Dear Salesian School Family,

Each year at this time I must begin to think about what should be written in the Principal’s Message for the “Beacon.” As I stop and reflect on all of the events that have transpired at Saints Peter and Paul School over the past few months, I realize that the events are not the memories that are fresh in my thoughts. As I review the year, I have a crystal clear picture of the children who have spent this time with us. We have those who have come to school for the first time and now they have become real students and serious learners. I reflect on the number of children who came to school in August too shy and too quiet to share their thoughts and dreams. They have found their courage and their voices. We have shared many celebrations with our school families and have rejoiced at the birth of new family members and the visits from beloved grandparents, aunts and uncles. As is true with all communities, we have also shared sad moments when we have lost loved ones or worried over those with challenges to be faced. The days at Saints Peter and Paul School are filled with activity, learning, recreation, and interpersonal communications. We spend our time together building faith. Sometimes the days are perfect and amazing and sometimes they are difficult and messy, but they are always shared together as a spiritual community comprised of our students, faculty and parents. Our loving and intelligent teachers have beautifully educated our students. We have worked together to form a strong and caring community where students can feel certain that they are the highest priority for every adult in the building. As we leave one another to have our summer holiday, we do so knowing that each child has been given our utmost attention and care, and I rest well knowing that our faculty will be blessed for their tireless work on behalf of the children.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Lisa Harris
Principal

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

SR. DEBBIE WALKER, FMA
Vice Principal

LAURA VICUÑA
PRE-KINDERGARTEN

BARBARA SIMONS
Director

CLAUDIA FERNANDO
SR. KATHLEEN GIBSON, FMA

SHIRLEY ORDOÑA
YVONNE SORACCO

SANDY WAYNE
Editors

ROD ORDOÑA
Design and Layout

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Pastor’s Message

Friends,

The “Beacon” is a great name for a student magazine. It makes us imagine lighthouses that provide light to ships to guide them to safety; it makes us imagine a radio transmitter that provides direction for airplanes; it makes us imagine the good example that all of us should give in leading good Christian, moral lives of service and respect.

So, we should be beacons, shining in the darkness, chasing away the darkness and being a force for goodness in this world. I’m not talking about the whole wide world, but the world that we are a part of, the world of school, family, and church, a world mixed with happiness and fun, sadness and hurt.

The March issue of “National Geographic” has a wonderful science article about black holes. A black hole is something that is very tiny and compact but unimaginably heavy. You can’t see it, but it sucks everything, even light, into its vortex, a whirlpool in space.

Sometimes we can become like a black hole in the universe. We can suck the life and light out of those around us, causing us to extinguish the beacon of light that we should be for other people. Don’t let that happen. Encourage one another to be beacons of light in the world in which you live.

Fr. John Itzaina, SDB.
Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church and School
Shirley Ordoña
Celebrating 25 Years in the Classroom

Shirley Ordoña ('80) has been a mainstay in our third grade classroom for 23 years and is still loving every minute of it. Fresh off with her new credential and master’s degree, she started at Star of the Sea School where she taught second grade for two years after which time she returned to her alma mater, Saints Peter and Paul School. Shirley says SSPP feels like her second home, and enjoys the camaraderie of her colleagues along with the friendship of her students and families. Shirley is well respected in our school community and is a member of the school leadership team, as well, as the school Advisory Board.

Shirley’s two children, Alexis ’07 and Matthew ’12, are both graduates of SSPP. She also had the privilege of teaching her five nieces: Mauricia Lee ’04, Melissa Lee ’07, Krystal Cheng ’10, Katelyn Cheng ’17, Hailie Hom ’19 and one nephew: Ethan Hom ’17. Shirley has gained unique and invaluable insight and perspective as a third grade teacher/parent/aunt and she looks forward to many more years of teaching!

Dana Wayne
Celebrating 23 Years in the Classroom

Dana Wayne has been at SSPP for 23 years. After several years of teaching fifth grade, she moved up a flight of stairs to the Jr. High floor and was instrumental in developing the Jr. High departmentalized model. For the past 20 years, Dana has been the 8th grade homeroom teacher and has taught Social Studies, Math and Language Arts for our Junior High students. She is also the Director of the SSPP Dance Program, which she initiated in 2000. The program’s original 13 dancers has now grown to over 100 dancers. Dana’s dad, Joe Wayne ’55, was a graduate of SSPP, as well as, her son Joey Werblun ’12 and niece Rachel Harris ’11. Dana is instrumental in helping our students have a smooth transition from Jr. High to High School and looks forward to many more years as an 8th grade mentor.

Sandy Wayne
Teaching Excellence Award Herbst Foundation

On Monday, May 5, 2014 Sandy Wayne was given an award for Teaching Excellence. Mr. Bruce Hart from the Herbst Foundation presented Mrs. Wayne an award and a $5,000.00 check to honor her many years of service. The school also received a $5,000.00 check to be used for teacher professional development.

Mrs. Wayne spoke briefly about what makes a teacher effective. It comes down to six bullet points.

1. Every effective teacher has experienced a few failures in teaching, but she’s come back the next day and tries again.
2. Every effective teacher has had excellent role models.
3. Every effective teacher has enjoyed working with great students.
4. Every effective teacher has worked with an involved administration.
5. Every effective teacher has colleagues who offer continued support and guidance.
6. Every effective teacher has worked with supportive parents.

Mrs. Wayne says she is blessed to have experienced her six bullet points throughout her career.

Mr. Corum’s Opus
(Giving Mr. Holland a run for his money….a great movie by the way!)

For the last four years, Mr. Charles Corum has been sharing the gift of music with our Jr. High students. Charles originally joined our faculty as a music teacher and soon thereafter created a music program incorporating voice training, tympani, bells, electric guitar, drums and much more. Some of the events that Charles coordinates include the participation in the annual Choral Festival in March at Archbishop Riordan High School, Grandparents’ Day, the school’s Christmas show and Graduation. He also serves as the Parish Liturgical Music Director and has revitalized our monthly student liturgies. We are most blessed to have Charles join our faculty and share his time and talent with our students.
History and Philosophy

Saints Peter and Paul School (SSPP), located across from Washington Square Park in North Beach, has maintained a tradition of educational excellence in San Francisco since its inception in 1925. SSPP has been under the direction of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians since 1950. Our school adopts the educational system and philosophy of Saint John Bosco, the founder of the Salesian order. The system, characterized by warmth, optimism and joy is youth-oriented. Saint John Bosco based his educational system on the concepts of reason, religion, and loving kindness. SSPP strives to create a respectful rapport among faculty, staff, students and parents. Our educators seek to create a welcoming presence that attracts and interests students. Our true mission is, as Saint John Bosco said, “To Create Good Citizens of Earth and of Heaven.”

Mission Statement

Saints Peter and Paul 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.”

General Information

Saints Peter and Paul School has a Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade program. We have a faculty comprised of dedicated religious and lay individuals. Our faculty works closely with our school counselor and our resource teacher. We offer a strong academic program which emphasizes the core curriculum. We also incorporate technology, library, physical education, religious studies, art, music, and second language Spanish classes for Kindergarten to 8th grade.

Parent-Teacher Organization

We have an active Parent-Teacher Organization. Our parents are supportive and energetically work to offer financial support to our school through a variety of planned events. Our parent organization also facilitates school events which support community building among our families.

In Memorium

Ms. Bertha Bedoni

Saints Peter and Paul School has lost a beloved friend who selflessly volunteered her time to assist our students and faculty for over 20 years. Ms. B. was always a joyful presence on our campus and served as an excellent role model of service to our students. We thank her for remembering us in her generous bequest and feel very fortunate to have another “Salesian Angel” watching over us.

Like us on Facebook.

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Saints-Peter-and-Paul-Salesian-School/145577698834906
HIGHLIGHTS

• Kindergarten is a full day, developmentally appropriate class.
• We have para-professionals on staff to assist students.
• Junior High students experience departmental courses with educators who have specific expertise in their subject area. Our junior high students rotate from class to class which is excellent preparation for high school.
• A K - 8 Spanish program.
• All students have access to our computer lab/ mobile laptops.
• State-of-the-Art educational technology including SMARTBoards, iPads and document cameras available to students Pre-K to 8.
• A spacious, newly renovated library available for student use.
• Rhythm and Moves provides a physical education program for Pre-K to 8.
• A fully functional Science Lab is available for grades K to 8.
• Art in Action program for grades K to 5.
• A Visual Fine Arts program taught to our Junior High students in an up to date art studio.
• For more information regarding our Laura Vicuña Pre-K, contact Director, Barbara Simons, prek@sspeterpaulsf.org

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Saints Peter and Paul School provides extended care for grades K through 2 for a fee. Extended care allows students time to finish homework and to participate in organized activities in a well supervised environment. We also provide complimentary extended care thirty minutes before school begins.

The School also provides an opportunity for those students who wish to participate in Jazz Dance, Mandarin, and Academic Chess on a pay to participate basis.

SALESIAN BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ CLUB

SSPP is closely affiliated with the Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Club which facilitates CYO and other league sports, a theater arts program, Tae Kwon Do classes, guitar lessons and a four day/week tutoring program.

For more information, please visit: http://www.salesianclub.org

Saints Peter and Paul School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Western Catholic Educational Association.
Schoolwide Learning Expectations

Problem Solvers
- Are peacemakers.
- Work independently and collaboratively.
- Listen to the ideas of others respectfully.

Responsible Citizens
- Respect the environment and are stewards of the planet.
- Respect themselves and others displaying positive social behavior.
- Demonstrate leadership qualities.

Active Christians
- Pray and participate at Mass and in the sacraments.
- Have a moral conscience, are kind to others and make good choices.
- Live the Salesian family spirit.

Involved Individuals
- Make choices for a healthy mind, body and soul.
- Share their knowledge, gifts and talents.
- Act responsibly at home, school and in the community.

Successful Life Long Learners
- Communicate and think critically.
- Are organized and have good study skills.
- Are excited and motivated to learn.

Effective Communicators
- Listen carefully and read, write and speak clearly.
- Demonstrate good manners.
- Use technology responsibly and effectively.

Columbus Day Bazaar

Celebrating 95 years of Italian heritage and culture in North Beach, Saints Peter & Paul Salesian Church and School joined together with our friends and neighbors for our annual two day Bazaar on October 12 & 13, 2013. Though the Blue Angels were grounded, we celebrated in grand style and continued to enjoy the generous support of our school and church families.

We offer special thanks to the many folks who supported us this year: A16, Galliano, Torani, North Beach Restaurant, DBI Beverage, New Belgium Brewing, Southern Wine & Spirits, Jim Piccetti, Rye on the Road & the Boardroom. We are grateful for the many, many other businesses, organizations, & individuals who contributed gift certificates, time, and talent to our volunteer run event. Proceeds from the Bazaar benefit the Church, School and Laura Vicuna Pre-Kindergarten and our students appreciate the opportunity to see real community service in action.

As you know, the Bazaar is coming up sooner than you think. Please mark October 11 & 12, 2014, on your calendar and join us again. The Blue Angels return to the skies and we look forward to another joyous celebration of all things Italian. We are fast approaching our 100th Year - mark October 12 & 13, 2019 for our best celebration yet!
**Halloween**

Student’s loved dressing up for Halloween. Students paraded around Washington Square Park as parents, parishioners and neighbors cheered them on.

**Annual Geography Bee**

7th Grade teacher, Paul Riley and 4th Grade teacher, Sylvana Caccia posed the questions to our 10 contestants. Finishing in second place was Alexander Chauvel and finishing in first place was Bridget Eissler, both new students at SSPP this year.

**Academic Decathlon**

Meet SSPP’s 2013-2014 Academic Decathlon Team! Congratulations to 7th Grader, Eric Jung, who placed 1st in the Individual Math category. More than just memorizing facts and figures, the decathletes were exposed to new ideas and higher learning that will inspire them to discover and view the world around them in a new way.

**Walk-a-thon**

SSPP’s Annual Walk-a-thon was held at the Marina Green’s on October 4, 2013. For once, God blessed us with a beautiful sunny day. The students spent the day playing field games and having a picnic lunch. A great time was had by parents, teachers and students. Funds from this event were used for Technology at SSPP.

**Read Across America**

Betty Garthwaite, our Reading Resource Specialist launched Read Across America on Friday, February 28, 2014. Once the stories were read, guest readers and students celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday with cake.

**Academic Decathlon**

Meet SSPP’s 2013-2014 Academic Decathlon Team! Congratulations to 7th Grader, Eric Jung, who placed 1st in the Individual Math category. More than just memorizing facts and figures, the decathletes were exposed to new ideas and higher learning that will inspire them to discover and view the world around them in a new way.

**Fashion Show**

This year our annual faculty and staff sponsored fashion show took all on a “French Holiday”. The event was held on February 22, 2014 highlighting 48 SSPP student models and our very own Sr. Antonette. Abby Herget (Jr. High Fine Arts teacher) and Mary Birchler (K-5 Art In Action teacher) transformed our gymnasium into Avenue Anatole France. Our guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by our own Chef Paul Riley (7th grade Homeroom teacher). Faculty and staff wish to thank all the spouses for their continued support.
Our Jr. High students volunteered at the San Francisco Food bank on February 5, 2014 as part of our community service program. Here are some of their reflections:

“Now I am so mindful of reducing the amount of food I throw away. I understand how my choices and habits can affect others and the environment.” – Charlotte Reid

“When I got on the bus, I had a sense of joy because I helped people who are less fortunate than I am.” – Steven Tom

“Going to the Food Bank also made me appreciate the hard work that my parents do to keep my household running.” – Elisa Caccia

“After visiting the Food Bank, I realize that I shouldn’t take things for granted and I should appreciate what I have.” – Emily Yu

“After helping at the poor, I am actually getting closer to God.” – Justin Wong

YMI Essay Contest

Kelly Chan, Grade 7 (above) and Olivia Hellman, Grade 6, placed 7th and 5th in the annual Young Men’s Institute Essay contest. They were recognized at a banquet on March 22nd in SSPP Gymnasium.

SSPP Spelling Bee

This year’s winner of the annual SSPP Spelling Bee was Eric Jung, Grade 7 (pictured on the right). Steven Tom, Grade 7 came in 2nd place.

SF Opera Guild

Saints Peter and Paul School was fortunate again this year to be chosen by the San Francisco Opera Guild for their on-site performance of The Barber of Seville with our 8th grade students and Books to Bravo with our 5th grade students. Our Kindergarten through 3rd grade classes once again participated in a workshop with San Francisco Opera professionals in the Sing a Story Program. These programs expose and enrich of students to the Arts.

United in Dance

On May 10, 2014, our dancers were showcased in SSPP’s 14th Annual Dance Show. This year’s theme was “United in Dance.” The intention of this year’s theme was to celebrate dance, to revel in the universality of this art form, to cross all cultural and ethnic barriers, and to bring people together with a common language – DANCE. One hundred dancers from Pre-K to grade 8 and our alumni dazzled the audience with dances from around the world.

Alumni Corner

Announcing future site of Alumni Corner. We would love to hear from you. Share accomplishments and events in your life. Please send your news to lharris@sspeterpaulsf.org.
The Laura Vicuña Pre-K continues its mission of preparing four and five year olds for the kindergarten of Saints Peter and Paul School. Now in its twenty-seventh year, the Pre-K is delighted to be welcoming the children of former LV Pre-K students. (see photo above).

We have added a popular new hands-on activity to our science curriculum. Each week the class, guided by Ms. Tiches, visits our own garden plot located above the Broadway tunnel where we plant and grow flowers and vegetables. While tending to their garden and caring for living things the children learn responsibility, cooperation and reasoning. In addition, some children discover that food does not originate in grocery stores and restaurants!

Applications for the 2014-2015 school year are available by telephone (415-296-8549) or email (prek@sspeterpaulsf.org). More information can be found on our website www.sspeterpaulsf.org/prek/.

We are delighted to share with you the schools to which our remarkable students have been accepted.

High school recruiting has become a very competitive process. There are many factors that go into the final decisions at the high schools. The list below are the schools where our students were accepted.

ARCHBISHOP RIORDAN HIGH SCHOOL
CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL (SANTA ROSA, CA)
CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIPERRO-SERRA HIGH SCHOOL (SAN MATEO)
JUSTIN-SIENNA HIGH SCHOOL (NAPA, CA)
LICK-WILMERDING HIGH SCHOOL
LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL
MERCY HIGH SCHOOL
SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PREPARATORARY
SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREPARATORARY
SAN FRANCISCO UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS (SOTA)
STUART HALL HIGH SCHOOL
A WIDE VARIETY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE BAY AREA

The Art Program at SSPP held its annual Sunrise Art Show on May 22, 2014, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the school Cafeteria-turned-art-gallery. This year the school was especially excited to display the work of the K-5 students who benefited from the Art in Action program taught by Ms. Mary Birchler. This was the first year that all the lower grades participated in the art program and the results were stellar. The Jr. High also displayed the creations, and student docents offered project background to show attendees.

The K-5 artists and Ms. Mary Birchler were delighted to debut an overview of projects from the new Art in Action Program. The lessons, based on the great masters, teach Art appreciation, art history, and art techniques, including the vocabulary of art, the history and stylistic artists and the necessary skills to create art. Each grade focused on a specific theme. For example, Kindergarten’s theme was “Art Around the World.”

The Jr. High and Ms. Abby Herget showed off some fun projects this year. The Jr. High art curriculum continued to draw content from Social Studies topics. Jr. High students narrated each display and provided a piano accompaniment to the morning’s visual celebration.

On April 5th, Saints Peter and Paul enjoyed their “City by the Bay” at the Holiday Inn Fisherman’s Wharf. A night of great company, great food, great music and a great time was had by all.
## SAINTS PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
2012 - 2013 (FISCAL YEAR END - JUNE 30, 2013)

### Income
- School Tuition: 66.97%
- Fees: 8.21%
- Tuition Assistance: 6.81%
- Development/ Fundraisers: 6.49%
- Donations & Grants: 5.37%
- Non Operating Income: 4.51%
- Other Operating Income: 1.64%

**Total Income**: $2,225,077

### Expenses
- Personnel Cost - School: 63.40%
- Employee Benefits: 14.24%
- Education Expenses: 7.14%
- Other Operating Expenses: 5.68%
- Payroll Taxes Employer: 4.80%
- Property Cost: 3.44%
- General and Administrative: 0.60%
- Utilities: 0.43%
- Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment: 0.27%

**Total Expenses**: $2,035,882

**Net Income**: $189,195

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### Beacon of Hope Donors

**Salesian Family Circle**
- Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Biagini
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chu
- Mr. & Mrs. Albert Deluca
- Mazzaferri and Fosse Families
- Ms. Marie Harrington
- Mr. & Mrs. Kelvin Ko
- Ray and Mark Piva
- Ms. Janna Scopel
- Mr. Charles Versaggi

**Salesian Spirit Circle**
- Roland and Jason Kong
- Ms. Sabri Rizkalla
Saints Peter and Paul School began serving the North Beach community in 1925. Today, we serve students from over forty-two zip codes in San Francisco and the greater Bay Area. The Superintendent of the Department of Catholic Schools recently referred to our school as “a gem in the crown of the San Francisco Archdiocesan Schools.” We are proud of our academic excellence and the success of our students as they move through their academic journey. Our Mission and Philosophy reaches far beyond academics. We endeavor to create students who are Problem Solvers, Responsible Citizens, Active Christians, Involved Individuals, Successful Life Long Learners and Effective Communicators.

In order to meet our Mission and Philosophy, we make every effort to keep the cost of our tuition affordable for any family who wishes to provide their child with a Catholic education. We provide a well rounded academic and co-curricular program as we believe in addressing the needs of the whole child. Through your generosity and the efforts of our parent fundraising organization, we are able to bridge the gap between the tuition and the actual per pupil cost. In these difficult economic times, it is you who we turn to for continued financial support. Your donation will allow us to provide scholarship assistance for families in need and to continue to support the many programs that we are so fortunate to offer.

Saints Peter and Paul School has evolved over the years. Those of you who have not visited us in decades are always welcome to take a tour of our school and hear about all of our new programs and technology. You will be impressed to know that we now have a dedicated Science Lab, a Fine Arts Studio, a Computer Lab, a mobile Technology unit, and iPads, as well as Smartboards located throughout our building. We have embraced the future while preserving our traditional past. Help us launch our Beacon of Hope Annual Giving Campaign.

**Beacon of Hope Giving Levels**

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