**Principal’s Message**

**Dear Graduating Class of 2018,**

I can say with much certainty that you are all very bright students. Your class is gifted with excellent academic skills and many special talents. With great gifts comes great responsibilities. With your intellectual strength you are called to take on leadership roles in our community. You will be our future doctors, politicians, nurses, lawyers, business men and women, educators, police officers, firefighters, artists, musicians, philosophers and scientists.

With your God given abilities the sky is the limit. My prayer for each of you is that you will choose to make the world a better place. Choose kindness over cruelty, choose peace over unrest, choose honesty and integrity over hypocrisy, and choose the best version of yourselves that you can be!

Your Saints Peter and Paul School Family is excited to see what you will do with all of the amazing potential you have. We will all be waiting and watching to see you launch into action.

Best of Luck to the Class of 2018!

**Dr. Harris**
Principal
Saints Peter and Paul School

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**Christmas Show**

**By Shirley Ordoña**

Saints Peter and Paul School put on a beautiful play, “Believe,” to get us all into the Christmas spirit on the evening of December 14th. The 8th graders were the actors and each class sang a song. The evening ended with the Holy Family and the Wise Men visiting us. What a festive way to begin the holiday season and remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

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**Christmas Toy Drive**

**By Claudia Fernando**

Saints Peter and Paul School students collected toys for the children at Family House a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization that provides temporary housing to families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital.

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Saints Peter and Paul School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights and privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or any other school related policies or programs.

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Saints Peter and Paul School
Dylan’s Lemonade Stand

On May 31, 2018, it was a pleasure for Saints Peter and Paul School to co-host Dylan’s Lemonade Stand with the Leeder family. Dylan Leeder is a 3rd grade student at SSPP who was diagnosed with Leukemia in March 2018. The Leeder family is committed to fighting childhood cancer and they proposed this event using the non-profit organization Alex’s Lemonade Stand. Dylan is currently undergoing chemotherapy and is in remission today. He will continue with a chemo protocol for another six months. Dylan will rejoin his classmates in school this October. The odds of surviving Leukemia stand at 90%. This means 10% of impacted families will face dire circumstances. Make no mistake, the Leeder family considers themselves lucky.

Now the Leeder’s feel that it is their turn to push back on cancer. On Thursday, May 31, the Leeder family and the SSPP community hosted a lemonade stand and carnival. The event’s intent was threefold:

• Empower the school’s children with an understanding of how to make positive change
• Raise money to fund the battle against childhood cancer
• Foster community awareness

Our SSPP teachers planned lessons prior to the event, which taught our students what it means to be empowered. Classrooms took initiative towards the common goal. The carnival was viewed as an opportunity to raise money at the bake sale and lemonade stand, as well as a reward for their hard work.

It was a true community event and we thank our SFPD and SFFD for bringing out the bells and whistles. We also thank our local merchants and families who are business owners for their donations. 100% of all proceeds went towards scientific research fighting pediatric cancer through Alex’s Lemonade Stand www.alexslemonade.org. In addition, a portion of the donation provides financial assistance towards travel expenses for pediatric cancer families.

The donations will make a difference in the lives of kids/families impacted by cancer. To date we have raised over $40,000.00.
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.
This year is Sister Kathleen Gibson’s 60th year as a sister! In celebration of this milestone we went to a special Mass and had a party in the gym where her former students sang a song to her. I recently interviewed her about her life and learned many interesting facts.

Sister Kathleen is actually from right here in San Francisco. Her parents were immigrants from Ireland and met at a local dance. She grew up attending Catholic Schools in the city and was inspired by a kind Priest at her Parish, Corpus Christi. Sister Kathleen wanted to help people and once thought about becoming a lawyer, but decided to become a nun instead.

When Sister Kathleen was a young woman, she visited and talked to a few different groups of sisters. But, she saw a movie about Saint John Bosco and Saint Mary Mazzarello, who founded the Salesian Sisters in Italy. Sister Kathleen liked the spirit of Saint Mary Mazzarello and all the things she was doing for girls and young people. The story of Saint Mary Mazzarello was the inspiration for Sister Kathleen to become a Salesian Sister.

Sister Kathleen left San Francisco and moved to New Jersey to learn and do her training to become a sister. After ten years living on the East Coast she moved back to San Francisco where she ran into her dad on Market Street. She hadn’t seen him in ten years! The following day her family came to visit her and the reunion was a thrill.

As a Sister, Sr. Kathleen served in different places such as Los Angeles and Louisiana, where she always taught and helped children.

It was interesting and fun to get to know Sister Kathleen and to learn more about her life and what it is like to be a sister. I am so glad I got to celebrate her 60th year anniversary and look forward to seeing Sister Kathleen and chatting with her in the future.
The Laura Vicuña Pre-Kindergarten

The 2017-2018 has been a year of celebration, challenges and gratitude.

The Laura Vicuña Pre-K is the oldest continuously operating pre-school program in the San Francisco Archdiocese. We are proud to say that since opening in 1987, more than 800 children have enjoyed their introduction to Catholic education with us. We celebrated our 30th anniversary in December, hosting an elegant cocktail party fundraiser. The event took place in the tastefully decorated lower level of the church. Past and present parents of Pre-K students, parishioners, former students and friends of the program enjoyed an evening filled with fine music, fond memories and wonderful food provided by our own Pre-K parent Tiffany Pisoni and Piazza Catering.

Proceeds raised from this event will go toward sprucing up the Pre-K play yard. We look forward to working with Bauman Construction, a Pre-K family, on this project.

Additionally, we are completing our first full year with our new Pre-K 3’s class. Our young ones have been a blessing and I am very grateful to Ms. Jessyca Ng, our excellent lead teacher and Pre-K alumnus, for her commitment to the wee ones. We welcomed Ms. Lucia Rojas and Ms. Shirleen Balistreri to the Pre-K staff. Lucia is a former SSPP parent and is currently working on completing her preschool teaching certification. Shirleen is a current school parent and was previously a teaching assistant at SSPP School. Our Pre-K 4’s class is winding down our 30th year with our tireless staff of Diana Phung, Frances Emmons, Abby Herget and Cindy Choi. I am very grateful to all of these talented individuals for their dedication to our young children.

Applications for the 2018-2019 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
Opera a la Carte
By Sandra Wayne

On November 15, San Francisco Opera a la Carte, visited Saints Peter and Paul School for its annual performance. This year the opera was “Cinderella.” Ten of our eighth grade students joined the San Francisco Opera professionals on stage. Once again our student body audience from Pre-K to eighth grade was joined by parents and parishioners for this amazing performance. If you missed this year’s performance, look for our next performance during November of 2018. I guarantee you will be entertained and proud of our student performers.

Salesian Sisters Gratitude Day
By Patrick M. Gee

This year’s Gratitude Day was celebrated on Sunday, April 15 with provincial Sr. Rosann Ruiz, FMA at our very own Sts. Peter and Paul School. Over twenty past pupils attended, and even more contributed cherished memories through email, along with a collective donation of $1000 to the Sisters.

Dance Show –......and the music makes you dance
By Dana Wayne

This year’s dance show was a tribute to boy bands throughout the years. Students from grades Pre-K through Grade 8 took the stage to showcase boy bands such as N’Sync, New Kids on the Block and Queen to name a few. As usual, the costumes dazzled the audience as did the dancers. Hopefully, you can join us next year on May 10, 2019.
Spelling Bee
By Yvonne Soracco

Saints Peter and Paul School held its annual Spelling Bee on Monday, December 4th. Twenty-five students from grades 4 to 8 participated in the event. Each spelling round was exciting, and finally two students vied for the championship. The two students went head to head for six rounds before Pascal Reich overtook Elisabeth Schuth in the end. In February, Pascal represented our school in the Scripp Spelling Bee.

Science Fair 2018
By Maria Gunter

The 13th annual Science Fair proved to be quite an exciting one! For the first time in 3 years, participation normally reserved for all of the Junior High science students, was limited to just the 7th and 8th graders. This transition allowed for higher-level projects and more one-on-one time between the student and the teacher. Projects ranged from exploration of wind as an alternative energy source and landscape architecture to minimize and prevent landslides to testing if chewing gum affected concentration.

The science fair judges included Bruce Thorpe, a real life scientist back for his 4th year, Alexandar Schuth (Scientist) and Guarav Bhatnagar (Sales and Marketing), both completing a second year. Our judges were incredibly generous with their time. Bruce Thorpe provided a presentation to the students about what judges looked for before the fair and Guarav Bhatnagar provided a presentation on how to use what they learned from the fair to better prepare for next year. Additionally, all of our judges volunteered to meet with the students who qualified to move on to the Randall Museum Science Fair and the San Francisco Science Fair.

Winners from this year’s fair included 7th Graders, Frankie Spagnoli (1st), Mia Franceschi (2nd), and Giovanna Basile (3rd); 8th Graders, Larry Kwong (1st), Elisabeth Schuth (2nd), and Roman Jackson (3rd). Both Frankie Spagnoli and Mia Franceschi qualified at the Randall Museum Science Fair and moved on to the 1st and 3rd place standings, respectively.

What a great Science Fair season for SSPP and for all the kids who participated! They indeed AMAZED, ASTOUNDED, and ACHIEVED!

SSPP Faculty Fundraiser
By Ashley Wiggins

In February, the Saints Peter and Paul community came out to play BINGO! The faculty at SSPP School hosted a luncheon and BINGO fundraiser to support the budget for programs at the school. Our very own math teacher, Mr. Paul Riley, catered the event! Fun was had by all ages! Thank you for coming out to support our school!
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
- 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 2018
Saints Peter and Paul School Financial Statement
2016 - 2017 (Fiscal Year End - June 30, 2017)

**Income**
- School Tuition: 71.10%
- Development / Fundraisers: 8.47%
- Fees: 7.30%
- Tuition Assistance: 5.28%
- Donations & Grants: 3.46%
- Non Operating Income: 2.72%
- Operating Income: 1.67%

**Expenses**
- Personnel Cost - School: 60.63%
- Employee Benefits: 13.08%
- School Instructional Expenses: 7.43%
- Other Operating Expenses: 6.27%
- Payroll Taxes Employer: 4.82%
- Property Costs: 2.91%
- General and Administrative: 2.52%
- Student Activities and Services: 0.82%
- Utilities: 0.76%
- Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment: 0.75%

**Total Income** $2,657,786
**Total Expenses** $2,311,378
**Net Income** $346,408

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**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
Read Across America  
By Betty Garthwaite

Sts. Peter and Paul School heartily celebrated reading on March 5, 2018, our 11th year as participants in the National Education Association’s Read Across America. This 21 year national celebration of the joys of reading was loads of fun. More than 40 volunteer readers from our school family donated their time and enthusiasm to read to small groups of students in each of the classes. A PTO-sponsored reception in the gym followed the reading session. Parents, grandparents, big sisters, teachers, administrators, Salesian Sisters, and friends joined the party. Student Council members served as hosts to our reader guests, and the Laura Vicuna Pre-K kicked off the event with a Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss parade at Morning Assembly led by Thing 1 Anna Manfreda, Gr. 3, and Thing 2, Megan Franceschi, Gr. 2. Students enjoyed a piece of birthday cake to honor Dr. Seuss on his 114th year! Happy Reading!

Sunrise Art Show  
By Abby Herget

The 2017 Sunrise Art Show was our 15th annual display of creative projects by each and every SSPP student, including our Pre-Kers. As always, the cafeteria-turned-art-gallery was filled with color, texture, shapes, patterns and forms. Our junior artists served as docents to explain works to our visitors. K-5 class work included sculptures inspired by Claes Oldenburg, paintings in the style of Van Gogh, beautiful Japanese style brushwork murals and more. The Junior High showed large-scale Pop Art boxes and cans, Greek mythology-inspired clothing called chitons, “ancient” cave paintings and cave artifacts, and more. The Pre-K displayed colorful painted spinning tops and drawings. Please join us for the early morning creative expressionism of our talented students in the 2018-2019 school year on May 23, 2019.

SSPP Bazaar  
By Julie Franceschi

A good time was had by all at this year’s annual Columbus Day Bazaar at Saints Peter and Paul School. Visitors not only enjoyed a variety of food, games, and merchandise celebrating the Italian culture, they were able to have wonderful views of the Columbus Day Parade and even watch the Blue Angels fly overhead as part of the Fleet Week festivities. It’s an event not to miss each year!
SSPP Kindergarten Graduates 2018