

The HeartBeat

A Newsletter for Alumni & Friends of St. John Eudes School

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Alumni, Families & Friends Invited to Join in Catholic Schools Week Celebration Jan 28 - Feb. 3

Since 1974, *National Catholic Schools Week* is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2018 is January 28 - February 3.

The theme for the National Catholic Schools Week 2018 is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus

on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

At St. John Eudes School our celebration of CSW includes a number of events focused on the theme of the day, including:

Sunday, Jan. 28 - In Our Parish: We begin by celebrating our faith with a Children's Mass at 9:00 am. Students will be helping at Mass in various roles and Student Council members will be present in their school uniforms. Our Open House begins after Mass at 10:00 am thru 1:00 pm. Visitors are invited to visit the classrooms, McNamara Library, Science Lab, and displays in Grill

Hall - which will also include the Scholastic Book Fair featuring books for all ages and interests. Information about the school and applications will be available in the School Office.

Monday, Jan. 29 - In Our Community:

Our 8th Grade class will host a reception in Grill Hall for parishioners after the 8:15 am Mass.

Students will also write letters to police officers and fire fighters thanking them for their service.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 - In Our Students:

Students will celebrate with a sports days including a Buddy Picnic

Lunch and the popular *Faculty vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Team Game*.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 - In Our Nation: Students are encouraged to wear patriotic pins, ribbons and red/white/blue socks. Guest speaker LAFD Battalion Chief Steve Ruda will address students at a morning assembly.

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Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

St. John Eudes School

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 28, 2018
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Celebrating Over 50 Years
of Fostering Leadership,
Character and Catholic Education

Everyone's invited to our annual Open House to see all the great work our students are doing. You're invited to visit the school and help us celebrate Catholic Schools Week!

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Highlights:

- **Catholic Schools Week to Celebrate the Value Catholic Education Provides to Students, Society**
- **Open House to Showcase Student Achievements; Friends, Alumni Invited!**
- **SJE Chess Team King of Tournament; Captures Event Trophy**
- **Girls Volleyball Team Has Great Season; Plays in Championship Game**
- **New Instrumental Band Program Makes Great Music**
- **Sr. Rosemary, Sr. Emma Celebrate 50th Jubilees**
- **SJE NJHS Provides Community Service for Local, International Efforts**
- **2018 Alumnus of the Year to Be Announced**

Quick Beats . . .

Congratulations to the SJE Kindergarten which had the greatest average total Jog-A-Thon pledges and also had 100% participation in the event! The Kindergartners were rewarded with an entire week of free dress, a pizza lunch, and



Members of the SJE Chess Team hold up their trophy for winning top honors at the Catholic Schools Fall Chess Tournament. The trophy was awarded for the most checkmates by a chess team at St. Charles Borromeo Church (North Hollywood) and included teams from 17 Catholic schools.



A new band enrichment program was recently started at the school to give students the opportunity to learn to play musical instruments. Directed by Dr. Howell, students are able to perform in an ensemble and learn the intricacies of musical scores in a band environment while developing the special skills needed for their instrument.

a movie & popcorn day for their support of the Jog-A-Thon. The 7th Grade also had 100% participation and received the treat of a movie & popcorn day.

The holidays were made bright again with the presentation of *Come to Bethlehem and See*, the annual Christmas program presented by our students. The church was filled with families, friends, and parishioners who enjoyed a wonderful concert conducted by music director Dr. Dana Howell. Students had the opportunity to perform before a live audience and develop confidence in their performance skills, as well as provide musical joy for the audience.

Congratulations to the SJE Chess Team for winning top honors at the Catholic Schools Fall Chess Tournament. The trophy was awarded to them for the most checkmates among all the teams. There was stiff competition from teams from 16 other Catholic schools attending. And not only was their a great team effort, but individual players also showed exceptional skills and took high honors in their respective grade level competitions: **Vince Arciaga (Gr. 1)** - 1st Place, **Daniel Bangayan (Gr. K)** - 3rd Place, **Ethan Valerio (Gr. 3)** - 4th Place, and **Jason Arciaga (Gr. 5)** - 4th Place.

Author Day is a wonderful way for students to learn about writing and literature by interacting with a distinguished author. Our students recently had



Congratulations to the Girls A Volleyball Team which played a very strong team from St. Paschal Baylon Catholic School at the Valley Catholic Sports League's championship game and took 2nd Place in the league competition. They had a great season! Go Eagles!



With the beautiful mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorning our plaza, the celebration of her feastday (Dec. 12) has a special significance at St. John Eudes. Not only does our Spanish Ministry celebrate the day with a special mass, mariachis, and other events, but our school children get in on the celebration also. Even the TKers made their own tilmas depicting our Lady of Guadalupe. It was a great way for them to learn about this special feastday of the Patroness of the Americas!

the opportunity to meet with distinguished author and illustrator Joe Cepeda. Mr. Cepeda is a local author born and raised in East Los Angeles, receiving his art degree from CSU Long Beach. He is a wonderful example to our students of what they can do through writing and art.

This month marks the 24th Anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake and many alumni certainly remember that very unforgettable event. Damage to the church was extensive but the school was spared major damage. Our students prepare for an earthquake each year as part of the *Great California Shakeout* state-wide preparedness drill.

St. John Eudes School Presents Our Spring Fundraising Gala

CASINO ROYALE

Saturday, March 10
6:00 pm ♠ Woodland Hills Hilton

Join Us for an Evening of Fun,
Excitement & Entertainment!

Visit www.sjeschool.net/gala
for more information

Everyone's invited to come and enjoy a great evening with fabulous food, dancing, exciting casino games, a thrilling silent auction and more! Full information about the evening and how to get your tickets will be available online at www.sjeschool.net/gala. You'll not only have a lot of fun, but you'll be helping support our school's educational program.



In a Lighter Vein . . .

“Knock, Knock” jokes are the perennial jokes on the school playground ever since the first school was opened by the Sumerians. Here are some that have been recently heard around town . . .

Jimmy: Knock, knock.
 Sally: Who’s there?
 Jimmy: Goliath.
 Sally: Goliath who?
 Jimmy: Goliath down, you look-eth tired!
 Jimmy: Knock, knock.
 Sally: Who’s there?
 Jimmy: Broccoli.
 Sally: Broccoli who?
 Billy: It doesn’t have a last name, silly.
 Jimmy: Knock, knock.
 Sally: Who’s there?
 Jimmy: Tank
 Sally: Tank who?
 Jimmy: You’re welcome!
 Jimmy: Knock, knock.
 Sally: Who’s there?
 Jimmy: Atch.
 Sally: Atch who?
 Jimmy: Bless you!
 Jimmy: Knock, knock.
 Sally: Who’s there?
 Jimmy: Harry.
 Sally: Harry who?
 Jimmy: Harry up and answer the door!
 Jimmy: Knock, knock.
 Sally: Who’s there?
 Jimmy: Little old lady.
 Sally: Little old lady who?
 Jimmy: I didn’t know you could yodel!
 Jimmy: Knock, knock.
 Sally: Who’s there?
 Jimmy: Yah.
 Sally: Yah who?
 Jimmy: I prefer Google.

You can’t knock that making a tax deductible donation to St. John Eudes School will help the worthy cause of providing a quality Catholic education to deserving children. Your donation to the Annual Fund, Adopt-A-Student Program, Endowment, or other general or specific gifts is greatly appreciated. To donate please contact the School Office (818) 341-1451 or visit our website at www.sjeschool.net. Thank you!

Peter Tran '02 attended Chatsworth High School and graduated in 2006. He then attended Moorpark College and later transferred to San Jose State University. He



became interested in studying medicine and attended the graduate program at Saba University School of Medicine in the Caribbean Netherlands. After graduat-

ing Saba University he was accepted into the TriHealth residency program in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is currently in the second year of a three year program. After completing his residency he plans on entering a specialized medical field, although at this point he is keeping his options open.

Congratulations to **Sr. Emma Roman, Sch. P.**, and **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P.**, on the 50th Jubilees of their professions as Sisters of the Pious Schools. With over 150 guests attending, including a number of former and current SJE teachers, alumni, parents, and students, the celebration began with a mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Northridge, celebrated by Msgr. Michael Slattery, Fr. Fernando Garcia, Sch. P., Fr. Carlos Rojas, Sch. P. and Fr. David Loftus, pastor. A reception was held after mass in the OLL parish center. Sr. Emma is currently an assistant in the SJE School 3rd Grade classroom, but served for a number of years as the principal of a school in Tijuana, Mexico. Sr. Rosemary, who was luckily able to be in Chatsworth to celebrate, accepted her current position in Kerala, India, after serving 30 years at SJE Eudes School, mostly as principal. We thank you Sr. Emma and Sr. Rosemary for all you have given during the last 50 years to help bring the message of Christ to our world!

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Make sure to visit the school’s Facebook page at SJE365.com and like us!



Read the latest tweets about the school on Twitter @[sje365_news!](https://twitter.com/sje365_news)



Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram [SJE365!](https://www.instagram.com/SJE365/)

SJE Students go on to do wonderful things and we’d like to hear what you’ve been doing since graduating from SJE School (or if you’re a parent, now’s your chance to brag a little!). Send us a note via e-mail to theheartbeat@sjeschool.net or mail it to:

*Attn: The Heartbeat
St. John Eudes School
9225 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311*



Above - Sr. Emma (left) and Sr. Rosemary (right) pose prior to cutting their 50th Jubilee cake. Both have served as principals in elementary/middle grade schools and are now continuing their ministries in other positions.



Left - A number of former and current SJE School teachers and staff joined in the 50th Jubilee celebration including some many alumni are sure to recognize (left to right): Dona Thies, Maria Margolis, Luisa Gabaya, Suzanne Todorovic, and Ana Tenorio. Sr. Rosemary expressed her thanks to all those who attended and was appreciative that so many family and friends were able to enjoy the day with her.

St. John Eudes School

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Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal



The HeartBeat

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Ernie Star, Director

Catholic Schools Week

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Thursday, Feb. 1 - In Our Vocations:

Celebrating the careers and vocations in our families, visitors and grandparents are invited into the classrooms to spend time with their students.

Friday, Feb. 2 - In Our Faculty and Staff:

A Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day Lunch will be held in Grill Hall. The student Principal for the Day will get the chance to see what it is like to be the principal of St. John Eudes School.

We invite everyone to join in the spirit of Catholic Schools Week and celebrate all the great things our students at St. John Eudes School and all our Catholic schools are doing!



SJE NJHS members, classmates, teachers, and their families join in wrapping toys for the holidays to be given to needy families around the world.



Posing on playground equipment, SJE NJHS members took part in a special play day for children with disabilities. They made new friends and learned a lot about acceptance and compassion.

The Pulse

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Stephan Birgel '82 attended Chaminade College Preparatory after graduating from St. John Eudes. Among other activities, as a senior, he participated in the Kairos Retreat and then led numerous retreats following his graduation. After Chaminade, he attended California State University, Northridge, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business. He then attended the University of La Verne, College of Law, where he obtained his Juris Doctor Degree. He was admitted to the California State Bar and has developed a passion to save taxpayer money in defending public entities, particularly public universities, including the UC and CSU systems, as well as K-12 schools. He is currently the Chief Claims Officer for ASCIP - a public entity that provides insurance services for primary and secondary schools and community colleges. He has also provided pro bono services to the Children's Hunger Fund. Ten years ago, Stephan became involved with triathlons. He has completed two

"Thank You" to everyone who submitted a nomination for the 2018 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year.

The Selection Committee, headed by Fr. Lawrence and Mrs. Danowitz, will announce its decision on the school website at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 28 thru Feb. 3). The presentation of the award will be made at the *SJE School Endowment Trustees Dinner* on April 14.

full-distance Ironman triathlons which consist of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile run. He has used his participation in races to raise funds for the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Ironman Foundation. He volunteers his time as the Triathlon Coach for Shepherd Church, helping individuals complete their first triathlon. He has also volunteered as a fundraiser for the YMCA and as a men's counselor at Open Arms Pregnancy Clinic. Stephan credits the education he received at St. John Eudes for the successes in his professional work.

SJE National Junior Honor Society Supports Student Involvement in Local and International Efforts

The SJE School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society has been a wonderful means of providing our students the opportunity to develop their values in *Character, Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Citizenship*.

SJE NJHS students recently participated in the Shane's Inspiration Play Club, which is an outreach program that monthly brings children with disabilities to play dates at one of Shane's Inspiration's Inclu-

sive Playgrounds. They helped children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome have fun with games and other activities.

The NJHS also helped wrap 15,000 holiday toys for the Children's Hunger Fund Organization that will be delivered with a box of food to families in need around the world.

We're proud that our SJE NJHS is helping to make our community and our world a better place!