



The HeartBeat

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

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Class of 2011: New Paths Begin at the End of the SJE Road



Msgr. Nugent, Mrs. Thies, Ms. Stula, and Mrs. Danowitz join the Class of 2011 in posing for their graduation picture. SJE students are valued by area high schools for their academic, athletic, and leadership skills.

Graduation. Commencement. The end and the beginning, all rolled up into one neat package. The SJE class of 2011 – a little bit of heaven! – twenty-eight strong, garnered documents of passage (their grade school diplomas) at a ceremony on June 10.

The close-knit class of seventeen girls and eleven boys listened as classmates, Ashlee Macalino, Taylor Barnett and Sarah Wetzel spoke – recommending “love at all times”; giving “thanks to Monsignor Nugent for his pastoral care”; advising “make the world a better place.” Principal Barbara Danowitz reminded the graduates of their special status as the kindergarten class when she first arrived at SJE. She remarked that individually, and as a class, they had seen “many joys and sorrows . . . as followers of Christ, you were there for each other.” And urged the graduates, “Take your experience and effect positive change on the world . . . be true to who God made you to be.”

Mark and Molly Gaines, profoundly commented on the difficult, yet providential, circumstances of life that have touched many of the class members and their families. As they presented the *Luke Gaines Memorial Scholarship*

to Avery Banks-Thompson, in honor of their departed son, it was duly noted that our faith beautifully impels us to not merely endure, but to excel in the face of challenges.

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Mrs. Danowitz meets with 6th Grade parents to explain the new iPad Program which will be implemented at SJE in the fall as part of the school's technology program. iPads will be used to replace or supplement text books and will also be used as an integral part of classwork and homework assignments. The program will be expanded over the next three years to include all middle school grades.

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Highlights:

- **Graduating Class Ready to Head Down New Paths; Urged to Take High Road in Life**
- **6th Grade to Use iPads in Fall to Supplement, Replace Books**
- **SJE Students Show Strength in Math Competition; Count High in National, State, Local Standings**
- **Supporters Thanked for Gifts to School, Tuition Assistance**
- **Alumna to Lead Parish Music Ministry; Has Qualifications of High Note**
- **New Pastor to Guide School Community; Welcome Fr. Gérard!**
- **Alumnus of the Year Recognized; Receives Award at Gala Dinner**
- **Local High Schools Laud SJE Grads; SJE Students on High Schools' Wish Lists**

Class of 2011

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Other scholarship recipients were: Kelly Gaines (*Diego Baza Memorial*), Ashley Macalino (*Sr. Rosemary, K of C, Chaminade Future Leader*), Taylor Barnett and Dillon Singontiko (*Sr. Laura/Pious Schools, K of C*), Elena Akins (*PTSO/Room Parent, K of C*), Gisella Patino and Sarah Wetzel (*PTSO/Room Parent, K of C, Allegratti Memorial NDHS*), Olivia Vergel De Dios (*Louisville St. Louis De France Merit*), Maciel Argueta, Avery Banks-Thompson and Kayla Francisco (*Allegratti Memorial NDHS*).

SJE honors at graduation and/or high school honors at entrance were awarded to: Gisella Patino, Olivia Vergel De Dios, Logan Reilly, Dana Salim, Delaney Telford, Kayla Francisco, Elena Akins, Taylor Barnett (Alemany); Ashlee Macalino, Dillon Singontiko, Adrian Thangavelu (Chaminade); Sean Milkovich (Chaminade, Crespi); Sarah Wetzel (Notre Dame). Presidential Educational Excellence awards

went to Elena Akins, Taylor Barnett, Ashlee Macalino (also *Principal's Recognition Award*), Sean Milkovich, Sarah Wetzel.

The graduates stood as the commencement ended and strode out on waves of a dedication song, "Go Light Your World." Smiling and excited, with elementary problems and fun behind them, they boldly walked forward on their new paths towards high school and life, holding as yet unforeseen joys, challenges, complications, rewards and "memories of each other". The whole community of Saint John Eudes wishes them well and blesses them on their way. In the words of Principal Danowitz, "We will truly miss you."

Members of the graduating class are: Bridget Abbene*, Elena Akins*, Alana Altamirano*, Alberto Alvarez*, Maciel Argueta*, Avery Banks-Thompson*, Taylor Barnett*, Tristan Bernal, Diana Cruz, Kayla Francisco, Kelly Gaines*, Cheyenne Gobeli, Blake Jones, Desirae Jones*, Christian Lopez*, Ashlee Macalino*, Natalia Mendoza*, Sean Milkovich*, Gisella Patino*, Logan Reilly, Dana Salim*, Brian Saras*, Alex Sedeno*, Dillon Singontiko*, Delaney Telford, Adrian Thangavelu*, Olivia Vergel De Dios*, Sarah Wetzel*. (* denotes nine-year members of the class from K-8).

SJE Students Excel in Math Competition Place in Top 10 in National, State, and Local Rankings

For the second year in a row, St. John Eudes School participated in the *First In Math* program. First In Math (FIM) included more than 1.2 million students playing on more than 55,000 on-line teams in 45 states. This math supplement employs "Deep Practice" techniques to improve fluency in the core subject areas, while developing high-order thinking skills such as mental math, problem solving, pattern sensing, reasoning and number sense.

St. John Eudes students, 1st-8th Grades, earned over 422,000 stickers! This means the students solved over 1,267,000 math problems. At the close of the program, SJE school was ranked 3rd in the L.A. Archdiocesan district and 7th in the state! (Continued on page 4)



Left - The recent SJE Summer Carnival was a great event enjoyed by many school families, friends, and alumni. A highlight was the Multi-Cultural Festival and the Parade of Flags, which included many SJE School students & families as participants. Right - Sr. Georgina and Sr. Guadalupe display one of the many flags of the parade that afterward flanked the main stage and represented the wonderful ethnic diversity of our parish and school.

A Special Thanks to Our Special Supporters

With the completion of the 2010-2011 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 school website and on a plaque that will be displayed in the School Office for the coming year.

2010-2011 Annual Fund Campaign

PlatinumHeart Circle \$5,000 and More

Ronald & Jeannie Piekunka
Chad & Becky Rach

GoldenHeart Circle \$2,500 to \$4,999

Hannon Foundation

SilverHeart Circle \$1,000 to \$2,499

Gary & Jan Boudreau

Montal Council \$250 to \$499

Patricia De La Riva
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Eagle's Club Gifts up to \$249

Beverly Banks
Patrick & Diana Bennett
John Chady
Dolores Di Cecco
John Hoh
Garbriel & Phyllis Kalenian
Steve & Susan Ruda

2010-2011 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors \$500 and More

Capital Group Companies
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Matching Gift Courtesy of Chad & Becky Rach
Rick & Chris Crandall
Donald D. Lynch Family Foundation
Hannon Foundation
Chad & Becky Rach
Angelle Roussel
Richard Zeisel
in Memory of June Zeisel

Adoptive Donors up to \$500

Joemar & Analyn Dacanay

Information about contributing to the 2011-2012 Annual Fund and Adopt-A-Student Program is available on our website at www.sjeschool.net.



Congratulations to **Theresa Abbene '96** who was recently married in San Diego to her fiancé, Brian Ingino. The wedding was attended by a number of friends from SJE. While Theresa's new status as a wife certainly changes her life, she still plans to continue her work with the Campus Ministry at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks.

Congratulations also to **Jacyln Beard-sly '02** on being chosen as the new SJE Music Ministry Director. Jacyln is certainly well qualified (see the recent *Pulse* article in the January HeartBeat). We are proud to have an SJE alumna serving our parish in this important ministry!

Clifton Star '02 attended Chaminade College Preparatory where he particularly enjoyed being active in the music program. He performed as a trumpet player with the jazz and concert bands, and was a four year member of the Eagle Regiment marching band. After graduating from Chaminade in 2006, he attended California State University, Northridge, where he majored in Liberal Studies and minored

in Geology. He graduated from CSUN with a Bachelor of Arts degree in May and is now pursuing a career in logistics and materiel management. He is also continuing in his musical interests by performing with a community band at various venues and events in the So. California area.

Christopher Michail ('03) attended Loyola High School and was active on the tennis and cross-country teams. He graduated in 2007 and attended the University of Southern California, majoring in International Relations and minoring in Political Science. At USC he was active in sports and was a marathon runner. He also traveled extensively going to Uganda and Europe – and was an exchange student in Paris. He recently graduated from USC and plans to spend two years with the Peace Corps in Cameroon, Africa.

Mrs. Donna Thies, SJE middle school teacher and vice principal, has decided to leave St. John Eudes to focus on improving her health. Mrs. Thies taught at St. John Eudes School for 33 years and has touched the lives of many students. She will be greatly missed. We thank her for all her years of service and hope the best for her future.

Msgr. Peter Nugent, who has been pastor at St. John Eudes for the last 10 years, retired at the beginning of this month. In thanks for Msgr. Nugent's service to the parish, the Pastoral Council has named the parish plaza in his honor. Msgr. Nugent will remain in residence at St. John Eudes during his retirement. We welcome our new pastor, **Fr. Gérard Lecomte**, who is a member of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (also known as *Eudists*) which was founded by our patron saint, St. John Eudes. We look forward to Fr. Gérard working with our school community to further the spirit of St. John Eudes in our parish.

Left - Mark Gendernalik '86 was recently recognized as the St. John Eudes School 2011 Alumnus of the Year. The presentation was made at the gala dinner held for Msgr. Nugent at the Odyssey Restaurant on April 30. Mark was recognized for his work as an educator and for his testimony before Congress during the recent healthcare debate. The dinner was attended by over 400 of Msgr. Nugent's closest friends, relatives, and colleagues. The Alumnus of the Year is selected based on nominations solicited from friends and alumni of the school. The selection is announced during Catholic Schools Week to celebrate the achievements and contributions made by SJE alumni to the community and to provide inspiration for current students and families.

In a recent message, **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P.**, former SJE School principal, who is currently working in Kerala, India, writes "*I want to inform you that we have another holy Sister whose Cause of Beatification has begun in Rome. Her name is Pilar Solsona and she led a life of heroic virtue. She was one of the founding Sisters in Argentina and in Japan, a Provincial of Aragon, Assistant to the General, etc. We are spreading intercessory prayers through her and we have a "blessing" to a poor widow here in Eramalloor who has two daughters & recurring breast cancer.*" She asks that we use the intercessory prayer below when praying for appropriate intercessions to further the Cause for Beatification for Madre Pilar Solsona:



We give You thanks, Lord, because You looked on Your daughter, M. Pilar Solsona, with a Father's tenderness and enriched her soul with the Escolapian charism, love and humility.

Like her, may we also follow Your path and transmit Your message.

And now, glorify Your servant, inscribing her name in the assembly of the saints.

And through her intercession, grant us the grace we ask with confidence . . . (mention the intention at this point).

Glory be to the Father . . . Amen.

In a Lighter Vein . . .

Heard in school before summer vacation:

Teacher: *Didn't you promise to behave?*

Jimmy: *Yes, ma'am.*

Teacher: *And didn't I promise to punish you if you didn't?*

Jimmy: *Yes, ma'am, but since I broke my promise, I don't expect you to keep yours.*

Teacher: *I hope I didn't see you looking at Don's paper.*

Jane: *I hope you didn't either.*

We hope you know a donation to St. John Eudes School is tax deductible and helps 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. Thank you!



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*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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Math Competition

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Certificates of recognition were given to the students who achieved the highest score in FIM for each class. Our own John Francis, 6th Grade, was recognized for his outstanding achievement in First In Math. During the 2010-2011 school year, he earned over 40,000 stickers and completed approximately 120,000 math problems, all on his own. He was honored with the National FIM All Star trophy as the 8th ranked player in the nation, all grades!

Marc Francis, 1st grade, was also honored by the First In Math program for being a top ranked player for all 1st Graders in the State of California. He also happens to be the only other student ranked in the top 100 players, all grades, in the nation.

The students' achievements are a testament to the quality of education at St.

SJE Students Sought by Area High Schools as "Bright", "Enthusiastic", "Faith-filled", "Well Prepared"

As is evident in our 2011 graduating class, St. John Eudes School consistently strives to provide a rigorous curriculum for its students, setting high expectations not only within the academic curriculum, but also in character development and faith practices. Presently, the school's strategy focuses on connecting curriculum, instruction, and assessment through integrated instruction and active learning.

Thanks to the generous donations by many for high-tech equipment, SJE is able to incorporate technology in all aspects of the curriculum.

On standardized testing, SJE's classification consistently ranks exceedingly above the median. Upon graduation, our students are qualified to attend the high schools of their choice. By receiving multiple scholarships and meeting the criteria to enter honor classes in English, math, and science, students demonstrate evidence of St. John Eudes' level of learning expectations.

Here is what a few of our local Catholic high school administrators say about SJE students:

Brother Tom Fahy, Principal of Chaminade College Preparatory:

"I look forward to my yearly trip to St. John Eudes for a recruitment visit. I bring along four or five Chaminade students who are SJE alums and the seventh and eighth graders convene in the hall during lunch time; putting us face-to-face with the most amazing group of bright, enthusiastic, and faith-filled students that any high school could wish for. Perhaps the best way to

John Eudes. Congratulations to everyone who participated in First In Math!

The following students from each class at St. John Eudes School received special recognition:

1st Grade – Marc Francis (#2 in State, #2 in Archdiocese); 2nd Grade – Jeremiah Uyanga (#12 in State, #7 in Archdiocese); 3rd Grade – Nathan Valtairo (#76 in State #44 in Archdiocese); 4th Grade – Michael Davis (#9 in State #5 in Archdiocese); 5th Grade – Daniel Singontiko; 6th Grade – John Francis (#8th in Nation, #1 in State, #1 in Archdiocese); 7th Grade – Paolo Manlucu (#65 in State)

evaluate the potential of any group of middle schoolers is to look at their predecessors. SJE students who come to Chaminade are exceptionally well prepared both academically and personally. This year, we are graduating fourteen incredibly talented students who matriculated from SJE and many of them are among the top students in our senior class. Kudos to SJE for helping form such intelligent young men and women of faith."

Mr. Alec Moss, Admissions Director at Notre Dame High School:

"We are very fortunate to have a great relationship with Mrs. Danowitz and the staff at St.

John Eudes. They do an outstanding job preparing students for Notre Dame High School."

Mrs. Kathleen Vercillo, Principal of Louisville High School:

"Louisville is a better place because of the graduates from St. John Eude's School. Alumnae from St. John Eudes are academically well prepared, mature, responsible and get along well with others. They willingly share their gifts and talents with the Louisville community as class leaders, participating in the visual and performing arts and as athletes."

Congratulations to our hard working SJE students and families, as well as to the SJE faculty, staff, administrators, and tutors for their excellent work in preparing the students for high school and beyond!

So which high schools are lucky enough to get SJE students?

The following high schools are the fortunate recipients of the noted number of students from the SJE 2011 Graduating Class:

- 8 - Bishop Alemany High School
- 5 - Chaminade College Preparatory
- 5 - Notre Dame High School
- 3 - Louisville High School
- 2 - Crespi High School
- 2 - El Camino High School
- 2 - High Tech Los Angeles Charter H.S.
- 1 - Simi Valley High School