



Vincent Academy News | Mar. 2, 2020

Dear Families,

This bulletin brings lots of exciting news from Vincent Academy, please be sure to mark your calendars and see how you can get involved in our school community! Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any comments, questions, or concerns (510)452-2100.

Sincerely,

Principal Rasmussen

Please mark your calendars:

March 3: PAC/ELAC/SSC meeting

March 2-6: Read Across America Week

March 9: VA School Board Meeting 5:30p

March 10: 5th grade class to Bay Area

Children's Theatre

March 12: Groop and deHaes to Bay Area

Children's Theatre

March 13: Report Card #2 goes home

March 30- April 6: Spring Break (campus closed)

Next PAC, ELAC, SST Meeting April

6, 2020!

No Cell Phone Policy: - Cell phones should be kept safely in students' backpacks. If a staff member sees the phone out and in use, it will be held until after school.

One Call: We use our one call system as a primary means of communicating important information throughout the week. If you are not receiving these calls, please let us know and we will add you to the phone list.

Upcoming SBAC Test: It is that time of year again when students in grades 3-5 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment. We have already begun our test preparations with extra attention paid to test taking strategies and reviewing information that will be on the assessment. Students have taken a practice test and will take another practice test on March 16-27. Throughout the year, but especially at this time of year, attendance is critical.

Parent Advisory Council News: We hope you will join us for the monthly parent committee meeting beginning at **5:30 pm on Tuesday, March 3** in the library.

Contamination at McClymond's:

As many of you know, a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) was found in the groundwater at McClymond's. That school is closed pending completion of air quality testing. There is no evidence that it has ever been in the drinking water, and a recent article in the SF Chronicle says, "Preliminary air quality testing at 50 individual sites on campus showed no sign of the chemical, although contractors — under the supervision of state and county officials — will continue testing to confirm the results."

Since Vincent Academy is situated around the corner from McClymond's, we have been working hard to confirm that our VA students are going to be safe. After extensive discussion and research, we have determined that, while contamination was found at the VA site **before the school was built**, remediation efforts were completed and the site tested free of contaminants before they started building our school. This is good news, and we are also having air and water quality tests run now, and we should be able to share the results with our families and community soon. Look for a One Call with that information.

In the meantime, we are all eager to talk to you and answer any questions that we can. You can call the main office at 510-452-2100 and speak to Ms. Alex, or Ms. C., or you can walk in any time to talk with us. We know that these are your kids and we will all do whatever it takes to keep them safe!

Upcoming Election: There is an important election coming up in our community this Tuesday, March 3rd. There will be candidates for president on the ballot as well as other important offices like our **Alameda County Board of Education members**. The candidates running for these seats have very differing views from each other about charter schools like ours, so I encourage you to research the candidates and vote Tuesday, March 3rd.

Attendance: You may have noticed our sign out front of the school announcing the number of tardy students each day. Improving our tardy and absentee rates is an area of improvement for Vincent Academy. Students must be here everyday to be successful in their learning growth. Please make every effort to have your student here on time every day.

Corona Virus: We understand that many of our families have questions and concerns and hope the following prove helpful. As a reminder, to prevent the spread of any illness, if your child is sick, please keep them home from school. To help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus and flu, follow these important tips:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Individuals with chronic health issues and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional.
- Get vaccinated every year

Additionally, CDPH doesn't recommend the use of face masks for general prevention and says that

handwashing provides better protection from infectious diseases.



Black History Month Celebration:

Thank you for joining us for Vincent Academy's Black History Month Celebration: Building the Dream! We hope you enjoyed the student artwork and performances. We are proud of all the students and their excellent work at the Black History Celebration. Please see our Instagram for photos!

- Students in the musical are working toward their performance of Magic Tree House on April 30th. Practice during the month of March will be after school on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Kinder and First grade classes have begun an artist residency with the SF Opera. A teaching artist will be visiting their classrooms every week for one hour to work on developing their own Aria (opera song)!
- We are proud to announce that student artwork will be on display at Community Foods Market, 3105 San Pablo Avenue. Our students worked with artist Stephan Bruce to transform copper using common food items. Stop by to see our beautiful copper display.



For March, we are focusing on:
Week Mar 2nd: **Apology & Forgiveness Tool**
Week of Mar 9th: **Patience Tool**
Week of Mar 16th: **Courage Tool**
Week of Mar 23rd: **Breathing Tool**