



# The HeartBeat

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

## SJE Students Benefit From Tutoring by "Seasoned" Citizens



Tutor Florence Guest helps SJE students to be successful in their academic studies.

In the spring of 2002, a handful of parishioners started a service program to help the students of St. John Eudes School. With the blessing of then principal Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, and under the direction of parishioner John Chady, the tutoring program began with several retired gentlemen helping students one-on-one in math or algebra.

Principal Barbara Danowitz took the reins at SJE the next school year and soon began recruiting "seasoned citizens" of the parish to grow the tutoring program into a viable entity. Success is apparent, as everyday some of the twenty-two volunteers arrive after school and meet with their students. Mr. Chady, who has helped the program to grow, continues to tutor weekly. Tutor Beverly Banks shared, "I really enjoy being with and helping the children."

Presently thirty-two students, identified by teachers and/or parents, get the extra help that they need in math and

reading and writing/composition. Thanks to the generosity of these parishioners, there is no charge for the program.

Mrs. Danowitz couldn't be more pleased saying, "The SJE tutoring program has been successful and effective because the dedicated volunteers believe that every child can succeed. Their commitment is evident as each week they give personal attention to the student, collaborate with the classroom teacher, and communicate with the parent. We are very blessed to be able to offer this most essential program free and to serve the needs of our students."

**"The SJE tutoring program has been successful and effective because the dedicated volunteers believe that every child can succeed."**

Also, the tutors of St. John Eudes, offer everyday to all those watching, enrichment in our Catholic faith by modeling the true meaning of Christian action.

*If you are interested in helping to tutor students at SJE School, please contact Mrs. Danowitz at (818) 341-1454.*



John Chady tutors students to give them self-confidence and improve their learning skills.

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Highlights:

- ♦ **SJE Tutoring Program Taps Senior Parishioners to Help Students**
- ♦ **Swim Team Turns in Best Times Ever**
- ♦ **SJE Golf Classic Raises Funds for School, Parish**
- ♦ **School Students Support Hurricane Relief Efforts**
- ♦ **Jog-A-Thon Scheduled for November: Students and Teachers Seek Sponsors, Donations**
- ♦ **Developing Character Key at SJE to Help Students Grow**
- ♦ **New SJE School Logo Debuts**

## The Swimming Eagles Are Flying High!

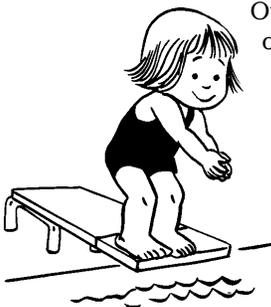
It's a bird, it's a plane, no it's another St. John Eudes swimmer winning the race! The swimming *Eagles* are back in the water for another great season. We began practicing in mid-August and swam in our first meet on September 11. The meet was dedicated to our two "swimming angels", Angela Abbene and Luke Gaines, who must have been cheering us on from heaven as we placed third out of fifteen teams.

A very special thanks goes to Msgr. Nugent for offering the annual blessing of the swim team at the 5:30 pm Mass on Saturday evening before our first meet. There's no doubt that God helped us swim our best.

And just when we were settling back from the surprise of our 3rd place finish, the SJE Swimming *Eagles* did it again. We placed second overall in the Knights of Columbus Swim Meet on September 25, with most of our swimmers turning in their best times ever.

So what's the secret to our success? Well we asked a few of the swimmers for their opinions and this is what they told us: Luke Perea said, "It's fun to swim fast!" Jill Gaines said, "The coaches are awesome!" Celine Levesque said, "God makes us strong!"

Yes, it's a real team effort for the SJE Parish Swim Team. We have 93 swimmers, 6 coaches, and countless parents working hard and at the same time having fun.



Our last meet is on Nov. 6 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Rancho Simi Park pool at Erringer Rd. & Royal Ave. in Simi Valley. All our SJE alumni and friends are invited

to come on out and cheer for the team!

## Golfers Tee-Off to Support School & Parish

Last month, a number of SJE parishioners, alumni, and school parents, as well as invited guests and friends, once again participated in the St. John Eudes Golf Classic at the Porter Valley Country Club. Also among the golfers were SJE pastor, Msgr. Nugent, and Deacon Chet Holly. Fr. McNamara, pastor of St. Bernadine of Siena in Woodland Hills, and Fr. Milbauer, pastor of St. John Baptist de la Salle in Granada Hills, also joined in the fun.

The tournament committee, a number of whom are SJE School parents, included Carl Boyd, Tim Dawson, Mike Garcia, Frank Harrington, Jerry Niehaus, Steve Rogers, Marica Steil, Chantal Washington, and Eric Wantanabe. The committee, along with a number of other volunteers, coordinated the tournament, a fabulous silent auction, a great prize raffle, and a sumptuous dinner reception. The winning team, with a score of 59, included Bill Wood, Leonard Desborough, Sam Adebashi, and Joe Lierman.

The Tournament Chairman, Frank



Harrington, says the event raised about \$19,000 for the parish and school. Frank also said, "I would like to thank everyone again who donated money, time, participated, helped out or had anything to do with this year's tournament. It was an outstanding success, which could not have been done without the help of all.

Please give your best again next year to Mr. Steve Rogers who is the 2006 Tournament Chairman."

A special thanks to all those who helped and participated in this wonderful fundraising event!

### SJE Students Raise Funds to Help Hurricane Victims

Hearing the call to help those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, SJE students have raised over \$5,000 to help the relief efforts. The money has been forwarded to Catholic Charities which is the main Catholic organization that oversees domestic charitable and relief activities.

### Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 29 / 5:30 pm: Parish Harvest Mass & Trunk or Treat.**
- **Nov. 10: Annual Jog-A-Thon.** Sponsor your favorite SJE student or teacher for this perennially fun school fundraising event. Donations for raffle prizes are also being collected. If you have a prize to donate, contact the school office.
- **Dec. 15 / 7:00 pm: Annual Christmas Program** in the Church, featuring our own SJE students in concert celebrating the spirit of the Christmas season.
- **Jan. 19: PTSO General Meeting with guest**

speaker (further information to be announced).

- **Jan. 29 — Feb. 3: SJE Celebrates Catholic Schools Week** with an **Open House** on **Jan. 29** from **10:00 am to 1:00 pm** and various CSW activities during the week.
- **Feb. 24: St. Paula Montal Feastday.**
- **Feb. 25: First Reconciliation.**
- **Mar. 17 / 6:00 — 9:00 pm: PTSO St. Patrick's Day SJE Family Hop** in Grill Hall. Bring all your little leprechauns and celebrate this festive holiday with the family!

- **May 6 / 9:30 am: First Communion.**
- **May 11 / 7:00 pm: PTSO General Meeting** in Grill Hall.
- **May 12 / 11:45 am: May Crowning.**
- **May 20: SJE Casino Night** in Grill Hall. Make sure to mark your calendar now for this favorite of fabulous school fundraisers.
- **June 7 / 6:00 pm: 8th Grade Prayer Service & Dinner Dance.**
- **June 9: 8th Grade Graduation with Farwell Mass at 8:30 am and Commencement at 6:00 pm.**



## The Alumni Pulse: News About SJE Alumni

**Dan Lien '74** is an alumnus from the first class that attended all 8 years at SJE School. After SJE he attended Crespi High School and graduated in 1978. He then attended UC Santa Barbara majoring in Economics. He graduated from UCSB in 1982 and became a Certified Public Accountant a year later. He worked for a CPA firm until 1989, when he joined the H.C. Lien Rubber Company and is currently Vice President of Operations. He married his wife, Kathy, in 1985 and has four children - Daniel (who also graduated from SJE in 1993 is currently following his father's footsteps at Crespi), and Patrick, Matthew, and Dominique (who are all currently attending SJE School). Dan is an active parent at SJE and has been involved in a number of activities including being a member of the PTSO Executive Council, serving as Treasurer. He also enjoys being active as coach for his children's baseball and soccer teams.

**John Vallone '82** graduated from Alemany High School and then attended CSUN. He became interested in a career in medicine and attended Jefferson University in Philadelphia. He is now serving his residency at UC Irvine in Pathology. He has been married to his wife, Emma, for eight years. Emma is also in the medical profession, cur-

rently serving her residency at UCLA in Optometry.

**Jenny Crandall '89** attended Alemany High School and graduated in 1993. She obtained an A.A. degree at Pierce College, and is currently working on her B.A. degree in Business Management and Supervision through the University of Phoenix. She is employed by Albertson's food stores where she oversees the scan pricing for over 65 stores from the San Fernando Valley to Bakersfield and Morro Bay.

**Julia Trine ('94)** attended Chaminade Middle School and then Chaminade College Preparatory and graduated in 1998. She graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara with a B.A. in Art History. She is currently attending Parsons School of Design in Manhattan where she is studying fashion design. She is working as an intern for Calvin Klein and will graduate from Parson's in December. She will seek employment in New York after graduation.

**Ronald Young '95** attended Chatsworth High School and graduated in 1999. He is an Emergency Medical Technician with American Medical Response. He is planning to attend paramedic school early next year and hopes to one day enjoy the excitement of working for a fire department.

**Jamie McKeon '99** attended Louisville High School. She currently is enjoying college life along the California coast at UC Santa Barbara where she is pursuing a degree in English.

*If you're an SJE alumnus you're invited to share what you've been doing since graduating from SJE School (or if you're the parent of an alumnus, this is your chance to brag a little!). You can e-mail us at "theheartbeat@socal.rr.com" or send us a note to:*

*Attn: The HeartBeat  
St. John Eudes School  
9925 Mason Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

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### A Special Message From the Principal "Character Counts"

St. John Eudes is affiliated with the National Character Counts Coalition. The program's objective is awareness and development of character. It promotes core ethical values that teach children life-guiding principles for success, such as respect, trustworthiness, caring, fairness, responsibility, self-discipline, perseverance, citizenship and courage. In our culture today these are becoming counter culture ideas! According to *Master Teacher Publications*, "The moral and character development of young people is not the responsibility of schools alone. It is also the responsibility of families, places of worship, government, and communities."

In his book *Character Under Attack, and What You Can Do About It*, Carl Sommer writes that a true child-centered education provides children with discipline, direction, and training that allows a child to grow up properly. He continues to write that character education provides intelligent guidance showing children the wisdom of doing things

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Happy Birthday Grandma Rose!**

A longtime friend of SJE School, Mrs. Rose Bochniarz, known to many at SJE as "Grandma Rose", recently celebrated her **95th Birthday**. Grandma Rose is the mother of former SJE Principal, Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, and has often been seen at school events cheering on SJE students. Her birthday was celebrated with family and friends in the garden of the Northridge Convent of the Sisters of the Pious Schools. Grandma Rose says she keeps the students, teachers, and families of SJE School constantly in her prayers.

## St. John Eudes School

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*Msgr. Peter Nugent*  
Pastor

*Mrs. Barbara Danowitz*  
Principal

*A Community of Faith  
is a community of learners  
who recognize and nourish  
God-given gifts.*

### The HeartBeat

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St. John Eudes School  
Development Office

*Ernie Star, Director/Editor*

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### Character Counts

*(Continued from page 3)*

that will benefit them as well as society.

For example, let's examine *Responsibility*. We believe that one of our goals for our students is to enhance a student's understanding of responsibility. How can we do this? First and foremost we must allow a child to accept consequences for actions whether it is behavioral issues or work habit issues. It is about remembering to have a test or quiz signed, wearing correct uniform, remembering PE clothes, etc. There is a wonderful phrase that we use here: **"Don't make excuses, make improvements."**

The best way to help a child grow into a responsible individual is to teach him/her early on that accepting responsibility for one's actions is the key to maturity and moral productivity. The best thing to do when our children make mistakes is have them take responsibility for those mistakes whether that means a lower grade, infraction or detention. When we encourage children to ac-

## A Note From the Editor

If you've visited the school website lately, you might have noticed that there is a new school logo on the homepage. A logo often symbolizes certain ideals or themes that are central to the mission and existence of the organization it represents. The new SJE logo was adopted to provide an easily recognizable symbol for our school and to help readily remind us of some of the core values of St. John Eudes School.

**The Shape of the Crest** is meant to remind us of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The patron saint of our school, St. John Eudes, expressed great devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary as great signs of God's love.

**The Colors** are our traditional school colors of red & white. Red represents God's love for us and our love for Him. It also represents our passion for learning and for the search for truth and wisdom. White represents our dedication to purity and joy in our faith.

**The Letters "SJE"** are our school monogram and flow interconnected to each other. This represents our interdependence and sense of family. The letters also are formed at the foot of a cross to show our hu-

mility and understanding that we are servants of Christ. But the letters are also formed so as to hold the cross to show our support and commitment to Christian values.



**The Cross** declares our Christian faith. It emanates from the school monogram to remind us that an education at St. John Eudes forms the basis for a life of Christian growth and development. And the arms of the cross extend unrestricted across the crest, without limit or boundaries, to remind us of God's infinite love and care for us.

**The Date** on the crest was the year in which our school was founded. We are reminded of the legacy our school holds for all who have graduated from SJE. And of the sacrifices made by our teachers, families, friends, alumni, and parishioners over the years to assure that our school can continue to provide a Catholic education to its students.

The ideals and values represented in the new logo are not new to St. John Eudes School. Our alumni and friends should easily continue to recognize them in this new logo and in the continuing spirit of our school community.

cept responsibility for their actions, we are saying to them that we have *confidence* in them; we know they are *capable* of doing better. The reverse is also true: When we step in with excuses for a child's behavior we are sending them the message that we do NOT believe they are capable of doing any better.

Carl Sommers says in his conclusion: "There is hope as parents, teachers, principals and those in authority become voices of common sense and demand our moral heritage be taught in schools. Our action or inaction will determine America's future." We are fortunate to be able to teach that moral heritage here at SJE.

*Barbara Danowitz*

### **Have you Remembered SJE School in Your Trust or Will?**

For further information, please contact Deacon Chet at (818) 341-3680, or H. Richard Closson, *Director, Trust and Estate Programs* for the L.A. Archdiocese at (213) 637-7472  
HRClosson@la-archdiocese.org  
www.estateplanning.com/trustsacc

Correct legal title is:  
*The Roman Catholic Archbishop  
of Los Angeles, A Corporation Sole,  
for the benefit of  
St. John Eudes School*