



The HeartBeat

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

Visit us at www.sjeschool.net

Back-to-School Night Welcomes Parents to New School Year to Highlight Educational Program & Goals



Grill Hall was packed with parents attending "Back-to-School Night". This yearly event provides vital information to parents about expectations for the coming school year - and also gives parents a chance to get to know each other a little and socialize with school teachers and staff.

Getting everyone on the same page for the coming school year is an important part of the annual *SJE Back-to-School Night*. Attending school parents were provided important information about what to expect during the 2019-20 school year, as well as Mrs. Danowitz's insights into the direction of the school program.

As important as the informational part of the meetings, parents were introduced to current teachers and staff, as well as our new pastoral administrator Fr. Ethan Southard who began his service at our parish and school last July. Information regarding after school programs, activities and PTSO events was also provided.

After the meeting in Grill Hall, parents were able to grab a few snacks (thanks to our gracious SJE Room Parents) and then headed off to the classrooms to spend some time with the teachers to learn about individual class expectations



Top Right - Information about afterschool enrichment programs was available to the parents attending the meeting. **Bottom** - After the meeting in Grill Hall, parents were invited to meet with teachers in the classrooms to learn about grade specific goals for the coming year - and get some insight into being a student in the classroom!

Inside This Issue:

Quick Beats	2
The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends	3
Alumnus of the Year Nominations	3
In a Lighter Vein	3

Highlights:

- **Back-to-School Night Brings Parents, Faculty, Staff Together**
- **School Receives Major Donation from Local Grocery Store**
- **Student Council Installed; Will Help Guide Student Awareness**
- **Student Librarians Serve with Novel Enthusiasm**
- **Student Council Raises Funds to Help Hurricane Victims**
- **Fall Events to Focus on Respecting Life and Blessings**
- **Ice Cream Social Begins School Year with Tasteful Event**
- **Alumnus Inspires SJE Teacher to Visit India; Sr. Rosemary Makes New Friend**
- **Jog-A-Thon Displays School Spirit, Class Banners & Crazy Hats**
- **Alumnus Gives Arm to Patient; Works to Improve Printed Prosthetics**
- **NJHS Inducts 2019-20 Members; Celebrates Exceptional Values and Goals**
- **Students Share Books Over Tea & Biscuits**

Quick Beats . . .

Fall is a special season when we celebrate the harvest of our labors and give thanks to God for the abundance he has given us. And October is rightly designated *Respect Life Month* as we focus on the important aspects of the gift of life and joy of creation that flows from the harvest that sustains us. Our students join in to celebrate the many aspects of life which is at the core of this season, including the *Respect Life Student*



Above - The Von's store at the corner of Mason Ave. and Devonshire St. has recently been remodelled and as part of its Grand Reopening celebrated by donating \$1,000 to the school. Many school families shop at the store and appreciate its convenience and friendly staff (not to mention its exceptional selection of pumpkins for Halloween!).



Above - Deacon Sargon, Mrs. Strom, Fr. Dave, Fr. Ethan, and Mrs. Danowitz pose proudly with this year's Student Council. The Council plays an important part of student life at St. John Eudes School. In addition to learning about the practical matters of student governance, the Council organizes student events and fundraisers that raise student awareness of social issues beyond the campus. Below - The annual Ice Cream Social brings school families, students, faculty and staff together to enjoy a day of ice cream and fun before the start of the school year. This year's Social featured Hawaiian shaved ice and face painting - also known as burrrr and gurrrr!



Body Mass, the *Blessing of the Animals*, *Character Counts Week*, a *Pumpkin Gallery* that is part of the *Pumpkin Patch* created in Grill Hall, the ever popular *Halloween Hop*, the *Harvest Mass & Trunk or Treat*, and the *All Saints Day Mass*. The Student Council also sponsors a *Baby Bottle Coin Drive* to help support the Pregnancy Counseling

Center in Mission Hills in its important mission of assisting expectant mothers and saving unborn babies. Students will also share the abundance of the harvest by participating in a *Thanksgiving Food Drive* being conducted through the *Guadalupe Center* in Canoga Park. Each class is assigned to collect a variety of boxed and canned food items that will be donated to the drive. These items will be used to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for hundreds of needy families.

It's no secret that California is earthquake country with many of us having experience some of the quaking of the recent Ridgecrest Earthquake and many alumni still having memories of the



This school year's Junior Librarians will be assisting Ms. Banks, our dedicated librarian, with checking in returned books, shelving books, organizing shelves, and maintaining order in the library.

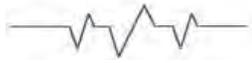
1994 Northridge Earthquake. To help students prepare for any unexpected trembler and to keep them safe in the event of a major quake, students participated in the recent *Great California Shakeout*. This statewide event helps people and organizations get better prepared for a major earthquake and practice how to be protected when it happens.

The SJE Student Council views the responsibility to help others in need as an important Christian duty and organized a fundraising campaign to help the victims of Hurricane Dorian. The hurricane caused extensive damage to the Caribbean islands, Florida and the U.S. east coast in September. Over \$1,655 was raised by the Student Council and forwarded to the *Hurricane Dorian Relief Effort*.

(Continued on page 4)



Above - Students process from the church at the conclusion of the Living Rosary which is held each October to focus on our duty to Respect Life. By being a living part of the rosary students are better able to relate to this important Catholic prayer and understand its significance and power.



The Pulse: News About SJE Alumni & Friends

In a Lighter Vein . . .

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching. And in getting prepared for Thanksgiving dinner (and ensuing Black Friday sales), we often get so busy that we lose sight of the meaning of the holiday. So if you find yourself stuck in the whirl of preparations and shopping frenzy, take a few moments to read these insights about the meaning of the holiday . . .

“If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. It will change your life mightily.” Gerald Good

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” Marcel Proust

“Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” Psalm 95:2

“I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.” G.K. Chesterton

“If a fellow isn’t thankful for what he’s got, he isn’t likely to be thankful for what he’s going to get.” Frank A. Clark

“When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup.” Sam Lefkowitz

“Remember God’s bounty in the year. String the pearls of His favor. Hide the dark parts, except so far as they are breaking out in light! Give this one day to thanks, to joy, to gratitude!” Henry Ward Beecher

We’re thankful, joyful and grateful for every donation made 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! And have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Desiree Tedesco, SJE School 8th Grade teacher, had the opportunity to visit **Sr. Rosemary Bochniarz**, former SJE School Principal, during last summer. Sr. Rosemary wrote us about Ms. Tedesco’s visit saying:

The generous, giving spirit of St. John Eudes School & Parish is still going strong and spreading around the world!

Since the Sisters of the Pious Schools opened our first school in India three years ago (St. Paula Montal CBSE School in the state of Tamil Nadu), SJE has shared many resources with our students here: library books, funds for a child’s eye surgery, school supplies, and this summer you shared a self-sacrificing teacher, Ms. Desiree Tedesco! She spent a month of her “vacation” with us teaching English to the children and after-school classes for the teachers and young Sisters, who were delighted to learn from her.

*Ms. Tedesco adapted readily to the customs and climate, simple life-style and inconveniences while living with the Sisters in the school building (we do not have a convent yet!), and joined the community for prayers, meals and school activities. Ms. Tedesco is a good friend of SJE alumni **John Vogel ’77** and **Marybeth Lien Albert ’77** and it was John who directed her to our mission in India when she talked about doing volunteer work in India during the summer months.*

Ms. Tedesco has the makings of a missionary with the spirit of St. Paula Montal! There are still many needs in the school: bulletin boards, maps, teachers’ resources,

(Continued on page 4)



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*

2020 Alumnus of the Year

If you know of a St. John Eudes School Alumnus who has impressed and touched you with their accomplishments, you are invited to nominate them for our 2020 Alumnus of the Year. Visit sjeschool.net for more information and nomination forms.



Above - SJE School 8th Grade teacher Ms. Tedesco and former SJE principal Sr. Rosemary pose together at the St. Paula Montal CBSE School in India. Ms. Tedesco helped at the school over last summer.

Left - The statue of St. Paula Montal graces the photograph of Ms. Tedesco with her Indian students and is located on the school campus to remind students and their parents of St. Paul Montal’s mission “to save families, teaching children the love of God”. Ms. Tedesco taught students English grammar at the St. Paula Montal CBSE School in India. She found the students “to be smart, funny, sweet, and incredibly warm”.

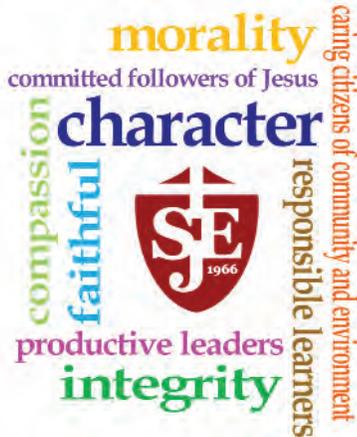


St. John Eudes School

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

www.sjeschool.net

Fr. Ethan Southard
Parish Administrator
Mrs. Barbara Danowitz
Principal



The HeartBeat

A publication of the
St. John Eudes School
Development Office
Ernie Star, Director

Logos & Content ©2019 - St. John Eudes School

Quick Beats

(Continued from page 2)



Above - Students get the opportunity to critique and discuss their summer reading materials at the SJE Literary Tea. Below - Each class created a unique banner to show their class spirit at the Jog-A-Thon.



John Francis '13 "high fives" the recipient of a 3D printer produced prosthetic arm which was created by a team John led at the University of Oregon. Bravo John!



Above - The SJE Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society celebrated their 2019-20 members at an induction ceremony held in the church. In order to be a member applicants must reach the five standards which include leadership, citizenship, character, service, and scholarship. Left (above & below) - Students took part in a number of Jog-A-Thon events in addition to jogging around the field. Crazy Hat Day and the Jog-A-Thon Raffle were also part of the festivities that make the Jog-A-Thon a major school fundraiser and fun event for students. Our cheerleaders further inspired students by their great spirit and cheers. Go Eagles!

The Pulse

(Continued from page 3)

athletic equipment, as well as completing the third floor to accommodate next year's ninth and tenth grade students. But the present priority is to build a convent so the young Sisters have an appropriate community living space.

Please keep our mission in your Family Prayers, and know that we are joined in spirit by our Foundress, St. Paula Montal, who worked to save families by teaching the children the love of God.

And in following up to Sr. Rosemary's letter, Ms. Tedesco wrote us:

In the summer of 2019, I had the honor of visiting India and be of service to Sister Rosemary and the Sisters of Saint Paula Montal School. Sister Rosemary graciously greeted me at three in the morning at the airport, and from then on we were instant family. I spent four weeks in Southern India teaching 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders English grammar and worked with the teachers after school in "Conversational English." I found the children of India to be smart, funny, sweet, and incredibly warm. I enjoyed my time with the Sisters who worked and lived at the school site. We spent our

days praying, teaching, laughing, eating, and above all sharing our cultures. I will forever remember the time I had.

I love you Sister Rosemary!

Help the Sisters of the Pious Schools spread the Good News of Christ on the Indian Subcontinent. A building fund for St. Paula Montal CBSE School in India has been established through the Sisters in Northridge. You may contact Sr. Guadalupe Gonzales at 818-885-6265 or by writing to Sisters of the Pious Schools, 17601 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91325.

John Francis '13 is currently attending the University of Oregon as a Biology Major student. He is an active member of the university's Biometrics Club and recently led a project to create a prosthetic arm using a 3D printer. A prosthetic created using a 3D printer is often a viable low-cost alternative to more expensive devices and provides access to prosthetics that patients may not otherwise have.