



# The HeartBeat

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

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## SJE School Science Lab Dedicated; Old Parish Hall Gets New Name

### Double Dedication Ceremony Fills Hall with Students, Alumni, Parents & Friends

As the school year got underway, students, alumni, parents, parishioners, and friends filled the Old Parish Hall on Aug. 30 to join in the dedication ceremony for the new Science Lab and the renaming of the hall. Also attending was the St. John Eudes Parish School Board, the Sisters of the Pious Schools, and members of the SJE Parent-Teacher Support Organization.

The Science Lab had been a dream at St. John Eudes for a number of years. Initial donations had been received from several major donors to get the project started, and last year's Catholic Schools Week Collection was allocated to help fund the project. This allowed the construction phase of the project to be substantially funded by the end of the last school year.

There were however a number of items that needed to be determined and resolved before construction could actually start. Jenny Zoller, Chairperson of the School Board's Building & Grounds Committee, assisted Mrs. Danowitz as the liaison for the project and worked closely with the architect, Tony Nasr (who is also a school parent), and the contractor, Artnr Construction. With everyone's hard work, the project received the necessary permits from the city and construction began immediately when school let out last summer.

The project was completed on schedule and the lab was ready for use before the start of this school year. Msgr. Nugent blessed the lab and thanked all

those who donated to the project and those who worked so hard to make it a reality.

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## New School Year Brings New Changes, New Challenges

A new school year always brings with it new challenges and opportunities. This year is no exception. But the challenges and opportunities of this year are directly affected by the status of the economy and the longest economic downturn in the last 70 plus years.

At the annual *Back-to-School Night* Mrs. Danowitz outlined ways that the school is coping with the situation and working to control costs. Among several initiatives, she has implemented the use of the school website to distribute the Weekly Family Enve-

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*Sr. Rosemary poses with friends in front of the new St. Paula Montal Hall. The parish renamed the hall to thank the Sisters of the Pious Schools for the many years of service to the school and parish.*

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### Highlights:

- **Old Parish Hall Rededicated as "St. Paula Montal Hall"; Sisters of the Pious Schools Honored for Work in Parish, School**
- **Science Lab Becomes Reality; Improved Formula for New Educational Opportunities**
- **Recession Affects School Families; School Pledges to Help**
- **Family Envelope Gets New Address on Internet**
- **Swimmers Drenched with Trophies; Drought Ends for SJE Eagles**
- **Golfers Go Clubbing for Computers**
- **Alumna Paints Wall; Seeks to Join "Wicked" Ranks**
- **Graduate Gets Soaked at Las Vegas Casino**
- **Cadettes Come to Aid of Guardian Angel; Scout Out Way to Help Others**

# Mighty Eagles Are Tops at 31st Invitational Swim Meet

## Hard Work by Swimmers, Coaches, Parents Puts SJE Swim Team Back on Top

Scoring a whopping 1,480.5 points, the Eagles of St. John Eudes successfully won the top honors at their own 31st *Invitational Swim Meet* held Oct. 4th at the San Fernando Regional Swimming Pool. Saint Francis De Sales took second place, and St. Mels completed the award stand trio.

While the Swim Team is a parish team, it is made up mostly of SJE students and all the swimmers were more than ready to work hard and reap rewards at the world class facility that was christened just one year ago. Weather conditions were near perfect, after a chilly fall morning, with sunshine all around and a slight breeze.

In taking a first place

team trophy, the Eagles ended their two decades-long swimming dry spell. Twenty years ago, SJE routinely shared top honors in the San Fernando Valley Catholic Swim League. But after losing its winning ways for a few years, the team began a gradual, purposeful, climb up the SFVCSL placement chart under new management in 1991 and with a

fortified staff of parent coaches.

The Eagles call Rancho San Antonio Pool their "home" and attract eighty-plus swimmers during the regular season, late August through mid-November. Approximately one third of the members also compete or work-out, off-season, with USS clubs or SJE.



SJE Eagles show the winning spirit that got them back to No. 1.

## New School Year

(Continued from page 1)

lope. The envelope will be distributed electronically through an on-line link. This will save numerous hours of photocopying time, not to mention the wear and tear on the copy machines, the time required to stuff the envelopes, and the cost of paper.

One of the main challenges for the year however will be to help families maintain the ability to keep their children in a Catholic school.

Due to the recession, many families who never thought of asking for tuition assistance find themselves now needing help. The school is experiencing it's highest rate of tuition assistance requests ever.

Mrs. Danowitz however has

made a pledge that no student will be denied a Catholic education because of their family's inability to pay. She noted however that the school will need help from families, alumni and friends in order to realize this commitment. She urged families, that have the resources available, to support the *Adopt-a-Student Program* and help provide tuition assistance to families that are less fortunate.

The school needs help from its alumni and friends to meet the challenges of the

coming year. While the school receives exceptional support from St. John Eudes parishioners, it does not receive a subsidy from parish funds and must meet its own financial needs. Alumni, parents of alumni, and friends of the school are urged to help needy families in these particularly difficult times. Please support the *Adopt-a-Student Program* or donate to the school's *Annual Fund*. More information about these programs can be found on the school website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net) - click on *Donate*.



Left: Mrs. King conducts science class in the new lab explaining the intricacies of electricity to her students. Right: The new lab also includes a "smart board" which allows multimedia and interactive student presentations.



## Tournament to Benefit School; Provide New Computers



There's still time to sign up for the St. John Eudes Golf Classic 2009 to be held at the Porter Valley Country Club on Monday, Nov. 9, with tee off at 12:00 noon. The tournament in the past has raised over \$80,000 to support the youth and school of St. John Eudes Parish. This year the tournament proceeds will be allocated to update classroom computers. 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 chairperson Bryan Suttles at (818) 438-8315 or by email to [sjgolf@live.com](mailto:sjgolf@live.com).

### In a Lighter Vein . . .

During religion class the teacher was discussing how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially interested when the teacher told how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife!"

*We're not quite asking that you donate a rib, but we do ask that you 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) 341-1451 or visit our website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net). Thank you!*

**Noel Lamendola '98** attended Alemany High School where she was active on the Volleyball Team and in Student Government. When she graduated in 2002 she attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. At UNLV she was in the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and was involved with fundraising for *Ronald McDonald House* and *Relay for Life*. She graduated in 2008 with a B.A. in Sociology. During college she worked as a lifeguard at the Golden Nugget and has now been promoted to Pool Supervisor. She plans to enter the pharmaceutical sales profession and hopefully one day to get married and travel.



*While on a recent vacation from her assignment in India, Sr. Rosemary reconnects with SJE students. She shared many interesting stories about her experiences on the Indian subcontinent.*

**Tyler "TJ" Mendoza '02** graduated from Alemany High School in 2006 where he was active on the Water Polo and Swim Teams. After high school, he attended Oxnard Community College and recently received his Associate of Arts Degree in Fire Protection. This fall will be attending California State University, Los Angeles, where he is continuing his studies in fire protection. His goal is to become a professional fire fighter.

A photograph by **Nigel Jones '05** was included in a recent California State University, Northridge, photography exhibition called *Home* - an exhibition by CSUN graduate and undergraduate students which explores interpretations of the concept of "home". Nigel is a freshman at CSUN and being included in the exhibit during his first year is quite an accomplishment. Congratulations Nigel!

**Taylor Munoz '05** is a freshman student at CSUN and she is applying her artistic talents to an entrepreneurial endeavor. Taylor creates custom designed sneakers with her favorite designs and characters. Taylor has already sold a number of sneakers and hopefully will be able to develop her idea further into a broader based venture.



*"Vans" are her canvas: Custom designed shoes showcase the talent of Taylor Munoz, SJE alumna-artist.*

**Lauren Somerville '05** graduated from Alemany High School in 2009. Before heading off to college to study Communication she completed her Girl Scout Gold Award Project called "Painting our Future" where Lauren painted a mural of *Whale* - the Winnetka Elementary School's mascot. She achieved a Gold Award for the project which is the highest award in Girl Scouting (congratulations Lauren on a job well done!). She is currently attending Woodbury University in Burbank where she is a freshman. She also plans to audition for the movie version of *Wicked* and hopes to get a part in the movie.

*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](mailto:theheartbeat@sjeschool.net) or send us a note to the School Office.*

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***A Community of Faith  
is a community of learners  
who recognize and nourish  
God-given gifts.***



### The HeartBeat

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## Science Lab, Hall Dedications

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The Science Lab was constructed by re-modelling the rooms that once housed the Religious Education Office (adjacent to the Old Parish Hall). The room has been completely refurbished, including new cabinets, tables, chairs, and a state-of-the-art "smart board".

In conjunction with the dedication of the Science Lab, the Old Parish Hall was re-named to *St. Paula Montal Hall* in honor of the Sisters of the Pious Schools who have been teaching at St. John Eudes School since it opened in 1966.

It was a special blessing to have former principal, Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P., attend the dedication. She was fortunately able to attend the ceremony while she was in So. California on vacation from her assignment in Kerala, India.

## The Color of Love

### ***SJE Girl Scout Troop Reaches Out to Community, Parish; Collects Supplies to Help Sister Parish & School***

Pencils, pens, ruled paper, folders, ruler, crayons, markers. You know that list of school supplies that comes in the mail during a blissful summer vacation? Many a parent has cringed about shopping for the contents. But what if every bit of money being earned is being used to pay for a place to live and food to eat? How will a child learn to write a paragraph, measure an object, create an artwork? Some special parents and students got a helpful answer to that question this year.

*Project Guardian Angel* was the service project that the Girl Scouts of Cadette Troop #1935 . . . decided over summer to accomplish," explains troop leader Shannon Wetzel. The members of the troop, who are all SJE School students, came up with a plan to ask for donations of supplies for the students of Guardian Angel Parish. Guardian Angel, located in Pacoima, is St. John Eudes' "sister" parish and school. The cadettes approached the Chatsworth community, including SJE parish and school, the local American Youth Soccer Organization - Region 795, and the Girl Scout Council.

Wetzel continues, "The girls found an enormous outpouring of generosity and their project was well-received. Word-of-mouth certainly traveled and the culmination of donations of school supplies amounted to approximately \$2,500."



*After delivering the supplies to the school, the Scouts were able to spend some time taking pictures and posed with Guardian Angel principal, Mr. Landeros.*

Troop members, along with parent leaders, Monica Barnett, Michele Altamirano, Kelly Akins, and Shannon Wetzel delivered "the goods" on Sept. 18. Guardian Angel Principal, Mr. Landeros, and students welcomed them; the supplies were quickly put to use and the girls were happy to share recess time with their Guardian Angel counterparts. The troop has one more delivery to make in October: classroom reading books such as *Charlotte's Web* and *Chronicles of Narnia*.

It seems the Guardian Angels of Pacoima have some guardian angels in Chatsworth – and they wear Girl Scout green



*Left to Right: Jenny Zoller (SJE School Board Buildings & Grounds Chairperson), Tiffany Pascal (Life Science Teacher), Tony Nasr (Architect), Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Danowitz, Angeline King (Science Teacher), and Dennis Brown (Artnet Construction) formed the core team for the construction of the Science Lab.*

*While the construction phase has now been completed, the lab still needs to be outfitted with equipment and lap-tops. Please consider donating to the lab (donors of \$500 or more are recognized on a permanent plaque in the lab). Contact the school office or visit [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net) for information about how to donate.*