

# GOODTIMES

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## *The St. Vincent Elementary School Newspaper*

### MORE THAN JUST A SCIENCE TEACHER

By Sam G. and Jacob F.

A typical week day for Mrs. Giacometti, the science teacher at St. Vincent's Elementary School, involves an early start in the morning at 5:30 AM. She prepares breakfast for her husband and does chores around the house. Around 7:30 she arrives at school and prepares work for the school day. A typical weekend is more relaxing, involving reading the newspaper, magazines, and overall taking it easy. "My favorite thing in the whole world is taking care of my grandson," Mrs. G. explains. She loves to do this as often as she can when not teaching.

Mrs. G. decided to become a science teacher because, for one, her favorite subject is and always has been science. She is very



interested in education and sought higher degrees. In addition, she loves working with young people. She likes teaching because it is cutting edge; there are always new and current things happening.

Mrs. G. is a very talented musician. She worked musically in Europe, but did not follow a career in music because, "I play piano for enjoyment, and when I was in college I acted as a rehearsal pianist in the San Francisco Theatre. This job gave me income while I attended college." She never wanted this to be a career. Her main interest is science.

As a child, Mrs. G. lived in San Francisco. Her entire family has always ridden horses, and she loved riding too. She liked to ride in Golden Gate Park, and her children soon fell in love with this activity also.

Mrs. G. explained that St. Vincent's Elementary School was not the first school that she taught at. She taught at many other schools as a college professor, such as Santa Rosa Junior College, Indian Valley Junior College, and Sonoma State University. After leaving the college system, Mrs. G. took a hiatus to raise her children and then was fortunate enough to join the wonderful faculty and staff as the science teacher at Saint Vincent's Elementary School.. ★

## A Day in the Life of Riley S.

By: Grace F. and Kyle B.

Riley S. was born on August 14, 1997 at California Pacific, which is located in San Francisco. Riley is currently in seventh grade at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary School, and she was student of the month for the month of December. She has a mother named Teri, a father named Shannon, and a ten-year-old brother named Brady. Riley does not own any pets. Her favorite subjects in school are math and science. "I like science because it is so fast paced and interesting," says Riley.

Science is taught by Mrs. Giacommetti, and math is taught by Mr. Levintow. Her most challenging subject in school is writing, which is also taught by Mr. Levintow. In addition, Riley's favorite book series are the *Mysterious Benedict Society*, written by Trenton Lee Stewart, and the *Clique Series*, written by Lisi Harrison. Also, Riley's favorite movie is *The Devil Wears Prada*. "I have memorized all the words!" says Riley.

Moreover, Riley's favorite type of food is Mexican food, and her favorite place to eat it is at Pacos which is located in San Francisco.

Riley Scott plays many sports. She plays basketball and soccer for fun, and she plays volleyball and she swims competitively. Swimming is Riley's favorite sport, and she has been swimming competitively since the age of seven. She has swim practice Monday through Friday for two hours each practice. Riley is currently swimming for the Marin Pirates. "Swim is my favorite sport because you do it all by yourself, but you have your whole team supporting you," says Riley. Riley does not know yet what she would like to do when she grows up, but she says, "I definitely want to swim in college." Furthermore, Riley would like to be in the school



play, but she cannot because of her busy schedule. In her spare time, Riley occupies herself with fun activities. "In my spare time, I read, watch movies or sports, cook, or play

on the computer,” says Riley. Riley S. is a kind and busy girl who enjoys many activities. ★

## Behind the Scenes of THE SPELL OF SLEEPING BEAUTY

By: Alex N., Megan T.

In some Disney fairy tales, there is a glass slipper or a red apple. Maybe even some magic beans. But all this story needs is a spinning wheel and an insulted witch. For the past 25 years, Mrs. Roffmann has been conducting the junior high school plays. This year, it will be *The Spell of Sleeping Beauty*. This play has only been performed once before, so it will be interesting to see what students think. The previous three plays were *Snow White*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *The Wiz-*



*ard of Oz*. After talking with Mrs. Roffmann, more light was shed on the time between try-outs and the final performance. She enjoys working with all of the actors throughout all practices. She likes watching the actors grow from the beginning, when they read off of the scripts with no emotion, to the first time they do the play in costume in front of the school. Mrs. Roffmann thinks that the first performance is the most exciting. There is no dress rehearsal, so it is the first time the students do



the play wearing their costumes, and all of the students' friends and siblings are watching. When asked, Mrs. Roffmann said that she loved all of the plays, but the most interesting was *The Wizard of Oz* because it was the first musical St. Vincent's did. *The Spell of Sleeping Beauty* is the play with the most characters. The main character, Princess Briar Rose, is played by Maddy B. from seventh grade. She is very excited about her role and was happy when she got the part she tried out for. Maddy enjoys play practices, mainly because all of the actors make each other laugh. She has most of her lines memorized, but still has to practice sleeping! If Maddy could not be her princess character, she would want to be one of the Good Witches. The villain from this story is Evilina and is played by Julia A. from eighth grade. Julia originally tried out for Evilina and was delighted to get her part. She does have fun at rehearsals, but sometimes it is nerve wracking to practice in front of everyone and embarrassing if you mess up. As Evilina, Julia has most of her lines memorized, but occasionally forgets a few words. She likes practicing with her classmates. Julia's second choice of character would be a Good Witch. The junior high play will be on April 30 and hopefully will be a great triumph! ★

# SCHOOL CD PREVIEW

By: Chelsea C. and Stacy L.

Since the beginning of the school year, Mr Goldowitz, The God Squad, and the music classes have been hard at work on a new school CD. The new CD will be coming out in April. The money raised from the CD sales will go towards new equipment and supplies for the music program. Last year, the money that was raised bought a new thirty-two inch flat-screen TV. Some songs included on the



CD will be *Yellow Sunflowers*, an original song written by first grade and Mr. Goldowitz. Another song is *Rainbow Connection*, which is sung by second grade. *Fireflies* is also on the CD and is sung by the third, fourth and fifth grade. The fourth grade is singing *Livin' On a Prayer*, a song originally by Bon Jovi, but some of the lyrics have been changed to make it more about our school. *Thanks A Lot*, a children's song by Raffi, is sung by Kindergarten and first grade. *Ocotopus Garden* is also included in the CD and is sung by the second and third grade.

The God Squad will also sing songs for the CD. The God Squad is singing *Brighter than Sunshine*, an original song written by Mr. Goldowitz and Katherine P., *Party in the USA*, a pop song performed by Miley Cyrus. They are also singing *No Excuses* which is written by Kate W., Melanie H. and Mr. Goldowitz. "We're going into pop territory," said Mr. Goldowitz. Also on the CD is Ellie O. singing *The Climb* and Atea and Emily from sixth grade singing *Blackbird*. Most of the recording is either done during class or at snack/lunch recess.



The song *Rainbow Connection*, mentioned previously, was written by Paul Williams, was in the *Muppets Movie*, and was nominated for an Academy Award in 1979. The original singer was Kermit the Frog. "It is a slow song... It's about rainbows," chimed Olivia B. from second grade. This song was recorded with Mr. Goldowitz's digital recorder.

This year's CD is expected to attract more fans than last year's CD. The students had a great time singing the songs and cannot wait for the new CD to come out. ★

# P.E.A.K. PALS!

By Brandon B. and Landen G.

The P.E.A.K. Pals we interviewed were Hunter and Miguel who are in second grade and are 8 years old. Their P.E.A.K. Pals are Sean and Yazan who are in seventh grade and are both 12 years old. Hunter and Miguel like to do many things with their P.E.A.K. Pals such as kickball, wiffleball, and P.E.A.K. Pal P.E. Miguel's favorite thing to do with Yazan is kickball. Hunter's favorite thing to do with Sean is wiffleball and reading books. Miguel's and Hunter's favorite subject is computers because they love playing games and also typing. Sean's and Yazan's favorite subject is P.E. because they enjoy playing flag football and basketball.

Sean and Yazan both like the P.E.A.K. Pal program at St. Vincent's Elementary because they get to meet up with the younger children and get to share each other's interests. Miguel and Hunter like the P.E.A.K. Pal program because they look up to the older children and get to meet them. Interviewing these four P.E.A.K. Pals was fun and interesting. We hope everyone who reads this article has the same feelings about the P.E.A.K. Pal program. ★

# Elective Overview:

By Grace J. and Kristine B.

In Junior High, there are four electives that students can take. These are Technology, Current Events and World Cultures, Book Club, and Art Enrichment. Technology is taught by Mr. Goldowitz. In this class, students learn how to type, do interviews, write newspaper articles, create animations, and layout the school newspaper in the word processing software. Students in this class are responsible for producing the school newspaper.



Current Events and World Cultures is taught by Mr. Levintow. In this class, students learn about what happens in the world. Mr. Levintow says that Current Events is a class to inform students about what goes on in the world in hopes of having them become informed citizens, and to stimulate an interest in Current Events. Current Events is a new elective this year. There are up to 15 students in this class. Students complete two big projects and a few smaller ones. For projects, students have the choice of making a poster board, a diorama, or a letter to the editor. The projects include making use of newspaper articles, maps, pictures, and flags. Mr. Levintow re-

calls that students can get really creative with their projects. Every Monday, the class usually starts with a video clip about the part of the world that they are learning about, and often includes a group activity, some writing, and a Current Events Magazine. Mr. Levintow believes Current Events are important for students. "Everyone should understand what goes on in the world. Being informed is the responsibility of every citizen," Mr. Levintow says. Mr. Levintow likes teaching Current Events because it is an interest of his. "By being enthusiastic about it, I hope students will become more interested in it too," he says.



Book Club is taught by Mrs. DeVost. Mrs. DeVost says that Book Club is a class that provides an opportunity for students to read and discuss a book at a different pace and to do projects that allow students to explore the book at a deeper level. The book that students read is *The Giver*. Mrs. DeVost chose the book *The Giver* because Lois Lowry allows teenagers to explore their own world and feelings while reading about the main character's world and his feelings. In this class, students complete projects and talk about this book in depth. Students read one or two chapters per week and complete chapter work for homework. Students also complete different types of writing in this class and various projects. They do a combination of creative writing and expository writing. Mrs. DeVost believes there is a moral to the book. "I won't say be-

cause I don't want to spoil it for others," she says. Mrs. DeVost enjoys teaching this elective. "Since I'm a literature major, I love to explore the nuances and deeper meanings in fiction."

Art Enrichment is taught by Mrs. Benjamin. Mrs. Benjamin has been teaching art for 12 years. She does not have a particular favorite artist, however some she enjoys are Leonardo Da Vinci, Claude Monet, Rembrandt, and Jan Vermeer.



Her favorite projects this trimester are the Greek vases and the "Mona Lisa". Each trimester students will be assigned art projects starting with the Prehistoric Age through the Renaissance Era. Mrs. Benjamin loves teaching art because it has been her passion from an early age. Mrs. Benjamin became interested in art when she was five years old while

watching her father draw cartoons. "I feel this elective is important because it provides an opportunity for people to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of art," she said. She also says it is important to express yourself, to develop creativity, and one way is through art. Art Enrichment meant to promote the students knowledge and understanding of art.



## St. Vincent's Basketball Team

By Hunter M. & Megan T.

This year the boys representing our school for basketball are from both eighth and seventh grades. The team has ten players: eight from eighth, and two from seventh. The team members are Alex N., Austin S.,

Brandon E., Cameron M., Christian G., Derek M., Kyle B., Jacob F., Joey W., and John J. and are lead by Ralph Evans. So far, they have played against Calistoga, Rincon Valley Christian, and Geyserville. When asked, players agreed that while they may not be perfect, they still have a great deal of skill on the team. Jake revealed that on the drives to the games, most players just relax and try to focus. The SV team's skill is closely matched by the Calistoga team. John did very well in his game on January 29, scoring a three-pointer. Hopefully, the team will continue to play well and show good sportsmanship. ★

## Field Trips Taken at St. Vincent's Elementary

by Celine M. and Will N.

Since the beginning of the school year, the students of St. Vincent's Elementary School have been on several field trips. To begin with, the fourth grade went on an exciting field trip to watch the play *The Christmas Carol* at the Veteran's Memorial Building. Farris M. and Angelo T., two fourth graders, said that they loved the play and recommended it to everyone. They especially loved the part when Jacob Marley warned Scrooge about the ghost. Farris and Angelo learned a lesson from the play which was "to not be a miser and to give money to the poor."

The eighth graders attended an interesting field trip. They went to the Petaluma Museum to see the Schindler's list exhibit. There they learned about the Holocaust. When interviewing Sam G., an eighth grader, he said he liked the field trip because it was extremely interesting and because the museum played parts from the movie called *Schindler's list*. Sam recommends this field trip because it had very detailed information about the Holocaust

and about what happened to the Jews during this time.

The seventh grade went on an interesting field trip to the Petaluma Police Department. There they learned what happens if you get arrested, about the radar gun that an officer uses, how much trouble you could get in if you commit a crime, and much more. When interviewing Caitlin P., who is currently in seventh grade, she stated, "I had a ton of fun! I especially liked it when the police dog attacked the trained man." Caitlin recommends taking a tour of the Petaluma Police Department because it is a fun and educational experience. Students here at St. Vincent's Elementary have been on several interesting field trips. ★

# Being a Principal of the Day

By: Jacob F. and Kyle B.

Daniel C. was the principal for the day on January 28, 2010. He is an eighth grade student here at St. Vincent's. Daniel said, "Being the principal for the day was really fun and exciting." His favorite part of the day was getting to go to different classes and getting to talk to children in the lower grades. Daniel was able to have conversations with the teachers that he would not usually have as a student. He also gave them candy. He received his own personalized business cards and a desk name plate. Daniel said, "As a principal for the day, I could do almost anything except give detentions." Daniel also said, "I like it when the younger kids

really looked up to me because it felt like I was being a good role model." A highlight for Daniel was going with the second grade to play games in the learning center. But he still had to go to science because he needed the notes. "The thing that I will miss about being principal is sitting at Mrs. Roffmann's desk. She has a comfy chair." Daniel would love to be principal for a day again.

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