



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Parish & School Get Ready for Summer Party!

Carnival to be Held on May 29~31
Grand Prize Drawing to Feature \$10,000 Give-Away!



Free Admission!
Free Entertainment!
Free Parking!
Lots of Fun!

Visit www.sjecarnival.com
 for complete details!

All alumni and friends are invited to attend the biggest event of the year! The *St. John Eudes Summer Carnival* will be held on May 29-31 (the weekend after Memorial Day) and will feature great entertainment, international food, fun rides, fantastic games, and amazing prizes.

The carnival is being co-chaired by Fred Perez and Ana Ure, who are both school parents. "It's a great way to bring everyone in the school and parish together," says Fred.



Carnival goers will be able to take a little time out from the rides and games to enjoy dancing to the great music in the entertainment tent.

And in addition to all the fun, proceeds will benefit the school and parish ministries.

The center piece of the carnival will be a huge entertainment tent that will house the main stage and a beer & margarita garden. The stage will feature great local acts and bands, and there will also be a dance floor for those who feel like getting up and "cutting the rug". There will also be a big screen TV set up to watch sporting events and other televised specials.

Besides the great fare of entertainment, there will also be great fare in food. Food booths, captained by a number of parish ministries,

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SJE Students Continue Tradition of Excellence at Interfaith Symposium

Each year the Interfaith Symposium (which is sponsored by several faith-based organizations, including the Archdiocese of Los Angeles) celebrates the wide diversity among religious, cultural, and ethnic perspectives and traditions who share many of the same sacred texts.

As part of its activities, the Symposium sponsors an art contest and invites students to create exciting, colorful images to illustrate their vision of the people and events depicted in the many stories relating to forgiveness and atonement. The themes, ranging from ancient religious texts to modern day examples, were based on (1) God's repeated forgiveness of Israel, (2) Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, (3) Biblical stories of atone-

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Highlights:

- **Summer Carnival to Celebrate Parish, School; Featuring Fun Times & \$10,000 Grand Prize Give-Away**
- **Students Draw Top Place Honors in Art Contest; Inspire Others by Their Works**
- **SJE Teacher Acknowledged on Stage at Disney Concert Hall; Bravo Ms. Stula!**
- **Alumni Parent Receives Humanitarian Award**
- **Alumna Performs "Mission Impossible" Stunts; Pit-Crews for NASCAR**
- **"Alumnus of the Year" to be Honored for Volunteer, Professional Work**
- **SJE Students Act Like Animals on Noah's Ark; Principal and Pastor Proud**

SJE Teacher Honored at L.A. Music Center BRAVO Awards

The Music Center of Los Angeles County, a national leader in arts education, honors teachers and schools for exemplary arts education with the BRAVO Awards. Established in 1983 to recognize teachers and schools for innovation and excellence in arts education, it honors educators who use the arts to revitalize teaching, enhance student's achievement and foster self-esteem, teamwork cross-cultural communication and understanding.

All the candidates were invited to several seminars over the summer and to a special arts educator forum at the Music Center last October. In addition to the lively forums, the candidates from public and private schools throughout the County of Los Angeles completed the rigorous self-assessment process and the submission of extensive evidence of their superior quality Fine Arts programs.

As part of the effort to acknowledge and recognize

the art educators, this year's event was held on stage at the dazzling Walt Disney Concert Hall on March 10. The ceremony honored teachers and schools for exemplary education in the arts. The program showcases the hard work and dedication these educators have given to their students, their profession and their communities. The event was hosted by acclaimed producer/director, Garry Marshall, and included musical performances and a reception.

This year, our own Ms. Catherine Stula,

junior high teacher at SJE School, was a recipient of the prestigious award. Ms. Stula received a crystal engraved apple award and a formal commendation certificate signed by Supervisor Mike Antonovich and all the other members of the County Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Danowitz, principal of St. John Eudes, attended the event and stated, "The event was like the Academy Awards for the teachers." We congratulate Ms. Stula for her dedication, love for her students, and outstanding arts instruction.



Ms. Stula discusses the fine points of student art work with SJE parent, Jerry Neglio, during the recent Open House which was part of the Catholic Schools Week celebration at St. John Eudes School.

Interfaith Symposium

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ment and forgiveness, (4) Christ's teachings about forgiveness, and (5) Personal examples of atonement and forgiveness.

The professional art judges said they enjoyed looking at every submission and had a very hard time choosing this year's winning art, especially in the junior high category. There were over 500 entries from various public and private schools that were evaluated. St. John Eudes students once again made an outstanding showing in the contest, sweeping almost every art category. Certificates of merit and cash prizes were presented at a school assembly.

Congratulations to those who participated – talented students, teachers and parents. Almost every student at St. John Eudes submitted a caring, creative, original design about forgiveness and atonement.

The quality of the work was wonderful and an inspiration to all.

Over the years, St. John Eudes students have continued the pattern of sweeping multiple award categories with the direction of Ms. Catherine Stula who organizes the contests for the school. Kudos to Ms. Stula and the talented art students at St. John Eudes on this wonderful achievement!

The Sixth Annual Interfaith Symposium of Theology, Art and Music Awards were given to the following SJE students in the category of Art:

Category Gr. K-2: 2nd Place – *Lauren Calderon (Gr. 1)*; 3rd Place – *Kiana LaBella (Gr. 1)*

Category Gr. 3-5: 1st Place – *John Francis (Gr. 4)*; 2nd Place – *Andrew Wall (Gr. 4)*; 3rd Place – *Brett Norkus (Gr. 4)*

Category Gr. 6-8: 2nd Place (tie) – *Natalia Mendoza (Gr. 6)*, *Thomas Wall (Gr. 7)*; 3rd Place – *Joseph Prospero (Gr. 8)*

In a Lighter Vein . . .

Why Teachers Get Grey Hair

Teacher: How old were you on your last birthday?

Billy: Seven.

Teacher: How old will you be on your next birthday?

Billy: Nine.

Teacher: That's impossible.

Billy: No, it isn't, Teacher. I'm eight today.

Susi: Teacher, would you punish me for something I didn't do?

Teacher: Of course not.

Susi: Good, because I didn't do my homework.

Teacher: Why did you do so badly on the test?

Billy: Because of absence.

Teacher: But you weren't absent on the day of the test?

Billy: No, but the kid who sits next to me was.

Teacher: If you received \$10 from 10 people, what would you get?

Susi: A new bike.

We don't quite need a new bike but we do need you to 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!



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Kelly McNall-Steiner '80 attended Louisville High School and graduated in 1984. She then attended California State University, San Bernadino, where she obtained a B.S. in Psychology in 1988. She went on to California State University, Northridge, and received her M.S. degree in Counseling in 1992. She married her husband, John Steiner, in 1997. John is a General Contractor with Steiner Bros. Construction. Kelly and John have a 3 year-old son named Henry Owen. In addition to taking care of her family, Kelly is busy with her occupation as a Marriage Family Child Therapist. She has a private practice in Tarzana and sees children, teens, families, couples and individuals for therapy. She also works for an agency called *Counseling4Kids* and sees children in foster care for therapy in their foster homes.

Jeffrey Jagiello '97 attended Alemany High School and graduated in 2001. He was academically successful and enjoyed a number of sports, including volleyball and water polo. Jeffrey was also active in sports at Mason Park, working in athletic programs with children as a coach, referee and scorekeeper. After Alemany, Jeffrey attended Moorpark College (where he learned to swing-dance) and obtained a General Education Certification, upon which he transferred to California State University, Northridge. While at CSUN he was an active member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and took care of the fraternity finances. He graduated from CSUN in 2005 with a B.A. in Business Finance. While at CSUN he interned at Morgan-Stanley but his first job after graduation was with Wells-Fargo. He

then worked at Country-Wide and now works for JP Morgan-Chase as a mortgage broker and enjoys the challenges of his job and career (especially in these challenging times!). He spends his free time at the gym and playing volleyball, taking hikes, swing-dancing, playing guitar, snowboarding, waterskiing, and being with his girlfriend, Kiren. But he also eventually hopes to return to college and obtain his M.B.A.

Kevin Ault ('98) graduated from St. Anthony High School on Maui in 2002. He then attended Miami University in Ohio and is currently completing his business degree at Central Florida University. He is employed at Walt Disney World, as is his brother **Ryan Ault ('99)**. Ryan also graduated from St. Anthony High School. He then continued his educational studies at Indiana University.

Tiffany Kurpjuweit (Susan) '00 graduated from The High School at Moorpark College in 2004 (where a car crash two months in her senior year prevented her from returning to school, but she finished the year primarily due to her principal who actually brought her homework to her – and who Tiffany calls “amazing”). In October, 2004, she started stunt driving and was hired by the stunt driving school she was attending as an instructor later that year. The company eventually moved to Florida and Tiffany decided to continue her automotive education. She is now attending WyoTech Long Beach for Automotive Technologies and is pit-crewing for NASCAR West Coast Choppers “Jesse’s Girl,” who is a female racecar driver named Candace Muzny. When she graduates, she and Candace plan on opening a stunt driving and stock car racing school for girls. They plan on opening two locations, one in



SJE alumni parent, Bill Dempsy Young (left), was recently awarded the Joe Lewis Humanitarian Award. Pictured with Bill are Monroe Ratliff, Howard Smith, Charlie Powell and Larry Montalvo. Past recipients of the award include former Police Chief Bernard Parks, Muhammed Ali, Ken Norton, Don King and other well known figures in boxing.

North Carolina and one somewhere in L.A. County. Tiffany has been involved in stunt driving for the movies (*Mission Impossible III*) and has her own website which she invites you to visit – www.tiffanysusan.com.

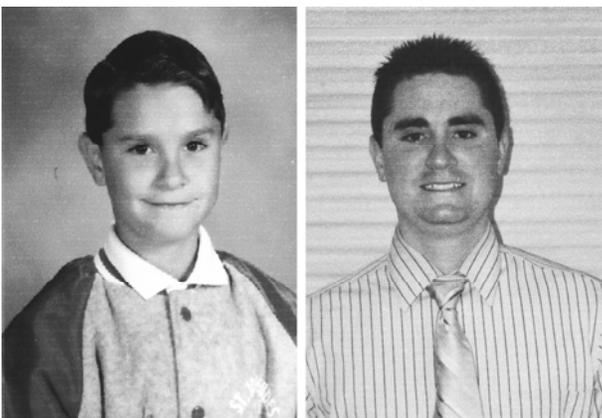
SJE students go on to do wonderful things and we'd like to hear what you've been doing since graduating from SJE School (or if you're a parent, now's your chance to brag a little). E-mail to theheartbeat@sjeschool.net or send us a note to:

Attn: The HeartBeat
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“Alumnus of the Year” to be Honored at Trustee Dinner

The Alumnus of the Year committee unanimously selected **Sarah Connor '81** as the SJE School 2009 *Alumnus of the Year*. The committee, headed by Msgr. Nugent and Mrs. Danowitz, cited Sarah's extensive volunteer community work and also her professional career which has involved cancer research and prevention. Throughout her high school, college, and professional life, the committee found that she has applied the principles of “to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy” since attending St. John Eudes School.

The award will be presented at the SJE School Endowment Trustees' Annual Dinner on April 25, at which the trustees and members of the St. John Eudes School Board will be in attendance. The announcement of the honor was made in January during Catholic Schools Week.



Jeffrey Jagiello '97 in 1993-Gr. 5 (left) and today (right). Working in the mortgage industry Jeffrey must certainly have a front-row seat on the current economic roller-coaster!

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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

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Summer Carnival

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will serve an international cuisine of American favorites like hamburgers and hot dogs, Mexican specialties like enchiladas and nachos, Filipino chicken adobo and banana wraps, Italian hoagie sandwiches and (of course) pizza, and a whole variety of carnival goodies, candies, and ice cream.

And if it's thrills you want, there will be plenty of them! There'll be fantastic carnival games that will challenge and delight you, not to mention the amazing prizes. But don't forget the great carnival rides – which will electrify you whether you're 5 or 95.

The high-point of the carnival will be the Grand Prize Drawing which will be a \$10,000 give-away to the lucky winners. The drawing will take place on Sunday night at 7:00 pm in the entertainment tent (winners need not be present).

A Special Message From the Principal *Praying with Children Strengthens Bonds with Parents*

Praying with your children is a wonderful opportunity to reveal religious dimensions of everyday situations. The more you become accustomed to looking for the presence of God in every day experience, the more spontaneous it becomes. Prayer is a two-way talking with God-saying what is in our hearts, but also listening to the presence of God in our hearts.

Young children follow formal prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary); they pray for special people and pets. At this stage of development they are followers and listeners. Older children (9 to 13) start to personalize prayer; they pray for the needs of people close to them

and see prayer as a way of insuring God's help for them. They may also pray for guidance in their behavior and look to models such as the saints. Teenagers may start to analyze prayer and the Bible, applying them to their own lives. They enjoy a variety of experiences and may express a growing desire to become more active and to be leaders in prayer. Adolescents pray to establish a relationship with God so that their lives are more dependent on Him; they begin to search for the meaning of their experiences.

Parents teach prayer to their children by example more than in words. Parents form ideas about prayer for their children whether they realize it or not. Through the things that parents do and do not do, the child receives a message about the

So come join us at the carnival and get the most out of your entertainment budget (and help a worthwhile cause at the same time!). For complete details about the carnival, including how to get Grand Prize Drawing tickets or to purchase discount pre-event ride tickets, please visit the carnival website at www.sjecarnival.org. ♥

importance of prayer. When children share a common experience with parents and witness the warm sincerity with which their parents pray, they learn how God is a part of their lives.

A Prayer for Parents

Bless these parents, Lord, with a light in their hearts to lead children to you. Enable them to see the light of Jesus in their families. May smiles be on their faces and love in their hearts as they serve you always. Amen

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz



P.S. Last month I had the privilege of attending the Los Angeles Opera production of *Noye's Flude* (*Noah's Flood*) at the Cathedral with Msgr. Nugent and SJE families. It was an overwhelming delight to witness such a well done professional performance, and know that thirty-three of our students were part of that great experience!

A Special Thank You! to everyone who donated to the special collection for the Science Lab during Catholic Schools Week. We received over \$5,000 and that put us, along with previous donations, over half way to our goal. The Science Lab is a very important project for the school. Please visit www.sjeschool.net for more information about how to donate.

Our own Serena Boutin (Gr. 7), who played a principal role, demonstrated true stage presence like a professional actor. She was chosen for her singing and acting ability. The remainder of our students portrayed the animals and kept in character the entire

time. We were so impressed with our little cat, Ela Rybak, and our little mouse, Xavier Lopez, both Kindergarteners. Msgr. Nugent and I were so proud to be seated up front knowing that the majority of the cast were the children and the adult choir of St. John Eudes! It was terrific exposure of our talent to the larger community.

We wish to thank Mr. Rich Medrano for his outstanding preparation and direction of the children and the choir, as well as the parents of the performers who sacrificed quite a bit with the LA Opera's intense practice schedule.

You can find out more about The LA Opera and its collaboration with community productions at their website.