

Good News ²⁰¹¹ Fall

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation



Sixth grader Sarah Diaz-Fregoso plays in the St. Joseph beginning band.



Queen of Peace students Zach Gander & Mara Oliveros help bag nuts at the Marion-Polk Food Share.



Miss Chennaille, St. Vincent de Paul 1st & 2nd grade teacher, reads with second grader Logan Schmidt.



Blanchet sophomores Alicia Romero & Amelia Seifer bake cookies for the residents of Tierra Rose Nursing Center during the school's Service Day in September.

Good News ²⁰¹¹

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Foundation

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President's Message



Kevin L. Mannix,
President

Meeting the Challenges of Today to Build Futures for Our Children

Everyone knows that our community faces tough economic times.

Yet, even in these tough times, our community is coming together to ensure a better future for our children.

We are witnessing physical plant improvements at all of our Catholic schools. We are seeing devoted faculty and staff holding the line on expenses

to stretch every dollar. We see families sacrificing, so that their children can get the best possible education with a strong faith foundation.

So, even in these tough economic times, I am optimistic about our future. The people of our community understand that every passing day provides another opportunity to help their children – and we cannot allow these opportunities to slip by without being grasped and built upon.

The stories in this newsletter will remind us all how hard work, dedication, and faith can make a difference for our children and our future.



Rev. Henry Guillen-Vega of St. Joseph Church celebrates Mass on All Saints Day with the students and staff of Blanchet Catholic School.

St. Vincent de Paul School

Hector Martinez, Principal

Strong Traditions Continue at St. Vincent de Paul School

St. Vincent de Paul School has been serving the Salem-Keizer community since 1925! Throughout the school's history, many traditions have come and gone. However, many strong traditions continue. The strong traditions that come to mind are fostered by our Parent Club, classroom teachers, and the St. Vincent de Paul Parish community. Of the many school shareholders, these three groups make up the heart and soul of our school's faith community.

Amazing Parent Club

Every year our school families unite and form our amazing Parent Club. This club is very special because it supports all the school's programs through specific fundraising endeavors. Our parents are so dedicated that each year they strive to raise \$30,000. Much of the success of our Parent Club is attributed to the elected officers who go the extra mile to ensure that strong traditions continue at St. Vincent de Paul School. This year's elected officers are:

Bertha Camacho, President

Kristin Lulay, Vice President

Teresa Chavez, Secretary

Nicole Outland, Treasurer

In addition, we are also thankful for our Parent Club members who take a very active role in the work of Parent Club. There are many members who also go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our school community. Some of those members are Tom and Annie Duffy, Neil and Jenny Schmidt, Mike and Lily Araiza, Karl and Michelle Hegney, and David and JoAnne Spink. As a school community, we are extremely excited to see all that this year's Parent Club will accomplish.

Outstanding Classroom Teachers

Year after year, St. Vincent de Paul School retains and attracts outstanding classroom teachers to lead and serve our students in faith and learning. Our teachers embody what it means to be true disciples of Christ as they serve and minister all students who come to



St. Vincent de Paul students Hannah Eggert – 2nd grade & Gwen Handler – 1st grade.

our school. This year there are three new teachers who joined our school community. They each bring an array of gifts, talents, and experiences to share with our students. Those new teachers are:

Ms. Adrienne Klutho, Kindergarten

Miss Amy Evans, Third & Fourth Grade Blend

Mrs. Aimee Plotts, Fifth & Sixth Grade Blend

Our other outstanding teachers include:

Miss Amy Chenaille, First & Second Grade Blend

Mrs. Sue Funk, Preschool

Thanks to the hard work and dedication that our classroom teachers foster, our school is able to provide effective programs that meet the needs of the whole child. We appreciate all the extra time, talent, and prayers they offer to keep the strong traditions of teaching and learning for years to come.

Supportive Parish

Thanks to the ongoing support by the St. Vincent de Paul Parish community, our pastor Fr. Joseph Heuberger, and the Parish Pastoral Council, the strong traditions continue at our school! Each year the parish community provides significant financial support so all children who come to our school doors will be granted the opportunity for a quality Catholic education. It is

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Queen of Peace School

Debilyn Janota, Principal

Things are Buzzing at Queen of Peace School!



Fourth graders Emma Brammer & Allison Cafferata work on a school assignment using an iPad.

Students are busy this month learning how to use iPads. Fifty-eight iPads have been added to a growing technology curriculum with a goal of adding another fifty or so before the end of this school year. Teachers have introduced the iPads to their classes and are already using them for many purposes, including math drills, phonics games, spelling and vocabulary development and enrichment and reinforcement in most subject areas. One teacher said that the quiet “energy” in the classroom was wonderful as students discovered a new way to learn.

Sixth graders were excited about their trip in late September to Ashland to see “Pirates of Penzance.”. They studied the play before going and listened to the music so the story was familiar. Getting to go backstage was an added attraction. Next year’s class is already talking about what play or plays they will see. A spring trip to the High Desert Museum in Bend is planned as another overnight field trip.

Service is a high priority for Queen of Peace students. The third grade spent an afternoon at Marion Polk Food Share bagging nuts for local food share programs. Each month a different class volunteers to work for the organization. The school is also in the midst of a campaign to raise money for an orphanage and school in Pimpollo, Mexico. “Change for Children” is our effort to help our sister school with

much needed items. Students are robbing their piggy banks and sacrificing some of their allowance to help others.

Friday afternoons are not just the end of the week but when elective classes are offered to fifth and sixth graders. Students this trimester chose between Cooking, Print Making, Current Events and Creating Power Point Presentations. Each trimester offers new classes and more learning excitement. We are looking forward to an auto mechanics class next.

We welcome Carl Mucken as our 2nd grade teacher. He comes from the Salem public schools and he and his wife, Liz have triplets (Carter, Mya and Jackson) who are Kindergartners here at Queen of Peace School. We are so happy to have all of them in our Queen of Peace family.



Finally, we have just completed working with KATU 2 in making a video promoting our school. It can be seen on the KATU 2 community section on the web. Call us at (503) 362-3443, and we will be glad to give you the “address” to see us. By the way, check out our new web page (still under construction). It is starting to take shape at www.qpsalem/school.org. Drop by any time and be part of the buzz!

St. Joseph School

Stephen Lynch, Principal

The Sound of Music Fills St. Joseph School



Fifth & sixth graders enjoy Mrs. Hettwer's beginning band class.

As you walk the halls of St. Joseph School this year, there is a good chance you'll hear music in the air. At a time when many schools are cutting back on non-core subjects, we have intentionally decided to expand our music program. We believe that the study of music is a wonderful tool to develop and encourage self-expression, creativity, teamwork, discipline, problem solving, concentration, memory skills, physical coordination and a sense of accomplishment that can be applied throughout a person's life. Music also enables them to experience the beauty of our traditions and our faith in unique ways.

We have had a classroom music curriculum for many years. This year we hired Mrs. Kami Hettwer, who teaches band, choir, and guitar ensemble at Blanchet, to teach music also at St. Joseph. This has proven to be an effective way to link our Catholic elementary school with our Catholic middle and high school music program. Mrs. Hettwer has brought lots of energy and experience to our school, and the music room is always filled with sound and activity. Every grade has music twice each week, and students learn skills in pitch, rhythm, note recognition, vocabulary, form, style, music history and theory. They also learn about musical instruments, how to play them and how to care for them.

New this year, the 5th and 6th graders have the opportunity to join the beginning band. This means giving up a recess period three days a week, but there are lots of participants, and they are making great progress learning how to play a new instrument and to play together. Those students who will attend Blanchet in the next two years will arrive ready to join the band!

We have also made a change in our approach to music at Mass. Doug and Shaelyn Schneider drive down from Portland every Wednesday to work with our newly formed student choir. Doug is the organist at the Cathedral in Portland and teaches at Portland State.

Shaelyn is trained in leading children's choirs.

They are teaching the children to sing portions of the Mass in both English and Latin, and this has added to the reverence and the beauty at our school Masses. The choir also has a class after Mass, and they are learning control and discipline in singing together. Their sound is growing truly beautiful.

Each morning the entire school gathers in the church for our morning prayer together, and we use plain chant to sing a psalm or other prayer. This is one more opportunity to experience unity through singing and praying together. Our hope is to keep music alive in the hearts and voices of our students and to make it an important part of their lives.



Blanchet Catholic School

Charles E. Lee, President

Focused on the Future

Since its founding in 1995, Blanchet Catholic School has remained focused on the future and on continual growth and improvement. In 2010 the school launched a new and ambitious Five Year Strategic Plan outlining areas of focus and critical needs that, when addressed, will help lead Blanchet to the next chapter of its exciting history. Five Year Plan highlights include Faith Formation, Curriculum, Technology, Facilities, Development, Human Resources, Finance and Board Development.

In less than a year's time, Blanchet Catholic School has made significant progress toward meeting the initiatives set forth in this current Five Year Plan.

Curriculum: In the fall of 2010 Mrs. Kami Hettwer became the school's new band instructor and has since taken on the role of choir director as well. As a result, student involvement in music programs has grown and course offerings have expanded to include beginning band as well as a guitar ensemble. A new pep band has also added to the spirit at home football games and assemblies.

Faith Formation: This fall marked the first year of a new annual Service Day, a school-wide volunteer effort. The Day of Service program, held on Friday, September 30, was mobilized by HandsOn Mid Willamette Valley, a volunteer action center for Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. All 370 students donated their day to serving nearly twenty agencies in the north Salem community including Tierra Rose Nursing Center, Family Building Blocks, Northgate Peace and Remembrance Garden, Father Taaffe Homes, Center 50+ Meals on Wheels and many more. Students were assigned to a variety of tasks such as painting, cleaning, sorting clothes, packing food boxes, sorting school supplies, creating baby blankets, weeding, planting and removing graffiti.

Technology: In the fall of 2010 Blanchet launched an all new website complete with a parent portal and teacher web pages. Teachers were also issued new laptops and four classrooms have been equipped with new ActivBoards. Thanks to the generosity of our auction supporters, our recently remodeled computer lab will soon feature new computers and the counseling department will launch its new Naviance college counseling software.

Facilities: In the past two years Blanchet has made important improvements to its facilities including adding new bleachers to the gymnasium, remodeling the mid high bathrooms, replacing drinking fountains and exterior doors and resurfacing the parking lot. The school is well on its way to achieving its most ambitious goal of adding a new commons building that will serve as a gathering place for students and as a mid high and high school cafeteria. This multi-purpose space will also be used for parent socials, events, club meetings, assemblies and Blanchet, Serra Catholic and Sacred Heart alumni events. The Commons will also include new athletic and student locker rooms, a faculty room and a commercial kitchen.

To read more about Blanchet's Five Year Plan, "Vision 2015," and the "Foundation for the Future" campaign, visit the school website – www.blanchetcatholicschool.com/forthefuture.



LOOKING NORTH FROM COURTYARD

Proposed new Commons building

BLANCHET CATHOLIC SCHOOL
4373 MARKET ST., NE / SALEM, OR 97301
MARCH 16, 2011

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because of their ongoing generosity, pastoral support, and prayers that St. Vincent de Paul School is alive and strong.

In closing, St. Vincent de Paul School will continue to foster a Catholic loving and learning environment thanks to the ongoing support and commitment made by its school parents, classroom teachers, and parish community.



Fr. Heuberger celebrates Mass with the students of St. Vincent de Paul School.

Salem Catholic Schools Foundation to Launch Website

Stay tuned and check out www.salemcatholicschoolsfoundation.org

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 the Endowment 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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Queen of Peace sixth graders Amy Pirelli, Angelica Mejia, Mariah D'Cruz, Maggie Robinson & Andrew Unger wait for the play "Pirates of Penzance" to begin during their visit to Ashland in September.



Blanchet Catholic School seniors Madeleine Coleman, Megan Angstrom and Nuria Castro-Martinez paint tables at a local park during the school's first annual Service Day.