Principal’s Message

As Salesians, we gather as a community each morning and we begin the day with prayer, a salute to the flag, a pledge for peace, and a brief inspirational lesson. We try to practice our techniques from our Mindfulness Program and we do a bit of mindful breathing. At times we do this without really thinking about our actions and why we are gathered; however, we follow through with the morning ritual and then we march up to our classrooms.

As we head off to our summer adventures, we should think about how we want to prepare for each day that lies before us. Our morning ritual is a way of putting us on the correct path for the day that lies ahead. It is our hope and our intention that we are teaching you to be grateful for our many blessings and to offer prayers for those in need. We also hope that we are drawing your attention to our country and the many privileges that come with being citizens of the United States of America.

Finally, our call to mindfulness is practiced because we want you to be calm, focused and ready to work on the challenges that will come. We are helping you to begin a life long practice of gratitude and so as we all head off to summer let us take a few moments each day to think about what is truly important. May your summer days be filled with adventures, family time and a bit of rest.

When you return to school, you will be a bit older, a bit wiser and I am certain that you will have some great stories to tell. Remember to help your moms and dads because they work really hard on your behalf. I look forward to seeing you all back at school. Happy Summer!

Dr. Harris
Principal
Saints Peter and Paul School

Pastor’s Message to the Class of 2017

My message to the 2017 Graduates of Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School is to be real. You know that with Fake News and such, it’s hard to know what is “really real.”

You have the responsibility through critical thinking skills and extreme honesty to find out who you really are and what potential you must have to be successful and productive in your lives. This takes brutal assessment about yourselves as Catholics, Christians, or Seekers of the Truth.

Everything is not relative; truth is not what you decide it to be. Yet that is what some believe in making their own reality without any common sense or without any understanding of the common good.

St. John Bosco talked about his system of education as based on REASON, RELIGION, and LOVING KINDNESS. This has been the very basis of your education here at SSPP. Your education is based on a realistic, reasoned, and practical view of life, directed by a recognition of God, truth, beauty, and goodness, and solidly built on loving and caring relationships.

There’s nothing fake about you if you strive to be the best version of yourself and cherish the Truth. Hold fast to the skills, knowledge, and virtues you have acquired in school. Above all, be grateful to God, teachers, parents, and friends who have guided you along the way.

Fr. John Itzaina, SDB
Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish
Louisa Tang-Toy is a treasure to Saints Peter and Paul School. She is the heart of our community and she is a Salesian through and through. Our children are very lucky to have Mrs. Toy as an example of someone who treats everyone with compassion and respect. Over the years, I have had the honor of sharing the responsibility of taking care of Saints Peter and Paul School with Mrs. Toy. She is one of those people who is always ready to address the next challenge with optimism and determination.

Here are some of the qualities that make Mrs. Toy so special to all of us:

**Her warm smile**
**Her kind and generous heart**
**Her absolutely remarkable memory**
**Her amazing work ethic**
**Her sense of humor**
**Her dedication to the safety and well being of our school children**
**Her professionalism in all areas of her job**
**Her wisdom**
**Her flexibility**
**Her boundless energy that takes her up and down the stairs a hundred times a day**

I could truly go on and on........

Mrs. Toy, thank you for your thirty-five years of service. You are a pillar of our community and someone I am privileged to call my dear friend.

Happy Summer!!!!!!

With Warmest Wishes,
Your School Family

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Sr. Kathleen Gibson, F.M.A. | Celebrating 60th Jubilee Year

Sr. Kathleen Gibson, FMA, the oldest of four children, and the only girl in her family, attended St. Paul Grammar School and St. Paul High School and entered the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in North Haledon, New Jersey, on the feast of St. John Bosco, January 31, 1954.

Sister’s first teaching assignment was at Saints Peter and Paul School in San Francisco, and from there went on to teach at several schools in California. Sister returned to San Francisco and is now, once again, on the staff at Saints Peter and Paul School working on Marketing and Development.

While teaching, Sister studied at Lone Mountain, graduating with a BA in History and English, and from USF with a Master’s Degree in Educational Administration. Sister also has two lifetime California Teaching credentials.

Sister has served as Principal, Vice-Principal, Assistant Vice Principal, Parish DRE, Religious Ed Coordinator and in other various roles of service, and in her religious community was a Superior, Vicar and Bursar.

**Congratulations Sr. Kathleen!!!!**
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.

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

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, Bytes to Bits Coding, and Academic Chess on a pay to participate basis.
Saints Peter and Paul School is fortunate to have a devoted and consistent faculty. It is rare for us to have teacher turn over and when we do, it is hard for us to let our colleagues go. This year we are sad to say farewell to Erin Levy. Erin has been with us for six years serving as our fifth grade teacher. She grew up in South Carolina and attended USF graduate school. Erin became part of our community immediately and she brought many gifts and talents to the table. Erin, her husband and her daughter will be moving back to South Carolina this summer. While I am very sad to see her go, I am very happy for Mrs. Levy’s parents as they will now be a short car ride from the Levy’s. Our motto is “Once a Salesian always a Salesian” and Erin Levy will always be one of us!

As Mrs. Levy prepares to head to North Carolina, we have been focusing on finding a fifth grade teacher for the upcoming school year. We are very fortunate to be welcoming Mrs. Julie Franceschi to our fifth grade classroom. Mrs. Franceschi is a seventeen-year veteran in education and has excellent credentials. Julie is a committed member of our Salesian Community and both of her lovely daughters are students at our school. We are most fortunate to have found such an excellent fit for our school.
The Laura Vicuña Pre-Kindergarten

We are delighted to announce that after twenty-nine years of successfully preparing four and five year olds for enrollment in Saints Peter and Paul School, The Laura Vicuna Pre-K has expanded! We are now welcoming three year olds into our program.

We received our state license in December, 2016, and opened with six three year olds in January. We have increased our enrollment to nine students and are close to full enrollment for Fall 2017, with both full and part-time options available. We were fortunate to acquire the space previously occupied by The Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Club at the back of the school gymnasium.

We are blessed to have Pre-K and SSPP alumnus Jessyca Ng as our lead teacher for the Pre-K 3’s class. She has done an outstanding job preparing them for our Pre-K 4’s class in September, as most of them have enrolled for a second year with us.

We have had another successful year in Pre-K thanks to our dedicated staff including our wonderful lead teacher Diana Phung, Abby Herget, Frances Emmons, Natalia Tiches and Cindy Choi. Next year we welcome Nelsy Lucia Rojas and Shirleeen Balistreri to our Pre-Kinder programs.

We are looking forward to our 2017-2018 school year when we will be commemorating 30 years of The Laura Vicuna Pre-K! We hope you will join us for a fabulous evening on December 1st when we celebrate this wonderful milestone!

For more information regarding our program, please call (415-296-8549), visit our new website at www.sspeterpaulsf.org/prek/ or just stop by The Pre-K.
Opera – Daughter of the Regiment

In November, the San Francisco Opera Guild teaching artists returned to SSPP to perform with ten of our 8th grade students in the “Daughter of the Regiment.” Since this is such a popular event, the teaching artists were invited back in March to participate in our fundraiser, “A Night at the Theater” which also included songs from K-5 classes and concluded with the annual 8th grade Spring Play.

Faculty Bingo Luncheon

In February, the SSPP faculty and staff hosted our 2nd annual Bingo Luncheon. This year’s theme was the Lunar New Year. Lunch was provided by SSPP’s own chef, Mr. Paul Riley, who prepared a wonderful Asian themed lunch. Entertainment was provided by our Pre-K dragon as well as the professional Ho Wah Lion Dance Troupe. Phil Campbell, an 8th grade parent, was kind enough to call the bingo numbers for us. A great time was had by all.

Dance Show – D.A.R.E (Dream, Aspire, Reach, Empower)

In May, SSPP held its 17th annual Dance Show. Eighty of our students from Pre-K to Grade 8 dared to D.A.R.E. (21st century acronym for Dream, Aspire, Reach, Empower). The creativity and ingenuity of the dance instructors and student performers demonstrate the concepts and values of our Salesian Family which come alive through dance.
National Geography Bee at SSPP

On January 9, 2017, 10 students from grades 4-8 competed in the National Geography Bee to find a school finalist who would then have a chance to compete at the state level. The 10 representatives were selected in their homeroom and had to answer 7 rounds of geography questions about the United States and the world. The top 2 students from grades 4-8 were selected. On January 9, after many rounds of questions, the school winner was Oskar Ovalle. Oskar then took an online test that was submitted to the National Geography Bee for a chance to compete at the state level. SSPP was fortunate to have 5 professionals from our school community to judge our students’ work. Bruce Thorpe (Global Leader - Critical Environments & Energy Systems at Nvidia Corp. and father to Tyler, grade 5), Dr. Alexander Schuth (COO at Denali Therapeutics and father to Elisabeth, grade 7, Charlotte, Grade 5, and Otto, Grade 3), Gaurav Bhatnagar (Sr. Sales Director, West Coast for Conversant, a company specializing in personalized digital marketing and father to Nandika, Grade 4), Jeremy Nelson (Former NASA Engineer and now the Robotics teacher at SSPP), and Sherri Hughston (former high school science teacher and now one of the assistant directors at the Salesian Boys and Girls Club).

6th grade winners included Francesca Dean (1st), Dillon Kerr (2nd), and Giovanna Basile (3rd). 7th grade winners were Elisabeth Schuth (1st), Chloe Boynton (2nd), and Avalon Marandas (3rd). The 8th grade was represented by Zachary Gunter (1st), Matthew Hernandez (2nd), and Dino Ortega (3rd). All our winners went on to participate in the Randall Museum Science Fair in which they competed with public and private school students across all of San Francisco. 6th grader, Avalon Marandas placed 3rd overall in Life Sciences. 8th graders, Zachary Gunter and Matthew Hernandez received Honorable Mentions in the Physics category. The Randall Museum Science Fair was on February 25th at the San Francisco Zoo.

The SSPP Science Fair took place on Friday, January 20, 2017. Our 93 projects were viewed by Grades Pre-K to 4th, parents, and friends. From testing lead content in soil found around San Francisco to challenging the five-second rule to testing if payload size would affect efficiency and trajectory, the students truly ACHIEVED, AMAZED, and ASTOUNDED!

Science Fair 2017

The Junior High Science Fair is a much-anticipated event at Sts. Peter and Paul School. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 research, experiment, and present their findings in Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science (including Chemistry and Physics) beginning at the end of October. Our young scientists were tasked to think about and research a topic in their respective disciplines and ask themselves: “How would experimentation in this topic impact me, my community, and on a more global level, the real world?”

Once the topic is finalized, it is submitted, along with the justification, to be approved. The students worked on projects at home and parents were encouraged to participate by engaging in conversation with the student about their projects. In addition to experimentation, students prepared a display board used on the day of the fair as well as an electronic presentation for their classmates.

Spring Gala

The Saints Peter and Paul Spring Gala was held on Saturday April 8th at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn. This year’s theme “A Night In Venice Masquerade Ball” transformed the ballroom into a evening of Italian singers, Champagne cocktail reception, wonderful wine & dinner and dancing. The Live Auction, with generous donations of Tahoe Cabins, Google Campus Tour, and Original Joe’s Dinner-Wine pairing among other Live items, raised over $13,000. Coupled with the Live evening, the Online Fundraiser through Bidding for Good had over 200 amazing auction items including Christmas Show seats, creative Group / Buy In events from School Parents. As a result, the school community raised over $28,000 from the Online Auction.
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
Convent of the Sacred Heart High School
Drew School
Immaculate Conception Academy
Lick-Wilmerding High School
Lowell High School
Mercy High School
Notre Dame High School—Belmont
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 2017
Saints Peter and Paul School Financial Statement
2015 - 2016 (Fiscal Year End - June 30, 2016)

**Income**
- School Tuition: 72.45%
- Development / Fundraisers: 7.93%
- Fees: 7.72%
- Tuition Assistance: 5.11%
- Donations & Grants: 4.73%
- Operating Income: 1.38%
- Non Operating Income: 0.69%

**Expenses**
- Personnel Cost - School: 62.58%
- Payroll Taxes Employer: 5.00%
- Property Costs: 3.22%
- Seismic - Evaluation / Repairs: 0.86%
- Student Activities and Services: 0.70%
- Utilities: 0.66%
- Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment: 0.52%

Total Income $ 2,098,566
Total Expenses $ 2,185,270
Net Income / Loss $ -86,704

**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
Farewell Fr. John

The time has come for the Saints Peter and Paul Parish and School community to bid farewell to our dear Pastor, Fr. John Itzaina. Father has spent the last ten years with us as our spiritual leader. He is off to a well-deserved sabbatical.

On behalf of the parishioners, students, faculty and club members we send him well deserved blessings. He will be missed by all.

Congratulations Fr. Alvin

It is with great pride and joy that we congratulate alumnus Alvin Yu, Class of 2003, on his ordination as an Archdiocesan priest. Our community had the honor of attending his first liturgy, the Mass of Thanksgiving at Saints Peter and Paul Church, which was followed by a reception attended by family, friends, parishioners, former teachers and priests. Fr. Alvin will reside at St. Matthew’s parish in San Mateo.