



# The HeartBeat

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

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

## Catholic Schools Week, Open House Lead to School Celebration of 50th Jubilee; Party Planned to Mark Milestone Alumni & Friends Invited to Join in the Celebration!

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It's celebrated this year from January 31 through February 6. The theme for this year is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service" and the theme couldn't be more appropriate as we begin to focus on the celebration of a very important milestone in the life of our school community.

The current school year marks our 50th Jubilee.

For fifty years, our students have taken the foundation of knowledge and faith received through their Catholic education at St. John Eudes School and have achieved extraordinary results.

In combination with the 50th Jubilee and the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, the school's annual

Open House on January 31 is

designed to showcase the work of our current students and the advancement of the school's educational program. During the past 50 years the school's program has evolved to meet the demands of the 21st Century and the developing world economy, which has put an emphasis on technological skills, scientific development, and early learning programs. High schools and colleges also demand that students be better prepared for their curriculums, and the workplace puts further demands on highly developed skill sets. And our school has evolved its educational program to meet these new challenges



Students and parents visit the Computer Lab during Open House to view work generated by students using curriculum integrated applications.

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The 50th Jubilee Celebration will be held on April 16, 2016, at the school. The St. John Eudes School 2016 Alumnus of the Year will be honored at the event, and we will be celebrating the history of St. John Eudes School and the achievements of our students. All our parishioners, school families, alumni and friends are invited to join in the celebration. Information about the event will soon be available in the church bulletin, as well as on the parish and school websites.



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Highlights:

- **National Catholic Schools Week Highlights Value of Catholic Education**
- **Open House Celebrates Student Successes**
- **School Turns 50! Mega Party Planned; Friends, Alumni Invited to Celebrate**
- **Students Dance & Sing Way to Stardom**
- **Girl's Volleyball Teams Score Net Athletic Successes**
- **Save the Date! Summer Carnival Coming Memorial Day Weekend**
- **Alumna Takes on Law; Has No Complaints**
- **Sisters Look to Establish School in India; Work to Raise Dignity of Women**
- **Cancer Awareness Becomes Focus of Student Council**



Special student projects are on display during the Open House for review by visitors. Teachers and staff are available to discuss the elements of their grade level curriculum.



It was the 50th day of school in the 50th year of the school . . . so what do you do? You have a "50s Day"! Everyone turned back the clock to the 1950s and celebrated with root beer floats, 50s dress, and good ol' 50s music by "The Alley Cats". What a great history lesson!

## Quick Beats . . .

**After-school enrichment programs that focus on the fine arts provide students important opportunities** and we are proud that several of our students were featured in the California Dance Academy's holiday presentation of "The Nutcracker". The

technically difficult ballet was performed at the Calabasas Performing Arts Education Center and included **Emily Hurtado (Gr. 7), Ma. Emilia Del Castillo (Gr. 7), Isabella Davalos (Gr. 7), Sophie Navarro (Gr. 7), and Haley Allado (Gr. 3).**

**SJE students recently displayed their amazing musical and acting talents** during concerts and plays which celebrated the Christmas season. SJE students did an incredible job presenting the school's annual Christmas concert. Titled *When Love Was Born*, the concert was presented in the church to a full house and inspired everyone with the true meaning of Christmas. **Patrick Mayoral (Gr. 8), Ela Rybak (Gr. 7), and Xavier Lopez (Gr. 7)** also did a great job performing with the SJE Adult Choir at its annual Christmas Concert which presented *The Innkeepers Daughter*, an original score

written by SJE Choir Director Dr. Dana Howell. And congratulations to **Chase Teglas (Gr. 3)** who displayed his acting talents as Linus in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* which was presented at Chaminade's Tutor Center for the Performing Arts. He had a great monologue at the end of the play about the true meaning of Christmas. Chase is also currently preparing for his

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The **With Burning Hearts Capital Campaign** is near the \$1.2 million milestone mark in pledges and donations to fund major improvements on the church/school campus. The campaign was initiated last 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).



**Above** - Congratulations to the Girls Volleyball 7th Grade "A" Team which took 3rd place in the Royal Division at the Louisville High School Volleyball Tournament. **Below** - Congrats also to the Girls Volleyball 6th Grade "B" Team , coached by Mr. and Ms. Koochof. They finished their season UNDEFEATED. Great job Lady Eagles!



**Left** - The church was filled with parishioners, school families and guests who were there to see the presentation of "When Love Was Born", the title of this year's annual SJE School Christmas concert. The audience was treated to a wonderful evening filled with the holiday spirit. **Right** - SJE students sang and played their roles in the presentation. The experience of performing in front of a large crowd is a great learning opportunity that can only be gained through participation in this kind of event.



**Save the Date!**  
**Memorial Day Weekend**  
**May 27-29, 2016**

### *In a Lighter Vein . . .*

*Overheard in the classroom:*

*Teacher:* George, go to the map and find North America.

*George:* Here it is!

*Teacher:* Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?

*Class:* George!

*Teacher:* Maria, use “defeat,” “defense,” and “detail” in a sentence.

*Maria:* The rabbit cut across the field, and defeat went over defense before detail.

*Teacher:* If “can’t” is short for “cannot,” what is “don’t” short for?

*Susan:* Doughnut.

*Teacher:* Are you good in math?

*Max:* Yes and no.

*Teacher:* What does that mean?

*Max:* Yes, I’m no good in math.

*You may have overheard that a great way to support our students is 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](http://www.sjeschool.net). Thank you!*

**Lorena Acevedo '05** attended Alemany High School where she enjoyed sports and playing on the volleyball team. After graduating AHS in 2009 she enrolled in Pierce College but soon found herself drawn to working in a law firm. She enjoys the rigors of the legal environment and is deciding whether to make being part of a legal office her career choice. But besides work, she enjoys spending time with her friends (particularly attending concerts). She also likes to travel and see the world – possibly taking a trip soon to Mexico and see the sights of Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Sounds like it’s going to be a great trip to take!

**Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch.P.**, former SJE Principal who is currently teaching English to novice sisters in India, recently sent an email about plans to establish a school to teach elementary and middle school students. She wrote, “*We now have 12 Indian Piarist Sisters (Sisters of the Pious Schools), all studying and preparing for our mission in the Church - to provide an integral Christian-human formation with preference for the poor and with the goal of ‘Saving families by teaching them the love of God.’ We also educate to raise the dignity of women, which is a great need here in India. The young Sisters have been teaching in various schools (here in Kerala & in Tamil Nadu) and we believe it is time to start our own school with the spirit of Mother Paula. . . So we want to start a school in a village where all children can have the benefit of a quality Christian education in English. . . The*



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](https://twitter.com/sje365_news)!



Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram [SJE365!](https://www.instagram.com/SJE365/)

*most urgent need is for prayers that the Spirit guide us as we go out to share the Good News.” Funding is also a major concern in establishing the school and she hopes that many friends and alumni of SJE School will help make the school in India a reality. More information about how to help will soon be available on the school website and in coming editions of the HeartBeat.*



Eudist seminarian **Eleuterio “Tello” Mireles, Jr.**, (left) is well known around the parish but he has now started a new phase of his priestly formation. He recently began his pastoral internship at our parish and will be involved more directly in the parish’s reli-

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*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  
9925 Mason Ave.  
St. John Eudes School  
Chatsworth, CA 91311*



*Sr. Rosemary (center, left) poses with another sister from India in a local public school where the Sisters of the Pious Schools have been teaching. While the sisters have been busy teaching in local schools, their goal is to eventually open their own school based on the paradigm of St. Paula Montal - “Saving families by teaching them the love of God.” The sisters ask for your prayers and help as they begin this next phase of their ministry in India.*

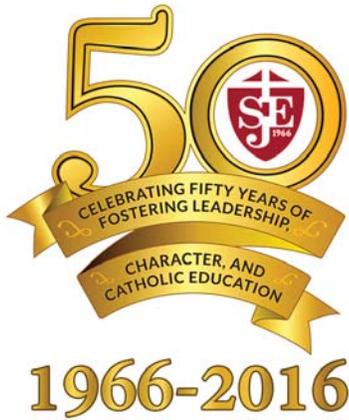
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### The HeartBeat

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Ernie Star, Director

### Quick Beats . . .

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role in Golden Performing Art's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* which will be presented in February.

**Students and families showed their generosity and concern for the needy** by supporting the *Adopt-A-Family* food drive. Part of the L.A. Archdiocese's program to help impoverished families, the program collects food and other staples to help poor families during

### The Pulse

(Continued from page 3)

gious life. "Tello" (as he likes to be called) has a bachelor's degree in New Evangelization from John Paul the Great Catholic University in Escondido. He is also the executive producer of *Pillars of Catholicism*, a 13-episode internet video series, offering catechesis on the fundamentals of our faith (available on Amazon.com). Recently returned from a year of spiritual formation in France, he has begun studying for a masters degree in theology at St.

the Thanksgiving holiday. Our families were very generous again this year, donating a large amount of food to the program.

**The Student Council recently sponsored a Cancer Awareness Day to allow students to learn about cancer** and its effects on the human body. The event was held to show support for Ms. Stula, 8th Grade Home-room Teacher, and Ms. Funicello, 1st Grade Aid, both of whom are currently fighting cancer. The Student Council worked to "Sock it to Cancer" by selling purple socks (the color associated with cancer awareness) and also cancer awareness wristbands, with the proceeds being donated to the City of Hope Cancer Treatment and Research Center.

**The Aliso Canyon - Porter Ranch gas leak has affected a number of SJE school families** and some school families have needed to evacuate their homes in Porter Ranch. Pastor Fr. Gérard addressed the issue in a statement to the parish in the Jan.17 church bulletin noting the duty we have to help those affected by the leak.

**Cheerleading is a demanding and competitive activity** and we're proud of two SJE students who are members of

John's Seminary in Camarillo. He will be involved in parish and school religious formation functions and other aspects of parish religious life through June when his internship will be completed.

*Enjoy some of the world's best wines with some of the world's best people! "Save the Date" for the upcoming . . .*

**St. John Eudes  
Wine Tasting Spectacular  
Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016  
6:30 pm in Grill Hall**



Sponsored by the  
SJE Men's Council

Watch for more information in the church bulletin or on the parish website at [sjeparish.net](http://sjeparish.net)

(Please note: This event is for adults 21 years and older.)

the team that recently won the National Cheerleading Championship! **Lisette Cortez (Gr. 6)** and **Kaylie Koochhof (Gr. 6)** are members of *West Coast Rush* and competed against 16 other teams at the national level in their age group. The team goes on to Florida in April to represent the USA in the world competition.

**We're proud to have an olympian at our school** and congratulate **Ela Rybak (Gr. 7)** on qualifying for 4 events in the Junior Olympics!

**The SJE middle school has been accepted into the 2016 Mitch Englander Making Movies that Matter CD12 Youth Film Festival!** Making Movies that Matter is a grant-funded opportunity for K-12 schools to engage with artists-in-residence in a creative and educational process culminating in a juried film festival.



*The 6th Grade class delivered Adopt-A-family gifts at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral. And the picture doesn't show all that was donated - there were another 7 boxes that didn't fit on the bus! Adopt-A-Family is an Archdiocesan program that delivers food and other staples to needy families for Thanksgiving. Our school families were again extremely generous this year!*