



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Parish Launches Capital Campaign; School to Benefit from Capital Improvements, Solar Energy System

After consulting school parents, parish ministry leaders, and the Parish Finance Council regarding the need for a major investment into school and parish facilities, Fr. Gérard has authorized a capital campaign to solicit donations to make major improvements to the parish and school campus and facilities.

With over 20 years since the last major capital improvements (resulting from the Northridge Earthquake) and nearly 50 years since the school was built, parish and school facilities are at a critical turning point. Today there are new and unmet needs in our parish and school, as well as new expectations of our church. Maintenance issues, as well as a growing parish community, new technological advances, and Pope Francis' call to be better stewards of the environment, have required a new look at how we use and care for our facilities.

The campaign, titled *With Burning Hearts Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow – a Campaign for St. John Eudes*, seeks to raise \$3.1 million for



a number of projects that include an integrated solar energy system, a new school roof, new energy efficient air conditioners and classroom windows, plus the replacement of the parking lot/playground pavement and a new preschool, among other important projects. The campaign was developed with important consideration being given to thoughts about sustainability, conservation, education, worship, compassion, and family. While the campaign is based on a three year pledge program, improvement projects will begin as soon as sufficient funds are received.

To learn more about the campaign and how you can help, visit the school website at www.sjeschool.net and click on the campaign logo. A list of the planned capital projects, as well as ways to donate are available online.

Summer's on the Way and We're Getting Ready to Celebrate!

Memorial Day Weekend marks the unofficial start of summer and we're getting ready to celebrate our favorite time of year! All alumni, school families and friends are invited to join in the fun at the SJE Summer Carnival. *There'll be exciting games, exhilarating rides, top-notch entertainment, great food, a fabulous silent auction, the Multi-Cultural Festival and more, plus the Grand Prize*



Drawing that will give away \$8,000 in cash prizes!

Get complete details at www.sjecarnival.org and mark your calendar now to come to the carnival. **There's No Better Way to Start the Summer!**

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Highlights:

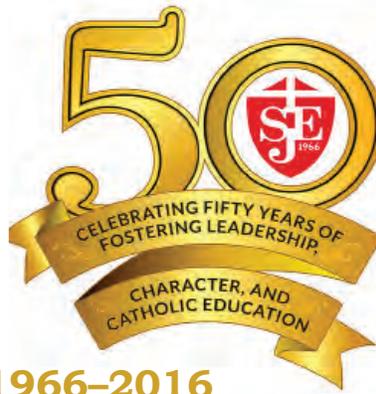
- **Capital Campaign to Benefit School; Energy Efficient Paradigm, Resurfaced Playground Planned**
- **Summer Carnival Guaranteed Fun; Kids Can't Wait**
- **School's 50th Anniversary to Be Spectacular Event; Alumni to Chair**
- **Eagles Fly High; SJE Wins KoC Track Meet Again!!!!!!**
- **SJE Student Interviews Former CIA Chief; Probes for Secrets on Constitutional Rights**
- **Alumnus of the Year Recognized; Gives Inspirational Message on Courage**
- **Alumnus Returns to Paint Pillars; Shows Character in Artwork**
- **Students work with Boeing Engineers; Eggs Crack Under Failure or Success of Project**
- **Students Sweep-Up at "Day of the Horse" Poster Contest**

School to Observe 50th Anniversary in 2016; Gala Event Planned for Celebration

2016 marks the 50th Anniversary of St. John Eudes School – and plans are already in the works for a ginormous party to mark this special event. A committee of alumni, school parents and friends is being formed – chaired by alumni **Jenny Crandall '89**, **Colleen (Crandall) Quiles '91**, and **Casey (Crandall) Lufrano '93**, who are organizing the festivities. And they are planning to do something really great to celebrate a really great school.

April 16, 2016, has been set as the date for the gala. So make sure to mark your calendar now. This will be an event you won't want to miss. If you're interested in donating or helping, please call the School

Office. And visit the school website and Facebook page for updates about the celebration as they become available.



Quick Beats . . .

SJE students recently participated in the San Fernando Regional Vocation Poster Contest

as part of National Vocation Awareness Week. Ten local schools participated and our students won 3 of the 16 top awards! The awards were presented at a luncheon with Bishop Wilkerson.

SJE athletic teams and student athletes continue ways of athletic excellence . . .

- **Boys and Girls Basketball "A" Teams** finished 1st Place in their division of the *Valley Catholic Sports League*.
- **The SJE Track Team** once again took 1st Place at the recent *Knights of Co-*

lumbus Track Meet! With strong competition from other local Catholic school, our student athletes once again did their best and showed their strength in track & field events.

- **Anthony Constantino (Gr. 4)** and **Aaron Constantino (Gr. 2)** represented their hockey team in the *First Annual Kings Cup Tournament* competing against teams representing other cities and towns. Their team won 2nd place in the tournament.

- Congratulations to **Brendan Strom (Gr. 4)** for placing 6th All Around in his division at the Region 1 Men's Gymnastics Championships held in Ontario, CA on Apr. 11. He also placed 2nd on the Vault.

SJE students excel at chess competitions

and Noah Estiva (Gr. 4) competed in the *SoCal Super States Chess Championship* on Mar. 8-9. He won 2nd Place in the Blitz Competition and took 7th Place in the Gr. 4-6 section of the main event – the only 4th Grader to finish in the top 10! Congratulations Noah!

SJE students and families took an active part in celebrating Lenten events at the parish

by hosting one of the *Soup & Stations* held on Lenten Friday evenings. School families prepared the soup and then the 6th Grade class presented "living" Stations of the Cross.

Lockers are being installed in the middle school classrooms to

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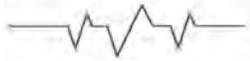
SJE Eagles pose for a group photo at the recent Knights of Columbus Track Meet that was held on Mar. 8 at El Camino Real High School in Woodland Hills. Our track team once again took top honors at the meet, winning first place for the second year in a row! In addition, there were numerous individual honors and awards. Congratulations to all our student athletes!



*Left – While at a convention with his parents on Mar. 9, current 6th Grade student **Tyler Suttles** interviewed Former Secretary of Defense **Leon Panetta**. Mr. Panetta has a long history serving our country in many roles such as California Congressman, Director of the CIA and White House Chief of Staff. This interview filled a requirement for Tyler to reach the rank of First Class in Boy Scouts, which he officially earned Apr. 14, just one year after bridging from our own SJE parish Cub Scout Pack 466. Tyler developed his own questions that were required to be about our constitutional rights and obligations. They included topics such as our "pursuit of happiness", "clean environment" and a discussion on "what we can do as scouts to do our part".*

Right – Mr. Panetta signs the cast on Tyler's left arm. Tyler was sporting a cast due to an arm injury. The cast has now become a very special collector's item, and who knows – maybe one day it'll end up in the Smithsonian!





In a Lighter Vein . . .

Three elderly men are at the doctor for a memory test.

The doctor says to the first man, "What is three times three?"

"274" was his reply.

The doctor says to the second man, "It's your turn. What is three times three?"

"Tuesday" replies the second man.

The doctor says to the third man, "Okay, your turn. What's three times three?"

"Nine" says the third man.

"That's great!" exclaims the doctor. "How did you get that?"

"Simple," says the third man. "I just subtracted 274 from Tuesday."

Hopefully your memory is in great shape and you won't forget 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!

Sandra De La Riva Repede ('75) (holding plaque) was recently recognized as the **2015 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year** at the annual Dinner of the St. John Eudes School Endowment Trust Fund Trustees. The dinner was held on April 18 and was attended by the Endowment trustees, as well as SJE School Board members and invited guests. Mrs. Repede was cited by the selection committee, headed by **Fr. Gérard Lecomte** and **Mrs. Danowitz**, as an excellent example to our students of someone who has been a life-long learner in the spirit of St. Paula Montal, and who has applied the principles of "to Live, to Love, to Learn, and to Leave a Legacy" since graduating from St. John Eudes School. The committee particularly noted her inspirational courage and spirituality in facing difficult life situations and challenges, as well as her exceptional support of the school and of the goals of Catholic education. She was also recognized for her academic accomplishments, her success as an Olympic athlete (in the 1984 and 1988 games), for her support of her local church and parish, and for her dedication as a civil servant. During her acceptance remarks, Mrs. Repede acknowledged the help and aid of her father; **Pablo Zepeda** (not pictured), and her mother; **Josephine Zepeda** (left), as well as the Sisters of the Pious Schools, particularly **Sr. Guadalupe Gonzales** (second from left), **Sr. Georgina Gutierrez** (right), and **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz** (former SJE principal, now serving in India). She also acknowledged the guidance she has received from **St. Paula Montal**, at whose canonization in 2001 Mrs. Repede was present.

Julian Yap ('99) graduated from Chaminade College Preparatory in 2003. Going on to California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. Today he is working as a licensed profession civil engineer in San Diego. He likes biking and hiking in his free time in the hills and fields of the San Diego area.

David Orfano Singontiko '04 was the valedictorian of his graduating class and attended Chaminade College Preparatory where he was active on the fencing team and was a student council officer. Upon graduating from Chaminade in 2008 he was accepted into Loyola Marymount University (LMU). While in college he worked as a volunteer at Home Boy Industries and was also a supportive blood donor of the Red Cross. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 2012 and studied to obtain his mortgage banking licenses. He also worked as a financial analyst. To promote his career, he obtained an internship from the CMIS Group and since last August has been working in Den Haag, Netherlands. When he has some free time he enjoys reading and running (but not at the same time). A special thanks to **Frederick Cantarine '12** who, as part of his Eagle Scout project, painted the beautiful *Pillars of Character* on the six posts of the north school building (see photo on page 4). He



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

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
Chatsworth, CA 91311

also added drought resistant plants under the library windows adjacent to the Lassen St. parking lot. The Pillars are an important element of the character focused educational program at St. John Eudes School.

In Memoriam – Our condolences to the family of **Andy Aunchman**, grandfather of **Melanie Aunchman '98**, who passed away earlier this month. Mr. Aunchman as the first "father" member of the "Room Mothers" (now know as the "Room Parents"). A funeral Mass, concelebrated by Fr. Gérard and former St. John Eudes pastor Msgr. Robert McNamara was held in the church attended by many of Mr. Aunchman's family, friends, and fellow parishioners. He was a great supporter of the school and long-time parishioner. He'll be greatly missed.



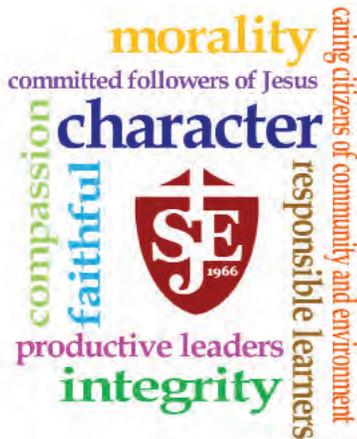
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The HeartBeat

A publication of the
St. John Eudes School
Development Office
Ernie Star, Director

Quick Beats . . .

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allow students storage space for books and supplies. Lockers have already been installed in the 8th Grade homeroom. The 6th and 7th Grade homerooms will receive their lockers over the summer break. The lockers are being purchased through donations and with the proceeds from the annual SJE Golf Tournament, held on Apr. 25 this year (thanks to Eric and Molly Unger for chairing this event again!).

This year's Jump Rope for Heart event was a rousing success and raised \$6,402.50 (\$2,000 more than last year!) to fight heart disease and stroke. The event is a nationwide effort that helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health.

SJE School once again swept the awards at the recent Chatsworth Day of the Horse poster contest! Over half of the 342 posters from 6 participating schools were submitted by

SJE students and the school once again took home the perpetual trophy. Congratulations to all the winners!

See the new promotional video showing why we are a Flagship School of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, produced with the



SJE middle school students, under the guidance of science teacher Mr. Jones, have been collaborating with Boeing engineers on team projects in the area of physical science. The Boeing engineers were invited to SJE to view the projects when they were completed. The students, who worked in groups and within a budget, were excited to show the engineers, as well as each other, their designs. The 6th Grade students were challenged to construct a structure out of uncooked spaghetti and marshmallows that would support the weight of a tennis ball. The 7th Grade students were tasked to design a parachute that would deliver an uncooked egg safely to the ground when dropped. 8th Graders were challenged to design a working wind turbine using plastic cups, pencils, glue, and string. Our students rose to the challenge. Their projects were fantastic and impressed the engineers from Boeing!

help of the St. John Eudes Parish School Board and now available to view on the homepage of the school's website or on our Facebook page.

SJE students recently volunteered their time with Children's Hunger Fund's Project Food Pak and filled the boxes which were provided with nutritious food and other essentials. Then each box was delivered to the home of a family who truly relies on the loving care of a local church in their poor community. This project inspires generosity and provides a means of sharing the gospel through both word and deed.



Above – “The Open Heart Gala” was this year’s PTSO Spring Fundraiser. Held on Feb. 14, which happened to be Valentine’s Day, it was a sold-out event that gave sweethearts the chance to get out on the town for a romantic evening of dancing, great food, and fun! Thanks to everyone who attended and a special thanks to all the volunteers to helped make it such a success.

Right – The six “Pillars of Character”, painted on the six support panels of the north school building by **Frederick Cantarine ’12**, are a visual reminder to our student about the importance of character in maintaining a just society. They form a foundation in dealing with others and set a baseline goal for moral behavior.

