



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Theme of Catholic Schools Week Highlights Positive Effect of Catholic Schools on Education SJE School to Begin Celebration with Open House Jan. 27

St. John Eudes School will begin its celebration of National Catholic Schools week with an Open House on Jan. 27, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. All alumni, friends, school families, and prospective students and families, are invited to tour the campus and classrooms to see everything our school has to offer and the great work of our students!



The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2013 is “Catholic Schools Raise the Standards.” This year’s logo illustrates a chart of steady growth culminating in the highest achievement of them all, a cross representing the faith that underscores all Catholic education. The logo provides a visual expression of the essence of Catholic education to enhance the week’s celebration.

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. During the week, schools and parishes focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and Catholic education’s contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

In addition to our Open House, the school will be holding a number of other Catholic Schools Week activities and celebrations including the Scholastic Book Fair, Grandparent’s Day, Parishioner Breakfast, Teacher Appreciation Day, and much more. See our website at www.sjeschool.net for more information.



Make sure to visit our Facebook page at SJE365.com and like us!

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Highlights:

- **Open House to Showcase SJE Student Work & Skills**
- **“Parisian Nights” to Fundraise Dollars (or even Euros) for School**
- **New Fence and Gate Plan Key to School, Parish Project**
- **Boys & Girls Fall B Sports Teams Go Undefeated; Looking to Advance into Spring**
- **Chess Club No Pawn at Tournament; Wins Checkmate Match**
- **Alumna Finds Wedding Ring Under Eiffel Tower; Then Weds**
- **Endowment Provides Funds for Security Improvements, Projects**



Whether you like to stroll on the Left Bank or the Right Bank . . . come and stroll with us to the “City of Lights” and join in one of the greatest soirées ever!

The PTSO Annual Spring Fundraiser is here again and this year you’ll be whisked away to the streets and cafés of Paris – recreated at the Braemar Country Club in Tarzana. There’ll be great food and drinks, exhilarating casino games, an unbelievable silent auction, the fantastic Grand Prize Drawing, dancing, and much more! Tickets are just \$50 per person presale or \$60 at the door (suggested donation). Tickets are available after all weekend Masses thru Feb. 2, at the School Office, or can be ordered by mail. Visit the school website at www.sjeschool.net for complete details. And save the date to experience one of those magical . . .

**“Parisian Nights”
Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6:00 pm
Braemar Country Club**

Mon cher - this night is made for you and fun!

(As a matter of fact, this night will be so much fun that it needs to be for adults only.)



SJE Parish School Board members and alumni parents, Gabe Kalenian (left) and Jan Boudreau (center), enjoy the casino action at last year’s PTSO Spring Fundraiser.

School & Parish Security Project Expedited

Fence and Gate Plans Expanded & Redesigned to Meet New Concerns

The safety and security of our students is a high priority for our school and parish. And we continuously upgrade our security procedures and assets to keep our campus safe and welcoming. A number of safety measures were recently implemented, including the installation of closed-circuit cameras, the upgrading of communication

Donations are needed to help fund the gate construction and related security plan. Please donate to this important project either through the parish's Online Giving program or by making a donation to the School's Annual Fund. You may also mark an envelope with "Security" and drop it off at the School or Parish Offices, or in the Sunday Collection. Thank you for your support!

systems, and the installation of peepholes in classroom doors.

One of the main projects which has been under development is the construction of a fence through Nugent Plaza that would prohibit visitors from going into the playground and classroom area without passing through a security gate. The plans for the gate were approved by the Parish School Board and submitted to parishioners for comment and review last year.

Parishioners expressed concern that the proposed fence did not protect students and others using Grill Hall, the church, or the music room. Based on these concerns, the project was redesigned to secure the entire parish campus – with new gates to

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SJE Parish 50th Anniversary

With Burning Hearts Today, Yesterday & Tomorrow

The St John Eudes 50th Anniversary celebration has been kicking into high gear and several special events are being planned. There will be a *Wine Tasting Spectacular* on Feb. 2 (see Quick Beats, page 4) and a special choir concert that will highlight 50 years of music — from the 60's to today (date TBA). And help make our celebration a success by getting your 50th Anniversary SJE Car Window Decal (\$3 ea.) and tickets for the Grand Prize Drawing (\$5 ea.) for the Alpha and Omega stained glass from the original church windows which will be held at the *Jubilee Dinner* on May 11, 2013. Get yours at the Parish Office, at all 50th Anniversary events, and select occasions.

Fall Sports Teams Have Great Season — Students Look Forward to Spring Alumni, Friends, Supporters Invited to Join New Sports Boosters Club

The SJE Afterschool Sports teams had a great fall season this year! The Girls Volleyball A Team finished in 1st Place in regular league competition and automatically advanced to the 2nd round of the Valley Catholic League Playoffs. But while they didn't advance to the semi-finals, they played great volleyball and we can be proud of them. We can also be proud of the Boys Flag Football A Team, which was only one game away from making it to the playoffs. And the Boys Flag Football B Team and the Girls Volleyball B Team, both had undefeated seasons! Thanks to our coaches for their hard work, dedication, and service to our school and students.

After having a really good season of boys flag football and girls volleyball, we are now approaching the boys and girls basketball season. All game schedules are available for viewing/download on the *After School Sports* webpage of the school website (under the schedule tab). We are also accepting registration for spring sports. We are offering boys volleyball and girls softball.

In addition, we are very excited about the upcoming 42nd Knights of Columbus Track & Field Meet, which will be held in April at Taft High School in Woodland Hills. We have placed 2nd for the past few years, but this year we are hoping to get more participants and make 1st Place. The

Knights of Columbus Track & Field Meet is a great family event, which involves all grade levels. We are also planning to participate in more track and field tournaments in the near future.

On another note, on behalf of the Athletic Department, I would like to ask all SJE families, alumni, friends and supporters to please support our new *Athletic Booster Club* by becoming a member. To register as a booster club member, please refer to the school website and click on the *After School Sports* tab where you can download all forms under the Booster Club tab or contact me via email at acastro@school.stjohneudes.org. — Alvin S. Castro, SJE School Athletic Director



Congratulations to those SJE students who participated in the Chatsworth Holiday Student Art Contest sponsored by the Chatsworth West End Shops. 26 of the 27 finalists were SJE students (some of whom are shown above). Our students swept the awards - including the Grand Prize.



Congratulations also to the members of the SJE "Chess Champions" afterschool enrichment class who participated in the Fall 2012 Catholic Schools Chess Tournament at St. Francis De Sales in Sherman Oaks. They won First Place for the Most Number of Checkmates. This is no rook-ie group. They treasure their accomplishment and won't be pawn-ing off the trophy anytime soon!



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Colette Webb (Volotzky) '02 attended Chaminade College Preparatory where she enjoyed choral music and playing on the softball team - receiving the Coach's Award in 2005. She graduated in 2006 and attended California State University, Northridge. She enrolled in CSUN's Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) and graduated Cum Laude in 2006 with a B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts. For two years after graduation she worked in the math lab of Parthenia Street School and is now employed as an elementary school teacher. A couple years

ago her high school sweetheart, Benjamin Volotzky, (who she had been dating for 7 years) proposed to her in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. As the result of such a romantic proposal, Ben and Colette were married last July. Colette's sister, **Nikki Webb '04**, was the maid of honor at the wedding.

We welcome **Fr. Carlos Valencia, CJM**, who recently accepted the position of Associate Pastor at St. John Eudes. Fr. Valencia was born in Colombia and was ordained March 14, 1975, and after serving a number of assignments and studying in Rome and Jerusalem, he joined the Eudists in 1993. He has never stopped teaching the Bible in the various countries, universities, seminaries, diocesan centers and parishes where he has been called to serve, and he put together a booklet entitled *Sintesis Biblica* with the goal to help the reader



go from a literal reading of the Holy Scriptures to a symbolic reading of the Word of God, taking into account the various literary forms. Fr. Valencia will work at SJE to support the Hispanic and other ministries.

Congratulations to **Deacon Lawrence Goodwin, CJM**, who was ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Wilkerson in our church last December. He has been in residence at St. John Eudes for the last year while working to earn Masters Degrees in Divinity and in Biblical Studies. Deacon Lawrence was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and studied social work at Arizona State University. He worked for Catholic Charities in Phoenix, Arizona, until 2007 when he entered the Congregation of Jesus and Mary. He is planning to complete his studies by the spring of 2014 and be ordained to



It looks like the romance of Paris has again brought true love to an SJE alumna. A proposal at the Eiffel Tower led to a wedding for Colette Webb Volotzky last July.

the priesthood. As part of his priestly formation, Deacon Lawrence lived for a year in Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur, Mexico, and also for a year in Tagaytay, Cavite, Philippines.

Welcome to **Deacon Son Hoang**, along with his wife, Rose, who will serve in parish ministry at St. John Eudes. A native of Vietnam, Deacon Hoang has served at several other parishes and looks forward to his new assignment at our parish.



Deacon Son Hoang and his wife, Rose

Quick Beats . . .

SJE parents recently took a survey which indicated that the top 3 reasons they send their children to St. John Eudes School are (1) academics, (2) faith formation, and (3) Catholic values. These results confirm the mission of the school that seeks to weave faith and values into workings of daily life.

Statistics confirm a high level of success and accomplishment for SJE students with 99% of SJE students attending Catholic high schools and going on to college, 8th Graders per-

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In a Lighter Vein . . .

As the school year goes on, homework excuses need to become a little more imaginative. Here are some recent ones teachers have reported:

I didn't do it, because I didn't want the other kids in the class to look bad.

I made a paper plane out of it and it got hijacked.

ET stopped by my house and he accidentally took it home with him.

It's my mother's fault - she didn't nag me enough to do it.

I loaned it to a friend, but he suddenly moved away.

Some aliens from outer space borrowed it so they could study how the human brain worked.

I didn't do it because I didn't want to add to your already heavy workload.

I lost it fighting this kid who said you weren't the best teacher in the school.

*And while there may be some good homework excuses, there is no good excuse for not donating 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 www.sjeschool.net. Thank you!*

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Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM
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*Guiding Children with Knowledge
and the Love of God to Empower
Them with Christian Morality,
Character, Compassion & Integrity*



The HeartBeat

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Quick Beats . . .

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forming at an advanced proficiency level in the Assessment for Religious Instruction (ACRE), and maintaining a 7 average stanine (above average) in core subject areas based on the ITBS (Iowa Tests).

Patrick Mayoral (Gr. 5) performed in New York City as a member of the National Children's Chorus. He also auditioned for and received the leading role of Jarrett, one of Noah's sons, in the L.A. Opera's production of *Noah's Flude*.

The trustees of the St. John Eudes School Endowment Trust Fund recently approved a transfer of \$6,075 to the school to be used for security improvements and other vital projects. The trust fund received donations from last year's Catholic Schools Week collection and realized an improvement in the status of its investment fund.

Security Project

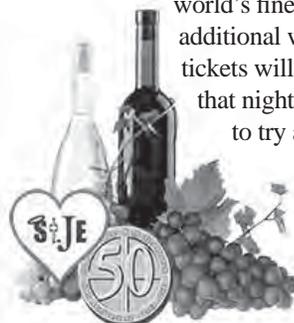
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secure the walkway area under the church tower, the walkway from the Mason Avenue parking lot along Grill Hall, and the driveway entrance adjacent to the field.

These plans were already in progress when recent incidents across the country, particularly the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, highlighted the need to expedite implementation. After several special meetings with the Parish School Board,

representatives of the SJE Parent-Teacher Support Organization, and the Parish Finance Council, Fr. Gérard approved the construction of the gates, which are expected to be completed within the next 4-5 weeks. Until the gates are completed, security guards have been stationed on parish grounds during school hours to provide additional monitoring of visitors to the campus. A continued security presence is expected to be part of the long-term security planning for the parish and school.

The SJE 50th Anniversary Wine Tasting Spectacular will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2, beginning at 7:30 pm, in Grill Hall. Admission is only \$10 at the door and allows you to taste 5 of the



world's finest wines (but additional wine tasting tickets will be available that night if you want to try a few more).

Complimentary cheeses, crackers, and fruits will also be served. This

event is sponsored by the SJE Men's Council which will be selling tickets in Nugent Plaza after weekend Masses beginning Jan. 18/19 at a 10% presale discount. *(Note: Absolutely no one under 21 years of age will be admitted).*

The 2013 St. John Eudes Alumnus of the Year will be announced during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 27 - Feb. 2).

Nominations for the Alumnus of the Year were accepted from school alumni, families, and friends from Oct. 1 thru Jan. 7. A committee consisting of Fr. Gérard, Mrs. Danowitz, and members of the Parish School Board will make the decision. The presentation will be

made at the School Endowment Trustee's Annual Dinner in April. A special thanks to all those who submitted a nomination. The committee has a number of excellent nominees from which to choose. Visit www.sjeschool.net to read about our previous awardees.

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 to stop this mandate. More information is available on our parish website at www.stjohnneudes.org.



The Christmas Story was presented in song and pageant to an enthusiastic crowd by SJE students at their annual Christmas Program. Although by January the holidays are pretty much just memories, our students learn the importance of keeping the spirit that Christmas kindles in them the whole year long.