

# The HeartBeat

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

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

## Daily News Recognizes St. John Eudes School as One of Best Private Schools in Los Angeles



St. John Eudes School was recently recognized by the Daily News in its annual *Readers Choice Awards* as a top school among all private schools in Los Angeles County. The classification included all private schools, including elementary, middle, and high schools. Readers recognized the school as one of their “favorites” among schools in that category. The awards list is published each year and

included on this coveted and highly anticipated list are the names of a wide variety of people, places and things which readers choose as the best of the best.

Votes were tallied from ballots which ran both in the newspaper and online. The publication received an overwhelming response leading to its biggest and best year ever for reader participation.

The awards allow Daily News readers to know where they can turn for reliable products and services, as well as utilize companies and organizations that provide exceptional value. From individuals and small neighborhood establishments to national corporate chains, all were eligible and represented in the awards.

Congratulations to our students, families, faculty and staff on this wonderful achievement!

## SJE School Launches Transitional Kindergarten Classroom Facilities Provide Exceptional Learning Experience

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, St. John Eudes School now has a Transitional Kindergarten program. Known as “TK”, the program fills the need to prepare pre-Kindergarten children socially and academically for the current elementary school curriculum that begins with Kindergarten.

Recognizing the need for a pre-Kindergarten program, Fr. Gérard and Mrs. Danowitz, in consultation with the parish School Board and Finance Council, began earlier this year to formulate a plan to implement the program. It was decided to locate the TK Room in the southern section of Montal Hall adjacent to the McNamara Library.

A completely new facility was created, including dedicated age-appropriate restroom facilities, an arts & crafts “kitchen” complete with multiple wash basins



The Transitional Kindergarten (TK) room was created using the southern section of Montal Hall adjacent to McNamara Library. Permanent walls were installed and the TK area was built to allow direct access from the quad area as well as the lunch area and enclosed playground. The room includes a number of features that help facilitate an exceptional learning experience for the TKers, including is a state-of-the-art Smart Board that allows an interactive learning experience and provides students with a wide array of learning tools.

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### Highlights:

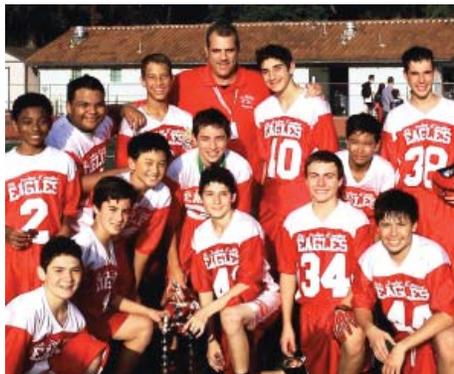
- **SJE School Ranked in Top of all Private Schools in L.A. County**
- **Pre-Kindergarten “TK” Program Expands SJE Educational Program**
- **SJE Boys Flag Football A-Team Places in Valley Classic**
- **“Ice Cream Social” Dished-Out on the Sundae Before School Opens**
- **SJE Parish Receives New Associate Pastor: Welcome Fr. Lawrence!**
- **Alumnus Sought As An Example to Students; Alumni & Friends Invited to Nominate**
- **Lockers Installed in 6th Grade Class**
- **Popes Presented to Primary Pupils**
- **Halloween Hop Is Spirited Event**

## Quick Beats . . .

**Being chosen as a 7U All-Star to represent the North Valley Youth Baseball League** in Granada Hills on a team of twelve 7 year olds, **Jack Ramirez (Gr. 2)** played on the team through the summer which went 27-1 and won the 7U All-Star World Series!

**The SJE After School Sports Program received a new electronic scoreboard** courtesy of the graduating Class of 2015, which collected money through a recycling project and provided the scoreboard as their legacy gift.

**Jog-A-Thon Day brought out joggers from every grade level to help the school**, and as alumni will remember, also to have a great time with the Jog-A-Thon raffles and lunch. The field was once again



*Congratulations to the Boys' Flag Football "A Team" on their Third Place in the 12th Annual Valley Classic Flag Football Tournament at Notre Dame High School. The team had an overall record of 4-1 and showed great team spirit and cohesiveness. Way to go guys!*

filled this year with students, faculty and staff working their way around the course to earn donations from sponsors. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped!

**Qualifying for the 2015 Future Stars National Championships in Men's Gymnastics**, and after competing against a number of other gymnasts from California, Nevada, and Arizona, **Brendan Strom (Gr. 5)** will now be competing again in November at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado. Way to go Brendan!

*(Continued on page 4)*



*There's no better way to get ready for the start of school than with ice cream! And the SJE Room Parents dished it out at the annual "Ice Cream Social". This soiree allows students and families to get together in a social setting to get to know each other a little better and enjoy sundaes and floats while comparing notes of their past summer adventures - as well as compare notes about the coming school year.*

## Transitional Kindergarten

*(Continued from page 1)*

and work counter, a large classroom with designated learning areas, and a Smart Board to allow the application of advanced technological teaching techniques.

With the opening of the TK program the school has essentially realized it's long-term goal of providing a quality education to pre-Kindergarten students and supporting the important educational needs of parish families with younger children and siblings.



*Above - The spacious main classroom area of the TK room provides for several work areas that provide students important learning opportunities. A number of stations located around the room provide differing subject themes and learning approaches. Below - The TK room has a dedicated preparation counter, storage areas, and wash basins that help facilitate the more artistic activities of the TKers. The room also hosts its own restroom facilities and direct access to the enclosed playground area.*



**Our school's 50th Anniversary Celebration is just around the corner, so mark your calendar now and plan on celebrating with us on this really special day!**

April 16, 2016, has been set as the date for the gala. We hope to see many of our alumni, families and friends at the party and guarantee 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.



## The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

**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 year has been working in Den Haag, Netherlands. When he has some free time he enjoys reading and running (but not at the same time).

We welcome our new associate pastor, **Fr. Lawrence Goodwin, CJM**. He is a native of Ontario, Canada, and lived in Canada until his early 30's when he moved to the U.S. Fr. Lawrence is a social worker by trade and was ordained a deacon here at St. John Eudes in 2012. He was ordained a priest on August 8, 2013, at St. James/St. Leo in Solana Beach (near San Diego).



Fr. Lawrence served his first 2 years as associate pastor at St. James and was appointed associate pastor at St. John Eudes last August. He lived briefly in Mexico and the Philippines as part of his priestly formation process.



Make sure to visit the school's Facebook page at [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com) and like us!



Read the latest tweets about the school on Twitter @sje365\_news!



Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram [SJE365!](http://SJE365!)

*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](mailto:theheartbeat@sjeschool.net) or mail it to:*

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

### In a Lighter Vein . . .

While a person may learn a lot in school, there are certain life lessons that just can't be learned without experiencing life. A group of senior citizens was asked what some of those lessons are and here's what they replied:

*I've learned . . . that money doesn't buy happiness.*

*I've learned. . . that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.*

*I've learned . . . that under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.*

*I've learned . . . that to ignore the facts does not change the facts.*

*I've learned . . . that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.*

*I've learned . . . that love, not time, heals all wounds.*

*Hopefully you've learned that a donation to St. John Eudes School is a great investment in the future. 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](http://www.sjeschool.net). Thank you!*

**In Memoriam** - Our condolences to the family of **Mary Ann Walinski** who passed away last month. Mrs. Walinski, along with her husband, **Gene Walinski** (who passed away in 2012), were founding members of the parish and very active in parish life. They were also school alumni parents and supported the school in many ways. A rosary for Mrs. Walinski was held in the church and a funeral Mass was held at St. Rose of Lima Church in Simi Valley.



*Above* - Sr. Rosemary (center), former SJE principal, continues to enjoy her work in India. The sisters recently celebrated "Onam", the equivalent of Thanksgiving in Kerala. They made the typical "flower carpet" with the theme "Wake Up the World" (the theme of The Year of Consecrated Life).

*Below* - Some of Sr. Rosemary's students pose with pictures of St. Paula Montal and St. Kateri Tekhawiya, our Native American saint.



### Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year.

If you know of an alumnus who will be an 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, you're invited to nominate them. Nomination forms are available on the school website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net) by clicking on the Alumnus of the Year article below the "News & Events" header. Nominations are due by January 7, 2016.

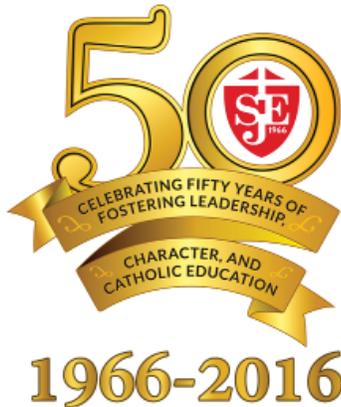
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Mrs. Barbara Danowitz  
Principal



### The HeartBeat

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

### Quick Beats . . .

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**SJE students took part in the recent "Great California Shake-Out"** held yearly to promote earthquake preparedness. Earthquakes are a reality when you live in California, but there are ways to help keep yourself safe. And our students learned how to react should an earthquake occur at school or at home.

**"Character Counts Week" was observed in October** to help students focus on the six pillars of character: Trust-



Sixth Graders show their excitement as they find the new lockers in their classroom. Middle school students now have lockers to use for their books and supplies.

worthiness, Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, and Citizenship. Developed by a former professor at Loyola Law School (Los Angeles), the program helps students develop an understanding and appreciation for ethical approaches to problems and relationships.

### Members of the National Junior Honor Society were inducted into the SJE chapter during a candle ceremony last month

which included a presentation by guest speaker Captain Steve Ruda of the Los Angeles Fire Department. Captain Ruda, an alumni parent, encouraged students to always strive to perform "above the line". Members of NJHS have maintained a minimum GPA of 3.5, demonstrated volunteer or service hours, preserved an excellent record of behavior in and out of

school, and have participated in leadership roles in extracurricular activities. Congratulations to our scholars and future leaders!

*Right - Fr. Gérard, Mrs. Danowitz and Mr. Jones pose proudly with the 2015-16 Student Council initiated at the first student Mass of the year. Participation on the Student Council helps build leadership skills and develops social responsibility.*



*Left - Middle school students presented a living museum of popes for religion class. Primary grade students attended the wonderful presentation and learned about the popes throughout the Church's history.*

*Right - There were no tricks, just treats, as students and their families enjoyed this year's "spirited" Halloween Hop sponsored by the PTSO. It was a great family event with a lot of fun for everyone!*



with  
**burning hearts**   
YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW!  
a campaign for St. John Eudes

The **With Burning Hearts Capital Campaign** has exceeded the \$1.2 million milestone mark in pledges and donations to fund major improvements on the church/school campus. The campaign was initiated earlier this year with an overall goal of \$3.1 million.

The school will benefit immediately from the first phase projects, which include new roofs for all school buildings, replacement of the paved playground surfaces, and a comprehensive solar panel system that will greatly reduce energy costs and help us meet Pope Francis' call to be good stewards of our environment.

**We hope that our alumni, alumni families and friends will step-up and help us make our goal. If you have not yet pledged or contributed to the Capital Campaign, please do so today.** More information about the planned improvements, goals of the Capital Campaign, and how to donate is available at [www.sjeparish.net/withburninghearts](http://www.sjeparish.net/withburninghearts).

