

St. Raymond School

2018 – 2019 • ISSUE 2

CLOSE UP



Celebrating Over 30 Years in Catholic Education



Message from Catherine Deehan, Principal

The 2018-19 school year has been full of fun learning activities and growth in our spiritual lives. We now have a strong preschool program with a waiting list for applicants! Our school offers a comprehensive curriculum that incorporates social emotional curricula in many classes to ensure our education takes into account "whole-child" development.

This year we completed the development of our STEAM Classroom and Learning Commons. The Learning Commons was designed to leverage technology to encourage student engagement, collaboration and an active learning environment. The STEAM Classroom improvements were in addition to the science room improvements completed in 2017-18. Every week, students from Kindergarten through 8th grade participate in hands-on STEAM instruction from our science teacher, Mrs. Palo.

Signs and symbols of our Catholic faith are displayed throughout the school. The hallways are lined with bulletin boards that include scripture quotations and the "Schoolwide Learning Expectations" are posted in every classroom. SLEs outline what is expected from St. Raymond School students in their moral, emotional, spiritual and academic development. We work on these expectations daily:



I am FAITH CENTERED:

I...

Love God, others and myself

Pray daily and attend Mass

Use my talents to serve the community

Know God is the center of my life

I have a LOVE OF LEARNING:

I...

Do my best work everyday

Am a problem solver

Seek deeper knowledge

Persevere through challenges

I am A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN:

I....

See God in everyone

Take responsibility for my actions

Show respect and kindness

Make good choices

Accreditation WCEA/ WASC

St. Raymond School holds a double accreditation with Western Catholic Education Association and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Accreditation is for six-years and will be renewed in 2021. As part of the accreditation process, the school undertakes a research-based self-study that culminates in an action plan. The focus of the document is improving student learning. We review the Mission Statement, school Philosophy statement and Schoolwide Learning Expectations. The focus of this process is on how we integrate the school’s Catholic identity into learning, how we examine and use data on achievement, and on how the Shareholders are involved in supporting the Mission of the school.



Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Raymond School is to empower all students to achieve academic excellence in a Catholic environment that encourages them to meet the challenges of life and to serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Current Goals



Transferring Community Outreach into authentic service learning



Further develop the school/parish/family partnership

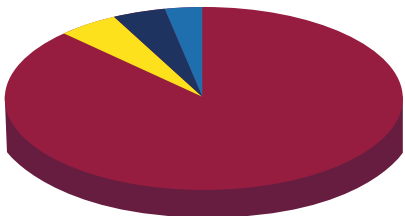


Implementation of differentiated instruction & integrating innovative strategies

Finance

St. Raymond School strives to be good stewards of our resources. We focus on operating efficiently and budgeting realistically for the long-term financial stability of the school. The income of the school is generated primarily from Tuition, so that the school does not have to be overly reliant on fundraising or financial support from the parish. The following is a breakdown of income by source for 2017-2018.

TUITION	84%	\$2,243,692
FUNDRAISING	6%	\$170,804
FEES	6%	\$154,033
DONATIONS	4%	\$103,315
TOTAL		\$2,671,844



Spring Musical:

THE MAKING OF SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK

Schoolhouse Rock Live! is one of musical theatre's brightest and most innovative shows. Based on the Emmy Award-winning 1970's educational cartoon series, Schoolhouse uses a plethora of musical styles to teach grammar, math, science, history, social studies and political science while telling the story of Tom, a young teacher nervously anticipating his first day on the job.

This performance is Catherine Williamson's inaugural directing debut. Her history of performing arts includes a BA in Musical Theatre from CSU East Bay and 10+ years performing in community and professional theatre here in the Bay Area, working with companies such as Center Rep, Tri Valley Rep and Pacific Coast Rep, just to name a few. She was previously an assistant director and choreographer for Bancroft Musical Theatre in San Leandro. She enthusiastically selected this musical, "Because it gives many students an opportunity to have a moment to shine. It is a true ensemble show, where everyone is on stage nearly the entire production, and really showcases the wonderful talent we have at St. Raymond School."

The cast and crew have embraced the true essence of collaboration. All ideas brought to the group are explored as the cast is constantly encouraged to try new things. Each scene has been perfected with the energy of creativity. This allowance of self exploration gives the entire cast the opportunity to truly shine.

For thirteen years, Music Director, Barbara Martin has brought this musical performance tradition to the St. Raymond School community with shows like Seussical, the Musical, The Wiz, Honk, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The cast and crew, including Assistant Choreographer, Morgan Lander, along with the instrumentals of Jammin for Jesus have created this skillful performance for all to enjoy!

St. Raymond School Round Up!

On the first Saturday of March, St. Raymond School hosted the St. Raymond Round Up our annual auction and our school's largest fundraising event. Parents of St. Raymond School came together for a night of celebration, camaraderie, and bidding for good.

This year's auction was held at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The hall was filled with the sounds of country & rock music, with tables covered in red gingham and the smell of BBQ and cornbread filling the air. Don Bleu, a radio personality, former television host and MC for the evening, welcomed over 175 guests as they arrived at the auction dressed in their fanciest cowboy and cowgirl gear.

Silent auction items included wine and cheese evenings hosted by St. Raymond families at their homes, paint night parties, teacher outings to the famous Safari West in Santa Rosa and dance classes at TuTu School. Bid numbers immediately began to fly as the Live Auction began for hot ticket items such as Oakland Raiders tickets, family vacations to Maui, Golden State Warriors playoff tickets and personal wine tours at Wente winery in Livermore!

Participation from St. Raymond School families is an integral part of what makes the annual fundraiser so successful and the biggest fundraiser of the year. All items available for bid in the silent and live auctions are donated by School families and local businesses. This year's auction raised over \$75,000! All funds raised will go towards student enrichment opportunities, ongoing technology upgrades, keeping tuition affordable and school improvements. Special thanks to Karen Reedy and her Auction Committee for such a successful event!



Enhancing Student Learning with NEW STEAM Classrooms

Thanks to support from our parents, parish and community, St. Raymond School completed the development of a new Learning Commons and Science Laboratory/Art room in the Summer of 2018. In the two-year long project, both the science/art and computer/library classrooms were renovated. The focus of the renovation was to enable a collaborative learning environment that engages, inspires and empowers students across Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM).

The new Learning Commons features moveable furniture, soft seating and more open space. The room modernization incorporates furniture for students to customize their team workspace in creative ways for approaching the varying subjects, projects and topics of the day. This was an important design aspect to encourage kids to work in teams, move around the classroom and have easy access to the materials and technology needed for learning.

The science laboratory shares a room with the visual arts program. The rooms were renovated to support an enhanced science curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 8th. The science lab was updated with all new tables, stools and cabinets to support the Stemsopes science program. This program uses demonstrations and interactive activities to challenge students on their understanding of new concepts and exploratory skills. The Science tables are equipped with wheels that allow for quick transitions and different layouts which can



be customized for group collaboration. With additional electrical outlets on the furniture, technology is now more accessible by the students, which is an essential STEAM tool for innovating, investigating, researching and designing solutions.

We are excited and happy to enhance the learning environment in ways that encourage team building, innovative thinking, authentic growth and “whole child” development.



"A Day In the Life"

Every January, St. Raymond School hosts an open house for Catholic Schools Week, welcoming prospective students and their families. Open house is a way for us to showcase all that St. Raymond School has to offer from our state-of-the art science lab and brand new Learning Commons to our annual science fair and much more!

St. Raymond is on the cutting edge of utilizing technology as a tool for learning and communication. The goal is to develop the skills and adeptness to integrate technology into the teacher's academic instruction. Technology is constantly evolving to support and enhance our students learning experience. State of the art devices and technology platforms are incorporated into classrooms and learning spaces, including 1:1 Chromebooks, ipads and laptops. Teachers also utilize Activeboards, which are installed in each classroom.

St. Raymond School's facilities definitely shine, but the brightest stars of the day are our students. Our students cast a warm glow that is both infectious and reflective of our spirit and community.

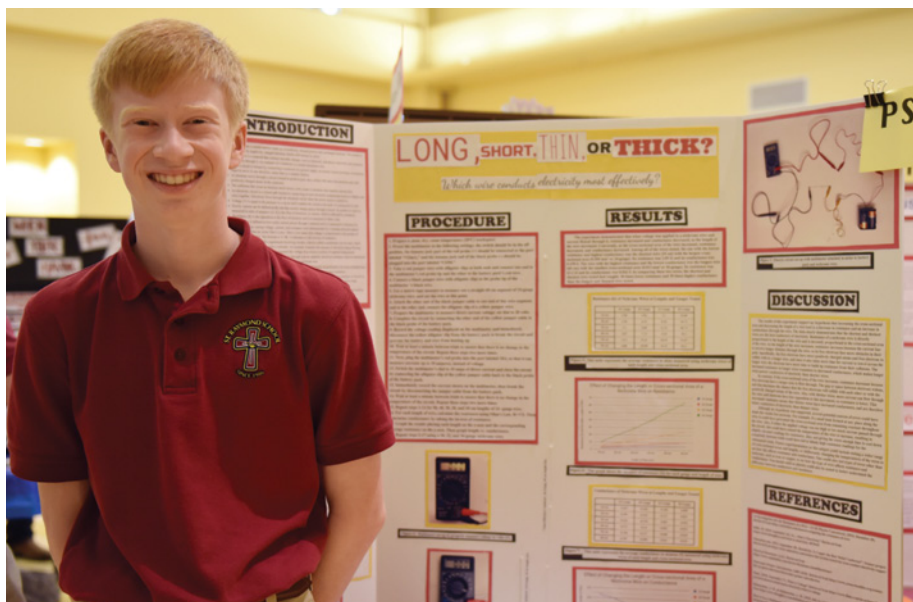
At Open House during Catholic Schools Week, 7th and 8th grade students displayed their science experiments from topics in earth science, engineering, physics and more. Each student chose his or her own experiment and their hypotheses are as

varied as their interests. They incorporate STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art and math) principles to help develop and advance their critical thinking skills, which will help enhance their future careers and lives.

Middle School elective courses, which are offered to our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, give students an opportunity to exercise their creative, critical thinking and collaborative skills. Teachers plan a variety of trimester-long electives to pique the interest of the students beyond the core curriculum. These elective courses change yearly. Those offered this year included courses focused on the yearbook, cooking, and raising and caring for horses.

Whether you are a current, former or prospective St. Raymond School family, please

know that you are always welcome at St. Raymond School. Please visit our School and take a look at our exciting renovations. There is much to look forward to at St. Raymond School!



Matt Andre (8th grade) was awarded the grand prize for his science project

Feeding Families Locally and Around the World

Service is an integral part of the St. Raymond School mission. We instill in our students the expectation that they be faith-centered, have a love of learning, and act as responsible citizens. In addition to service, we encourage our students to live by the values found within the Gospel.

This year, St. Raymond School hosted Kids Against Hunger, an organization whose goal is to provide nutritious food to impoverished children and families around the world. The School's 3rd through 8th graders worked together to assemble meals that fed more than 10,000 impoverished children! Over 200 of our students packaged vitamin soy & rice casserole meals specifically formulated to provide a rich source of proteins, vitamins and carbohydrates needed by malnourished children and their families. The event lasted most of the day as students of all grades rotated into Moran Hall to collaboratively pack meals for the local organization.

The boxed meals will be distributed to humanitarian organizations worldwide, including those serving third world countries, and Regional Disaster Recovery Centers here in the US to be used in the event of local emergencies or disasters. Above the physical meal packets created, every \$20 donated by a St. Raymond School student will help feed 100 malnourished children. To date, we've collected almost \$2,000 for Kids Against Hunger!

"The goal of the St. Raymond School program is for the whole school to be involved in service. By integrating faith, knowledge, values, and community, our students learn to think critically, discover a love of learning, live the Gospel message, and reach out to others through service." As a community, we are set apart by our desire to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus through service to our modern world. Our students' January participation with Kids Against Hunger did just that!



Alumni Spotlight: Morgan Lander

St. Raymond School has many wonderful educators, and Miss Morgan Lander is certainly no exception! Joining the St. Raymond School staff as the Fourth Grade Teacher for the 2017-2018 school year, is a homecoming for Miss Lander, as she once walked the St. Raymond School hallways as a student! As a teacher, Miss Lander now walks the same hallways with grace, compassion and faith.

Miss Lander has always had a love for school and learning. After graduating from St. Raymond School, she attended Moreau Catholic High School. After graduation from Moreau, Miss Langer attended the University of Oregon where she earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Dance. Her college experience helped her realize her ultimate calling: to become an elementary school teacher. Miss Lander attended Saint Mary's College where she completed her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and graduated with a Master of Arts in Teaching.



St. Raymond School and Church has shaped Miss Lander in many ways, including her teaching philosophy. Knowing the importance of commitment, responsibility and hard work, Miss Lander's teaching philosophy includes these tenants: "1.) I believe in you, 2.) You have a purpose, and 3.) Live your life with Jesus as your guide." She makes sure her students know that God loves them and they have unique qualities to offer the world. Her favorite Bible verse encourages her students to always have faith in their abilities and limitless future possibilities, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

Please say hello to this dedicated teacher, whether in the classroom, in the hallway, or around campus. You might also see Miss Lander at a Character Counts assembly, or working with the Spring Musical crew. Welcome, Miss Landers! The St. Raymond School community supports your bright future!



Catholic Youth Organization

St. Raymond School's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) is a church sponsored athletic program centered around Christian Sportsmanship, community and team development. The program which includes Cross Country and Basketball is offered to boys and girls in grades 1-8 throughout the city of Dublin, CA. For registration and program info. go to www.straymondcyo.org or contact Sean Kullman, CYO Director St. Raymond. We hope you can join in on the fun!



Showing School Spirit on St. Patrick's Day

Each year, St. Raymond School's students participate in one of the West Coast's largest St. Patrick's Day celebrations by marching in the parade hosted by the city of Dublin. The St. Patrick's day festivities include a parade, festival and 5k marathon. These activities have been a great way to celebrate and interact with members of the community. The kids had a great time showing off their green flair and St. Raymond School spirit!

What School Improvement is Next?

Outdoor play, physical activity and exercise is fundamental in the development of young kids. It allows them to explore their environment, develop coordination and fosters creativity, imagination and social connections. For these reasons, we are excited about our next school project to build a new playing field for our kids!

The planning and design of the new field is in the very early stages. We are currently exploring the different options available to us and conducting general due diligence. We are also exploring building a commemoration wall to honor the school's most significant sponsors of this project. We anticipate it may take roughly two years to raise the money needed for this project, but we very much hope to raise the needed funds sooner.

We have received a very generous offer from a St. Raymond School family to match donations up to \$50,000! **If you would like to donate, please visit our website <https://www.straymondschool.org/> and click DONATE.** If anyone is aware of an organization that may wish to help sponsor this project, please contact either Mrs. Deehan or John Salter. St. Raymond School has been blessed with very dedicated and generous parents, along with the unwavering support from our parish and community. Thank you for supporting our goal to build a new field for our children! Please contact the school office at (925) 828-4064 with any questions about this new project. Working together, we can make this happen!



**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.
In green pastures you let me graze; to safe waters you lead me; you restore my strength.
You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name. Even when I walk through
a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage.**

Psalm 23:1-4

This Easter season we pray -

Lord,
Teach me a new freedom.
Freedom to reject comparison
And to embrace uniqueness.
Freedom to cut ties with greed
And feast on love.
Freedom to abstain from over indulgence
And feast on self-control.
Freedom to leave behind selfish thoughts
And to focus on the needs of others.
Freedom to fend off insecurity
And to embrace grace.
Lord, at this time of Lent,
Thank you for the freedom you bring.

Amen.



St. Raymond
School

To tour campus or request more information:
call (925) 828-4064, visit www.StRaymondSchool.org
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