

Assumption Update

A newsletter for alumni, parents and friends of Assumption School



From the Principal

Welcome to the Assumption School's Spring newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to share news of the great things happening in our school with our parish, alumni and parent community.

It's difficult to believe we are near the end of another fabulous school year! I am blessed to be associated with bright, caring students and parents who invest so much time and effort in their children's education. I am excited about the accomplishments we have made this year and look forward to more in the year to come.

One of our foremost goals for the next year is to improve our current technology program. Our first priority was to upgrade our internet. We are in the process of completing the upgrade, running off state-of-the-art

fiber lines. We are also in the process of enhancing our wireless access. Finally, after extensive research and academic community outreach, we have decided to equip every classroom with Promethean Boards to enhance the students' learning experience. The Promethean Boards are an amazing tool that the teachers will be able to use in the classroom to present information to our students. It takes learning off of the page and presents it in a different format. Not only will our students be engaged in the learning process but also they will soon have the ability to participate on a different level. This amazing piece of technology is made possible through the financial support from the Assumption Foundation. We are blessed that the Assumption Foundation feels as

strongly as we do about the value of technology at our school. A big thanks goes to Mrs. Kristy Lomando, our Vice Principal and new Director of Technology, for her efforts at making this project a reality!

Speaking of Mrs. Lomando, she and her husband Pete welcomed a new baby girl into their family. Stella Katherine was born on March 17th and is the newest member of our Assumption community. Congratulations Mrs. Lomando!

If you would like to stay connected to our school via our e-newsletter, send your e-mail address to assumption.alumni@gmail.com.

May God bless you and your families.

Pam Lyons
Principal, Assumption School

Assumption School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

January 29th marked the beginning of Catholic Schools Week at Assumption. This year's theme was "Assumption School: Faith. Academics. Service." The week got off to a great start with a special liturgy at 9AM followed by Open House at the school. New families were treated to a new parent information meeting, while current Assumption families got a chance to speak to their students' teachers for the next school year. Everybody enjoyed going class to class, examining all the students' wonderful class projects. Other classroom activities included Buddy Bingo, Teacher Switch Day, the Sue Prince Science Fair, and a "Drop Everything and Read" day in which all the students were invited to bring their favorite books and collectively read for an entire class period. Catholic Schools Week concluded with "Special

Friends Day," an annual Assumption School tradition. On this day, students bring a "Special Friend" (a relative, neighbor, or friend) to their class. Following introductions, a short activity and juice and donuts, all the students and their Special Friends attend a prayer service in the church to conclude the week.

ComingUp

Saturday, May 12th, 2012
4th Annual Dads' Club
Texas Hold' Em Poker Tournament
Assumption School

May 29th, 2012
Dad's Club Skate Night
The Golden Skate, San Ramon

Beyond the Walls of the Classroom

The winter and spring have continued to provide exciting learning opportunities outside the classroom for the Assumption community.

On January 27th, in honor of Spirit Day, students were invited to step into the future and come to school dressed as what they wanted to be when they grow up.

On February 9th, the Parent Teachers Group hosted a Parent Education Night on the topic of "Providing the Foundation for Your Children's Today's Unpredictable World," presented by Fr. Leo Edgerly, the Pastor of Corpus Christi Parish. This event was very thought-provoking and could easily have lasted twice as long.

On February 12th, the M.U.S.E. Winter Band Concert took place at Bishop O'Dowd H.S. This was the band's second big concert of the year with students from all the east bay schools including the Hayward area schools performing as one large ensemble.

On February 21st, Grade 8 took a field trip to the Symphony.

On February 26th, Grades 4-8



2011-2012 Boys 7th Grade Basketball Champs

participated with other diocesan primary and high schools in displaying exceptional artwork at the Lillian Black Arts Festival.

During the week of February 27th, students posted words of "Forgiveness" in each of the classrooms and in the office as a reminder to pay attention to the heart of Jesus' ministry. "Forgiveness" represented the gospel value that the school was focusing on during the week.

On February 28th, the Assumption Book Club met to discuss *Miracles Do Happen*, by Sister Briege McKenna. This book tells the story of Sister Briege's encounter with the healing power of God. It also

shares her insights about faith, the power of the Eucharist and the importance of prayer. Most of all, it points the way to a closer relationship with Jesus, greater knowledge of his love, and deeper faith in his power to do the impossible. On March 24th, Assumption School students celebrated Spirit Day by dressing in pajamas.

On March 29th, Grade 8 took a field trip to Sacramento.

On March 31st, Grades 2, 3 and 5 attended movie and pizza night in Assumption Gym in recognition of their fathers' attendance at the January 24th Men's Crab and Pasta Feed.

Also on March 31st, the Assumption community hosted its annual blood drive.

On April 23rd, Grade 6 took their annual week-long, overnight field trip to Caritas Creek in Occidental. The Caritas experience is meant to foster in young people a deeper connection to the natural environment, to self, to the spirit of love, and to community.

On April 25th, Grade 4 traveled by train to the California State Railroad

Museum and then visited Old Town Sacramento.

Also on April 25th, students celebrated International Day. On this day, Assumption students celebrate the cultures of the world through music, dance, art, language, facts, hands on learning, and more. Assumption students wore their favorite "international dress" costume representing their heritage. The day included a visit to the gym to see, listen, taste and experience 20 different countries from around the world.

On April 26th, the Assumption Book Club met to discuss *The Shadow of His Wings*, by Fr. Gereon Goldmann, about the true story of Fr. Goldmann's experiences as a young Seminarian drafted into Hitler's service. Fr. Goldmann tells of his own incredible experiences of the trials of war, his many escapes from almost certain death, and the diabolical persecution that he and his fellow Catholic soldiers encountered on account of their faith.

Assumption and Diocesan Science Fairs

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th graders who participated in the Sue Prince Science Fair held on February 2nd during Catholic Schools Week. The projects were innovative and relative to our lives at school and at home. A special thank you to our wonderful Jr. High Science teacher, Mrs. Britt, for organizing the event. First Place recipients were Juliana Diaz and Tyler LeBoa. Second place recipients were Francesca Caruso, Joe Ratto, Yonaton Messay and Maddie Parsnick. Congratulations on a job well done!

On February 25th, the Diocesan Science Fair was held at St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda. Six students from



Finalists at the Sue Prince Science Fair

Assumption participated. Congratulations to 8th grader Francesca Caruso and 7th grader Juliana Diaz who both were

finalists in their categories. This qualified them to represent Assumption School at the Alameda County Science Fair.

Marty Mart Scholarship Awards

Each year the Marty Mart Scholarship Awards are given to two eighth grade CYO players – one in the winter for a player in girls' CYO volleyball and one in the spring for a player in any other CYO sport. I am thrilled to announce that this year's spring recipient is Assumption eighth grader Francesca Caruso! The scholarship is named in honor of Marty Mart, longtime CYO Associate Director,

who passed away in December 2002. The scholarship is not awarded on the basis of skill in sports, but on the candidate's participation in CYO, understanding of sportsmanship and practice of the Christian values that are goals of CYO. This award is quite an honor and we are so proud that an Assumption student was the recipient this year.



Holy Week Observed at School

The staff and students of Assumption experienced a wonderful Holy Week, the most sacred week in the Catholic Church calendar. Holy Week at Assumption School began on Palm Sunday. Our week began with Grades 1 and 4 presenting Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Grade 7 led the school in our traditional

Seder Meal on Wednesday with a reenactment of the Last Supper. Grades 3 and 6 did a wonderful job reenacting the Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday. We were fortunate to have had many parishioners and school families visit us to walk through the living stations. Together these activities marked the importance of the week leading up to Easter Sunday.

Assumption School Launches Women's Group

Assumption School has long been known for its "Dad's Club" supporting CYO Sports. Now, for the first time, the women of the Assumption Community have a club where they can discuss issues of the day, plan activities, and have a good time. Assumption Women's Group had its first meeting on

March 15th and it was a big success! A good time was had by all and they came up with some great ideas. The next gathering was held on April 19th. All women in the Assumption community are invited to attend future meetings for a good time. Please bring a beverage or snack to share!

School Community Reflects on Parish Retreat

The Assumption School community participated in "Harvesting God's Gifts: A Parish Retreat for Busy People," an Assumption Parish sponsored retreat led by Sr. Patricia Bruno, O.P. Fr. Jude Siciliano, O.P., on March 19th through March 22nd. The speakers are in great demand and we're fortunate to have gotten the chance to participate. Attendees heard many testimonials on the importance of faith and Jesus Christ in their lives. Assumption students, faculty and parent participants and attendees gave the retreat overwhelmingly positive reviews.

Success in the Classroom

Congratulations to Niles Abbot, Bo Chappel and Justin Rodriguez! They are the recipients of the Marnelle Vieira-Ducey Memorial Scholarship for the 2012/2013 school year. These three students embody the qualities that Marnelle was known for; love of learning, perseverance, friendship and Christ-like behavior. A special thank you goes to Denis Ducey for his generosity in creating this wonderful scholarship. Mrs. Vieira-Ducey worked in Assumption School's Special Needs Program for many years. She is sorely missed.

Assumption School Enjoys an Enchanted Evening

On March 10th, more than 200 parents, grandparents, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Assumption gathered at Willow Park restaurant in Castro Valley for Assumption School's 23rd Annual Live & Silent Auction. This year's theme was "An Enchanted Evening." Attendees bid on hundreds of silent auction items, including original art. Among the items auctioned include: Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Party, Kindergarten Movie Night, "Pinkies Up" Ladies Tea, and a

Dance Party for 6th and 7th grades. Auctioned class projects included watercolor portraits, ornaments, Warhol Style Portraits, and hand-painted bird trivets. The live auction was exhilarating as always. And, for the first time ever at an Assumption Auction, the "Perfect Puppy" – a Shih Tzu Puppy – was auctioned. Everybody had a great time as always! As many of you know, the auction is Assumption School's largest fundraiser. A successful auction is critical to keeping our

tuition among the most reasonable in the bay area. Funds raised at previous auctions allowed Assumption School to fund a second math teacher, provide much needed technology in our classrooms, and build the Msgr. Lucid Learning Center used for math, art and after school care. The funds raised in 2012 will help us to continue operating our current programs including PE with Mr. D, music, Spanish and Art.

CYO Sports Roundup

Congratulations to all of our CYO sports teams. We had a very successful season for both girls' volleyball and boys' basketball. In volleyball, four of our teams advanced to the Metro league

playoffs. Our 7th grade team made it all the way to the Diocese playoffs. In basketball, five of our teams competed in the SAC league playoffs. Our 7th grade National team won the SAC

league championship and our 4th grade American team advanced all the way to the Diocese championship. Great job!

JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NOW!

Please return completed form to: Assumption School Alumni, 1851 136th Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94578

NAME _____
 FIRST (MAIDEN) LAST

PHONE _____
 HOME MOBILE WORK

GRADUATION YEAR _____

PHONE _____
 HOME MOBILE WORK

GOT FRIENDS?
 Yes! I still keep in touch with some Assumption classmates. Contact me to help get them involved too.

EMAIL _____

HOME _____

GET INVOLVED! Want to help with future Alumni events?

- Yes! I would like to help out with alumni events.
- Yes! I would like to be part of creating and expanding an Assumption Alumni Association with other interested graduates.