



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Back-to-School Night Focuses on Core Values of School Committed to Christ-Centered Educational Expectations & Goals

With the fall semester now well underway, Grill Hall was packed with parents last month waiting to hear about what's in store for the coming year. SJE Pastor Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM, welcomed them with a prayer to the school's yearly *Back-to-School Night*. While the program included other important items such as PTSSO plans, and a new proposal by the SJE School Board regarding tuition restructuring, Principal Barbara Danowitz presented the keynote address to the parents regarding the current status of the school and its future direction.

Mrs. Danowitz noted that the school will be required to meet the new California Common Core State Standards. She also noted that the school has begun the reaccreditation self-study process in anticipation of a Visiting Committee in 2014 from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA). But she most importantly gave the parents the vision and focus of the school for the coming year and made these points:

- *Jesus Christ is the center of education at St. John Eudes School*, which is committed to a Catholic education for all students.

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Mrs. Danowitz presents the vision and focus of the school to parents at this year's "Back-to-School Night".

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Highlights:

- *Back-to-School Night Sets Vision for School, WASC/WCEA Reaccreditation*
- *School Community Invited to Golden Party Opportunity*
- *NJHS Begins New Chapter in School History*
- *New Boosters Club to Support Sports Program, Build School Spirit*
- *Jog-A-Thon Mice Run to Bring Home the Cheese*
- *Alumna Draws Attention at Ad Agency*
- *Alumni, Parents, Friends Invited to Nominate "2013 Alumnus of the Year"*
- *Alumna Sings High C's on the High Seas; Classmate Applauds*
- *Fall Brings Harvest of Teacher Season Favorites*

Alumni, Families, & Friends Invited to Join in Parish 50th Anniversary Celebration With Burning Hearts, Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow



Our parish was founded May 14, 1963, and we are celebrating with a year-long party culminating with our *50th Golden Anniversary Mass and Gala Dinner* to be held on May 11, 2013. The "kick-off" weekend was Sept. 22 & 23 and Grill Hall was filled with visitors viewing the banners, videos, displays, and photographs of the many historic and special events in our parish history. Delicious food was provided by various ministries after each Mass.

As part of the celebration, the Men's Council recently hosted our first ever *Oktoberfest*. Family photos are being taken for a memory book, and our new parish decal is being sold. There will also be a 50th Anniversary musical concert in January showcasing 5 decades of music, and a wine tasting event in February. The *Alpha and Omega* stained glass from the original church windows is being raffled off and the winner will be drawn at the Gala Dinner in May. Visit the 50th Anniversary webpage on our parish website at www.stjohnneudes.org for more events and information.

The parish decal and tickets for the 50th Anniversary Grand Prize Drawing are available now through the Parish Office and will be offered at all 50th Anniversary events. Proceeds will help fund 50th Anniversary events.

National Junior Honor Society Comes to SJE

SJE One of Select Schools to Host NJHS Chapter

St. John Eudes School is now an official charter member of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). SJE is only 1 of 3 middle schools in Chatsworth with an NJHS chapter on campus.

NJHS is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students and serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in *Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character, and Citizenship*. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to meet the *Scholarship* requirement. *Service* is defined through the voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation and with a positive, courteous, and enthusiastic spirit. Under the *Leadership* requirement, student leaders are defined as those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, promoters of school activities, idea-contributors, dependable, and persons who exemplify positive attitudes about life. An

NJHS member of good *Character* upholds principles of morality and ethics, is cooperative, demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability, shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others. An NJHS member must also demonstrate good *Citizenship* by understanding the importance of civic involvement and has a high regard for freedom, justice, and democracy. The NJHS chapter at SJE currently boasts 28 students from 7th and 8th Grades (6th Graders will have to wait until the second trimester before they can apply). These outstanding 28 students were carefully selected based on the five pillars of the National Junior Honor Society, and are a testament to St. John Eudes School's mission "to educate students to live as committed followers of Jesus Christ as faithful members of the Catholic Church and to succeed in the 21st century as responsible learners, productive leaders, and caring citizens of their communities and environment."



Our Special Thanks to the Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation for its very generous contribution to the 2011-2012 *Adopt-A-Student Program* at the *Adoptive Donor* level (matching gift courtesy of Chad & Becky Rach). We very much appreciate the donation and the support of all our donors for this important program. Adopt-A-Student makes it possible for us to make a Catholic education possible for all students, particularly those whose families are facing financial challenges and hardships.

(We apologize for inadvertently omitting the Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation from our list of donors in the July issue of the HeartBeat).

Back-to-School Night

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- **An education at SJE School reflects a Catholic world view** where students are taught the desire to seek wisdom and truth, instilled with a preference for social justice, develop discipline to become self-learners, and are given a capacity to recognize ethical and moral grounding for behavior and responsibility to transform and enrich the world with Gospel values.
- **SJE School educates the whole person** to form the spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, moral, aesthetic, and religious capacities of each child.
- **The school is distinguished by excellence** through implementing ongoing processes and structures, and gathering evidence to ensure excellence in every aspect of its programs, student life, and activities.
- **SJE teachers view their profession as a vocation**, act as role models for students, contribute to the school's Catholic identity & apostolic goals, and participate in the school's commitment to social justice and evangelization.

After her presentation, Mrs. Danowitz invited the parents to meet with their children's teachers in the classrooms and learn how these elements were being specifically applied at each grade level.

A special thanks to the Room Parents and PTSO who organized the evening and provided refreshments for the parents!

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After School Sports Program Builds SJE Team Spirit **New "Boosters Club" Provides Support for Athletic Program**

Our *After School Sports Program* caters to students from 5th through 8th Grades. Every year we offer boys flag football and girls volleyball from September–November, boys and girls basketball from December–February, boys volleyball and

girls softball from March–May and we also have the Annual Knights of Columbus Track Meet which is usually scheduled in mid-March (however, practices are from the first week of February until the day of the meet). We always welcome our

parents, alumni and supporters to watch our games. Game schedules can be obtained on our school website under the *After School Sports* link in the left menu column.

Our boys flag football team just participated in the *Valley Classic Tournament* at Notre Dame High School earlier this month. It was a great experience and exposure for our students. We would



Alumni will most certainly remember with fondness the school's annual Jog-A-Thon, which was held this year on October 11. As part of the festivities, the Kindergarten Class sported "Mickey Mouse Ears" to emphasis their claim that they are the "Happiest Class in the School!" Sponsored by the PTSO, the goal of the Jog-A-Thon was to bring in at least \$50,000 in donations. And that would certainly make more than the Kindergarten happy!



There's Still Time to Sign up for the 2012 9th Annual St. John Eudes Golf Classic to be held at Lost Canyons Golf Club in Simi Valley on Friday, Nov. 9, with tee

off at noon. Players, sponsors, volunteers and silent auction donations are needed. Help us raise funds to benefit the school and parish and improve campus security. Complete information, and entry and donation forms, are available on the parish website at www.stjohneudes.org. Or contact Eric Unger (818) 605-8531 or Molly Unger (818) 231-0790, event co-chairpersons, or e-mail to sjegolf@sbcglobal.net.

In a Lighter Vein . . .

Now that school's well underway, there are a lot of interesting conversations that can be overheard in the classrooms . . .

Teacher: Your spelling is much better Susan. Only five mistakes that time.

Susan: Thank you Miss Smith.

Teacher: Now let's go on to the next word.

Teacher: Jimmy, what is the chemical formula for water?

Jimmy: H I J K L M N O.

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Jimmy: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Teacher: If I had seven oranges in one hand and eight oranges in the other, what would I have?

Billy: Big hands!

Regardless of the size of your hands, hopefully your heart is big enough to 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. Thank you!

Albert Abbene '01 attended Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks where he was involved in a number of different sports and activities including cross country, soccer, student government, and theatre. Upon graduation in 2005, he received a scholarship to the University of Portland (Oregon), where he was recognized as an Alleghetti Scholar. He graduated in 2009 with a B.S. Degree in Biochemistry. He is now working as a customer & technical support specialist at Thermo Fischer Scientific in Canoga Park.

Sierra Hunter '03 attended Louisville High School where she was active on the swim team (continuing her athletic interests developed on the SJE Swim Team). She graduated LVHS in 2007 and attended California State University, Northridge. In 2012 she received her B.A. Degree in Art. While at CSUN she was awarded a paid internship in the CSUN Department of Art and participated in the university's leadership program. She also received an internship with an advertising agency, and was hired by the agency as a junior designer after completion of the internship. As a CSUN graduate, she returned to the school to conduct a summer webdesign course for high school students and their website design won first place in a design contest. In addition to her interest in the graphic arts, she also enjoys listening to music, playing the guitar, and playing the piano (which she has been doing since she was 5).

Miklos Zoller '07 attended Chaminade College Preparatory and graduated in 2011. While at Chaminade he was active in the sports program, being on the wrestling and basketball teams. He was accepted at the University of California, Berkley, where he is majoring in Civil Engineering and is participating in a UCB outreach program that tutors junior high school students needing help with math.



Make sure to visit the school's Facebook page at SJE365.com and like us!

Nomination Forms for the 2013 SJE Alumnus of the Year Are Now Available

to recognize an SJE alumnus who would be a good example to our students of someone who has best applied the principles of "to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy" since attending SJE School. And alumni, parents, and friends are invited to submit a nomination for an alumnus who has inspired them as a life-long learner who has lived their faith. Forms (and more information about the Alumnus of the Year) are available at www.sjeschool.net. Nominations must be submitted to the School Office by Monday, Jan. 7. The recipient will be announced during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 27 - Feb. 2). Give an alumnus the recognition they deserve – send in your nomination today!



There's no doubt that last summer was a hot one in the San Fernando Valley. So, Clifton Star '02 and a couple friends decided to take a cool Caribbean cruise on the Royal Caribbean's "Freedom of the Seas". As he was watching the ship's production show, he thought he recognized someone he knew - and he did! It was his SJE classmate Samantha Souza '02 who was one of the featured performers in the ship's troupe. Samantha was working in New York theatre and had just signed-up to work on the ship. It just goes to show you that SJE alumni can be found all over the world, and it's amazing where you can run into them - even in the middle of the ocean!

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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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After School Sports

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like to thank all the parents, students and teachers who came and showed support to our kids. It was very nice to see some of the parents and students who were wearing our new school spirit shirt. One of our goals is to build our school spirit, so we are inviting more of you to attend games and wear some of our cool sports apparel. Order forms may be downloaded from our website's *After School Sports* link.

Our girls volleyball A-team recently represented our school at the La Reina Volleyball Tournament. The girls also just won their first league game earlier in the month against St. Bridget of Sweden.

This year, we are introducing our *Athletics Booster Club*. The main purpose of this club is to enhance and provide support to our athletics program. We are fortunate to have some members already

Hopeful Fall - Full of Thanks and Grace SJE Teachers Reflect on the Autumn Season

Glowing summer, green, blue and golden, is gone again – its luster slowly diminished as each harvest day brushes past. At St. John Eudes School the classrooms clatter – filled once more – with students one year taller. Slates wiped clean, the teachers smile anew. Autumn is upon us in its fall glory.

So just for fun (and to give you a little insight into our remarkable teachers), we asked the SJE faculty what they like most about this time of year, and this is what they said when asked to complete the sentence “My favorite part of Autumn is . . .

“ . . . the cool air and the smell of pumpkin spice candles. Also, anticipating all the wonderful upcoming holidays.” – Mrs. Allison Hubbs (Kindergarten)

“ . . . the harvests. Coming from midwest farm country where there were not year round crops like (California), late summer and autumn was harvest time with fields of hay bales, ripe apples on trees and pumpkin patches.” – Mrs. Angeline King (Elementary Science)

“ . . . the cool foggy mornings and the smells of cider, cinnamon and pumpkin pie.” – Mrs. Leslie Rigney (3rd Grade)

“ . . . my birthday. Since it is on a holiday, I always get it off!” – Mrs. Lizette Strom (Middle School Math)

“ . . . transitioning to a cooler weather and the upcoming holidays.” – Mr. Alvin Castro (K-8th Physical Education)

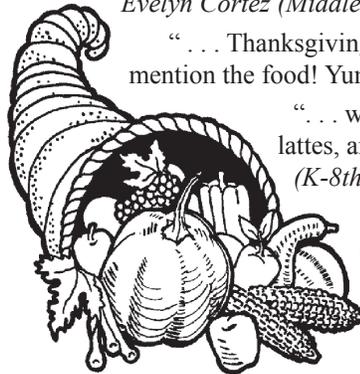
“ . . . the changing color of the leaves (my favorite colors) and the crisp air.” – Mrs. Evelyn Cortez (Middle School Spanish)

“ . . . Thanksgiving and spending time with family and friends - not to mention the food! Yum!” – Mrs. Haylee Richardson (4th Grade)

“ . . . wearing scarves and boots, drinking pumpkin spice lattes, and baking pumpkin cheesecake!” – Mrs. Jaclyn Sutley (K-8th Grade Music)

“ . . . Halloween and Thanksgiving.” – Ms. Sylvia Casillas (1st Grade)

“ . . . I enjoy autumn's cool weather the most. I love fall colors, crunchy leaves, pumpkin pie, and holidays!” – Mrs. Sheryl Reyes (K-5th Grade Computer Lab)



who have shared their time and ideas for the club. Also, we are grateful to those club members, parents and supporters who have generously donated to the club. Accordingly, we have already started our first project under the club, which is the “Game Breaker Helmets” for the flag football team. We are still accepting donations for this project in addition to the many necessities of the athletic department.

Coach Alvin Castro

“ . . . knowing the holidays are approaching to enjoy spending time with loved ones.” – Ms. Nicole Scheppers (6th Grade HR, Middle School Lit. & NJHS)

“ . . . the vibrant colors of the leaves, which exemplify the unsurpassed artistry of God's majestic creation. To me, autumn also signifies the anticipation and excitement for winter and all the festivities associated with it.” – Ms. Sneha Tharayil (Middle School Science, 7-8th Grade Writing)

Stand Up for Religious Freedom

A ruling by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services that requires religious organizations to offer health plans that include contraceptives and abortifacient drugs violates our faith and will gravely and adversely impact Catholic schools. Contact your U.S. senators and congressional representative now and make your voice heard in the upcoming November general election to stop this mandate. More information is available on our parish website at www.stjohnneudes.org.