



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Parents Get News on Upcoming School Year On-Line Grade Access, New School Board Among Initiatives

As the school year started to get underway in earnest, school parents packed Grill Hall at the annual *Back-to-School Night* to hear the latest news about plans and activities for the coming school year. After a welcome and opening prayer by Msgr. Nugent, a number of items and initiatives were outlined by Mrs. Danowitz:

• WASC/WCEA Accreditation -

Based on an extensive on-site review of the school by the Western Associate of Schools and Colleges, and the Western Catholic Educational Association, the school has again been granted accreditation for the next six years (which is the maximum allowable term). The accreditation was granted at the highest level possible and the school staff and students were commended as an effective school model.

• **On-Line Grade Access** - Teachers are in the process of transitioning to use of the *Gradelink* system which will allow parents to have on-line access to grades during the year.

Teachers are currently implementing the system and parents will soon be able to have access to the grade data base for their student. The system allows parents to monitor student grades and can automatically send e-mail alerts about student progress. Additional information about the program is available at Gradelink.com.

• PTSTO to Sponsor Mardi Gras Spring Fundraiser -

The PTSTO announced it will have a *Mardi Gras* theme for its spring fundraiser. The supper-dance evening will be held in Grill Hall on Feb. 21, 2009, and feature exciting casino games, great food, a fantastic silent auction, as well as a Grand Prize Drawing featuring a Hawaiian Trip for 2 to Maui. Further information will be provided in the parish bulletin and on the school website.

• School to Participate in Areawide Earthquake Drill -

The Great Southern California ShakeOut will be the largest exercise of its kind and which will simulate the effects of a 7.8 earthquake in So. California. The drill will take place throughout So. California on Nov. 13 and the school will participate in the event which will include procedures that will be taken in the event of a major earthquake.

• New School Board Introduced -

Parents and teachers were introduced to the new SJE School Board which held its first organizational meeting last June. The School Board, composed of current and past parents, parishioners, local business leaders, and professionals will begin advising Msgr. Nugent and Mrs. Danowitz on a number of issues relating to school finances, policies, and projects.



The SJE Room Parents are introduced during the recent "Back-to-School Night" meeting. The Room Parents were one of the original parent support groups for the school (although older alumni may remember them as being the "Room Mothers"). Parental involvement has developed at SJE over the years to include the Parent-Teacher Support Organization and now additional parish resources have been tapped with the establishment this year of the SJE School Board.

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Highlights:

- Parents Soon to Have Full On-Line Access to Grades; E-Mail Alerts for Student Progress
- Mardi Gras Casino Night Planned by PTSTO
- School Routine to be Shaken-up by Area Wide Quake Exercise
- School Board Starts Work on School Issues
- SJE Swim Team Turns 30; Memories Bubble to Surface
- Golf Classic to Support School, Youth Projects
- Student Council Opens Heart to Crash Victims; Reflects Gospel Values
- Children's Choir Upbeat on Disneyland, Carnegie Hall Performances

SJE Swimming Eagles: Savor The Years

Coach Ellen Abbene Recalls Memories on Team's 30th Anniversary

September 28, 2008, commemorated the 30th year of St. John Eudes' meet sponsorship in the San Fernando Valley Catholic Swim League. As a parish team, which includes many SJE School swimmers, the swim team represents the best of our whole parish. My own involvement with the team and league spans 18 years. As I ponder those numbers, many memories clamor for attention in the limelight – like the six-year-old and under swimmers in the staging area! While these seasons are loosely jumbled together in my mind, mixed in and overlapping, they remain corralled by a large banner imprinted: *SJE Mighty Eagles*. Here are some memories from my personal "archive" . . .

"Where do I go?" Rancho Simi Pool, kids "lost" in the bushes, the parent relay (it lives again!) "Do I have to DIVE?" raffle baskets, snow cones, lost goggles; "I'm scared!" '05 Simi fires that cancelled the meet, Pierce College Pool, "Get Off the Lane Lines!" Coaches-Samantha, Eric

LaPort & Andrew Wetzel; receiving the first team equipment-kickboards & fins, "Why am I here?" practice pools - Rancho San Antonio, Iris Ryker Swim School, Woodcrest, Porter Valley CC; "I feel sick!" baked potatoes, pizza, hamburgers & hot dogs, team reps - Britta Jacobellis, Janelle Wetzel, Didi Wandell, Charlotte Scipioni, Krissy Mendoza, Calabasas Swim & Tennis Club; "Did I win?" heat winner candy and ribbons, sharpie tattoos, DQ=darn quick, when 9/11 tragedy almost cancelled the meet, Coach assistants - Eric Wetzel, Kelly Littrell, Laura Littrell, Tim Briceno, Megan Littrell, Audi Galvin; "What place did I get?" kids "lost" in the bathroom, meet weather-blistering hot, freezing cold, rain and hail; "I forgot to ask for my time." Coaches-Joan Watley, Iris Ryker, Stacy Smith, Anthony Cistaro, Mark Chun, Jose Liero, Nick Galvin, "Can I go to the snack bar?" not-so-EZ-ups, the "baby ruth" in Rancho Simi warm up lanes that closed the meet down; "I have to swim

AGAIN?" the swimmer raffle, eagle buttons, after race coach treats; "What's a relay?" Coach assistants - Samantha Reuss, Chelsea Lim, Tricia Lu, Fran Abbene, Blair Kroetz, Nikki Galvin, the 13-14 "final" relays; "Do I have to swim butterfly?" hot cocoa, bagels, cream cheese, The Knights of Columbus meet, chaotic team photos with Mr. Washington; "I'm cold!" team reps- Nancy Cammarata, Bob & Teri Kaczmarek, Lourdes Reuss, Debbie Selzer, Kelly Akins, reworking the relays, smoothies and iced mochas from the coffee cab; "Is it over?" after meet dinners- Vincenzo's, Z pizza, Chuy's, parents – a zillion of them – supporting, encouraging,



Alumni might recognize the pool at Rancho Simi in 1990 (above). But things really haven't changed that much and the swimmers lining up then looked pretty much the same as the swimmers lining up today to compete enthusiastically for their school. But there are differences – when they took their team photo that year (below) none of them had cell phones, Tamagotchis, or iPods in their pockets. Nor were they in a rush to get home to "surf the web" (they didn't even know they had a web to surf!). And their parents even had to find their way to the swim meet and back home again without a GPS in the car. How primitive things were in 1990!



Golfers Needed!

There's still time to sign up for the **5th Annual St. John Eudes Golf Classic** to be held at



the Porter Valley Country Club on Monday, Nov. 10, with tee off at 12:00 noon. The tournament in the past has raised \$70,000

to support the youth and school of St. John Eudes Parish. This year the tournament proceeds will support the school and other youth programs in the parish.

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, Jerry Niehaus at (818) 974-1746, or Steve Rogers at (818) 470-5103 for further information. Additional information and a copy of the tournament brochure is available on the school website at www.sjeschool.net – click on the link in the "Upcoming Special Events" box. Or e-mail to Golf@stjohneudes.org.

worrying; "That was FUN!"

How quickly the 6-u's become 13-14's; new faces look up from the lanes, merging with team veterans; new parents line the benches at practice and join the "tried and true" in the timing chairs; new coaches explain new drills to the coaches who seem to have been there – FOREVER! Surely, from year to year, the scaffold of the SFV Catholic Swim League remains unchanged: workouts, strokes, events, meets, results, awards. However, the details are always changing; and it is the lovely human details that bring satisfaction from this exhaustive, yet energizing, experience.

May God continue to bless this unique combination of community, sport, faith, learning, competition, friendship, and snack bar food, that *IS* the St. John Eudes Mighty Eagles Swim Team!



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Allison Ault (Stone) '90 attended Chaminade College Preparatory before moving with her parents to Maui where she graduated from St. Anthony High School. She then attended the University of Hawaii where she received a Master's Degree in Education. She and her husband, Paul, now both teach at St. Patrick School in Honolulu. She has 2 children, Kate (3) and Tommy (1).

David Kaminsky '92 graduated from Alemany High School in 1996. In 2001 he graduated from San Diego State with a degree in Public Administration. After living in San Diego for 6 years, David moved back to the San Fernando Valley in 2003. For the past 5 years he has worked as a Wholesale Account Executive for a mortgage company. Currently, David works as a Sr. Account Executive at Barons Media, an online advertising agency. He was recently married last May to Mandie Tarango and they live in Tarzana (congratulations to the newlyweds!).

Andy Ault ('96) graduated in 2000 from St. Anthony High School on Maui and then attended Valencia/CFU. He became certified in fiber optics and laser

technology, and is currently employed working on missile defense systems at Northrop Grumman in Orlando, Florida. Andy was married last June.

Margaret Jacoby '05 currently attends Louisville High School and plans on graduating in 2009. She is active on the Field Hockey Team and is also active in Campus Ministry. As part of her Campus Ministry involvement, she is a leader in the Senior Retreat Program. She plans to attend American University in Washington, D.C., to obtain a degree in International Relations.

SJE students on to do wonderful things and we'd like to hear what you've been doing since graduating from SJE School - or if you're a parent of an alumnus, this is your chance to do a little bragging! You can e-mail us at "theheartbeat@sjeschool.net" or send us a note to:

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

Nomination Forms for "SJE Alumnus of the Year" Now Available on the School 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 2009 SJE Alumnus of the Year. Forms (and additional information) are available at www.sjeschool.net. Nominations must be submitted to the School Office by Jan. 7. The selection will be announced during Catholic Schools Week on the school website and in the parish bulletin.

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

The Alumni & Friends Website has changed and has now been incorporated directly into the school website. You can still get the latest Alumni & Friend information by going to www.sjeschool.net and clicking on the "Alumni & Friends" link. Our previous sjealumni.net web address will also still get you there for now but will be discontinued after the end of the year – so bookmark the new web address now!

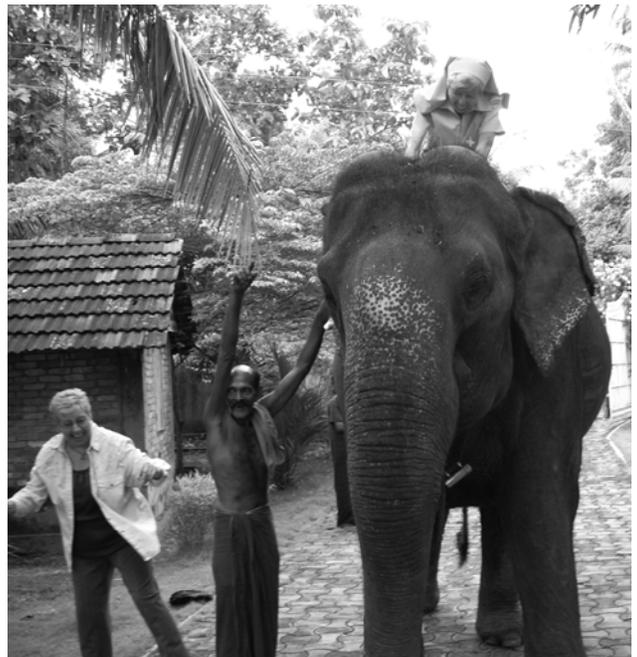
Student Council Raises Money for Chatsworth Train Collision Victims; Receives Commendation from Red Cross

In response to calls for aid for the victims of the Chatsworth Train Collision which occurred on Sept. 12, the SJE Student Council raised \$300 that was donated to the Red Cross. The Red Cross issued a Certificate of Appreciation to the SJE Student Council in recognition of their humanitarian efforts.

SJE Children's Choir to Reprise Performance in "Noye's Fludde" with the L.A. Opera at Cathedral; Performances Also Planned at Disneyland & Carnegie Hall

The SJE Children's Choir has again been chosen to perform with the Los Angeles Opera Company in their production of "Noye's Fludde" ("Noah's Flood"). The performance will take place at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles on March 7, 2009. The production will be under the direction of the Opera's Musical Director, Mr. James Conlon. Further information and tickets for "Noye's Fludde" are available at www.laopera.com.

Other activities for the choir are also planned for the coming school year. Mr. Richard Medrano, Director of the SJE Music Ministry, says that the Children's Choir will be performing at Disneyland and at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



Sr. Rosemary, former SJE principal, takes a ride on an Indian elephant at the Convent of the Sisters of the Pious Schools in Kerala, India. Her sister, Rita Costello (former SJE School secretary, left) runs for cover as Sr. Rosemary puts the elephant into first gear under the watchful eye of the elephant's trainer. Sr. Rosemary's nephew, Joseph, took this picture during a recent visit to India. After leaving SJE School, Sr. Rosemary took an assignment in India to teach the younger Sisters at the convent.

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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St. John Eudes School
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You Can Leave a Special Legacy to SJE School in Your Trust or Will

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Correct legal title is:

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

SJE Student Council Leads the Way

On a typical Monday morning in Chatsworth, the world hurries past the corner of Mason Ave. and Lassen St. without taking note of the St John Eudes School students who have gathered for Morning Assembly. As the 8 o'clock bell rings from the Church tower, the Student Council steps forward to lead the student body in the "Pledge to the Cross":

"I pledge allegiance to the Cross of Christ, and to the faith for which it stands, one Church, holy, Catholic, and apostolic, with grace and salvation for all." This salute is followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Set against the back drop of the world rushing by, this routine is clear evidence of how the SJE Student Council assumes its role of leadership around campus each week. The officers of the Council then proceed with announcements, reminders, and words of encouragement to the student body. Each month of the school year reflects a three-fold theme of Gospel Values, Fruits of the Spirit, and Pillars of Character. Such principles reinforce the qualities of leadership that the Student Council tries to promote around campus.

The Council consists of five elected officers, five appointed commissioners, one representative for Grades K-2, and one representative from each class in Grades 3 through 8. This year middle school math teacher, Mrs. Lizette Strom, is again serving as the Student Council Advisor. The Council meets during lunch on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss various ideas and events. Among the plans of the Council are "Spirit Days", campus clean-up, fundraising, sign-making, and community service projects. The Council is responsible for such activities as collecting books for The Braille Institute, raising money for The Sisters of the Pious Schools in Mexico, and serving up Snocones on Student Appreciation Day. Most importantly, the Student Council reinforces school pride, leadership, and school spirit around campus.

The current officers of the Student Council are President, *Austin Niehaus*; Vice – President, *Ana Patino*; Secretary, *Ashley Muntz*; Treasurer, *Jill Gaines*; and Social Secretary, *Samantha Olivas*. We are

grateful to these students, Mrs. Strom, and all members of the SJE Student Council who work hard to promote an attitude of respect and responsibility around campus.

The Council professes this year's school theme: *"Jesus is Our Never Ending Love and Nourishment"*. Their actions certainly reflect these words. So as the world rushes past Mason and Lassen each day, we can be certain that the Student Council is motivating our students to go out and make a difference in the world.



The new Student Council poses with Mrs. Strom and Mrs. Danowitz at the Installation Mass. As a council they are dedicated to act together with Catholic ideals and in the spirit of Christ.

In a Lighter Vein . . .

A group of 4–8 year olds were asked what love is – and here is what they said:

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - Age 4

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - Age 4

"There are two kinds of love. Our love and God's love. But God makes both of them." Jenny - Age 8

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken." Elaine - Age 5

And love is showing you care about helping children. Please consider making a donation to St. John Eudes School. Donations are tax deductible and help the worthy cause of providing a quality Catholic education to deserving children. Your donation to the Annual Fund, Adopt-A-Student Program, Endowment, or other general or specific gifts is greatly appreciated. To donate please contact the School Office (818) 341-1454 or visit our website at www.sjeschool.net. Thank you!