



# The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net)

**COME ONE! COME ALL!**  
**TO THE GREATEST CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR!**  
**THE ST. JOHN EUDES SUMMER CARNIVAL**  
**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**  
**MAY 24-26**  
**VISIT [SJECARNIVAL.ORG](http://SJECARNIVAL.ORG) FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!**

All school families, teachers, alumni, and friends are invited to join in the celebration of a really great season at the St. John Eudes Summer Carnival! There'll be thrilling rides, exciting games, fantastic food, and free top-notch entertainment under our huge entertainment tent. Discounted pre-sale ride tickets are available before the carnival starts and you can also get special Saturday ride wristbands. And don't forget to get your tickets for the Grand Prize Drawing that will give away \$8,000 in cash prizes. Visit [www.sjecarnival.org](http://www.sjecarnival.org) for complete details. *There's No Better Way to Start the Summer!*

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Highlights:

- **Summer Carnival Celebration Sure to Be Fun for Kids, Families, Friends, Alumni**
- **Spring Gala Enchants Guests; Abracadabra Artists Amaze Attendees**
- **Kids Heart Challenge Tugs on Student Heartstrings**
- **Chess Team Members Prove They're No Rookies**
- **Alumna Honored; Cited for Extensive Educational Successes**
- **SJE Student to Represent Archdiocese in National Artwork Competition**
- **Catholic Schools Week Celebrated with Numerous Events; Grandparents Get Involved**
- **School Sports Teams Take High Honors; Track Team Brings Home Top Trophy from KoC Track Meet**
- **St. Paula Montal Celebrated; Students, Families Raise Funds to Save Child's Sight**
- **Endowment Trustees Authorize Transfer to Support School Needs**

## Spring Gala Magical Night for Guests, School

The ballroom at the Woodland Hills Hilton was filled with guests in attendance for the PTSO's *A Magical Evening*. This year's Spring Gala, held on March 30, brought together supporters of the school to celebrate and raise funds for the school's educational program with an evening truly filled with magic. There was a fabulous dinner served

at tables that were theme decorated, along with a candy bar that made the evening even more sweeter, and a photo booth where guests could have their picture magically taken. The evening

also included the Grand Raffle which included Disneyland Park Hopper Tickets, a \$1,500 cash prize, and the Grand Prize of a trip for

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School and parish volunteers flip burgers, help with the games and participate in a number of other ways as "Carnival Fun-Team" members making the carnival a truly community event!



## Quick Beats . . .

Our students once again participated in the **Kids Heart Challenge with the American Heart Association** (fka *Jump Rope for Heart*). They learned about how to keep their hearts happy and healthy while helping others with special hearts! Our students helped in the fight against heart disease by raising \$5,482 to be donated to the American Heart Association.

**The SJE Chess Team took home the School Championship Trophy for their efforts at the Catholic Schools Chess Tournament** on Friday, Feb. 22. The tournament included 75 students from 18 schools in the competition. In addition to the overall honor, a number of our students also took home individual first, second and third place trophies. Congratulations to all the players on our school's chess team and for your great accomplishments!

**The SJE School National Junior Honor Society** continued its **community involvement** as its members joined *Shane's Inspiration* and *My PlayClub* at *Rocket's Universe Playground* for a community play date. My PlayClub is a community outreach program in which play dates are held at playgrounds around Los Angeles County where children with disabilities can meet and play with their non-disabled peers, and all children and can learn from and about each other as they play.

**The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has chosen an SJE student to be one of the twelve finalists to represent the Archdiocese** in the *Missionary Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest* for 2018 -2019. Congratu-



SJE students celebrated Library Week in April with different activities to promote library use and encourage avid readers. Thank you to our librarian Ms. Banks for a fun week!

lations to **Lani Ho (Gr. 7)** for having her artwork submitted to the MCA National Office where they will select a national winner out of more than 10,000 entries.



## Spring Gala

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two to Maui. And then there was the popular Class Keepsake Auction and also the Silent Auction, which for the first time was conducted on-line and allowed guests to place bids through their smart phones. But the highlight of the evening was a magic show that included several magicians from Hollywood's *Magic Castle* who astounded the guests with their skills of prestidigitation.

The event was a great success and raised over \$41,000! A special thanks to everyone who attended to support the school, and particularly to the chairpersons and all those who helped to make this a truly magical event!



*Above Left* - The Grand Ballroom at the Woodland Hills Hilton was filled with guests at the PTSO's "A Magical Evening". *Above Right* - There was also magic for those with a sweet tooth at a candy bar offering enchanting treats to the guests. *Below Left* - SJE teacher **Nathan Alford** volunteered to assist a magician in the performance of a stunning magic show. The conjuror showed his skills with his hoop tricks and other displays of visual captivation. *Below Right* - "Hocus Focus" were most likely the magical words used by SJE teachers and staff as they posed for a group photo in front of the enchanted camera that allowed guest to get a souvenir picture of the event.





## The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Congratulations to **Theresa “Reese” Abbene ’96** who was selected as the 2019 *St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year*. Reese was selected as an excellent example to our students of someone who has been a life-long learner in the spirit of St. Paula Montal, and who has applied the principles of “to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy” since graduating from St. John Eudes School. The selection committee, headed by Mrs. Danowitz, cited Reese’s outstanding academic record at Louisville High School,

which included extensive involvement in student leadership, sports, fine arts, and social involvement fields. She was awarded several scholarships after graduating from LVHS in 2000, including a full scholarship to Portland University. While in college she continued her wide-ranging involvement with student government and leadership and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication in 2004. After college she served with the *United Church of Christ Westmoreland Volunteer Service Corps* in Washington, D.C., and then worked teaching Jr. High Language Arts in the Los Angeles Archdiocese through the *PLACE Corps* (Partners in Los Angeles Catholic Education). Continuing her education, she received her Master of Arts Degree in Secondary Education from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, in 2008, eventually obtaining a teaching position at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks where she was the Director of Campus Ministry during most of her term. She also founded an award winning law program and oversaw service learning, student leadership and school culture programming. She recently accepted a position at Los Angeles High Tech Middle School in Van Nuys where she is a social studies teacher, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and is currently serving as acting-principal (while the principal is on maternity leave). In addition to her teaching duties, and spending time with her daughter, she is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Educational Psychology at Alliant



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Read the latest tweets about the school on Twitter @**sje365\_news!**



Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram **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](mailto:theheartbeat@sjeschool.net) or mail it to:*

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

### In a Lighter Vein . . .

*The concept of numbers and how they effect our lives is a vital lesson that kids learn at school. And sometimes numbers have a way of effecting our lives that we can hardly imagine . . .*

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse approaches the first man and says, “Congratulations! You’re the father of twins.” “That’s odd,” answers the man. “I work for the Minnesota Twins!” A nurse then yells the second man, “Congratulations! You’re the father of triplets!” “That’s weird,” answers the second man. “I work for the 3M company!” A nurse goes up to the third man saying, “Congratulations! You’re the father of quadruplets.” “That’s strange,” he answers. “I work for the Four Seasons Hotel!” The last man begins groaning and banging his head against the wall. “What’s wrong?” the others ask. He answers, “I work for 7 Up!”

*We hope that we receive a large number of donations from our alumni and friends to help support the important work of our education program. Donations to St. John Eudes School are tax deductible and 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](http://www.sjeschool.net). Thank you!*

International University, with the intent to obtain her doctorate. She was presented the Alumnus of the Year honor at the Annual Dinner of the St. John Eudes School Endowment Trustees on April 26. *You can read more about our current honoree, and all our previous alumni honorees, by visiting [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net) and clicking on the “Alumni & Friends” link on the left side of the homepage.*

**Heather Garcia ’07** attended Chaminade College Preparatory after graduating from St. John Eudes School. While at Chaminade she participated on the volley-

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*With her sister Frances ’05, her mother Ellen, and Mrs. Danowitz posing alongside her, Reese Abbene ’96 received the 2019 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year honor at the recent Annual Dinner of the St. John Eudes School Endowment Trustees held at the 94th Aerosquadron Restaurant in Van Nuys. Attendees at the dinner included the Endowment Board of Trustees, members of the St. John Eudes School Board, school administrators, and special invited guests and supporters of the school. Reese credited her personal, academic and professional success to her formative years at St. John Eudes School. The meeting also included a report to the guests that the Endowment Trustees had authorized a transfer of over \$7,900 to the school from the Endowment for 2019 to help with current school needs.*

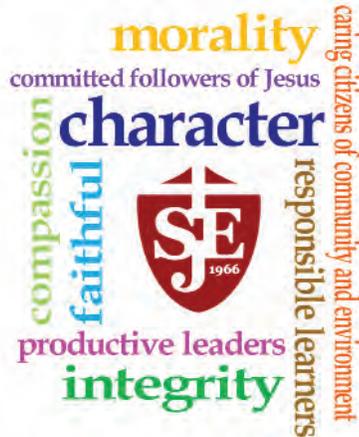
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### The HeartBeat

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## The Pulse

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ball team where she served as captain and was recognized as the *Most Valuable Player* on the varsity team. Being interested in public service through the criminal justice system, she then attended San Diego State University after graduating from Chaminade in 2011. At SDSU she became a member of the Criminal Justice Student Association, participated in a prison tour program, and was a student in an adult parole internship program. After graduating from SDSU in 2015, she was admitted to the Los Angeles Police Academy and is now serving as a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. She looks forward to remaining with the LAPD and attaining future leadership positions.

**Right** - The feast St. Paula Montal, who is the patron saint of families and education, and the foundress of the Sisters of the Pious Schools, was celebrated by the school on Feb. 26. Her teaching paradigm was to create a civilization of love and peace through the education of youth producing future leaders of tomorrow. Former pastor **Msgr. Peter Nugent** was the celebrant of the Mass. We are blessed to have the Sisters still on staff teaching our children the love of God and thank them for their service. And it was in this spirit that former SJE School principal **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz**, who is now serving in India, recently appealed to our students to help prevent a child at the St. Paula Montal School in India from going blind. He needed an operation that cost \$1,500, which was well beyond the means of his family. Our families responded overwhelmingly and raised over \$3,300 to save the child's sight (the overage of which will be used by the Sisters in India to help other children). What a beautiful response to a call to show God's love through support for the Sisters dedicated to the mission of St. Paula Montal!



**Above** - SJE students learned first hand about the Lenten message as they portrayed the "Living Stations of the Cross". Bringing the Stations to life allowed the students to truly experience the Passion of Christ in real life-size proportions.



**Left** - Congratulations to both the boys and girls "A" basketball teams each winning 2nd Place in the Valley Catholic Sports League Championship held last Feb. 22. We're proud of your great job! **Bottom** - The SJE Track Team repeated their 1st Place win again at the annual Knights of Columbus Track Meet on Apr. 27. A very special thank you to our Athletic Director **Mr. Jade Holland** for organizing this event and preparing the athletes. Thank you also to all the volunteers who gave so much of their time to help coach. Way to go Eagles!

