



May 24, 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Wed. May 24: Multi cultural Fashion Show and Middle School Carnival
Fri May 26: Grandparent/Special Friend Day and NOON Dismissal
Mon May 29: Memorial Day Holiday - No School
Tues May 31: 8th grade Retreat and Field Day
3rd grade play "Go West" in Parish hall at 6:30pm
Thur June 1: 8th grade dinner - Tickets needed to attend
Fri June 2: 8th grade Baccalaureate Mass - 9:00am in church reception to follow
8th grade graduation in Church at 7:00pm - ticket needed to attend
Thur June 8: Kindergarten Graduation at 9am in Parish Hall
TK Moving up ceremony at noon in Parish Hall
Fri June 9: Last Day of School - NOON DISMISSAL- NO ELP
Preschool Graduation at 9am

IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND

1. 6th and 7th graders run for office
2. Grandparent/Special Friends Day
3. Multicultural week continues...
4. Breaking News-May Raffle - A's Skybox with 18 seats!
5. Thank you to the Board/PTG and parent leadership
6. Video you must watch
7. State of the school
8. Parent End of the Year Survey needed
9. Thank you's/What is going on in classroom
10. News about the network schools
11. Next Year's Start date/calendar
12. 2017 Yearbooks on SOLD OUT
13. Parent Education/Opportunities/Reminder
14. Final Registration payment overdue
15. Community events
 - Annual Vacation Bible Day Camp

Prayer for Strength and Guidance

Lord, I reach out to you for your guidance. Please show me which way to turn.
Calm my anxious thoughts, come speak into my mind. Strengthen me as I falter and feel weary.
May I feel strength rising up within my heart. Bring clarity into my visions and dreams.
I trust that you are with me, no matter where I go, or what I decide to do.
You journey with me always. Amen.

1. The votes are in! We have a great student council for next year. Please welcome our 2017-2018 council.
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| President = Fabian | Public Relations Director = Marco and Melanie |
| Vice President = Jordan | Head Assembly Director = Daniella and Kimberly |
| Secretary = Melissa | Chaplain = Yadhira |
| Spirit Officers = Gabriela and Elizabeth | |

We want to thank our current Student Council members for their hard work and dedication to our student body this year. They created many fun events, themed days to show off student creativity and rowdy cheer-. Their leadership skills made each morning assembly informative and entertaining. They worked with the administration as a unified-voice bring concerns and to make changes that positively affect all students.

2. Today is the last day to RSVP for Grandparent/Special Friends Day. We need to prepare with food and set up to accommodate all who want to attend. We will honor these special people in our lives Friday. We are privileged that Bishop Barber has chosen to celebrate the mass for our community!

3. We continue our week-long CELEBRATION of CULTURE through Friday. Thank you for helping our students complete the assignments at home that helps with our celebration addressing our experience of similarities and differences and why we celebrate the culture, tolerance and community of the families of St. Paul School. Today we are happy to present our **Annual Multicultural Fashion Show**. Students from all grades will come to school dressed in an outfit from their culture and model the clothing on a small "catwalk" as part of our morning assembly. The **middle school will also be operating a Carnival**. Thank you so very much for all of your support. All proceeds will go to "Get on the Bus" charity. We will report our gift to the organization next week.

4. News BREAK: Thank you for supporting our May Raffle. 1st prize is an A's Skybox with 18 seats for you and your friends! The game is on June 21st. The 2nd prize is \$100 gift card to Toys R Us and 3rd prize - a \$50 gift card to Game Stop. We have stepped up our game...We will continue to pick raffle tickets and give away donated Auction items that were not bid on. **AND...the student who sells the most raffle tickets will earn Principal for the Day.**

Tickets will be \$1 each. I hope each student can sell (not purchase) 20 tickets or \$20 worth. All those A's fans...this is your fundraiser! Tickets will be sold until noon on Grandparent/Special Friend Day - May 26th. The winning tickets will be drawn on Tuesday, May 30th. **If you do not want to purchase the tickets that were given to you please return them immediately...others are requesting more tickets. If you do not return the tickets or purchase them, you will be billed for them.**

5. Please help me recognize the members of the School Board, PTG and Room parents. We thank them for all of their selfless work, time and dedication to our school community. Their presence and input are vital to the communication and actions between the administration and the parents. They are the cheerleaders, informants and soundboards for each and every one of us. Thank you...for without you, we would not have such an amazing school that has brought us all together into each other's lives - enriching each one of our lives. May God continue to bless you for your service....we hope you all continue and if not, we hope others will be able to step into your place to serve. Always with love and appreciation, Natalie

6. Thank you to Ms. Garcia who found this Youtube video and asked me to share it. We will show it to our older students. It is a very simple and strong message for all of us to watch and think about. I hope it can begin a great discussion at home!

<https://youtu.be/q0qD2K2RWkc> - Video **I am not Black, I am not White**

7. Please take a moment to read over the State of the School presentation included. I have put this together in lieu of our final State of the School Town Hall meeting. We continue to accomplish a lot together as a community and will continue to do so. Please appreciate and congratulate yourself for continuing to move the school forward. We will be working hard over the summer to continue to improve facilities and programs for next year. We will keep you updated in summer emails. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at nlenz-acuna@cndo.org

8. Please complete by Friday, June 2, 2017
The survey is anonymous. We need your honest answers!

**End of the Year Survey – A way for you to tell us what you want
All children of participants will receive free dress on June 9th**

St. Paul School staff is in the process of planning new programs for our students. We base some of our decisions on your feedback. We want to make the best decision we can to move the school forward so please fill out this survey. Several questions are about your feedback on the programs we offer, culture competency and technology you have available at your home. It is important that we are inclusive when creating new homework requirements next year.

Please copy and paste the link into your browser to access: <https://goo.gl/forms/BEcylyjKLIDR4o5S2>

9. Thank you's and What's Going on In the Classroom:

•We are grateful to the Hussey family who helped organize a trip to Contra Costa College to see their Symphony performance. It was better than that, the SPS Choir members and 6-8th grades also were able to meet and participate in workshops sponsored by the department of performing arts. It takes a village!

•Thank you to those who attended the 2nd **Annual Scout's Fair** held on our field on last Friday. We were happy to sponsor the event to educate the community on the value of boy and girl scouting. We have a brownie troop sponsored by the school and hope to find parents who will organize this opportunities for boys. Currently the school will offer a classroom for you to hold your meetings. We will also pay the fees required to begin a troop. Please contact me if you are interested at nlenz-acuna@cndo.org.

•Our **ELP Summer program is full!** Thank you for your participation. **Our theme of the program is "Time Traveling."** Our summer program begins June 19th and ends July 14th.

10.

Liz Guneratne has been named Project Lead for the Network schools of the Diocese of Oakland.

Seven schools — St. Elizabeth Elementary and St. Anthony in Oakland; St. Paul in San Pablo; St. Cornelius in Richmond; St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg; Queen of All Saints in Concord; and St. Catherine of Siena in Martinez — are in the network, whose formation was announced in January.

Guneratne has roots in the Diocese of Oakland. She served as associate superintendent for the Diocese of Oakland from 2011-2015; was principal at St. John Catholic School in San Lorenzo from 2005 to 2011; and special needs director of St. Elizabeth Elementary in Oakland from 2001 to 2005.



Liz Guneratne

In 2016, she graduated with her doctoral degree in the Leadership for Educational Equity Program at the University of California at Berkeley. For the past two years, she has been a lecturer in educational leadership at Santa Clara University.

"We are blessed to have her gifts, talents and enthusiasm in leading us through the implementation of our vision for the seven Catholic schools in the network," Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, said.

The new network is expected to be fully operational by fall 2018. The coming academic year will be one of transition, with changes to the operating model and the addition of a support team.

"This new model will provide the organizational shift and strength to sustain them and allow them to serve even

more children and families so they have the academic preparation, Catholic values and life skills they need to lead fulfilling, productive and holy lives," Bishop Barber said.

Network schools will build on good work

By Liz Guneratne

Special to The Catholic Voice

When I read "Laudato Si," Pope Francis' encyclical on climate justice, I was really struck by his clear message that we need to renew our commitment to working together. He reminded us that we are one family and he asked us to cooperate generously, focusing on solidarity.

We are in a common home and we need to actively resist the tendency to separate ourselves from each other. Pope Francis asks us to be open to personal transformation, so that we can begin to remember, honor and act in accordance with our connectedness.

The new Catholic schools network is an example of moving back toward connectedness. I'm excited to help support this initiative, because I care deeply about the children and families in the Diocese of Oakland, and I love the people who work in the schools. I also believe that this is a great idea.

The network is a positive innovation and a demonstration of Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ's, commitment to mission-centered, effectively governed, operationally sustainable and academically excellent schools for the children and families in the Oakland diocese.

I am deeply familiar with these schools, and they are excellent. They have strong leaders and folks who are committed to the mission of Catholic education. They already demonstrate amazing academic growth for children.

Many have experienced enrollment growth due to the exceptional work of their leaders and communities. They are healthy. But they could be stronger together. When we approach the common good with courage and faith, we can engage in our work of teaching children and changing lives in a more powerful way.

I'm excited to build upon the good work that has been done for years — to collaborate with principals, pastors, teachers, parents, students, alumni, community organizations, benefactors and friends — anyone who is willing to come to the table in a spirit of renewing our commitment to and investment in our Catholic schools.

These schools already work. This new model will provide the organizational shift and strength to sustain them and allow them to serve even more children and families.

It's an innovative new model that facilitates shared resources. We can leverage what each school is doing really well to strengthen the whole group. We will have greater tech support, and more focused professional development.

Principals will still be the faith models and instructional leaders of their school, but they will have additional support with some of the aspects of school administration that can be centralized. This model has worked in other dioceses to sustain excellent Catholic schools, and it can work for us. We need to learn from others and innovate — and not just say that where we are right now is OK.

If we can work together to modify our governance and strengthen our funding model — always staying focused on our mission — and always focusing on improving student learning — why wouldn't we?

These schools are staying who they are, and they are also becoming something more. Change can be difficult, but isn't transformation part of our story? And solidarity is our game. Strength in numbers — was that Coach Kerr or Pope Francis?

We will keep you posted with lots more details and opportunities to support this initiative in the future ... and we thank you for your support!

(Liz Guneratne is the project lead and diocesan liaison for the network schools of the Diocese of Oakland.)

12. Many parents have been asking the **start date of school next year**. We will begin the school year with a noon dismissal on **Wednesday August 23rd**. Please mark your calendar with Thursday, July 27th for our Classic Design Uniform sale. All dates are posted online on the school calendar. You will receive a printed calendar with your end of the year packet with more information with your child's report card.

13. The **2017-2018 St. Paul Yearbook is sold out**. We are distributing yearbooks to those who have purchased them tomorrow. You can go to the company website online store www.stpaulschool.picaboo.com and order your own. You will have to pay tax, shipping and handling. Thank you.

14. Parent Education and Opportunities...

• Thank you to all who registered....we have had more than ever commit to the next school year. As a reminder **there will a \$50 late fee added to owed registration payment. After June 1st - \$75, and after July 1st - \$100 late fee. Note there are 29 families who have paid registration but have not registered with Infosnap online. If you are one of those families please look for an email from zguardado@csdo.org**

• The **Barnes & Noble Summer Reading Program** is here to help you on your way, encouraging you to read books of your own choosing and earn a FREE book, simply by following these three easy steps:

1. Read any eight books this summer and record them in your Summer Reading Journal (English or Español). Tell us which part of the book is your favorite, and why.
2. Bring your completed journal to a Barnes & Noble store between May 16th and September 5th, 2017. Find a Store
3. Choose your FREE reading adventure from the book list featured on the back of the journal.

• Visit your local library for a similar program.

• An archive of the weekly Panthers Tale newsletters and fliers will be under the Parent's tab on our website at www.st-paulschool.org for your convenience. For the school related flier attachments go to Parents > Parent Portal. Sports related fliers will be located under Sports Information. Choose Weekly Fliers for activities and event information. You can choose to print the fliers if you need at anytime.

Upcoming **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

15. •REGISTER NOW AND RESERVE YOUR SPACE at www.sjtbc.us/vbdc.html for St. John The Baptist Church 16th Annual Vacation Bible Day Camp will be held June 26-30th, 2017 "Deep Sea Discovery". Here is one of our special guests for our afternoon program: Bubble Mania & Company has been in business for almost 30 years, providing educational, entertainment at the highest level of excellence. Their presentations cross all ages and cultures. The visual presentation is filled with soap bubble creations that mesmerize the audience with seemingly impossible creations of shimmering, wiggling reflections of light, color and flowing liquid motion, of all shapes and size. www.sjtbc.us/vbdc.html the Coolest week of the Summer June 26-30