



Vision of Hope Tees Off for the First Time!

On May 9th Vision of Hope hosted its first golf tournament for 75 golfers at the scenic Richmond Country Club. Students from our two San Francisco schools, St. James and St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception, greeted and escorted golfers as they arrived and also helped serve refreshments.

Play began at 11 a.m. under clear, sunny skies, but soon after, clouds rolled in and brisk winds off the nearby bay dropped the temperature several degrees.

Then it rained in successive cloudbursts. Then it hailed.

But players persevered. Soon the sun shone, and the mood was high. Golfers returned to the clubhouse later that afternoon with stories and laughter while enjoying a sumptuous appetizer buffet. Vision of Hope's Executive Director, Ann Magovern awarded prizes for the winning foursome, longest drives, and closest to the pin.

Rodney Pierre-Antoine, Executive Director of Lumen Christi Academies and a member of our Bay Area Advisory Board, enthusiastically led a Fund-a-Need paddle raise that collected more than \$20,000 for tuition assistance.

Funds were also raised with a cash-prize raffle and bets placed on the Dominican Sisters Putting Contest. Competition was intense as Sisters Julie, Karen Elizabeth, Jane Marie and Rose Marie each got three tries to sink a 10 ft. putt. Sister Jane Marie prevailed with her closest to the pin putt.

Putting contest winners: Karen Butterfield, Sister Jane Marie Estoesta, O.P., Jack Parden and Brian Mulligan



Pictured above: Cristin and Nick Rasic, Trent Reutiman and Julie Nomura Haskell

third annual Online Auction. More than 100 registered bidders enjoyed a great selection of items including Dominican Sisters specialties, basketball, baseball and football tickets, entertainment tickets, unique handmade items, vacation homes and gift cards galore!

Raffle winners were drawn and announced live on our Facebook page on May 11th. Winners were 3rd place, \$500, Carlos G.; 2nd place, \$1,000, Ann H.; 1st place, \$2,500, Yvette C.

Vision of Hope is grateful to Carol Zweifel and Angela Stanfel, who gave their time, talent, and treasure assisting with the golf tournament and online auction.

We extend thanks to our sponsors, golfers, auction donors and bidders and all who participated. You helped us raise over \$110,000 for our schools!

Thanks again to our Sponsors!

Scholars: Diane B. Wilsey, Heffernan Insurance Brokers, Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services

Innovators: The Magovern Sisters, sixteen5hundred

19th Hole Hospitality: The Carter Sisters, Margaret and Jeffrey Grant, Loretta Holstein, Judy Stanley, USF McGrath Institute for Jesuit Catholic Education, Luminous Day Spa

Tee Box: Lori Hawkins, Karen Butterfield and Roxanne Borcich, Delia and Edward Corey, The Funky Monkey, Ann Hirsch, Lori and Patrick Imburgia, Danette Magilligan, The Magovern Sisters, Lizanne Suter Art Advisory Services, Trumark Real Estate Management and Services, Scents & Sew-ability, Diocese of Oakland Catholic Schools, St. Ignatius College Preparatory



SAIC students Orase, 8th grade, and Elizabeth, 4th grade

Bragging Writes

St. Frances X. Cabrini

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles has generously invested in a school community garden program at St. Frances X. Cabrini School that teaches children about nutrition and provides them with fresh produce. Located on the east side of the school, the Cabrini Garden consists of 10 planter boxes filled with tomatoes, eggplants, zucchinis and many varieties of herbs and peppers.

In addition to learning about agriculture, students are educated about nutrition and the importance of a nourishing, well-balanced diet. Children are taught how to plant seeds, care for the garden, and to cook healthy meals with the produce they harvest.



St. Elizabeth

When we returned to school for the 2021-2022 year, the goal was to strengthen student relationships and passion for learning while encouraging learners to explore and create. The middle school began weekly Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) days. Our students worked together to create phenomenal projects, including: literary-based paper roller coasters and novel board games. They completed taxes, created websites, egg drops, Rube Goldberg machines and tin foil boats, and designed and flew tetrahedral kites!

Throughout the year, we were able to witness students creating stronger bonds and a supportive environment within the middle school. With each project and activity, their enjoyment for education grew. It was the most joyous part of each week.



Santa Teresita

Santa Teresita School is proud to announce the promotion of the kindergarten class, the first group of new students we had on campus since the start of the pandemic. Mrs. Markley, the teacher, cannot believe how fast this school year went by!

This day was also special for parents who attended the promotion ceremony. They were very excited to see their children complete their first year of school, and felt proud as each child walked up to the principal, Ms. Grajeda, to receive academic awards and certificates for completing kindergarten. The class sang several songs during the ceremony, which filled the church with great joy and many heartfelt moments.



St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception

After two years without sports due to COVID-19 restrictions, St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School's 5th/6th grade girls basketball team won the 2022 Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Girls Basketball Division Championship game.

When these 5th grade athletes were in 3rd grade, the girls basketball season was canceled by the pandemic. As a result, this season was the first time ever that Coach Bianco's team had played basketball together. Because CYO sports begin in grade 3, only one girl before this season had played on a basketball team. We are so proud — GO DOLPHINS!



St. James

Congratulations to our graduates of 2022! St. James 8th graders experienced all of their middle school years in a pandemic. Our graduates are a resilient and close knit family. We proudly recognize three students who completed all nine years, K-8, at St. James. Pictured are Aliyah McCarver, Alyssa Diaz and Marie O'Brien with their special "9er" awards.

St. James is all about community and family history. Aliyah's cousins attended St. James, as did the parents of Alyssa and Marie.

As we enter our 99th year, we look forward to a big St. James family reunion soon. It is worthy to note that Alyssa and Marie will be attending Riordan High School, which initially started as St. James High School! San Francisco's history and future are strong with St. James!



St. Ignatius of Loyola

The St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish School community was thrilled to return to in-person instruction this school year! Highlights included two very successful PTO fundraisers and our Falcon Read-a-thon and Jog-a-thon. We brought back many beloved traditions, such as Living Stations of the Cross, May Crowning, and Graduate Defense Presentations.

Most difficult and heartbreaking was the loss of our beloved development director, Kathy Fitzpatrick, who was diagnosed with cancer in December and passed away in March. Kathy and our Centennial Planning Committee had begun meeting in the Fall of 2021 with ideas for a big celebration in September 2022. The committee plans to carry out a wonderful event that will highlight our 100 years of being an important part of the Highland Park community, and honors Kathy's memory.



St. Elizabeth Welcomes One of Their Own

When the 2022-2023 school year begins, students and families will see a new but familiar face in the principal's office of St. Elizabeth Elementary School in Oakland.



Michelle Escobar

Michelle Escobar, the school's fifth grade teacher and assistant principal, is the successor to Dr. Lynne Kennedy Mullen, who has retired as St. Elizabeth's principal.

Principal Escobar brings nearly 20 years of experience in K-12 education. She is a proud fourth generation San Franciscan whose family moved to the East Bay in her early childhood. She earned a double major in Psychology and History from San Francisco State University.

"I was welcomed with open arms when I joined the St. Elizabeth community three years ago," she says. "I am now honored to be principal and have two children attend, Isabella, a third grader, and Rebecca in first grade. My daughters and I love this school!"

Her philosophy of education is simple. "Every child's potential is limitless." She adds, "I believe that Catholic education is the vehicle responsible for not only establishing a foundation of faith and love of God, but it allows us to serve the incredible students that God calls us to serve."

During the five years that Lynne Mullen served as principal, St. Elizabeth became one of the elementary schools in the new Lumen Christi Academies network. She also completed studies to be awarded a Doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice from California State University East Bay.



Lynne Mullen

Noting the "extraordinary partnership of the Lumen Christi Academies, our Dominican Sisters and Vision of Hope, generous donors, our Development Board and Sr. Julie Distel, our fantastic staff, and our school families," Lynne says that St. Elizabeth has implemented several new academic programs, including Blended Learning and Common Core standards. "We have successfully completed our accreditation process with a strong roadmap for the future," she says.

Rodney Pierre-Antoine, Executive Director of Lumen Christi Academies, describes Lynne as an "exceptional, faith-filled leader who always puts people first, honoring the dignity of students, staff and families. She leads with a growth mindset and has helped usher in transformative instructional practices to meet the needs of all learners. Dr. Mullen's prioritization of whole-child development, the spiritual, academic, social/emotional and physical growth of all children has truly strengthened St. Elizabeth School."

Bragging Writes

St. Michael's

Our first day of the school year at St. Michael's began with a blessing from Father Peter and a ribbon cutting to our renovated school, thanks to Shea Family Charities. Our continued collaboration with Vision of Hope, Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, LMU IDEAL, Catholic Schools Collaborative, Education Through Music, Art Trek, St. Sebastian Sports Project and Counseling Partners of Los Angeles has contributed to our success. Our students are blessed to have various academic programs to help them learn, counselors available for emotional support, and the opportunity to explore the fine arts and sports.



Vision of Hope's Parent Leadership & Family Engagement Program reconnected us with our Dominican Sisters and empowered our families. Sister Georgette and Sister Elizabeth visited our school, joined us for weekly Gospel and Coffee with Rodriguez, and hosted activities to strengthen parents' Catholic identity. Through this program, parents also participated in a series of workshops and learned about social/emotional awareness and the role this plays in students' wellbeing. We can't wait to continue building on what we have achieved thus far.

Sacred Heart Elementary

Sacred Heart School celebrated some amazing firsts this year. The kindergarteners, the inaugural class of the Dual Language Immersion Program (English/Spanish), graduated in June. This class of 2030



will be the first to graduate with a seal of biliteracy from Loyola Marymount University, our partnering university. We are so proud of our bilingual students and their dedicated teacher, Mrs. Brenda Gomez.

This year, in partnership with the SMET Foundation and Sacred Heart High School, we piloted a new Onward 2 High School Program. This program creates a bridge designed to give elementary school students direction to achieve academic excellence and college readiness. The program was launched by offering a high school level Algebra I Honors course for our students. This accelerated course was taught on the high school campus to facilitate forward thinking for our participating 8th graders. The members of this first class were honored at a special assembly and Mass in May.



Dominican Sisters
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THANK YOU!

Classroom Angels Bless Our Schools

Being with a class of elementary students was nothing new for 91-year-old Ann Hirsch, who formerly taught school for some 20 years, so it was natural for her to sign up as one of Vision of Hope's "Class Angels." As a Class Angel, Ann was paired with the fifth grade class at St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School (SAIC) in San Francisco, and thanks to our use of technology during the pandemic, Ann was able to connect with Sister Jane Marie Estoesta, who arranged for Ann to "zoom" with her class throughout the year!

Sister Jane Marie prepared her students to ask Ann questions, including "What did you like about teaching?" and "Are you rooting for the Warriors?" In turn, Ann asked students about their studies, families, and things they liked to do.

Ann has been involved with Vision of Hope since its early days 27 years ago. She has been a generous supporter of Vision of Hope and SAIC in a variety of ways. Annually she offers a \$1,000 scholarship to any SAIC graduate who is accepted to attend Riordan High School in San Francisco.

Ann's daughters, Angela, and Rose Stanfel, are also generous donors to both SAIC and Vision of Hope.

Like Ann, Mary Zant became a Class Angel this spring at St.

Michael's in South Los Angeles and was paired with Mrs. Eliana Cruz's kindergarten class.

"It was important for me to visit the school and meet the kids in person," Mary says. "I went right before Easter and took a plastic egg with seashells in it as an introduction to where I live near the beach. I was able to read a book to the kids, one that they knew well. It was delightful."



Mary Zant

This was the first time Mary visited a Vision of Hope school and shared that "In the little time I was there, I saw how wonderful some kindergarteners are faring, while others are struggling to adjust to school."

Mary plans on remaining a Class Angel and hopes to follow the same group of children into first grade.

As a Class Angel, a \$250 donation is made to the school. The teacher who hosts the Class Angel can spend the donation towards something for the classroom and students. At SAIC, Sister Jane Marie purchased art supplies for her fifth grade classroom. Mrs. Cruz at St. Michael's bought reading books for her kindergarten students.

This year, we will welcome three more Class Angels to our schools. If you are interested in becoming a Class Angel, contact Shannon McDonald at the Vision of Hope office, 510-533-5768.