



Holy Spirit School

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Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe another year is rushing to a close. This spring, I had the privilege to go to the Holy Land with Father Mathew and parishioners from Holy Spirit and St. Edwards. It is a trip I will always remember: to be able to walk in the same towns

that Jesus walked and to visit the place of Jesus' birth, death, and burial. To be able to do this reminds me that we are asked to be a Christ-Centered Person in all we do at school, at home and in the community.

A Holy Spirit School student is

expected to be:

A Christ-centered person who

- exhibits a strong Catholic identity
- makes morally responsible decisions
- demonstrates a knowledge of Catholic doctrine and traditions
- participates in prayer and liturgy



The students at Holy Spirit School are buddies to younger students, make donations to help many organizations, and as 8th graders many work as Junior Vincentians serving the needy in our parish. These lessons will lead them to be a Christ-centered person.

"...Jesus, transform all I am and all I do into the kind of love that permeated your presence. Clothe me with your love and grant me grace to be truly kind and caring. May my spiritual clothes be spun from the gold of your goodness and last into eternity."

-Joyce Rupp

Blessings~

Susan C. Buchanan

Letter from Father Mathew

We are born self-centered; the goal of the Christian life is to become Christ-centered. St. Paul writing to Colossians (3:17) says: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Paul gives us a hint at how we can go about living with Christ as the center. He makes it pretty clear — whatever you do...word or deed...do it all. In other words, EVERYTHING YOU DO! Paul doesn't just limit it to certain activities or parts of life, but all of life. And what he says next is the key: in the name of the Lord Jesus.

To do something in the name of Jesus means to do it as he would do it. How would Jesus wake up in the morning? How would Jesus treat his family? How would Jesus drive to work? How would Jesus interact with his boss and coworkers? How would Jesus treat his neighbors (even the annoying ones)? To do these things, the everyday life things, the way that Jesus would do them if He were you is how you "do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

To live Christ-centered is to truly find life the way it was meant to be lived. When our relationship with Christ is the center, it will impact every area of life.





KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarteners have been learning about taking care of God’s creatures. We had a field trip to Petco and learned about small animals, birds, fish, and reptiles. In our classroom we now have 5 caterpillars that we are watching as they grow and grow and grow and will soon go into the chrysalis stage and then come out as beautiful butterflies. Thank you God for so many animals.

1ST GRADE

What is the number one fear of most Americans? If you answered public speaking, you’re right! But not for our first graders! We have been learning about our cultures and our country and have been presenting our information to our classmates. We speak with a nice, loud voice and maintain eye contact with our audience. We are learning to be good listeners as well and to give constructive advice to our fellow classmates. Building self-confidence starts early and we are well on our way in first grade.

2ND GRADE

Holy Spirit School’s second graders are anxiously awaiting their First Holy Communion. As they prepare for the big day, their tender love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament blossoms. During the week following



their First Communion the children will have the opportunity thank God for his gift of the Eucharist by making sandwiches for the poor of our community. It will be a wonderful opportunity to teach them about an assembly line too, as we prepare more than 60 sandwiches! Growing as a Christ-centered person can be a delicious experience!

3RD GRADE

The Third Grade has focused on preparing themselves for Lent and our school’s Lenten prayer service. The theme of the prayer service was “Cleansing Our Hearts and Leaving Our Sins Behind.” The children designed a banner of a desert scene with a path meandering into the mountains in the background. They cut out stones from construction paper that symbolized the harm we do to others and things we stumble over in our faith journey. The banners were hung up in the church for the prayer service and before leaving the church the students taped their rock to the path symbolizing leaving their sins behind as they walked in God’s love.

4TH GRADE

The fourth grade class has been hard at work. We’ve been representing

how we are Christ-like not only in our daily activities, but with different situations during class time. Fourth grade had a great opportunity to show the student body how to treat others through our Peace Prayer Service in January. During the month of March, we’ve visited the California Academy of Science and we will be planting seeds with our buddies. In the upcoming months, we will be traveling to Columbia to experience life as a gold miner. During Lent, we did Stations of the Cross with our kindergarten friends. Fourth grade would like to thank the student body for helping us recycle this year. We have all helped keep what God created for us, clean.

5TH GRADE

The fifth grade class, along with sixth grade, visited our State Capitol in Sacramento. It was a great experience for the students to learn where the state laws are created. Our first tour stop was at the Capitol Rotunda, which stands in the middle of two wings, representing the balance of the state government. Then the students visited the Legislature Chambers, with one end of the wing containing the Senate Chamber and on the other end, the Assembly





Chamber. The students had a chance to sit in the balcony above the Senate and Assembly floors, where the students can view where our representatives collaborate, debate and vote. To many, it was a view of the past seeing the neoclassical design of the building and ornate furniture. Along our tour path, we stopped to view California's Great Seal to discuss the many symbols, including the goddess Minerva. After a great educational tour of the State Capitol, we headed to Old Sacramento, which is a unique National Landmark and State Historic Park, located along the Sacramento River. It was a step back



in history for the students to see the horse and carriage traveling down the street, people walking on wooden paths, and seeing old-fashioned stores. Many students visited the Central Pacific Railroad Station, which is a reconstruction of the first transcontinental railroad. It was a fun-filled, historical day for the students to be able to see where our state's laws are made and step into the past to better understand our Golden State of California.

6TH GRADE

The sixth grade class spent a wonderful week in the Santa Cruz Mountains at Sempervirens Outdoor

School. Hiking, singing, and learning about the environment were among our favorite activities. One day was spent at the ocean exploring tide pools and the creatures that live there. We later worked in the garden while feeding chickens. A highlight for the week was the barnyard boogie followed by a heart-warming campfire gathering. As we received our ashes on Ash Wednesday, we reflected on God's glorious works of creation and our renewal promises for Lent. Together we experienced camp life and discovered how to be better stewards of our earth.

7TH GRADE

The seventh grade worked with a "Passion" on our program for the Holy Thursday prayer service. The students created an original script for the event. They busily learned lines and made plans for costumes, props, and sets. It was a very exciting and challenging task, and we really had a great time.

8TH GRADE

One of the most important Student Learning Expectations (SLEs), to the class of 2011, is "A Christ Centered Person." Following in the footsteps of Christ, students strive to help others



and to reach out to members of our community. All 8th graders perform 40 hours of service during the school year. Two of the most valued organizations served by the class are the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Peer Tutoring program. Students volunteer as Junior Vincentians and help in ministering to the needy of our community on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The peer-tutoring program assists students in grades K through 5. Each student is paired with an eighth grade volunteer tutor for one-on-one academic review and reinforcement one day a week.

Reaching out to support others helps students to focus on being more Christ like. We are called to follow Jesus and to minister to others in Jesus' name. By doing this, the Class of 2011 lives the SLEs of being "A Christ Centered Person."



Holy Spirit School Filipino Culture Class: An After School Enrichment Program

The Filipino Culture Class began at Holy Spirit School in the Fall of 1995. The founders and impetus of this valuable program were Holy Spirit parents Virginia Corpuz, Jad Gaytan, Maria Miranda, and Rosario Saffreno.

Sixteen years later, it has evolved into an after school enrichment program inviting many students from ALL ethnicities to participate and learn about the Filipino culture, history, traditions, folk dance & song, and basic language, conversation, and writing skills. The class teaches Kindergarten through eighth grade students at Holy Spirit School whose families choose to be a part of the fun-filled learning experience.

Since the Fall of 2000, the annual enrollment of students participating in the program has averaged between 70 to 75 students. Our guess is that students attend classes every Friday due partly to the delicious traditional meriendas provided

weekly by our very generous families. Another highlight the students look forward to annually are the traditional dances and vocal performances during the annual Holy Spirit Parish Festival.

The 16 year success of our after school enrichment program has been due to the endless support we receive from the faculty and staff at our parish school; the continued generosity of our families giving their valuable time and individual talents; our volunteer instructors throughout the years who continue to offer their skills and knowledge; and our students who return year after year, eager to learn more about the culture.



FAME

What is FAME? FAME stands for Fine Arts Mini Experience, and is a fine arts program that introduces our students to famous artists and composers. Each year, six lessons are taught by parent volunteers. Six different artists and composers are studied by every student during a school year. Therefore, students will learn about seventy-two artists and composers during their elementary school years! During FAME lessons, students learn about the art and music elements that are used in the compositions that are presented. Students are also introduced to the many different styles that each artist used in their paintings, such as Impressionism, Cubism and Abstract Painting. Some of the artists and composers that were presented in FAME this year included Raoul Dufy, Andrew Wyeth, Frederic Chopin and Robert Schumann. Our most exciting lesson was Ballet School by Degas, which was paired with Tchaikovsky's Waltz of the Flowers from the Nutcracker Suite. We have so many gifted musicians and dancers among our students and they enjoyed sharing their own experiences with these compositions. We hope that, given the early exposure through the FAME program, our students will develop a greater appreciation of fine art as they grow. Spend some time with them in a museum this summer and you will be surprised by how much they know about art!

If you would like to learn more about the after school enrichment program, please contact: Marie Herbert at mherbert@stanford.edu and Yvette Cardenas at ycardenas@csdo.org

Please join Holy Spirit School's Filipino Culture Class students as they showcase Filipino folk dances and traditional songs during the Parish Festival Weekend. This year's performances will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 1:30 pm on the Outdoor Stage on campus. This is a show you cannot miss! Maraming Salamat Po!

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