



# The HeartBeat

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

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

## Open House Leads Off Catholic Schools Week Events Week to Be Filled with Events for Students, Families & Visitors

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week has been the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2019 is January 27 - February 2. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2019 is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

At St. John Eudes School our celebration of CSW includes a number of events focused on the theme of the day, including:

**Sunday, Jan. 27 - In Our Parish:** We begin by celebrating our faith with a Children's Mass at 9:00 am. Students will be helping at Mass in

various roles and Student Council members will be present in their school uniforms, with our National Junior Honor Society members hosting hospitality in Grill Hall after all Sunday morning Masses. Our Open House begins at 10:00 am thru 1:00 pm. Visitors are invited to visit classrooms, McNamara Library, the Science



Lab, as well as other rooms, and the displays in Grill Hall - which will also include the *Scholastic Book Fair* featuring books for all ages and interests. Information about the school and applications will be available in the School Office.

**Monday, Jan. 28 - In Our Community:** Our 8th Grade class will host a reception in Grill Hall for parishioners after the 8:15 am Mass. Students will also write letters to police officers and fire fighters thanking them for their service, particularly appropriate this year in respect to the recent local fires.

**Tuesday, Jan. 29 - In Our Students:** Students will celebrate with a sports days including a

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Highlights:

- **Open House Highlight of Catholic Schools Week at SJE; All Invited!**
- **Chess Team King of Board; Wins Fall Tournament**
- **PTSO Uses Slight of Hand to Help School; Plans Magical Night to Raise Funds**
- **Students Show How to Be Saints**
- **Alumna Softball Career Eventually Leads to Capturing Marine; Now Expecting New Member of the Team**
- **Best Wishes to Fr. Paul; Returning to India to Be with Family**
- **Playground Gets Special Makeover; Students Able to Travel U.S. During Recess**
- **Alumnus Earns Eagle Rank Helping Homeless; Thanks Parish for Help**

*Looking for a great, award winning, value based school for your child? Come to our*

## Open House

Sunday, January 27



morality  
committed followers of Jesus

compassion  
faithful  
productive leaders  
integrity

SE 1966

responsible learners  
caring citizens of community and environment

St. John Eudes Catholic School  
TK- 8th Grade

## Quick Beats . . .

**A huge congratulations to our SJE chess masters-in-training! They finished in First Place at the Catholic Schools Fall Chess Tournament!** This honor is in addition to their already great showing in last spring's chess competition. Our champions include the following winners in their respective grade-level competitions: **McKenna Macaranas (Gr. K)** - 1st Place, **Matias Rodriguez (Gr. K)** - 2nd Place, **Jaiden Gurujaja (Gr. K)** - 3rd Place, **William Tenggardjaja**



The SJE Chess Team is "King of the Board" and celebrates with their team and individual trophies after their recent tournament win.

**(Gr. 1)** - 2nd Place, **Marinda Rodriguez (Gr. 2)** - 1st Place, **Vince Arciaga (Gr. 2)** - 2nd Place, and **Kaze Shikiya (Gr. 3)** - 3rd Place. Chess is an after school enrichment class which has been a good move for a number of our students. It teaches students to concentrate and develop critical forward thinking. Additional enrichment classes offered by the school are robotics, fine arts, music, and marine biology.

**SJE alumni and friends are invited to enjoy A Magical Evening at the PTSO 2019 Spring Gala** which will be held on Saturday, Mar. 30, from 6:00-11:00 pm at the Woodland Hills Hilton. There'll be a fantastic silent auction, great dinner, and a show by master magicians from the exclusive Magic Castle in Hollywood! Proceeds to benefit the school educational program.



There's a lot to celebrate in the fall & winter seasons like Halloween, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Christmas and more! These special days give our students a chance to learn about our culture and faith, as well as build community and have fun! **Above** - Students celebrated the saints at a special Mass honoring their lives and memories. **Below** - Learning to make a gingerbread house for Christmas allowed students to add decorations to the family home and be part of the spirit of the Christmas season.



## Catholic Schools Week

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Buddy Picnic Lunch and the popular *Faculty vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Team Game*.

**Wednesday, Jan. 30 - In Our Nation:** Students are encouraged to wear patriotic pins, ribbons and red/white/blue socks to celebrate our national heritage and identity.

**Thursday, Jan. 31 - In Our Vocations:** Celebrating the careers and vocations in our families, visitors and grandparents will be greeted by Mrs. Danowitz in Grill hall

and then invited into the classrooms to spend time with their students.

**Friday, Feb. 1 - In Our Faculty and Staff:** A Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day Lunch will be held in Grill Hall. The student *Principal for the Day* will get the chance to see what it is like to be the principal of St. John Eudes School.

*We invite everyone to join in the spirit of Catholic Schools Week and celebrate all the great things our students at St. John Eudes School and all our Catholic schools are doing!*

**This was the sixth year of the SJE Annual Kids Christmas Boutique and it was another great success** providing students with the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for family members and help the school raise funds at the same time. Parent volunteers manned the sales tables as students chose from a wide variety of donated items to fill their gift lists. The boutique raised \$3,200 for school needs and has usually been used to purchase essential supplies for the classrooms.



*Left* - Our school will be holding its annual Open House as we start the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Open House will be held on Sunday, January 27, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. It's a great chance for visitors to meet our teachers and staff, visit the classrooms, including the Science Lab, TK facilities, Computer Lab, and see all the great things our students have been doing. Everyone's invited!



## In a Lighter Vein . . .

February's just around the corner and stores are already filled with bright red heart-shaped boxes of candies. Valentine's Day is certainly a day on which we can celebrate our special relationships . . . and maybe you'd love to share a Valentine's joke or two with each other!

Q: What was the French cat's favorite Valentine's Day dessert?

A: Chocolate mousse

Q: What do you call a very small Valentine?

A: A valentiny.

Q: What did the pickle say to the other pickle on Valentine's Day?

A: You mean a great dill to me.

Q: Why didn't the skeleton want to send any Valentine's Day cards?

A: His heart wasn't in it.

Q: What's the best part of Valentine's Day?

A: The day after when all the chocolate goes on sale.

Q: Where do hamburgers take their sweethearts on Valentine's Day to dance?

A: To the meatball.

Q: What did the Valentine's Day card say to the stamp?

A: Stick with me and you'll go places.

Q: Why do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?

A: Because they're scent-imental.

Q: What did the whale say to his girlfriend on Valentine's Day?

A: Whale you be mine?

Q: What did the light bulb say to the other light bulb on Valentine's Day?

A: I love you a watt.

And our students will love it too if you sent them a Valentine with 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!

**Nicole Webb (Konsella) '04** (aka Nikki) had a passion for playing sports while at St. John Eudes School, being on the girls basketball team, 2004 championship volleyball team, and was also on the SJE girls softball team that won the San Fernando Valley League championship in 2004. Her softball career continued as she attended Chaminade College Preparatory where she also played on the girls softball team. In addition to her local sports activities, she also participated in the Junior National Softball League where her team advanced to the championship playoffs in San Antonio, Texas. After graduating from Chaminade in 2008, Nikki worked in sales at her brother-in-law's business. During that time she met the love of her life, her future husband, Tyler Konsella. Tyler was in the Marine Corps and would drive weekly from his base in Twentynine Palms to visit her (Tyler was a Marine for 10 years and was deployed 6 times to assignments around the globe). They were married in 2017 after Tyler retired from the Marines and they eventually moved to Dallas, Texas, where they bought their first house and where Nikki began working at the Prince of Peace Early Learning Center. They now have a special blessing coming their way with their first child due in March of this year!

Our best wishes to **Fr. Paul Kottackal** as he returns to India to continue his ministry. Fr. Kottackal served as an associate pastor at St. John Eudes but also headed the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church community while here. Many alumni are sure to remember his efficacious smile and



Left - Nicole Webb (Konsella) '04 married her Marine Corps sweetheart in 2017 and they are now awaiting their first child (who they know is a boy and will be christened "Tucker Layne" when he arrives in March). Right - Colette Webb (Volotzky) '02 helped celebrate her sister's new arrival at a baby shower along with her husband, Ben, and their 3 year old son.



Make sure to visit the school's Facebook page at [SJE365.com](http://SJE365.com) and like us!



Read the latest tweets about the school on Twitter @sje365\_news!

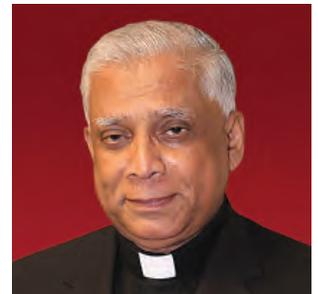


Check out the newest pictures of school events on Instagram [SJE365!](http://SJE365!)

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

presence at our school functions and liturgies. After leaving St. John Eudes he served at several parishes across the country but is now returning to India to be closer to his family. He will be serving at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Karakattukunnu, Mekkad, Ernakulam, Kerala, India. And it should be noted that his new parish is actually not too far from where



former SJE principal, **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz, Sch. P.**, has been helping establish the new St. Paula Montal School to serve children from Kindergarten to Grade 8. The school opened in 2017 and was founded by the Sisters of the Pious Schools in India. And if you are interested in helping the sisters spread the spirit of Christ to the children of India, you can help greatly by supporting their efforts. More infor-

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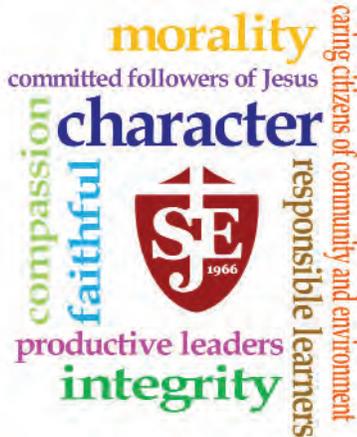
## St. John Eudes School

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Principal



### The HeartBeat

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Development Office

Ernie Star, Director

## The Pulse

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mation about the school is available thru the school website and on [www.GoFundMe.com](http://www.GoFundMe.com).

A great way to teach lower graders (or anyone for that matter!) is to use wonderful visual tools. And what better way to teach students about the geography of our own country than to paint a large scale map of the United States on the lower grade playground! SJE alumni and Eagle Scouts came out to help fellow alumnus **Daniel Myers '17** with his Eagle Scout service project of painting the map on the playground. They were joined by other SJE alumni, current students, and scouts from Troop 911. Our students can now get a great understanding of how the states all relate and of the expanse of our great country - and they can even make the trip from New York to California in just a hop-skip-and-a-jump without even leaving the campus!

And another alumnus, **Tyler Suttles '17**, made us proud by earning his Eagle Scout honor through a project aimed at helping homeless veterans. Tyler, who had solicited help from SJE parishioners for his effort, recently posted a "thank you" notice in the parish bulletin that

read: *Dear St. John Eudes Parishioners - Thank you so much for your support, prayers, and donations towards my Eagle project. In September, my Boy Scout Troop 911, with my family, helped put together 100 backpacks, each filled with a sweatshirt, t-shirt, 2 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of underwear, hat, beanie, gloves, and toiletry kit filled with all the essentials. This was 40 bags over my original goal! Along with numerous extra supplies, all have been donated to the Sepulveda V.A. From there, everything will be distributed to homeless veterans, all over the valley, to help them stay warm and comfortable in the outdoor weather. Without your generosity, none of this would have been possible. By helping the vets, you've also helped me take the last big step to earning my Eagle Scout Rank, which I earned officially on November 20, 2018. Thank you so much! Way to go Tyler!*



Tyler Suttles '17 poses proudly with his Eagle Scout badge.



Above - Alumni, students and volunteers work on painting a map of the United States in the lower grade playground. Students will be able to get a large scale understanding of how our great country is put together geographically. The map is the Eagle Scout service project of alumnus **Daniel Myers '17**.

Below - A flock of Eagle Scouts and alumni SJE Eagles landed in the playground to help out with the project, including (from left to right) **Marc Francis '18** (Eagle Scout 2/2018), **Tyler Suttles '17** (Eagle Scout 11/2018), **Daniel Myers '17** (Eagle Scout Candidate), **Fred Cantarine '12**, (Eagle Scout 8/2015), and **John Francis '13** (Eagle Scout 10/2014).



### 2019 SJE School Alumnus of the Year

Watch for the announcement of this year's **St. John Eudes School Alumnus of the Year** which will be posted on the school website and in the parish bulletin during Catholic Schools Week. A selection committee headed by parish administrator Msgr. Herrera and school principal Barbara Danowitz will make the selection of an alumnus who will be a great example to our students of someone who has been a life-long learner 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. More about the this year's Alumnus of the Year, as well as previous recipients, can be found on the school website at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net).

ST. JOHN EUDES PTSO  
Presents

# Magical Evening

SPRING GALA  
2019

Save the date for a magical evening at the SJE PTSO 2019 Spring Gala!

Saturday, March 30  
6-11 pm at the Woodland Hills Hilton

More information soon at [www.sjeschool.net](http://www.sjeschool.net)