



Volume 1, Issue 2, Spring 2006



Saints Peter & Paul Salesian School

660 Filbert Street
San Francisco, CA 94132

Tel 415.421.5219
Fax 415.421.1831
Visit us at:
www.StsPeterPaul.San-Francisco.ca.us

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

Sr. Rachel Crotti, FMA
Vice Principal

Laura Vicuña
Pre-Kindergarten
Barbara Simons
Director

Shirley Ordoña
Yvonne Soracco
Sandy Wayne
Editors

Rod Ordoña
Design and Layout



Saints Peter and Paul Choir shines at the 18th Annual Archdiocesan Choral Festival on March 23, 2006

Story on page 4

Inside this Issue

From the Desk of Dr. Harris.....	2
Lunar Festival	3
Catholic Schools Week	3
SSPP Choir	4
Artists Inspire Grade 3	4
Alumni News	5
Decathlon Experience	5
Geography Bee	6
1st Communion and Confirmation	6
A Visit with Bishop Ignatius Wang	7



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

We were thrilled to hear from so many of our alumni. Many of you sent a few words congratulating us on our first addition of the Salesian Beacon. It was good to know that you were interested to hear about our school program. Our newsletter staff could not believe that it was time to get started on our second edition. However, much has transpired over the past few months and we have plenty to talk about.

One of the most exciting things that has occurred this year is our new Scholarship Fund. Our Pastor, Father John Malloy, has reached out to our parishioners and we have been blessed by donations. The donations that we have received will allow students with financial constraints to attend our school for another year. We are eternally grateful for all of our supporters who have contributed to our scholarship fund. We encourage you to continue to support Catholic education. It is a very worthy cause. We accept donations of any denomination and your donations are tax deductible.

Our students continue to grow and mature throughout the year. They pursue academic excellence and many of our students are standing on the stage accepting honors at our awards assemblies. The 8th graders have just received their high school acceptances and we have an awesome record. Over 98% of our students were accepted to their first choice schools. We had quite a few happy students walking through our halls after they received their acceptance letters.

The students shared an interesting science experience with students from Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory. The program is called Bridges and the high school science classes come to Saints Peter and Paul School and lead science classes and experiments with our students. The building is buzzing with excitement and action when SHCP is on campus. This is a great opportunity for the high school students to have first hand experience in teaching, and the elementary school students have a lot of fun executing the science experiments.

"...we have an awesome record. Over 98% of our students were accepted to their first choice schools."

We also hosted a performing arts group called Word for Word. This group performs literary works in a play format. The only catch is that they perform the literary work word for word. It is an interesting technique and is captivating for the audience. Our entire school had the opportunity to attend one of the two performances of Word for Word.

As we approach the end of the academic school year, we look forward to First Holy Communion for our 2nd graders and Confirmation and graduation for our 8th graders. We have a kindergarten promotion ceremony, a Spring play, a dance and choral festival and much, much more. Remember to check our website calendar to stay posted on all of our up and coming events.

We thank you in advance for your support to Saints Peter and Paul School. Elementary schools build the foundation upon which all other learning takes place. Keep our school strong with your support.

Lunar Festival

By Shirley Ordoña



The Lunar Festival was held on January 21, 2006. It was a huge success! Guests were served a delicious 10-course dinner while being entertained with a lion dance and student performances. A balloon drop welcomed the Year of the Dog.

The Silent Auction and the Blackjack tables were also a lot of fun.



Thanks to all who made the event possible. The proceeds of the event will go toward the completion of the renovation of our theater and stage area.

We hope to see you at our next event!

Catholic Schools Week

By Sandy Wayne

As part of Catholic Schools Week, Sts. Peter and Paul School celebrated Grandparents' Day on February 1st. Students from kindergarten to eighth grade invited their grandparents to visit the school.

The day started with an inspirational paraliturgy prepared by Sister Mary Link and presented by a group of 8th grade students. After the paraliturgy some of Sts. Peter and Paul's most talented students performed for their grandparents. The students played various instruments, danced, sang songs, and did stand up comedy. Mrs. Johnston led the school choir in two delightful songs, one of which was "Home on the Range" for which Mrs. Johnston wrote new lyrics honoring the visiting grandparents.

Grandparents were then invited to visit their grandchildren's classrooms. While visiting my granddaughter Rachel's third grade classroom, I was fortunate to hear some very creative poetry written by the students in Mrs. Ordoña's class. I visited my grandson Joey's second grade class during religion where Sister Lucy was explaining the different vestments and objects worn and used during Mass.

After classroom visitations grandparents and grandchildren gathered in the gymnasium to visit with each other and share a delicious lunch provided by our principal, Dr. Harris. A good time was had by all!



Saints Peter and Paul Choir shines at the 18th Annual Archdiocesan Choral Festival

By: Katherine Kemiji-McDonald

As a parent of two students at Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School, I am often asked to chaperone numerous events. My absolute favorite field trip is the Choral Festival at Riordan High School with Choir Director Christine Johnston. This year both Maria and Stelios were singing in the choir, so I was thrilled to hop on the bus!

The theme of the 18th Annual Archdiocesan Choral Festival was: "Music: The Heart of Catholic Education." Our group was one of 26 choirs performing in a day filled with wonderful music. We were part of the afternoon program featuring 13 different Catholic Elementary School Choirs. Ms. Johnston did an amazing job keeping her performers, as young as third graders to the more experienced eighth graders, focused and relaxed as they waited their turn to take the stage. The audience enjoyed all types of songs and choirs numbering from 15 to 50 strong. Some featured only Junior High Choir members while other represented 4th and 5th graders.

The songs selected by schools this year were quieter and more subdued than I remember. This is the third Choral Festival I've attended. For me, it is always a treat to witness and listen to children singing in different languages, such as Spanish, Chinese, Latin and our very own song in English and Zulu.

Without comparing, it was a joy to feel the energy and enthusiasm of our choir as they belted out, "We Are Singing, For the Lord is Our Light." The soloists were brilliant! Bravo! It was unanimous; the audience was impressed!

Artists Inspire Grade Three

By Abby Herget

The Saints Peter and Paul Class of 2011 (currently in Third Grade) has been host to several dynamic San Francisco artists through our Visiting Artists Program. Started in 2003, this program brings illustrators, designers and authors into our school for volunteer presentations. Our students get a first hand look at the wonderful creativity and talent in our city.

In January 2006, John Mattos, a North Beach-based illustrator, visited the Third Graders to talk about his U.S. Postal Service stamp commemorating the 2006 Winter Olympics. Mattos created the vivid blue and white 39-cent stamp of a downhill skier. He showed how the stamp was made and even autographed stamps for the class members. Later the students made their own stamp series, honoring different Native American cultures.

Vivienne Flesher, a San Francisco pastel artist and illustrator, came to Grade Three in February to talk about her upcoming book. Ms. Flesher brought the copy drafts and color layout for her funny book about her pug dog, Alfred, and his lack of a nose. The students also saw some of her other work, including the 2005 U.S. Postal Service "Love" stamp of her pastel drawing of a hand holding a red flower bouquet.

Ms. Flesher shared some of her background, and the students were delighted to learn that Maurice Sendak (author of Where the Wild Things Are) had been one of her instructors. A few days later, the Third Grade created their own chalk pastel drawings.



In March, Bay Area graphic designer, Kevin Akers, visited the Third Graders. Mr. Akers is the author and designer of the book All Wrapped Up published by Chronicle Books. He explained how he acquired a fabulous collection of vintage wrapping papers and then put the collection together in his book.

Mr. Akers showed some of his other design work and talked about how design helps solve business problems. He kindly gave each Third Grader a roll of groovy 1960's wrapping paper. The students then made their own wrapping paper with block prints.

"Our goal with this program is to inspire students through interaction with creative professionals from our neighborhood and our city," says Dr. Harris, Principal. "We are grateful that these generous artists share their time and talents."

A L U M N I N E W S

By Leo Tarantino - Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School Class of 1949



I enjoyed reading the January issue of Salesian Beacon. Your principal's article was interesting, and I didn't know Salesian School was celebrating its 70th year. My family and I were very active in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s in North Beach. We supported the Salesian School and the Salesian Boys' Club in their many events. It was great growing up in

such a family-oriented community supported by Salesian priests and sisters. I fondly recall after-school play at the Salesian Boys' Club.

Our leaders in those days were Father Constanza, Father Larry Byrnes, and Angelo Fusco. With these people around, you couldn't go wrong! I also remember Father Malloy as a young priest, and like how, in his article, he mentioned that "this newsletter should serve as a booster shot for Saints Peter and Paul School."

The Salesian Beacon sure brought back many memories of my younger days at the school. I graduated in 1949, and fifty years later helped organize our 50th Class Reunion. We even visited our old classrooms that evening. The group had to climb all those stairs (no elevator working). I made it to the top-a few didn't make it! I used to know the number of stairs from the

bottom to the top where the classrooms were located. We walked up and down those stairs at least three times a day and thought nothing of it when I attended school. Can you imagine doing this for eight years? I think we developed strong legs as time went by.

Who am I? I'm Leo Tarantino: Born in North Beach in 1935. (That makes me 70 years old-just as old as the school!) After graduating from Salesian School in 1949, I attended Sacred Heart High School. In 1953, I began my studies at San Francisco State University-taking the streetcar from North Beach until I bought my '55 Chevy. My parents were Leo and Frances Tarantino, who faithfully supported the Church, School, and Boys' Club for many years. I married my college sweetheart, earned my degree and teaching credential, and taught both elementary and middle school classes for 30 years on the San Francisco Peninsula.

I give my upbringing at Salesian and the surrounding community much credit for giving me a good foundation. We often don't know how important those early years are until we look back upon them. I still see and talk with many of my Salesian friends and classmates and we all seem to say we enjoyed those school days of long ago. Just go to one the reunions sponsored by the Salesian Boys' and Girls' Club and you'll know what I mean! Nice talking to you, and God bless!

My Decathlon Experience

By John Ochoa

Participating in the Junior High Academic Decathlon was an interesting experience. It took weeks of preparation and study to know for sure we were ready for this competition.

Most days of the week, we had a meeting after school to discuss the competition or to give us time to study. We were given time every lunch period to study for the event. We tested each other, read books that were almost as thick as Encyclopedia Britannica, and beat our brains up to memorize things we were sure to forget later on. Each one of us had to study for a subject (Math, Literature, English, etc).

There were ten of us in all and one alternative. The entire team was given a written test to complete. Afterwards, each person was given a written test regarding his or her subject. Finally, the whole group was given a series of questions to answer in less than a minute. Sound like jeopardy? Well, it was a lot easier because you have teammates. Overall, we did fine for our first year in the Decathlon. Katie Lau from Grade 7 placed second in the Fine Arts category and I placed third in the Social Studies category.

SAVE THE DATES!

COLUMBUS DAY

BAZAAR

OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2006

Join the fun!

Meet new and old friends!



Geography Bee

By Christine Johnston

Do you know which continent is crossed by both the Equator and the Prime Meridian? In what mountain system were potatoes first cultivated more than 1,000 years ago? (Answers below.)

These are the type of questions all our 4th through 8th graders were asked by their teachers this January. They joined thousands of other students from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories (All were asked the same questions.), as they competed in the 2006 National Geographic Bee.

The two highest scorers from each grade went on to the Championship Round, as the rest of their classmates watched and cheered. These finalists were Mark Dong and Amy Lim from Grade 4, Darby Ebeling and Kassandra Ferrante from Grade 5, Ania Boryslawska and Edmond Quan from Grade 6, Jackson Cheang and Victoria Eng of Grade 7, and Jordan Ramsey and Jose Rios of Grade 8.

After several oral and written questions, Jackson emerged as the Runner-Up and Edmond the school winner. Later Edmond took a long and difficult written test, but unfortunately he did not score high enough to qualify for advancement to the state level. We hope that he or another Sts. Peter and Paul student will qualify for the state Bee next year. Meanwhile I encourage students and parents alike to watch the final round of the Bee on May 24, hosted by Alex Trebek on public television.

This was the third year that Sts. Peter and Paul School participated in this contest. As the faculty advisor, I definitely have seen improvement in our students' geographic skills and understanding over these three years. It's been a "world" of fun learning about geography as we take part in the National Geographic Bee!

Confirmation at Saints Mary's Cathedral

By Sister Mary Link, F.M.A.

April 23rd our 8th grade students received the sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Mary's Cathedral. I have had the pleasure of preparing our students for confirmation throughout the school year. They attended a retreat led by Sister Mary Grenan, F.M.A. Please keep our students in your prayers.

First Holy Communion Preparation

By Sister Lucia Yuen, F.M.A.

Preparing the children to receive our Lord, Jesus, has been a privilege for me. Receiving Jesus in our hearts is a great moment of grace. The children are looking forward to this moment on May 13, 2006 at the 11:00 Mass. Please remember to pray for them as they prepare to welcome Jesus into their hearts! This year's First Communicants are:



Sabrina Sue Armstrong
Nathan Rayang Chau
Francesco DePablo
Stefano Fernando
Anibal Gonzalez
Eleanor Greene
William Gunn
Caitlin Jang
Kathryn McDonald
Matthew Ordoña
Marco Salvetti
Sabrina Santander
Juan Vega
Joseph Werblun

Visit with Bishop Ignatius Wang

By Sister Rachel Crotti, FMA

Off we went to One York Way to the Propagation of the Faith Archdiocesan Offices. Together with me, as part of our Saints Peter and Paul delegation were: Sr. Mary Link, Mrs. Vivian Queirolo, eighth graders: Rachel Chan, Leticia Lee, Stefanie Lun and Jovel Queirolo as representatives of the Mission Club and seventh graders: Daniel Stornaiuolo, Justin Dorsey and Vincent Chan from the SSL (Salesian Service-Learning) Group.



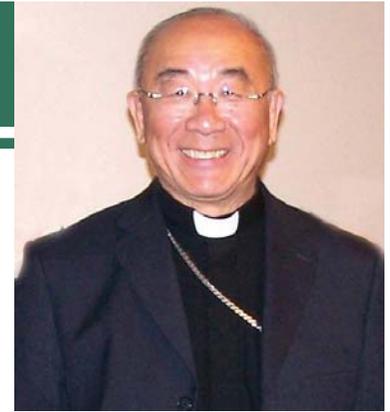
The purpose of our outing was to meet with Bishop Wang as the head of the Mission Office of the Archdiocese, to interview him briefly and to let him know of our many and varied mission projects throughout the year. We also presented the Bishop with a \$1,500 check which represented our missionary donations since the start of the school year. This was the second time we visited the Mission Office. "

Now let's hear about this event from the students themselves...

"It was a remarkable visit. Not only did I learn new things from Bishop Wang about the Missions but it was the first time I ever met a bishop!"
--Rachel Chan, Gr. 8.

"I consider myself quite ordinary and so I never imagined that I would ever be invited to be part of this extraordinary meeting with Bishop Wang and his staff at the Archdiocesan Mission Office!"
--Vincent Chan, Gr. 7.

"My favorite part of the trip was seeing Bishop Wang smile as he enjoyed a short sample of our weekly school mission announcement-complete with our homemade puppets. This was our way of expressing our missionary enthusiasm to the Bishop."
-Leticia Lee, Gr. 8.



"Meeting Bishop Wang is definitely a highlight of my eighth grade year. I got the chance to meet a person on the archdiocesan level who appreciated and encouraged us in our missionary spirit."
-Jovel Queirolo, Gr. 8.

We were hopeful for a chance to greet our new Archbishop George H. Niederauer but since he was unavailable we left a very special binder full of welcome letters, drawings, poems, prayers and good wishes from our SSPP Salesian School family with Bishop Wang for the Archbishop. A few days later we received a gracious personal thank you note from Archbishop Niederauer.

All these activities have served to strengthen the sense of the universal Church which is already very much alive at SSPP. Is a trip to Rome next? Perhaps not actually but virtually is a real possibility!





Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School
Graduating Class of 2006

**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@stspeterpaul.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**
Academic Excellence Since 1925
Alumni Development Office
660 Filbert Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Francisco, CA
Permit No. 805