

Visitation Upper School News

Renee Genereux, Upper School Director

VISITATION STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Upcoming Events:

December 6-13: Midquarter grades available online

December 12: Late Start. Classes begin at 9:05

December 19: Upper School Christmas Concert, 7:00 pm

December 24-January 6: Christmas Break

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

January 9: Upper School Open House for prospective students and parents, 7:00 pm

January 15-18: Upper School Semester Exams

Visitation's recently revised *Portrait of the 21st Century Graduate* sets as one of our goals the development of leadership in our students:

Formed by a Salesian education which intentionally creates opportunities for leadership, the Visitation graduate:

- Possesses an internal moral compass allowing for courageous decision making
- Is able to be both a team player as a leader or follower
- Takes initiative in organizing a group of peers for effect action.

(To see the full Portrait please go to our website and click on the Academics link)

Education for leadership takes place in the classroom as students learn to participate in and lead presentations and discussion. In addition, many Visitation students participate in specific leadership groups:

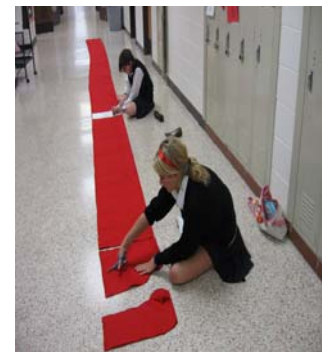
Leadership Committee

The Leadership Committee members spend time in summer preparing for their role in helping the new 9th grade class transition to high school by conducting Freshmen Orientation. This training helped student build and perfect their own leadership and communication skills as they mentored new students. The Leadership Committee also works on ways to improve the House system as a leadership development tool. Recently the committee has had discussions on moral courage, personal integrity and how to be prepared to lead beyond high school.

StuCo: Student Council, advised by Jayme Schrickler, leads weekly Upper School assemblies, presents issues of concern to the faculty and administration, promotes Salesian spirit through leading of prayer and monthly Sale-

sian spirit awards and plans activities such as the upcoming Winter Week.

Peer Mentors: The Peer Mentors, coached by Jeanne Doyle, Vis Counselor, are trained to be good listeners and role models for the younger students at Visitation. Peer Mentors help conduct Middle School discussions.



Visitation Stocking Project

In the Classroom—

◇ Among the goals of the Visitation Religion Department is this one:

Students will be able to:

Articulate fundamental religious truths found in the Catholic Tradition, Church doctrines, and Holy Scripture.

In a recent 10th grade Scripture class I observed, students were busy at the work of exegesis of scripture texts in response to one of the key ques-

tions of Biblical spirituality: "How am I to live my life" and using as their resource **The Devout Life** by St. Francis de Sales.

◇ Students in Visitation English courses are blessed with teachers who help them develop critical thinking and strong writing skills

In a recent visit to a 12th grade English course, I was amazed at the sophisticated analytical skills of students as they dis-

cussed verbal irony in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

◇ Technology is integrated into Visitation classes **daily**.

In **Honors Geometry**, students use Geo-Sketchpad to construct and measure angles. In **Spanish** classes students are using their cell phones (*yes, even in the classroom!*) and podcasts for presentations.



Student Achievement

Visitation Seniors Anna Dourgarian and Ani Goerd will be honored as Advanced Placement Rising Scholars at a ceremony and reception at Augsburg College on December 16 Sunday. To achieve this distinction, Anna and Ani qualified as AP Scholars with Distinction, meaning that they scored a three or higher on five or more Advanced Placement exams.

Athletics: As we enter into our Winter Sports season and applaud the Hockey, Basketball, Alpine and Nordic ski teams, we celebrate with pride the achievements of the Fall Sports teams: Cross Country, Tennis, Soccer, Volleyball—1st time to State!—and our three-time State champion Swim/Dive team. Way to go, girls!

Mock Trial: Coached by Mark Eldweek and volunteer members of the legal profession, the Visitation Mock Trial team is working hard to fine tune their cases for their first intra-squad scrimmage on December 8. Future tournaments include a December 15 competition with Lake

ville South H.S. and a January 21 meet with Benilde-St. Margaret H.S.

Performing Arts:

Congratulations to the cast, crew and directors of *1940's Radio Hour* for splendid performances in November.

We look forward to the music department's *December 19 Christmas Concert* and other productions planned for the spring semester including:

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



Parent Corner

- ◇ **Seniors:** Each year parents may submit an ad for the yearbook with messages for and pictures of their senior daughter. The deadline for submitting the senior ad and payment is **December 19**, the Wednesday before Christmas break. Please review the letter sent earlier for information about the ad. Please deliver the senior ad and payment before December 19 to the Portress: Attention Yearbook. Please contact Ann Degnan 651.683.1775 with any questions.
- ◇ In faculty and class meetings we are discussing the challenges and opportunities presented schools and students by globalization in the 21st century. One resource we are using for discussion is *Shift Happens* available through many websites. I recommend it for your viewing and discussion with your daughters

Salesian Corner

“That which most touches the heart of God is gratitude.”

—St. Jane de Chantal

***“ Mission Statement:
Convent of the Visitation
School provides an excellent
education within a Catholic
environment rooted in Sale-
sian Spirituality.***

Advent at Visitation: In the Upper School we celebrate this liturgical season in a variety of ways: Some classes and teachers become Kris Kringle for one another, an all school Advent prayer service is conducted and opportunities for the sacrament of Reconciliation are offered

“Humility is true knowledge.”

Saint Francis de Sales

