Principal’s Message

Saints Peter and Paul School has just completed a “Highly Effective” year. The 2015-2016 academic school year was spent educating our youth and working as a Salesian community to accomplish a wide variety of projects. Every six years, the schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco undergo an evaluation sponsored by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges/Western Catholic Educational Association (WASC/WCEA) and this year our ticket was drawn.

The Salesian community spent a year preparing for this visit and on March 8 – 10, 2016, our school hosted the visiting team. We are proud to announce that the Report of Findings from the visiting committee were stellar citing twenty-six areas in which our school was highly effective. Both our visiting team and our Superintendent gave our school high praise.

In addition to our traditional academic programs, we were fortunate to add Coding and Robotics classes to our school day. Through the generosity of a grant, we have brought Italian language classes back to Saints Peter and Paul students. As you can see, our students are participating in a very rich academic and co-curricular program.

As we head toward summer, we pray for our families to be safe and to enjoy quality time with each other. We know that rest and relaxation will help us to be prepared for our 2016–2017 school year where you can be assured there will be many new and exciting projects for our community.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Saints Peter and Paul School, I wish to thank you for your support and the confidence you have in our community of educators. It is our privilege to work with you and your children.

Dr. Harris
Principal

Pastor’s Message

In 2016, we celebrate with Pope Francis the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The word “jubilee” comes from a Hebrew word for the horn of a ram. The horn of a ram was used to make a trumpet, and trumpets were used to celebrate feasts or announce the coming of an important person. So, a jubilee celebrates an event, a year-long prayer, or a year-long activity. The Jubilee Year of Mercy is truly an “activity.” It means we are all called to practice works of mercy.

Here are the seven corporal (human) works of mercy: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to care for the sick, to visit the imprisoned and to bury the dead.

Here are the spiritual (godly) works of mercy: to convert sinners, to instruct the ignorant, to advise the doubtful, to comfort the sorrowful, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive injuries, and to pray for the living and the dead.

Both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are easily done just by being attentive to the needs of others. Do not look too far from home, church, and school to find ways of celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Fr. John Itzaina, SDB
Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish
Salesian Spotlight
Betty Garthwaite

Meet Betty Garthwaite who has worn many hats during her 22 years at SSPP. A Mercy High School and UC Berkeley graduate, she started here as a 1st grade teacher, and then moved up to 5th grade after several years.

She currently is the Reading Resource Specialist, coordinates the Read Across America Event, and heads the Student Success Team. She enjoys spending time with her husband, David, and her three beautiful daughters.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary
Sr. Debbie Walker, F.M.A.

We would like to congratulate Sr. Debbie Walker on her Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Religious Profession. Sr. Debbie has spent these years as a dedicated Salesian Sister and faithful Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. It was so appropriate for the school community and parish to celebrate her Religious Anniversary on May 20th, the day of the student body’s May Crowning of Mary Help of Christians.

Sr. Debbie has been at Sts. Peter and Paul School for these past six years. She has faithfully dedicated her services to the school as Assistant-Principal, member of the Leadership Team, Moderator of the Student Council and SSL, Religion coordinator, and English and Italian teacher. Each day Sr. Debbie leads the Good Morning in the spirit of Don Bosco’s Educational System. She paraphrases the Gospel message and shares her story telling talents with all present. Sr. Debbie began a faith formation program “Focus on Faith” for parents interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

Sr. Debbie is loved and will be deeply missed by the school and parish communities.

We thank Sr. Debbie for her many years of Salesian service at Sts. Peter and Paul School. We accompany Sr. Debbie with our prayers and wish her many blessings on her future Salesian Mission.
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
SSPP 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
SSPP 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, physical education, religious studies, art, music, and second language Spanish and Italian 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.

Randal DeMartini
SALESIAN BOYS’ & GIRLS’ CLUB
Executive Director

My name is Randal DeMartini, the “newly” hired Executive Director of the Salesian Boys’ & Girls’ Club. I have been a Salesian for nearly my entire life. I attended Saints Peter & Paul Grammar School and frequented the Salesian Boys’ Club on a daily basis from age six to eighteen. After my great education at Saints Peter and Paul School, I moved onto Sacred Heart High School. After graduating I wanted to become an aspiring young actor on Broadway, but my acting career was detoured because I was offered a job as an Assistant Director at the Club. Accepting the role at the age of eighteen, I’ve had the joy and privilege of working with many great men and women who were my mentors as a youth, many fabulous and loving Salesian priests, sisters and brothers, and, of course, so many wonderful children. Being raised Salesian, I just wanted to give back to the youth of the city by teaching and guiding them during their childhoods the same way I was raised. It was the greatest decision a young man could ever make. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people throughout my career.

Now, since my greatest mentor, Russ Gumina, has retired as only the third Executive Director in the Club’s nearly one hundred year existence, I have been elected to succeed him. Though I know I have great shoes to fill, I welcome the challenge with open arms. Even though my role has changed from working with the youth to the fundraising endeavors and making sure the club continues to succeed, I still enjoy my job tremendously. I have been one blessed individual who has and continues to enjoy working with this great organization for over the past thirty-seven years. To state it plainly, “God Bless the Salesians,” and all the many wonderful people I have encountered throughout my childhood and adulthood. I am so honored to be a “true” Salesian who continues to spread the love and care for any youth I have the joy of encountering.
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.
- K-8 Spanish and Italian language programs.
- 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 Learning Center
- 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
- Coding K-4, Robotics Grades 5-8
- For more information regarding our Laura Vicuña Pre-K, contact Director, Barbara Simons, at: 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, Bytes to Bits Coding, and Academic Chess on a pay to participate basis.

Staying in Touch


Please join us for a class reunion on

Saturday, September 10, 2016

in the school auditorium. Bring your families, bring your spirit, share your memories. See the school and how it’s changed over the years. If you would like to participate in organizing, please let us know: alum@salesiansspp.org

Thomas Boles ’91 and Patrick Gee ’86

Congratulations to Randy DeMartini on his new role as the Executive Director of the Saleisan Boys’ and Girls’ Club.

Frank Lavin ’77

Congratulations to Alvin Antonio Yu ’07 who is studying at St. Patrick’s Seminary and was recently ordained a deacon.

Edgar Yu ’09

Do you have a life event to share: graduation, wedding, baptism? Have you moved and want to stay in touch with your classmates? Post it in the Beacon.

Hundreds of past pupils stay in touch!

Contact us: alum@salesiansspp.org
Robotics

This year, Saints Peter and Paul School introduced Robotics for grades fifth through eighth. This math, science, and technology heavy course proved challenging for many, with all of its unfamiliar concepts. As our first year of Robotics wrapped up, the vast majority of students demonstrated either a knack for the technology or a willingness to learn more.

Students were introduced to the quite powerful — but easy to learn — LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 and its array of sensors and motors. During the first part of the year, students learned how to write programs that make the robot move in a precise manner solely by using math concepts (no sensors). Robots were required to trace out geometric shapes of a specific size by incorporating angles and side lengths into each program. During this exercise, students were taught how a successful team of three or four might divide tasks to be the most productive. Similarly, students learned the fundamental process for solving a programming challenge: identifying the goal, setting team member roles, diagramming and writing pseudocode using natural language to plan the robot’s intended actions, writing the program, and finally, testing the robot. Heavy emphasis was placed on logical thinking and how it applies to optimal program design.

Throughout the year, targeted activities were assigned to allow students to become more familiar with the various programming blocks through trial and error, as well as to provide students with a deeper understanding of the Touch Sensor, Gyro Sensor, and Ultrasonic Sensor, and how each may be useful in a program.

During the fourth quarter of the 2015-2016 school year, students diligently worked to solve a handful of programming challenges. Examples included programming a robot to touch all four walls of a box, or making laps around a box and stopping if an obstacle was placed in the robot’s path. While attempting these challenges, teams were expected to follow the same program design process introduced earlier in the year, and to use their combined ingenuity to persevere. Accordingly, after a brief hiatus, logic exercises made a resurgence in an effort to train students’ brains to reason thoroughly, and to think about how seemingly-disparate elements might actually be related.

Although this course has been quite a brief overview of the wide-ranging field of Robotics, I truly believe that the students have gained beneficial problem-solving skills, experienced working productively in a group setting, and are becoming aware of the awe-inspiring potential of technology.

Jeremy Nelson
Robotics Teacher
Saints Peter and Paul School
jnelson@sspeterpaulsf.org

Coding Class

Coding is uncharted territory in schools; however, SSPP decided to dive in headfirst this year offering this new program for grades Kindergarten through grade four! I was excited to take on this new adventure.

Coding uses skills that our students will need in the future. This class allowed me to not only provide students with computer science experience, but also teach them important skills: critical thinking, logic, persistence, and creativity. Kindergarten students used algorithms (sets of instructions) to move characters through mazes, while fourth graders were using algorithms to create their own games. Check out the SSPP Facebook page for some of their games!

This year has been an incredible journey and learning experience for the students and me. Watch out! Next year we are planning to add more hands-on and project-based experiences for our coders.

Ashley Wiggins
Coding Teacher
Italian classes are now part of the SSPP curriculum!

The 2015-2016 school year saw the introduction of Italian language classes. Thanks to a generous grant from the Italian Athletic Club, Saints Peter and Paul now offers Italian classes once a week to the entire student body. Faculty members at the school have taken on the task of teaching Italian. Sr. Debbie Walker teaches Italian to grades Pre-K, Kindergarten and first. Mrs. Sylvana Caccia teaches Italian to grades second through fifth and Mr. Paul Riley covers the junior high. Mr. Riley says: "Italian is a good language to learn for developing the English vocabulary. It's the closest language to the original Latin that still exists and so the vocabulary that you can learn by studying Italian is very useful for students getting ready for high school." The student body seems genuinely excited about the new addition to the curriculum.

SSPP Students Visit Pope Francis

Katrina De Mesa and Dino Ortega (Class of '17) who are members of the San Francisco Archdiocesan Children's Choir, were invited to travel to Rome to perform in concert for Pope Francis. They flew from San Francisco on New Year's Eve, December 31st, for a week's stay in Rome. They joined several other choirs from different parts of the United States, performing together at the Pope's special Mass and were blessed by the Pope. While in Rome, they performed a daily concert. During their free time, they were able to sight see and hope this becomes an annual event.

The Laura Vicuña Pre-Kindergarten

The Laura Vicuna Pre-K is in its twenty-ninth year as a stepping-stone to the elementary years at Saints Peter and Paul School. We have twenty-five bright and enthusiastic students and the wonderful teaching team of Diana Phung, Frances Emmons, Abby Herget, Natalia Tiches and Cindy Choi. We are fortunate to have alumni Jessyca and Jordan Ng to care for our students needing after school care.

The Pre-K (in conjunction with SSPP School) was included in the WCEA/WASC evaluation and received a stellar review. The lead evaluator from Portland, Oregon commented that her school is working to open a Pre-K and "would like it to be just like The LV Pre-K!"

Along with SSPP School, we added Italian to our curriculum. The children love to do their daily calendar in Italiano and sang Twinkle, Twinkle in Italian for Grandparents’ Day. Grazie, Professoressa Sister Debbie Walker!

We invested in new outdoor play equipment this year called Imagination Playground or The Big Blue Blocks. It has been a great success with the children as it encourages unstructured, child-directed free play that is essential to a child’s overall development. We do know that the children love them!

As with all fundraising events, The Pre-K participated in Dancing with The Stars. One of the dance teams consisted of yours truly and the talented Ramon San Gabriel (church accountant). We are very grateful to our families for helping our dance team raise over $5,000! Go team Pre-K!

Applications for the 2016-2017 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/.

Barbara Simons
Director
Dancing with the Stars

Back by popular demand, “Dancing with the Stars” returned to Saints Peter and Paul School. Six couples, again this year, lit up the stage with their fancy footwork and amazing routines. Sandy Wayne (SSPP 6th grade homeroom), Dana Wayne (SSPP 8th grade homeroom) and Claudia Fernando (SSPP Marketing and Development) coordinated the event and parents and faculty members served as managers and choreographers. Kudos to our teams:

Randy Demartini (Executive Director SBGC) and his partner Ashley Wiggins (SSPP 2nd grade teacher), choreographer, Dana Wayne and managed by Sandy Wayne and Claudia Fernando.

Ramon San Gabriel (SSPP Parish Accountant) and Barbara Simons (Pre-K Director) choreographer, Lisa Harris (SSPP Principal) and managed by Jamie Tolls (Lily – Pre-K).

Roberto Balistreri (Alumnus) and his wife Shirleen (Nino – Gr. 7 and Marco – Gr. 3), choreographer Jasmin Cuneo (Alumna & SSPP 1st grade homeroom) and managed by Gregg & Julie Franceschi (Mia – Gr. 5 and Megan – K).

Jim Tsianis and his wife Anna (Grace – Gr. 6, Theo – Gr. 1 and Charlie – K), choreographer Rosa Munoz (Roy – Gr. 1 and Elly – Pre-K) and managed by Mary Kate Del Campo (A.J. – Gr. 1).

Eric Lepetit and his wife Catherine (Matt – Gr. 3 and Timothé – Gr. 1), choreographer Ashlynn Kalahele (Kamea – Gr. 3) and managed by Samantha Gill (Joshua – Gr. 7 and Sydney – Gr. 3).

Michael Aicardi (Alumnus) and his partner Katie Failinger, choreographed by Brandi Allan (Alumna) and managed by Scott Streeter (Alumnus).

A big thank you to Tatjana Reich (Pascal – Gr. 6) Cynthia Briem (Massimo – K), and Michael Terrigno (Gianluca-Gr.8 and Isabella - Gr.6) for coordinating all the items for the live and silent auction, Bill & Cheri Gotch (Samantha – Gr. 6, Aidan – Gr. 5, Andrew – Gr. 3 and Patrick – Gr. 1) the auctioneers and to Rina Yates (Chloe – Gr. 3) for heading up the decoration and check-in committees.

The generous contributions to this fundraiser will ensure the continuation of programs such as Robotics, Coding, and Art in Action. It was more than a fundraiser...it was a “fun night had by all.”
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
Bay School of San Francisco
British International School (Chicago)
Convent of the Sacred Heart High School
Drew School
Immaculate Conception Academy
Lick-Wilmerding High School
Lowell High School
Mercy High School
Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory
Saint Ignatius College Preparatory
San Francisco University High School
Stuart Hall High School
The Urban School of San Francisco
A wide variety of public schools in the Bay Area

Congratulations!
Class of 2016
Saints Peter and Paul School Financial Statement
2014 - 2015 (Fiscal Year End - June 30, 2015)

Income
School Tuition 66.23%
Development/ Fundraisers 8.81%
Donations & Grants 8.40%
Fees 7.59%
Tuition Assistance 5.90%
Operating Income 1.60%
Non Operating Income 1.47%

Expenses
Personnel Cost - School 62.77%
Employee Benefits 12.40%
School Instructional Expenses 6.36%
Other Operating Expenses 6.16%
Payroll Taxes Employer 4.88%
General and Administrative 3.08%
Property Costs 2.91%
Utilities 0.52%
Student Activities and Services 0.38%
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment 0.34%
Transportation and Travel 0.19%

Total Income $ 2,210,597
Total Expenses $ 2,176,533
Net Income $ 34,064

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
Beacon of Hope 
Annual Giving Campaign

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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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>$1 - $499</td>
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<td>$10,000 and above</td>
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SSPP Kindergarten Graduates 2016