

The HeartBeat

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

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Back to School Night Focuses on Purpose of a Catholic School: Fulfilling the Mission of the Church

There was anticipation and excitement in the air as hundreds of school parents, along with teachers, staff and friends, filled Grill Hall for the school's annual *Back-to-School Night* in early September. School principal Barbara Danowitz and pastor Fr. Gérard Lecomte greeted the parents and welcomed them to the new school year. After presenting the latest developments at the school, including the possibility of obtaining

a 3-D printer for student use (with some of the funds received from the 8th Grade legacy gift) and also upcoming events and activities, Mrs. Danowitz turned the focus of the meeting to a presentation about the purpose of Catholic schools. Her presentation was based upon the *Going Deeper* series by Jonathan Doyle and included the following points:

- Our purpose as a Catholic School is to work with and for young people desperate to hear the Good News of God's love for them.
 - We are here to support the mission of the Church to make known to every person the love that God has for them as revealed through His Son Jesus Christ. Each person is invited into the family of God as an adopted son or daughter.
 - Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic School. From academics to extra-curricular ones . . . from discipline to class management.
 - Each student is made in the image of God.
 - A great Catholic school will uncover a student's hidden gifts and seek to strengthen their existing ones.
 - Catholic teachers bring professional excellence to bear upon all aspect of a person's life . . . artistic, athletic, intelligent, interpersonal gifts.
 - It is all about the centrality of knowing Christ and making Him the center of our school life.
- With those thoughts in mind, parents were invited to visit the classrooms and learn more about what is in store the coming year.



Above - Grill Hall was packed with parents eager to hear about the coming school year. Mrs. Danowitz provided practical information about what to expect for the coming year, but also gave a good higher-level overview of the purpose of the school. Below - The Room Parents once again put on a great spread to satisfy hungry parents in attendance. A special thanks to the Room Parents for their dedication and support!



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Highlights:

- **Parents Get Info on Coming School Year**
- **SJE Students Make Splash at California State Games**
- **Students Support Respect for Life; Value Character**
- **Crazy Hats, Prizes, Laps - Must Be Jog-A-Thon Time**
- **"Great Shakeout" Helps Students Be Prepared**
- **Capital Campaign Funds New Video Systems in Church, Grill Hall**
- **Sisters Purchase Land for School in India; Seek Help to Build**
- **First Day of School Busy Day; Parents Take Coffee Break**
- **You Can't Spell "Literary" without a "Tea"**

Quick Beats . . .

October is a very special month at St. John Eudes School

as students join in the celebration of *Respect Life Month* and *Character Counts Week*. Respect Life Month focuses on the value of life and the rejection of the lack of value popular culture places on the most vulnerable in our society, especially the unborn. The student council was involved in collecting baby bottles filled with coins to support the efforts of the Pregnancy Counseling Center in Mission Hills to help pregnant women and save unborn babies. The value of good character was also celebrated during Character Counts Week with a different "Pillar of Character" being celebrated each day: Trustworthiness, Caring, Respect, Responsibility, and Fairness & Citizenship.

The Great California Shake Out

was observed again by SJE students this year. We all know that we live in earthquake country, so knowing what to do in an earthquake emergency is extremely important. And keeping our students aware about earthquake dangers and what to do when one hits is key to keeping them safe.

SJE students showed off their swimming skills over the summer as Haley Allado (Gr. 4), Cassidy Apeles (Gr. 5), Kiara Apeles (Gr. 7), Anahi Macias (Gr. 6), Rachel Reimer (Gr. 6) and Gabriella Schorn (Gr. 5) competed in synchronized swimming at the California State Games. They competed in a number of competitions including solos, duets, trios, and team performances. They collectively earned 2 gold medals, 2 silver medals, and 1 bronze medal. The California State Games is an annual Olympic-style competition for California's amateur athletes of all



St. John Eudes School has again been recognized as a "Favorite School" in the Daily News Readers Choice Awards. This is the second straight year in which the school has received the honor. The award recognizes the best schools in the entire Los Angeles area as voted by Daily News readers. The Daily News tallies votes by readers from ballots which ran both in its newspaper and on its website.

ages and abilities. The Games is a member of the National Congress of State Games and of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

With funding provided by the parish's Capital Campaign, a new state of the art audio-visual system has been installed in the church

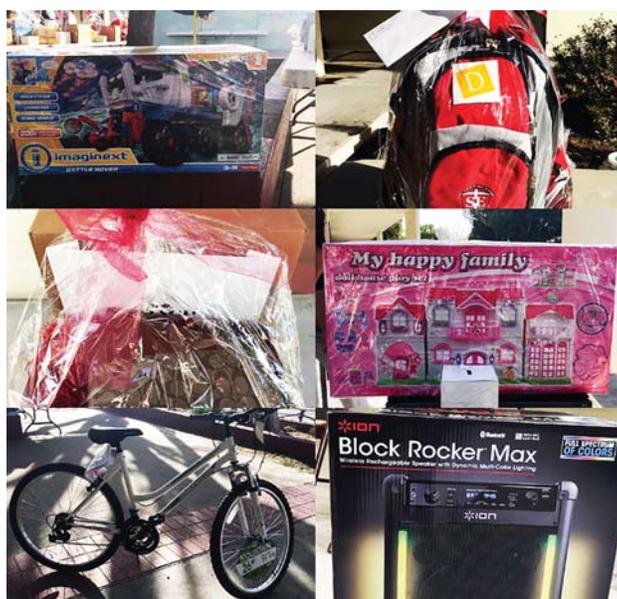
that is available for use by our school students for liturgies, concerts and other events. The system includes two large motorized screens that can be raised or lowered as necessary. The system is operated via an iPad app and can display slides or videos viewable from anywhere in the church. The sound and video system in Grill Hall has also been upgraded for use by the school. The Capital Campaign is also seeking to raise funds for additional improvements to the school, including resurfacing the parking lots, adding security features, and adding solar power panels.



Left - If students are wearing crazy hats, it must be Jog-A-Thon time!

Bottom Left - Students, teachers, staff and parents all enjoyed this year's Jog-A-Thon which was held on a bright and warm October day. Students and teachers jogged around the field to earn money to help the school's educational program. But in addition to raising funds, there was also a lot of laughs, sweat and cheers!

Bottom Right - Part of the fundraising activities of the Jog-A-Thon includes the ever popular drawing. There were a lot of great prizes for lucky students.





The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

Former SJE school principal **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P.**, has been helping the Sisters of the Pious Schools in India move ahead with their dream to open *St. Paula Montal School* in India. She has recently been working to finalize the contract with the local diocese in which they have purchased the land for the school. The sisters were able to purchase 3 acres of land with the help of their Province of Asia and their schools

In a Lighter Vein . . .

Some of the best advice in the world comes from someone named "Anonymous". We've been trying to track him or her down but haven't been able to find out who he or she is. But we did come across alot of his or her best sayings . . .

"He who wants milk should not sit himself in the middle of a pasture waiting for a cow to back up to him."

"If someone were to pay ten cents for every kind word you ever spoke and collect five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?"

"If you set the right example, you won't need to worry about the rules."

"Nothing derails a train of thought more effectively than listening to a person with a one-track mind."

"The moon could not go on shining if it paid any attention to the little dogs that bark at it."

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."

And it goes without saying that you don't need to be Anonymous 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!

in Spain are now fundraising to help fund construction of the buildings. So far they have collected about one-fourth of the needed funds, however they need additional help to make the school a reality. Sr. Rosemary has written to us about their efforts . . .

Dear S.J.E. Alumni & Families,

The older you are, the more you will remember me . . . I am Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch.P., who after 30 grace-filled years at St. John Eudes School, the Lord sent to a new mission in India. When I arrived at our House of Formation ten years ago in Eramalloor, Kerala, I was teary-eyed to be greeted by young Sisters of the Pious Schools (known as Piarist Sisters in India) and girls aspiring to become Sisters. Their youthful smiles, songs, flowers, and incense entered my heart, and I knew at once I was in my new Home. The excitement of a new culture, new land, and especially new vocations, challenged me. The awesome thought to be a part of St. John Paul II's prophecy that the Church's future vocations will come from Asia and Africa.

Just as St. Paul said, "How can they believe in someone they have not heard about? And how can they hear without someone preaching?" (Romans 10:14), so we have travelled through the states of India from the southern tip in Tamil Nadu to the north-eastern state of Assam. And the Lord touched the generous hearts of young girls who heard the quiet call, "Come, follow Me". The Piarist Family Tree has grown with twelve Indian Sisters, two novices who will profess their vows in May, four first-year novices, three pre-novices, fourteen aspirants and two "senior" Sisters. The Lord has done marvels!



Make sure to visit the school's Facebook page at 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/)

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
9225 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

Mother Paula continues to dream in each of us – to provide an integral Christian education for all children and youth, especially the most needy. The place we have chosen for our first school in India is in the southern part of Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari District, in a village called Kattuvilai. With great effort we have purchased the land (three acres to meet the government requirements), and like Mother Paula, we began teaching children in a small rented building near the convent. Now we dare to go forward to build ST. PAULA MONTAL CBSE SCHOOL, putting our trust in the Lord who can never be outdone in generosity!

I invite you to be a part of Mother Paula's Dream in India since in your younger years YOU were formed in the loving care

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The Sisters of the Pious Schools in India have purchased the above parcel, site of the future St. Paula Montal School. They are however faced with daunting tasks, none the least of which is obtaining the necessary diocesan and governmental permissions. And equally daunting is the fundraising effort needed to subsidize the building costs. But they trust in God's guidance and in the help of SJE alumni and friends to help them bring the message of Christ to the children of the Indian subcontinent.

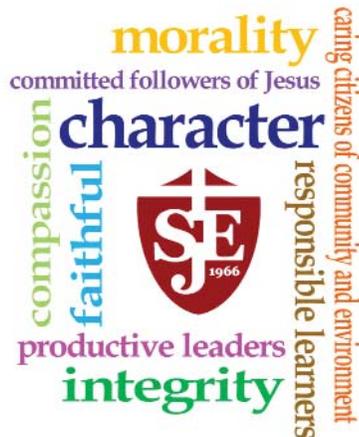
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The Pulse

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of Mother Paula's spirit. This year St. John Eudes School celebrates 50 Years of Excellence (1966-2016), and we also celebrate the wonderful works each of you is carrying on to build the Kingdom of God, most especially in your families. Will you help us to build our school so the children of India will also live, love, learn and leave a legacy with the spirit of Mother Paula?

We have established a Building Fund for our Indian school through our Sisters in Northridge. You may contact Sr. Guadalupe, who is still working at SJE School, at 818-885-6265 or Sisters of the Pious Schools, 17601 Nordhoff St. Northridge 91325. You may contact me at RMB226@yahoo.in. If you visit India, please contact me at 0478-287-7420 or Piarist Sisters, Eramalloor P.O., Cherthala, Kerala 688 537.

God's work needs prayers before action, so let us pray for one another as we go about doing good in the name of JESUS.



Top Left - A sign greets 6th, 7th and 8th Grade students to the Middle School "Literary Tea" held at the beginning of the school year. Middle school students are asked to read a book over the summer. Socializing at the tea gives them the opportunity to discuss their book with others and to also learn about the books their fellow students read.

Bottom Left - Students work on displays and take notes about the books they read during the summer. Posters, displays, reports, and other projects helped the students express the ideas and lessons they garnered from their literary experience.

Top Right - What would a tea be without refreshments? Middle school students take some time out to enjoy the refreshments served at the tea while posing in front of posters created for the occasion.



God loves YOU!

With sincere thanks and prayers,

Sr. Rosemary, Sch.P.

Congratulations to SJE alumni parent **John Chady** on being named the recipient of the 2016 *St. John Eudes Medal*. The medal is presented annually on the feastday of St. John Eudes for outstanding service to the parish and school community. Among numerous other activities and ministries John has been a long-time tutor

in the after school tutoring program. Thank you John for everything you do for us!

Congratulations to our Eudist seminarian **Eleuterio Mireles, Jr.**, who was recently incorporated into the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (Eudists) and also ordained a deacon by Bishop Wilkerson at our church as part of his path to the priesthood. Eleuterio will continue to serve at St. John Eudes for the coming year as part of his formation process.



The first day of school is always a busy morning as all of our returning and new families were welcomed to the new school year. While students were settling in their classes, parents enjoyed themselves at the Parent Coffee. But parents, students and teachers soon got into the swing of the things as they became acquainted with each other and started to focus on the adventure of education.