



## SAINT GABRIEL SCHOOL

2550 Forty First Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94116  
(415) 566-0314  
[www.stgabrielssf.com](http://www.stgabrielssf.com)

### PARENT NEWSLETTER

[www.sgsparents.com](http://www.sgsparents.com)

September 1, 2016

Hello Parents,

Welcome back to the 2016 - 2017 School Year! We are off to a fantastic beginning and are all, teachers, staff, and students, ready to embrace the year of new experiences and growth!

We have already welcomed new members to our community, opened our minds to new beginnings, and are looking forward to the wonderful school year to come!

I hope you had a restful, relaxing, and rejuvenating summer---you will need it to help take on the ride of the 2016 - 2017 SG school year!

Best,

Mrs. Gina Beal  
Principal

*If you require a hard copy of this newsletter, please call the school office (415-566-0314) to request one.*

#### **Upcoming Items**

- |                  |             |  |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | <b>5</b>    | <b>Labor Day Holiday - No School</b>   |
|                  | <b>6</b>    | <b>Parent Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - Faculty Room</b>   |
|                  | <b>6-26</b> | <b>STAR Assessment Baseline Testing window</b>   |
|                  | <b>6</b>    | <b>Spanish Classes start - Wed-Fri: Grades 4-8 at 7:20 am (MPR)<br/>Tues &amp; Thurs: Grades K-3 at 3:15 pm (1A)</b> |

- SEPTEMBER**
- 13** Parent Meeting for 8th Grade CYO Environmental Retreat - 6:30 pm
- 14** After School Art Classes begin - 3:00 pm
- 15** After school Garden Club begins for grades 5 & 6
- 17** Beautification Committee: 9:00am - 12:00 noon
- 18** St. Gabriel Parish Catechetical Sunday 10:00am Mass  
St. Gabriel Parish-School Picnic @ Stern Grove - 11:00am
- 19** Academic Chess begins
- 20** School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm - Faculty Room
- 22** High School Resource Directors' Forum - 6:30pm in 8B
- 23** Alumni Ice Cream Social
- 24** St. Gabriel Parish 75th Jubilee Dinner, Dance and Auction - 6:00 pm
- 25** St. Gabriel Parish 75th Jubilee Mass at 12:00 noon  
Reception to follow
- 28** MINIMUM DAY - 12:30 pm DISMISSAL  
"Egg Drop" for grades 6-8 at 12 Noon
- 26-30** 8th Grade to CYO Environmental Retreat with teachers
- 27** General Parent Meeting - Bedford Hall  
Mandatory Parent Attendance - At least one parent must attend.  
6:45 pm: Refreshments  
7:00 - 8:30 pm: Meeting
- 29** Feast of St. Gabriel - School Mass at 8:30 am
- OCTOBER**
- 1** International Food Fair - Come to enjoy some international eats!
- 1-3** Archbishop Cordileone visits St. Gabriel Parish & School
- 2** Tiny Knights Preschool Blessing & Open House following 10:00 am Mass



### **Helpful tips for starting the new school year:**

With the beginning of a new school year, comes new routines and new challenges. Thank you to our resource team for bringing us some helpful parent tips on starting off this school year on the right foot. From Challenge Success:

# CHALLENGE SUCCESS

## **Top Ten Back-to-School Tips to Help your Child Thrive in School This Year**

1. Ask your child: "How was your day? Learn anything interesting? Get to spend time with friends?" instead of "How did you do on the math test?"
2. Resist the urge to correct the errors in your child's homework. It's your child's work, not yours.
3. Work done with integrity is more important than an A. Pressure to achieve *only* high grades can make students resort to cheating.
4. Make time for P.D.F.: playtime, downtime, family time. Research shows P.D.F. is critical for overall well-being.
5. Create a technology-free environment during mealtimes. Every adult and child can benefit from a break from constant interruptions and distractions.
6. Collaborate with your child's teachers. Assume best intentions and work together to solve problems.
7. Fight the temptation to bring your child's forgotten homework to school. Kids gain resilience by learning from small failures.
8. An extra hour of sleep is more valuable than an extra hour of studying. Research shows sleep deprivation can be associated with depression and anxiety.
9. When your child wants to talk with you, stop what you are doing and engage. Does "I hate school" really mean something else: "I am being bullied" or "I don't fit in?"
10. Help your child develop his or her interests and strengths. Discover what your child really loves to do outside of school, not what you think a college admissions officer would like to see on an application.

### **High School Resource Programs Forum--September 22nd at 6:30pm**

We welcome a panel of Resource Program Directors from Archbishop Riordan HS, Mercy S.F., and Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory HS to explain their support programs for students with specific academic needs. Please contact Melissa Campos by Friday, Sept. 9th at [mcampos@stgabrielsf.com](mailto:mcampos@stgabrielsf.com), to reserve a seat. 6th, 7th, and 8th grade families have priority seating. The event will take place in the 8B classroom.

### **General Parent Meeting - SEPTEMBER 27, 2016 - SAVE THE DATE**

Our General Parent Meeting for the beginning of school will be held on Tuesday, September 27th, 2016. Refreshments and a chance to socialize will be available between 6:45 - 7:00 pm in Bedford Hall. Mark your calendars and you will receive an agenda soon. This is a **MANDATORY** meeting. At least one parent must attend.

### **Egg Drop - September 26th - 12 Noon**

Our annual "Egg Drop" is scheduled for September 26th! Each year our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders design a container to protect a raw egg to be dropped from a height of 7 meters! The students participating must create a container to protect the egg and have the least amount of mass. We keep record of the mass of winning entries. The one that protects its cargo and has the least mass will be our winner.

### **Catechetical Sunday for St. Gabriel Parish - September 18th, 2016**

Please join us at 10:00 am Mass to recognize all of our teachers of religious instruction.

### **Parish/School Community Picnic - September 18th, 2016**

The Parish/School Picnic is right around the corner! Come join in a day of fun and sun at Stern Grove park from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Barbecue will be provided, but bring your own drinks and side dishes. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children (under 5 years are free). You can purchase tickets during school hours in the Clinic or in front of Church on Sundays. Thanks to Toby Wiley, there will be a Rock Wall, Archery, Slack Line, and Disc Golf activities!

### **St. Gabriel Parish 75th Jubilee Dinner, Dance and Auction - 6:00 pm**

**Come help us celebrate the Parish's 75th Jubilee on Saturday, September 24th** Cocktails at 6:00pm, followed by Dinner at 7:00pm and Dancing beginning at 8:30pm. All the while a Silent Auction will be in play.

Cost is \$75 per person

[Click here](#) to download reservation form.

**Questions:** Please call the Parish Center 415.731.6161.

### **St. Gabriel Parish 75th Jubilee Mass at 12:00 noon & Reception**

**Following the jubilee gala will be a 12:00PM Mass/Reception on Sunday, September 25th beginning with 12:00pm Mass to celebrate the 75th Anniversary and followed by a Reception in Bedford Hall. All are welcome!**

### **A few special commemorative items**

*SG 75th Anniversary Jubilee CD/Commemorative Ornament*

Order your very own CD (*A Diamond in the Dunes*) which features over 700 images and includes music by the SG music ministers for only \$15.

You may also order a beautiful commemorative ornament, also for only \$15.

[Click here](#) for the CD/Ornament order form.

*Please send all orders to the Clinic.*

### **St. Gabriel's Parish 75th Anniversary Parent Hours Opportunity**

Get an early jump on fulfilling your **parent hours**! Volunteer help is needed for the 75th Anniversary Jubilee events, and there are a variety of ways you can help: Help is needed at the Parish-School Picnic on Sept. 18th. Help is needed to set up for the dinner on Sept. 23rd, as well as decorating and working on the silent auction. There are also volunteers needed to help with dinner and clean-up. For the Reception on Sept. 25th, set-up, serving, and clean up are all areas where you can help.

Please contact Donna Nathanson, [lhndhn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhndhn@sbcglobal.net), and provide your contact information and dates & times you are available.

**Dessert items** are needed for the Parish 75th Anniversary Jubilee Dinner on Saturday, September 24th and reception on Sunday, September 25th. Parent hours will be given for donated items. Please deliver homemade, non-perishable, wrapped cookies, brownies, or cupcakes to the Parish Center on September 23rd between 9:00am - 5:00pm (closed 12:00-1:00 for lunch). Label your donation with your name, and your child's name and class. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Becerra at 415-731-6161. Thank you!

### **Reminders on Being Good Neighbors and being SAFE when Parking**

Please remember that St. Gabriel School and Parish have neighbors. We need to practice being good neighbors, as Jesus asks us, when parking in the area. Double parking and leaving your vehicle is not allowed. Also, keep out of driveways when parking--take a look to make sure there is no blockage before you leave your car. Our neighbors need to move about during the day. For safety reasons, their driveways need to be kept clear and the traffic outside their homes needs to keep moving. All of these things will keep everyone SAFE! Thank you for keeping these parking rules in mind.

### **Reminders on the use of Automobiles for Field Trips**

Each year we are asked to post these reminders:

1. Drivers should be between **25 and 65 years of age**.
2. Drivers must have a valid, unrestricted driver's license and a "clean" driving record for the past 3 years: no fault accidents, no tickets for speeding, reckless driving, driving under the influence, etc. **A copy of each driver's license must be kept on file.**
3. A driver should carry liability insurance on the vehicle to be used.
  - a. \$500,000 is required for employees or volunteers who frequently drive their own vehicles.
  - b. \$300,000 is the expected norm.

- c. \$100,000 is the absolute minimum.
4. Children risk injury if they are unbelted, improperly belted or otherwise too close to the dashboard when an airbag inflates. To assure safety, always buckle children in the back seat. If the vehicle does not have a back seat, move the front seat as far back as possible from the dashboard.
5. **One seat belt must be provided for and used by each vehicle occupant.**
6. According to California State Law, children must be buckled into booster seats in vehicles until they turn eight (8) years old or grow to a height of 4 feet 9 inches.
7. **No private (non-chartered) vehicle, including vans with more than 9 seats should be used.** Additionally, no one may ride in the back of a pickup truck.
8. **A driver's route may not be deviated from the intended destination - going or returning. A driver MAY NOT stop his/her car to "treat" students to lunch, snack, etc.** Since such an act would not be listed on the original Teacher Field Trip Permission Slip, it would not be covered by school insurance.
9. **ALL drivers must have completed the Shield the Vulnerable online training and background check before being eligible to drive on a field trip.**

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will start 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.

### **Sweatshirts for Sale**

Please be aware that the order form for our St. Gabriel sweatshirts is attached to the newsletter. Classic Design has sample sizes for you to try on, but you must order the sweatshirts from school, not directly from Classic Design. Also, Classic Design scrip may not be used for this fundraiser.

If you have any questions, please email Janet Barry at [clinic@stgabrielst.com](mailto:clinic@stgabrielst.com) or call (415) 566-0314.

### **Shield the Vulnerable Reminder**

Anyone having access to our children, whether chaperoning a field trip, volunteering in the classroom, room parents, yard duty, library volunteers, hot lunch, or helping with various fundraisers **MUST** complete the online training and background check through Shield the Vulnerable. **There are NO EXCEPTIONS.** To complete the online training and background

check requirements, please visit the website [www.sheildthevulnerable.org](http://www.sheildthevulnerable.org) . When it asks for your affiliation, please list yourself as an elementary school volunteer. Once you have completed the online training, please send a copy of your certificate of completion to Mrs. Demartini in the school office.

### **COMING SOON!**

#### **★ Save the Date: *October 1st, 2016: International Food Fair* ★**

Do not forget to come and enjoy great eats and awesome conversation at our first school social fundraiser, The International Food Faire, Saturday, October 1st from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Please go to the [parent website](#) to volunteer and/or donate food items.

#### **★ Archbishop Cordileone visits St. Gabriel Parish & School ★**

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone will visit our Parish and School community from October 1st thru 3rd. He will spend two days with the Parish and spend a day at school, visiting classrooms, students and staff. More information to come.

#### **★ Tiny Knights Preschool Blessing & Open House ★**

We are happy to announce the Blessing and first Open House of our brand new preschool classroom, the Tiny Knights! On Sunday, October 2nd, following the 10:00 am Mass, please join us at the preschool classroom to bless its opening. The preschool will remain open until 12:00 noon for open house visiting time.

### **CLINIC UPDATES**

Just a few notes for parents that may help with necessary paperwork during the school year.

#### **Emergency Information:      **This is very IMPORTANT!****

**You will have received your child's emergency information page the first day of school. This information is very important. Whenever you have a change in home/work information or emergency contacts, please send a note with your signature to the clinic as soon as possible. If your child is ill or injured, we need to reach you as soon as possible. It does help when we have your most current information.**

#### **Illness:**

When your child is sick, please call the first day and then every other day. Your child should bring a note from his/her parent the day he/she returns to school explaining why they were absent. (Even for half-day absences!)

**I am not able to accept emails for illnesses** so please call on the first day of the absence. (If the illness continues, please call every other day.) If you have a planned absence (personal reasons, etc.), please send in a written notice prior to leaving.

#### **Notes you send to School:**

When sending in any written communication to the school, please be sure to include the following information: Your **child's** full name, grade (e.g., 5A), and parent's signature. (Please remember this on your typewritten notes.)

Appointments/Early Dismissals:

If your child has an appointment during class time, a note should be sent the day before explaining the reason for leaving during the school day. Anytime your child leaves school, you must get an excuse note from the doctor/dentist's office. This note must be given to the Clinic when the child returns to school. The offices usually have preprinted forms available. If they return to school, they must check back into the Clinic with their doctor's note.

**All students must be picked up from the Clinic** when leaving for appointments or personal reasons during the school day. An adult (18 years or older) must pick up the student from the Clinic and sign them out. Anyone picking up a student, other than a parent, must be listed on the student's emergency form.

Tardiness:

A student is considered tardy if he/she does not enter class with classmates.

When students are tardy, **they must come into the Clinic to get a tardy slip**. This slip should be signed by the parent and returned to school the next day. For attendance to run smoothly, the Clinic must know when students are tardy.

Prescription and/or Non-Prescription Medications:

When your child has to take any medication (prescription or non-prescription) during the school day, **we must have** a St. Gabriel Physician's Statement signed by the doctor and the parent. This form is attached to this bulletin and extra forms are available in the Clinic. **No medications can be given to students without completion of this specific form.** Medications listed on the Physician Statement can be kept in the Clinic so that the student can take them when necessary. **A new physician statement is needed each year.** Please contact Janet Barry in the Clinic at 415-566-0314 if you have any questions about this matter.

Homework on sick days:

In order for the teachers to organize all your child's work, please request homework in the morning by 10am. Homework will be left at the office counter to be picked up before 3:30pm, or it can be sent home through another student.

SCRIP for Sale!

Scrip can be purchased in the Clinic each school day. Scrip hours are:

Regular Days (8:15am to 11:00am) 3:00pm dismissal

Regular Days (1:00pm to 3:15pm) 3:00pm dismissal

Minimum Days (8:15am to 12:45pm) 12:30pm dismissal

Early Dismissal Days (8:15am to 2:45pm) 2:30pm dismissal

If you see me wandering along the hallway, ask me about buying scrip and I'll do my best to help you. I would like to thank all the parents who do purchase scrip from the Clinic – you are all very patient!

Clinic Supplies:

Each year we ask parents to donate certain supplies to stock our Clinic closet. If you would like to donate items, you may get Parent Participation Hours. For every \$15 you spend, you get one Parent Participation hour. This year we are in need of:

Premium Saltine Crackers  
Kleenex  
Healthy fruit snacks  
Band Aids (all sizes- larger ones would be appreciated!)

Gift cards can also be donated. We often shop at Costco and/or Walgreens. Your donations have been a great help in the past – we appreciate all your support. You may send your donations directly to the Clinic. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Janet Barry 415-566-0314  
clinic@stgabrielsf.com



# THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ONE PETER YORKE WAY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6602 (415) 614-5660 FAX (415) 614-5664

August 31, 2016

Dear Parents,

Over the next three weeks your child, along with all 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, will take the Renaissance STAR Reading and STAR Math Assessments. This new assessment system will replace the IOWA test that was previously given each fall. The decision to move from IOWA to STAR was reached through a process of extensive research, including the review of best practices for student assessment that provides information regarding students' strengths and target specific areas for academic growth.

Renaissance STAR Assessments are computer-adaptive tests that continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child misses a question, the difficulty is decreased. Computer-adaptive tests save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy. On average, students will complete the STAR Math test in about 40 minutes and the STAR Reading test in about 30 minutes.

STAR offers educators a variety of scores and reports. Some STAR scores compare your child's performance to a specific criteria or to a standard (criterion-referenced scores). STAR reports also include scores which compare your child's performance to other students who have taken the same test (norm-referenced scores) across the nation in a percentile metric.

Assessments will be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, to estimate students' understanding of the Common Core standards, and help teachers determine appropriate instruction levels and skills that students are ready to learn. In order to collect this longitudinal data, all students in the Archdiocese will be given three STAR assessments at universal screening dates: September 6 – September 27, January 9 – January 20, and May 8 – May 19.

We are extremely excited about this transition to the STAR Assessments and we are confident that you will be as well as you engage with your child's teacher and principal in examining the data.

Many Blessings,

Nina Russo  
Superintendent

Pamela Lyons  
Associate Superintendent



## 2016-17 ST. GABRIEL PARENT ORGANIZATION SWEATSHIRT FUNDRAISER

### TO PLACE YOUR ORDER:

1. **Circle the size and sweatshirt item you want.** All sweatshirts are made to order, so there will be no exchanges or refunds. If you are unsure of your child's size, sample sizes are available at: Classic Designs School Uniforms at 1551 Taraval Street (between 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Avenues); (415) 661-4700
2. **Return completed order form & check to Janet Barry at the St. Gabriel School Clinic. Make checks payable to St. Gabriel Parent Organization.**

		HOODED \$30 – Youth \$34 – Adult		CREW \$25 – Youth \$29 – Adult	ZIPPER HOOD \$38 – Adult
		Royal	Oxford Gray	Royal	Oxford Gray
sizes available	YS	\$30	\$30	\$25	Not Available
	YM	\$30	\$30	\$25	Not Available
	YL	\$30	\$30	\$25	Not Available
	YXL	\$30	\$30	\$25	Not Available
	AS	\$34	\$34	\$29	\$38
	AM	\$34	\$34	\$29	\$38
	AL	\$34	\$34	\$29	\$38
	AXL	\$34	\$34	\$29	\$38
	A2XL	\$34	\$34	\$29	\$38

### DELIVERY:

Your order will be delivered to your child's classroom approximately 3-4 weeks after the order is received.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_