

Fr. Sauer Academy

Welcome to Our March Newsletter!

Happy March everyone!

There is something about the extended daylight of March that gets us all ready for Spring! We “Spring forward” with our clocks, there is an extra spring in the students’ steps in the playground and we all feel happy anticipation of springtime and longer days of sunshine. Let’s just say- we are ready for Spring/Easter break too!

This month we will meet all of our families (on Zoom) for **Family/Teacher conferences on Thursday the 18th**. Our teachers will be able to review and celebrate the hard work that has been done throughout this remarkable year. COVID-19 has certainly given us challenges, but it has also showed us how resilient and creative we can be. This is also a time to reflect and plan the goals that each student will need to end this year knowing that they have done their best and are ready for the next steps needed for advancement to the next grade level.

The Academy is also very busy choosing our new incoming 6th grade class of 2028! Special “Thank you” to our FSA families who recommended our school to their families and friends! We are thrilled to have over 60% more applicants than in all of our past years and we are certain that we will find a new cohort that will bring positive energy and excitement to our campus. Please keep us all, including our applicants, in your prayers as this is a wonderful and also strenuous time for everyone involved.

We hope that you enjoy this March Newsletter. We have included many highlights and dates to mark on your calendars. Don’t forget to join us on Instagram ([lifeatfsa](#)) and please keep checking our [Parent/Student webpage](#) for more information, forms and our ‘live’ calendar.

Take care and stay safe!



Theresa

Mark your Calendar:



March 14th

Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 18th

Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)

March 19th

FSA Midterm Break (No School)

March 24th

3rd Quarter Grades Sent Home

April 1st – April 11th

FSA Easter Break (No School)

April 12th

Classes Resume

April 13th

FSA Parent-Community Meeting: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Message from Father Sauer, S.J.

Greetings

Dear FSA,

Hope *Mardi Gras* was fun for you and yours. Welcome now to Lent!

Lent and Pandemic and School and Stress don't go well together, but Scholars, it's Spring – Winter and Covid are on the way out!

So, hang in and throw yourselves into school activities, studying, and Lenten practices, and, before you know it, Lent will end and Easter will be here.

Jesus Christ who is tempted in the desert not to be all He can be in the Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent, rejects that insidious suggestion and moves on to a life of *total* giving, without, as St. Ignatius Loyola said, "counting the cost."

That is what He calls YOU to do: to share the gifts God has given you scholars so generously and abundantly – talents and skills you develop and improve in the FSA!

God bless you this Lenten season – and always! Resurrection **is** coming!!!

Love,

Father Tony Sauer

Daily FSA Checklist and San Francisco Department of Public Health Guidelines Making Sure We're Ready to Go!

With our students back on campus, we continue to readjust ourselves to learning in a classroom again and with social distancing measures in place. Before coming to class today, ask yourself the following questions:

- Did you fill out the online [Student Daily Screening](#) form? This form can be found on our [parent and student portal](#) on the FSA website.
- Did you bring your water bottle?
- Did you bring your own personal bottle of hand sanitizer?
- Did you bring a jacket?
- Did you bring a fully charged Chromebook?
- Did you bring rain gear for rainy days?

Also, for additional information about current COVID-19 safety guidelines, such as what activities are or are not allowed currently, please visit the San Francisco Department of Public Health's [website](#), and the San Francisco government's [website](#). More information about where to get a COVID-19 test can be found [here](#). Information about vaccine eligibility can be found [here](#).

FSA Celebrates Women's History Month

Ways to Celebrate This Year



March 1st marks the beginning of Women's History Month here in the United States. To help educate ourselves during this important month, here are virtual resources for students and families to use:

- [womenshistorymonth.gov](https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov): This website provides virtual programs, such as film series, book talks, and historical reenactments, about the women's suffrage movement and other influential women in American history. They also provide links to online exhibitions and historical resources.
- [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org): This website has a variety of documentaries and films on past and present women leaders, such as those who became trailblazers in the medical field, leaders in the civil rights movement, and advocates for the end of harassment and mistreatment of women in the workplace.
- [womenshistory.org](https://www.womenshistory.org): The National Women's History Museum features biographies, online exhibitions, and other educational resources available online and free to the public.

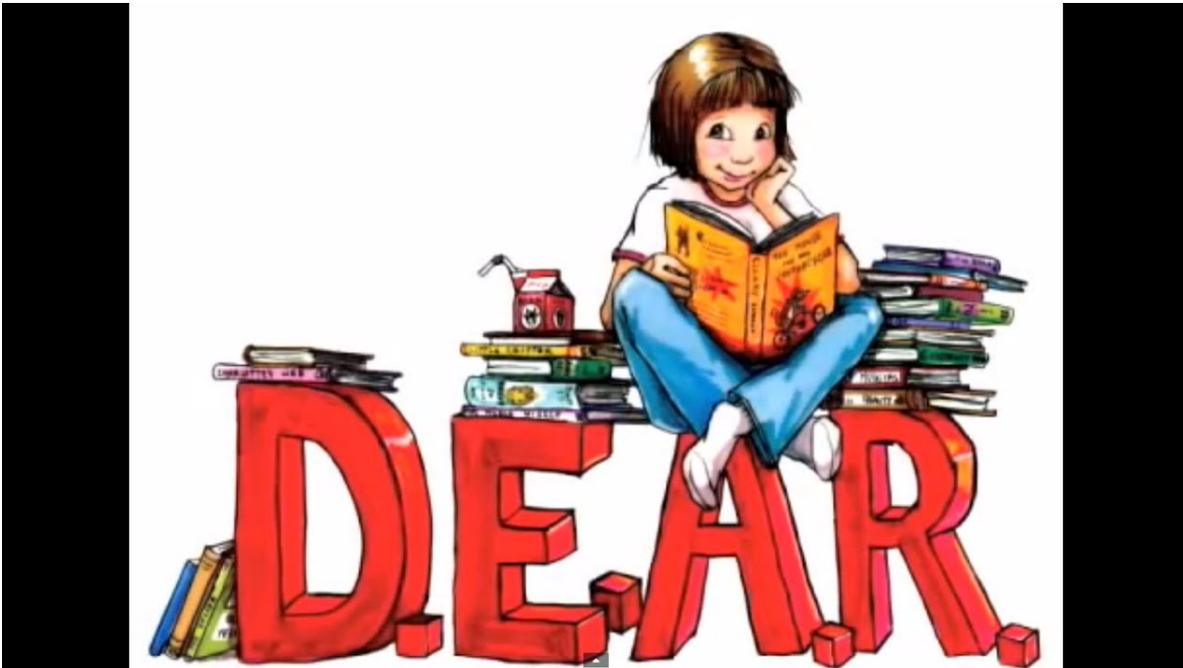
Happy Women's History Month! We hope you're able to take advantage of these resources and learn more about the amazing contributions women have made, and continue to make, in our society and the world.

DEAR Day

Making Read Fun

To help supplement our students' reading, Mr. Nickelson wanted to introduce a program to give students the opportunity to read uninterrupted on Friday, March 12th. Here is a message from Mr. Nickelson about what this day will look like:

*"DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Day is a national celebration of reading that goes on in schools across the country, designed to remind us all to prioritize reading in our daily lives. Students should grab a book, get comfortable, and take part in the simple joy of reading. FSA will be celebrating our DEAR Day on **Friday, March 12**. Students in all grade levels will take a day off from their normal schoolwork and make time for reading. We'll continue the fun by watching literature-inspired movies! Students should feel free to bring a pillow or blanket to set up their perfect reading environment. Ready? Set? Read!"*



Thank you so much for setting up DEAR Day, Mr. Nickelson! We can't wait to start reading! Any questions? Please email Mr. Nickelson at cnickelson@siprep.org.

Wednesday Electives

Walking on Ocean Beach and Bridge Building

Since the beginning of the spring semester, we have been holding electives for our students to explore additional academic topics. This week, the 6th grade students got to take a break from a computer screen and walk down to Ocean Beach, while the 7th graders continued their bridge building elective. Here are some pictures from earlier this week:





Gardening with Ms. Gomez

Adding Greenery to FSA

One elective that we'd specifically like to focus on is Ms. Gomez's gardening project with the 6th grade class. We reached out to Ms. Gomez to learn more about why she chose to teach gardening for her FSA elective, and what she hopes the 6th grade students will learn from it:



"Some of the thinking behind starting a gardening elective with our 6th grade class is to spark their interest in nature, science, and building, while utilizing their creativity and desires for how they would like to see their school environment. Over the course of the last several weeks, our 6th grade has been given the task to brainstorm how we can transform a relatively barren, sterile, rocky, and sandy plot into something beautiful and filled with life. By taking measurements, cutting and assembling building materials, we have created five, well-built raised garden boxes. Recently, we have removed any litter, weeds, and rocks from the soil in order to level out the ground for the new raised-garden boxes. This week, we are happy to announce that we are ready to start planting and watering seeds in the completed garden space. My hope is that our students get to care continuously for their seedlings and add more design elements and plants as time goes on. It's been great to see them try new things and do all of the different hands-on activities. I've really enjoyed watching students have fun, apply themselves, focus on different tasks, and problem-solve along the way."

Thank you so much for introducing our 6th graders to gardening, Ms. Gomez! We can't wait to see the FSA gardens in full bloom!

Intramural Soccer Championships

Wrapping Up Our Soccer Tournament

For the past few weeks, our scholars have been competing in a weekly intramural soccer tournament. On Friday, February 26th, our scholars played their final championship match. The winning team from the morning cohort is the team, “Sunset Soccer,” led by Mr. Matthews. Their team photo can be found below.



Thank you to all of our scholars who gave it their all during the soccer tournament! We look forward to playing our next Field Day Friday activity with you!

Message from the Peer-Learners Program

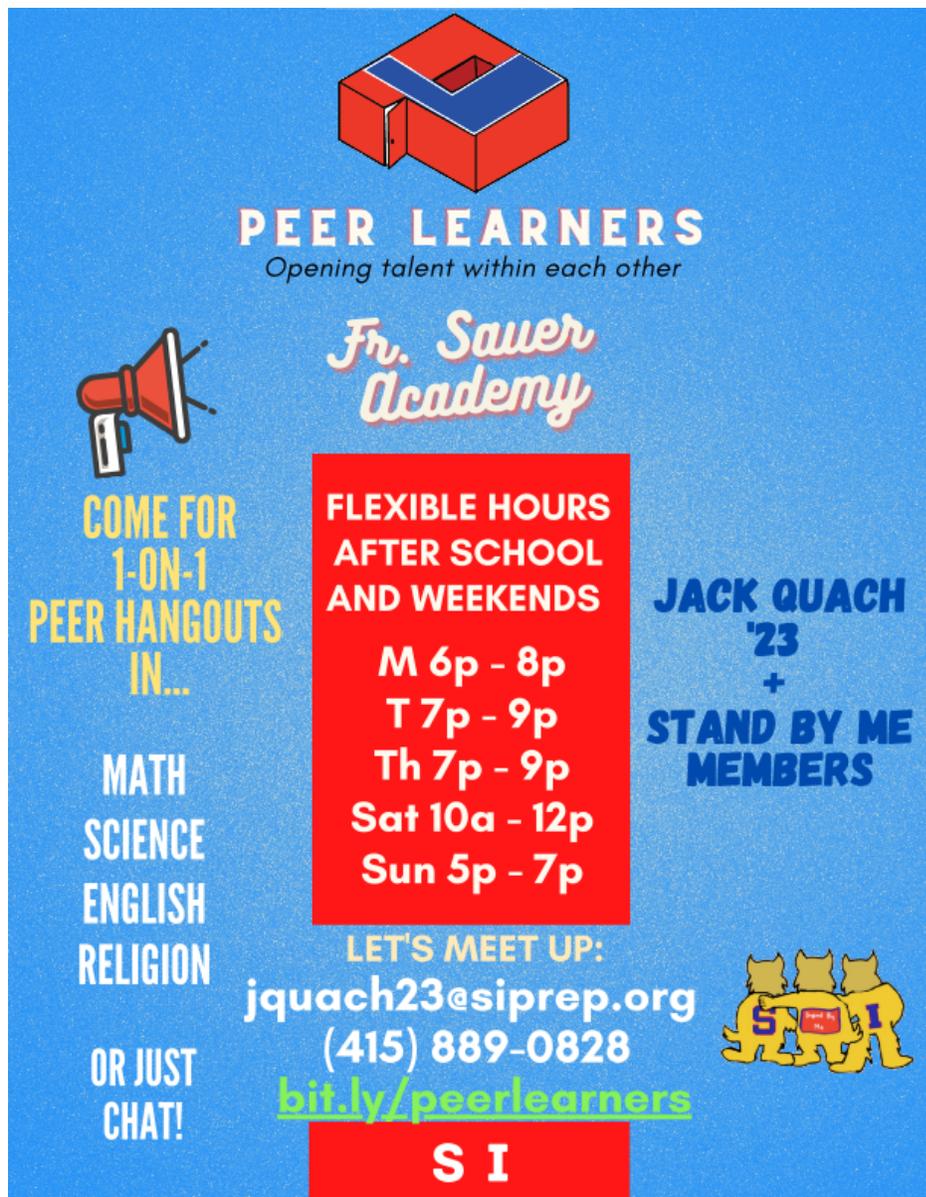
Peer Tutors Are Here for You!

Do you need some extra help with your homework? Do you want to review what you’ve learned in class with another student? If you answered, “yes” to either question, then we have just the program for you! The Stand By Me club at SI is introducing the Peer Learners Program to provide afterschool and weekend peer tutoring services to students! Here is a message from sophomore, Jack Quach '23, about this new program:

“I’m Jack Quach, a Magis leader at SI, and as a sophomore, I’ve experienced the challenges of middle and high school, as well as adjusting to high school. I was fortunate to have supportive

friends, teachers, and communities to guide me through the experience. By introducing our new Peer Learners program, the Stand By Me club wants to spread this same type of support through a peer network that focuses on sharing lessons learned from similar challenges. FSA students can connect with me and talented Stand By Me members for help on homework, learn about a difficult topic, explore the life of a high school student, or simply someone to chat with. The Peer Learners program has flexible hours after school and during weekends to meet with students through a Zoom call, and mentors can stay connected with the students through phone calls and text. This way, Peer Learners can focus on their needs the best we can.

This is a relaxed environment, where we can have chats and can help with whatever's on the mind! Together, we'll make sure that their challenges aren't as large as they seem."



The poster is set against a blue background. At the top center is a red and blue 3D logo of a square with a smaller square inside, offset to create a 3D effect. Below it, the text "PEER LEARNERS" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, with the tagline "Opening talent within each other" in a smaller, italicized font underneath. To the left of the center is a red megaphone icon. Below it, the text "COME FOR 1-ON-1 PEER HANGOUTS IN..." is written in yellow, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, a list of subjects is shown in white, bold, sans-serif font: "MATH", "SCIENCE", "ENGLISH", and "RELIGION". At the bottom left, the text "OR JUST CHAT!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. In the center, a red rectangular box contains the text "FLEXIBLE HOURS AFTER SCHOOL AND WEEKENDS" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the schedule is listed in white, bold, sans-serif font: "M 6p - 8p", "T 7p - 9p", "Th 7p - 9p", "Sat 10a - 12p", and "Sun 5p - 7p". To the right of the red box, the text "JACK QUACH '23 + STAND BY ME MEMBERS" is written in blue, bold, sans-serif font. Below the red box, the text "LET'S MEET UP:" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font, followed by "jquach23@siprep.org" and "(415) 889-0828" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, the URL "bit.ly/peerlearners" is written in green, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom center, the letters "S I" are written in white, bold, sans-serif font on a red rectangular background. On the right side, there is a cartoon illustration of three yellow cats standing together, with the letters "S B M" on their bodies.

Thank you so much, Jack, for your message from the Stand By Me club about the Peer Learners Program! To sign up, please use this [link](https://bit.ly/peerlearners). For additional questions, please email Jack Quach at jquach23@siprep.org.

Information for Parents about Upcoming Events in February

Parent Groups

Ignatian Guild

1. Ignatian Guild Monthly Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, March 9th from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
 - a. The Zoom Link will be sent to all moms/guardians by Stace Felder, SI's Digital Content Manager.

Fathers' Club

1. Fathers' Club 31st Annual Auction – Virtual: Saturday, March 6th. The Preshow begins at 6:30 PM and the event begins at 7:00 PM.
 - a. The Fathers' Club Annual Auction is the biggest annual fundraising event for SI and it's happening this Saturday! There is a [\\$1 registration fee](#) that covers both attendance to this event and participation in the silent auction. Participants will need two devices for this event. One device is needed to [watch the event](#), either on a smart TV or a laptop. The second device is needed to access the [bidding site](#), either on a smart phone or a tablet. Help for the auction is available from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Saturday, March 6th at (415)-682-5040. For additional information about this event, please use [this link](#).

SIPAC

1. SIPAC Meeting (Virtual): Wednesday, March 31st from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
 - a. Please email sipac@siprep.org for a link to the meeting and for additional details.

AALPA

1. AALPA Meeting (Virtual): Wednesday, March 24th from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - a. Please email AALPA@siprep.org for a link to the meeting and if you have any questions.

8th Grade Corner

SI Admissions Information

Dates to Remember

1. **SI Admissions Notification Date:** **March 19th, 2021**
 - a. Applicants and parents are notified online of admissions decisions and financial assistance awards.
2. **SI Registration Deadline:** **March 26th, 2021**
 - a. A non-refundable deposit (which is applied towards the student's tuition) reserves a place in the Class of 2025.

Additional information about the important dates can be found on the [SI Admissions website](#). All admitted students should visit the [Class of 2025 page](#).

8th Graders! Have you done the following:

- Checked your admission status?
- Paid your non-refundable deposit to reserve your place in the SI Class of 2025?

We would like to thank our parents and volunteers for all of your support.
Thank you so much for all that you have done and continue to do.



**AS ALWAYS, PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY
QUESTIONS OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION.**

Website: <https://www.siprep.org/academy>
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