



# The HeartBeat

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

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

## Important Lessons Are Taught Beyond the Classroom SJE Students Learn About Community Involvement

An exceptional education is based not only on academics, but on Christian values that form a foundation for leadership and community involvement. Going beyond the classroom, SJE students learn to become involved to take leadership roles in the community. Whether it be conducting *Living Stations of the Cross* for the parish during Lent, fundraising for special causes, participating in community programs and contests, helping our troops, or hosting parishioners for breakfast, these are activities which teach important lessons to tomorrow's leaders.



SJE students show their community pride and involvement by their yearly entries in the "Day of the Horse" poster contest which celebrates our community's equestrian history. With 400 entries from local schools, our students swept 14 of the 19 top prizes which were presented by L.A. Councilman Mitch Englander at the Stoney Point Ranch.



Our students host a parishioner and friends breakfast during Catholic Schools Week to show their appreciation for parish support and to reach out to build our parish and school community.



Students of the SJE Junior National Honor Society take part in "Operation Gratitude" which sends care packages to our service men and women overseas.



**Summer's on its way and we're getting ready to celebrate!** Make sure to mark your calendar now for the *St. John Eudes Summer Carnival* on Memorial Day Weekend - May 26, 27 & 28.

There'll be thrilling rides, exciting games, fantastic carnival food, top-notch entertainment under our enormous tent, contests & prizes, a beer-margarita garden, silent auction, and the Grand Prize Drawing with a \$5,000 Grand Prize - plus much more. And admission and parking are free! Get full details at [www.sjecarnival.org](http://www.sjecarnival.org). See you at the Carnival!



There's No Better Way to Start the Summer! than at the SJE Summer Carnival. So whether you like to enjoy the activities or be part of the carnival by volunteering or donating, make sure to plan on being with us Memorial Day weekend to celebrate the unofficial start of summer.

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### Highlights:

- **SJE Students Take Lead in Community Involvement**
- **Summer Carnival Celebrates Great Season; It's Gonna Be a Real Hot Time**
- **SJE Students, Alumni Break Bread with Eudist Superior General**
- **Basketball, Track Teams Have Great Season**
- **Easter Bunny Treats Lower Graders; Leaves No Eggs Unfound**
- **Alumnus of the Year Selected; Outstanding Example for SJE Students**
- **We're Going to Miss You Fr. Gérard!**
- **Flower Girl Gets Carried Away by Alumnus**
- **Mothers-Sons Have Ball Bowling; Strike Up a Great Evening**

## Quick Beats . . .

**Congratulations to Isabella Davalos (Gr. 8) for winning the San Fernando Regional Vocation Poster Contest.** She was presented her award at a special luncheon with San Fernando Regional Bishop Brennan.

**St. John Eudes student athletes had a great showing** at the Valley



SJE 2nd Graders take a break from having their First Communion pictures taken. Excited about this special event, they will receive First Communion on May 6.



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 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).

*Catholic Sports League Track and Field Meet* recently held at Chaminade College Preparatory. While there were many SJE students who medaled, top honors were taken by **Jeremiah Uyanga (Gr. 8)**, 1st Place in 7-8 Grade Long Jump; **Jeremiah Uyanga (Gr. 8)**, **Joshua Macalino (Gr. 7)**, **Alexander Ramirez (Gr. 8)**, & **Derryl Quiamco (Gr. 8)**, 1st Place in 7-8 Grade 4x100 Yard Relay; **Annabella Gallucci (Gr. 4)**, 1st Place in 3-4 Grade Long Jump. And winning ways also continued at this year's *Knights of Columbus Track Meet* where SJE School took the overall 2nd Place trophy.

**Our basketball teams have been doing great at the hoops** garnering 3rd Place by the 6th Grade Boys "B" Team at the *26th Annual Bill Hedlund Basketball Tournament*, 2nd Place by the 6th Grade Girls "B" Team at the *Inaugural VCSL Basketball Tournament*, 2nd Place by the Boy's "A" Team at the *St. Genevieve Basketball Tournament of Champions*, and 2nd Place by the Boy's "B" Team at the *Knights of Columbus Basketball Tournament*.

**SJE student scouts have been working hard at developing their personal relationship with God.** The *Light of Christ Award* was presented during Mass in the church on Scout Sunday to **Jared Levesque (Gr. 8)**, a Cub Scout in Pack 466. Likewise, the *Family of God Award* was presented to **Sara Francis (Gr. 4)**, a Girl Scout in

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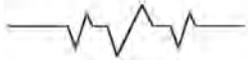
Sr. Georgina and lower graders met with the Easter Bunny to celebrate the season. Upper grades were no less involved in celebrating with a number of other events including "Soup & Living Stations of the Cross" and a special Tenebrae Mass during Holy Week.



Grandparents and other special invited guest had the opportunity to join in the classroom during Catholic Schools Week. This yearly tradition gives grandparents and guests the opportunity to see their students in action and gives students the opportunity to show off their work.



A number of SJE students and alumni, along with their parents and our local Eudist clergy, had the honor of attending a recent special dinner with **Fr. Jean-Michel Amouriaux**, Superior General of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (second from left). He was conducting a pastoral visit to the Eudist congregations in California. The dinner provided him an opportunity to meet with parish volunteers and school students to learn about the great work in our parish.



# The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

The Selection Committee is proud to announce the selection of **Miguel Davalos '85** as the 2017 St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year. Miguel was selected as an example to our students of someone who has been a life-long learner who lives his faith 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, headed by Fr. Gérard and Mrs. Danowitz, cited his extensive involvement in school and parish activities, as well as being a

leader in the SJE affiliated scout program. Presentation of the award is made at the annual St. John Eudes School Endowment Trust Fund Trustees' Dinner held in late April each year.

Our best wishes and prayers for **Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM**, as he begins the next phase of his ministry as pastor of St. James & St. Leo Parish in Solano Beach. Fr. Gérard has been pastor at St. John Eudes for the last 6 years and has been responsible for a number of improvements at the parish



*Fr. Gérard was the first Eudist pastor of St. John Eudes Parish. Being invited by the Archbishop to accept administration of the parish when Msgr. Nugent retired, he and the Eudist community have brought us a greater appreciation for the charisma of our patron saint.*

and school including, among others, formalization of the Parish Finance Council and Pastoral Council, seminarian development, capital improvements resulting from the Capital Campaign, the installation of new stained glass windows, redesign of the Parish Office, the adoption of a new parish logo, and the growth of parish ministries and parishioner involvement. He will be greatly missed when he assumes his new position on July 1. The official announcement regarding a replacement has not yet been made.

Congratulations to **Clifton Star '02** on his recent marriage to his high school sweetheart Jessica Sherbon. Their romance began when they were sophomores at Chaminade College Preparatory playing in the band. They remained in touch as Jessica went to California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to get her degree in Electrical Engineering, and Clifton attended California State University, Northridge, to obtain a Liberal Arts degree. After acquiring several years of work experience, they decided to get

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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!**



Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram **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  
9225 Mason Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

## In a Lighter Vein . . .

*The SJE Summer Carnival is just around the corner and we're going to have a lot of great entertainment, but none of our acts will have to worry about getting a ticket like this performer!*

A carnival performer was pulled over by a police officer for speeding. As the officer was writing the ticket, he noticed several machetes in the car. "What are those for?" he asked suspiciously. "I'm a juggler," the man replied. "I use those in my act." "Well, show me," the officer demanded. So he got out the machetes and started juggling them, first three, then more, finally seven at one time, overhand, underhand, behind the back, putting on a dazzling show and amazing the officer. Another car passed by. The driver did a double take, and said, "My golly. I've got to give up drinking! Look at the test they're giving now."

*You won't need to do a juggling act 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!*

## In Memoriam



**Jessica Masri '96**

Our deepest condolences to the family of Jessica Masri '96 who recently passed away. She had been admitted to a Las Vegas hospital emergency room due to an unknown condition. After several days in the intensive care section she passed away. Her friends and family remember her as active and energetic, enjoying athletics and outdoor activities. After attending St. John Eudes School, she attended Chatsworth High School where she was a member of the school's championship soccer team. She was also a gymnast and loved to play volleyball. She is survived by her parents, siblings, and daughter.

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### The HeartBeat

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Ernie Star, Director

## The Pulse

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married and the ceremony was held at St. John Eudes Church last June. They plan to settle down in the Chatsworth-Northridge area where Clifton is the manager of the family The UPS Store and Jessica plans to continue her electrical engineering career. And while Clifton attended SJE School and Jessica attended First Presbyterian Preparatory School before going to Chaminade, Jessica does have a special relationship with our school in that she was a student of Mrs. Danowitz when she was a teacher at First Presbyterian.



Clifton Star '02 and his new wife, Jessica, pose in the church after their wedding with their flower girl who is Clifton's niece and the daughter of Kurt Star '96. As the newlyweds exited the church, a 20 piece brass band, of which they are members, serenaded them with march music.

Paige Huff-Hemmis '90, a team member of "Extreme Makeover, Home Edition" and SJE 2008 Alumna of the Year, was recently featured on the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Twitter page. The website includes a number of tweets that highlight the value of a Catholic education and feature well-known Catholic school alumni and their reflections on their education. Also tweeted is information on Catholic school activity in the Archdiocese and special events. You can visit the L.A. Catholic schools website (which links to its Twitter page) by visiting [www.lacatholicschools.org](http://www.lacatholicschools.org).



Above - Students take part in the "Changemaker Day Program" which teaches 21st Century leadership skills based on an innovative mindset, a collaborative outlook, and an emphatic style of leadership.

Below - Students display their science skills at the recent Open House held during Catholic Schools Week. The Science Lab is a great resource for our students.



## Quick Beats . . .

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Troop 2806. Both awards provide a faith-based focus for scouts to learn more about their religion.

We're excited to have cheerleading champions at our school and congratulate Lissette Cortez (Gr. 7) and Kaylie Koochoff (Gr. 7) who are members of the Westcoast Rush cheerleading team which defended its National Championship title at the Jamz All Star Competition recently held in Las Vegas.

SJE students have taken to the musical theater as Chase Teglas (Gr. 4) and Henry Steiner (Gr. 5) are cast in a local production of *Anything Goes* by Cole Porter. This toe-tapping classic production, first performed in 1934, was held at the Madrid Theater in Canoga Park.



It's always a special day when you can have one-on-one time with a parent. Above - Mothers and sons had a great time at the Mother-Son Bowling Night. Below - Fathers also had a chance to have a great night with their daughters at the "Father-Daughter Valentine Dance" sponsored by the SJE Children's Ministry.

