



# The HeartBeat

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

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

## Faith, Knowledge, Service are Focus of 2014 National Catholic Schools Week

National Catholic Schools Week is held this year on Jan. 26 – Feb. 1. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

The annual celebration is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). This year marks the 40th anniversary of the week, established to recognize Catholic education as a great gift to the Church and the nation. Each day of the week is set aside for a specific celebration of how Catholic education supports faith, knowledge and service in respect to parishes, communities, students, the nation, vocations, school faculty, staff and volunteers.

The NCEA notes, "The theme encompasses

several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education." They are communities in themselves yet "members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation.

Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged."

The USCCB joined the NCEA in recommending that the theme be kept for several years, noting that it "resonates with the New Evangelization and will provide schools the opportunity to create long-term Catholic identity projects in their communities." Both organizations feel it is especially appropriate that this new brand marks National Catholic Schools Week during its 40th anniversary year.

This year's logo features a swirl of colors interacting around a cross, which is at the center of all Catholic education. "The vibrancy of the colors and the movement and shadows in the logo portray the inner-connectivity and community life that are present in any Catholic school," said logo designer Beatriz Ruiz. (from an NCEA press release)

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated at St. John Eudes School in a number of ways, kicking off with the school's Open House and Scholastic Book Fair, held this year on Jan. 26. The St. John Eudes School 2014 *Alumnus of the Year* is also announced during Catholic Schools Week as an example of a life-long learner who lives their faith.



Science teacher Angeline King shows Open House visitors the wonder of exploration that is experienced in the SJE Science Lab. SJE School is one of only a handful of elementary-middle schools to offer a fully equipped science lab.

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### Highlights:

- **Catholic Schools Week Highlights Core Values**
- **School Receives Literacy Grant**
- **Fall "A" Teams in League Playoffs**
- **Endowment Helps Fund Projects**
- **Alumnus Draws Inspiration from Pet Hounds; Wins CSUN Honors for Film**
- **After Playing Soccer Alumna Sets New Goal; Inspired by SJE Teachers**
- **Jog-A-Thon Exceeds Expectations**
- **20th Anniversary of Northridge Earthquake; Remember the Tent?**
- **PTSO Spring Fundraiser to Go Underwater; Something Fishy Planned**
- **WASC Team to Visit School; Will Receive Input from Extended School Community**

## Focus on the Faculty: Literacy Key to “Way Up”



Our school is fortunate to have teachers who are so dedicated and devoted to giving their students great learning opportunities.

One such teacher is Ms. Nicole Scheppers, who is the 6th Grade homeroom teacher and also teaches 6th-8th Grade Literature. Along with her teaching responsibilities, she is also the moderator of the National Junior Honor Society chapter at SJE.

Ms. Scheppers has six years of teaching experience, holds Bachelor's Degrees in Liberal Studies and Spanish, a Master's Degree in Literacy and is currently working on a second Master's Degree.

She recently obtained a literacy grant for SJE from the *Reading is the Way Up* committee of City National Bank. The grant is available to purchase *Words Their Way* workbooks for Grades K-2. *Words Their Way* is a developmental spelling, phonics, and vocabulary program. It is intended to be a part of a balanced literacy program that includes fluency, comprehension and writing.

Thank you to Ms. Sheppers for working to get this grant for our school and for all you do for our students. Our school is fortunate to have teachers who are so dedicated and devoted to giving their students great learning opportunities.

## After School Sports Program Builds Character, Champions; Teams in Catholic League Playoffs

The SJE After School Sports Program has been in full swing during the last several months. And this past fall season we had both boy and girl teams advance to the semifinals of the Valley Catholic School League.

The Boys “A” Flag-football Team started slow but ending up making the playoffs. They were actually seated last in their bracket but managed to pass through Guardian Angel and St. Rose of Lima during the first two rounds. However, they ended up falling short against a much stronger St. Mel team.



The Girls “A” Volleyball was undefeated in league play and automatically advanced to the second round of playoffs. They suffered their only loss in the season against St. Bernardine in the semifinals. This team has a great future next year, having mostly 7th Graders.

Our Boys and Girls “B” Teams also did a tremendous job during the season. They showed huge improvement every game they played, and we look forward to having them on the “A” Teams next year. This season has been a revelation of talents and a great indication towards the future of our



*After school sports are a great way for students to participate in team activities and develop personal goals and skills. SJE students are blessed with devoted parent/coaches and staff who help maintain the excellence and standards of the program.*

## School Endowment Trustees Vote to Transfer Funds to School

At a recent meeting of the trustees of the St. John Eudes School Endowment Trust Fund, the trustees voted to transfer the maximum amount of \$7,040 allowable under the trust to the school. The transfer will fund several projects Mrs. Danowitz indicated she had planned to improve school facilities.

The Endowment is an *autonomous pious foundation* established to provide current support and future security for the school to assure a Catholic education remains available for our parish children. Donations to the Endowment are tax deductible and support the teaching of Catholic values and standards. Your support of the Endowment is vital to the future of our children. More information about the Endowment is available on the school website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net). Click on “Donate” in the left menu column.

sports program.

Winter season just started, and basketball is the current sports for both boys and girls. We would like to invite all our alumni, friends and the whole SJE School family to come and watch our games. The game schedule is available on the school website – click on *After School Sports* in the left menu column.

Thank you for your support! Go Eagles!!!

*Coach Alvin Castro*

## Stand Up for Religious Freedom

A ruling by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services which requires religious organizations to offer health plans that include contraceptives and abortifacient drugs violates our faith. **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.stjohneudes.org](http://www.stjohneudes.org).



**Adam Perez '02** attended Alemany High School where he was active in the Drama Club and enjoyed the thespian arts. He graduated in 2006 and then attended California State University, Northridge. At CSUN he produced a number of student films including *Nowhere Man* and *Hard Boiled Ramen*, the latter of which was named the 2010 CSUN Student Film of the Year (and is currently available to view on YouTube). His senior project film was *Until College*. He graduated from CSUN with a Bachelor's Degree in Film in 2011 and began work at Pixel Playground, working on the post-production special effects for the major film *Amazing Spider-Man*. He later collaborated with

his classmate, **Tony Tomasino '02**, to do the special effects for a music video. He currently works for a medical consulting and marketing firm editing promotional videos and other media. In his spare time he produces an online comic strip about his two dogs which he posts weekly on the internet.

**Jeannie Gianni '04** attended Notre Dame High School and played on the varsity soccer team for which she was the goalie in her senior year. She graduated in 2008 and attended Pepperdine University and received her Bachelor's Degree in Communication in 2012. Upon graduation, she obtained a job as a social media manager but soon found a job as a student aid for special education needs children at a Beverly Hills school. She has also continued her educational career at California Lutheran College and expects to obtain a Master's Degree in Education in 2015. In addition to her work, Jeannie enjoys reading which she attributes to her middle school English teachers at St. John Eudes (beginning with Mrs. Thies). Because of this influence, her goal is to become a high school English teacher when she graduates from Cal Lutheran.

Our condolences to **Kayla Francisco '11**, and her entire family, on the recent loss of her mother, **Tess Francisco**.

Tess was a former PTSO president, a great supporter of the school and an active member of the St. John Eudes Parish community. She will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to **Katherine Wagner '12** who is one of twenty-six athletes that were selected at the USA Swimming's Junior Nationals in Greensboro, N. Carolina, to compete in a dual meet against the Itoman Swim Club of Japan to be held February 15-16 in Osaka as part of the Wakayama Championship.



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



Members of the Class of 1979 recently reunited at a Chaminade class reunion, but the conversation quickly turned to reminiscing about their days at St. John Eudes School. Pictured (left to right) are Vince Colavetti, Bob Dickinson, Anita Di Cecco, Darren Gilbert, Julie Barnhart, John Leupp and James Winner.



Marilyn Ruzicka is an alumni parent (mother of Darren Ruzicka '89) who just published her first book "Christmas Star Angel". She recently came to visit Grades K-3 and read to the students. They loved the book and were able to interact with a real live author. Literature and reading are important elements of a St. John Eudes School education, and our students enjoy books and also writing their own stories. Thank you Mrs. Ruzicka for your visit and sharing your book with our students! More about the book can be found on Amazon.com.

## In a Lighter Vein . . .

With school well underway, there are some interesting conversations that can be heard involving students:

**Teacher:** "Jimmy, how can one person make so many mistakes in one day?"

**Jimmy:** "I get up early!"

**Susan:** "Dad, can you write in the dark?"

**Father:** "I think so. What do you want me to write?"

**Susan:** "Your name on this report card."

**Mother:** "Why on earth did you swallow the money I gave you?"

**Junior:** "You said it was my lunch money!"

If you make a donation to St. John Eudes School we can pretty much guarantee that we won't swallow it! But it will go to 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 and tax deductible. To donate please contact the School Office (818) 341-1451 or visit our website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net). Thank you!

## Quick Beats . . .

**Thank You! to everyone who worked on the Jog-A-Thon** and helped us surpass our fundraising goal. Over \$61,000 was raised to help support the education program at SJE!

**The SJE Student Council recognized the value of life** by collecting

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



### The HeartBeat

A publication of the  
St. John Eudes School  
Development Office

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The PTSO invites all school parents, alumni and friends to be submersed in fun and excitement at their Spring Fundraising Gala

## “Under the Sea” at the Warner Center Hilton on Saturday, March 8

This year’s PTSO Spring Fundraiser is going to take you *Under the Sea* at the Warner Center Hilton where you’ll enjoy the splendor and glamour of this gala on a grand scale! The night’s activities will include a sumptuous dinner, casino style gaming, music, dancing, the Silent and Live Auctions, and much more. The Silent Auction will be adorned with beautiful baskets full of great prizes to bid on, made through the generous donations from our parents, parishioners and local businesses – and could net you some really great deals. And the Live Auction will include the always popular Class Keepsakes! And of course there’s the Grand Prize Drawing

which will feature an amazing 8 Day/7 Night Vacation for 2 to Maui from LAX. More information and how to get tickets or be a sponsor will be available soon on the school website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net). Seating for *Under the Sea* is limited. Don’t be left to flounder on shore - get your tickets soon!

Mark your calendars now for the **SJE Summer Carnival** coming **Memorial Day Weekend - May 23-25**. Fun, food, shows, rides, games, prizes, silent auction, grand prize drawing and more! *There’s No Better Way to Start the Summer!*



Above: 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. Since the church had been “red tagged” a temporary “tent church” was erected on the field. It became our home for all our first penances, first communions, masses and graduations, until the church was reopened in the summer of 1996. Our students today participate in the yearly “Great California Shakeout” to be earthquake prepared when the next one strikes.

Left: St. John Eudes students displayed their performance talents as they played to a standing room only audience in the church. “The Living Creche” put the crowd into the holiday spirit as our students presented their Christmas program.

Below: Congratulations to the SJE Parish Swim Team, which includes many SJE students, on finishing a strong overall 2nd Place in the Catholic Swim League! Great job team!



### Quick Beats . . .

(Continued from page 3)

over \$370 from the classrooms to help the Pregnancy Counseling Center in their *Respect Life Baby Bottle Coin Collection* drive.

**The WCEA/WASC Accreditation Team will be visiting in the coming month** to review the school’s accreditation.

The team will be meeting with staff, parents, PTSO and School Board members to review the status of the school’s educational program. The teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing for the accreditation.

**The SJE Men’s Council will be sponsoring the 2014 Wine Tasting Spectacular** on Saturday, Feb. 1, beginning at 6:30 pm in Grill Hall.

School parents,

friends and alumni are invited to come and taste some of the world’s finest wines, along with complimentary hot appetizers, cheeses and crackers. Visit the parish website

at [www.sjeparish.net](http://www.sjeparish.net) for complete details. (Note: this event is for adults 21 and over only.)

