



The HeartBeat

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

School Looks Ahead to New Challenges & Opportunities for 2007-08

Back-to-School-Night is an SJE School tradition that brings together teachers, parents, and staff at the start of the school year. Held along with the school year's first general Parent-Teacher Support Organization (PTSO) meeting, it is a great opportunity for parents and friends of the school to get a preview of upcoming events and goals for the year. And this year's meeting certainly outlined some major new challenges, opportunities, and activities coming for the school . . .

Archdiocesan Initiative Calls for Parish to Form Parish School Board

The Los Angeles Archdiocese has called for all parishes to form Consultative School Boards for their elementary schools. While the Pastor and Principal will continue to be solely responsible for the governance of the school (including all hiring and administrative decisions), the guidelines call for the School Board to provide important consultative and advisory resources in six specific areas:

- **Strategic Planning** of long-term goals and in formulating the school's mission statement.
- **Policy Formation** regarding policies in areas determined by the Pastor and Principal.
- **Evaluation** of mission effectiveness and self-evaluation.
- **Institutional Advancement & Development** to enhance the image, enrollment, and financial viability of the school.
- **Financial Planning and Financial Management** relating to long-range financial planning, budget development, monitoring, and financial reporting.
- **Communication and Mission Enhancement** of school policies and activities.

The School Board would be comprised of the Pastor, Principal, a PTSO Representative and at least six other members appointed by the Pastor. No more than one-third of the Board will be school parents, and the guidelines call for the Pastor to appoint members who are civic, business, and professional leaders, as well as area educators, parishioners, and alumni.

The School Board will work closely with the PTSO, Parish Finance Council, Parish Council, and other ministries. Mrs. Danowitz plans to have the School Board up and running within the next several months.

WASC-WCEA Accreditation Great Opportunity for School to Showcase Educational Program

During the 2007-08 school year the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), as well as the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA), will be visiting the school to review the school's educational program, which was granted full accreditation six years ago in recognition of its high quality. The accreditation process is

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SJE Principal, Mrs. Danowitz, informs parents of upcoming SJE School events and developments, including the new SJE School Board, the upcoming WASC accreditation, and student technology training.

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Highlights:

- **Parish to Form New School Board; Will Advise & Assist Pastor, Principal**
- **School Ready to Meet Accreditation Team; Will Demonstrate Strength of SJE Educational Program**
- **Library Staff Makes Books Come Alive for Students; Grant Program Provides Books**
- **Parents Join in Fellowship to Grow in Spiritual Depth**
- **SJE Children's Choir Helps Bring Home "A Granpa for Christmas"**
- **Alumni Serve International Community in Germany, Russia**
- **'07 Grad Uses Racket to Make Sports Headlines**
- **Golfers Needed to Build Science Lab; Have Money Raising Chemistry**
- **Student Council Focuses on Environment, Campus Recycling**
- **School to Help Sponsor Parish Festival - Carnival**

Library Story Signals Smooth Sailing for SJE Students

A few years ago (could it be that long?) an issue of *The Heartbeat* had news about the dedication of the McNamara Library at St. John Eudes. In 2005, the modestly modern library was brightly hopeful, shiny new, squeaky clean and – almost empty! There were scant books, slim operating hours and no pilot to navigate the course of the small but sturdy vessel towards its potential to become a trove of discovery and exploration for the students. Some SJE onlookers were skeptical that the library would come through the storm of formation successfully.

Thanks to one creative captain and a dedicated crew of library cohorts, the McNamara Library now has full sails, fuller shelves and is full of children compelled by their curiosity to open books and find out. Librarian Traci Banks, with library helpers, Mary Larez, Anne Martinez and Gail Vitar, make the journey fun and absorbing, while insisting on respectful stewardship from the students. Junior librarian, Regine Zara, also helps out when not immersed in eighth grade activities.

National Library Week, Accelerated Reading Program prize contests, Book Fairs, Author Days and a Library Web Page are all promoted and organized by the “bookworm committee” led by Ms. Banks, who also dons the famous candy

striped Cat In the Hat tome on Dr. Seuss Day. Bridget Abbene, library frequenter and fifth grader, shares, “Ms. Banks is nice, [there are] lots of books, and it is much better than walking around. My favorite thing is the prizes!”

A computerized catalogue system keeps track of who checked out what, when it is due back, and generates “late slips” for those who hang on to their volumes a little too long. The fee for tardy book returns is ten cents a day, however Ms. Banks tends to personally remind the students about punctuality prior to the due date.

“The library is Ms. Bank’s pride and joy. She makes it a haven for the kids’ creativity and learning,” notes Mrs. Larez.

Every day at recess and lunchtime the library beckons to would-be explorers of books — also after school when students may visit accompanied by an adult, or if enrolled in extended day

care. The children in Kindergarten through fifth grade enjoy a regular library session once per week. Just recently, the library received a shipment of new books through a federal grant program; there are plans to have a bulletin board display case outside signaling to all who pass, what is taking place inside.

Perhaps Fr. Mac left his mark on the space named for him, as Mrs. Martinez loves the “great energy and environment . . . the place has a lively feel, where books come alive. It is *not* a silent space.”



SJE students get excited about reading as they use the library during classtime as part of the Accelerated Reading Program. Students get feedback about their reading skills through computer software that measures comprehension.

SJE First Friday Fellowship: SJE School Parents Growing Together in Faith

As a new school year begins at SJE, we welcome new students and teachers and appreciate the improvements made around campus. Although the outside appearance of SJE may change a bit with each passing year, the founding ideals of faith, family, and fellowship remain the same.

This year, these ideals are being recognized and celebrated in a whole new format, entitled First Friday Fellowship. On the first Friday of each month, parents are invited to gather for a time of prayer, Scripture study, parenting discussion, and general fellowship.

Those who attend the group celebrate Mass together and spend time discussing

Biblical perspectives and effective techniques related to parenting issues. For this year, the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) provide the basic themes for monthly discussions. Parents have an opportunity to ask questions, exchange ideas, pray together

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and build lasting friendships. Special attention is given to understanding our Catholic traditions, and using them to help our families grow in faith.

The group is committed to the mission of St. Paula Montal, foundress of the Sisters of the Pious Schools, who dedicated her life to “...saving families by teaching them the love of God.”

The First Friday Fellowship meets from 8-10 am in the Grill Hall AB room on the first Friday of each month. Refreshments and childcare are provided at no charge. Parents, grandparents, godparents, alumni, and adults of any age who are interested in parenting are welcome to attend.

SJE Children’s Choir to Appear in Premier Movie on the Hallmark Channel

Watch for our SJE Children’s Choir appearing in the Hallmark Channel’s original movie *A Grandpa for Christmas* starring Ernest Borgnine. The movie will premier on Nov. 24, at 9:00 pm. Check the hallmarkchannel.com website for more information.



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Carl Walinski '75 attended Chaminade College Preparatory and graduated in 1979. He double majored at CSUN in German and Political Science. After college he received a one-year internship with the German government. He then attended USC and received a Master's Degree in Business. He and his wife Isabelle currently live in Frankfurt, Germany, and is a business consultant for Towers Perrin. His wife is employed by Lufthansa Airlines.

Marian Walinski (Peloquin) ('76) graduated from Chatsworth High School in 1980. She attended the University of Texas and received a bachelor's degree in Special Education. She then attended CSUN and received a master's degree in Special Education. She has an 18 year old daughter, Julia. Marian married her husband, Bob, in 1990, who is a retired police officer who she met on a family camping trip. She currently lives in Camarillo and teaches autistic children.

Dina Capra '90 graduated from Louisville High School in 1994. She double majored in Creative Writing and Public Relations at USC, from which she received her degrees. She is currently teaching English at Monroe High School.

Sarah Braga (Mackey) '96 attended Notre Dame High School. She was active

in sports on the varsity volleyball and track teams. She received a volleyball scholarship to attend Baylor University in Texas, where she received her B.S. in Child and Family Studies and was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. While in college she participated in a Big Sister program for elementary school girls. She also worked at a child advocacy center in Waco and served an internship at an orphanage in Russia. In 2005, she married Shawn Mackey (a pharmaceutical salesman) and lives with him in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she is a kindergarten teacher. She is currently working on a degree in nursing.

Robert Cruz '97 was active on the football team at Alemany and upon graduation began working with his father in his landscaping consulting business. He is currently attending Pierce College to obtain a degree in landscaping and design.

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@sjealumni.net" or send us a note to:

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

SJE '07 Alumna Featured in Sports News Headlines

Even though she just graduated from SJE last June, **Bianca Derrick '07** has already been making her mark on the local high school sports scene.



Although only a freshman at Chaminade, she is already a member of the Chaminade *Eagles* Varsity Tennis Team. She has become a

valued player on the team and has been featured in a number of sports articles in local newspapers, including the *Daily News*.

There's still time to sign up for the 4th Annual St. John Eudes Golf Classic to be held at the Porter Valley Country Club on

Monday, Nov. 12, 2007, with tee off at 12:00 noon. The tournament in the past has raised over \$50,000 to support the youth and school of St. John Eudes Parish. This year the tournament proceeds will support the construction of a Science Lab for the school.

Players, sponsors, volunteers and silent auction donations are needed. Your support of the tournament will help us continue our mission to provide excellence in education and to guide students to develop an inner strength of values and standards.

Contact tournament chairpersons Frank Herrington at 818-929-8347 or Jerry Niehaus at 818-974-1746 for further information. Additional information and a copy of the tournament brochure is available on the Alumni Message Board at www.sjealumni.net.

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You Can Leave a Special Legacy to SJE School in Your Trust or Will

For further information, please contact Deacon Bob Seidler at (818) 341-3680

or

H. Richard Closson, *Director, Trust and Estate Programs* for the L.A. Archdiocese

at (213) 637-7472

or 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

Nomination Forms for "SJE Alumnus of the Year" Now Available on the Alumni Website

Is there an SJE alumnus you know who would be a good example to our students of someone who has best applied the principles of "to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy" since attending SJE School?

Alumni and friends are invited to submit a nomination for the 2008 *SJE Alumnus of the Year*. Forms (and additional information) are available at www.sjealumni.net. Nominations must be submitted to the School Office by Jan. 7.

Give an alumnus the recognition they deserve — send in your nomination today!

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

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School Looks Ahead

(Continued from page 1)

a comprehensive review, based on a six year cycle, and examines all areas of the school program.

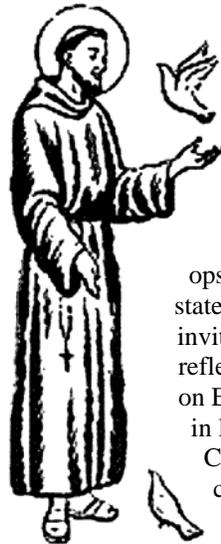
At Back-to-School-Night, Mrs. Danowitz noted that, since the last accreditation, the staff, teachers, and parents at SJE have been working very hard to sustain, and expand, the high level of the school's educational program. Among the nearly 100 items and improvements Mrs. Danowitz listed at Back-to-School-Night regarding their efforts are:

- Extended Day Care Program
- The McNamara Library
- Safeguard the Children Committee
- 32" Flatscreen Monitors in each Class
- Fulltime Computer Teacher/Coordinator
- Catholic Telemedia Network

A Special Message From the Principal

SJE Student Council Focuses on Environmental Issues; Reflects Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi

On October 4 we celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, who is the patron saint of animals and ecology. The issue of the environment should



be a concern for all of us. What can we as Catholic Christians do to love God's creation more and more?

In 1991 the United States Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral statement that invited us to reflect and act on Environment in light of Catholic Social teaching. In it they stated that the

members of the Church should organize prayerful celebrations of creation on the feast day of St. Francis and reflect on the religious dimension of this topic.

Parents are called to teach children to learn to love the earth and nature. According to the document parents are to help their children develop habits of self-control, concern, and care that lie at the heart of environmental morality.

Teachers are called to emphasize a love for God's creation a respect for nature and a commitment to practices and behavior that bring these attitudes into the daily lives of their students and themselves.

As members of the Church we are asked to examine our life-styles and behaviors to see how we might assist in the protection of the environment and to deepen our understanding of our Catholic tradition and its relation to the environment.

We are very proud that the student Council this year has added an Environment

Committee. This committee will help promote cleanliness of the campus and will begin to formulate ways to begin recycling of items. This is a very excit-

ing undertaking by the students. We have already requested that our hot lunch supplier not use styrofoam in the delivery of the lunches and they will comply with our request. Our students will continue to explore and discuss additional ways to protect God's creation and reflect the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi in their relationship to the environment.

But ask the animals and they will teach you; the birds of the air; and they will tell you; speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?
Job 12:7-9

Barbara Danowitz

- School & Alumni Website
- Increase in Math and Science Time
- Mentor Teacher Program
- School Newspaper
- Adopt-A-Student Program
- Pre-Algebra/Algebra Program
- Standards Based Curriculum
- After School Tutoring
- And many more . . .

The WASC/WCEA accreditation process is designed to challenge schools to meet the high educational standards of the associations. Mrs. Danowitz is confident that SJE School is well prepared and ready to meet the challenges of educational excellence that the accreditation associations require.

School to Join with Other Parish Groups to Sponsor Parish Carnival-Festival

Another special and new event that will take place this year is a carnival that will be sponsored by the school through the PTSO, along with other parish groups. The carnival will take place in lieu of the parish picnic and will be a major fundraiser that will benefit school programs as well as other parish ministries.

The festival has been set for June 13, 14, and 15 (Father's Day Weekend). It will include carnival rides, food, entertainment, a Grand Prize Drawing, and a whole lot of fun.