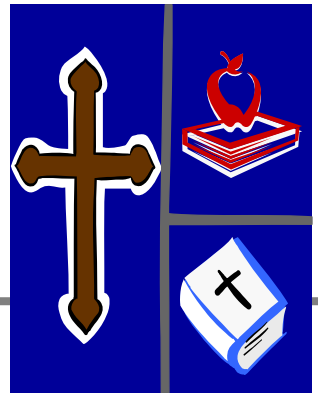


GAZETTE



Rehearsal Time Over, Now It's Showtime!

By Natalie Monahan
Managing Editor

It's that time of year again! Joy, giving, songs, beauty, and the love of Jesus all in one school event. Yes, you guessed it! The Christmas Concert is here, and the whole school has been preparing for the wonderful extravaganza.

Directed by Music Teacher, Mrs. Kirsten McCarl, each grade has learned at least four Christmas songs to perform on Thurs., Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the church. Every student has learned

the all-school opening and closing songs, and two homeroom songs.

In addition, other students have also learned special group songs. The select choir will be singing two songs as well.

Other than singing, several students are portraying other talents like playing an instrument, narrating, or portraying the Holy Nativity scene.

Students need to be in full dress uniform for the concert. Girls in grades six through eight should wear dark tights and dress

shoes appropriate for walking on the risers. Hair should be neatly combed and away from the face.

Students need to report to their homerooms at 6:30 p.m. the night of the concert. They will return to their homerooms after the concert to wait for their parents to pick them up.

With the joy of Christmas, and the love of Jesus ringing through St. Vincent de Paul Church, the Christmas Concert will definitely bring a smile to all the parents and other visitors who come to see the event.

December 2010

Volume 5, Issue 2

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 16—Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal, 9 a.m., Church; Grandparents' Tea Following Christmas Concert, 7 p.m. Church

Dec. 17—Prayer Service; Noon Dismissal

Dec. 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 21—First Day of Winter

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve

Dec. 25—Christmas Day

Dec. 31—New Year's Eve

Jan. 1—New Year's Day

Jan. 3—Classes Resume

Jan. 6-7—No School; Conferences

Students Help Kids in Need by Filling Shoeboxes



Photo taken by Julie Campbell

St. Vincent's collected shoeboxes for orphans through the Christmas Child Program

By Natalie Monahan
Managing Editor

Though it may be hard to believe, millions of kids around the world do not have toys of their own to play with. This means that these kids probably

receive no gifts at Christmas, and that the love of Jesus is buried in the poverty in which they live.

St. Vincent students pitched in to help these kids by participating in Operation Christmas Child, a wonderful event where families

fill shoeboxes with toys and other helpful things for kids living in poverty and orphanages around the world.

This year, the service project was led by Mrs. Lisa Davison

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Rummage Sale: Students Buy Gifts to Help Other Kids Get Gifts

By Andrea Hallahan

Blanchet Homeroom is helping several children in need this Christmas because of the huge success of its annual rummage sale in October.

This year, the rummage sale made \$956.50. This money is used to buy gifts for the Dove Tree.

Do you ever wonder how the Dove Tree presents in the church get chosen? Well, the kids in Blanchet Homeroom write down an age on a piece of paper. Mrs. Mary Isaacson takes that list to the store and buys age-appropriate gifts.

There are many toys and other items donated by

St. Vincent families at the rummage sale, including raffle baskets. The most popular items that sold were stuffed animals and action figures, Mrs. I said.

Kids usually bring enough cash to buy items that are priced between 10 cents and \$5. This is a great way for students to buy Christmas presents.

Elisabeth Ducusin, a kindergardner, said, "I got a pretty dress!"

One other student said he bought a giraffe pouch for his little sister. The raffles are always a huge success because the kids love the baskets.



Photo taken by Emily McCathren

Blanchet Students raised money for Dove Tree gifts on Oct. 22 during the annual rummage sale in the Parish Hall

Student Crew Food Drive Helps Fulfill Local Food Bank Needs



Photos taken by Marcia Ducusin

Student Crew members covered several lunchroom tables with food items collected during the annual Food Drive, Nov. 15-19

Gazette Staff

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All St. Vincent students in grades fifth through eighth are invited to join the Gazette staff. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011, from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the school library. For more information, please talk to Mrs. Campbell or call or email Marcia Ducusin at (253) 945-7954 or vicandmarcia@comcast.net.

One More Week of Advent Means One More Week to Prepare for Jesus

By Mary Grace Curran

Christmas break may be almost here, but there is still one more week of Advent before Christmas - one more week to prepare for Jesus.

As a school, St. Vincent students started each Monday morning during Advent with a special prayer service. Students met in the front of school by the office. They began by singing "Come, Lord Jesus". Principal Wanda Stewart lit the candles of the Advent Wreath according to how many are needed for that week and the appropriate colors.

The word Advent means "the arrival that has been awaited". As Catholics, we celebrate the coming of our Lord, Jesus

Christ, on Christmas. Advent helps us to prepare for that.

Each week during Advent we light a candle. The first week we light a purple candle, the second week we light two purple candles, the third week we light a pink candle and two purple candles, and the last week we light three purple candles and one pink candle.

Some other Advent traditions consist of the Jesse tree, the good deeds manger, and the Advent calendar. A Jesse tree is ornaments on a tree that tell the story up to when Jesus is born. The good deeds manger is a manger (sort of like a stable) in a nativity. The family gets together each

night, and shares the good deeds each one did. For each good deed, they place a piece of straw. By Christmas Eve, the manger is filled with hay on which baby Jesus sleeps. This practice has become a tradition in Sandy Point Homeroom, as each kindergarten student is asked to perform good deeds to earn their pieces of paper straw.

The Advent calendar is usually a picture of the nativity or Santa Claus and is filled with boxes. Each night, the family opens one box, and there is a piece of candy or chocolate.

So, as Christmas gets closer, take some time to further prepare your heart for Jesus.

Junior High Actors Become "Music Man" Characters

**By Natalie Monahan
Managing Editor**

Every year, the Drama Troupe, made up of talented seventh and eighth graders, puts on a fabulous play for the whole school in the spring. Under the direction of Mrs. Urdene Rickard and Mrs. Kirsten McCarl, the students start with auditions in October, and then once the cast is announced, rehearsals begin each week on Mondays and Thursdays.

This year, the directors chose "The Music Man", a classic musical about a con artist named Harold Hill, played by Scott Lambert,

who visits River City, Iowa, and tricks the residents into buying instruments. Harold soon falls in love with the local librarian, Marian Paroo (Whitney Lane), and has a change of mind about life.

This fun musical has not only catchy songs, but silly characters and a good theme of the joy of music and following your heart.

So far, the cast members are learning the songs and choreography, and are even starting to act more like their characters. The younger students, on the other hand, are already anticipating the final performances.

St. Mary Magdelene: Sinner Forgiven and Inspired by Christ

**By Natalie Monahan
Managing Editor**

St. Mary was born in the Gentile town of Magdale, which she was named after. She was a well-known sinner before she turned to God.

Mary came to weep at Jesus' feet when he visited Simon one day. She then washed his feet with her tears, and dried them with her long hair. She even anointed them with expensive perfumes, which caused the apostles following Jesus to argue.

The apostles were surprised that Jesus would let such a sinner touch him. But Jesus, who had looked into Mary's heart, said to them, "Many sins are forgiven her, because she has loved very much."

Then, to Mary, He said kindly, "Your faith has made you safe, go in peace."

From then on, with the other holy women, Mary humbly served Jesus and His apostles.

Mary was not only at the Lord's crucifixion, but at the foot of His cross, weeping for his suffering. She also visited

His tomb, to anoint his body, but found it missing. She became very mournful, until she saw a man and asked him where the body of her beloved Christ had been taken. But the man was Jesus, who had risen from the dead. Jesus had chosen her to be the first to whom He showed Himself.

Mary died at the age of 72, on July 22, which is the day we honor her dedication to God.

Shoebboxes

(Continued from page 1)

and Mt. St. Helens Homeroom. Each student was asked to pack one of these boxes, and was shown a DVD of how to pack the gifts.

Many students made boxes and the total made by the school was 220, which was even more boxes than last year. Mrs. Davison said, because of this, Mr. O'Brian,

head of Operation Christmas Child in King County, congratulated students on being the highest box producers in the district.

Seventh Grader Abby Hemmer said enthusiastically, "I feel really great about helping a child in need!"

With such great progress, lots of children can experience the love of Jesus, and the true meaning of Christmas.

Library Book Sale Postponed

By Jack Taylor

The Library Birthday Book Sale has been rescheduled to Jan. 6 and 7.

It will still be by Sandy Point and Mt. St. Helens classrooms.

For the past 14 years, Librarian Mrs. Urdene Rickard has held the book sale to introduce new books to the library and honor students for their birthdays.

"The previous librarian started it, so I decided to carry it on," Mrs. Rickard said.

When a student purchases a book, his or her name, picture and birthday are put in the front of the book. The books range from short stories, picture books, and a lot of non-fiction books.

So take a stroll down the hall in January and browse around.

Book Review: "The Lost Hero" by Rick Riordan Outshines the Rest

By Jack Taylor

Comparing this book to Rick Riordan's previous books in the series "Percy Jackson and the Olympians," this book outshines the rest.

Why? Well, this time there are three main characters instead of one, and Riordan adds Roman versus Greek Mythology.

This book is about a boy named Jason,

who wakes up sitting in the back of a school bus with no memory of who he is or where he is. The girl sitting next to him is named Piper and she claims to be his girlfriend. In front of him is a boy named Leo, who says that he is Jason's best friend.

The book is also about Piper and how her movie-star dad is missing.

Leo is the third main character, who had

his mom killed at an early age.

The big reason why this book is compelling is that every two chapters it switches point of view from Jason to Piper to Leo.

The book's reading level is intermediate and above. The sequel to this book will be coming out next fall.

Erasers—No Longer a Boring Tool For Making Mistakes Disappear

By Andrea Hallahan

Erasers are no longer a boring tool to just make mistakes disappear. They are the next BIG thing.

When you think of erasers, what do you think of? A little pink block? Or do you like to think outside the box with erasers that are shaped and colored like an ice cream cone or a lava lamp?

Yes, there are such things as different shapes and sizes of erasers, but why would you need these different kinds of erasers? You may already have just a normal eraser.

Visualize yourself at, lets say, Office Max. There you are standing in the front of the store. You look at all the long aisles going down. You look up and see big bulletin boards hanging from chains that hook up to the ceiling. You slide your eyes until you see **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** in big blue letters.

Your Aunt says you can buy anything in that aisle.

Then it catches your eyes! You run up to the section with pencils, Expo markers, and

erasers. You look down and see "Crazeraser—BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!"

Crazeraser – that's the name of these fun-shaped erasers. They come in all shapes like kitchen appliances to a milk carton and a cereal box. To find these unique erasers, sometimes you have to look pretty hard.

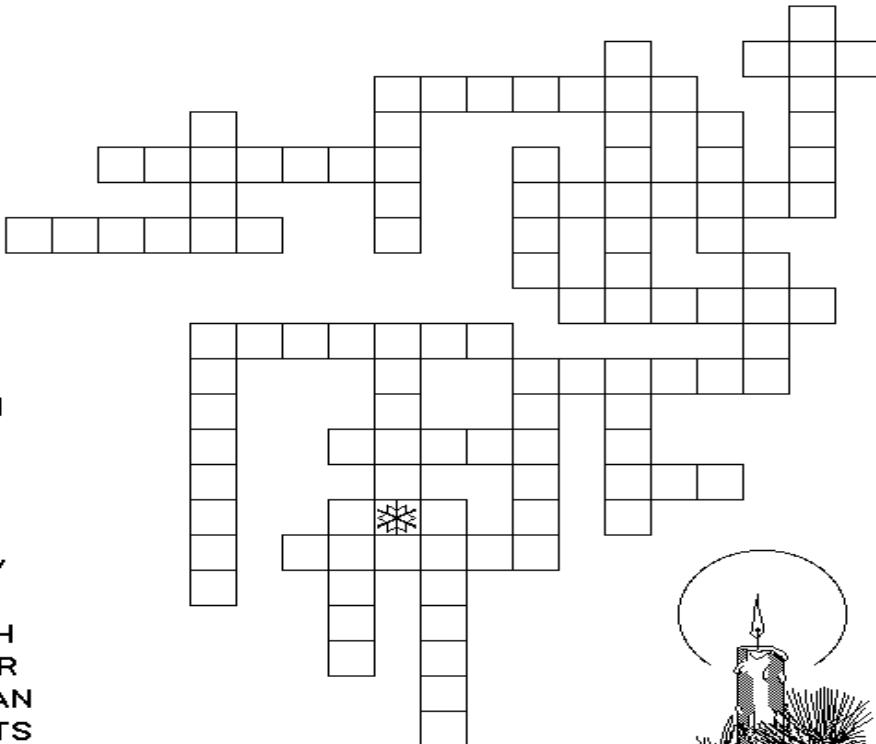
These erasers make mistakes more fun, but one downside to them, is that they fall apart more easily than the regular erasers.

So, you decide – boring tool or fun Crazeraser?

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

- ELF
- TOY
- GIFT
- BELL
- TREE
- STAR
- SANTA
- COMET
- CUPID
- VIXEN
- CANDY
- FROSTY
- WREATH
- DASHER
- DONNER
- SLEIGH
- DANCER
- CHIMNEY
- BLITZEN
- RUDOLPH
- PRANCER
- SNOWMAN
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER



From the Gazette
Staff to You:



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!



By Adam Czuk, Third Grade, Cascade

Handprint

The hand of a child who was before,
not here, not now, not anymore.

She walked these halls, stumbled
down these stairs, set up this table,
sat in these chairs.

She played in the yard 'till late at night,
'till owl's hoot would give her a fright.

She laid in her bed drifting to sleep,
and after a while you would hear no
peep.

This little girl, so full of glee, I am so
proud to call her me!

Handprint

By Claire Nelson, Sixth Grade, Mt. Rainier

All St. Vincent students are invited to submit creative works to the St. Vincent Gazette Creative Corner.

SHORT STORIES

POETRY

DRAWINGS

CARTOONS

PHOTOGRAPHS

Submissions can be given to Mrs. Campbell in the computer lab or can be emailed to vicandmarcia@comcast.net. The next issue will come out in February, so the deadline is Feb. 1. Submissions must be appropriate and will be published in grayscale (no color) as space allows. All submissions should be on unlined, white paper. Keep in mind that words on drawings are hard to read once in the newspaper. The staff reserves the right to edit all submissions and any unpublished submissions will be saved for future issues. Please make sure we know your name, grade and homeroom when turning in your creative work. *Now, go get creative!*

