



SAINT GABRIEL SCHOOL

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San Francisco, California 94116
(415) 566-0314
www.stgabrielssf.com

PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.sgsparents.com

December 2, 2015

Dear Parents,

As we all know it can be hard to slow down and enjoy the holidays at this time of the school year. We are all busy beyond belief and can find it difficult to fit in all of the wonderful aspects of the Christmas season. I, too, feel all of this hustle and bustle can become overwhelming, but I ask that you take on this challenge with me:

Holidays = FAMILY

- Set priorities with your family
- Family is the top priority
- Ask for and accept help from others
- Pray together with the community of God (Your Spiritual Family)

Happy Holidays and may Christmas Blessings be upon you!

*May the spirit of Christmas bring you PEACE,
The gladness of Christmas give you HOPE,
And the warmth of Christmas grant you LOVE!*

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs. Beal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs. Gina Beal
Principal

FYI: Monthly Parent Newsletters will be released the first Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Items

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| December | 2 | Advent Reconciliation Day for Grades 3, 4, & 5 |
| | 3 | Crooners perform at Mercy SF - 7:00pm |
| | 5 | Crooners perform at Sodality Christmas Luncheon - Irish Cultural Center |
| | 6 | Santa's Breakfast: 8:00am to 12:00pm - Bedford Hall
Second Sunday of Advent
Hall Stage set up for the Christmas Program @ 2:00pm |
| | 7 | Children's Used Book Drive begins and extends through Friday, Dec. 11th. (Coordinated by 3A & 3B)

Jog-A-Thon Awards @ 2:00pm - Bedford Hall |
| | 8 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Student body Mass at 10:45am - All are invited. |
| | 9 | Advent Reconciliation Day for Grades 6, 7, & 8 |
| | 11 | Crooners perform at Olympic Club - 9:00am |
| | 13 | Third Sunday of Advent |
| | 14 | Dress Rehearsal Day for Christmas Play |
| | 15 | School Tour @ 8:30am - Appointment needed
Crooners sing at Scottish Rite Masonic Center - 7:00pm |
| | 17 | School Christmas Program - "A Crazy Christmas"
Matinee Performance @ 1:00pm
Evening Performance @ 7:30pm |
| | 18 | MINIMUM DAY - 12:30pm Dismissal
Staff Christmas Lunch - prepared by parents |
| | 19 | Beautification Committee volunteers: 9:00am - 12 noon |

20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2015 - January 3, 2016: Christmas/New Year's Vacation!

**24 Christmas Eve
Crooners sing at 5:30 Concert & 6:00pm Mass in Church**

25 *Merry Christmas!*

January 2016 1 *Happy New Year!*

4 *Classes Resume*

**5 Kindergarten Screening Day #1 for K Class of '16-'17
Parent Board Meeting @ 7:00pm - Faculty Room**

7 Kindergarten Screening Day #2 for K Class of '16-'17

Recap on Works of Mercy

1. Bags and bags of candy were given to Mercy Housing in early November. Our students donated the treats from their Halloween collection. Once again, thank you to the Student Council for coordinating
2. Classes 1A and 1B sold nachos to benefit Martin de Porres House of Hospitality. This year a check for \$711 was sent as the income from the sale. The funds will go towards meals, clothing, soap, and other basic needs.
3. The Student Council also held our annual Thanksgiving food drive for St. Peter's Parish Pantry. This year our students brought in well over 1,500 food items. Thank you to our school community and 8th grade teachers, Mrs. Belinda Kensic and Ms. Lynn Grier, who oversee all student council projects.

A Crazy Christmas

Is it really Christmas time!? It sure is and that means it's time for the school wide Christmas play. "A Crazy Christmas" is this year's treat. And – you'll be treated to yet another surprise inspired by Ms. Hill!

Showtimes are Thursday, December 17th at 1:00PM and again at 7:30PM in Bedford Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 for each performance.

An order form for tickets is attached to this Newsletter. As always, due to the limited number of seats and space in Bedford Hall, **ONLY TWO (2) TICKETS PER FAMILY can be offered for the evening performance.**

TICKETS FOR THE EVENING PERFORMANCE WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Books Wanted

Clean out your bookshelves and look under your beds for used books no longer needed. The third grade is collecting them for the Children's Book Project. The group distributes the books to homeless shelters, daycares, and community centers. Our drive will be held from Monday, December 7th, through Friday, December 11th. Thank you to third grade teachers, Lawrence Ellison and Zhanna Toensing for organizing this wonderful work of mercy!

Need A Little Extra Help?

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a parish group dedicated to helping others who are in need of food and in some cases, financial assistance. There are also generous parents and parishioners who are ready to reach out and help. Send me a CONFIDENTIAL note if you find yourself in this situation.

Christmas Staff Lunch

The Staff Christmas Luncheon is Friday, December 18, 2015. Many thanks to those families who have already donated. We appreciate your generosity. Donations are still being accepted.

Questions? Contact atotah@sbcglobal.net

~ Anna Totah & Norma O'Connell

Spell-A-Thon Fundraiser

Saint Gabriel's 40th Annual Oral Spell-a-thon will be held on Tuesday January 19th, 2016 in the Library. Students (Grades 2-8) will receive their word lists from their class teachers prior to Christmas break. They will have a written test to qualify for the orals upon their return to school in the New Year. Information packets will be available on the parent website. Sponsorship forms will be sent home prior to Christmas break.

If you would like to volunteer on the day of the event please contact Mala Gurbuxani at mala.gurbuxani@gmail.com.

Santa's Breakfast

Santa's Breakfast is quickly approaching...Sunday December 6th is just around the corner!

- Enjoy a delicious homemade breakfast
- Take pictures with Santa.
- Shop at our Boutique for unique Christmas gifts.
- Try your luck at our fabulous Raffle.
- Pick up a sweet treat at the Bakeshop.
- Games, games, games to entertain and delight the little ones.

See our [website](#) for all the current information!

Jog-A-Thon 2015

The Holiday's are upon us, the final lap of our 33rd Jog-a-thon is complete. We are happy to report it's looking like another successful year! We're still collecting, but to date we have over \$21,000!

We would like to THANK everyone for participating and supporting St. Gabriel School:

- Special "Thanks" to Mrs. Gina Beal for her support.
- To Father Tom, all the Teachers and Staff.
- To our fantastic coordinators: Ty Debrunner, Katie Debrunner, Alison Yee, Judi Dito, Dianne Daly, Monica Murphy, Cathy Thorsen, Paul Daijo, Karen Byrne and Margi Beima. (Margi is done but not leaving us yet!)
- We would also like to Thank St. Ignatius High School and teachers Carlos Gazulla and Chris Delaney (our SG parents) for arranging the use of the track and helping us with set-up and clean-up.

We must again "Thank!!!":

- *Record Timing: Sean Laughlin Timing, Data, Results Consultant and Operator* and his wife Mari for the Donation of their equipment and time.
- Thank you to Judy and Randy Green and Janice and Kevane Wong (Their last year- you will both be missed!) for running another successful Snack Bar!
- Thank you to Tina Maguire for helping us shop and Julie Maguire and Cecelia Salfiti for picking up the coffee.
- Thank you to Michael Livsey our Parent Board Representative.
- **To EVERYONE** that helped with set-up, clean-up, man the water table and snack bar! "THANK YOU!" we can't do it without you.
- Thank you to Janet Barry for helping to keep us on track literally!
- Special "Thanks" to Pat and Buffy Maguire for donating all the coffee from Java Beach and to the SFFD Local 798 for their \$700 donation.

If we've forgotten anyone please forgive us. It is the participation, support, and help of the students, parents, family and friends of the St. Gabriel school community that makes our annual Jog-A-Thon a success every year.

Thanks again to everyone who hung out with us all day and pitched in when and where we needed the help and especially those who stayed with us till the bitter end (you know who you are!) "Thank you" isn't enough but that's all we have to offer besides our gratitude and appreciation, so until next year joggers!!

Health and Happiness to all,
Mary Reidy and Katherine Swanson

Fall Book Fair Success!

Thank you all for a successful Fall Book Fair! There was \$8,800 in sales and Mrs. O'Donnell was able to purchase \$1,100 worth of new books for the SG Library!

Many thanks to all the volunteers, including:

Anjie Chew	Ceily Landman	Katherine Moe	Savita Sahi	Lisa Vocker
Lisa Kenyon	Gabe Lucey	Joyce Ng	Christine Sanbrailo	
Christina Keyes	Jen Madar	Julie Paez	Nora Sheriff	

A special thank you to Jen Madar, the chairperson, for her many years of running the fundraiser, and to the St. Gabriel students who help set-up and take-down!

Grandparents' Day 2015

Grandparents' Day '15 hosted more than 300 grandparents and special friends. All were treated to a wonderful reception hosted by SGPO and then visited their eager grandchildren in the school. The finale came in a heartwarming prayer service by our 7th grade students.

Thank you to all who helped make this event a success, including all of our parent bakers/food donors, decorators, photographer: Lea Rutherford, and those who helped at the event.

A big thank you goes to Jacqui Saxon who coordinated the reception along with the following parents:

J. P. Alvarez	Mark Kearney
Cynthia Baldwin	Grace Malig
Michelle Bien	Mandy Lin
Mary Rose Bonifacio	Roger Lu
Dena Boeddeker	Joy Paredes
Ty Debrunner	Lucca Polacci
Joyce Dizon	Normandy Reyes
Kelly Graziadei	Melani Settergren
Mala Gurbuxani	Nora Sheriff

Welcome, again, to our grandparents and special family members!

As Mrs. Beal shared at our Grandparents Day prayer service, all grandparents and family members are welcome to volunteer at St. Gabriel any time of the school year. This time can be counted towards a family's parent hours also! All that needs to be done before your time is given, is to complete an online training and background check through our Protect the Children program. Please visit www.shieldthevulnerable.org and follow the instructions. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Demartini in the office.

Parent Annual Giving

Thank you to all of the families who have participated in Parent Annual Giving so far this year. Keep those pledges coming so we can reach our goal of 100% parent participation! ***Don't forget, pledges received by the end of this year can be deducted from your 2015***

taxes! Have questions about Annual Giving? Contact Alice Lawrie, Development Director, at sgs@stgabrielsf.com.

Robotics Teams Update



Both the Paper Predators and the Grouchies Teams performed well at the Lowell HS [CardinalBotics](#) Qualifier. Each team surpassed their 200 point robot performance goal. Both robots were very unique and had a *build tough* chassis design. Each robot had four 2.5 minute rounds to accomplish [missions](#) autonomously on a 4' x 8' game board. To see what the game looks like you can view this [video](#). The Grouchies received the coveted Judges Award this year! For more info, view our [team](#) and [tourney](#) sites.



With this year's research and invent challenge "**Turn Trash into Treasure**" both teams found great [STEAM](#) problems to work on.



The Paper Predators, coached by Kathy Chaloupka, focused on the many paper receipts not recycled. They discovered that most supermarkets, gas stations, banks, restaurants use receipts **treated with the [harmful BPA](#)** for their thermal printing! The only merchant the Paper Predators could find without BPA using thermal receipts was Rainbow Grocery. Several Environmental Protection Agency employees had multiple online chats with the team to better understand issues with these receipts. The Paper Predators invention

showed how easy it is to eradicate this hazardous waste by using an app enabled electronic version of receipts called [TronCeipts](#) which they demoed to the judges. They presented this solution to Congresswoman Jackie Speier and she was quite impressed. It's simply amazing that all of us are still being poisoned daily with these receipts.

The Grouchies, coached by Dora Diaz, tackled cigarette butts. In under an hour they picked up hundreds of cigarette butts around the school to prove this is a real issue. Their meetings with the city clean up representatives reaffirmed this with the stats from the site [litterati.org](#). The Grouchies researched several solutions: [Green Butts](#) (biodegradable cigarette butts), e-cigarettes, and finally created a simple yet effective solution called the **EcoBox**. They found that over half of the smokers they polled would be



willing to buy or attach an EcoBox to the bottom of their cigarette packs. They created several EcoBox prototypes and also found a gel that when applied to the inside of the EcoBox automatically extinguishes cigarette butts, and catches the ashes. Ultimately they estimated the cost for such the EcoBox would be under \$0.60.

Congratulations to both teams!

<p>Grouchies Amadea Manalili – 8A Cameron Chao – 6B Daniel Panina – 6A Devin Leung – 7A John Banzon – 8B Jordyn Kosai – 8A Michael Ma – 7B Nico Petrilli – 8B Noelle Hurley – 6A Tom Murphy – 6A Coach: Dora Diaz Mentors: Jaime Marckwordt, Mr. Fair, Gabriel Juarez (Lick HS), Albert Ma (Lowell HS), and Chris Ying (Lowell HS).</p>	<p>Paper Predators Anna Vargas – 6B Audrey Hermosura – 8B Brandon Baumann – 7B Carina Bagley – 8B Melanie Miyamoto – 8B Niccolo Mancinetti – 6B Robert (Paddy) Martin – 6A Sartaj Rajpal – 7A Tyler Kuwada – 6A Coach: Kathy Chaloupka Mentors: Jaime Marckwordt, Mr. Fair, Aurora Hermosura (Lowell HS), Gabriel Juarez (Lick HS), and Chris Ying (Lowell HS).</p>
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St. Gabriel School Proudly Presents

A Crazy Christmas



Thursday, December 17, 2015

Order your tickets and DVD
NOW!



AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE:

1:00 PM

_____ Ticket(s) at \$10 each = \$_____

EVENING PERFORMANCE:

7:30PM

LIMIT 2 TICKETS PER FAMILY

_____ Ticket(s) at \$10 each = \$_____

**NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR
FOR THE EVENING PERFORMANCE!**

DVD OF PERFORMANCE:

_____ DVD(s) at \$15 each = \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

Oldest Child: _____ Class _____

Please print

Make checks payable to: St. Gabriel School

TICKET ORDER DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th