

*Saint Vincent de Paul School provides quality spiritual and academic experiences that are rooted in Catholic values.*



# 50 YEARS OF CHARISM & ACHIEVEMENT

## A letter from the Principal

Dear Friends,

The Saint Vincent de Paul School Community celebrated its 50th Anniversary this past year. In 1963, Father Benvegnu, the pastor of Saint Vincent parish was approached by Louise Best, our first kindergarten teacher, to open a school. In 1964, the first kindergarten class of 64 children began and two years later, five Presentation Sisters from Ireland arrived to teach and administrate at Saint Vincent School. They brought with them the charisms of love, community and hospitality. This year was truly golden, as we showcased our school and welcomed back many former teachers, priests, sisters, students, and parents.

Our success is due to a dedicated faculty and staff, and supportive families, who continue to value the importance of Catholic education. We strive to foster each student's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth.

Since the Sisters of the Presentation opened the school in 1964, a strong sense of community, rooted in Christ's love, has permeated the school. We believe that this love begins in the home and then is extended in the school community as we assist families in the development and formation of their children. This robust community produces and nurtures strong students who will go on to use their talents to make our world a better place.

Yours in Christ

Mark Longe, *Principal*



**Louise Best greeting Sister Lelia at airport**



**Parents at Golden Jubilee Gala**

## GOLDEN CELEBRATIONS

### September 26, 2014 Founder's Day Mass & Celebration

Our community kicked off our 50th year with a celebration of Mass and brunch with students, parents, staff and alumni. The Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. John C. Wester, Bishop of Salt Lake City.

### February 8, 2014 Golden Jubilee Gala

The Jubilee Gala was a night where current parents, former parents and alumni attended the annual auction. This event raised \$121,000 for our school programs, including tuition assistance for our families in need.

### April 21 to April 26, 2014 50th Anniversary Celebration Week

We welcomed back eight Presentation Sisters who flew in from Ireland, California, and Arizona. They enjoyed a week of festivities which concluded with a Golden Celebration Alumni Mass and Dinner on April 26, 2014. The Golden Celebration was attended by 400 alumni, former teachers, staff and current and former parents, concelebrated by the Most Rev. John C. Wester, Bishop of Salt Lake City, and Rev. John Norman.

# STUDENTS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

## Current Students Participate in Year-Long Activities

**O**ur students spent the year learning about our rich history and celebrated throughout the year with the following activities:

**Cross Wall Art** – Students from each classroom worked with an artist in residence to create unique crosses. Each art piece was placed on an outside wall near the prayer garden. This cross wall was dedicated to Louise Best who was the first teacher of St. Vincent de Paul School.

**Time Capsule** – During the 50th Anniversary Celebration Week, the students opened a time capsule from 1964. Students decided on what would be placed in their 2014 time capsule. (A newspaper, school uniform, Jubilee CD, yearbook, 50th student picture on the field, 50th anniversary mug, and a cell phone). The time capsule will be locked, to be reopened sometime in the future.

**Christmas Program** – The students reenacted Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic School's history telling the story of our past 50 years. For Christmas we also held a student Christmas card contest. The card selected showcased the beautiful Wasatch Mountains, the three wise men, and the birth of Jesus, illustrated by Victoria Smithson.



**Louise Best and Presentation Sisters at Cross Wall Dedication**

**Jubilee Song** – Scott Larrabee, our school band/choir director, wrote an original song entitled “Jubilee” which was sung by the students at masses, assemblies and special events.

**Irish Dancing** – Students had the opportunity to learn Irish Dance. Scariff Dance School taught an Irish dance that was performed during the Jubilee Assembly Celebration in honor of the Irish Presentation Sisters.

**50th Anniversary Poem Booklet** – Each student was asked to write a poem based on a 50th Anniversary theme. Every grade was given a different style to write their poem. Poems from each grade were selected for the 50th Anniversary Poem Booklet which was given to attendees of the celebration.



**Students Irish dancing at 50th assembly**

# CATHOLIC IDENTITY

## Building the Foundation

**M**ultiple generations of students have attended Saint Vincent School. Their parents and our community have recognized the value and importance of educating our children in the Catholic tradition. Saint Vincent educates the whole person – intellectual, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual. The school community emphasizes service, compassion, love and respect, while ensuring strong academic growth and learning. As current third-grader Matthew Smithson stated, “We learn and play and pray every day.”

Parents play a key role in establishing the Catholic identity evident at Saint Vincent. “It’s wonderful that this is a place where parents really work with the school for the common purpose of providing their children with the very best education. It’s not just about academics; we help each other to form their children into becoming very good people of character,” said Principal Mark Longe.

Father John Norman’s regular involvement in the school also plays a key role. The students attend Mass every week, and each of the grades has regular opportunities to help in the Mass. Through this regular interaction, Father Norman guides the students’ religious growth, and clearly explains the lessons of the Gospel. Monsignor Bircumshaw said that Father Norman “has especially excelled in building community and love for Catholic education in the diocese. He is a very skilled teacher and homilist who deals excellently with people of all ages, but especially young adults.”



**Father Norman spending time in the classroom**



**Students take part in Founders Day Mass**



## EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

Aspen Ridge Rehab Care Center  
California Pizza Kitchen  
Camp Tuttle  
Cathedral of the Madeleine  
Christmas Box House  
Cinema - Bear Movie  
Cinema - Jerusalem Movie  
Clark Planetarium  
Discovery Gateway  
Hogle Zoo  
Intermountain Medical Center  
James Moss Federal Courthouse  
Jewish Synagogue Congregation  
Kol Ami  
Juan Diego - Wizard of Oz Play  
Khadeeja Mosque  
Leonardo Dead Sea Scrolls  
Exhibit  
Neighborhood Walks - senses  
Paramount Senior Care Center  
Silver Lake  
Thanksgiving Point  
The Road Home  
This is the Place Heritage Park  
Tracy Aviary  
Utah Children's Theatre  
Utah Cultural Celebration Center  
Utah Food Bank  
Utah Museum of Fine Arts -  
Renaissance Art  
Utah Natural History Museum  
Wellington Nursing Home  
West Jordan Water Conservatory

## STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Beyond the Regular Curriculum:

- Hands-on Science
- State of Art Technology
- Advanced Math in Middle School
- Geography and Spelling Competitions
- Spanish for all grades
- Science Fair
- Music & Art Enrichment

Accredited by



## ACADEMICS

### High Achievers Start Early

In 1963, 64 children attended the first kindergarten at Saint Vincent. Class was held in the “cozy” basement of the church. Today our kindergartners enjoy a spacious, bright and sensory-rich classroom, with a class size about half what it was in 1963. The one aspect that hasn’t changed is the great preparation our kindergartners experience, which sets the stage for years of achievement at the school. Saint Vincent had 28 graduating 8th graders this past year, 70% of them entered high school with honor class placements. 98% of St. Vincent class of 2010, began college in the fall of 2014. Saylor Soinski (class of 2012) was a national merit scholar, and Hannah Edwards (class of 2010) was the Valedictorian at Juan Diego Catholic High School. Saint Vincent de Paul School takes pride in knowing that starting early in a child’s education can lead to many successes and achievements in school and in life!



## SCIENCE FAIR

### History in the Making

The first year Saint Vincent de Paul School opened, Rusty (Russell Meyer) a fifth grader, asked Sister Lelia why we did not have science fair. Being from Ireland she did not know what this was. She said, “Rusty was quite mature for his age, so I listened and told him, “Yes, we should try it!” That night he went home and made a flyer, presenting it the next day to his classmates. Everyone signed up and paid the 5 cents entrance fee. Sister Lelia then said, “Rusty, we cannot charge the students for this.” He replied, “But Sister we need ribbons for the winners.” She agreed and a month later the first science fair was held in the 5th grade classroom and judged by Father Benvegnu.

By the 3rd year, it grew so much in popularity it was moved to the gym. Today the Science Fair continues and this year over 40% of our students went onto the Diocesan Science Fair. Two students went on to compete at the Utah State regional competition held at the University of Utah.

## INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY

Saint Vincent continues to embrace advances in technology with SmartBoards and iPads in every classroom, and a state-of-the-art computer lab. Technology implementation at Saint Vincent School is thoroughly evaluated, determining its purpose and effectiveness as a teaching tool.



# FAMILY TRADITIONS

## Building the Mind, Body, and Soul Within Our Community

The consistent piece of positive feedback given to St. Vincent School is the profound sense of community which exists here. The impact spans the 185 families and 271 of students currently enrolled, but also through generations of families since its inception in 1964. In fact, 39 current parents and 2 teachers are alumni of Saint Vincent's.

Three of those alumni are siblings and all currently are sending their children to Saint Vincent's. Sarah (Semerad) Anderson, her sister Gretchen (Semerad) Dubois and her brother, Nate Semerad, came to St. Vincent in the late '70s. The strong sense of community they experienced during their time at St. Vincent is why they chose it for each of their families. Sarah says St. Vincent is "a safe and caring community to grow up in. There is a great sense of community, and I've kept lifelong friendships with a lot of families I went to school with here."

Certainly a top quality education is something all parents are looking for when choosing schools. Sarah's academic experience was also a factor in continuing her own family's involvement, because the school provides "strong academic preparation for high school."

Nate also values the Catholic education and community provided. "I wanted my kids to have the same type of experiences where they have a class of people they will be able to share with through high school, and develop those relationships and the sense of community that Catholic schooling offers."

Nate continues the family tradition with his kids' participation and he appreciates the community at St. Vincent School. "It's very grounded, and you can also get a lot of insight on parenting, and faith, and relationships by being involved at St. Vincent's. You certainly have the ability to learn and benefit from the community."

1981 graduate Gina Trentman Williford feels a close sense of connection at the school "that can't be found elsewhere," she said. "When we send our children off to school we are sending them to their extended family. That sentiment is reiterated by Sarah Anderson, "It's tight knit. The families are very supportive of each other and look out for each other's kids. If we can't be at an activity for our kids, someone is always willing to help out."

Saint Vincent de Paul School is a welcoming and safe community that provides an exceptional education in a faith filled environment. It remains committed to the development of the whole child; mind, body and soul. This multiple approach to education prepares students for high school and life. The experiences of faith and service help our students develop a love for Christ and appreciation for others.



**Gretchen Semerad Dubois (current parent and alumna) introducing her daughter to Sister Mary Kelly at 50th reunion**



**Kristi Kruckenberg reads to her daughters 2nd grade class**

# PARENT INVOLVEMENT

## Many Helping Hands Make Light Work

Parent involvement has always been encouraged at Saint Vincent de Paul School since the early days when parents helped the sisters serve hot lunch to the students. Now we have parents volunteering in several areas from helping in the classroom to organizing our auction, generating over 7,000 PIP (Parent Involvement Program) hours during the 2013/2014 school year. We sincerely thank all of our volunteers who have contributed to make our school successful.



# ARTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Beyond Academics

The Presentation Sisters knew that academics alone would not form their pupils into well rounded individuals. They included classes in Irish dancing and guitar lessons were early activities the religious sisters incorporated into the curriculum. Today the school has these additional enrichment activities:

- Hand Bell Group
- Kindergarten Opera
- Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, Soccer, Hockey, Football, & LaCrosse
- Boy/Girl Scouts
- Golf Clinic
- Missoula Childrens Theatre
- Student Council
- 5K Fun Run
- Ski/Snowboard Program



Choir performance



Band Members Perform



Kindergarten Opera



Missoula Children's Theater

# MUSICAL NOTES

## Learning and Performing

Saint Vincent School Band/Choir/Hand bell Program – Saint Vincent has an expansive music program. Starting in 4th grade, each student has the opportunity to participate in our Beginning Band and can continue into Advanced Band in subsequent years. From 4th grade through middle school all students are taught a variety of instruments which include hand bells, guitars, Orff instruments, and recorders, in addition to general music instruction. Our students have performed at venues including the Intermountain Medical Center, This is the Place – Christmas Celebration, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, Annual Diocesan Band Festival/Competition, various nursing homes, Grandparent's Day, monthly Children's Mass at Saint Vincent's Church and special masses for the school.



Guitar Class Performs at Assembly

# LIFE LONG LEARNERS

## Continuing Education for Teachers and Staff

In 1994 the Presentation Sisters departed the school and the education of the children became the responsibility of our lay teachers and staff. The faculty and staff has continued to run the school with the spirit of love. Every year the school funds seminars, workshops, and conferences so that our teachers remain lifelong learners.

This past year, our 2nd grade teacher, Rhea Hristou was recognized for her accomplishments and asked to speak at the religious education conference. She gave a presentation to 300 teachers on First Communion and Reconciliation Retreats. Rhea has taught at Saint Vincent for 19 years and attends conferences and educational seminars the school provides every year.

"The funds are a way for each of us to expand our classrooms. It gives our teachers the opportunity to recharge our minds with knowledge, and to ring back that knowledge to our classrooms. Without this funding, many of us could not afford to attend many professional growth opportunities," expressed Rhea.

## FACULTY STAY INVOLVED

Principal Longe sits on the NCEA National Board. He gives talks and school board training throughout the country and also sits on the community advisory council for Intermountain Medical Center.

Kara Haney (3rd Grade Teacher) and Tyler Stack (Computer Teacher) attended the weeklong ISTE conference helping to build skills to support digital age learning, learn about the latest education tech products, and learn how to better use technology to meet Common Core Standards.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Paying Forward our Many Blessings

Prior to the building of the Saint Vincent campus, the school's property was an orchard. Although all but two of the fruit trees are gone, this past year the Saint Vincent middle school students utilized a small section of the grounds to develop a thriving community garden. Master gardener Gwyneth McNeil and Dorie Olds headed up the project, which initially just involved our fifth through eighth graders. Then word of the project spread and donations of volunteers' time, supplies, fertilizer from Serendipity Stables, wood chips from Rocky Mountain Power, and trees and soil from Holladay City. "There is truly a community being built here in action, not just words," said Olds. With the land and water donated by parish, the school's students were responsible for maintaining the garden through the end of the school year. Parents and students were then recruited to help watch over the garden through the summer.

The result was a bounty of fresh produce that was picked and delivered to the Catholic Community Service Soup Kitchen to use and provide meals for the homeless. "I feel good about this garden because we are providing nutritious food for the homeless," St. Vincent sixth-grader Gracie Rice said.



Students tending to their garden



Harvest of Squash for the Soup Kitchen

# THE WORLD AROUND US

## Impacting Those in Need

It is easy to imagine that every child attending school under the direction of the Irish sisters could locate Ireland on a map. The Presentation Sisters' Irish culture undoubtedly had an influence on the children's global perspective. This past year, India has become more than just a place on the map.

Last February our faculty and students met Sister Lucy, a Sister of the Holy Cross who is an "intern" at Saint Vincent School. In 2013 she, and three other Sisters started a Catholic school in the Indian state of Tripura. Salka Holy Cross School started with four sisters and fifty eager students, quickly growing to 250. Salka offers an English-language based education for children of surrounding villages. This year our staff and students have spent time with Sister Lucy, learning about her country, culture, and mission. She has shared what life and learning is like in rural India, reinforcing in our children how important it is to appreciate their educational opportunities. Sister Lucy remarked, "I think I have given the children an opportunity to pause and think about children in the third-world that have nothing, but a desire to learn."

In turn, Sister Lucy has been acquiring administrative skills, and more importantly, studying student-teacher relationships. Sister Lucy is passionate about introducing safe, positive, and nurturing approaches into her school's learning environment.

Sister Lucy returned to India in November 2014 to share what she has learned with the hope of spreading the presence of God by building a warm, caring, nurturing environment of learning similar to what she has experienced at Saint Vincent School.

## CHARITIES SUPPORTED IN 2013-2014

Catholic Relief Services  
CCS Refugee Resettlement  
Christmas Box House  
International Charter School  
Mayan Families  
Road Home  
Ronald McDonald House  
Sister Angela's Assistance Program  
Salka School in India  
St. Marguerites Catholic School  
St. Vincent's Food Pantry  
St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall  
Utah Bike Cooperative  
Utah Food Bank  
Good Samaritan Program



Donations for CCS Refugee Program



Sister Lucy doing art adventure with PreK Students



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## Enhancing Our Campus

**W**e continually do upgrades around our school campus. In the past two years

close to \$460,000 was spent on the following upgrades and purchases:

- New computers & equipment for lab
- 100 iPads, cases & sync carts
- 10 Smartboard audio sound systems
- Wireless Infrastructure
- Reading & Religion textbooks
- School Kitchen Remodel
- Handbell set
- Piano
- Band Instruments
- Portable stage & wireless microphones
- Carpet for several rooms & hallways
- Remodel of two rooms at Nano Nagle Childcare Center



# RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE NOW!

Go to [stvincent-school.org](http://stvincent-school.org) to register

# HEARTS AT PEACE

**T**his past year we launched a new program, Hearts at Peace. This program is designed to help students build positive relationships with others and give language and social skills designed to resolve conflicts in a respectful manner. This program's key concepts were developed from the book Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict, written by the Arbinger Institute. Saint Vincent de Paul School was chosen to be the pilot program for the Diocese and the goal is for Hearts at Peace to be implemented by other schools served by Holy Cross Ministries.



Students participating in Hearts at Peace Program

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### SCHOOL RECEIPTS:

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Tuition & Fees                                | \$1,244,034        |
| Nano Nagle Income (1/2 profit paid to school) | \$10,000           |
| Extended Day                                  | \$127,487          |
| Fundraisers                                   | \$156,832          |
| Parish Support                                | \$45,807           |
| Contributions (Special & General)             | \$54,795           |
| State of Utah/Carson Smith                    | \$43,485           |
| Diocese Scholarships                          | \$5,000            |
| Interest Income                               | \$3,119            |
| Nano Nagle (Tuition & Fees)                   | \$329,675          |
| Nano Nagle (Fundraisers & Donations)          | \$6,769            |
| <b>Total School Receipts:</b>                 | <b>\$2,027,002</b> |

### SCHOOL DISBURSEMENTS:

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Instructional & Admin (Salaries, Benefits & Supplies) | \$1,227,771        |
| Operation & Maintenance                               | \$305,020          |
| Student Activities                                    | \$28,148           |
| Extended Day (Salaries, Benefits & Facility)          | \$59,924           |
| Capital Expenditures                                  | \$81,244           |
| Fundraising Expenses                                  | \$3,335            |
| Nano Nagle Expenses                                   | \$320,843          |
| <b>Total School Disbursements:</b>                    | <b>\$2,026,285</b> |
| <b>Excess School Receipts</b>                         | <b>\$717</b>       |

### PROCEEDS FROM FUNDRAISERS

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Scrip Program | \$27,915  |
| Auction       | \$116,733 |
| Uniform Sales | \$6817    |

# NANO NAGLE, EVER PRESENT

**N**ano Nagle Children's Center (NNCC) was opened in 2009 in honor of the many dedicated sisters that served Saint Vincent de Paul School. Nano Nagle was the foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Nano (Honora) Nagle was born in Ballygriffin, County Cork, Ireland in 1718. Nano opened a school for thirty-five girls in a two-room cabin, an action that was punishable by death under the English Penal Laws. This began her great and dangerous career in education.

The Sisters who opened our school in 1965 are from the Order of the Presentation Sisters. They lived in the convent, the building in which NNCC now resides. It has been blessed with a supportive community, grants, and donations, which have helped remodel the convent into a wonderful, safe place for infants through three-year olds. The NNCC mission is to provide a secure, child-centered environment, rooted in Catholic values. We were fortunate to have the Sisters join us for brunch and a tour during the 50th Anniversary week. They were pleased to see their old sleeping quarters transformed into a wonderful daycare center.



**The NNCC opened in 2009 with five children, today the center cares for 55.**

St. Vincent de Paul School | (801) 277-6702 | [stvincents-school.org](http://stvincents-school.org)

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## St. Vincent de Paul School

1385 Spring Lane  
Salt Lake City, UT 84117  
Return Service Requested



## THE YEAR AHEAD

- **Christmas Program**  
Thu., Dec. 18, 2014 at 6:30 pm
- **Open House**  
Jan. 29, 2015: New Family Tours 5-6 pm, Open House 6-7 pm
- **Cirque du Saint Vincent Auction**  
Sat., Feb. 7, 2015 at 5:30 pm
- **Saint Patrick's Day Parade**  
Saturday, March 14, 2015
- **Grandparent's Day**  
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
- **Missoula Children's Theatre Princess & the Pea**  
Shows Sat. April 25 at 3 & 7pm
- **May Crowning**  
Thu., May 7, 2015 at 2:30 pm
- **Spring Band/Choir Concert**  
Thu., May 14, 2015 at 6 pm
- **Saint Vincent Fun Run**  
Saturday, May 23, 2015
- **Saint Vincent Talent Show**  
Thu., May 28, 2015 at 1:30 pm
- **Saint Vincent Golf Tournament** Sun., May 31, 2015

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