

Saints Peter and Paul School

Salesian Beacon



Annual Report 2022-2023



Saints Peter and Paul School
660 Filbert Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

Tel 415.421.5219
Fax 415.421.1831
Visit us at:
SSPeterPaulSF.org

Dr. Lisa A. Harris, Ed. D.
Principal

Sr. Josephine Ochoa, FMA
Vice Principal

Barbara Simons
Director
Laura Vicuña Pre-Kindergarten

Salesian Beacon

Claudia Fernando
Sr. Kathleen Gibson, FMA
Shirley Ordoña
Yvonne Soracco
Dana Wayne
Editors

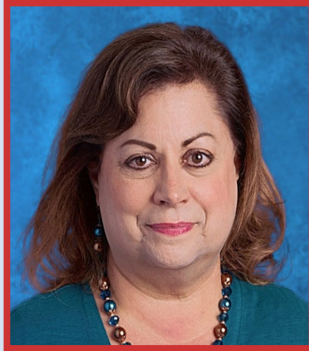
Mary Powelson
Layout

Saints Peter and Paul School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights and privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or any other school related policies or programs.

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Saints Peter and Paul School

Principal's Message

Dear Salesian School Family,



As the end of the school year approaches, I always reflect on the themes that have been most powerful throughout the academic year. The theme that rose to the top this year is that of gratitude. We have all witnessed three years that have been unexpected, unusual and ultimately life altering. During our journey we found that there are so many simple things that bring us joy. Our community rejoiced when we began to have our traditional events put back into action. We loved our time together and we realized how important it is to find moments for work, moments for play, and moments for rest.

To be sure the weather was a notable force of nature this year. The rains, winds, floods, and fires all showed us how powerful they are and how helpless we are in some cases. The stories of communities coming together and helping one another showed us that even when we are in the darkest times there is still love, support and hope waiting on the other side. We can always show gratitude for the good and kindness that is shared with one another. The simple joy was witnessed at SSPP when the sun was shining after weeks of storms. Teachers and students alike were delighted to simply be outdoors feeling the sunshine on their faces.

Throughout the year, "Morning Assembly Prayers" shared thoughts about remembering to be grateful for all that we have been given. There were prayers about the luxury of being given a strong education, we also shared prayers about the blessing of the roof over our heads and the food on our tables. We prayed about gratitude for having parents and families who love and support us through thick and thin. Many of our prayers spoke to us about parts of our lives we take for granted. It was good to be reminded that not all children and all families have what they need. We are blessed to have so much.

As we all go off to our summer plans, know that I feel grateful that God put people like you in my path. You are wonderful people who support our community and make it possible for us to move forward and fulfill our dreams for the children. You have my gratitude for your tireless support of our mission here at SSPP School. May your summer be filled with everything you need for renewal and for the road ahead.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers and I look forward to the Fall School Year!

Gratitude,

Dr. Lisa Harris



Pastor's Message: Father Tho Bui, SDB

Dear Salesian Community:

I was assigned to Saints Peter Paul almost two years ago. My first year was just about the end of the pandemic and most of the activities were limited. This year we have been bringing back the activities and events. It is good that I am able to celebrate the school and family Masses with you and attend other church, school and club's events. As we are approaching another year end of the school, I will celebrate the Baccalaureate Mass for the graduates. It is my love to celebrate the sacramental ministries with you and your family. Congratulations to all the graduates from Saint Peter and Paul School. I wish you the best and endeavor on your next education level.



Those who are in the lower grades, and continue to study at Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School, will have another academic year of fun and learning experience. You probably agree with me that the school has a good environment and academic program. It is the Salesian School that follows the preventive system which Saint John Bosco established and passed it on to all the Salesian Educators and students: *Reason, Religion, and Loving Kindness*. In addition, you have a remarkable faculty and staff who are caring and loving you. We want you to know that you are loved. We want you to be thriving here

at Saints Peter and Paul School. You are amazing and talented group of young people. I hope you can continue to share your gifts with the school community.

Your parents are also part of Saints Peter and Paul Salesian School. They share their love with the school by volunteering to work tirelessly for the Bazaar to raise money for the school and helping out other events. Thanks to them for their generous support the school.

I look forward to continue the journey with you for another academic year. I pray and ask God to be with you and guide you spiritually and intellectually. May God bless you and your family with a safe and happy summer.

With loving kindness,
Fr. Tho Bui, SDB

Saints Peter and Paul Bazaar 2022

Everyone had a blast at the SSPP Bazaar! It finally felt like things were back to normal with activities held both inside the gym and outdoors. Games and slides kept the kids entertained while the adults enjoyed the delicious food and each other's company. One of the highlights of attending the Bazaar is running into old friends you haven't seen in a while. SSPP parents worked hard to make it a fun event for all. SSPP students participated in the Italian Heritage Parade and received 3rd place. We look forward to another amazing Bazaar weekend next year.



History and Philosophy

Saints Peter and Paul School (SSPP), located across from Washington Square Park in North Beach, has maintained a tradition of educational excellence in San Francisco since its inception in 1925. SSPP has been under the direction of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians since 1950. Our school adopts the educational system and philosophy of Saint John Bosco, the founder of the Salesian order. The system, characterized by warmth, optimism and joy is youth-oriented. Saint John Bosco based his educational system on the concepts of reason, religion, and loving kindness. SSPP strives to create a respectful rapport among faculty, staff, students and parents. Our educators seek to create a welcoming presence that attracts and interests students. Our true mission is, as Saint John Bosco said, "To Create Good Citizens of Earth and of Heaven."

Mission Statement

SSPP makes every effort to offer students a well-rounded academic experience and a strong spiritual formation. "We believe in the uniqueness of each individual child and strive to provide an environment that allows each child to utilize his or her talents to the fullest."

General Information

SSPP has a Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade program. Our faculty comprises dedicated religious and lay individuals who work closely with our school counselor and resource teachers. We offer a strong academic program that emphasizes the core curriculum. We also incorporate technology, physical education, religious studies, art, music, and second language Spanish and Italian classes for Kindergarten to Eighth Grade.

Parent-Teacher Organization

We have an active Parent-Teacher Organization. Our parents are supportive and energetically work to offer financial support to our school through a variety of planned events. Our parent organization also facilitates school events which support community building among our families.

Saints Peter and Paul School is accredited by the Western Catholic Educational Association and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.



Highlights

- Kindergarten is a full-day, developmentally appropriate class.
- Junior High students experience a departmentalized curriculum taught by educators with specific expertise in their subject area. Our junior high students rotate from class to class which is excellent preparation for high school.
- We have para-professionals on staff to assist students.
- All students have access to our computer lab/mobile laptops.
- State-of-the-Art educational technology including SMARTBoards, iPads and document cameras available to students Pre-K to 8.
- A fully-functional Science Lab is available for grades K to 8.
- We have K through 8 Spanish and Italian language programs.
- We have excellent art programs: Art in Action is the arts program for grades K to 5. A Visual Fine Arts program is taught to our Junior High students.
- For more information regarding our Laura Vicuña Pre-K, contact Barbara Simons, Director, at prek@sspeterpaulsf.org.



Extra-Curricular Programs

Saints Peter and Paul School provides extended care for grades K through 2 for a fee. Extended care allows students time to finish homework and to participate in organized activities in a well-supervised environment. We provide complimentary extended care thirty minutes before school begins. The School also provides an opportunity for those students who wish to take Jazz Dance on a pay-to-participate basis.





The Laura Vicuña Pre-Kindergarten

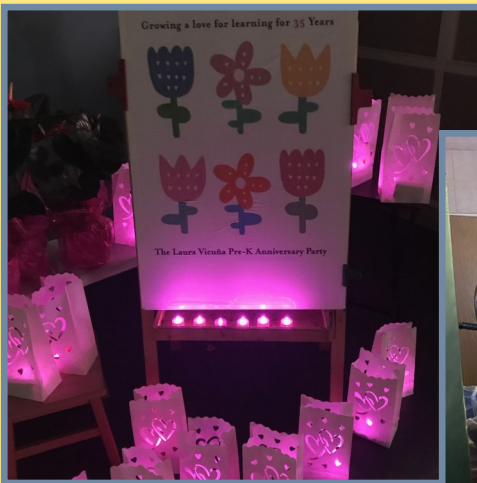
The 2022-2023 school year has been a year of celebration and gratitude.

The Laura Vicuña Pre-K celebrated “Growing a Love for Learning for 35 Years” on February 10th, hosting an elegant cocktail party fundraiser. The event took place in the SSPP gymnasium that was transformed into a beautiful evening garden party. Past and present parents of Pre-K students, parishioners, former students and friends of the program enjoyed an evening filled with music, fond memories and wonderful food provided by former parent Omar Kfafi and Truly Mediterranean Restaurant. I am grateful to the Pre-K staff for their hard work preparing for this event, particularly my co-chair and Pre-K Assistant Director, Ms. Jessyca Ng.

Proceeds raised from this event will go toward resurfacing the Pre-K play yards.

The Laura Vicuña Pre-K is the oldest continuously operating pre-school program in the San Francisco Archdiocese, with more than 1,000 children having enjoyed their introduction to Catholic education with us. We are grateful for having been able to persevere and thrive over the past three years with so many obstacles, restrictions and requirements. We ask you to continue to spread the word about the quality education and care our Pre-K provides as we continue to grow post-pandemic.

Barbara Simons, Director



Applications for the 2023-2024 school year are available.

Call us at 415-296-8549 or email us at prek@sspeterpaulsf.org.

More information can be found on our website: www.sspeterpaulsf.org/prek.



Salesian Spotlight - Sister Kathleen



The Rector Major's Visit Saints Peter and Paul November 19, 2022

On November 19, 2022, Mass was celebrated at Saints Peter and Paul Parish presided by Rector Major, Father Angel Fernandez Artime, SDB.

The Rector Major commemorated the celebration of 125 years since the first Salesian Missionaries came to work in the United States. In his homily, The Rector Major mentioned how the Salesians were sent originally to the United States to help Italian immigrants, and how the Salesians are continually doing this to the present. He thanked the Salesian Family and Collaborators for keeping Don Bosco's dream alive and of his confidence in the young that the future was in good hands. To the SDBs, he had a note of "THANKS" for what they have done these 125 years and what they will continue to do in the future. The Rector Major left all with the question? "Where do we want to be in the next 125 years?"

As the Mass continued within its celebration, Salesian Jubilarians and all brother brothers and priests renewed their vows. At the closing, Fr. Tho Bui, invited all to the Parish Hall for this wonderful 125th Anniversary Celebration and to honor all the Salesian Jubilarians. At the banquet, entertainment was presented to the Rector Mayor by the Salesian Boys' and Girls' Club, the Religious Education Program and the Saints Peter and Paul School students. The Rector Major also joined the entertaining groups in singing and playing the guitar.

This memorable reception comprised 400 guests connected in various ways with the works of the Salesians.

Italian Heritage Parade

Yvonne Soracco

SSPP School is well represented this year in the Court of Queen Isabella.

Come cheer on the **2023 Queen Isabella Mia Soracco '17** at the Italian Heritage Parade. Also in the Court of Queen Isabella are **1st Duchess Nina Rivera '20**, **1st Contessa Gaby Brown '21**, and **2nd Maiden Frankie Brown**. Spend time at the **SSPP Annual Bazaar Saturday, October 7th and Sunday, October 8th** and take some time to give our alumni Mia, Nina, Gaby and Frankie a shout out during the San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade.



Annual Christmas Show

Anita Manfreda

Our Christmas Concert back in December was another outstanding performance by our SSPP Children. God's Greatest Gift was the theme of the show. The entire school displayed to the crowd the true meaning of Christmas through their singing and smiles. Nothing but pure joy from the kids' faces as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Big thanks to all who contributed to the success of the show, especially Gian Paolo Eleria, our amazing pianist.



Lessons and Carols

Julie Francheschi

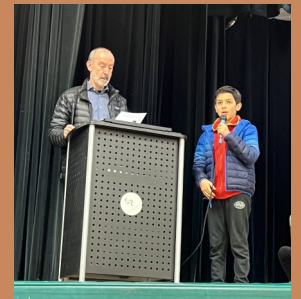


In December, the Saints Peter and Paul School Children's Choir and the Sacred Heart Cathedral Chamber Choir came together to perform Lessons and Carols, a joyous collection of carols and hymns paired with reflective readings to usher in the Christmas season. It was an intimate and glorious celebration of community, love, and song.

Scripps National Spelling Bee - *Shirley Ordona*

Saints Peter and Paul participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee on January 20, 2023. Our school champion was Camilla Condy-Vithayathil '23. Our runner up was Megan Franceschi '24. The audience was on pins and needles as the participants were advancing round after round. If you're wondering, the winning word was vestments! The two girls won a subscription to Britannica Online for Kids. Camilla also participated in the online qualification semifinal test for the Bay Area Regional Spelling Bee.

Congratulations, Camilla!



Saint John Bosco Fun Day - *Ashley Wiggins*

Students were so excited to celebrate Saint John Bosco Fun Day during Catholic's School Week. The Eighth Grade Class set up stations for students to rotate through playing different games, such as Hula Hoop Tag and a drawing contest of Don Bosco. Students ended the celebration with a sweet treat and full heart.



NEA: Read Across America: Celebrating A Nation of Diverse Readers - *Jasmin Cuneo*



On March 3rd, we celebrated our 14th annual Read Across America Day. This year's NEA theme was "Celebrating A Nation of Diverse Readers" This theme encourages us to discover and read books from around the globe. In the words of the NEA President, Lily Eskelsen Garcia "NEA believes diverse literature enables students to see themselves as the heroes of the story, while also showing them that all kinds of people can be the heroes too."

This year we had 30 wonderful volunteers come and read to our students. The school was buzzing with a wide variety of stories. Tales of heroes that don't wear capes, far off places we would want to visit, history and fantasy and everything in between.



The 4th grade students laughed at all the funny riddles in a joke book, the 2nd graders practiced their Italian with an Italian story, and the 8th graders shared their favorite books with their Pre-K buddies.



The day inspired us all to read more books.



Books to Bravo - *Julie Franceschi*

On March 29th, the 5th grade class brought literature to life when they adapted the children's novel *By the Great Horn Spoon!* By Sid Fleischmann into a theatrical production as part of the San Francisco Opera Guild's Book to Bravo program.

Students spent 10 weeks using their imagination and creativity writing songs and scenes, designing props and costumes, and tirelessly rehearsing their adapted script in order to showcase their amazing talents in a fabulous final production in front of the student body, parents, and family members.

It was truly an unforgettable experience and performance!

Bravo 5th grade!



First Holy Communion

Anita Manfreda

Congratulations to all our First Communicants who celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6th, 2023. A big shout out to all those involved in preparing the children for this special journey. We pray that they will continue to receive Jesus, the Bread of Life.



Confirmation - Eighth Grade - Sister Josephine

On January 29, 2023, the Saints Peter and Paul community came together to celebrate the confirmation of our eighth grade students. Escorted by their sponsors, eighteen eighth grade students and three students from Religious Education received confirmation from our celebrant Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. Confirmation establishes young adults as full-fledged members of the faith. During confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the Apostles on Pentecost and gave them the courage to practice their faith. We believe that the whole person is made up of the supernatural graces given to the soul and must be practiced on a daily basis in order to provide the strength and knowledge required to live in today's challenging times. Saints Peter and Paul School congratulates the confirmands, their sponsors, and their family and friends.

SSPP Student Council - Dana Wayne



This year our Student Council was involved in many activities. Our favorite activity every year is our partnership with UCSF Family House. Our participation in their annual Toy Drive is always a huge success. Once again, our students were extremely generous, and Ms. Wayne and Mrs. Fernando delivered a truck full of presents for the children at Family House.



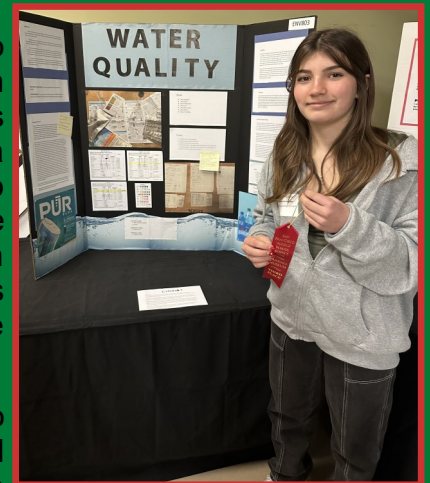
The San Francisco Middle School Science Fair – Maria Gunther



It was quite an exciting science fair season for all the junior scientists at Sts. Peter and Paul School. Coming off of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was also the first science fair held in person in 2 years!

Sixty-four students participated in the 18th annual school science fair on February 1, 2023. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders gathered in the school gym and proudly displayed boards and evidence from their experiments. The entire school community was invited to come view the boards and to speak with the students about their research. These students also had the opportunity to present their work to 3 judges, Gaurav Bhatnagar (Nandika, '21), Paola Dozzo (Ashling, '22, Fionn, '24), and Brother Quang. All three judges hail from the science and technology sectors.

Projects ranged from the very traditional “can potatoes charge a battery” to the very complex research-based project investigating techniques that can be used to mitigate the effects of Alzheimer’s Disease. 6th grade winners included Lucia Carrubba (1st), Anna Manfreda (2nd), and Samantha Schmidt (3rd). Representing 7th grade were Radhika Saha (1st), Capp Casey (2nd), Harlow Trani and Megan Franceschi (tied for 3rd). 8th grade scientists were Harper Berry (1st), Theodore Tsiamis (2nd), and Madison Hernandez and Grant Johnson (tied for 3rd). All eleven of our winners competed in the San Francisco Middle School Science Fair hosted by the Randall Museum on March 1, 2023.



The San Francisco Middle School Science Fair is a city-wide event to promote and recognize the scientific efforts of middle school scientists. Students from all public, private, and parochial schools are eligible to participate. Sixteen schools entered the competition with projects in 4 categories: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Behavioral Sciences. Judges at this competition include esteemed individuals from the science, education, and medical communities.

All eleven Sts. Peter and Paul students placed at the San Francisco Middle School Science Fair. Our top winners were Lucia Carruba ('25) who investigated the feasibility of hydroponics in growing fresh fruits and vegetables. Radhika Saha ('24) experimented on using fortified soil versus coco coir to grow bigger and healthier plants. Theodore Tsiamis ('23) tested fluidization as an alternative energy source. Lucia, Radhika, and Theodore placed 2nd in their respective categories at the San Francisco Middle School Science fair and all three students placed 3rd at the Golden Gate STEM Fair.

Kudos to all our participants!



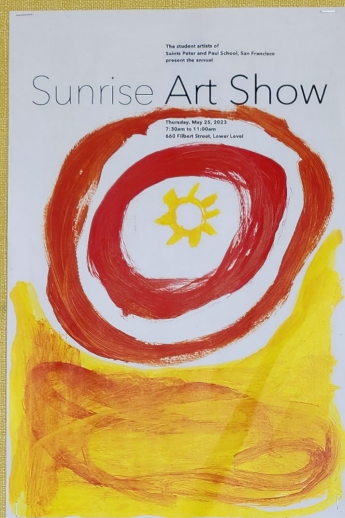
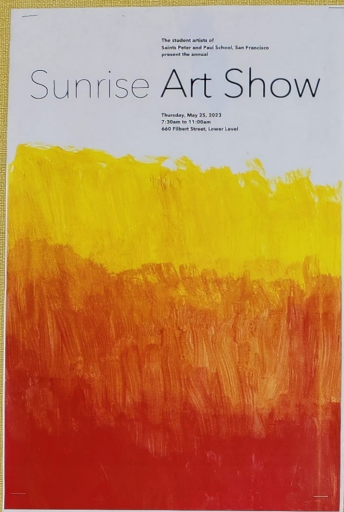
PTO Spring Gala – Jaime Tollas, Event Chair

On Saturday, March 25, over 140 parents, faculty, alumni, and friends gathered at the Italian Athletic Club for the SSPP Spring Gala: Havana Nights. Decked out in florals and fedoras, our community channeled the chilly winds of March into a tropical breeze of school spirit. Glowing lights, palm trees, projections of Cuban street scenes, and vases brimming with fruit set the scene for an evening that was at once playful and focused. Guests kicked off the festivities by trying their luck at the Cork Pull, glamming for photos at the photo booth, sampling specialty mojitos, and nibbling on fried plantains and prawns. Around 8pm, Dr. Harris offered a warm welcome and champagne toast to our first Gala in three years, before turning over the microphone to Benefit Auctioneer



Monica Kibbe, who led the crowd in a high-energy live auction and paddle raise that collectively garnered over \$98,000 for Saints Peter & Paul School and the English & Language Arts curriculum. Afterwards, DJ Dennis Gallegos turned up the rhythms, and the dancing continued well past closing time. Huge thanks to the Gala Committee for their leadership. Special thanks to Nick Figone and his gracious team at the SFIAC, Megan & Adam Schmidt for their tremendous contribution of donated wines & spirits, and Chris Benitez for creating the event logo and branding that set the tone for a great party. And of course, an enormous thanks to our guests and donors, who reminded us with their unprecedented generosity that our community is a mighty force.

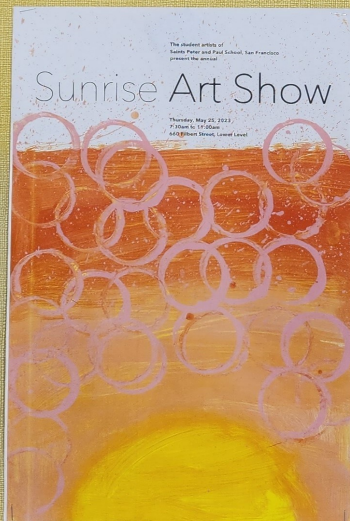
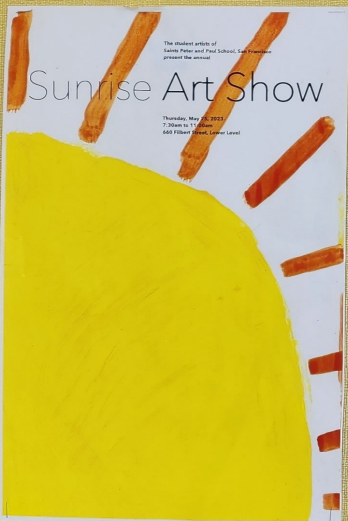
Gala Committee: Nick Figone, Breanna Gentile, Lauren Hardy-Smith, Nichole Krause, Megan Schmidt, Jaime Tollas, Christine Welland.



Annual SSPP School Sunrise Art Show

Abby Herget

This May, the sun rose on a cafeteria shining with vibrant student artwork. Our K-8 classes produced a lively display of paintings, drawings, collages, clay sculptures, plaster casts, weavings, wire models, murals and more. The Junior High's '22-23 theme of "Art Meets Science" resulted in pieces inspired by chemistry, physics, zoology and botany. Grades 6-8 produced microscopic enlargements, bubble prints, collages of the elements, watercolors inspired by images from the WEBB Telescope, fish prints, ornithological oil pastel drawings and more. The K-5 Art in Action program guides a range of art investigations, including van Gogh painting studies, bold Mondrian graphics, Japanese scrolls, Oldenburg-inspired clay sculptures and many more creative projects.



The Emperor's New Clothes - Spring Play - Paul Riley

On Friday, March 24th the fearless 8th-grade cast and crew entertained us all with their charming, often raucous and truly delightful production of *The Emperor's New Clothes*, a satire of fashion gone a bit too far (or perhaps not far enough)!

Led by Paddy Gotch, as the fashion-obsessed monarch of the title, the Class of 2023 recounted a comic, but pointed tale about what unfortunate turns our lives can take when we only think about ourselves and our appearance. Happy to lead our troubled emperor astray are two confident men, Mr. Wart (played by the charismatic Theo Tsiamis) and his somewhat bumbling accomplice, Mr. Hog, played by Zachary Elias. Wart and Hog conspire to convince the emperor and the entire royal family to spend lavishly on garments made of a proprietary "magical" cloth that cannot be seen by the foolish and the incompetent. Not a bad con.



The "magical" clothes are made at great expense to the emperor and worn proudly by him at his birthday parade to much fanfare, that is, until one not-so-little boy (Grant Johnson) makes the simple observation that the emperor is indisputably standing in the middle of the town square "in his underpants." Not a good look for an emperor. But our humbled emperor, with the support of his wife, the empress (Camilla Condy-Vithayathil) and his daughters, the equally fashion-fanatical "empressettes" (Viviana Najera, Siena Larkin and Madison Hernandez) sees the errors of his ways and aspires to do better by his family and for his people. He promises, as all great leaders should, to never again find himself before God and country...in his underpants!



Many thanks to the students, parents, relatives and friends who came out and fully supported the Class of 2023 in their creative endeavor. Your lively responses and applause inspired and encouraged our 8th-grade players and crew.



"Let's Dance" SSPP Dance Show Dana Wayne

This year's dance show was a huge success. The students energetically performed to a variety of music genres. The theme this year was "Let's Dance" and our students definitely lived up to the theme of the show. Music, costumes and choreography all came together to create an evening of wonderful memories for all.





The Graduates of the Class of 2023

It is a joy to watch our graduates fly off to their new schools. We are proud of each and every one of our students. Each year the students head off to a wide variety of schools. The breakdowns are always shifting. The Class of 2023 will be attending the following schools:

Saint Ignatius College Preparatory
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory
Archbishop Riordan High School
Immaculate Conception Academy
Stuart Hall
De La Salle High School (Concord)
Creighton Preparatory (Nebraska)
Summit Shasta (Daly City)
Ruth Asawa School of the Arts
San Francisco Unified School District

We wish our Graduates success as they take their next steps in their educational journeys.

Remember - once a Salesian, Always a Salesian...!

Warmest Wishes,
Dr. Harris and the Faculty and Staff



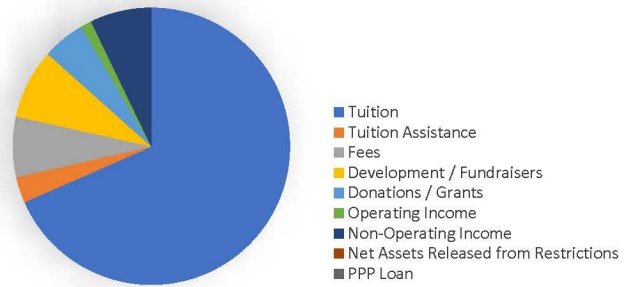
2022-23 Profit and Lost

Revenues			
Tuition	\$	1,810,837	68.42%
Tuition Assistance	\$	79,755	3.01%
Fees	\$	186,703	7.05%
Development / Fundraisers	\$	215,052	8.13%
Donations / Grants	\$	131,361	4.96%
Operating Income	\$	33,888	1.28%
Non-Operating Income	\$	189,189	7.15%
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$	-	0.00%
PPP Loan	\$	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	\$	2,646,785	

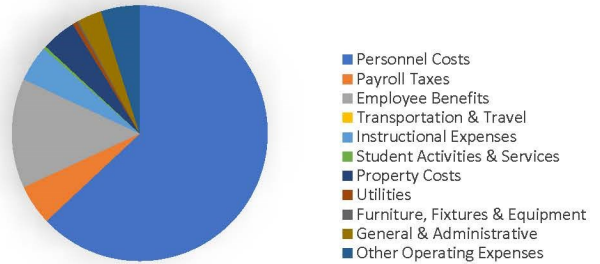
Expenses			
Personnel Costs	\$	1,598,013	63.02%
Payroll Taxes	\$	128,837	5.08%
Employee Benefits	\$	351,232	13.85%
Transportation & Travel	\$	57	0.00%
Instructional Expenses	\$	116,350	4.59%
Student Activities & Services	\$	8,742	0.34%
Property Costs	\$	111,119	4.38%
Utilities	\$	14,442	0.57%
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$	5,043	0.20%
General & Administrative	\$	78,369	3.09%
Other Operating Expenses	\$	123,401	4.87%
Total Expenses	\$	2,535,606	

Net \$ 111,180

2022-23 Revenues



2022-23 Expenses



Saints Peter and Paul School
Schoolwide Learning Expectations

P

Problem Solvers

- Resolve conflicts peacefully
- Work independently and collaboratively
- Listen to the ideas of others respectfully



R

Responsible Citizens

- Show respect for the environment by reducing, reusing, and recycling
- Display positive social behavior showing respect for ourselves and others
- Demonstrate leadership qualities



A

Active Christians

- Pray and participate at Mass and in the sacraments
- Are kind to others
- Practice the Salesian Family Spirit of reason, religion, and loving kindness



I

Involved Individuals

- Identify healthy choices for mind, body, and soul
- Share knowledge, gifts and talents
- Act responsibly at home, school, and community



S

Successful Life long Learners

- Communicate and think critically
- Practice good study skills
- Enthusiastic and motivated to learn



E

Effective Communicators

- Listen carefully, read, write, and speak clearly
- Demonstrate good manners
- Use technology responsibly and effectively



SSPP Kindergarten Graduates



Saints Peter and Paul School



sspeterpaulsf.org/donate