission Mass on October 21, 2005

From left to right
Back Row: Vanessa Ye, Christian Yon, Giovanni Escobar, Jeremy Majewski, Francesco Petrini, Raquel Gueits, Cecilia Kimmel
Middle Row: Sofia Trogu, Dylan Malone, Kate Riley, Justin Lee, Carlo Ballare, Frankie Lewis
Front Row: Anderson Ye, Brittni Owyang, Rachel Harris, Kevin Zheng, Declan Ebeling, Sarah O'Connell

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From the Desk of Dr. Lisa A. Harris, Ed. D. Principal

Our Mission

Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School makes every effort to offer students a well-rounded academic experience and a strong spiritual formation. We believe in the uniqueness of each individual child and strive to provide an environment that allows each child to utilize his or her talents to the fullest.

Saints Peter and Paul School is celebrating its seventieth year in the business of educating youth. We boast a very well rounded academic program that prepares our students for the rigors of our Catholic, private and public high schools. As we begin this year, we do so with the excitement of preparing our students for the challenges ahead. We live in a fast paced, technology driven society, and our students are remarkably well equipped to excel.

On any given day one might find our third graders working on power point slides or our junior high school students creating i-movies in our computer lab. Who would have believed that our elementary age students would be sitting in a science lab performing real experiments or learning about a wide variety of musical genre during music classes in the Parish Hall? Our philosophy states that we hope to form our students academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. With our focus on these areas of development we strive to fulfill our obligations to our students.

School is not like it was when we grew up. I remember sitting at a staff development program not long ago where

the speaker looked us in the eye and said that our kids are experiencing life in a way that none of our generation ever has. His remarks struck me as very powerful. These are unique times and our schools have become unique vessels.

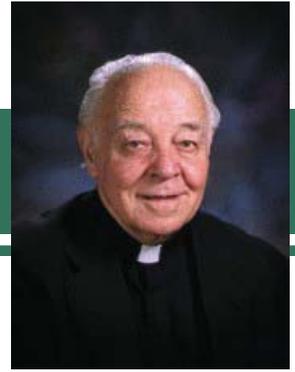
"...our kids are
experiencing life
in a way that none
of our generation
ever has."

We are blessed by the presence of the Salesian order who continue their long tradition of formation of the young. Our children receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation while attending school at Saints Peter and Paul . They also learn about being stewards of the Earth. Our children know about the needs of those less fortunate and are propelled into action by our Service Learning Program.

Above and beyond all of our many assets at Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School are our devoted parents, the primary educators of our youth. In communion with our school families our faculty and staff enjoy fostering the environment that allows our students to learn well and to live well.

Message from the Pastor's Desk

Rev. John J. Malloy, S.D.B



Dear Friends,

This newsletter should serve as a booster shot for SSPP School. WE need all the help we can get. You're the boosters and I'm one of the "big shots" – so they tell me.

I've been asked to write something about myself. Sixty some years of Salesian religious life covers a lot of ground: I have degrees in education, philosophy, and theology; have taught from third grade elementary to college; been principal in four different high schools; was Provincial in the Western and Eastern Salesian Provinces; and spent eleven years as pastor in Surry, B.C. before coming to Saints Peter and Paul in 2001.

Local pastors envied my position. North Beach is a lots-of-action place—spiritual and otherwise—especially otherwise! Never a dull moment from the day I got here and entered discussions about earthquake damages, and meetings with engineers and architects, and putting a new façade on the church, and recognizing the need for lighting



and cleaning the church and rectory, and especially strengthening our school financially. We also studied programs to enhance the school: with an up-to-the-minute stage, a new science lab, and an improved computer lab/ Parents have joined in our Columbus Day Bazaar and other fundraisers, such as

our Sunday collections for the scholarship program, and a newly envisioned program to find sponsors to assist in financial aid.



From our Student Body President

By Letticia Lee



Dear SSPP Families and Alumni,

My name is Letticia Lee and I have been attending SS. Peter and Paul since second grade. As a student here at SSPP, I would have to say that what is most special about our school is our community of students, faculty, and staff. All of the teachers from the eighth grade and down to the Pre-K have left a lasting impression on all of us. For example, Mrs. Wayne always tells us what to expect in the real world and how to cope with it, and Mr. Riley always finds an interesting way to fit in a Latin root in every lesson! The student body best reflects an ocean of diversity, or better yet, a melting pot with each culture bringing in new and unique flavors or spices to the pot. Each day I sit down at recess and take time to appreciate my surroundings. After all these years of getting to know everyone, I feel that all have become part of my extended family!

I am also proud to be the president of the student body! My fellow classmate and friend, Isabella Betkowski, and I decided to run for the office of president and vice because we wanted to bring back fun activities that have been missing over the past few years such as the Haunted House. We also wanted to implement new ideas, events, and leave a legacy from the class of '06 to the future eighth graders. Our main goal is to create an atmosphere of fun and fellowship for our school community.

As president of SSPP, I hope for enthusiasm in all students in their academic courses and in spreading the holy Word of God. I wish you all a year filled with smiling faces and rooms full of laughter!

God bless and Happy Holidays,

Letticia Lee

This school year's theme for Catholic Schools Week (CSW) represents the core values Catholic education strives to instill and support in every student, teacher, and school administrator. The slogan: "***Catholic Schools: Character. Compassion. Values.***" truly says it all! Saints Peter and

Paul Salesian School encourages and focuses on character building while fostering Catholic-Christian values and a compassionate heart that reaches out locally and globally with love for all—especially for the weak and vulnerable.

Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School will join over 8,000 Catholic Schools across the nation in celebrating CSW 2006 from **January 29–February 3, 2006**. For five days, we will gather in unity to share knowledge, enjoy each other's company, and honor those who help our school to provide the academic excellence and spiritual values that make it a privileged place for learning and personal growth.

2006 Catholic Schools Week Highlights:

Sunday, January 29, 2006

School Family Liturgy in honor of St. John Bosco the founder of the Salesian Priests, Brothers and Sisters.

Monday, January 30, 2006 –Friday, February 3, 2006

Events will include Don Bosco Fun Day and Appreciation Day activities for the Salesian Family (with a focus on our Priests, Sisters and Faculty), Grandparents and School Volunteers.

Please join us for any of these activities throughout the week.



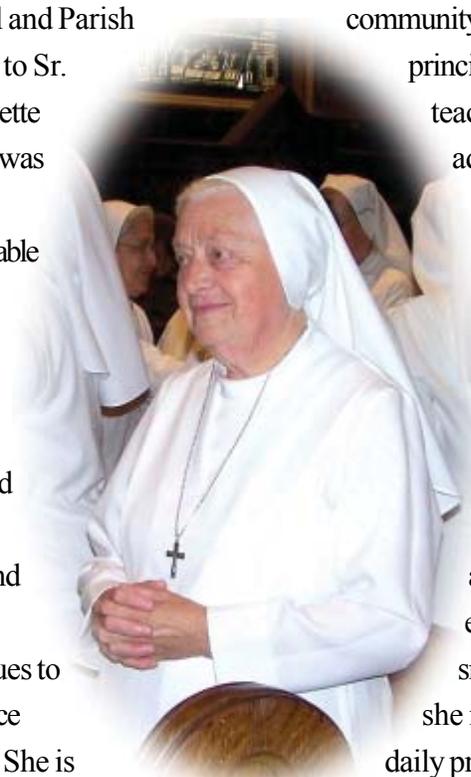
By Sr. Rachel Crotti, FMA

Sr. Antoinette Pollini, FMA

The Saints Peter and Paul School and Parish tribute to Sr. Antoinette Pollini was both memorable and warm. Sister has touched many lives and she continues to influence many. She is definitely part of the very fabric that makes Saints Peter and Paul Parish unique.

Most of Sr. Antoinette's 50 years as a Salesian Sister have been spent in the United States and Saints Peter and Paul has been the privileged place where she has devoted many

years of loving service as community superior, principal, teacher, advisor and friend to countless students and parents. She has a ready smile and an encouraging smile for all she meets. Her daily prayers encompass the entire world beginning with the local Saints Peter and Paul Salesian Family. To date she is faithfully present every morning to greet the teachers, parents and



all my desires. Serving God as a missionary among the young means everything to me. I would have it no

students when they first arrive at school and she braves the busy activity of the playground at noon to assure that the students are safe and happy.

When asked what gives her the greatest joy she did not hesitate to reply: "Being a Salesian Sister is one of God's greatest gifts to me. It is as a Salesian Sister that I find the fulfillment of my dreams, the answer to

other way!"

May God grant Sr. Antoinette many more years of fruitful service among the youth here at Saints Peter and Paul!



Welcome to the Theatre!

By Dr. Lisa Harris

Each year our P.T.O. Executive Board selects a

project to pursue. Last year we began fundraising for the renovation of the lower level of our building. Housed on the ground floor of our building is our cafeteria, gymnasium and stage area. Mrs. Valerie Salvetti and Mrs. Jessica Starr-Gueits chaired a

Spring fundraising event that brought in \$35,000.00 to put toward this project. Several cosmetic fixes have taken

place during the summer. As we began plans for the

renovation of the stage area, a generous benefactor who has pledged more than half of the funds to complete the lighting and sound portion of the renovation overwhelmed us. With the support of our benefactor a project that might have taken four years of

fundraising will now become a reality this year.

Our students love to perform and we are eager to

begin work on our Christmas Show, which Ken Kelly writes and directs annually. We also host a wonderful evening of dance and choral performances in May, produced by Dana Wayne, Angela Walker and Christine Johnston. And who can forget the memorable eighth grade play directed and produced by Paul Riley and his assistant Sandy Wayne.

We can hardly wait to see the stage transformed into a modern and functional performance area.

We are very fortunate to have such committed and loyal supporters.

In the last several years we have witnessed the updating of our computer lab, the addition of a school wide music program, the renovation of the science lab and science support materials, new textbooks in the area of reading, science, and social studies, and now the renovation of the stage, gym and cafeteria. With the assistance of our hard

working parents and our loyal benefactors, the sky is the limit. Stay tuned for our future performing arts programs. We look forward to seeing you in the audience.



Theatre Arts Spring into Action

By Paul Riley

Did you know that, under the advisement of Addison Anderson '99, Sal Crivello '99 once ruled an empire in his underwear? Did you know that

Michael Aicardi '00 once convinced an entire village to put stones in their soup? Or that Melissa Liotta '04

once fell blindly for a brilliant, but deeply troubled doctor? It's all true! And it happened on the Saints Peter and Paul auditorium stage during the course of the annual, eighth-grade, Spring play. If you haven't seen it, you have been missing out on one of

the cultural highlights of the Saints Peter and Paul school year. Each Spring, under the guidance of Mrs. Sandy Wayne, Ms. Karina Mathisen,

and Mr. Paul Riley, the graduating class blasts out of here with a mad flurry of creative energy and technical skill that

culminates in a night of broad posturing, buffoonery and many laughs (some of them outrageously cheap).

It is a wonderful opportunity for the eighth grade to pool their many and often diverse talents into a

final creative statement as a class. They do it all: from set and costume design, to lighting, to hunting down that last essential sound effect

(Hey, Mr. Riley! Listen to what this sounds like when I hit Josh in the head with it!), to implementing a successful marketing campaign, replete with flyers, posters, programs, (veiled threats? extortion?). Whatever it takes, our resourceful (and sometimes deviant) eighth graders (I could "borrow" my grandmother's cane, Mr. Riley! She hardly uses it!) get the job done. It's a wonderful, invigorating, if not at times a bit maddening, experience that



brings so many powerful and previously hidden talents to the fore. And it is always a brilliant success!

This year the Spring Play will be presented at 7pm on Friday, May 5th.

Come join in the fun! Because if you're not there ... well ... we know where you live! See you May 5th!



An Interview with Ken Kelly

By Rachel Chan



I would like to introduce myself. I am Rachel Chan and I am in charge of publicity at Saints Peter and Paul School. I recently had the opportunity to ask our famous Mr. Kelly some important questions regarding his role in producing and directing our Christmas Program. Here is what I found out....

Question: Mr. Kelly, how do you think that the SS. Peter and Paul Christmas Show has changed over the years?

Answer: The first year I was involved in the Christmas Show was 1995. Over the years the students have helped plan and create each show giving it the unique qualities of that year's student body.



Question: Why do you choose to keep coming back to SSPP each year? You stopped teaching at our school in 1998.

Answer: I enjoy the process of preparing musical ideas and then working with the students to bring those ideas to the stage. It's very exciting.

Question: Mr. Kelly, will you give us a sneak peak of this year's show?

Answer: The show is called The Miracle Of Me – for now! You will hear familiar songs and see some new performance ideas – you'll just have to come and see!

Mr. Kelly, thank you for taking the time out for this interview. I guess we will have to wait in suspense for the Christmas Show which will be held on December 15th.



SSPP Dance Team

By Dana Wayne

THE SSPP Dance Team is off to a great start this year. We have grown from a few 8th grade girls in 2000 to almost 80 Pre-K through 8th grade girls and boys. Ms. Walker, Ms. Staley '94, and I are so proud of the growth and support that has been given to



the dance team over the past five years. We are pleased to see so many students experiencing an

appreciation for the arts.

On November 2, 2005, the SSPP Dance Team held a fundraiser at Chevy's Restaurant in Stonestown. The money raised will go towards costumes, mirrors, and barres.

In the works is a "Krispy Kreme"

fundraising effort spearheaded by Michelle Murphy, parent of Haley Murphy '09 and Grace Murphy '03.

Lunar Festival Fundraiser

By Vivian Queirolo

On Saturday, January 21, 2006, together as a school family, we will celebrate the Lunar New Year Festival. This joyous evening begins at 6:00 p.m. and is an event that centers on the family. It will be filled with wonderful food. The children will charm us with their musical voices, festive dance performances, and sharing of cultural stories. We will celebrate the good fortune of

being able to spend quality time with our wonderful children as one large family.

This year the Lunar New Year

Festival is going to be so much fun. Mark your calendar and come celebrate with us. Join us for an evening of fun and community building. Our family comes first!

Raising the next generation of children is not one person's task. "It takes a village!"



Science Lab

By Karina Mathisen

Thanks to the fundraising effort of the PTO members and parents of Saints Peter and Paul, we opened our new Science Lab. It is located one floor above the cafeteria's kitchen... so

please come for a visit if you are in the area! The new Science lab has all the students and



Science teachers excited to get to work on experiments and projects. But all the Junior High Science classes take place in the lab and it is open to grades Kinder through 5th to use for their experiments as well. The lab is equipped with test tubes, beakers, measuring equipment, microscopes, chemicals, and various models for study. We are always looking for new and exciting additions to our science lab.

Here is a version of an experiment the 7th and 8th grade did in the lab:

Color Chromatography

Use a clean, dry coffee filter circle. Use your marker to draw a black spot in the center. Put the circle on a saucer, and put a few drops of water on the spot. In a few minutes you'll see rings of color that go out from the center of the

circle to the edges. Our picture is in black and white, but when you do this, you'll see some amazing colors.



New Social Studies Textbooks

By Dana Wayne

The new Social Studies books are a delight. The textbooks pay close attention to students' development of reading comprehension strategies, academic vocabulary, social studies skills, historical analysis skills, and writing strategies. Through narratives and stunning visuals the textbooks also help students make meaning of what



happened long ago, why it happened, and how it is still important to us today. The supplemental materials such as overhead



transparencies and interactive note taking study guides help students enjoy social studies while learning. These new textbooks are a well-deserved investment.

About SSL

By Harriet Schatz

The Salesian Service-Learning Committee (SSL) was spearheaded by Sr. Rachel Crotti in 2003 and with the addition of facilitators Annie Konstin (Resource Teacher and Spanish Teacher) and Harriet Schatz (Child and Family Therapist) there is an ever-increasing enthusiasm by seventh and eighth graders to participate in the group.

The work of the committee is to perform service for the school and the San Francisco community. The second annual Halloween Costume collection resulted in the donation of more than 20 slightly worn costumes to the St. Vincent de Paul Society who will distribute the costumes to kids who could not afford their own. Last year, books, bicycles, baby clothes, blankets, toiletries and

coats were among the collection drives that SSL coordinated. Students get the opportunity to come up with the names of organizations that have wish lists and the group tries to fulfill those needs. Students get the chance to contact organizations, design posters, come up with marketing and promotion plans for the campaigns, do some public

speaking, organize the collection process, and learn about the giving process. The final project for 2004/2005 academic year was a trip to St. Anne's Senior Home where the students cleaned tables and wheelchairs. They celebrated their year of hard work with a luncheon at a Chinatown Restaurant. Service learning is an opportunity for individual growth and soul-fulfilling meaningful experiences.

SALESIAN SERVICE LEARNING COMMITTEE

Harriet Schatz SSPP Counselor



Harriet Schatz is the licensed Child and Family Therapist at SS. Peter and Paul School. She also works as a consultant to Jean Parker Elementary School in Chinatown and maintains a private practice in Pacific Heights where she sees individuals, couples, families and adolescents.

The Child and Family Counseling Department at SS. Peter and Paul School is my precious passion. In 1989, as a Trainee at USF's Graduate School Counseling Program, I was assigned to come to this beautiful church in North Beach once a week. I am still amazed and thrilled that as a Jewish woman from Brooklyn, New York, my life journey led me to a stained glass windowed office in a landmark church in North Beach, San Francisco, California at that point in my mid-life. Over the past 16 years I have come to see hundreds of students go from Laura Vicuna Pre-School through 8th grade, to the best high schools in San Francisco, and come back to visit from colleges across the country. Now there is the new thrill of seeing past students send their little ones back up the same (111) steps to begin their academic journeys.

The counseling program encompasses an educational component as well as individual counseling, family, counseling, or group counseling. I spend time in the classrooms talking about emotions and teaching students to accept and talk about their feelings. We talk about making healthy life choices, conflict resolution, assertive communication, and personal resiliency. Students can self-refer for individual counseling on any matter that may be important to them. Family members may also come in for counseling or for referrals to community-based services. This is my dream job!

SSPP Choir

By Christine Johnston



Mrs. Christine Johnston began directing the school Choir about 6 years ago as an off-shoot of teaching classroom music to grades 3, 4 and 5. Then several singers continued in Choir through their Junior High years; so today the group numbers about 35-40.

The Choir's main function is to lead the music at school liturgies. We have also sung for special Masses, such as the Second Graders; First Communion. A highlight of our year is participating in the Archdiocesan Choral Festival at Riordan High School. We also sing at Fine Arts Night in the Spring. In fact, we now have uniform Choir tee-shirts for these special occasions. Every year the Choir seems to get busier, better, and more fun. Thank you to everyone who has been a participant or a supporter.



Scholarship Programs at Saints Peter and Paul School

Dear Salesian Family,

As you know, the focus of all Salesians is our youth. Salesian schools all around the globe work to provide students with a well rounded education, as well as a rich spiritual life. It is our hope to offer a Catholic education to all students and families who desire one. As the cost of living in San Francisco continues to sky-rocket, it becomes more and more difficult for families to provide a Catholic school education for their children. As we reviewed our goals and objectives for the 2005-2006 school year, it became obvious to our organization that we needed to make financial assistance a priority for families hoping to send their child to our school.

Our current school family works tirelessly to raise funds to support our academic programs. They fundraised for science equipment, computers, new textbooks and building improvements. The fundraising that our school



parents provide keeps our current programs running. We have realized that we need to widen our circle of giving; so we are reaching out to you Parishioners, Alumni, and Friends of the Salesian Family who might be in the position to assist us in our scholarship program for those students with demonstrated financial need.

We will accept donations in any amount and will create a scholarship fund from your donations. If you would like to sponsor a student for a month, half a year, or for the entire year, we will gratefully accept your donation. Saint John Bosco understood that the children are truly the future. If we invest in these priceless commodities, we will ensure a better world for each of us to live in. Your dollars can help to fulfill Father Bosco's hope to "create good citizens of Earth and Heaven." Your dollars will be most gratefully received.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lisa A. Harris, Ed.D.
Principal



Saints Peter and Paul School students and faculty enjoying the sites of San Francisco.

We want to hear from you!

We are continually updating our database. Please send us your updated contact information if it is incorrect on the mailing label.

We also want to know all about our SSPP Salesian graduates. Please send us any news that you would like to share and your story could be in our next issue:
lharris@stpeterpaul.sanfrancisco.ca.us

In order to continue to provide an excellent learning environment for our SSPP children for many years to come, we need your support. Please take the time and make your tax deductible donation today.



**SAINTS PETER & PAUL
SALESIAN SCHOOL**
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