

Dear St. Vincent High School Alumni,

Greetings from St. Vincent's on the eve of our centennial! Indeed, we turn one hundred years old in 2017-18, and every day I see the picture of our first graduating class on the wall in my office. The profound sense of tradition that we enjoy from our first hundred years is a cherished aspect of the St. Vincent's community.

We opened this year with the benefit of our newly installed campus-wide Wi-Fi, the result of a campaign last year that now provides internet access for all devices of our students and teachers, enabling us to maximize the best teaching practices afforded by contemporary technology. Among many other programs, this enhanced infrastructure supports our new Computer Graphics and Design class, this year's inauguration of SVTV, and our Digital Media Program, which was funded by substantial grants from PEF and PFO.

Also new this year is the introduction of lacrosse, and one can now see our students heading out to Yarbrough Field with their lacrosse sticks ready to play and compete.

This year we introduced the alumni speaker series, in which our graduates return to campus to address the assembled students and engage them in conversation. This has been a tremendous benefit to our students, who not only become more connected to the history and tradition of St. Vincent's, but also have the opportunity to envision possibilities for their own futures. We have this year welcomed Mike Mariano ('95) and Nicole Hupke ('11).

This month during Catholic Schools Week on February 1st, we celebrated our second annual schoolwide service day, honoring our motto, "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve." Our entire staff and student body spent the day on a variety of projects throughout Petaluma, putting our mission into practice in the service of our community.

In the midst of all these exciting changes, much tradition abides; Anne Trott, Gary Galloway, Sue Keller, and Michael O'Toole continue to coach and teach with a combined 148 years of service to St. Vincent's. Former principal Ed Kavanaugh continues to serve as the head of the Board of Regents. The students still graduate at St. Vincent's Church, and the entire school walks to the church to celebrate Mass on the first Friday of the year with Pastor Gary Lombardi.

We invite you all to stay connected with your school in whatever manner suits your pleasure: visit the school, follow us on Facebook, come to performances or sporting events, come to class reunions and centennial celebrations. The value of the St. Vincent's community is enhanced with the engagement of our alumni, and we welcome your sustained participation.

God bless,

Dr. John Walker
Principal