

ST. VINCENT SCHOOL

A Daughters of Charity-Sponsored School

2333 S. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
213.748.5367 – Phone
213.748.5347 – Fax
www.stvincentschool.net

Competition cooks new St. Vincent School logo

A new school logo design is the reason for some friendly, artistic competition that has been taking place within the St. Vincent School community throughout the past few weeks. The school will be changing the student uniform next school year, and decided to also change the school logo (which currently depicts an eagle, the St. Vincent School mascot).

“We wanted to change the logo to reflect we’re a Catholic school,” said Mrs. Cathy Logan, Vice Principal.

This emphasis on Catholic identity is at the heart

of the competition, which has been bringing St. Vincent School students and their families together to brainstorm and design a logo that incorporates both an image of service, and a cross. Families’ submissions are due before Christmas break, and the competition’s winner, as well as the new St. Vincent School logo, will be revealed during Catholic Schools Week in January.

Individuals from outside of the St. Vincent School community, but from within the greater Vincentian family, will serve as judges for the competition.

Thank you to St. Vincent School newsletter’s supporter below. We are grateful for their generosity. If you or your business would like to help sponsor a future issue of St. Vincent Snapshots, please contact the St. Vincent School Development Coordinator, Ann Stacy, at astacy.development@gmail.com.



JACKS N JOE
a breakfast all day kinda place

2498 S. FIGUEROA STREET
IN THE FIGUEROA CORRIDOR
213.748.4 JNJ (4565)
ADDITIONAL PARKING IN THE BACK OFF ADAMS

St. Vincent Snapshots

Nurturing faith,
and encouraging uniqueness

1911

100
YEARS

2011

honoring abilities,
for 100 years

Volume 1, Issue 1 • St. Vincent School

Los Angeles, CA • Winter 2010

St. Vincent School set to celebrate 100 years

St. Vincent Catholic School will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011. Our school has a rich history of dedication to education and service in the community. St. Vincent School has its roots in the Vincentian Priests and Brothers who came to the Los Angeles area in 1855.

The forerunner of our school, St. Vincent College, was founded in 1865 at the corner of 7th Street and Broadway, which is now St. Vincent Jewelry Mart. During that time, people began to gather for mass at the college, and the beginnings of St. Vincent Parish were established. By 1911, the college had closed, and an elementary school emerged as part of the parish. Construction of the existing St. Vincent Church began in 1925.

St. Vincent School moved its location two more times, and in 1954, landed at its present location. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) first staffed the school. Neighborhood and parish children filled the school’s nine classrooms. The CSJs remained at the school until the mid-‘80s, when a series of lay principals assumed the administration. In 1997, the Daughters of Charity

(DOCs) were asked to administer the school.

Since that time, four DOCs have taught or fulfilled the role of administrator at the school. One CSJ, Sr. Sean Patrice Smythe, has remained on the faculty for more than 25 years, and currently teaches Fine Arts. She



Sr. Sean Patrice Smythe, Fine Arts teacher, leads students as they practice the recorder in preparation for playing at a school family mass in November.

teaches all grades, and supplements the curriculum with speech and mythology classes. Sr. Sean Patrice’s presence links past to present, and is the bridge between the excellent education the children first received from the CSJs, and now receive from the current staff.

St. Vincent School has always been fully accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The

current building holds 1st through 8th grade classrooms, and the Kindergarten classroom is in a separate building on campus. A new library that holds nearly 5,000 books was completed in 2009. These successes and St. Vincent School’s strong history are a result of the Daughters of Charity standing on the stable shoulders of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and reaping the benefits of the seeds that the Sisters of St. Joseph sewed.

Inspired by St. Vincent de Paul, patron of our parish and school, it is our mission to proclaim the gospel of Jesus by forming our students in the Catholic faith and by educating them in a complete academic program, within a nurturing, safe and disciplined environment.



2333 S. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90007

213.748.5367 Phone
213.748.5347 Fax

www.stvincentschool.net

Principal:
Sr. Cabrini Thomas, D.C.

Principal's update

An Advent message from Sr. Cabrini



This is the first St. Vincent School newsletter, and we are very excited about it. You have had a chance to read a little about the history of our school, and now I want to share with you some of the special activities that are happening at SVS.

December is a busy month for everyone. We are preparing for our Christmas program and the parish celebrations of Las Posadas. We will soon be celebrating the Feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At the Christmas Eve Children's Mass, the school choir will lead the congregation in singing as parish children act out the Gospel story of Jesus' birth. Various classrooms are making special projects and gifts for the elderly or for the sick. Our school's Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) is selling "Christmas Grams" and collecting gently used towels and blankets for shelters that care for abused and sick animals.

As we participate in all these activities before Christmas, each of us needs to reflect on the real meaning for our activities and excitement. We are celebrating the time of Advent, a time of waiting and preparing. It is a time for family prayer and special acts of service for others. It is a time to make our hearts and homes ready for the coming of Jesus again. Come, Lord Jesus. Come and be born in our hearts!

Sincerely,

Sister Cabrini DC

Sister Cabrini Thomas, D.C.

SVS library gives great reads

Students at St. Vincent School have a selection of nearly 5,000 books to peruse when they visit the school library each week. The library, which is the beautiful result of years of planning and hard work, officially opened in the fall of 2009, and really started to take form and become set up for use during the 2009/2010 school year.

This school year, the library is in full swing and includes features such as a bar code system for books and computers for student use. Every grade is scheduled to visit the library one time per week, and may also use the library's space when it is available outside of that scheduled time.

Conversation about the library first circulated among a planning committee in May of 2004. In 2007, its location was set after the Kindergarten classroom relocated to a separate building on campus that had formerly been leased to a pre-school. This move allowed for a classroom shuffle that made space for the library on the second floor of the school's main building.

Daughters of Charity, Vincentian tradition

St. Vincent School is a Daughters of Charity-sponsored school that is rooted in the Vincentian tradition, a tradition based on the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. In 1633, Vincent, a humble French priest, and Louise, a widow, established the Company of the Daughters of Charity as a group of women dedicated to serving the "poorest of the poor." Prayer and community life were essential elements of their vocation of service.

Today, the Daughters of Charity are an international community of over 19,000 Catholic women who minister all over the world. The Daughters of Charity still serve the "poorest of the poor." Their ministry touches those in need through education, health care, social and pastoral services.

Two Daughters of Charity currently serve at St. Vincent School: Sr. Cabrini Thomas, Principal, and Sr. Marianne Olives, Inclusion/Resource teacher. All Daughters of Charity who live in California are part of the Province of the West, which has ministries located in California, Utah, Alaska, New Mexico and Arizona.

St. Vincent School has been a Daughters of Charity school since 1997. As such, in the spirit of St. Vincent and St. Louise, it provides education for students regardless of their families' ability to pay tuition, and espouses the values of service and seeing Christ in all people.

Thank you to the Daughters of Charity Province of the West for providing some of the above information.



Ms. Elizabeth Rideell works in the St. Vincent School Library, which opened in 2009. Rideell, the school's former Librarian, continues to help set up the library and organize its catalogue.

Students 'SERVE' community

The Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLEs) at St. Vincent School spell the word "SERVE." These SLEs outline a code of values by which students are instructed to act and live. Students are expected to model their behavior after the life of St. Vincent de Paul, their patron, who loved and served those who were poor during his lifetime.

By following the SLEs, a student at St. Vincent School strives to be: Self-motivated, Educated for life, Respectful, a Vincentian-spirited Catholic, and Ecologically responsible.

St. Vincent School's atmosphere of service and history of giving (to organizations within the Los Angeles area, school families in need, and more) have always brought to life the values that the SLEs outline. But last school year,

St. Vincent School decided to put a new spin on students' tradition of giving.

The idea emerged that each grade should have a year-long service project. These projects – which put a more individual, class-oriented focus on giving – ran throughout last year, and are now taking place for a second consecutive school year. For their service projects, all grades have developed a service goal to achieve throughout the year.

Goals range from "picking up papers in the school yard" (Kindergarten), to "making cards and greetings for children in hospitals" (3rd grade), to "spending a day of service each trimester in a food distribution shelter" (8th grade). Grades' goals are displayed on posters outside classrooms as reminders of the service endeavors.

Partners in our mission

Thank you to the following who have provided great support for St. Vincent School. Your generosity supports the Daughters' of Charity strong tradition of charity and education.

Daughters of Charity Foundation

Julia Stearns Dockweiler Charitable Foundation

Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

As we plan for 2011, we see that technology upgrades within our school would aid us in providing a complete education for St. Vincent School students. We would greatly appreciate any equipment to help us achieve this goal, specifically laptop computers.

Other ways to support St. Vincent School

- Volunteer your time to tutor a student or to share a special talent or gift
- Schedule a visit to our school to get to know our wonderful students, faculty and staff
- List St. Vincent School in your company's matching gift donation program
- Tell a family member, neighbor or friend about St. Vincent School

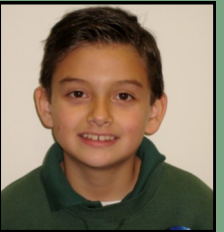
"Love is inventive unto infinity."

–St. Vincent de Paul

Chirps from the Eagles' nest

What has St. Vincent School helped you learn about being a Vincentian-spirited Catholic?

"Being a Vincentian-Spirited Catholic is being like St. Vincent – so doing things for teachers, like helping stack the lunch trays at lunchtime. It's important because it helps the school and helps you get into college."



Ivan

4th Grade

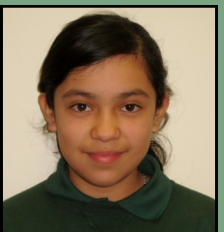
"St. Vincent de Paul acted in a positive way with people and friends. He didn't treat people badly, even if they treated him badly – like Jesus. He visited and comforted the poor. I try to be nice to any new kids and to be as helpful as I can be to people who need help. And I try to be loving."



Johnaton

5th Grade

"It has helped me learn better how to treat people and how to live my life. It has taught me to treat people like you want to be treated and to act how God does: To treat everyone equal and the same, without any differences."



Larissa

6th Grade

"Saint Vincent de Paul formed the Daughters of Charity to help the poor and needy. He is an example to help others that need it. I donate money to the poor because some people need it more than I do, so I give it to them."



Nicole

7th Grade