



# ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS

SPRING 2023 EDITION

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Greetings from St. Peter's School! With the breath of new life that comes with Spring and the Easter season, we at St. Peter's continue to move forward with hope as we promote the intellectual, spiritual, and social growth of the members of our school community.

In this season's newsletter, read about our school's initiative to implement a Dual-Language (Spanish and English) Immersion Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Since 1878, St. Peter's has adapted and innovated to meet the needs of students, and today we remain committed to serve our community. We

are also working to provide safe learning spaces for our students, as we carry on with fundraising for our new fire safety system, facilities upgrades, and class retreat experiences for our students.

St. Peter's would not be able to progress with our initiatives without the support of our dedicated alumni, friends, and benefactors. Through foundations—like the Catholic Kolping Society—or volunteers at school and on our Advisory Board, our advocates help us to provide meaningful, educational experiences and carry out our mission to “nurture the whole child to develop a lifelong passion

for learning and to live out the Works of Mercy.”

To continue this legacy, I ask that you please keep St. Peter's School in your prayers, and consider making a gift towards the school as we work to meet our goals. You are in our prayers, and know that the spirit of St. Peter's School remains bright thanks to loving support from you!

In Solidarity,  
*Sandra Jimenez*  
Sandra Jimenez

## FIRST STEPS TOWARD THE INSTALLATION OF ST. PETER'S FIRE SAFETY SYSTEM



Mr. Tavaine Green of Design Consilium graciously demonstrated his Computer-Aided-Design (CAD) software to curious students in March as he prepared up-to-date architectural drawings for our upcoming Fire Safety project and future facility improvements.



## A NEW APPROACH TO INSTRUCTION

In recent years, 65-75 percent of St. Peter's student body has tested as English Language Learners (ELLs). With our current students, many are heritage Spanish-speakers who speak Spanish at home. Children are tested in English when applying for enrollment, though they often struggle because instruction is not delivered in their first language. The fact that many students are not grasping academic concepts becomes most noticeable in 3rd grade as children transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”

*(Read more on Student Development page)*

# A TEACHER'S PURPOSE

Teachers influence the generations of tomorrow. In addition to educating their students on an academic level, St. Peter's teachers nurture the whole child to grow spiritually, socially, and emotionally, especially during such formative years in their students' lives.

At St. Peter's school, a few of our teachers shared what they enjoy most about teaching here. Read below to get to know more about these three teachers.



## MR. RYAN SUÁREZ



When thinking about why I love teaching at Saint Peter's I am reminded of our KEYS: **Knowledge** feeds growth. **Every** accomplishment needs courage. **You** are love. **Service** Unites. It is a special gift to be able to see all

community members feel encouraged enough to live these statements out... from the student working at softening their fear of heights by taking a rock climbing elective, the first-time volleyball coach apprehensively taking on a new team, yet growing their team in dramatic fashion,

to a teacher pouring through test data to better meet a student's needs. Our community members feel safe enough to try hard things and the growth mindset that we encourage gives them the ability to persevere with resiliency.



## MRS. NINA FUAUU



For the last 9 years, teaching at St. Peter's has always felt like 'family,' serving a community that shares the same goal, love and enthusiasm. The continued support of my fellow colleagues, parents and students have allowed me to grow as an educator. I am truly blessed to be able to

connect with my students on a variety of different levels, academically, personally and spiritually. With that connection, my students in turn reciprocate that same sentiment. As each 8th grade class graduates, I have witnessed that sense of family in my students as they return to St.

Peter's to share this new chapter in their lives, high school. Essentially, this idea of family continues to ripple on all members and I love it!



## MRS. AMY SCHARF-KATZ



As a 3rd year teacher at St. Peter's, I have found my community. St. Peter's community of teachers, staff, students and families is warm and welcoming to all. I find great satisfaction in watching my 5th graders learn and grow as distinctive individuals. As Aristotle said, "Educating

the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."



“I am truly blessed to be able to connect with my students on a variety of different levels, academically, personally and spiritually.”

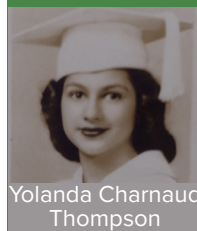
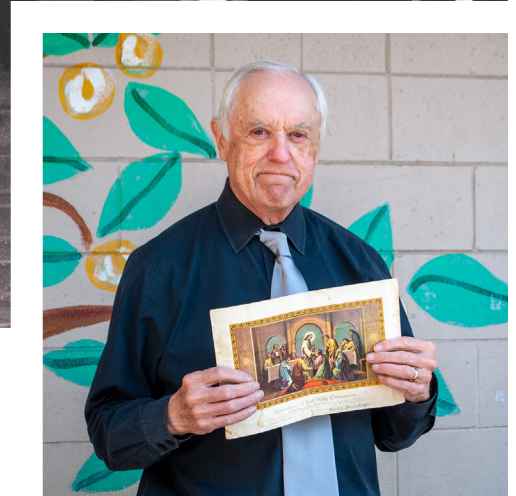


# LONG LASTING LEGACIES

## St. Peter's Legacy

While working on St. Peter's Archival materials, volunteer and former student Bob Noakes found his baptismal certificate from 1950. Bob, a member of the extended Mitchell family, has been uncovering some exciting pieces of the School's history, such as this photograph from March 1948 when the President of Ireland, Eamon De Valera, attended Palm Sunday Mass at St. Peter's Church. Bob identified his uncle, John Waters, in the crowd.

Carl Nolte '51 added: "The priest is Father Ralph Hunt, and I can see Jim Gould in the front row as well as a boy whose last name was Mayorga, Humberto Bermudez, and Jerry Valencia. De Valera was the last survivor of Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising leadership. He was prime minister and president of Ireland and a great friend of San Francisco's Father Peter Yorke."



### Prayers for Alumni and Friends Who Have Passed Away

We pray for Charles Anaya, Salvador Bustos '70, Jean (Dolly) Murphy McKevitt '51, Lynn Sullivan Lee '60, James O'Connor '55, Marlene Sherman '70, Kathleen Tierney, and Yolanda Charnaud Thompson '41. They will be honored along with other alumni and friends who have passed away at the St. Peter's School Annual Memorial Mass Sunday, November 19, at 2:30 PM.



### The Class of 1972 Reunion

The Class of 1972 gathered at the Basque Cultural Center last November for their 50-Year Reunion. It was terrific to spend time with one another, catch up on one another's lives, and remember our teachers and classmates.

**Back row L to R:** Peter Bourne, Raul Ibarra, James Garcia, Michelle Archangeau (Whitsitt), Anna Allen (Juarez), Erick Galindo, Peter Banayat, Alan Auzenne, and Dan Franco

**Front row L to R:** Silvana Lopez, Annette Rodriguez (Fernandez), Ana Argumedo-Palmer, Elizabeth Bauer (Guerrero), and Stephanie Gravem (Cantero)

# STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

## A NEW APPROACH TO INSTRUCTION (CONTINUED)

In 2021, the School's leadership team learned about the successes of Catholic elementary schools while working with Boston College's Two-Way Immersion Network for Catholic Schools (TWIN-CS). Research shows that delivering academic information in two languages (such as Spanish and English) allows students to grasp content better and supports their social-emotional development. At the same time, students will experience that their "whole" person, including their language and culture, is valued—which is an important part of the mission of St. Peter's School. Ultimately, students will become fully bilingual and bi-literate and can carry those capabilities throughout their lives. Additionally, during feasibility study data collection for the implementation of Dual Language Immersion, it was discovered that within SFUSD, there are far more requests for assignments to DLI classrooms than available spots. Clearly, there is a demand and a desire for dual-language academic instruction, and St. Peter's School is working to meet this need for the community.

We'll keep you informed as we prepare to open San Francisco's first Catholic Dual Language Immersion Program, beginning with the Kindergarten class of 2024-2025.



## GRANDPARENTS DAY MASS

As part of our Catholic Schools Week tradition, St. Peter's School celebrated Grandparents Day on January 31st, when we invited our students' grandparents to a special school Mass at St. Peter's Church. Our school family prayed for our students' grandparents and expressed gratitude for their love, guidance, and wisdom. Their unique connection to family history and traditions is a treasure that grandchildren will cherish forever. On this memorable day, we honored and thanked them for being role models for our students and a vital part of the St. Peter's community.



## EIGHTH GRADE SCHOLARS

**Nelly Ortiz-Alfaro, the 2022-2023 Victoria Butler Christian Living Awardee.** "I'm sad to leave St. Peter's. The teachers have been supportive and listened to what I had to say. But I'm also excited to join Archbishop Riordan High School."

**Joshua Cortes, the 2022-2023 Jacqueline Macedo Greig Memorial Scholar.** "I'm excited to graduate from St. Peter's and meet new people at Sacred Heart Cathedral, but at the same time, I don't want to leave the school I've been in for nine years. The teachers always encouraged me to do my best."

**Cecilia Farias-Tietze, the 2022-2023 Ethel Lager Scholar.** "I'm going to miss St. Peter's. Our teachers acknowledged and helped me when I struggled through assignments. And I am also so happy that Sacred Heart Cathedral accepted me."

# OUR DONOR'S IMPACT

St. Peter's is blessed to have the support of the Catholic Kolping Society. This nonprofit membership organization helps its members express Christian witness through their marriages, families, professions, and leisure activities. In so doing, their members contribute to the betterment of our culture, society, and Church.

The Society's annual contribution was delivered this year by Deacon Bill and Christine McLoughlin, shown here with Principal Sandra Jimenez. Deacon Bill told us, "My mother Loretta Murray and her twin sister Florence Murray attended St. Peter's in the 1930s and always told me it was the best school in the City."

To learn more about The Catholic Kolping Society of America, go to [www.kolping.org](http://www.kolping.org).



## NEW SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



### **Martha Adriasola**

is an alumna from the Class of 1970 who attended St. Peter's with her sister and cousins. Later her children and granddaughter

also attended. Martha retired from San Francisco Unified School District after a 40-year career as a bilingual teacher and health education coordinator for elementary schools. She holds several credentials, including a National Board Credential in Health Education, and was one of the writers of the California Health Education State Standards and the Health Framework. Martha previously served on committees for St. Peter's parish and the Archdiocese, including the one that interviewed and recommended Ms. Victoria Butler as principal, The St. Peter's Parent Board, and the Alliance for Mission District Catholic Schools. Today, she actively promotes Catholic Schools through board service, substitute teaching, and engaging alumni and friends in benefit events.



### **Simon Chiu**

is a proud alum of St. Peter's ('84). He grew up in the Mission District and attended St. Ignatius and Santa Clara University, where he majored in English.

After receiving his teaching credential at UC Berkeley, Simon began his career in Catholic education as an English teacher. He is an experienced Catholic high school administrator, having served in various administrative and school leadership roles at Moreau Catholic in Hayward, Saint Joseph Notre Dame in Alameda, and Saint Francis in Mountain View. He also worked at the YMCA of Silicon Valley as the Vice President of Financial Development and now serves as the Vice President of Advancement at Archbishop Riordan High School. Simon has always been one of the first alumni to step up to help St. Peter's in its fundraising efforts.



### **Kristen McCarthy**

was born and raised in Santa Clara County, where her parents were educators. A graduate of St. Francis High School in Mountain View, Kristen

understands the importance and value of Catholic education. After high school, she started her undergraduate studies at Cal Poly in SLO and finished her BS in Health Science at San Jose State University. Kristen studied nonprofit management in the San Francisco State University master's program, which provided her with tools to help with her objective of assisting nonprofits with fundraising goals. Residing in San Francisco for the past 30 years, Kristen has been an active volunteer at her daughters' schools, including Peters Place Nursery School, Katherine Delmar Burkes, and St. Ignatius College Preparatory, as well as with the BASIC Fund. Additionally, since 2016, Kristen has been part of the BRIDGES program at St. Peter's, helping students express their feelings in a comfortable and safe environment.



**ST. PETER'S**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**1266 Florida St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

St. Peter's Catholic School community nurtures the whole child to develop a lifelong passion for learning and to live out the Works of Mercy.

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## ST. PETER'S DAY OF GIVING



With many exciting initiatives underway, St. Peter's wants to guarantee that the Classes of 2024 and 2025 will have the opportunity to attend their class retreats next school year. Outdoor retreat experiences are so worthwhile for our students—being out of the City and in nature for several days, connecting in new, more thoughtful ways, and having time for quiet self-reflection. Teachers, staff, and parents are so proud of the growth, love, and learning that classes have shown during their retreats and carried on back at school and home.

In honor of the upcoming feast of St. Peter, who Jesus entrusted with the keys to heaven, the School asks for your donation to help send our 7th and 8th graders to these key experiences next year. You can support 2023-2024 Student Retreats with a check to St. Peter's School using the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.stpeterssf.org/ways-to-give](http://www.stpeterssf.org/ways-to-give). With a starting goal of \$8,000, our 2023 St. Peter's Day of Giving Campaign will open on May 25 and close on June 29—The Feast of St. Peter.