



The HeartBeat

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

SJE to Celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Open House, Anniversary Mass & Gala Dinner

Catholic Schools Week Scheduled for Jan. 28 through Feb. 3

The nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 28 through Feb. 3. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: the Good News in Education." The theme was chosen because of its appeal to Catholic schools and for the strong message it sends to parents and supporters.

Dr. Karen M. Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said, "Catholic Schools do good work all year around. But on this week we want to focus everyone's attention on the fact that Catholics schools are good news. In addition to learning reading, writing and arithmetic, students also learn responsibility — and how to become persons of character and integrity."

Father William Davis, a priest of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and interim secretary for education at the USCCB, said "High achievement rates, high retention rates, high moral values and high student and parent satisfaction are the distinctive marks of a



Catholic school. That's the good news and we want to share it."

In Washington, a delegation of more than 150 Catholic school students, teachers and parents will visit Capitol Hill to meet with congressional leaders to promote Catholic schools. They will hand-deliver letters from chief administrators of Catholic education to their representatives and provide a background package on Catholic schools to every congressional office. *(from NCEA Press Release)*

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated in a very special way at SJE this year. CSW masses will be held on Jan. 28 along with the

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Highlights:

- **Catholic Schools to Deliver Letters to Congressmen**
- **40th Anniversary Gala Dinner to Feature Slide-show of School History; "Alumnus of the Year" Presentation**
- **Mr. "A" Finds Teaching Challenging, Rewarding**
- **Boy's "A" Basketball Team Expected to Make Playoffs**
- **Alumna Receives Full University Scholarship**
- **Pulse of School Beats in Hearts of Alumni**
- **SJE School Committed to 21st Century Educational Program**
- **School Receives Endowment Funds to Improve Classroom Communications**

SJE School 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner Reservations Still Available for Feb. 3!

The 2006-2007 School Year marks the 40th Anniversary of St. John Eudes School and you still have time to get your reservations for the *SJE School 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner*. The dinner will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007, at 6:30 pm in Fr. Grill Hall. All SJE alumni, parents, and friends are invited to attend.

This will be a fabulously special event where you will be able to meet and mingle with SJE alumni, friends, and past and present faculty. The dinner is being

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Parents and students examine student models of the California Missions at the SJE School Open House. Many SJE alumni are sure to remember the mission models as part of their 4th Grade curriculum, a tradition which continues with today's students.

Focus on the Faculty: Mr. Allington - Teaching Best by the Life He Leads

"He's a great teacher." "He's funny in class." "He's a great coach." "He always seems happy." "I like his tie collection." For the past 38 years at St. John Eudes School, any random sampling of students would probably solicit the same information when asked about our beloved teacher, coach, and friend, Mr. Ron Allington. "Mr. A", as he is affectionately called, has served the SJE community since 1969. He began as a coach and P.E. instructor, while pursuing his studies at CSUN. Upon completion of his credentials, he joined the staff full time, and has taught, inspired, coached, and mentored the SJE family for nearly four decades.

So what's the secret to his personal success? Perhaps, it's humility. There is no task too great or too small for Mr. A. He just takes pride in getting the job done. He arrives by 6:45 each morning, and rarely leaves before the sun goes down. Rain or shine, he's the first to greet families at drop-off, and routinely stays late to help the after school athletes refine their skills. He's positive in his approach to everything he does. From helping kindergarteners learn how to stand in a line, to motivating junior high students to reach for their dreams, Mr. A is a true professional . . . honest, thorough, and fair.

When asked about the challenges and rewards of his job, Mr. A speaks of the SJE family with great affection. He says that he loves the kids, with all of their strengths and weaknesses. He admits that it is challenging to teach all grades, K through 8, but reminds us that his job is never dull or boring. He claims that the support of the SJE parents has been very rewarding throughout the years, even the time when he was blindfolded and kidnapped after a track meet, then delivered to his own surprise birthday party. It is

no wonder that Mr. A refers to SJE as his second family.

Yes, family is a consistent theme in the legacy of Mr. A. He speaks of his dear wife Judy as his inspiration, with their 38 year marriage spanning his entire career at SJE. He shares fond memories of teaching and coaching his own daughters, Tammy ('83) and Deana ('84). He smiles with great pride at the mention of his grandchildren Sean, Cassie, and Jody, always buying tickets to win prizes for them at the annual Jog-a-thon raffle.

Mr. A's family tradition has expanded to a new generation this year as his grandson Sean Maddigan has entered the 7th grade and become a solid member of the After School Sports program.

Through the years at SJE, Ron Allington has taught all grades, and nearly all the subjects. He likes American history the best, probably because it tells of the heroes who have helped us along the way. Certainly Ron Allington is a hero in the eyes of the St John Eudes Community. God has blessed us and all of our families through the example of our beloved "Mr. A". It's been said that ". . . the life you lead, is the lesson you teach." Thank you, Mr. Allington. You have taught us well.

Mr. Allington will be attending the 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner and will be speaking about his experiences over the last 38 years at SJE School.



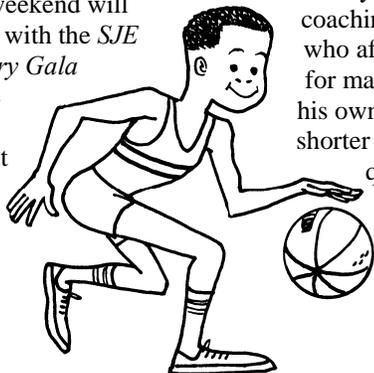
Mr. Allington poses proudly with the Class of 2000 before attending the Graduation Mass. "Mr. A" has been proudly teaching SJE students since 1969 and is now even teaching the children of alumni (would those be considered "grand-alumni"?).

Catholic Schools Week

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SJE School Open House (from 10:00 am — 1:00 pm). Displays of SJE student work will be on display in the classrooms and Grill Hall. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be held on this weekend.

At the end of CSW, a special 40th Anniversary Mass, with Bishop Wilkerson presiding, will be held at the 5:30 pm Mass on Feb. 3. The weekend will culminate that evening with the *SJE School 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner* at 6:30 pm (see article on page 1 for more information about the dinner). All alumni & friends are invited to join in our SJE Catholic Schools Week celebrations!



Basketball Season Starts for SJE Sports Teams

After a very successful fall season, we turn to our winter sport - SJE basketball season has begun! We will have a quick group of 'B' Girls (5th & 6th Graders) coached by Mrs. Mary Tucker and her husband, Scott. What they might lack in experience, they will make up with hustle.

The Boys 'B' Team will enjoy the coaching of Mr. Peter Guerriero, who after helping all coaches at SJE for many years, is getting a team of his own. The 'B' Boys are on the shorter side of tall but have great quickness and athletic abilities.

Our Girls 'A' Team (7th & 8th graders) is under the control of Ms. Danielle

Messiha. She has a group of very enthusiastic girls who will be shooting for a play-off spot in March.

The Boys 'A' Team will have many returning players from last year's team. Mr. Allington is working them hard so they will be able to do their best in the 4th quarter. This team has a great chance to make the playoffs when they work together.

We also have a 'C' Team, which was coached by Mr. Jacob Poulouse (an alumni on break) before Christmas vacation and will be coached by Mrs. Molly Gaines after Christmas. Learning to pass, dribble, shoot, and use teamwork will be the job of all of our SJE athletes, and with God's help, we will have a very successful winter season.



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Lisa Dickinson (Gastaldo) '78 graduated from Chaminade College Preparatory and attended CSUN where she received a degree in English. In 1990 she married her high school sweetheart, Matthew, at a ceremony at St. John Eudes. They have two boys, Nicholas (11) and Albert (12). She is currently working as a librarian for Castaic Elementary School.

Derek Faraldo '83 graduated from Arizona State College and is presently a parole agent for the California Department of Corrections. He also enjoys dabbling in real estate sales in his spare time. Derek has also become a wonderful husband and father. He has been married to his high school sweetheart, Iliana, for 12 years. They have three great children, Andrew (11), Brandon (9), and Jacob (2), and currently live happily in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Christopher Dickinson '84 attended Chaminade and graduated in 1988. He then attended Marymount College and graduated from Northern Arizona University. He currently lives in Northridge

with his wife, Nawzat, and his son Tyler. He works in the entertainment industry as a TV producer.

Kurt Star '96 attended Chaminade College Preparatory where he was active in the science and music programs. He graduated Chaminade in 2000 and was accepted into UCLA as a Material Science major. Continuing his family's musical tradition, he joined the UCLA marching band (as a tuba player) and met his future finance, Lisa (a Civil Engineering major who plays flute). He received his B.S. degree in 2004 and worked in a post graduate research project that led to a patented material process. He received his Master's degree last June and has been accepted into the UCLA PhD program. He is currently working at UCLA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena on material research programs. Lisa and Kurt are planning to be married in August.

Angela Cowan '99 graduated from Chatsworth High School in 2003, where she was active on the basketball and ten-

nis teams. Among other plans, she is working on a medical career at Kaiser Hospital where she is currently an assistant nurse.

Michelle Andrizzi '00 attended Notre Dame High School and graduated in 2004 with Honors and with the NDHS "Woman of the Year Award". She received a full academic scholarship to St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, where she is currently majoring in Photography. She is also minoring in Communications & English Writing. She hopes to become an Art or Fashion Director.

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*

The Pulse of the School: Alumni Speak The Heart of SJE School Beats Through Its Alumni

- Pulse . . . a throb of life, emotion . . .**
- Pulse . . . it normally isn't seen, but only felt . . .**
- Pulse . . . kind of like . . . FAITH . . .**
- Pulse . . . always a signal for . . .**
- HOPE . . .**
- Pulse . . . from the heart, a symbol of . . .**
- LOVE . . .**

. . . Pulse is how we know that life is continuing . . . going on. Our St. John Eudes School pulse is 40 years old this year. We know that our pulse is strong and steady . . . because our alumni tell us so . . .

" . . . I graduated from 8th grade in 1974! Wow, that was [over] 32 years ago, amazing. What a fabulous school . . . such fond memories, wonderful teachers, great friends, an incredible 8 years! And I still have my yearbooks . . ." *Carrie Lockway-Iveson '74*

. . . We all need air, water, food and a pulse to stay alive. But we need more if our lives are going to be worth living. People and relationships prime our emotional pumps and make our lives memorable . . .

" . . . The one thing that stands out to me is the relationships I made and still have. It was the people, from Sr. Laura to Mr. Allington, Sr. Rosemary and Sr. Georgina, to all my classmates that made it a

"I grew to be a young woman of confidence and of academic excellence. I owe much of my success in life to the wonderful years spent at St. John Eudes School."

special place. It always feels like home when I'm back at SJE . . ." *Michael Colavitti '80*

. . . We can feel the pulse of the heart beating, but we can't control it. We can decide through action and attitude how to respond to life's opportunities . . .

" . . . I came to St. John Eudes School as a second grader in the fall of 1968 . . . The love and dedication of the Sisters of the Pious Schools and the faculty at SJE has remained a precious memory to me . . . I grew to be a young woman of confidence and of academic excellence. I owe much of my success in life to the wonderful

years spent at St. John Eudes School. The teachers and the staff imparted to me not only good study habits and a hunger for knowledge but also a foundation in faith and Christian service that has served me my entire life . . ." *Cathy Hart '74*

. . . The heart of SJE will continue beating through it's alumni . . . past, present and future . . .

" . . . In 1966 . . . [SJE] was all new and full of life and I'm glad it is still there and thriving." *Bill von Grempp, 3rd Grade Class of 1966-67*

. . . And at the end of all of our earth-bound lives, when the pulse is still . . . we will live on, as promised by our God of faith, through Christ our brother of love, with the Holy Spirit of hope . . . pulse . . . faith hope love . . . air water food . . . father son holy spirit . . . family friends community . . . pulse . . .

Ellen Abbene

[This is the final article in a series Ellen has written in salute of SJE's 40th Anniversary year. The previous articles focused on the experiences, comments and thoughts of SJE School parents, students, and faculty about the school. We would like to thank Ellen for all the work she has done in bringing us these wonderful expressions of support from our extended school community — Editor]

St. John Eudes School

9925 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 341-1454
Fax: (818) 341-3093

www.school.stjohneudes.org

*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

A publication of the
St. John Eudes School
Development Office

Ernie Star, Director

Contributing Writers:

Ellen Abbene, Ron Allington

Molly Gaines

Eva Star

A Special Message From the Principal

I wish all our St. John Eudes Alumni & Friends a Happy 2007! At SJE School we look forward to a great second half of the school year. As we begin this new year, we continue to strive to provide an excellent education for our children.

Last month's *Time Magazine* featured an education piece entitled "How to Build a Student for the 21st Century". According to the article the only institution still operating in the 20th century are America's schools.

Our Catholic Schools have been working with *21st Century Learning* to help our schools acquire the latest research and strategies to educate students for this century. St. John Eudes is committed to providing the best educational program for our children and preparing them for all the challenges they will face. Most importantly, we are giving them the faith and character tools to be successful and influential.

The faculty, staff, parents, and students have devised the following six major learning expectations that students must meet upon graduation from their years of schooling at SJE. *An SJE student:*

- *Is Knowledgeable in Catholic faith and doctrine*
- *Demonstrates Catholic Christian faith through action*

- *Is an Effective communicator*
- *Is a Critical thinker*
- *Is Aware of multicultural similarities and differences*
- *Is Knowledgeable in Technology*

We could not accomplish these goals without our great faculty and staff and parents, who share in the belief that our children are first and foremost, lights of Christ who need to be equipped with all the skills and training to make a difference in our world. And as we begin the New Year, I am particularly thankful for all our alumni and friends who continue to support us in the important educational mission of our school.

Barbara Danowitz

Endowment Trustees Vote Funds for School

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the St. John Eudes School Endowment, the trustees voted to transfer the maximum allowable amount of \$5,900 of trust income to the school. This will fund special school projects, particularly relating to improving classroom communications. The trust is an separate archdiocesan charitable fund governed by a parish board of trustees. There will be a special collection for the Endowment at all SJE masses on Jan. 28, the beginning weekend of Catholic Schools Week.

40th Anniversary Gala Dinner *(Continued from page 1)*

held at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week and will feature displays of SJE student work. There will also be a slideshow of the history of St. John Eudes School and the presentation of the first "Alumnus of the Year" award.

Other special presentations will be made by SJE students, and guest speakers will include Bishop Wilkerson, Fr. McNamara, Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Danowitz, and former teachers and alumni, including nationally known SJE alumna, Paige (Huff) Hemmis '86, who is currently appearing on the design team for *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* on ABC, Sundays at 8:00 pm.

Cost for the dinner is \$35 per person. Please use the slip (at the left) and send in your reservation now. ***Don't miss this fabulous event!***

Please note: This event is for adults only — since alcoholic beverages will be served, guests must be 21 years old to attend.

Yes, I want to Celebrate and Have Fun at the SJE School 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner!

Enclosed is a Check Payable to "St. John Eudes School" for

_____ No. of Persons X \$35.00 ea. = \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (_____) _____

Please Mail by Jan. 27 to:
Attn: 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner
St. John Eudes School
P.O. Box 5063
Chatsworth, CA 91313