



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

SJE Class of 2009 Graduates A New Legacy for the New Millennium



Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Danowitz, Mrs. Thies, and Ms. Stula present the proud SJE Class of 2009 – the first SJE class to be educated completely in the new millennium from Kindergarten to the 8th Grade. The academic strength of the class is evidenced by the fact that each of the students were admitted to their first choice of high schools.

Every year it happens . . . a fledgling class of exuberant 8th Grade *Eaglets* pushes their way out of the incubating nest of SJE. The *Class of 2009* was highly anticipatory as the school pulsated with culminating activities. The class graduation photo in cap & gown, May crowning, finals, trip to Universal Studios, parent-graduate prayer service and dinner dance, Spanish class trip to Los Toros restaurant, graduates retreat, class breakfast and whole school farewell mass all added the final chapter of memories to their brimming SJE album.

Many in this resilient and close-knit class, arrived at their grade school testing ground of faith, academics and service as the new century turned. During the ensuing years some left, others joined. On June 12, twenty-nine newly minted Eagles added their names to the SJE alumni list.

Their teachers – Mrs. Koerner, Mrs. Murashko, Mrs. Beckstead, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Messiha, Mrs. Dzilvelis, Sr. Encarnacion, Mrs. Dickson, Mrs. Pascali, Sr. Georgina, Mrs. Thies, Ms. Stula, Mr. Allington, Mr. Gonzales, Mr. Medrano, Mrs. Reyes, Mrs. Strom, Sr. Guadalupe, Mrs. Tenorio, Sr. Rosemary and Mrs. Danowitz – helped turn the pages of textbooks into neurons of knowledge. Frs. Mac, Victor, Paul, Kenneth, Bill and Msgr. Peter Nugent helped them uncover the treasure of God's love in the pages of Scripture. Their numerous class and school-mates helped make the many months and years of studies interesting, cooperative and fun.

As they depart for the wider world of high school and, soon enough, college, the graduating class will certainly carry the lasting vestige of their time here in the Eagle's nest. The

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this Issue:

School Board Approves Science Lab; Welcomes New Members	2
Summer Carnival Celebrates Spirit	2
The Pulse: News About Alumni & Friends	3
In a Ligher Vein	3
Alumnus of the Year Honored at Trustees' Dinner	3
A Special Thanks to Our Special Supporters	4

Highlights:

- **Class of 2009 Ready to Move into Wider World Helped by Teachers, Friends**
- **Summer Carnival Shows Spirit of School, Parish; Large Crowd Exceeds Expectations**
- **Science Lab Construction Beings; Will be Ready for Fall**
- **School Parent Wins Big in Drawing; Comes Away with Double Prize**
- **Alumna Designs "Quiggles"; Displayed to Millions**
- **Alumni Parents Honored; "Old Goats" Receive Interfaith Award**
- **Alumna Recognized for Volunteerism, Work with Cancer Patients**
- **Donors Show Great Generosity; Provide Vital Support**

SJE School Board Approves Science Lab Construction; Welcomes New Members

At a special meeting of the St. John Eudes Parish School Board, the Board provided final advisory approval to begin construction of the new Science Lab. The Lab will be built by remodeling the existing rooms which once housed the Religious Education Offices adjacent to the Old Parish Hall.

Mrs. Danowitz noted, "I am so grateful to Tony Nasr for designing the plans and to Jenny Zoller for being the liaison on this project." Mr. Nasr is a school parent who developed the architectural plans and Mrs. Zoller is an alumni parent and current member of the School Board. The actual construction is being performed by Artner Construction, which did the work for the Fr. McNamara Library. Mrs. Danowitz added, "Having a Science

Lab will provide our students with excellent opportunities to broaden their academic achievements."

Construction is scheduled to be completed by the time school begins in the fall. Sponsorship opportunities for equipment such as the "smart board", microscopes, and desks are available. Please contact the School Office if you would like to donate and be a part of this exciting project.

The School Board also welcomed three new members – David Lara, Chad Rach, and Angelle Roussel. They joined the current appointed members – Rick Crandall, Alan Lien, Ernie Star, Jill Stewart, Liza Trinidad, Oscar Urrutia, and Jenny Zoller – at the June meeting. A special thanks to retiring member John Chady for his dedicated service to the parish and the school as one of the Board's original members.



This recent photo shows the progression of construction which began on the Science Lab immediately after school was out for the summer. Most of the rough construction has already been completed. While the construction phase of the project has been funded, additional funds for the equipment and supplies required for the lab are still needed.



Above: Kids of all ages enjoyed the rides – whether they were the kiddie rides or the more exhilarating roller coasters and thrill rides. There were also carnival games and prizes to award the skilled. Below: Carnival goers enjoyed their food and drinks in the Entertainment Tent where they were treated to non-stop performances. Entertainment included the SJE Talent Show, fantastic dance groups, marshall arts demonstrations, several live bands, a performance by the SJE Children's Choir; karaoke, the popular "SJE Idol Contest", and a marvelous musical/comedy review of the 60's.



The SJE 2009 Summer Carnival Celebrating the Spirit in Our School and Parish

This year's carnival took place on the last week of May, which was also Pentecost weekend – truly an appropriate time to celebrate and to display our parish and school spirit. The carnival was sponsored by a number of parish ministries and organizations, including the school. Parents, students, and alumni, all came together to staff the food booths, sell tickets, and manage the games.

Despite concerns about the economy, the Carnival Committee reported that attendance increased over last year's carnival and that proceeds exceeded expectations. Carnival goers showed their enthusiastic support for the event by enjoying the wide variety of international foods, playing exciting carnival games, and riding the extensive array of rides that lined the midway. Proceeds will be used to improve parish facilities used by the school and other parish organizations.

The highlight of the carnival was the Grand Prize Drawing which gave away a total of \$10,000 Cash to five lucky winners: \$5,000 First Prize to Bill Wood (Northridge), \$3,000 Second Prize to Carter Austin (West Hills), \$1,000 Third Prize to Angelle Roussel (Northridge), \$750 Fourth Prize to Bill Wood (Northridge), and \$250 Fifth Prize to Lisa Kilenian (Chatsworth). A special thanks to Angelle Roussel (Carnival Volunteer Chairperson and SJE Parish School Board Member) who donated her prize back to the carnival.



The carnival is a great way to have fun and show your spirit. All alumni and friends are invited to join us next year at this wonderful event! Check the carnival website for the latest about next year's carnival at sjecarnival.org.

Double-lucky winner Bill Wood of Northridge received his \$5,000 Cash First Prize and \$750 Cash Third Prize from Msgr. Nugent. Bill's two boys, Billy (Gr. 4) and Andrew (Gr. 1), are SJE students.



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends



The Class of 2009 rocks out on stage in Grill Hall at the Graduation Dinner as they celebrate their achievements. Rock on new alumni!

Shelby Mendoza '99 attended Louisville High School and graduated in 2003. At LHS she was active on the Water Polo and Swim Teams. She was a member of the California Scholarship Federation and received honors at entry to California State University, Northridge. At CSUN she was in the Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) and received her B.A. in Liberal Studies, as well as her

In a Lighter Vein . . .

"If you had a dollar," quizzed the teacher, "and you asked your father for another dollar and fifty cents, how much money would you have?"

"One dollar," answered little Johnny "You don't know your basic math," said the teacher shaking her head, disappointed.

Little Johnny shook his head too, "You don't know my daddy."

*We're sure Johnny's daddy would have given him the money if he knew it was going to be used for a good cause. 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 visit our website at www.sjeschool.net or contact the School Office at (818) 341-1451. Thank you!*

teaching credentials. While attending CSUN she was a tutor to SJE students. After graduating CSUN in 2007, she was a Kindergarten teacher at Strathern Elementary School – but due to current budget cuts she will serve as a substitute teacher in the coming school year. She is planning to return to CSUN to obtain a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology. She likes to swim and read when she has some free time.

Kristina Star '00 attended Chaminade College Preparatory where she was active in the music program (playing saxophone) as a member of the Eagle Regiment Marching Band and the Chaminade Concert and Jazz Bands. As a musician at Chaminade she received the United State Marine Corps *Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence* and the National Catholic Band Association *Honors Band Award*. She graduated from Chaminade in 2004 and attended California Lutheran University. As a Junior she transferred to California State University, Northridge, to study graphics and multimedia art and was admitted to the Sigma Alpha Pi Honor Society. While at CSUN she interned at several graphic art studios including MLG (Marvin's Lion Gate/Marvel Comics) and Neopets (Nickelodeon/Viacom). She recently graduated from CSUN with honors and received her B.A. degree in Art. Upon graduation, she was hired by Neopets to design and draw graphics for their website *neopets.com*. Neopets has over 170 million members and a number of Kristina's graphic designs have already been posted on the website including a *Dogglefox*, *Meowclops*, and a pair of waving *Quiggles*. When she's not working on her graphic projects she continues to enjoy playing her saxophone with a community band which performs at various venues throughout the Southern California area.

Janet Chu '02 attended Louisville High School where she was active in

robotics, the Science Bowl, and participated in mock trials. She also participated in the Explorers, as well as math and literary clubs, and enjoyed being on the LHS Golf Team. She graduated from LHS in 2006 with numerous awards. She was then accepted to Stanford University where she is pursuing a B.A. degree in Human Biology. At Stanford she is actively involved in SCOPE (Students Clinical Opportunities for Premedical Experience) which is a premed program. She is also a member of the Stanford campus Vietnamese organization. She likes to spend her free time with her friends, but she is now currently studying diligently for the Medical College Admission Test. Her professional goal is to become a medical doctor and specialize in cardiology.

The Old Goats, a singing group whose members are all alumni parents or friends of SJE school, received special recognition as *Outstanding Volunteers of the Year* from the Valley Interfaith Council. The group sings on a weekly basis at the Senior Care Center in Chatsworth. The group includes Jim Gergen, Bob Smiley, Mary Ann & Gene Walinski, Don Sabino, Pat O'Flaherty, and Bob Eagles.



Sarah Connor '81 was honored at the recent St. John Eudes Endowment Trustees' Dinner as the 2009 Alumna of the Year. Sarah was cited for her outstanding volunteerism and work on behalf of cancer patients.

St. John Eudes School

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

www.school.stjohnesudes.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
Eva Star

SJE Class of 2009

(Continued from page 1)

comforting spirit of Mother Paula Montal, and burning desire of St. John Eudes is imprinted on their hearts. The best wishes of the whole community will raise them up . . . no matter where they soar.

Congratulations Graduates!

Members of the SJE Class of 2009 are:

Nathan Abbene*, Kaitlyn Amodeo*, Erica Carr*, Elizabeth Davidson, Jaclyn Del Real*, Christine Freymiller, Amberly Gil, Kelsey Hawthorne, Conan Klein*, Mikala Larez*, Amanda Masongsong, Daniela Medina, Kellie Meusborn*, Madison Moliq, Chayanne Morejon, Jacqueline Morris*, Ashley Muntz*, Caline Nasr*, Nathan Neglio, Austin Niehaus*, Samantha Olivas*, Ana Patino, Michael Pollock*, Joseph Prospero*, Lorenzo Sacramento, Brooke Shaffer, Samantha Telford, Kyle Thompson, Ian Trinidad.

* Denotes members of original Kindergarten class.

A Special Thanks to Our Special Supporters

With the completion of the 2008-2009 School Year, we would like to acknowledge those Alumni and Friends who have contributed to the SJE School Annual Fund Campaign and the Adopt-A-Student Program. Donors are also acknowledged on the alumni website and on a plaque that will be displayed in the School Office for the coming year.

The support received from these contributors has been particularly critical this year as we aimed to begin remodeling for the Science Lab and because of the extraordinary financial needs created by the current economic conditions. Thank you to all those who have supported the school through these programs!

2008-2009 Annual Fund Campaign

for Science Lab Construction

PlatinumHeart Circle

\$5,000 and More

Anonymous

GoldenHeart Circle

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Hannon Foundation

SilverHeart Circle

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Chad & Becky Rach

Elisabeth H. Star

in Honor of Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P.

Calasanz Council

\$500 to \$999

Michael Halloran

Stephen & Sharon Suttles

Eagle's Club

Gifts up to \$249

Teri Angel

Jose Arambulo

Beverly Banks

Dino & Gloria Benedetti

Thomas & Jean Bouchard

Bertha Busacay

Federico & Estrella Cabral Jr

Esperanza Camacho

John Chady

Catherine M. Connelly

Kim Dapello

Il D'Auria

Carolyn Dileski

Patricia Dupree

Bob & Irene Ellefson

James & Dorothy Fenningham

James Fenwick

Lolita & Alicia Fong

Fox Family

Carmen Frasca

Nancy Hard

F.C. & Pearl Henzgen

David & Grace Hernandez

Charles & Dorothy Knolls

Sylvia & Knut Kongelbeck

Gustavo Luna

Donald & Suzanne Martin

Rafael & Laura Mayoral
McKay Family
William & Nancy McSweeney
Eugene & Janice Natoli
Gerard Neglio
Eileen Pendleton
Teresa Petach
Mike & Jennifer (Sembauer) Prince
Richard & Elizabeth Ricci
Robert & Audry Riley
Marianela & Douglas Rindt
Angelle Roussel
James & Bridget Russell
Robert Russell
Socorro Samson
Carl & Merlyn Schack
Walter & Patricia Sembauer
Lee & Ildiko Siegrist
Virgilio & Consorcia Suizo
Myrna Uyttingco
Richard Van Noy
Emmanuel & Lorie Vitocruz
Massoud Zarkesh
Richard Zeisel
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

2008-2009 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors

\$500 and More

Anonymous

The Breard Family

The Capital Group Companies

Matching Gift Courtesy of Chad & Becky Rach

James & Alouez Linehan

Freymiller Family

Chad & Becky Rach Family

Richard & June Zeisel

Information about contributing to the 2009-2010 Annual Fund and Adopt-A-Student Program is available on our website at www.sjeschool.net.