

Visitation Upper School News

Renee Genereux, Upper School Director

New Semester at Visitation Upper School

Upcoming Events:

January 22: Beginning of second semester; Martin Luther King Jr Celebration

January 23, 7:00 pm: Junior Parent Night: College Information

January 24: Founders Day, Feast of St. Francis deSales

January 28-February 1: Chemical Health Education Week

February 15: No classes (Faculty Staff Professional Development Day)

February 19-23: Winter Week

February 27, 3:30-7:00: Parent/Teacher Conferences

As we begin a new semester at Visitation, we welcome back Anne Pabst, College Counselor and Creative Writing teacher. Mrs. Pabst has been on sabbatical during which she was engaged in scholarly work for her Masters in Fine Arts in Writing.

Bob Petschl will be on sabbatical this semester studying in Mexico. During his sabbatical, Kaitlin Lee will teach the Physics classes and Sheila Sullivan will teach the Chemistry classes. Mrs. Lee holds a degree in science and is currently in a masters in education program. She has interned in science classes at various schools including Visitation. Kaitlin will continue to work as Visitation Registrar in the afternoons. Mrs. Sullivan holds an M. Ed. Degree in Secondary Science and has taught at public and private high schools in the United States and abroad.

Anna Andahazy will serve as administrative assistant in the College Counseling office each day from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. She will be at the same extension as Kaitlin Lee:714.

I am delighted to announce that the Upper School has been awarded a grant of \$20,000 by the Trustees' Chair for Educational Advancement. The grant will be used to mount LCD projectors in U.S. classrooms for faculty and student presentations

As we move toward the sometimes snowy month of February, I'd like to remind you of the severe weather procedures as they relate to possible school closings. If District 197 closes due to snow and ice, Visitation will also close. We will post such news on our website (www.visitation.net) and call it in to T.V. Channels 4, 5 and 11.



Visitation's robotics team, **the Robettes**, along with their coach, Ms Knatterud and engineer-mentors from Boston Scientific, began this month creating this year's robot. The Robettes will take it to a regional competition in St. Louis in late February. This project hones student skills in math, science, technology, teamwork and leadership and the students have fun in the process!



Learning flourishes in Visitation classrooms as students research, discuss, practice and present. In addition to classroom learning, our students find learning in places as varied as Washington D.C. where a group of Visitation Students for Life and their advisor Mrs. McClure joined other concerned

The Variety of Learning Experiences.

citizens in prayer and witness on the anniversary of Roe v Wade. Thanks to a generous donation of a Visitation parent the Exploradome Immersive Learning Program of the Minnesota Planetarium will be at Visitation all day on February 11. This interactive 3D atlas of the universe will allow M-12 students to learn about the solar system, galaxy and universe. The Upper School Astronomy

class will participate in this exciting experience. We are proud of the six juniors who will learn first hand the workings of the Minnesota Legislature as they serve as High School Pages at the State Capitol this spring:

Kathryn del Valle, Jayne Disenza, Bao Kou Moua, Victoria Rau, Rose Schwietz and Meghan Wenger.

Student Activities

Chemical Health Week: January 28-February 1.

During this week, the CHOOSE student leadership group has planned many informative and engaging activities around issues of chemical health. Jon Cummings of Minnesotans for Safe Driving will speak to the student body about the effects of drunk driving on Monday, January 28. Upper School CHOOSE members will speak to Middle School and Upper School students in classes about living chemically free. Prayers, facts about alcohol abuse by adolescents and a bake sale are among other activities planned for the week.

Math Team:

The VIS/STA Math Team competed in their 4th meet on Monday, January 7 at North St Paul. Our team placed 5th of the 8 teams with our highest finish this season. Leading the way were seniors Alissa Gerber and Jessica Mollner with contributions by sophomores Beth Nelson and Clare Robinson. The final meet of the season is February 11 at Tartan High School.

Quiz Bowl: The STA/Visitation Quiz Bowl team took first place in

the annual St. Anthony Village Knowledge Bowl Kickoff. All three teams did very well but the A team including Visitation Student, Martha Enderby took First place out of 40 teams.

Performing Arts:

Many students are involved in preparing these upcoming events:

- ◇ Full Circle Dance Company's *Perspective*-January 25,26,27
- ◇ Vista Variety Show: February 1-2
- ◇ Vista Improv: February 8, 9
- ◇ The Spring Musical: *Into the Woods*-April 25,26,27; May 1,2,3

Winter Week: February 19-22

An antidote to the mid-winter blues, this week of activities promises to energize and entertain students even while they continue to attend all classes. The Student Council has planned house competitions, special dress days, decorations throughout the hallways, the coronation of the Winter Week Queen and her court, and a semi-formal dance on February 23 to which all 10-12 grade students are invited.

Parent Corner

At a recent Upper School faculty meeting, we shared reflections on the topic of personal and academic integrity among our students. As we discussed various aspects of that topic, we noted the importance of adult role-modeling in the learning of this and all virtues.

Tom Lickona, developmental psychologist, professor of education and author of many books on character education, writes about this role-modeling in recent article in the Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education publication *Connections*:

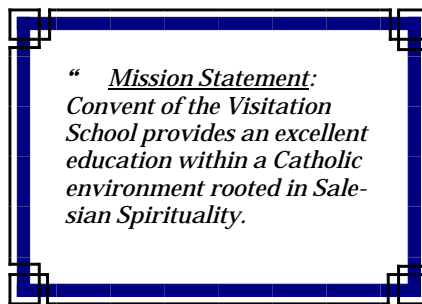
In hundreds of interviews with parents, young adults and others, I've asked people, "What did your parents do to try to teach you good values and good character?" People speak of many things, including their parents' love, their high expectations, their firm discipline, and their wisdom about life. But far and away, the most common answer I receive is simply, 'They set a good example.'

We are grateful for the many ways you partner with us in this very important aspect of your daughter's education.

Salesian Corner

"So, let us begin another New Year in the name of our Lord. Let us resolve to do the best we can with whatever little we possess. Let us do what is good, and place our hope and confidence in God's infinite compassion."

— From an exhortation of St. Jane de Chantal, 1629



 * You are invited to a Father *
 * Daughter Club Mass with celebrant Fr. Peter Laird, Sunday *
 * February 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the *
 * Sisters Chapel. The Mass will be *
 * followed by breakfast in the *
 * school dining room. RSVP by *
 * Jan. 30 to Anne Williams, *
 * 651.683.1734 or *
 * awilliams@vischool.org. *

"Humility is true knowledge."



Saint Francis de Sales