



The HeartBeat

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

Catholic Schools Week Celebration at SJE to Start with Open House on Jan. 29

"Catholic Schools: Character. Compassion. Values" is the theme of Catholic Schools Week 2006. The week runs from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 in Catholic schools throughout the nation. The observance begins on the last Sunday in January every year.

National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools will be observed Wednesday, Feb. 1. Two other highlights of the week are Vocation Appreciation Day on Feb. 2 and National Appreciation Day

schools in the Gulf suffered serious damage in the hurricanes. True to their character, most of them have reopened. Other students across the nation contributed more than \$1 million in a Child to Child relief effort, demonstrating that their compassion and values are enduring."

Dominican Sister Glenn Anne McPhee, secretary for education at USCCB, said, "The theme of 'Character. Compassion. Values' reinforces concepts that are part and parcel of every Catholic school. Schools live by and pass on values; they develop character and show compassion for every student."



For Catholic School Teachers, a tribute to the 163,000 Catholic educators, observed Feb. 3.

A longtime tradition in Catholic education, now in its 32nd year, Catholic Schools Week became part of The National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools in 1991. This year-round program is a collaborative undertaking by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

The logo for the campaign features the three words of the theme - character, compassion and values - sheltered under the words Catholic Schools, which appear in a large type size. A mortarboard sits to the right, its traditional tassel replaced by a cross.

Dr. Karen M. Ristau, who became NCEA's president in July, said, "Catholic Schools Week is an especially good time to celebrate character, compassion and values. Many of our

The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build support and recognition for the almost 8,000 Catholic schools nationwide. During this week, many dioceses encourage parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools. CSW also is an opportunity to interest citizens in

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Family and friends admire student work displayed at SJE School Open House as part of Catholic Schools Week celebration.

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Highlights:

- **Open House to Highlight Student Accomplishments**
- **Jog-a-Thoners Run for Record Receipts**
- **Boy's "A" Football Team Wins League Championship**
- **Student Council Shows World Awareness; Raises Funds for African Aids Relief**
- **School Receives Mission Art Donation**
- **Endowment Provides Safety and Facilities Funding**
- **SJE Float Wins 2nd Place in Chatsworth Christmas Parade**
- **Alumna Remodels Homes & Wardrobes**
- **Parental Support Builds Family Faith**

SJE Students Set Jog-a-Thon Record

No matter the gathering, whether it's a student body Mass, a PTSO general meeting, or just morning coffee among friends, there's one word that we always hear when talking about St. John Eudes School: FAMILY. Yes, indeed, we are a family. We work together. We play together. We pray together. And in the fine tradition of Catholic education, we raise money together to keep our programs going strong.



SJE students jogging together as "family" to help raise funds for school.

ed" with great music and humorous commentary. The kindergarten kids did a great job of completing "full-size" laps. The parents cheered and kept track of our progress. And the sun even peaked through the clouds to smile upon our efforts.

Following the actual Jog-a-Thon, In-n-Out Burger showed up to feed us lunch. Then it was time for the raffle and lots of excitement among the students. Everyone went home with something, and all of us shared that

family spirit that makes our school such a great place to grow our kids.

When the final results were tallied, the 6th Grade turned in the most money, 2nd Grade teacher Ms. Messiha completed the most laps among the faculty, and we raised over \$51,000, a new Jog-a-Thon record! A huge thank you goes out to all who helped make Jog-a-Thon 2005 such a great success!

Student Council to Raise Funds for Aids Relief in Africa

SJE students are working together to support a special service project for the missionary work of the Sisters of the Pious Schools with children afflicted with Aids in Africa. To help this worthy cause, the Student Council will be organizing fundraising events. If you would like to donate to this important cause, please contact the School Office.

On November 10, the students, faculty, and parents of SJE once again put the "fun" back in fundraising with our annual Jog-a-Thon. There is a lot of preparation that goes into making the day a great success. The students and faculty gather pledges. The room parents organize an amazing raffle, a delicious catered lunch, and all kinds of prize opportunities. Parents show up early to decorate and stay all day to help the festivities unfold. In the words of 3rd Grade student Kelly Gaines, "It's a blast! It's my favorite day of the school year!"

When we arrived to set up this year, it looked like the rain might "dampen" our efforts. But it couldn't dampen our spirits. Instead of running on a muddy field, we decided to complete our laps on the playground.

Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Allington, we had our course all lined up and ready to go just in time for an opening prayer by Msgr. Nugent. He reminded us of our Jog-a-Thon theme from Colossians 3:25: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

Inspired by these words, Msgr. Nugent then led us in completing laps around the playground. School parent Mike Garcia kept us "pump-

SJE Fall Sports Teams Finish Exciting Season

Boys "A" Football Team Wins League Championship!

We just finished a very exciting season of girls volleyball and boys flag-football!

The Girls "B" Volleyball Team finished an excellent year under Coach Danielle Messiha with a 5 - 2 record and they are looking forward to next year already.

The Girls "A" Team also played well in their division and at the LaRaina High School Tournament. Coached by Tom Croell and Kathy Stewart the girls turned in a 6 - 2 record, took second place in their division, and went on to the playoffs where they lost a heart-breaker 27-25, 23-25, & 13-15.

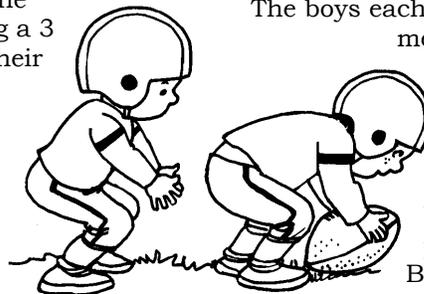
The Boys "B" Football Team, under the leadership of Nick Montano, learned a lot about the game while recording a 3 win 3 loss season. Their improvement in personal skills and team play was fantastic.

The Boys "A" Team had a wonderful season of tight, exciting, well played

games. They were guided by Carlos Fuentes and Ron Allington to a season record of 7 - 2 with two wins against Our Lady of Lourdes coming on California Tie-Breakers and the two losses coming against Chaminade. We finished second in our division and knew we had to face four 1st Place division winners in the playoffs to take the Championship.

Our first challenge was Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Saugus), then St. Joseph the Worker (Canoga Park), then St. Paschal (Thousand Oaks). After defeating those three teams we finally played Chaminade in the Final. It was very close but with an interception at the end of the game, we became the LEAGUE CHAMPS!

The boys each received a 1st Place medal and a championship victory lunch. The school received a Championship Trophy and a real boost to our SJE pride. Now it's on to Basketball!



Thank You, Mr. Flower!

Mr. Burton Flower, a founder of St. John Eudes and long time parishioner, has donated his life's collection of mission paintings to the school. They will be on display in the 4th Grade classroom during Open House on Sunday, Jan. 29. Mr. Flower and his wife, Fran, have long been involved at SJE. We are very thankful for the donation which will certainly help students who study the missions in 4th grade (remember those missions models!?).

Endowment Trustees Vote to Provide Funds to School

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the St. John Eudes School Endowment, the Trustees voted unanimously to provide funding of \$5,000 of trust income to the school. The Trustees designated the funds to be used for safety and facilities improvements, based on the recommendations of Mrs. Danowitz, School Principal, who cited several school needs. The allocation was the maximum allowed under Archdiocesan guidelines for school trusts.

The Endowment is an independent charitable fund that exists to support school programs and exceptional school needs. It is comprised of the pastor, principal, and three other trustees appointed by the pastor.

Donations to the Endowment may be made at Masses at St. John Eudes on Jan. 29, which is the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, or by contacting Deacon Chet Holly at the rectory (818) 341-3680.



The Alumni Pulse: News About SJE Alumni

Paige Huff (Hemmis) '86 graduated from Chaminade College Preparatory in 1990. She received her degree in Psychology from UC Santa Barbara in 1994. She then worked at I-Werks Entertainment as the manager for the Pacific sales region where she traveled extensively throughout South-East Asia and Australia. She worked on the *Monster House* TV show where she redesigned a house in Granada Hills in a Christmas motif. She is currently appearing on the design team for *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* on ABC, Sundays at 8:00 pm (see abc.com for additional information). She has written a book about home repair for women titled *Tuff Chix Guide to Easy Home Improvement*. She has also started her own clothing line called *Tuff Chix* which recently debuted in retail stores.

Jennifer Sembauer (Prince) '87 attended Louisville High School and then graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 1995. She received a Master's degree in Microbiology from CSUN in 2004. Jen married her husband Mike, an L.A. Sheriff's Deputy in September, 2004, at the San Fernando Mission. Jennifer is currently a microbiologist at 3M Pharmaceuticals and resides in Chatsworth.

Colleen Crandall (Quiles) '91 is an alumna of Alemany High School Class of 1995. She received her A.A. degree from Pierce College and

is married to Sean Quiles who she met while a student at Alemany. They have a 23 month old son named Mateo. She works as a front end manager for Albertson's in Van Nuys. She loves to camp with her family in Carpinteria.

Lisa McKeon '93 graduated from Louisville High School. She then attended Cal Poly, Luis Obispo, and received a degree in communication. She is currently an English teacher at Taft High School, and is pursuing a masters degree in education at California Lutheran University.

Drew Young '93 graduated from Chatsworth High School in 1998. He then attended UC Santa Barbara and graduated with a degree in Film Making. He is currently a director and producer for various music videos and films. He is also a song writer and is the lead guitarist for his own band. He received the *Best Music Video Award* from the Hollywood International Film Festival in 2002.

Ashley Trine ('98) attended both Chaminade Middle School and Chaminade College Preparatory. After graduating CCP in 2002 she was recruited by several colleges to play volleyball. She is currently a senior at Brown University and is majoring in Psychology. When she graduates in June she would like to pursue employment in the field of marketing.

SJE students go on to do wonderful and exciting things — and we'd like to hear from you! 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 do a little bragging!). 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*

SJE Students Support Community Holiday Event, Win Award

Showing their support for community activities and pride in their school, SJE students participated in last month's Chatsworth Christmas Parade. The hard work of the Carr and Perea families (who designed and decorated this year's entry), as well as all those who participated in the parade, paid off as SJE won Second Place in the float entries!

SJE Adopt-A-Student Program Needs Your Help!

Up to 20% of SJE Students need financial assistance. Your help is vital to providing them the gift of a Catholic Education. Become an Adoptive Donor in the *SJE Adopt-A-Student Program*. Contact the School Office or e-mail to "theheartbeat@socal.rr.com" for more information.

St. John Eudes School

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Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal

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



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A publication of the
St. John Eudes School
Development Office

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In Memoriam

Rose Bochniarz, 1910-2005

“Grandma” Rose, mother of former SJE School Principal, Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, passed peacefully to Jesus last month at the Convent of the Sisters of the Pious Schools in Northridge. Mrs. Bochniarz was a long-time friend and supporter of SJE School. She had just celebrated her 95th birthday in August. A celebration of her life was held at St. John Eudes Church and was attended by her family and many of her SJE friends and school children who remember her great spirit and contagious smile.

Building Faith with Friendship: Parents Speak

Parental Circle of Friendship is Support System for Families

There is a group at St. John Eudes School that is strong, endearing, resourceful and generous. It engenders the ideals of Catholic faith and exemplifies the mission of St. Paula Montal, “I want to save families by teaching the love of God.” Yet, one won’t find this group mentioned in the school handbook, or in the brochures given to prospective students. It’s not part of the curriculum, or extra-curricular programs. The meetings, which are not listed on any calendar or schedule, can be as brief as a friendly “hello” or last a whole day (and even into the evening!). Bound together in friendship, the group has no official name and there is but one requirement to join: be a parent, guardian or caretaker of a child enrolled at SJE.

For Gaby Breard, this parental camaraderie touched her even before her son was a student at the school. “When Josh was ready for kindergarten, I went to visit the different schools and approached parents that I saw to ask their comments about the school. The SJE parents I met that day, Traci Banks (now school librarian) and Dee Keener, spoke about how they loved it here, how friendly it is, and were hopeful for Josh to get in.” Breard says, “It’s a real community here, not just going through the motions. (Husband) Kevin and I jumped in full force and were immersed in about 6 months. It was seamless.”

We can’t know what the experience will be when we sign our children up for school. Academics and facilities are certainly the focus, not a parent peer group. But such a support system can be a help and resource for us and for our children. “One of my kids was having a small problem with a couple of the other students in the class,” parent Yesmin Wall shares. “It wasn’t a big thing, so I called the parents of the

other children and explained the situation. The problem was solved. [The parents] all know each other — we’re all friends — so we help each other.”

The wide parent circle of SJE friendship is also a building block to stronger faith. As summed up by Mrs. Teri Angel: “As a parishioner for 20 years and a school parent for the past 13 years, our spiritual and family life has re-

involved around St. John Eudes . . . Our involvement in the school has helped us nurture and educate our children, share wonderful friendships, and gain strength in our faith. We have seen this school and parish experience great joys and deep sorrows. The shared bond has been instrumental in reminding us to trust in God’s way.”

Ellen Abbene

[Ellen has been a parent with children at SJE School for 18 years (and she still has a few years to go with her youngest in 3rd Grade!). This is the first in a series of articles Ellen is writing in salute of SJE’s 40th Anniversary next year. The articles will highlight the comments and thoughts of Parents, Students, Teachers, and Alumni, about their experiences at SJE School — Editor]

Catholic Schools Week

(Continued from page 1)

volunteering their time and talents to local Catholic schools.

(from NCEA Press Release)

At St. John Eudes School, Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated at each Mass on Jan. 29. The school will also host an Open House that day from 10:00 am — 1:00 pm that will highlight student work and activities. All alumni and friends of SJE School are invited to join us in this special celebration!

