



SAINT GABRIEL SCHOOL

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

PARENT NEWSLETTER

www.sgsparents.com

December 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

Christmas is upon us and seems to be in full swing already on this first of December! We have to be ready for the season and the reason--Jesus!

Christmas is the time to celebrate the love of God. It is the time to share the blessings of God. This time is to spread cheer all around. Celebrate, share blessings, and spread cheer with your family and friends this season in the name of Jesus!

Wishing you 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,

Mrs. Gina Beal
Principal

Upcoming Items

- December**
- 1 Crooners perform at Winter Pops at Mercy SF - 7:00pm**
 - 4 Santa's Breakfast: 8:00am to 12:00pm - Bedford Hall
Second Sunday of Advent
Hall Stage set up for the Christmas Program @ 2:00pm**
 - 5 Children's Used Book Drive begins and extends through
Friday, Dec. 9th. (Coordinated by 3A & 3B)**
 - 6 School Board Meeting - 7pm - Faculty Room**
 - 7 Advent Reconciliation Day for Grades 3, 4, & 5**
 - 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Student body Mass
at 10:45am - All are invited.

Parent Support Group Meeting - 6:30pm - Library**
 - 9 Crooners perform at Olympic Club - 9:00am
8th grade visits the SF Zoo**
 - 10 Crooners perform at Sodality Christmas Luncheon - Irish
Cultural Center**
 - 11 Third Sunday of Advent**
 - 13 School Tour @ 8:30am - Appointment needed**
 - 14 Dress Rehearsal Day for Christmas Play**
 - 15 Advent Reconciliation Day for Grades 6, 7, & 8

School Christmas Program - "Santa's Surprise"
Matinee Performance @ 1:15pm
Evening Performance @ 7:30pm**
 - 16 MINIMUM DAY - 12:30pm Dismissal
Christmas Sing-a-long in Gym @ 11:00am
Staff Christmas Lunch - prepared by parents**
 - 17 Beautification Committee volunteers: 9:00am - 12 noon**
 - 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 19, 2016 - January 2, 2017: Christmas/New Year's Vacation!

	24	Christmas Eve Crooners sing at 5:30pm Concert & 6:00 Mass in Church
	25	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
January 2017	1	<i>Happy New Year!</i>
	3	<i>Classes Resume</i>
	5	Kindergarten Screening Day #1 for K Class of '17-'18
	10	Parent Board Meeting @ 7:00pm - Faculty Room Kindergarten Screening Day #2 for K Class of '17-'18
	12	Kindergarten Screening Day #3 for K Class of '17-'18

Recap on Works of Mercy

1. Bags and 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--it was a fantastic success!
2. Again this year, classes 1A and 1B sold nachos to benefit Martin de Porres House of Hospitality. This year a check for \$840 was sent as the income from the sale. The funds will go towards meals, clothing, soap, and other basic needs. Thank you for everyone's help and support!
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.

SG Cares for the Environment

Last month on the 14th the entire school was treated to a fantastic visit from San Francisco's Department of the Environment. Students learned how to properly dispose of different types of trash, compost, and recyclables. This has become a part of our community here at school, as well as reinforcing being Responsible Citizens. Talk to your child about what they learned and how each and every one of us can help to care for our environment while here on campus during any type of event.

Santa's Breakfast

Santa's Breakfast is quickly approaching...December 4th is this Sunday!

- 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!

Santa's Secret

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

Showtimes are Thursday, December 15th at 1:15PM and again at 7:30PM in Bedford Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 for each performance.

An order form for tickets went home on Tuesday, November 29th. 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.

Dismissal Reminders

Please be aware of the following dismissal procedures put in place for everyone's safety on campus:

- All students being picked up from car line or whose parents are walking onto campus to pick them up should gather in their class lines in the parking lot area of the school yard.
- Students who are going to Extended Care should gather in lines next to Church in the preschool yard.
- Students who are walking off campus without an adult should gather in the lower yard next to the science lab to be walked off campus by teachers.

Thank you for all your support of these procedures to help keep all safe and sound every afternoon!

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 5th through Friday, December 9th. Thank you to third grade teachers, Lawrence Ellison and Zhanna Toensing for organizing this wonderful work of mercy!

General Mills Box Tops for Education

We earn cash for our school by collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education coupons. Last school year we collected 6678 box tops and earned \$667.80 for the school. The money will be used to purchase new books for the library. With your help, we hope to collect even more Box Tops this school year. *Please note: The boxtops have an expiration date, and unfortunately, many that are turned in have already expired, in which case they cannot be submitted.*

Please clip out the Boxtops coupons, and turn them in ASAP (being mindful of the expiration dates), so that St. Gabriel School will receive credit for all the Boxtops coupons you collect.

Campbell's Labels for Education Program Changes

The Campbell's *Labels for Education* Program will soon be coming to an end. Campbell's has begun the process of removing the logo from products and expects there will be a limited number of products that contain these labels in stores through August 1, 2017. Once all the *Labels for Education* logos have been removed from the products, UPCs will no longer be accepted. Please continue to collect labels with the LFE logo for the rest of this school year, but since the program will soon end, please turn them in ASAP, as the points we receive allow us to purchase playground equipment for our school.

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 16, 2016. 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 41 st Annual Oral Spell-a- thon will be held on Tuesday January 17th, 2017 in the library. We will be starting with the second graders at 8:20 am.

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 as well. Sponsorship forms will be sent home prior to Christmas break.

If you would like to volunteer on the day of the event or contribute baked sweet treats, please contact Mala Gurbuxani at mala.gurbuxani@gmail.com.

Masonic Center for Youth and Families Visits SG!

Thursday, 12/8 at 6:30pm in the School Library

Learn more about the integrated therapeutic services Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF) offers. Also, learn some tips on how a family with learning differences and/or ADHD can support one another.

Reserve a seat by contacting Milena Tapia at mtapia@stgabrielsf.com by Tuesday, 12/6.

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Fall Book Fair Success!

Thank you all for another successful Fall Book Fair! There was \$11,575 in sales and Mrs. O'Donnell was able to purchase over \$4,000 worth of new books for the new SG Library!

Many thanks to all the volunteers:

Gabe Lucey	Helen Han	Candy Chen	Shihlan Li
Julie Paez	Gloria Liu	Laura Brady	Katherine Moe
Melanie Pambid	Siobhan Woods	Spencer Chopp	Katheryn Henspetter
Anjie & Dave Chew	William Steele	Danielle Sly	Christina Keyes
Jennifer Madar	Nikki Clancy	Jenny Breslin	Kate Walsh
Chantelle Egan	Katerina Cazanis		

Thanks to all students who helped, especially:

Clara Lucey	John Lucey	Nicolas Paez	Vinny Chew
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A special thank you to Ceily Landman, our new chairperson this year! She did a fantastic job and looks forward to next year!

Grandparents' Day 2016

Grandparents' Day '16 hosted more than 300 Grandparents and special friends. All were treated to a wonderful reception hosted by SGPO, and then they 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, and those who helped at the event. A big thank you goes to Jacqui Saxon who coordinated the reception.

Many thanks for all of your help and food donations for St. Gabriel's Grandparents Day. I could not have made this happen without your generous donations of baked goods, savory items, shrimp platters, finger sandwiches and fruit/veggie trays. We received a lot of compliments on our spread!

I would also like to personally thank the volunteers staffing the event:

Marilen Aquino	Ann Kutner
Laura & Fiona Brady	Lottie Kuwada
Catherine Cook	Lidia Leung
Zena Dadoukh	Kathy Moe
Mary Dudum	Katy Roberts
Tim Egan	Lijie Qin
Raquel Elsner	Cynthia Scipioni
Kelly Graziadei	Nora Sheriff
Mala Gurbuxani	

We could not do this event without each and everyone of you, many thanks to all!

Happy Holidays! I hope to see you all next year!

-Jacqui Saxon (Evan 5A)

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 2016 taxes!*** Have questions about Annual Giving? Contact Alice Lawrie, Development Director, at sgs@stgabrielsf.com.

Robotics Teams Update

A fantastical day-tournament of science research and innovation coupled with LEGO robotics was held at Lowell High School on Sunday November 20th. Both SG teams, Rhi-NO Poaching & Bouncing Bots, had three chances to have their autonomous robots accomplish as many missions as possible in two and a half minutes.

Rhi-NO Poaching had consistently good runs. Bouncing Bots had a tough first run but rallied to reach their high score for the final match.

Both teams were also judged on Project Research & Innovation, Robot Design, and Core Teamwork/Cooperation values. Both teams performed well.

In the end, Bouncing Bots was promoted from this qualifier to battle it out in the district tournament held in mid-January.

Great work Rhi-NO Poaching & Bouncing Bots!!

ST. GABRIEL
SCHOOL'S
**PARENT
ANNUAL
GIVING**



2016-17 Parent Annual Giving

Thank you to the **30%** of families who have pledged!
That's great! Yet we still need **70%** of our parents to
achieve our goal of 100% participation!
We have also received **\$56,735*** in monetary pledges.



Are you wondering why you should participate?



St. Gabriel has a comprehensive program designed to meet
the diverse needs of the school, from building our community to
educational enhancements and more.



The key component to St. Gabriel's success is *participation*.

Pledging your prayers and thoughts for St. Gabriel School builds our community.
ALL parents are asked to make this pledge.

Monetary pledges help meet the financial needs of the school.
Any amount assists in this effort.



* Includes company matching gifts. Pledge form on reverse.

GET A 2016 TAX DEDUCTION!

Don't forget!

Your gifts to St. Gabriel School
through Parent Annual Giving are
tax deductible!

Make your monetary pledge by the
end of December for a 2016 tax
deduction!

**HERE IS A LIST, BY CLASS,
OF CURRENT PARTICIPATION.**

If you have more than one child, credit is given to each class

Kindergarten	24%
1st Grade	32%
2nd Grade.....	22%
3rd Grade	38%
4th Grade	22%
5th Grade	34%
6th Grade	41%
7th Grade	42%
8th Grade	34%



ST. GABRIEL SCHOOL

Parent Annual Giving Program
Supporting Education at St. Gabriel

Yes! I/We pledge support of St. Gabriel School through a pledge of Prayers and/or Thoughts for St. Gabriel School, a monetary pledge or both.

Part A: Pledge of Prayers and/or Thoughts

I/We pledge to keep St. Gabriel in Prayer/Thought throughout the school year.

St. Gabriel is far more than a building. It is a community of people. Your pledge of prayers/thoughts is a show of care for St. Gabriel and our community. It is support when times are tough, and in thanks for our blessings. As a Catholic School, this benefit is greatly valued. *We, therefore, ask all families to make this pledge.*

Part B: Monetary Pledge

I/We pledge to St. Gabriel School (if you are able to make a monetary pledge, please be as generous as you can):

\$5,000 \$1,200 (apprx 1 mo. tuition 2 children) \$600 (apprx 1 mo. tuition 1 child)

\$350 (avg. gift) \$150 Other \$_____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Enclosed is my/our full/initial payment of \$_____ and/or
I/We will make payments: Monthly Quarterly Other _____

My employer has a Matching Gifts Program:
____ I will provide forms or ____ match has been submitted

Please use this gift for (optional): the greatest school need staff development
 curriculum enhancement Scholarship/Endowment Fund
 Art program Other _____

Your Name:

Name: _____

Address **OR** Email Address(s): _____

HELP US SAVE PAPER: To receive an acknowledgement by email, please clearly print your email address(es) above.

Child(ren)'s Grade(s): _____ _____ _____ _____

Your gift is TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please make check payable to St. Gabriel School. THANK YOU!