

Good News

2013
Fall

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation



St. Joseph fourth grade teacher Gianna Amsberry helps Ashton Lady with an assignment.

Good News

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President's Message



**Kevin L. Mannix,
President**

What a blessing it is to have a school system where we can follow our faith and be free to do the best we can for our children!

We all come together to support our mission: providing inspirational, faith-filled, excellent Catholic education to the children of our community.

The good news is that our Salem area Catholic schools have not only survived years of economic recession but are on the upswing. This is because so many members of our community have worked hard to maintain and, indeed, strengthen these wonderful Catholic schools.

In this entire process, we need to give credit to a broad range of people: our pastors; our administrators, teachers, and staff at our Catholic schools; members of the Christian community who have come forward to support us; parents, grandparents, and other relatives of the students at our schools; parishioners; and the students themselves.

Notice that I referred to members of the Christian community. Our Christian brethren have in many instances made major contributions, in terms of time, money, and expertise, because they respect and support what we are doing in our Catholic schools. This is a wonderful part of the ecumenical movement, which is sometimes overlooked.

So, as you read more good news about our Salem area Catholic schools, please know that many people are making a difference – and we hope you will continue to support our schools and this foundation as we continue to provide our students with a solid, faith-based education.

I close this message with an expression of thanks to Chuck Lee for his 16 years of dedicated and successful service as president and principal of Blanchet Catholic School. As Chuck moves on to new work in the public school sector, we wish him well. We also appreciate the deep bench that we have as to capable staff and administrators; thus, Tony Guevara the experienced and capable principal of Blanchet Catholic School now has stepped into the combined post of president and principal. We know Tony will do a fine job as he helps Blanchet build on the success of its 18 years of existence.

We also thank Stephen Lynch for his service to St. Joseph School. Stephen strengthened the staff, grew enrollment, and put St. Joseph School on sound financial footing. We wish the best to his experienced successor, Melissa Doxtator.

Kevin L. Mannix

St. Vincent de Paul School

Maria Palacio, Principal

St. Vincent de Paul is Growing!

At the end of last school year, we had 70 students enrolled. This school year, we began 95 strong, and our goal is to finish the year with 100 students. We believe that with God, everything is possible and that we can reach that goal with your prayers and support.

Our returning students were happy and ready to come back and begin another exciting school year. The new students came in with a sense of uneasiness and anticipation not knowing what to expect from a Catholic school. On day one they found that our Catholic identity is front and center at St. Vincent de Paul. They quickly and readily embraced our daily routines of morning and afternoon prayer, praying before meals, having a religion class every day, and attending mass as a school on a weekly basis. The daily nurturing of our faith not only develops our students' moral character but also helps them to better develop a relationship with God and will better prepare them to face the daily challenges that life presents to us all.

This year we welcome three new teachers: Mrs. Juanita Estrada is teaching Kindergarten and Mrs. Martha Parslow is teaching our 3rd and 4th grade students. Our third new teacher is Mrs. Susana Hernandez who teaches P.E. and is infusing enthusiasm and love for a healthy and active life style to all our students. With the integration of Mrs. Estrada and Mrs. Parslow to our staff, we are happy to report that all the students at St. Vincent de Paul, including our pre-K children, are learning Spanish as a second language.



Mrs. Juanita Estrada and St. Vincent de Paul kindergarteners.

A great source of pride for our school is our dedicated, caring and supportive parents. Thanks to their generosity, our students will participate in several field trips this year that will help them to enlarge their vision, expand their capabilities and experience new learning. Last Friday our students went to Canyonview Camp in Silverton where many went canoeing on their own for the first time. From kindergarten to 6th grade, they all embraced the experience with trepidation and gusto. Every one of them wants to go back! The students grew in their appreciation of the outdoors and demonstrated responsible behavior towards each other and the environment.



Sixth graders Tommy Duffy, Hector Chavez and Jesus Hernandez enjoying a canoe ride at Canyonview Camp.

With God at our side, we are expecting great things to happen at St. Vincent de Paul School!

Blessings to all our readers and supporters.

It is a source of great joy to see the miracles of God every day in the faces of our new and returning students.

St. Joseph School

Melissa Doxtator, Principal

New School Year Brings New Faces & Programs

This year St. Joseph School welcomes a few new faces. Melissa Doxtator joined the St. Joseph community this summer as Principal. While Melissa grew up in Portland, she had recently been living and working at a Catholic school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She has never envisioned herself working anywhere but a Catholic school and feels blessed that God called her to St. Joseph.



St. Joseph School welcomes Melissa Doxtator as their new principal.

St. Joseph has added a new preschool teacher this year. Mrs. Margaret Boyd has experience in deaf education in grades K-12. She has a calm, loving finesse about her while working with the three and four year olds. While the preschoolers are still learning routines, Mrs. Boyd has developed structured centers to teach letters, numbers, colors and shapes, and recently began a religion curriculum with the students. Mrs. Boyd is married and has three children who attend St. Joseph. We are delighted to welcome the Boyd family.



Margaret Boyd reads to her class of three year olds.

We have also added a new Latin teacher to our school. Maizie Redner teaches Latin to our 4-6th grade students. Ms. Redner's Latin curriculum includes prayer, history, language and translation in an effort to teach students the roots and beauty of their faith, as well as to provide a foundation for many other academic subjects.



Maizie Redner checks Latin homework while her students practice their sentences.

We welcome back Gianna Amsberry (front cover). Ms. Amsberry served the school as a resource teacher last year, but is back as a fourth grade teacher this year. Gianna's spirit of service and dedication to the students and families at St. Joseph has made her an asset to the school.

A new program at St. Joseph this year is our Extended Care program. We have begun our own before and after school care program under the leadership of director Carmen Graham. Mrs. Graham is married and has three children who attend St. Joseph. Assisting Mrs. Graham with extended care is J.J. Santibanez, who works with the students every day and is a St. Joseph alum. The program is highly structured, offering time for homework assistance, snack, and some outdoor/ gym play. We are very excited to offer this service to our families.

Queen of Peace School

Debilyn Janota, Principal

Faith, Character, Academics & Service

We are well on our way in preparing for a busy fall. Check our website www.qpsalem.org/school to find the various activities and events happening during this time of year. This includes our annual Living Rosary with adoration and benediction that started the month of October. We are now preparing for our Harvest Festival at the end of the month. We are in full swing with our coming School Auction on Saturday, November 16 at Illahe Golf Course. The theme this year is "Guys & Dolls." For more details, contact the school at 503-362-3443. We hope to see you there.

The weather has put a delay in completing the much-needed new roof. We want to thank our anonymous donor for providing the funds and the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation for arranging this much needed gift. A special thank you to the staff and students for their patience and for maintaining a learning environment while this was happening.



This year we welcome four new staff members. Mary Turner is in the office assisting Joyce Ashford as an Administrative Assistant. Stephanie Anderson is our new kindergarten teacher and

Kaelynn Patton (above) has moved to Pre-K. Eduardo Lara is our new custodian.

We introduced art as a pull out class last year and are happy to add art curriculum to our list of academics. It is being taught by Bethany Ayres. We have seen budding artists at work already.

We are excited to have two seminarians again this year. Nathan Daile and Brother John Vianney Le will be joining us on Thursday afternoons and spending quality time with our students and staff. We welcome them and

ask you to pray for them while they are here answering God's call of service.

As we prepare for our accreditation pre-visit, we have been reviewing our Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLE) with the students. These SLEs are to build life-long skills and strong foundations for the children as they move through the grades at Queen of Peace School. When they leave us, we want these to be instilled in them and for them to continue to grow in their FAITH, CHARACTER, ACADEMICS and SERVICE. We want our children to embrace them in their daily lives, whether they are at school, home or elsewhere.

When you come and visit, look for these posted all over the school.



(Above) Art teacher Bethany Ayres shares an example of a clay chess piece that her students are creating in art class. Each piece represents a saint, and the complete chess board will be sold at the school's annual auction in November. (Below) Fifth grader Lauren Kennedy begins work on her chess piece.



Blanchet Catholic School

Anthony Guevara, President/Principal

Welcome to Our 19th School Year!

This summer the Blanchet community learned that our president, Chuck Lee, would be moving on to a new business opportunity in Salem and that our principal, Tony Guevara, would be taking over as president and principal of our school. While it was difficult to say farewell to Mr. Lee after sixteen years of faithful service, the transition to our new leadership has been very smooth, and we feel fortunate to have someone with Mr. Guevara's experience at the helm. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome four excellent educators to our faculty: Harry Ahn, advanced math teacher; Gail Armstrong, mid high math and science teacher; Stephanie Barth, strings instructor and religion teacher; and Tom Hewitt, drama director. Our new Development Coordinator Toni Nanneman, Development Assistant Dawn Hemstreet and Office Manager Georgianna Rodriguez are wonderful additions to our staff as well.

Our teachers are finding success as well! Four of our educators, Mrs. Halsey Randall, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Menke and Ms. Razmus were recently awarded a Diack grant to continue and expand on Mrs. Halsey Randall's field-based inquiry project for mid high students. This ecology education program, now in its third year, includes the investigation and restoration of the school's on site stream system and native plant areas. The grant allows for the expansion of this program to include additional students, teachers and subject areas, and the funding to purchase better equipment that will aid in data collection and connection to practiced science at the professional level.

Finally, please plan to join us for our fall open house on Sunday, November 3 beginning at 2:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!



Colleen Coen

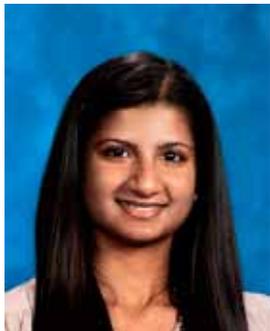
This fall three of our seniors were honored by the National Merit Scholarship Program including Colleen Coen, who was a Semifinalist, and Sarah Kim and Malvika Ramesh, who were named Commended Students. Semifinalists rank

among the top 16,000 and Commended Students among the top 50,000 of the more than 1.5 million high school juniors who take the qualifying exam (PSAT).



Sarah Kim

Congratulations to these remarkable seniors who join the now twenty-eight Blanchet students who have been honored by the National Merit Program since 1995.



Malvika Ramesh

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Salem Catholic Schools Foundation welcomes Artist-in-Residence Carol Ann Manzi, internationally acclaimed operatic soprano. As Artist-in-Residence, Ms. Manzi will spend time with each of our Salem area Catholic schools, working with the staff of each school to enhance music education.



Ms. Manzi is a Yale graduate and has received numerous honors and awards for her singing worldwide. She most recently appeared at New York's Lincoln Center, The Tanglewood and Banff Festivals, The Sarasota Opera, Opera Carolina, Greensboro Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Eugene Opera, Connecticut Opera, and numerous concert halls around the country. As an educator Ms. Manzi has served as Artist/Instructor for five years at the Greater Hartford Academy for the Performing Arts in Connecticut, where she taught classes in opera, singing, and voice for actors, and for over twenty years she has taught privately in Connecticut, Florida, and Oregon. We are so blessed to have this highly sought after artist and educator share her talents with our students!



In September the Blanchet sixth grade class attended outdoor school at Camp Westwind on the Oregon coast.



Mrs. Plotts and St. Vincent de Paul fifth & sixth grade girls.

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Your Support of Salem Catholic Schools Foundation is an Investment in Catholic Education

The mission of Salem Catholic Schools Foundation is to manage and increase the Endowment Fund for Catholic education in Salem. Each year grants are given from the annual earnings of our investments to each of the four Salem Catholic schools in support of their programs, tuition assistance or special projects.

The Salem Catholic Schools Foundation accepts gifts of any amount through:

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- Appreciated securities or property
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Your gift to Salem Catholic Schools Foundation ultimately benefits our four Catholic schools in Salem. All gifts to the Foundation provide positive current and future estate tax considerations. For specific tax benefits to you or your estate, please consult your financial or legal advisor.

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St. Vincent kindergartener Zoe Mambu.



St. Vincent de Paul third & fourth graders.



Queen of Peace fifth graders Mara Oliveros and Avery Stanley.



Celebration of Mass at Blanchet Catholic School.