



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Accreditation Committee Gives School High Marks Full Accreditation Term Expected

In order to maintain and assure academic excellence, Catholic schools in California are accredited at least once every six years by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The process includes an Accreditation Visiting Committee (AVC), comprised of administrators and teachers from various area schools, which visits the school for three days.

Prior to the visit, the school conducts a Self-Study to evaluate its current performance in respect to WCEA/WASC criteria and articulate its plans for future development. The Visiting Committee reviews the Self-Study, visits classrooms, investigates evidence of the Self-Study, holds interviews with members of the school community, and prepares a written report on its findings during its three day visit. It also writes a recommendation of a *Term of Accreditation* based upon factors relative to the school community's successes and growth needs.

This year marked the year for the reaccreditation of St. John Eudes School. The Visiting Committee arrived in February and on the last

day of the visit met with the faculty, staff and pastor to give a brief summary of its findings. The team rated the school on 12 factors related to a number of important elements.

In announcing the results of the Visiting Committee's preliminary findings, Mrs. Danowitz stated, "It is with great pride that our school was rated overall as highly effective – the highest rating possible in the accreditation process. Based on our Self-Study, we have developed an action plan

that focuses on curriculum, Christian service, and a strategic plan for the school. We look forward to implementing the Action Plan over the next several years. Our term of accreditation will be decided by the WCEA and WASC and we will be informed in July."

Mrs. Danowitz, based on the Visiting Team's comments and initial report, fully expects the school to be reaccredited for the maximum 6 year term when the formal accreditation report is issued. She would like to thank her accreditation leadership team, Carolina Gunter, Lizette Strom, and Sheryl Reyes, as well as all the parents, school shareholders, and supporters who helped in the accreditation process!



Inside This Issue:

Quick Beats	2
Eagles Win	2
1st Place in KoC Track & Field Meet	
Catholic Schools Week Draws Record Visitors	2
In a Lighter Vein	3
The Pulse	3

Highlights:

- **Accreditation Team Gives School Top Ratings**
- **Summer Carnival Great Family Event; Kids Predicted to Have Fun**
- **Student Athletes Bloom in Spring; Eagles Soar Winning Prestigious Knights of Columbus Meet**
- **Alumnus of the Year Presented with Award; Expresses Gratitude to School**
- **PTSO "Under the Sea" Gala Makes Big Splash; Attracts Jellyfish**
- **Alumna Honored at Cathedral for Christian Service**
- **SJE Scouts Achieve "Arrow of Light"; Make Point of Service**
- **SJE Student in Top 3 of Chess Tournament**
- **Popsicles Still Hallmark of St. Paula Montal Day**



Come and Join in the Fun!

Memorial Day Weekend ~ May 23-25 Rides! Shows! Games! Food!

All alumni, friends and families are invited to join in our celebration of summer at this year's St. John Eudes Summer Carnival! It's a great family event and will feature free entertainment, great international food, thrilling rides, a fabulous silent auction, carnival treats, the Grand Prize Drawing, and much more. Drawing tickets and discount ride tickets are available in

the parish plaza after weekend masses. Make sure to mark your calendar now! For more information visit www.sjecarnival.org. **There's No Better Way to Start the Summer!**

Quick Beats . . .

SJE students celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a number of events that highlighted the exceptional elements of a Catholic education. The week began on Jan. 26 with a special Sunday mass and included the school's Open House, a reception breakfast for parishioners, Glow Buddy lunches, a student/faculty volleyball game, Grandparents and Visitors Day (with the largest turnout ever!), and a number of other events. It was a great way to highlight our Catholic identity and this year's theme: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.*

Congratulations to our student athletes who have achieved impressive accomplishments both in team and individual sports programs:

- **Ela Rybak (Gr. 5)** recently competed in swimming in the Winter Junior Olympics and placed in a number of events that allowed her to earn a spot to

compete in the Southern California Club Championships that were held at East L.A. College.

- **Jorge Valdes Reza (Gr. 4)** won the Silver Medal at the USA Tae Kwon Do State Championships held March 1 in Las Vegas. Jorge has qualified to compete in the national tournament which will take place in June.

- **Brendan Strom (Gr. 3)** placed 12th All Around in Level 5 of the Southern California State Gymnastic Championships held in Mission Viejo last month. He qualified to compete in the regional championships held in Phoenix in which he placed 15th out of hundreds of competitors from California, Arizona, Nevada, and Hawaii.

- **Tristan Strom (Gr. 6)** recently competed in the Southern California State Gymnastic Championships held in Ventura as a Silver Level XCEL gymnast and achieved her highest best all-around score. She qualified for the Women's Region 1 Gymnastics Championships, held in Tucson.



Our Eagles soared again as our student-athletes did their best and won 1st Place in this year's Knights of Columbus Track and Field Meet. There were a number of events that gave our team the chance to display their skills. Congratulations to all those who participated!

that was held on March 30! It was a beautiful day and a large group of supporters attended the meet to cheer on our student athletes. Great going Eagles!

The feast day of St. Paula Montal was celebrated by SJE students and faculty on February 26 beginning with a student body mass and then with the annual field day activities (a tradition started by the Sisters of the Pious Schools - the order founded by St. Paula Montal who was canonized in 2001). St. Paula Montal is the saint of families and education, and SJE School continues to educate in her paradigm of creating a civilization of love and service through the education of youth, producing future leaders of tomorrow.

(Continued on page 4)



A relay race depends on teamwork - and it was Eagle teamwork that helped our track and field athletes win the KoC Track & Field Meet. Learning teamwork is an important component of an education at St. John Eudes School.

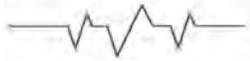
- **The Boy's A Volleyball team** showed an outstanding effort and placed 2nd at the recent Crespi Volleyball Tournament.

- **Congratulations to all our track and field participants for winning 1st Place at the Knights of Columbus Track and Field Meet**



Left - Clifford the Big Red Dog made his customary appearance at the school's Open House as part of the school's Catholic Schools Week celebration. Clifford highlights the importance of literature in a Catholic school curriculum.

Right - School classrooms were full of visitors at the Open House. Guests were treated to an array of student work including dioramas, computer presentations, artwork, compositions, and other displays. The quality and high level of student achievement was evident at each grade level.



In a Lighter Vein . . .

A 90+ year old great grandmother wanted to leave her family something of value to remember her - so she wrote down for them some of the life-lessons she had learned . . .

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

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

Pay off your credit cards every month.

Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.

When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.

Always choose life.

What other people think of you is none of your business.

However good or bad a situation is, it will change.

Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.

God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.

Growing old beats dying young.

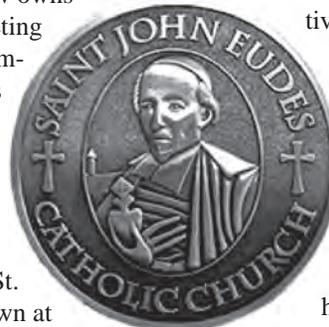
Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.

If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.

All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.

*We're hoping you'll show your love for our children by making 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!*

Miguel Davalos '85 attended Alemany High School, where he was active in the track & field program, and graduated in 1989. He then attended California State University, Northridge, and graduated in 1994 with a B.A. in Communications. At CSUN he was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity. During college he met his future wife, Barbie, and they were married in 2001. Also interested in the communications field, Barbie now owns a public relations marketing firm. Working in the family business, Miguel has developed exceptional skills as a silversmith and is the head designer at Silver King in Chatsworth (www.silverkingusa.com). The St. John Eudes Medal (shown at the right) was designed by Miguel (and he also designed the yearbook cover for the school during his 8th grade year). Miguel is very active in the parish, being involved, among other activities, with the Men's Ministry, 3.2.b.1 Marriage Ministry, and the SJE affiliated scout program as a cub scout den leader. For *fun*, he enjoys yearly 50 mile backpacking trips into the Sierra Nevadas and camping trips with his family, which includes two children who are both current SJE students.



Congratulations to **Bryan Suttles ('86)** who was chosen as the 2014 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year. Bryan attended Chaminade Middle School and then graduated from Chatsworth High School. He attended Moorpark College



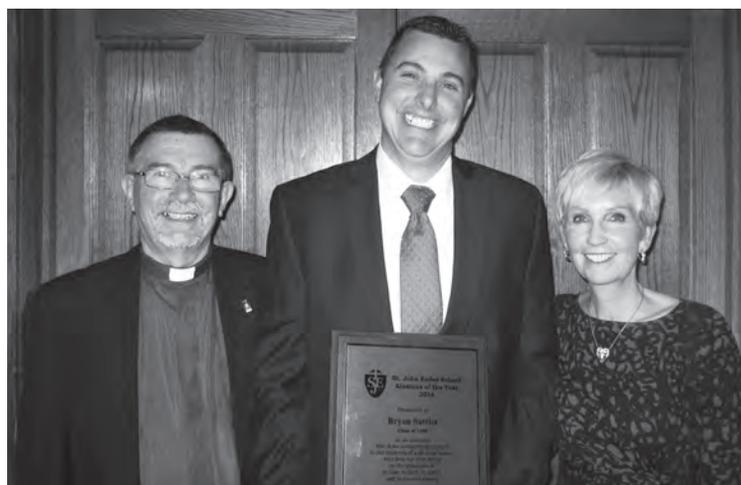
Make sure to visit the school's Facebook page at **SJE365.com** and *like* us!

and completed a plumbing apprenticeship program before joining the family business, Suttles Plumbing. He has extensively supported parish ministries (such as the Men's Council, bible study programs, and a number of other groups), the school, and community organizations. As an active member of the Parish School

Board he was instrumental in recent security upgrades on the parish and school grounds.

When Bryan's mother, Sharon Suttles (who was the St. John Eudes RCIA Director), passed away in 2011 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Bryan and his wife organized yearly groups to participate in the annual "Walk to Defeat ALS" and have raised significant funds (beyond expected goals) to help fight the disease. Bryan is also a leader in the SJE affiliated scouting program and has spent countless hours in the formation and guidance of youth in the group. He and his wife, SHERALYN, have two children, who are both St. John Eudes students. The presentation of the award was made at the annual St. John Eudes School Endowment Trustees' Dinner on April 12. The dinner was attended by the Endowment trustees, School Board members, special invited guests, and a number of Bryan's family. At the dinner, Bryan addressed the guests and commented how being at student at SJE

(Continued on page 4)



Bryan Suttles ('86) received recognition as the 2014 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year at the SJE School Endowment Trustees' Dinner. The award was presented by Fr. Gérard and Mrs. Danowitz, who headed the selection committee. Bryan is an excellent example to our students of an alumnus who is a life-long learner who lives his faith. More about all our Alumnus of the Year awardees is available at www.sjeschool.net.

St. John Eudes School

9925 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 341-1454
Fax: (818) 341-3093

www.school.stjohneudes.org

Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM
Pastor

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal

*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
Ernie Star, Director

The Pulse

(Continued from page 3)

School helped positively form him academically and spiritually. He thanked the school for all it had done for him and particularly expressed his gratitude to the Sisters of the Pious Schools for their guidance and support.

Congratulations to **Brittney Martinez '10** on being the recipient of the L.A. Archdiocese Christian Service Award for Louisville High School. The award was presented to her at a special ceremony at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. She was among an elite group of students and teachers from 51 Catholic high schools in the Los Angeles Archdiocese that received the award on March 18.

SJE Students go on to do wonderful things and we'd like to hear what you've been doing since graduating from SJE School (or if you're a parent, now's your chance to brag a little!). Send us a note via e-mail to theheartbeat@sjeschool.net or mail it to:

Attn: The Heartbeat
St. John Eudes School
9925 Mason Ave.
Chatsworth, CA 91311



Above - The PTSO Spring Gala "Under the Sea" featured a roaming jellyfish and floating bubbles - creating the ambiance of an underwater Neptunian soiree. A fantastic candy bar had many guests hooked.

Below - SJE School Board member Rick Crandall (left) joins in a friendly game of blackjack with SJE School parents Maggie Sulka and Robert Davi. Proceeds benefit the school's educational program.



Quick Beats . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Noah Estiva (Gr. 3) won 3rd place in his category at the So-Cal Super States Chess Championship held on March 15 by winning 5 of 6 chess matches. The annual event was held in Valencia and included over 500



It's a tradition that after celebrating St. Paula Montal Day with sports activities, students are treated to popsicles (alumni will certainly remember this treat!). We're not sure if Mother Paula was a popsicle aficionado, but the kids sure are!

student chess players. Quite an achievement Noah!

The SJE chapter of the National Junior Honor Society participated in a Shane's Inspiration project at a playground in Westwood to complete their Christian service project. Shane's Inspiration fosters a bias-free world for children by creating playgrounds that are universally accessible and provide for social inclusion of children with disabilities. The NJHS is under the guidance of Ms. Sheppers.

The SJE parish tradition of Soup and Stations on Fridays during Lent took on an added dimension as our students and families sponsored a special Lenten Friday night. Parents prepared and served the soup while the 6th Grade led the Children's Living Stations of the

Cross. It was a wonderful Lenten experience and a great way to serve the parish community.

The SJE PTSO Spring Fundraiser took party-goers Under the Sea for this year's gala event held at the Warner Center Hilton in February. The evening featured a tasty dinner, desserts, live and silent auctions, casino style games, door prizes, and the Grand Prize Drawing that featured a trip for two to Maui. The event raised \$28K for the school program. There were no crabs at this party, just an ocean full of fun!

Our school is affiliated with a great scouting program that is supported by many students and their families. Congratulations to **Tyler Suttles (Gr. 5)**, **Daniel Myers (Gr. 5)**, and **Xavier Lopez (Gr. 5)** for achieving the *Arrow of Light Award*, which is the highest award in the Cub Scouts.