



# The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net)

## Mardi Gras "Casino Night" Features Mississippi River Boat Theme You're Invited to Celebrate • Feb. 6 in Grill Hall

You're invited to join us "Aboard the Delta Queen" for the best Mardi Gras party west of the Mississippi!

There'll be a marvelous buffet dinner, toe-tapping music, thrilling entertainment, fantastic silent and live auctions, as well as exciting casino games (including bingo!) where you can win lots of great prizes. And don't forget about the fabulous Grand Prize Drawing!

The party starts at 6:30 pm on Saturday, Feb. 6, in Grill Hall and is sponsored by the St. John Eudes PTSO. Proceeds will help support our school programs. Because this party will be so much fun (and because drinks



### Mardi Gras Party

Sat. Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 2010  
6:30 PM Grill Hall

and cocktails will be served) it's for adults 21 years and over only.

You can get more information and reserve your tickets by downloading the *Mardi Gras Party Flier* from the school website. If you'd like to be a sponsor or donate items to the Mardi

Gras click on the website link to get additional *Sponsorship Information*. Business sponsors are welcome and will be provided special advertising opportunities as Gold Level sponsors.

So don't miss the boat and make your reservations today to get "Aboard the Delta Queen" before she sails. And mark your calendar now for the best Mardi Gras party ever!

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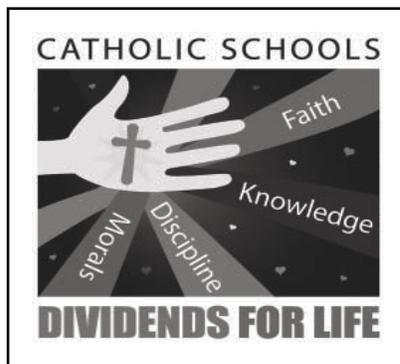
### Highlights:

- *Grill Hall to be Transformed into Riverboat; Mardi Gras Fun Sure to Make a Splash*
- *Interest in Catholic Schools Week Focuses on Educational Dividends*
- *"Smart Boards" Endorsed by Endowment Trustees; Provide Funds to School*
- *SJE365.com Facebook Site Goes Live; Alumni & Friends Invited to Connect - TYVM*
- *Church Tower Parades Through Chatsworth to Cheering Crowds*
- *Jog-a-Thon Continues Fundraising Run*
- *Summer Carnival to Celebrate Spirit of Pentecost*
- *L.A. Opera Putting SJE Children's Choir in "Lion's Den"*
- *Alumnus of the Year to be Announced During Catholic Schools Week*

## Catholic Schools Week Celebrates Values in Catholic Education SJE Open House Showcases Student Successes, Challenges

With all the focus lately on the economy and financial issues, it's time to focus a little more on values that provide a much better return on investment than a bank account.

For that reason, the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) chose "Catholic Schools - Dividends for Life" as the theme for Catholic Schools Week 2010. Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration that focuses attention on the good work done by the nation's Catholic schools. The week is observed nationally beginning



the last week of January, however SJE School celebrated it a little earlier this year by beginning celebrations on Jan. 24.

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the NCEA and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). According to Karen Ristau, NCEA

president, "Catholic schools provide good things for students and families – high expectations and daily experience of faith. In these challenging times, the theme also re-

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## Catholic Schools Week

(Continued from page 1)

minds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education – students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline – last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child’s future – or the future of our world.” Marie Powell, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education of the USCCB, noted: “We realize that in most parts of the country a Catholic education is not without some cost. But I can’t think of a better investment in the future than to invest in the education of a child.” (from NCEA Press Release)

At St. John Eudes School CSW is being celebrated with a number of special activities including special Masses, sports activities, special guest speakers, a *Grandparents/Visitors Day*, a math bee, the *Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day*, and the annual *Open House* which started the week’s celebrations on Jan. 24. The Open House welcomed visitors to view the classrooms, library, science lab, and school office. Student academic and art

## Catholic School Statistics

(from the National Catholic Educational Association)

<b>Total Catholic School Students:</b>	<b>2,192,531</b>
Elementary Enrollment:	1,568,016
Secondary Enrollment:	624,515
Minority Students:	29.3%
Non-Catholic:	14.9%
<b>Total Number of Schools:</b>	<b>7,248</b>
Elementary Schools:	6,028
Secondary Schools:	1,220
Co-Educational:	93.6%
Single Sex Male:	2.6%
Single Sex Female:	3.8%
New Schools in 2009:	31
New Schools in Last 5 years:	184
Schools with Waiting Lists:	2,114
<b>Full-Time Professional Staff:</b>	<b>157,615</b>
Laity:	96.0%
Religious/Clergy:	4.0%
Avg. Student/Teacher Ratio:	14:1

work were on display and teachers were available to meet with parents and visitors.

As part of Catholic Schools Week, *National Appreciation Day For Catholic*

## Endowment Trustees Vote Funds for School

At the recent December meeting of the St. John Eudes School Endowment Trustees, the trustees unanimously voted to transfer \$5,300 of Endowment income to the school to be used for the purchase of “Smart Boards” for the classrooms and also for needed maintenance work. The trustees’ decision was based in part on the improved performance of the Endowment fund over the last year. The trustees will meet again in April to review the status of the Endowment and to honor the *St. John Eudes 2010 Alumnus of the Year*.

Schools will be observed Wednesday, Feb. 3. National Appreciation Day was established to encourage supporters nationwide to showcase to elected officials the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools. In Washington, a delegation of Catholic school students, teachers and parents will visit Capitol Hill to meet with congressional leaders to promote Catholic schools.

## SJE Every Day of the Year: [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com)



Status update: St. John Eudes School has hit the Facebook Wall with its group site [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com). School Board member Oscar Urrutia is the mastermind behind this use of the highly popular Facebook social platform for SJE school events and supporters. “The idea was to be able to share images, photos, and videos of school activities that have already happened,” Urrutia explains.

The SJE Facebook site was launched December 3, 2009, and currently has thirty fans. The site allows fans to submit content for posting online, although Urrutia clarifies “postings go through an administrator” prior to appearing on the site, thus allowing the school to safeguard against inappropriate content. The regular school site will still be the source for all your school information but [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com) will be the place to see those pictures and videos taken by other students or parents.

Perhaps you are reading this article with the thought: “technology overkill”. Consider that the official St. John Eudes school website [www.school.stjohneudes.org](http://www.school.stjohneudes.org) while extremely useful, with numerous links to every piece of school information imaginable, is not interactive. On [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com), fans are encouraged to “share your memories and those of your kids while we build this great online community.”

Perhaps you are wistful for simpler times: the 3 “Rs”, or Abraham Lincoln with only books and the light of the fireplace. Perhaps you have a little case of technophobia. Consider that our current SJE students have never experienced a world without computers, and “newsfeed” to them means what all of their friends are posting on Facebook. [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com) is a forum for parents, kids, alumni, teachers and

school supporters.

Have you dragged your feet discovering the tools of the 21st century? Or have you simply not yet experienced an online social network? Do you already have a FB profile? Become a fan of [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com)! Sign-up, log-in, create a profile, find friends. You won’t regret it. WWJD? BFF. TYVM.



This picture of the SJE Girls “Red” Volleyball Team (which took 3rd at the La Reina tournament) was recently posted on the SJE Facebook page. Parents, students, alumni, and friends are encouraged to have their favorite SJE pictures posted on [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com).



## The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

**Patricia De La Riva ('74)** attended SJE from 1968-1972 and was active on the Girl's Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball teams. Alumni may remember her by her nickname "PeeWee". Sr. Beatrice was principal at the time and "Miss Rita" was the School Secretary (she is the sister of Sr. Rosemary, who was a young novice-in-training at the time). She fondly remembers her teachers who were Mother Isaura, Sr. Laura, Mr. Allington, and Mrs. Borchard. She attended Chatsworth High School and

played on the All City Girls Basketball Team. After graduating CHS in 1978 with honors as a High School All American Scholar Athlete, she continued her athletic career on a scholarship at California State

Congratulations to SJE 5th Grader **Zach Multer** whose winning drawing was selected for the cover of the Chatsworth Holiday Parade program! The parade featured a number of local organizations and floats, including a float designed and sponsored by St. John Eudes that featured a replica of the church tower. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to show our community spirit!

University, Northridge, playing on the Women's Basketball Team for all four years. She was the team captain and a member of the Varsity N Academic Club. Being the record holder of a number of team records, she was honored at CSUN

as a scholar athlete and a member of the All CCAA Basketball Team (and was inducted into the CSUN Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001). In 1984 she graduated CSUN with a B.S. Degree in

Environmental Occupational Health. She pursued a medical career by attending the University of California, Irvine, College of Medicine and graduated in 1989 – the same year that she married her husband, Carlos Fuentes (who currently works as a financial consultant and loves to coach baseball and basketball). In 1991 she completed her pediatric residency training at the University of Southern California (USC) Keck School of Medicine and Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles, upon which she began practicing as a full time staff physician at the Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG) - Kaiser Permanente Woodland Hills Medical Center. Since beginning her medical career, Patricia has been very active in pursuing her professional and civic interests and has served in a number of capacities.

She has been recognized for her dedication by SCPMG by being awarded the Kaiser Permanente Physician of the Year Award for 2001, the Everyday Hero Award (2005), and the Latino Association Unsung Hero Award (2006). Patricia (who loves to golf, walk, and exercise in her spare time) is Board Certified in General Pediatrics, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Co-chair of the Culturally Responsive Care Council (SCPMG), Physician Chair of

the Hippocrates Circle Mentoring Program (SCPMG) (which mentors middle school students), Physician Advisor to the Wellness-Thrive Committee (SCPMG), a member of the UCI Alumni Association, and a life-time member of both the CSUN Alumni Association and the CSUN Athletic Association. And above all, she is the loving mother of her two boys, Christian (17) and Alex (14).

**Andrew Orsini '96** attended Chatsworth High School where he was active on the football and baseball teams. He graduated CHS in 2000. He then attended California State University, Channel Islands. He worked his way through college as a waiter and received his Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. He currently works at the Woodland Hills Country Club employing his skills as a waiter and bartender while searching for his ideal job.

**Conner Mendoza '05** attended Alemany High School where he was active on the Water Polo and Swim Teams. He graduated in 2009 and plans to obtain an Associate of Arts degree at Moorpark College. He is considering several options concerning his professional career and looks forward to developing his academic interests while at Moorpark.

*Are you an alumnus or the parent of an alumnus? We'd love to hear from you! Let us know what you or your alumnus has been doing. Send us a note to:*

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

### In a Lighter Vein . . .

A little girl was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for school. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her uniform. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late . . . But please don't shove me either!"

*Please consider giving your heart a little shove (without making it trip!) and make 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!*



*St. John Eudes students intently surveyed the prizes at the annual Jog-a-Thon Raffle which was held after the jogging was completed. The raffle, with prizes donated by school families and friends, was one of the highlights of the Jog-a-Thon and helped to raise a significant part of the proceeds. This year, Jog-a-Thon proceeds totalled over \$50,000 and will help support the educational program of the school.*

## 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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## Save the Date for the SJE Summer Carnival! Pentecost Weekend • May 21-23

Even though it seems a little while away, summer will be here before you know it – and when it gets here we'll be ready to celebrate! So you're invited to join us in this celebration of a really fun season at the *St. John Eudes Summer Carnival*.

In addition to the carnival rides and games, there'll be food, music, and entertainment reflecting the marvelous ethnic and cultural diversity of our community. And whether you like to ride the rides or just sit and relax under our big tent and enjoy the show – there'll be fun and excitement for everyone!

So mark your calendar now and make sure to join us at the St. John Eudes Summer Carnival! Get more information at our website at [www.sjecarnival.org](http://www.sjecarnival.org).

## A Special Message from the Principal Preparing Our Students to be Global Thinkers

A new year has begun and with it renewed energy and spirit. We begin this next half of the school year with continued strong goals and sustained focus.

St. John Eudes School continues to work

towards preparing our students for a global-world. In the article *Five Mindful Ways to Prepare Global Thinkers* by Suzette Lovely she presents to educators the question "How do we prepare students for a future

that can change at the drop of a hat?" She includes the work of Howard Gardner who designed the *multiple intelligences* theory that has been used by educators for the past 25 years.

In 2008 Gardner authored *Five Minds for the Future* in which he offers recommendations for helping schools produce global thinkers. He lists 5 "mind types":

- *The Disciplined Mind*: Students must be able to improve, diversify and reinvent themselves.
- *The Synthesizing Mind*: Students must learn how to filter, analyze and discern

information.

- *The Creative Mind*: To educate students for jobs that don't exist yet, students must learn to make mistakes and rebound from them and learn to recalibrate efforts.

- *The Respectful Mind*: Students must learn tolerance, respect, and compassion.

- *The Ethical Mind*: Students must learn integrity, character, and shared responsibility.

St. John Eudes School  
*Student Learning Expectations*

include these recommendations. We hold high standards for our students because we know this is the road to success and preparation for the future.

We can all help by strongly supporting this philosophy and encouraging children to do their best at all times. The complete text of our Student Learning Expectations is available on our website at [www.school-stjohnesudes.org](http://www.school-stjohnesudes.org).

May God continue to bless you and your family in the new year!

Barbara Danowitz

## "Alumnus of the Year" to be Announced During Catholic Schools Week

Nominations for the *St. John Eudes School 2010 Alumnus of the Year* were recently accepted from alumni and friends and are now being considered by the selection committee. The committee will make its determination based on how well the nominee represents a life-long learner who lives their faith in the spirit of St. Paula Montal based on the principles of "to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy." Newly nominated alumni include **Monica Barnett** and **Christine Diane Coe '80** who will be added to the list of nominees submitted from the previous three years.

The recipient will be announced during Catholic Schools Week on the school website and in the parish bulletin. The award will be presented by Msgr. Nugent and Mrs. Danowitz, who head the selection committee, during a special Endowment Trustees Dinner in April.



### SJE Children's Choir to Perform with the L.A. Opera at Cathedral

The SJE Children's Choir will continue its association with the L.A. Opera (having previously been featured in *Noye's Fludde*) by performing with the opera company in *Daniel and the Lion's Den*. The performance will take place on Sunday, March 21, at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles.