



The HeartBeat

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

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School Starts with Focus on Joint Goals Back to School Night Highlights Importance of Values

Grill Hall was full of enthusiastic parents as the school year really got underway at the annual SJE *Back to School Night*. This yearly event at St. John Eudes School gives parents a great chance to learn about the focus of the new school year and to meet the teachers, staff and administrators. Held in conjunction with the first SJE Parent-Teacher Support Organization (PTSO) General Meeting of the year, parents receive information about upcoming PTSO events and programs, as well as the direction that the educational program at SJE will take for the coming year.

This year PTSO president Mary Cooley-Lopez addressed the parents and spoke about a number of important events including the upcoming Jog-A-Thon and Halloween Hop. She also provided a preview of the annual PTSO Spring Gala announcing it will be held off-campus at the Woodland Hills Hilton in a *Casino Royale 007* style.

Then, before the parents headed off to meet the teachers in the classrooms, Mrs. Danowitz addressed the parents and spoke about the choice of values that can be made in educating children by their parents and teachers. She noted that choosing the right values is critical to developing a child's youthful aspirations into adult accomplishments. And she highlighted the importance of the *home-school partnership*.

With that focus in mind, parents were invited to meet with the teachers in the classrooms and learn more about what the school year had in store.

A special thanks to our Room Parents who provided the refreshments for the night!



PTSO Executive Council members check in parents as they arrive at Back to School Night. The PTSO has a number of great events planned for the year.



Teachers and staff pose for a group photo prior to Back to School Night. After the meeting they met with parents in the classrooms to help foster the parent-teacher partnership and provide a preview of the school year.



Grill Hall was packed with parents listening intently to learn more about the school-home partnership and the educational expectations for their children and families.

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- **Families Break Ice at Ice Cream Social on First Sundaes of School**
- **SJE Students Raise Funds for Hurricane Relief**
- **Great California ShakeOut Gives Students Chance to Prepare for Inevitable**
- **Welcome Sr. Emma!**
- **Sr. Rosemary Visits Parish; Gives Thanks for Support Received for St. Paula Montal School, India**
- **Crazy Hats Signal Jog-A-Thon Activities; Students Flip Lids to Raise Funds**
- **Literary Tea Leaves Students Steeped in Literature**
- **Students Portray Living Rosary; Show Their Devotion**
- **Student Council Commissioned; Look to be Current and Future Leaders**



YOUR CHILDREN, OUR STUDENTS, NEED PARENTS AND EDUCATORS TO PROVIDE INSPIRATION, IMAGINATION, JOY, OPTIMISM, HUMOR, LOVE, SUPPORT, FIRMNESS, SAFETY, CLEAR VALUES, AND—PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT—RESPECT. WITH OUR COLLECTIVE SUPPORT, OUR CHILDREN'S YOUTHFUL ASPIRATIONS CAN SOAR INTO ADULT ACCOMPLISHMENT.



SJE families got together for the annual "Ice Cream Social" held during the first week of school to allow parents, students, teachers and staff to get to know each other a little better. It was a sweet way to socialize!

Quick Beats . . .

The St. John Eudes Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society held its induction ceremony

and welcomed over 30 students into the organization for the 2017-18 school year. The organization recognizes outstanding academic achievement and helps develop leadership skills. Students meet monthly and will be working on a service project to help support important community goals and efforts.

SJE students became involved in hurricane relief efforts and raised funds to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

With the realization that Hurricane Harvey was the costliest tropical cyclone on record, shattering the record set by Hurricane Katrina

by nearly double, and is the second-costliest natural disaster worldwide behind only the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami, SJE students raised nearly \$1,200 to send to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to support their relief efforts. Knowing that they can make a difference when others are in need is an important lesson for our students to learn.

Author Day helps bring focus to the value of literary skills by allowing our students to meet an actual author and learn about being a writer. This year, author/illustrator Joe Cepeda, who has received recognition for his exceptional children's books, is featured on this special day. His books and illustrations

have received a number of awards and nominations. Students are able to interact with the author, ask questions, and get their books autographed.

Students participated in the Great California ShakeOut which was observed statewide to help individuals and organizations get better prepared for major earthquakes and practice how to best be protected when earthquakes happen. The question is not if an earthquake will happen, but when. And if it happens while school is in session we want to assure that our students are able to react quickly, calmly and properly to protect themselves.

October is Respect Life Month and students showed their respect for life by supporting the efforts of the Pregnancy Counseling Center in Mission Hills. The Center provides counseling and help for pregnant women, particularly those who need help with unplanned pregnancies. Offering positive choices, the Center respects the core value of life beginning with birth and offers free or low cost assistance. Our students raised nearly \$400 for the Center's recent Baby Bottle Coin Collection drive to raise operating funds for the Center.

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Nominate Your Favorite Alumnus for the 2018 SJE Alumnus of the Year!

Is there an alumnus/na you know who would be a great example for our students? If there is, you're invited to nominate them for our next *Alumnus of the Year!* And it's easy to do. For complete details and how to nominate, visit www.sjeschool.net/alumniandfriends



Left - Parents at Back to School Night learned about many of the after school programs available for their students. The school offers a number of enrichment opportunities including band, scouts, chess, dance class, children's choir, electronic keyboarding, Heaven's Grace choir, and robotics. These programs allow students to develop interests beyond the classroom and offer involvement in activities that supplement the skills and interests developed in the classroom.



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends



We welcome **Sr. Emma, Sch. P.**, to St. John Eudes School. She will be helping out with our 3rd Grade class. Our students are fortunate to have her as an addition to our school staff.

Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P., former SJE School principal, came home to California from India over the summer and took the opportunity to visit the parish to greet many old friends, school



Sr. Guadalupe (left) poses with Sr. Rosemary (right) in front of the church's Appreciation Tree during Sr. Rosemary's visit last July. The Sisters are very appreciative of the support received from parishioners, school families, friends and alumni for their new St. Paula Montal School in India.

alumni, and parents. Sr. Rosemary, who has been working at the Sisters' convent in Kerala since accepting the assignment in India, has been instrumental in developing vocations and spreading the Word of Christ on the Indian Subcontinent. She has been extensively involved in developing and funding the new St. Paula Montal School in India and was given the opportunity by Fr. Lawrence to speak during Sunday Masses while she was here to tell parishioners about the project.

She received very generous support from our parishioners and families, receiving over \$7,000 in donations given to her while she was at the Masses and through a GoFundMe webpage set-up to help support the project. Sr. Rosemary expressed her thanks in a message that was recently printed in the parish bulletin:

With heartfelt THANKS for your warm hospitality, sincere prayers & generous donations to the Sisters of the Pious Schools to help us begin our first mission school in INDIA, St. Paula Montal School in the state of Tamilnadu. It was an emotional Sunday for me to re-connect with so many wonderful friends who will always be an important part of my faith journey, mission and life . . . and you still inspire me!

Know that your prayers and sacrifices

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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!**



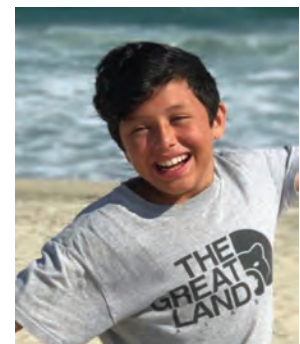
Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram **SJE365!**

In Memoriam

Our sincerest condolences to the Kroetz Family on the loss of **Sean Kroetz**. Sean coached the SJE Parish Swim Team for the last 18 years and was well liked by many of our alumni and their families. He recently lost his battle with cancer and will be greatly missed. A celebration of his life was held in the church on Nov. 6.



Our sincerest condolences also to the Arteaga Family on the loss of their son **Joshua Arteaga ('18)**. Joshua attended SJE School from K thru 2nd Grades and was a member of the parish swim team. His two brothers, **Andrew ('15)** and **Daniel '06**, are also SJE alumni. Services for Joshua were held in the church on Sep. 25.



In a Lighter Vein . . .

Besides leaves turning color and a cool nip in the air, fall brings with it football and turkey - and sometimes in unexpected ways . . .

The pro football team had just finished their daily practice session when a large turkey came strutting onto the field. While the players gazed in amazement, the turkey walked up to the head coach and demanded a tryout. Everyone stared in silence as the turkey caught pass after pass and ran right through the defensive line. When the turkey returned to the sidelines, the coach shouted, "You're terrific!!! Sign up for the season, and I'll see to it that you get a huge bonus." "Forget the bonus," the turkey said, "All I want to know is, does the season go past Thanksgiving Day?"

*Don't pass up a chance 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!*

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The HeartBeat

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The Pulse

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are making a tremendous difference in the lives of needy children and youth who will be prepared to make a difference in the world as they are taught with and in the love of God. If you would still like to be a part of our mission, donations may be sent to: **Sisters of the Pious Schools, Attn. Sr. Guadalupe, at 17601 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91325, noting "India Mission" OR through GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/st-paula-montal-school-india.**

We are most grateful to those who help with this project including all our SJE Parishioners, Alumni, Families and Friends of St. Paula Montal. God bless you!!

Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch.P.



Above - Middle school students get together to discuss their summer reading experiences at the "Middle School Literary Tea" where they were able to share notes and enjoy learning about the literary critiques of their school mates. Below - The new Student Council officers, commissioners, and class representatives were inducted at a student body Mass as school began. Leadership skills and social responsibility are lessons Student Council members learn on the council.



Quick Beats . . .

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Character Counts Week was celebrated in October to teach our students a number of important social values that complement our Christian beliefs. Students focused each day on a different *Pillar of Character* and celebrated it by wearing colors associated with that value: Monday/Blue - Trustworthiness; Tuesday/Red - Caring; Wednesday/Yellow - Respect; Thursday/Green - Responsibility; and Friday/Orange/Purple - Fairness/Citizenship. The Pillars of Character have been painted on the north school building to remind students all year of the importance of these values.

New altar servers were commissioned from our 5th Grade Class!

Congratulations to **Haley Allado, Adam Ayala, Sarah Francis, Giacarlo Ramirez, Galvin Unger, Jake Carrillo, and Caeli Verdugo** who recently finished their training and will now be assisting at Mass as altar servers.

Left - Jog-A-Thon got off to a great start this year with Crazy Hat Day, which was by far the most creative yet - so many colorful and cute headwear. Below (left & right) - October is the "Month of the Holy Rosary". Being at the core of our Marian devotion, our students participated in a Living Rosary celebration where each bead of the rosary was represented by a student, with the rosary itself being led by the 8th Grade class.

