

From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from St. John Vianney School! I pray that this first edition of the much-anticipated, alumni newsletter finds you filled with the grace of the Advent Season.

Some of you may remember me from the Alumni BBQ this past summer, but for those who have kept in touch with SJVS on a less formal basis, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jennifer Haggerty and I am the principal at St. John Vianney School. This is my second year here at SJVS and I am pleased report that we have been extremely blessed during the 2008-09 school year. Here are a few highlights so far:

Enrollment is up 10%! While this may seem like a minor gain, it really is wonderful news since the typical trend for Catholic schools is to see a decrease in students. We are #1 in our six-school cluster!

We are continuing to provide a comprehensive formation that helps to develop the entire student and prepare them for their continuing journey of maturity, faith and education. This means we focus on four main areas of a student's formation: Academics, Character, Faith and Service to others. The

students are showing great ability in these four areas; here are some notable stories:

Academics: We have introduced a Latin class for 7th and 8th graders. Commonly regarded as a dead language, Latin has been shown to improve vocabulary, grammar and critical thinking skills in students.

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Character: Several of our 8th graders were invited to assist at an annual benefit dinner for the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The students represented the school very well in the presence of many distinguished guests, including Cardinal George!

Faith: We've added monthly, all-school adoration to our ongoing Mass (weekly) and Confession (monthly) schedule. And in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, students participated in a weekly, all-school rosary that was prayed during the month of October.

Service: Our annual Thanksgiving Pow-Wow took place on the last Tuesday in November. Students from each grade

level came forward with food items to help provide a full Thanksgiving meal for 12 families in need!

Also, the students are striving to live up to the great athletics tradition of SJVS. Our volleyball season ended with the 6th grade JV Girls undefeated, the boys in 2nd place and the girls Varsity and 4th/5th JV teams each in 4th. The basketball season is off to a great start with the teams showing significant improvement every week!

Aside from all of the tangible results of our efforts, there is the underlying mission of bringing our students closer to Christ. This is why we go to great lengths to provide an authentically Catholic environment in which they can thrive. I invite you to attend one of our upcoming events (*see back side*) to either learn more about our school or to revisit your past. It has been wonderful to see many faces at the recent alumni gatherings, but I know that there are many former students that are missing out on all the fun! So please spread the word about this newsletter. The Vianney Vision will be sent out on a quarterly basis to keep you up-to-date on all of the great things happening at your alma mater. I hope you enjoyed this first issue!

Peace in Christ,

Jennifer Haggerty

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* We respect your privacy and will never share your personal information with other organizations. *

Please help us keep your alumni information up-to-date.

Choose the method that's most convenient for you!

- Fill out this form and return it in the enclosed envelope
- Call Joseph Hercik in the Advancement Office (708-562-1466 x119)
- Go online and fill out the Alumni Update form on our website (www.sjvsonline.org)

Name: _____
First MI Last (Maiden) Spouse

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Class Year: _____ Sports/Activities: _____

What else is **new and exciting** in your life?

We'll be featuring alumni stories in our next Vianney Vision. So let us know if you: have been promoted (what's your new position?); won an award (what for?); had a baby; became a grandparent; or even traveled somewhere exotic. Call the office, send an email or include a letter with this form. Photos are definitely welcome!!!

JOIN US FOR THESE EVENTS IN 2009

February 7
Spring Fling: Mardi Gras,
6p-Midnight (Gym)

February 5
Basketball: 8th Grade
Night, 6p-9p (Gym)

January 28
Catholic Schools Week
Open House, 6:30p-8p

January 25-31
Catholic Schools Week

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Want to see more? Check out our online photo gallery: www.sjvsonline.org

PHOTO ALBUM

Left: Michel Domingue leads the students in choir practice. Mr. Domingue is in charge of the choir and band programs at SJVS and he also provides lessons on an individual basis for a number of instruments.

Right: Basketball coach Dave Domino gives the 5th/6th Grade Boys instructions at practice.

Would you like to be a part of the **great work** being done at St. John Vianney School? Consider these simple Math word problems...

Question #1

The average cost of tuition for one St. John Vianney student is \$4,000. The *actual* cost of education is \$5,700 per child. What is the resulting financial gap for one student?

If you answered this question correctly, you have your 3rd Grade teacher to thank for teaching you how to **add** and **subtract**.

Answer #1 _____

Question #2

If St. John Vianney School currently has 157 students enrolled, how much money is needed to close the gap between affordable, quality education and it's actual cost?

If you know the answer to this question, be sure to thank your 5th Grade teacher for teaching you how to **multiply** and **divide**.

Answer #2 _____

Question #3

St. John Vianney School already receives support from outside sources that covers over 50% of the resulting gap. *How much support can they count on from alumni and friends to help them provide **excellent formation** ???*

Making a gift to our Annual Fund will answer this question; and we will be certain to thank **YOU** for supporting our efforts!

Answer #3 (Please use the space below)

The SJVS 2008-09 Annual Fund

For over 50 years, St. John Vianney School has prepared children for life as a committed Catholic with excellent formation in a safe environment. This requires everything from electricity and gas to paper and pens; not to mention technology updates to stay current. Our Annual Fund helps to cover these basic operating costs and your tax-deductible gift during this Christmas Season will not only ensure our continued success, but help to make the formation we provide even better for future students.

I would like to make a **single gift** of: \$40 \$75 \$150 _____

I would like to make a **PLEDGE*** of: \$ _____

Please remind me: monthly quarterly (*Complete by June 30, 2009)

I have enclosed a check made payable to: **St. John Vianney School**

Please charge my credit card (*Below*)

Card #: _____ Visa MasterCard Discover

Name on Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

X _____

Save processing time and postage...**make your gift online @ sjvsonline.org**