

December 21, 2018

Dear Villa Victoria Families, Alumnae, and Friends:

Merry Christmas to all at this special time of year when we give thanks to God for our family and the many blessings He has bestowed on us.

Prior to enjoying time with your families, I want to thank you for being part of the Villa Victoria family and provide an update on some activities.

Moving Villa Forward

The Moving Villa Forward committee has continued to meet. As discussed in the last update, we are populating the school with student and alumnae art. Consistent with that effort, this fall the school held our first student photo contest-*Seasons at Villa*. The goal is to have a photo contest each season of the year and use the images around the school. Special thanks to the following alumnae who have loaned us artwork for the alumnae gallery. They are:

Kathy Cantwell Class of '74 has loaned us one in her series of Walking Line paintings. These paintings are done using a technique known as encaustic which is an ancient medium using pigmented molten wax with damar resin.

Jessica Bagtas Class of '09 has loaned us three photographs:

"Through the Arches of Union Station"

"200 ft. Lóng"

"Lexington Market est. 1872"

Savannah Bastecki Class of '10 has loaned us a painting done in the style of Van Gogh and a 7 panel story book entitled *The Big Splash*

This photo of the iconic fountain on the Villa campus was the third place winner in the Fall 2018 *Seasons at Villa* photo contest. It was photographed by Esmeralda Bodon Class of 2022.



We are awaiting mirrors for the STAC room-the Strength Training and Conditioning Room. This room has already getting much use from our students in class and those on our Villa sports teams.

One of our Villa parents, Mr. Victor Ordonez, cleared out the vines and other vegetation that had grown in the patio area. The girls in our Environmental Science class met and designed plantings for the area. They then submitted a proposal to Home Depot for a \$5,000 grant to fund the project. This initiative will create a garden area for our girls to meet and have lunch in warmer weather, and it will

also be used for other activities held on campus. Our plan is to accomplish this in the spring. I will keep you updated on the status of the grant.

Over the Christmas break, several fathers who have completed projects around the school will meet to plan projects for the spring. If anyone is interested, please let us know. You do not have to be handy (I am not); you just have to show up.

This photo of the Villa campus was the first place winner in the Fall 2018 *Seasons at Villa* photo contest. It was photographed by Nia Solares-Martinette Class of 2021.



The Green Thumbs Club

Bulbs, Bulbs and More Bulbs.

During the fall, in addition to trimming bushes, the Green Thumbs Club planted over 2,000 daffodils and other bulbs on the school grounds. Spring is going to be beautiful at Villa. We will again continue our efforts once the weather breaks. It is a great way to build our community that will only take up a few hours of your Saturdays. If you have thought about coming out for a Saturday in the spring, I encourage you to do so.

This photo of the Villa campus was the second place winner in the Fall 2018 *Seasons at Villa* photo contest. It was photographed by Nicole Garruba Class of 2020.



Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee met with focus groups of parents, teachers, and students in November. The primary purpose of those meetings was to present the major themes that the committee synthesized from the earlier surveys and focus groups, and discuss those themes with the second round of focus groups to ensure that the committee correctly heard what the various constituencies were saying. The committee will continue to meet and further define the plan and provide updates.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas time and a Happy New Year. God Bless.

Sincerely,
Chuck Machion
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Villa Parent '04 and '21