



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Parents Welcomed at Back-to-School Night SJE Students Expected to Be Active Catholics, College Ready

Parents, teachers, staff and school board members came together last month at the annual *Back-to-School Night* to get acquainted or reacquainted after the summer and learn about what's coming up for the new school year.

After a greeting by pastor Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM, principal Barbara Danowitz gave her report about the status of the school and the vision for the coming year. Parents then met with teachers in the classrooms to learn specifics about the coming curriculum.

In her presentation, Mrs. Danowitz presented the following information to the parents:

- *SJE students are active Christians in their Catholic Faith.* They participate fully in worship, prayer and the sacraments, and in service to their parish school and community.

- *SJE students are college and career ready in the 21st Century.* In addition to academics and spiritual preparation, SJE students receive a broad education that makes them ready for higher education. The curriculum is supplemented by enrichment programs (such as visiting performers and speakers, and afterschool sports, music, art, robotics, chess, and dance), special projects and presentations, student social awareness and through participation in the Junior National Honor Society. ITBS scores, alumni feedback, and 100% acceptance into Catholic high schools are evidence of the suc-

cess SJE School has in readying its students for college and careers.

- *There are a number of unique factors that contribute to the success of SJE students.* The staff and faculty at St. John Eudes School are highly qualified and committed to a rigorous, relevant, and relationship-driven education. A



Fr. Gérard Lecomte (center) discusses school plans with PTSO President Fred Perez (left) and Vice President Dennis Loomis (right) at the recent Back-to-School Night. A strong parent-student-school partnership, which includes PTSO involvement and support, is essential to assuring SJE students succeed.

strong parent-student-school partnership is fostered that also includes support from the SJE Parent-Teacher Support Organization (PTSO), Room Parents, parent and parish volunteers and tutors, and the Parish School Board. The school is committed to integrating technology in support of student success at all grade levels and for all subjects. Advanced financial planning integrates a number of resources to support the school and assures the viability of the program and its continued effectiveness. And communication between home and school is maintained with face-to-face meetings and through digital means that utilize various technologies.

Mrs. Danowitz also thanked the parents in attendance for their generosity in supporting a number of school projects, including the new security procedures and gates, new bleachers on the field, library and science lab upgrades, and the new iPads in the K-4th Grade classrooms. And she looks forward to a great year for all our school families!

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Highlights:

- ***Back-to-School Night Focuses on Strong Relationships, Success of Students***
- ***Joggers Lap-up Cheeseburgers, Prizes, Donations***
- ***Donors Provide Vital Support, Resources***
- ***Alumna Sets World Fashion; Shows She's a Cut Above***
- ***Nominations Sought for Outstanding Alumnus***
- ***In Memoriam: Jesse Baza ('08)***
- ***Troops in Afghanistan Send Message to Students, Thanks for Support***
- ***Archbishop Gomez: Students Must Defend Dignity of All Human Life***

Jog-A-Thon Features Exercise, Burgers, Great Prizes

Judging by the full parking lot, the activity on the plaza and on the field, St. John Eudes School was the place to be on October 10! It was time for the annual SJE Jog-A-Thon.

The chilly morning certainly didn't deter parents and family members from coming out in droves to set-up, count laps, hand out water, buy raffle tickets and most all, to support our children. Students,

teachers, and parents walked, jogged and ran while music (provided by GEC Events) played in the background. After completing their laps, students enjoyed a hamburger lunch, provided by In-N-Out Burger.

Once again, the highlight of the event was the raffle. Excitement filled the air as a winning ticket was pulled out for each prize and the winning student was called

up to receive his or her prize. This year's top prizes included tickets to the Justin Timberlake concert, an iPad Mini, a bicycle, an Xbox 360 video game system, and a pre-paid cell phone. All of the prizes were either donated or purchased with the money donated by our school families.

The funds raised by the Jog-A-Thon pledges and raffle help offset school operating costs and support the excellence of the educational program at SJE.



Left – Parents man the “burger tables” and await hungry joggers with hamburgers, cheeseburgers, grilled cheese sandwiches and other treats. The Jog-A-Thon lunch, provided by In-N-Out Burger, is a special treat for all participants.

Right – SJE School students peruse the prizes available for the Jog-A-Thon Raffle. There were great prizes this year including a TV, bicycle, an Xbox 360 video game system, a pre-paid cell phone, and even tickets to a Justin Timberlake concert!



A Special “Thank You” to Our Special Supporters & Donors

With the new school year well underway, we need to take a moment and reflect on all that we are blessed with through our extended school family. We find many of those blessings in our friends and donors who provide vital support for our school programs. Without such support, we could not provide the quality of education for our students for which we so diligently strive.

We are very appreciative of all those who have donated to our school in the 2012-2013 school year to help us achieve these goals. Through their support an additional \$45,000 was raised to help us continue our Christ centered mission.

In recognition of the vital support we have received, we would like to acknowledge those donors who have contributed to the SJE School Annual Fund Campaign and the Adopt-A-Student Program.

2012-13 Annual Fund Campaign (for Campus Security)

PlatinumHeart Circle - \$5,000 and More

Tony Buono & Angelle Roussel
The Capital Group Companies
Matching Gift Courtesy of Chad & Becky Rach
Chad & Becky Rach
Vicca Weber

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

Gary & Jan Boudreau

Calasanz Council - \$500 to \$999

Gary & Jan Boudreau

Vinjet Singontiko

Elisabeth Star

Scott & Nicole Whitney

Montal Council - \$250 to \$499

Bryan & Sheralyn Suttles

Eagle's Club - up to \$249

John Chady

I.L. D'Auria

Carl & Barbara Danowitz

Evelyn & Lewis De Lucia

Dolores DiCecco

Casimir & Anne Filek

Jonathan Hoh

Gabriel & Phyllis Kalenian

Ray & Christina Kwong

Mike & Jennifer Prince

Bob & Madelyn Smiley, Jr.

Jenny Zoller

2012-2013 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors - \$500 and More

Eugenia & Manuel Guzman
Chad & Becky Rach
Angelle Roussel
St. John Eudes Men's Council
St. John Eudes Swim Team
William H. Hannon Foundation

Richard Zeisel
in Memory of June Zeisel

Supportive Donors - Up to \$499

Allado Family
Janice Boudreau
Shawn & Pamela Burke
Jose & Diane Campos
Rick & Christine Crandall
Barbra Davalos
Gilberto Gonzalez
Gabriel & Phyllis Kalenian
Dimitri Perera
Daniel & Charlene Reimer
Ernie & Eva Star
Loretta Zatzman



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



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Congratulations to **Kurt Star '96** who recently received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, in Material Science. Dr. Star's predoctoral research work led to a patented material development process. His postdoctoral work is being conducted through the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) on advanced material applications.

Sara Flores '97 attended Chatsworth High School and graduated in 2001. After high school she entered the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising. She is currently a vice-president for a fashion marketing company in New York. Her duties take her to the fashion capitals of the world, including Paris and London.

Heather Wang (Sandstoe) '02 attended Bishop Alemany High School where she was active on the volleyball and basketball teams. She graduated



Mel Spratley and his wife, Alice, pose with Fr. Gerard displaying the inaugural St. John Eudes Medal awarded for outstanding volunteerism. (Photo: Ruby Alexandra Beloz)

in 2006 and then attended Arizona State University. In 2009 she transferred to California State University, Northridge, and graduated in 2011 with Bachelor Degrees in Psychology and Political Science. While at CSUN she joined the Delta Zeta Sorority and helped finance her education at CSUN by caring of young children. She continued her education at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA),

and received her paralegal certification this year. She is currently employed as a manager at an engraving company. Heather was recently married to Andrew Sandstoe. Andrew was her Kairos leader at Alemany and they reconnected watching a movie at a friends house a couple of year ago. Now

that they've returned from their Jamaican honeymoon their plans include buying a house in the area and having kids. Heather remains active at St. John Eudes Church as the Director of Spiritual Dancing.

Kevin Mongiello-Lopez '04 attended Bishop Alemany High School and graduated in 2008. He was accepted at California State University, Northridge, which he is currently attending with the goal of obtaining a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While at CSUN he is working part-time at a local department store and enjoys swimming and exercising in his spare time.

Best wishes to our pastor, **Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM**, on the 35th Anniversary of his ordination, which was celebrated on Sept. 22 at the 11:00 am Mass in the church, with Bishop Wilkerson presiding. The church was filled with well-wishers and Fr. Gérard was thankful for their expressions of love and support. A reception was held in Grill Hall after the Mass. A Gala Dinner to which the whole parish was invited (held the prior week) was sponsored by the Spanish Ministry.

In Memoriam



Jesse Baza ('08)

Our condolences to the family of **Jesse Baza ('08)** who passed away as the result of an accidental fall from the fourth floor balcony of a campus dormitory at California State University, Monterey Bay. Jesse was a graduate of Chaminade College Preparatory and went on to CSUMB to study biology. He was 19 years old and a college sophomore.

Mrs. Danowitz, SJE principal, remembers that, "Jesse was a wonderful boy and I will always remember him as a student at SJE and at our graduation ceremony each year helping to present the Diego Baza Scholarship to one of our 8th Graders. You could see how much he loved Diego!"

A special memorial service was held on the Chaminade campus on Oct. 12. Condolences and messages to the family may be entered online at www.reardonfuneral.com/Obituaries.html.

Congratulations to **Mel Spratley** on being the inaugural recipient of the St. John Eudes Medal! Mr. Spratley is a long-time parishioner and friend of the school. He has been active in helping with campus maintenance, being a school tutor, and most recently as chairperson of the parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration. He continues to be an active volunteer and will be helping with a number of projects that are planned in the coming year. He is an excellent example of the spirit of dedication, devotion, and stewardship that can be found in our extended school community. We thank him for all he has done for our students!

Nomination Forms for the 2014 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 Tuesday, Jan. 7. The recipient will be announced during Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26 - Feb. 1). Give an alumnus the recognition they deserve – send in your nomination today!

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Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal

*Educating students to be active
Christians in their Catholic faith
and to be college and career
ready in the 21st Century.*



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2013 Golf Tournament to Provide Funding to Upgrade Church Sound System



There's still time to sign up for the 10th Annual St. John Eudes Golf Classic to be held at the Angeles National Golf Club in Sunland on Friday, Nov. 8, with tee off at 10:30 am. This year the tournament proceeds will be allocated to improve the church sound system.

Players, sponsors, volunteers and silent auction donations are needed. Complete information, and entry and donation forms, are available on the parish website at www.stjohnueudes.org. Or contact tournament chairperson Eric Unger at (818) 605-8531 or email to ericunger@sbcglobal.net.



SJE 3rd Graders have reached out to help support those serving overseas who are defending our freedom and supporting the cause of peace in Afghanistan. The soldiers are very appreciative to know that they are remembered and cared about by our students. A number of them have connections to our parish and school and ask that you pray for their safe return.

Quick Beats . . .

SJE 8th Graders Jemar Fabricante and John Francis participated in the Knights of Columbus Council 3601 Written Essay Contest and wrote some great essays that came in 4th and 5th out of 142 entries.

Mrs. Danowitz and Ms. Stula were recently recognized by the Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council as 2012-2013 Community Service Honorees in appreciation of exceptional

In a Lighter Vein . . .

Words of Wisdom

Life is too short – enjoy it

Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.

Pay off your credit cards every month.

Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.

Life isn't fair, but it's still good.

It's also good 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!

service to the community of Chatsworth.

Congratulations to the Boys "A" Flag Football Team for advancing at the 2013 Valley Classic Flag Football Tournament hosted by Notre Dame High School and winning their consolation game against Our Lady of Lourdes (Northridge) earlier this month. Hunter Call (Gr. 7) was named a recipient of the All Tournament Selection and Jonathan Garcia (Gr. 7) was selected as the team MVP.



music, activities & food, and heard from special guests, including Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez, who told them "Let's work together my young friends! We need to defend the dignity of all human life - from conception until natural death. We need to reach out to everyone with the helping hand of Jesus Christ." A powerful message for a world that needs to understand the true value of all human life! See more pictures on the school's Facebook page at SJE365.com.

Respect for human life is one of the most important issues facing our society today. And St. John Eudes middle school students showed their support for a culture of life by attending the "Service 4LIFE", sponsored by LIFEsocial (www.lifesocal.org) and the Archdiocesan Office of Life, Peace and Justice at The StubHub Center (formerly The Home Depot Center) on Oct. 9 as part of "Respect Life Week". Students enjoyed