



SAINT GABRIEL SCHOOL

2550 Forty First Avenue
San Francisco, California 94116
(415) 566-0314
www.stgabrielstf.com

PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.sgsparents.com

October 1, 2015

Hello Parents,

My goodness the year is just in full speed--October is here and with it brings more fun, excitement, and learning opportunities for our students! It has been a blessing to watch the students already begin to expand their minds with just a little over a month of school under their belts. Keep up the wonderful support you give them and they are truly in debt to you for being able to provide them with a one-of-a-kind education; a Catholic education!

Bring on Fall and all the beautiful things it has to offer. Also make the time to enjoy it with the family. Family is our prayerful focus for this year guided by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Let's pray together for our own family, our school family, our community family, and our world family.

*God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
You have made us Your sons and daughters in the family of the Church.*

*May Your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be
united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.*

*May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of Your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek
Your truth and live in Your love.*

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

-World Meeting of Families Prayer

Best,

Mrs. Gina Beal
Principal

Upcoming Items

OCTOBER

- 28-Oct 2 8th Grade to CYO Environmental Retreat with teachers**
- 2 St. Francis Blessing of the Animals Prayer Service - 2:15pm in Library yard. Prepared by 6A & 6B classes. All are invited to bring their pets for a blessing.**
- 3 International Food Fair - Come to enjoy some good eats!**
- 5 - 13 Student Council Costume Drive**
- 6 Parent Board Meeting at 7:00pm**
- 8 Parent Support Group Meeting - 7:00 pm - Library**
- 10 Rosary Rally - A Call to Prayer**
- 12 Columbus Day Observed - SCHOOL HOLIDAY**
- 13 Parish Council Meeting - 7:30 pm - Quinn Center**
- 14 Kindergarten Open House - Tours at 8:30am & 10:15am**
- 15 Mini Opera in Library for grades 6-8**
- 17 Beautification Committee Volunteers: 9:00am - 12 noon. Come join in the fun!**
- 18 Jog-A-Thon @ St. Ignatius track from 9:00am - 2:30pm. Bring family and friends out to get moving for St. Gabriel!**
- 19 MAKE-UP School Picture Day**
Full Uniform Required Formal Dress Day - Students wear school blue sweaters. No sweatshirts or walking shorts.
- 21 High School Information Day - Grades 7&8; Parent of grades 7-8 invited. Call Clinic for schedule.**
- 23 End of First Quarter of school**
- 26 MINIMUM DAY - 12:30 pm DISMISSAL**
- 27 School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - Faculty Room**

30 Halloween Parade @ 2:20pm in Parking Lot: All students in grades K-8 will be dismissed at 2:45pm from parking lot to go home or to Extended Care.

Note: As in past, costumes with war themes, guns, knives, or any other weapons are not allowed to be worn. For safety reasons, skateboards, wheelies, bikes, or rollerblades are not allowed in the parade or schoolyard.

November 1 Feast of All Saints

1-5 Book Fair in Library - See attached flyer

3-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences

8th Grade to CYO Environmental Retreat

The 8th grades have already tackled their first half of an annual Environmental Retreat at CYO camp in Occidental, California. Their teachers and adult camp naturalists lead them through the five-day experience. The program includes a parent review night, classroom preparation, the five-day experience, and classroom follow-up with camp personnel. This exciting and memorable trip provides growth for each student and helps bind them as a class in friendship and in their understanding and acceptance of differences.

International Food Faire

Do not forget to come and enjoy great eats and awesome conversation at our first school social fundraiser, The International Food Faire, this Saturday, October 3rd from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

Student Council Costume Drive

The 15-16 SY Student Council is collecting used Halloween costumes for those who might not have the opportunity to get one this year. The collection begins Monday, Oct 5th and goes through Tuesday, Oct. 13th. Bring in a costume if you can and help those less fortunate and help the growing jack-o-lantern in the school hallway.

Parent Support Group Meeting - 7:00 pm - Library

We welcome Tuck Geerds, M.A. to St. Gabriel School on Thursday October 8th at 7PM in our school library for a special presentation - *see attached flyer*.

The focus: DEVELOPING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STUDENT WITH LANGUAGE PROCESSING DIFFICULTIES/DYSLEXIA

Tuck Geerds will provide insights and information on:

- The profile of the student with Language Processing Difficulties
- A better understanding of his/her struggles and challenges
- Strategies and interventions to use in traditional classrooms...and at home
- Ways to help the child develop learning strategies
- How to help these unique learners improve their self-esteem
- Real life experiences working with these unique learners

Rosary Rally - A Call to Prayer

The intention is very simple: to pray for the needs of our great City and nation.

The event begins with Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral on October 10th at 10:00am. Following the Mass, there will be a procession to UN Plaza, where another group, led by our seminarians, will be praying the rosary in preparation for our arrival. The rally will end with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 12:00 noon at UN Plaza.

Alumni Academic Achievements

Two St. Gabriel alumni had a fantastic Spring semester at ICA: Hyla Prete (Class of '14) received Second Honors and Isabel Reodica (Class of '13) received First Honors! Great Job ladies!

Tuition Reminder

Tuition payments are due on the first day of each month. Tuition not received by the 10th of each month is considered delinquent unless specific arrangements have been made with the Principal.

High School Information Day

Wednesday, October 21st, is High School Information Day for students in grades 7 & 8 and their parents. Representatives from local Catholic High Schools have been scheduled to address them. This day is always of true value to our students and parents because their specific questions can be addressed, as well as gaining overall information about the schools. The high schools attending are: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Mercy, San Francisco & Burlingame, Archbishop Riordan, St. Ignatius, and Convent of the Sacred Heart and Stuart Hall. Call school for a copy of this schedule if needed.

33rd Annual Jog-A-Thon @ St. Ignatius track from 9:00am - 2:30pm.

When: Sunday, October 18, 2015

Where: St. Ignatius College Prep Track (enter on 39th Avenue and Quintara)

For your Jog-A-Thon packet go to sgsparents.com and click on Jog-A-Thon.

Permission slips must be in by Oct. 9th.

We ask that you please arrive 15 minutes early to check in!

K and 1st Grade	9:00 AM - 9:45 AM
Grades 2 and 3	10:00 AM - 10:45 AM
Grades 4 and 5	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Grades 6 and 7	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM
Grade 8	1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

FINAL LAP!

If you have any questions, feel free to email Katherine Alba-Swanson at klas43@sbcglobal.net

Jog-A-thon Coordinators

Chairpersons:	Mary Reidy	415-867-8040	Jimmy (4A)
	Katherine Alba-Swanson	415-609-1499	Liam (7B)

Class Coordinators:

Kinder	Katie Debrunner	415-699-0145	Shane (KA)
	Ty Debrunner	415-439-9329	Jack (KB)

1st Grade	Alison Yee	415-269-9110	Ruby (1A)
2nd Grade	Judi Dito	415-516-0244	Maddalena (2A)
3rd Grade	Dianne Daly	650-993-4473	Liam (3A)
4th Grade	Monica Murphy	415-731-5096	Aisling (4B)
5th Grade	Cathy Thorsen	415-566-5680	Emily (5A)
6th Grade	Paul Daijo	415-640-3321	Jayme (6A)
7th Grade	Karen Byrne	650-588-5774	Jack (7A)
8th Grade	Margi Beima	650-755-1707	Joe (8A)

Kindergarten Open House - See 9-30-15 Wednesday Flyer

Families with children interested in attending St. Gabriel in the Fall of 2016 are invited to our Kindergarten Open House on Wednesday, October 14th. Tours will be given at 8:30 and 10:15 am. Families will see our kindergarten, enrichment program, classes in action, extended care, science room, computer lab, and library. St. Gabriel Staff and parents will guide the tours and answer questions. All who are interested are invited. **Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.** No reservations are required. For more information, see our website at www.sgsparents.com and click on bulletins and emails or call the school.

Note: Each month we also hold tours for prospective families. Click on Tours on our St. Gabriel website www.stgabrielsf.com for dates.

Parents, you are our best advertisers. Attached to this month's bulletin is an Open House flyer. Please pass it on to a family with preschool or school age children and extend a warm invitation to them. You will be assisting them with their school search and helping to keep enrollment strong at St. Gabriel School. More flyers and school brochures are available at the front desk or by contacting the Development Department at sgs@stgabrielsf.com.

Applications for 2016 - 2017 School Year

Applications for the 2016-17 school year **are now available.** Parents of current students who would like to enroll a sibling in kindergarten (or other grades) next school year are strongly encouraged to pick up an application as soon as possible. This helps us estimate how many spaces are needed for incoming siblings.

Note: There is a \$50 application fee (per application) to be paid at the time the application is picked up. Checks and cash are accepted.

Parent Annual Giving/\$10,000 Challenge Grant - See 9-30-15 Wednesday Flyer

This year's Parent Annual Giving campaign is off to a fantastic start! Thank you to our Lead the Way donors for your early pledges and leading off this year's campaign with **18% participation!** This is only the beginning! All we need to reach our goal of 100% participation

is YOU! Go the www.sgsparents.com and click on bulletins and emails to see the flyer for more information including the \$10,000 Challenge Grant.

Online Parent Annual Fund Pledge Payments

Want an easy option to pay your Parent Annual Giving pledge? Just as you can make tuition payments online through your bank, you can set up payments for your pledge. Check to see if your bank offers this service. Indicate **St. Gabriel School** as the payee. In the “Memo” or “Account” section, be sure to note “**Parent Annual Giving.**”

2015-2016 School Profile - See 9-30-15 Wednesday Flyer

Go to www.sgsparents.com and click on bulletins and emails to see the flyer for the 2015-16 St. Gabriel School Profile listing information on all aspects of the school. Also included in the profile are the dates of school tours and open houses.

Make-Up School Picture Day

Make-Up School pictures will be on October 19th. Individual picture make-ups only. Students should be in **full uniform** and **must** wear their blue uniform sweater.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) started in late September at St. Gabriel Parish. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic; or if you or someone you know has been baptized but has not yet been confirmed or received First Communion, please call Matt Shea at 415-731-6161 and leave the name and phone number of the person so that he may make contact and let them know a little bit more about the process.

Now is a good time to talk to your friends and family about joining our Church community so start looking around for those you think might be interested in participating in the RCIA process. They might be waiting for someone to ask them if they've considered joining the Church...that someone might be you. Or you may be the person who would like to learn more, you may want to be able to understand and share the faith that your children are learning here at school. You might be interested in having your whole family join the Church. Feel free to call Matt Shea with any questions you might have about this program for you or for others.

Grandparents Day - See 9-30-15 Wednesday Flyer

Grandparents' Day is coming! Our annual Grandparents' Day will be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2015 from 10:30am to 12:30pm. We are asking parents request the number of invitations and/or messages needed. Invitations are for those who can potentially attend and messages are for grandparents/special friends who are unable to come. Invitations/messages will be sent home for families to mail or deliver directly to their grandparents or honorary grandparents. Go to www.sgsparents.com and click on bulletins and emails to see the order form for invitations and messages. **Please return the invitation/message request by Friday, October 16th** and be on the look out for the invitations and messages to come home in November. Also, see the flyer for parent hour opportunities. Looking forward to a great day!

Parents Please Note: The event will begin with the reception in Bedford Hall. Grandparents should enter the front doors of Bedford Hall when arriving at the event. Also, don't forget, due to the limited space at this event, parents can help in the following ways:

- Have grandparents who do not need assistance or are very comfortable coming on their own attend by themselves.
- If grandparents need assistance or are more comfortable coming with parents, limit the number of “extra” family members to one or two parents only.

Santa’s Breakfast

Ho Ho Ho! Save the Date!

Santa's Breakfast will be held this year on **Sunday, December 6th** from 8am-Noon.

Check the Parent website for updates and volunteer information in October.

Interested in joining the Committee? We're looking for help in several areas. Contact Jennifer Joost at jenjoost@gmail.com for information.

Community Outreach

On a sunny autumn Saturday, September 26, 2015, twenty 8A & 8B students and some of their parents participated in the Pine Lake restoration Community Outreach Program. Dylan Hayes, head gardener from SF’ Recreation and Parks Department's “Natural Areas” program, introduced us to the floral and fauna biodiversity at Pine Lake. He stressed how well the plants and wildlife have adapted to his small riparian habitat. Dylan also instructed us on how to be aware of and deal with the coyote presence throughout Pine Lake. Hazing, or scaring, techniques were demonstrated and encouraged as our first line of defense against coyote encounters.

Afterwards, Dylan divided the students into two work party groups. While one group trimmed, pruned, and cut down dry willow tree branches and pulled out the invasive Cape Ivy, the other group used the discarded branches and foliage to design and construct a brush habitat around the periphery of the lake. The brush habitat provides shelter for the birds and prevents further erosion of the pathway. What a fun morning!

A special Thank You to the parents who worked and chaperoned:

Mrs. Blancaflor, Ms. Barrozo, Mrs. Dizon, Mr. Malig and Mrs. Malig

And a big Thank You to the students who participated:

Florenz Blancaflor	Alex Jauregui	Michael Malig	Mia Rassam
Lauren Chai	Anne Kelly	Mark McAteer	Kurt Schober
Michael Dizon	Kate Kelly	Megan McHugh	Jaden Shia
Lila Horowitz	Catrina Maguire	Melanie Miyamoto	Carlie Sokol
Paul Israelyan	Amadea Manalili	Hannah R. O’Connell	Ashley Tam



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 READING IS SO MUCH FUN,
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Dear Parents and Families:

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep pace with changing tastes and reading skills.
- Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Book Fair Dates:

Sunday, November 1	9:00 am – 1:30 pm	Family Event After Morning Masses!
Monday, November 2	8:00 am – 3:30 pm	
Tuesday, November 3	8:00 am – 8:00 pm	Visit before/after Parent Teacher Conferences!
Wednesday, November 4	8:00 am – 8:00 pm	Visit before/after Parent Teacher Conferences!
Thursday, November 5	8:00 am – 1:30 pm	

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/stgabrielschool3>
 Our online Fair is available from 10/25/15 to 11/07/15.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair!
 Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

If you would like to volunteer for the book fair, please email Jen Madar at jen@madar.org.

Sincerely,

The Book Fair Committee



SAVE THE DATE!

St. Gabriel Parent Support Group

October 8, 2015 7PM at St. Gabriel

We welcome [Tuck Geerds, M.A.](#) to St. Gabriel School for a special presentation.

The focus: DEVELOPING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STUDENT WITH LANGUAGE PROCESSING DIFFICULTIES/DYSLEXIA

Is your child/student someone who.....

- *Struggles with reading?
- *Avoids written work whenever possible
- *Spells most words incorrectly
- *Generally dislikes school
- *Has low self esteem
- *Is failing or falling behind in academics

Tuck Geerds will provide insights and information on:

- *The profile of the student with Language Processing Difficulties
- *A better understanding of his/her struggles and challenges
- *Strategies and interventions to use in traditional classrooms...and at home
- *Ways to help the child develop learning strategies
- *How to help these unique learners improve their self-esteem
- *Real life experiences working with these unique learners

Tuck Geerds has over 30 years of experience working with students with specific learning/language disabilities, dyslexia. She was a teacher and a school administrator at Charles Armstrong School, a landmark school which addresses the needs of students with dyslexia. Tuck has spoken at local, regional, and international conferences, at community organizations, parent groups, colleges and universities and at over 200 independent, public and parochial schools in the San Francisco Bay Area.

TUCK'S WORKSHOPS ARE HELPFUL NOT ONLY FOR THE LD (Learning Disabled) STUDENT BUT FOR ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

Please RSVP by September 25th to Milena Tapia mtapia@stgabrielsf.com

*Location(Library or Multipurpose room) will be determined by the number of attendants.