



The HeartBeat

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

SJE Students Take Top Honors at Interfaith and Archdiocesan Art & Writing Contests

The Art Contest: Students Express GOD through Art

The Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, the Jewish Music Commission of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Archdiocese jointly sponsored the *1st Annual Interfaith Student Art Contest* on February 12, 2006, as part of their *3rd Annual Interfaith Symposium and Concert*.

Each year this event celebrates a wide variety of religious, cultural & ethnic perspectives, and traditions in Southern California. The contest focused on the following themes:

- *The meaning of "In the Beginning".*
- *The importance of creation events.*
- *How or why man is made in the Creator's image.*
- *The Creator's actions and words during the creation process.*
- *A version of "The Big Bang" or other scientific explanations about the Beginning.*

St. John Eudes School was one of eleven participating Catholic schools along with other private and public

schools which together submitted over five-hundred entries. Our students in Grades 4 to 8 submitted their masterpieces composed of the media of their choice in expressing the themes. The winners were presented with a certificate and a monetary gift at the awards ceremony.

With SJE students taking the top honors from among all schools, a judge from the John Paul Getty Museum remarked, "The students' love of God was visible in their art."

The Writing Contest: IMAGINATION Initiates No Boundaries

Aspiring writers from St. John Eudes School let their colors unfold in the *6th Annual Spring Fling Writing & Poetry Contest* sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Catholic Schools. Students triumphantly captured top honors in the categories of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. With their writing skills and ingenuity, they created varied works of prose.

Throughout the years at St. John Eudes School, writing has been emphasized in the students' academic program. During the 2005-2006 School Year, all students have written numerous works in the areas of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry to strengthen their written communication skills.

In order to display their talents, literary works from Kindergarten to 8th Grade were submitted in the contest. The competition in-

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Highlights:

♦ "Casablanca 2006" Fundraiser Date Set for May 20

♦ SJE Students Come Out on Top in Art and Writing Contests; Show Strength of SJE Academic Programs

♦ SJE Takes Bronze in Annual Knights of Columbus Track Meet; Enthusiastic Participation Key to Success

♦ Alumnus to Chair Anniversary Gala; Event to be Highlight of Celebrations

♦ Alumni Parent Receives City-Wide Award

♦ Students Feel Jesus Would Have a Good Impression of School



School Gets New Sign — Visitors now have an easy way of identifying the school building on the SJE Parish campus.

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Eagles Run at KoC Track Meet: 170 Students Participate

Spring is in the air at St John Eudes School. The sun shines brighter. Students get a little restless in the classroom. And the 8th Grade is counting down to graduation. Among the many traditions of spring celebrated by the students is the Annual Knights of Columbus Track Meet, which was held this year on April 2 at Taft High School in Woodland Hills.

Celebrating the 35th running of the meet, the Eagles of SJE turned in some great performances in both track and field, with more than 40 students placing among the top three in their events, and a third place finish overall.

We have seen some great improvement in the track program at SJE

during the past two seasons for a number of reasons. The most important reason is PARTICIPATION. We had nearly 170 students compete in the track meet this year, and their enthusiasm was contagious.

Most of the participants have been preparing to compete for the past 2 months in our Friday after-school Track Training Program. This program began last year, organized by the parents of SJE, to assist Mr. Allington in preparing our athletes to run fast and “go the distance” in the long jump and softball throw.

Another asset to the team this year was the coaching expertise of our 1st Grade TA and EDC coordinator, Mr. Jacob Munyon. An accomplished track and field competitor in college,

Mr. Munyon helped the students to improve their technique and build their endurance. At the same time, he encouraged the kids to try their best and have a lot of fun.

The team motto for this season was “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” [Philippians 4:13] and each student who participated reflected this theme by giving their best effort.

We congratulate all of our athletes. We thank God for the talents He has given them. We thank the Knights of Columbus for hosting the meet and providing the \$250 award for third place. And we thank Mr. Allington, Mr. Munyon, and the parent volunteers who helped to make this meet a great success. We will be back, and better than ever, next year! GO EAGLES!



Art Contest Winners: 3rd-5th Grade Category: 1st Place – Keith Feist; 2nd Place – Hope Holtum. **6th-8th Grade Category:** 1st Place – Jennica Lien; 2nd Place – Sarah Stewart; 3rd Place – Co-Winners - Brandon Mikhail and Stephanie Riley.



Non-Fiction Writing Contest Winners: 3rd Grade: 2nd Place – Sean Milkovich. **6th Grade:** 1st Place – Mary Lopez; 2nd Place – Caitlin Hawthorne; 3rd Place – Karl Tolentino. **8th Grade:** 1st Place – Grace Freymiller; 2nd Place – Katherine Glasser; 3rd Place – Johlene De Los Santos.

Fiction Writing Contest Winners: 4th Grade: 1st Place – Jill Gaines; 3rd Place – Keith Feist. **7th Grade:** 3rd Place – Jillian Olivas. **8th Grade:** 1st Place – Sarah Stewart.

Poetry Contest Winners: 4th Grade: 3rd Place – Jiselle Prospero. **7th Grade:** Honorable Mention – Bianca Derrick

Students Help Msgr. Peter Celebrate “Big 70”

April 4 did not roll in a sunshine-filled spring day; it was dank, dark and dreary. But dismal did not show in the large-eyed anticipation of the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade students waiting to “SURPRISE” the birthday boy.

Msgr. Peter Nugent was the object of intrigue and the guest of honor at a pasta lunch to celebrate his 70th. Thanks to the generous efforts of many, the party was a wonderful celebration, much appreciated by Father who commented that it was the largest birthday party he ever had.

The attendees, including all students, school and parish staff enjoyed the cooking of parishioners Tony Mellone, Narong Tonowang and Peter Guerrero. The PTSO sponsored the event, while Giovanni (San Carlo Deli) generously donated pasta and bread. Room parents Lisa Koochof and Kim Bowman crafted a beautiful prayer book as a gift from the students, who each composed a draw-

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Art & Writing Contest

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cluded participation by schools throughout the Archdiocese. Our students’ creative and imaginative works were evident in the results!

At the award ceremony, held at Our Lady of Refuge School in Long Beach, the winners were recognized by receiving trophies and a book containing their writings. Students expressed their excitement by stating, “Anticipate catching a glimpse of our ‘Way with Words’ in future writings.”

[Editor’s Note – Congratulations to Ms. Stula and Mrs. Thies for inspiring and guiding these fine students!]



The Alumni Pulse: News About SJE Alumni

Kimberly Martin '91 attended Alemany and then Granada Hills High School where she graduated in 1995. She went on to U.C. Santa Cruz and graduated with high honors with a B.A. in Psychology. She returned to L.A. and attended graduate school at the California School of Professional Psychology where she earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She is now a licensed doctor of psychology with a private practice in Pasadena. She also works full time at a clinic for the chronically and severely mentally ill in La Puente. In her practice she sees adults, couples, and children for therapy and specializes in working with depression, anxiety, sexual abuse, trauma, divorce-related issues and stress reduction. Kimberly is the daughter of Catherine Stula who has been a teacher at SJE for an amazing 19 years!

Casey Crandall (Lufrano) '93 graduated from Alemany High School in 1997. She attended

CSUN and received her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology (the study of the movement of the human body). She has been married for two years to Patrick Lufrano, who also graduated from Alemany. They recently decided to settle down and bought a house in Winnetka. Casey enjoys her job as the front office manager for a dental office in Sherman Oaks.

Micheal Huff '95 attended Chaminade College Preparatory and graduated in 1999. He attended UCLA and majored in Psychology. He then received his Masters degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University in 2005. He is currently a guidance counselor and teacher at

Chaminade, and also teaches Psychology at the College of the Canyons in Valencia.

Tara Young '97 attended Chatsworth High School and graduated in 2001. She then attended Joe Blasco School of Cosmetics and graduated as a studio make-up artist. She is currently employed as a secretary and bookkeeper, but uses her cosmetic skills for weddings and is also a professional make-up artist for Drew's music videos and films.

If you're an alumnus we'd love to hear about what you've been doing! Send us a note to the school office "Attn: The HeartBeat" or an e-mail to "theheartbeat@socal.rr.com".

Come Join Us for "Casablanca 2006"

PTSO Sponsors Spring Fundraiser — May 20, 2006

Are you looking for some spring time fun? Well here is your chance to get out and have a good time. The SJE Parent Teacher Support Organization (PTSO) is sponsoring its annual Spring Fundraiser which this year will be an evening at *Casablanca 2006*.

This will be a fun-filled evening with live entertainment, gaming, bingo, delicious buffet, raffle and silent/live auction. Our silent auction will give you the chance to bid on so many different and exciting items. Our live auction will include wonderful keepsakes made by our

K thru 8th Graders. Our Grand Prize for the raffle is a trip for two to Maui for 8 days 7 nights made possible by the Hannon Foundation. And lets not forget the Martini Bar!

Further information will be sent out to all SJE Alumni and Friends — so mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20, 2006, from 6:00 pm till 11:00 pm in Fr. Grill Hall. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. All proceeds will help support the important mission of our school.

Hope to see you there! *"Here's Looking At You Kid!!"*

SJE School to Celebrate 40th Anniversary with Gala Alumni Dinner

The 2006-2007 school year marks the 40th Anniversary of SJE School. With our school celebrating its 40th birthday, all alumni, alumni parents and friends are invited to celebrate at a special dinner at SJE in Grill Hall on Saturday, February 3, 2007. A special alumni Mass will also be celebrated before the dinner. This will be a truly gala event and is being chaired by SJE alumni Dan Lien '74 and his wife, Kathy. It will be a great opportunity for alumni to meet with old friends, as well as current and former teachers and administrators. Special invitations will be sent to alumni and alumni families later this year. But make sure to put this date on your calendar now — this will be a party you won't want to miss! And if you know any alumni that are not on the HeartBeat mailing list, have them send us a note so they'll get the latest on all the Anniversary activities.

SJE Alumni Parent Receives Special Recognition



Congratulations to Captain Steve Ruda, alumni parent, who recently received the *Firefighter of the Year Award for 2005* from the Los Angeles City Firefighters Association. As an SJE parent, Steve was actively involved in supporting the school and served on the PTSO Executive Council. Steve remains active in the SJE community and is currently serving as the chairperson of the SJE Parish Pastoral Council.

Capt. Ruda continues to actively support SJE School activities. He recently spoke to the students during Catholic Schools Week about character and values.

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*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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Eagles Basketball Teams Have Enjoyable Season

The Girls A Team, coached by Tom Croell and Kathy Stewart, shot to a record of 4-4. The coaches agreed that the girls played with great enthusiasm and spirit. The Girls B Team passed by almost everyone with a record of 4-2. They played hard and ran a lot as they learned to play the game under coach Danielle Messiha.

The Boys A and B Teams were both coached by Mr. Allington and he was very pleased with the effort put forth by the boys and their learning of basketball which will help them in the coming years. The A Team, playing mostly 7th Grade boys, fin-

ished with a 3-5 record which was an improvement over the last couple of years. The B Team finished their season with a 2-4 record, coming up "short" in most of their games.

The best news to come out of the basketball season was the fact that everyone seemed to enjoy the experience. Like UCLA basketball says — "Wait until next year!"

The Boys Volleyball and Girls Softball seasons have begun and things are looking real good with all the teams. Results of these sports seasons will come with the next issue of the HeartBeat.

The Heart of the School: Students Speak

Students Reveal What Jesus Would Say About SJE School

Books – check; desks – check; classrooms – check; playground – check: a short list of school necessities that form a sturdy, but lifeless, scaffolding of education. They might be sparkling new, the highest quality; or maybe they are very well taken care of.

But books, desks, classrooms and a playground have worth only when opened, occupied, filled and

run about on by children – the precious droplets of humanity that parents and teachers are gifted with – temporarily. Educating our children is a baffling experience for most of us, but the values that lie at the heart of a school are plainly evident in the expressions of the students.

I asked several of the students what it is that they like about St. John Eudes School, and what they thought Jesus would say about SJE, if he were to come and visit for a day. This is what they said:

Raymond Levesque (K): I like SJE because, "I have nice friends and teachers. Jesus would say, 'I love it. It's clean. It's a good school.' Jesus would also tell us to be kind to others."

Educating our children is a baffling experience for most of us, but the values that lie at the heart of a school are plainly evident in the expressions of the students.

Hope Holtum (4th): "I like going to St. John Eudes because there are not a thousand kids here, and the teachers are nice. Jesus would like it. He would say, 'You are doing a good job.'"

Nicky Montano (8th): "I like the mixture of cultures and the mixture of friends. Jesus would enjoy his stay because the students here are feeling the way they should feel — the way God wants them to [feel]."

Celine Levesque (1st): "I like St. John Eudes because my teacher is nice and we have a nice principal. Jesus would say, 'It's a good school; they have good students.'"

Matthew Bowman (2nd): "I like SJE because I have good teachers and great friends. I learn a lot and have a lot of fun. Jesus would say, 'This is a terrific school with great families and a wonderful principal.' I think Jesus would want to go here, even though he's really old."

Courtney Pasqual (7th): "Academically the school is good. I like the sports program and the teachers, and how they make us laugh. Jesus would say, 'You are really religious – you think toward me (Jesus) and toward the family. Everyone here treats each other like brothers and sisters.'"

That's the heart of it, and the spirit as well!

Ellen Abbene

[This is the second in a series of articles Ellen is writing in salute of SJE's 40th Anniversary next year. The previous article (in our January issue) focused on Parents and their experiences at SJE School. Coming articles will highlight the comments and thoughts of Teachers and Alumni — Editor]

Monsignor's Birthday

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ing or writing for Msgr. Peter. The message on the cake, decorated with ski slope and skier, said it all: "Happy Birthday, Monsignor Peter – It's Not All Down Hill From Here."