



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Class of 2016 Graduates with Hopes for the Future Ready to Face Challenges with Strength of Christian Values



Mrs. Strom, Mrs. Danowitz, Fr. Gérard and Ms. Stula pose proudly with the newest graduates from St. John Eudes School for their official graduation photograph. Well prepared for the future, these students look forward to the day they start high school.

This year has certainly marked a very special year for our school. With the celebration of our 50th Anniversary we took the opportunity to reflect on where the school has come in the last 50 years. And now with the graduation of the Class of 2016, we reflect on where our students are now heading.

Much has changed in the last 50 years, but the values of a Catholic education continue to be at the core of a St. John Eudes education. These graduates will take those values with them as they head off to high school and beyond, ready to face challenges and opportu-

nities that could not have been even imagined 50 years ago.

In the last bulletin of the school year, Mrs. Danowitz noted, "Our graduates have demonstrated so much growth in their academics, faith formation and character and moral development over their time here at SJE." She also wished them "much happiness, success and blessings as they begin a new passage of their lives into the world of high school. We will miss them very much!"

We know the Class of 2016 will soar like Eagles and make us proud!

With diplomas in hand and the official graduation ceremony behind them, the Class of 2016 is ready to relax and celebrate with family and friends. Summer will be a great time for them to vacation a little and make their plans as they enter high school. High schools in the area are very familiar with the achievements of SJE students and actively recruit SJE graduates for their schools. Best wishes to the Class of 2016!



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Highlights:

- **Graduating Class Looking Forward to Summer, High School**
- **Students Take to the Road in Concert; No Flat Notes or Tires**
- **Middle School Film Wins Honors; Best Documentary**
- **SJE Track Team Threepeats KoC Win; Runs Away with Trophy**
- **Donors Important Part of Catholic Education; Thank You!**
- **Alumna Has Right Chemistry; Uses X-Ray Vision to Succeed**
- **TKers Give Dads Special Gift; Superheroes Need Capes**
- **Students, Families, Alumni, Friends Celebrate; Carnival Fun for Everyone!**
- **SJE Scouts Recognized by Archbishop Gomez at Cathedral**

Quick Beats . . .

Our students and school families have always been very generous and giving, and that tradition continues with our current students. **“Put It On Day”** raised \$2,720 to help continue building classrooms for **Escuela Paula Montal**, a school established by the Sisters of the Pious Schools in Avuquillilla, Oaxaca, Mexico. **Students also raised \$7,308 for the American Heart Association**, with special thanks to **Chase Teglas (Gr. 3)** who was the individual student who raised the most money.

SJE students took part in the National Cheer Competition in Florida and we congratulate **Lissette Cortez (Gr. 6)** and **Kaylie Koochoff (Gr. 6)** and their cheerleading team **West Coast Rush** for placing 17th out of 72 national teams competing in the event. Cheer on girls!

The Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem was presented by Archbishop José Gomez to two SJE scouts who have been working hard on achieving the emblem. **Alexander Ramirez (Gr. 7)** and **Tyler Suttles (Gr. 7)** were recognized for their achievement by Archbishop Jose Gomez at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angeles in Los Angeles. Fr. Gérard, Eleuterio Mireles (our Eudist seminarian intern) and several SJE families were in attendance. The Ad Altare Dei program helps Roman Catholic youth develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. The program is organized in chapters based on the seven sacraments with the focus of them as being the primary means toward spiritual growth.



There was another toe-tapping and lively Spring Concert at SJE under the creative direction of Dr. Howell. Our TK-4th Grade classes sang hits from the late '60s to the present, while the 6th-8th Grade classes performed “Route 66” a musical production written and arranged by Dr. Howell. The performances proved once again that we have many very talented performers at SJE!

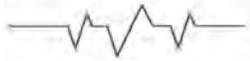


SJE Eagles competed at the recent Valley Catholic Track and Field Championship held at Chaminade College Preparatory bringing home 1st Place in the Boys JV Relay, 4th Place in the Girls JV Relay, and 3rd Place in the Girls Novice Relay. Congratulations to all our competitors and winners!

Right - “Making Movies that Matter” is a youth short film festival sponsored by Councilman Englander which connects mentors and students from elementary to college level within the San Fernando Valley. SJE School had a number entries with 6 being nominated in their respective categories. But one film by our middle school students won as “Best Documentary” by middle school students. The film tells the story of a cancer survivor and documents her incredible journey. The film is available to view on YouTube (a link is available on the school’s Facebook page). Student films were screened and awards presented at the CSUN Valley Performing Arts Center.



For the third year in a row, SJE finished in First Place at the Knights of Columbus Track Meet held on April 17 at El Camino Real High School. Many of our student-athletes medaled in their individual events. Our relay teams took home 2 Gold and 2 Silver medals. Thank you to our dedicated students, volunteer coaches, and parents!



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

A Special "Thank You" to Our Special Supporters!

2015-16 Adopt-A-Student Program

Adoptive Donors - \$500 and More

Eugenia Guzman Mary Ann Prager

Supportive Donors - Up to \$499

Plaza One Productions

So. California Tennis Association

2015-16 Annual Fund Campaign

PlatinumHeart Circle - \$5,000 and More

Chad & Becky Rach

Calasanz Council - \$500 to \$999

Janice & Gary Boudreau

Elisabeth Star

Montal Council - \$250 to \$499

John Chady Jonathan Hoh

Eagle's Club - up to \$249

Dolores DiCecco Catherine Enquero

Gabriel & Phyllis Kalenian

Susan Zambetti

Thank you for supporting the important cause of Catholic education!

Michelle Mezher '04 attended Louisville High School where received the *Circle of Excellence Award* which included a full 4 year university scholarship. After graduating LVHS in 2008, she then attended the University of San Diego majoring in Physical Chemistry. While at USD she was involved in a number of research projects and published several papers on chemistry topics – while also finding time to sing with the university's *a cappella* group. She was the recipient of prestigious academic awards and graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Going on to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to work on her Ph.D., she conducted research using soft x-ray spectroscopy techniques, worked as a teaching assistant, and participated in overseas projects in a lab in Berlin, Germany. She defended her dissertation last June and is now doing high level post-doctoral work and research at UNLV. And she has recently been invited to give a tutorial at the Materials Society Conference in Arizona. In her free



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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/)

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
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time she enjoys "hanging around" doing aerial gymnastics.

In a Lighter Vein . . .

It's summer and time to think about a few of life's serious mysteries. But to keep you balanced, here are some not-so-serious mysteries and their answers . . .

Why are gulls named seagulls? – If they were by the bay, they'd be bagels.

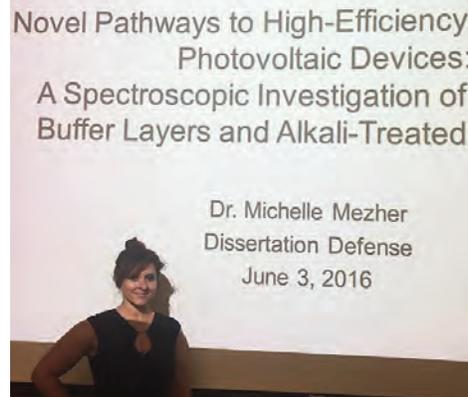
What do you call a snowman in July? – A puddle.

What happens when you throw a green rock into the Red Sea? – It gets wet.

What holds the sun up in the sky? – Sunbeams.

Why did the man love his barbecue? – Because it was the grill of his dreams.

Ok, maybe these jokes are more corny than mysterious, but there's no mystery to making a donation to St. John Eudes School. Your donation to the Annual Fund, Adopt-A-Student Program, Endowment, or other general or specific gifts is tax deductible and greatly appreciated. To donate please contact the School Office (818) 341-1451 or visit our website at www.sjeschool.net. Thank you!



Left - Dr. Mezher successfully defended her dissertation at UNLV and was awarded her Ph.D. She continues her post-doctoral work at UNLV but hopes to some day work doing advanced research in a government laboratory. Right - Dr. Mezher occasionally takes a few minutes off from lab work to exercise her aerial gymnastic skills.



Mrs. Danowitz holds up the Eagle "E" accompanied by proud parents and staff in attendance at this year's Sports Banquet. Each and everyone of the athletes who participated in this year's Sports Program are winners and a treasure to our school and community. Their desire to win, their dedication to their chosen sport(s), and the work done by the respective coaches, staff, and administration to provide these opportunities is appreciated so very much. Thank you to our parents for attending the games and for being their athletes' loudest cheerleaders. We wish all of our student athletes continued success!



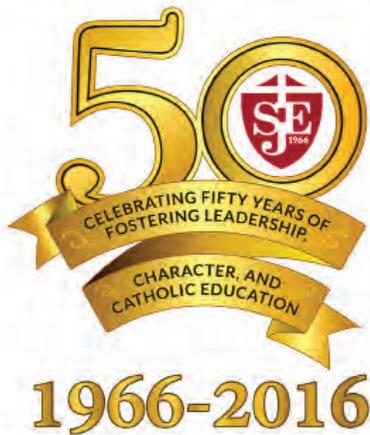
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Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
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The HeartBeat

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Ernie Star, Director

Below left - Transitional Kindergarten students gave their fathers a special Father's Day gift. The TK students presented their dads with capes and a song for all of the Superhero Dads! The 2015-2016 school year was the inaugural year for the SJE School TK program. The program was initiated to prepare pre-Kindergarten children socially and academically for the current elementary curriculum which begins with Kindergarten. TK facilities feature elements that help create an exceptional learning experience for TKers, including a state-of-the-art Smart Board that allows an interactive learning environment and provides students with a wide array of learning tools. And dads really like tools!



The SJE 2016 Summer Carnival: Fun for Everyone!

This year's SJE Summer Carnival was again attended by thousands of visitors including school families, alumni, parishioners, friends, and neighbors. They enjoyed exhilarating rides, great entertainment, fabulous food and thrilling games. And we celebrated the great cultural diversity of our parish with the Multi-Cultural Mass and Festival. Mark your calendar now for next Memorial Day weekend and come and share in the fun for everyone!



SJE parents Teri Perez (left) and Maggie Sulka display a boogie board - one of the great game prizes. There were games to thrill all ages - from 1 to 100!



Above left - The food court at the carnival is one of it's most popular attractions featuring fantastic favorite foods from around the world. Thanks to all the school parents, ministries and groups that prepared such great edibles. *Above right* - Kids (and adults too!) enjoyed the rides, particularly the bumper cars! *Below right* - There was a continuous show in the enormous Entertainment Tent. Bands, contests, entertainers, dancers, and more were presented to the delight of the audience. And there was special entertainment for kids that even amazed the adults!



Part of the fun of the carnival is working in the booths. Kids, along with their parents, had fun meeting new people and being part of the carnival festivities.



Fr. Gerard (center) enjoys a beer with members of the Men's Council. Their table was dedicated to Mel Spratley, a distinguished parishioner who recently passed away.

