



The HeartBeat

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

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New School Year Begins with Excitement & High Hopes This Year's Theme: Jesus Is the Great Protector



The first day of school is always filled with excitement and anticipation as students return from summer break to greet class friends, enter a new grade level, and prepare to grow spiritually, mentally and physically. But this will be a particularly important year for our school as visitors from the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA), as well as the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), will be reaccrediting our school program.

Education at St. John Eudes School has always been a team effort that involves the efforts of many. But the special importance of the relationship this year between students, parents and faculty was described best in Mrs. Danowitz's greeting to students and families in the first school bulletin of the year where she wrote:

"How wonderful it was to see all the returning families and welcome all our new ones on Monday!"

We all know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. Together, we can support one another to provide a friendly academic environment and, when appropriate, celebrate our achievements.

Within our school, we can all try to model God's love for each one of us, by being a

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The annual "Ice Cream Social" is always a sweet way to float back into the daily school routine after summer break.



As students were attending their first day of classes parents took a break at the morning "Parent Coffee".

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Highlights:

- **School Models God's Love; Gospel Values Key to Education**
- **Ice Cream Social Brings Together Faculty, Students, Parents; Get Scoop on New School Year**
- **October Events Honor Our Blessed Mother, Right to Life; Students Form Living Rosary**
- **Altar Servers Serve at Sea to See Value of Teamwork; Hike Up Stoney Point for Reflection**
- **We Welcome Our New Parish Leaders**
- **Alumna Ties Knot; Alumni Friends Witness Event**
- **Jog-A-Thon Displays School Spirit; Students Go Crazy with Hats, Signs**
- **SJE Welcomes New NJHS Members**
- **Triple Crown Winner Meets Alumna; Realizes Equine Career Goal**
- **SJE Students, Families Support Community Causes; Collect Food, Money for Needy**

Quick Beats . . .

Character Counts Week was celebrated by our students during the week of October 22-26. During Character Counts Week the focus is on the Pillars of Character and each one is celebrated on a different day with a different color to represent a particular positive character - blue for *Trustworthiness*, red for *Caring*, yellow for *Respect*, green for *Responsibility*, orange for *Fairness*, and purple for *Citizenship*. Students are urged to wear the color of the day on ribbons,

New School Year

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renewing community where all members are valued, affirmed and empowered; where our commitment to Gospel values is expressed in every facet of our school's endeavors. For this sentiment to continue throughout the year, it will require our collective wisdom and generosity of spirit to be at the forefront of all our communications.

'Perhaps above all else that we do in Catholic schools it is the love that exists in our communities that makes us so distinctive.' (@thembinkosi)

Education today is a complex engagement because of the intensity and variety of external influences particularly through various forms of media and electronic communications. Our school has a special role in assisting every parent with the education of their children, so that all children will develop a sense of personal responsibility and learn the correct use of freedom. Throughout the year, our school will provide counter experiences of liturgy and prayer to assist the spiritual and moral maturity of all our students.

We hope that throughout the year our school will be a place where staff, students and families continue to have opportunities to experience God's presence in our lives. Although he lived about two and a half thousand years ago, the prophet, Jeremiah, has words that are still relevant for us at the beginning of this new school year: 'The Lord says, I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11.

We look forward to another awesome school year where staff and parents partner in our collective role of academic and faith education."

headbands, socks or pins. The Character Counts program creates a framework to foster positive change to produce exceptional results in the academic, social, emotional and character development domains by infusing the six core ethical and performance values and traits into the educational program. The six Pillars of Character have been painted on the exterior passageway walls of our lower grade school building to help remind students of that character counts.

The school participated in this year's Great California Shakeout

on October 18 which was created to help schools and other organizations be better prepared when a major earthquake strikes. Students learned what to do and how to react when a "big-one" hits and what to expect after the shaking stops.



Above - Teachers and staff take a moment to pose at the annual "Ice Cream Social" held on the first Sunday of the school year where they were able to greet and meet parents and students over a tasty treat. *Below* - The school year began with a student body Mass and the installation of our new Student Council members. We came together as a community to thank God for the gift of these newly elected, enthusiastic, and dynamic leaders of our school.



Students have a number of after-school enrichment programs available for them that include robotics, mock trial, public speaking & debate, electronic keyboard, choir,

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The month of October is dedicated to our Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Holy Rosary. It is also designated as "Respect Life Month". In October, 8th Grade students led the school in praying the Living Rosary. Each bead of the Rosary was represented by a student and a reflection was offered for each mystery. The Living Rosary concluded with a hymn to the Blessed Mother, beautifully sung by Heaven's Grace (our school choir). Students also celebrated a special Respect Life Mass to pray for the efforts of our church and others to protect the right to life.



SJE Senior Altar Servers, those who have served over 3 years and help lead at Masses and assist new servers (many of whom are SJE students), attended a leadership program this summer. They learned teamwork and responsibility while they worked on a tall ship called the "Californian" out of San Diego (a special "Thank You" to the SJE Men's Council for donating to make this happen!). SJE Altar Servers also prepared for an upcoming year of service with a luau retreat on Aug. 12 that included an amazing sunset hike to the top of Stoney Point for time of reflection. The theme was "Ohana" or "Family". "Mahalo" to the 70+ servers that assist our St. John Eudes family in worship every week!



In a Lighter Vein . . .

School's now underway and students are hard at work learning a number of subjects, not the least of which is math. Math can be a challenge for many students (not to mention their parents!) but sometimes it's good to step back and realize how funny math can really be , , ,

Q: Why did the math book look so sad?
A: Because it had so many problems.

Q: What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?
A: Pumpkin pi

Q: Why do plants hate math?
A: Because it gives them square roots.

Q: Did you hear the latest statistics joke?
A: Probably.

Q: What's an empty parrot cage called?
A: Polygon.

Q: Why did the teacher write the math problem on the window?
A: She wanted it to be very clear.

Q: Why did the student do multiplication problems on the floor?
A: The teacher told him not to use tables.

Q: What did the triangle say to the circle?
A: You're pointless.

Q: What is a math teacher's favorite sum?
A: Summer.

Q: Matt had 60 cookies. He ate 30 of them. What does he have now?
A: A tummy ache.

Q: What did the circle say to the rectangle?
A: You're such a square.

Making a donation to St. John Eudes School adds up to a great way to support Catholic education. 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!

We welcome **Msgr. Emigdio Herrera** and **Sr. M. Karen Collier, SSL**, to our school family as they take over administration of the parish from the Eudists who have been guiding us for the last 7 years. They began their new responsibilities on July 1 with Msgr. Herrera being with us as Parish Administrator (until a permanent pastor can be assigned) and Sr. Collier assisting him as Pastoral Associate. We are also blessed to have an additional member added to our local clergy. **Deacon Sargon Younan**, has been a parishioner of St. John Eudes for a number of years and attended the deaconate formation program with his wife, **Jeannie Younan**. They recently completed the program and the ordination took place at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels by Archbishop Gomez. Dcn. Sargon has been assigned to our parish to assist in our many needs and ministries. We thank our former pastor **Fr. Gérard Lecomte, CJM**, and the Eudist community for their help and guidance during the past years and we look forward to continuing to work in the paradigm of our patron saint, St. John Eudes, to further build the excellence of our parish community and school program "With Burning Hearts". Congratulations to **Jeannie Gianni '04** who was recently married in the



Above - Jeannie Gianni '04 poses with her new husband, Kevin Hoffman, in front of the Stauffer Chapel after their wedding held at Pepperdine University, Jeannie's college alma mater.

Right Top - Included in the wedding party was Courtney Angel '04 (center) who has been a friend of Jeannie's since they were classmates at St. John Eudes School. Also attending were Courtney's brother, Christopher Angel '01 (left), and her sister, Cassandra Angel '06 (right).

Right Bottom - Wedding guests and relatives from cross the country enjoyed the festivities of the reception which was held on a Malibu hilltop, where Angela Gianni '10 (left - who was also in the wedding party) posed along with SJE alumni friends Zoe Webb '10 (center) and Alix Webb '07 (right).



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 or mail it to:

*Attn: The Heartbeat
St. John Eudes School
9225 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311*

Stauffer Chapel at Pepperdine University from which she had received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education in 2012. Completing her Master's Degree and obtaining her teaching credentials at California Lutheran University, she is now teaching Language Arts at Lindero Canyon Middle School in Agoura Hills. A number of her friends from St. John Eudes School

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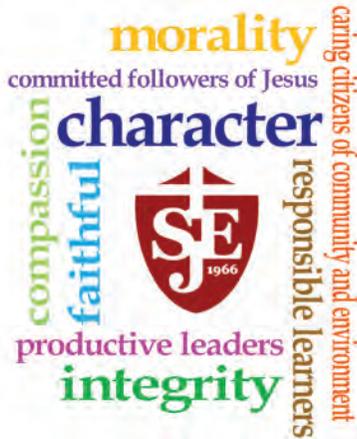
St. John Eudes School

9925 Mason Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 341-1454
Fax: (818) 341-3093

www.sjeschool.net

Msgr. Emigdio Herrera
Administrator

Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal



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Ernie Star, Director

Quick Beats

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fine arts, and marine biology. Interested students are able to take advantage of these programs to further develop their personal interests in these subject.



Fine arts are an important part of the curriculum at SJE School. In addition to regular music classes (where students are learning to sight sing a melody) there are additional after-school enrichment classes available.

The Pulse

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attended the ceremony and also the reception held in the beautiful hills above Malibu.

Dominique Lien '10, after graduating from St. John Eudes School, attended Louisville High School. She participated in JV volleyball until she discovered her passion for horses. She became active on the Louisville Equestrian Team hunter jumping and showing horses. After graduating high school, her love of horses led her to the University of Kentucky where she graduated in May, 2018, with a Bachelor's Degree in Equine Studies (including a minor in Business). Meeting

American Pharoah, the American thoroughbred Triple Crown Winner, she says was one of her most memorable events

in college. She is now working at Maple Crest Farm in Kentucky as the barn manager. Her duties include training and showing horses, as well as rehabilitating race horses.



The *Jog-A-Thon* is one of the favorite annual events of students and faculty, and fondly remembered by many alumni. It's a major fundraiser for the school and involves, in addition to the actual jogging, a number of other events such as the drawing, special lunch, a day for crazy hats (left) and special banners made by each class (right).

Our students and families are supporting a number of collections to help important programs and needs in our area. Collections of boxed and canned food will be taken for the Guadalupe Center in Canoga Park to be used for *Thanksgiving Baskets* for needy families.

And in support of Respect Life Month, the Student Council sponsored a *Baby Bottle Coin Drive* for the Pregnancy Counseling Center in Mission Hills which provides support to pregnant women who need help. An *Adopt-A-Family Toy Drive* will be held in November to provide toys to needy families.



The Induction Ceremony for our National Junior Honor Society members was held in September. Members have strong academic records which established their eligibility for membership to the NJHS. Our chapter members also serve our school and community through participation in many activities including *Shane's Inspiration*, *Children's Hunger Fund*, and *Operation Gratitude*. We are proud of this record of accomplishment and welcome these students as NJHS members.