



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

April 8, 2009

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School is dedicated to living the Gospel values. Our Franciscan, academically challenging curriculum teaches and supports students in becoming contributing members of their communities.

St. Francis of Assisi Schoolwide Learning Expectations

A St. Francis of Assisi Student is:

A) Spiritual who

- understands the Catholic faith
- demonstrates Gospel values
- actively participates in prayer celebrations
- shows a love of God, others, and self

B) Academic who

- actively solves problems and thinks critically
- makes progress through the diocesan standards
- develops and shares knowledge and talents
- demonstrates a curiosity and respect for learning

C) Respectful who

- appreciates diversity and the uniqueness of others
- practices good citizenship
- lives the "Acts of Courtesy"
- cares for God's creations

D) Confident who

- recognizes self-worth
- leads and cooperates
- embraces challenges
- always perseveres

E) Responsible who

- practices self-discipline
- makes Christ-like decisions
- owns his/her choices
- is trustworth

Principal's Message

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parents,

Happy Holy Week! This is such a beautiful time of year, as we prepare for the resurrection of Jesus. I hope many of you will be able to join us tomorrow, Holy Thursday, for our annual Alfombras procession at 10am in the schoolyard. Our fourth through eighth graders will be transforming our schoolyard into a beautiful pathway leading us into church. At 10:30, we will celebrate in church with a prayer service. The students will then proceed back to class for a re-enactment of the Last Supper with their classmates and teacher. What a wonderful way to remember Jesus' love for us!

Thank you to everyone who participated in taking the parent online survey for our accreditation. Your comments and suggestions are very important to all of us here, and we appreciate the time you took out of your busy schedule!

Feria 2009 is fast approaching! I hope many of you will be coming to this fun evening. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. There are many exciting items, including the beautiful class projects, to bid on. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need it to be successful. Feria is definitely twofold... a wonderful evening and a great benefit for our school. Your support and participation are truly appreciated and necessary.

I hope you get to enjoy some time off with your children during their Easter vacation. I look forward to seeing all of them on April 20th. Many blessings to you and your family this Easter season!

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power

School Advisory Committee (SAC) Openings

Nominations are now being accepted for the St. Francis Elementary Advisory Commission for the term of office beginning on July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2011.

The SAC advises the pastor and school principal of opportunities and goals regarding:

- Planning
- Policy development
- Finances
- Facilities management
- Marketing and development.

To obtain a nomination form go to www.stfranciselem.org/csacnomination.htm

St. Francis Elementary School Calendar April 2009

9	Alfombras, 10:00 am, Prayer Service 10:30 am
9	NOON DISMISSAL/Holy Thursday EASTER BREAK
20	School Resumes
21	7 th and 8 th Grade Student Retreat (Parish Center Chapel)
23	Mid 3 rd Trimester
25	FERIA, 5:30 pm
30	Spring Concert, grades 1-4, 7pm in church

Parent Volunteers

Don't forget to complete the "Shield the Vulnerable" course online via our website. This must be done before the year is over! You will not be permitted to volunteer at school, without proof of completion, beginning August 2009. Please turn in course certificates to the office.

Thank you

TAEKWONDO STATE CHAMP



Miguel Batilando, 4th grade, won a gold medal (Forms/Poomse) and a silver medal (Sparring/Kyorogi) in the 2009 USA Taekwondo California State Championship held at CSU-Los Angeles on March 28, 2009. He is now qualified to compete in the USA Taekwondo National Championship (Junior Olympics) to be held in July 2009 in Austin, Texas. Miguel trains under Master John Yi of Elite Taekwondo USA in Cameron Park and Master Jong Yi of Koryo Taekwondo in Sacramento.

KUDOS also to 4th grader Maryael Ramos who competed in the United World Tae Kwon Do competition on April 4th at the Folsom Sports Complex. Maryael won the gold medal in the weapons division for black belts in the 6 – 9 year old category.

And another acknowledgement for Mieke Rosecrans, a seventh grader, who earned the title of Grand Champion at her karate tournament last weekend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome Baby Sontino Matteucci, brother of Espie in first grade! From the pictures we have seen, he looks exactly like his big sis!! Mom, Dad, Espie, and Baby Sonny are all doing well!

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maximo Bejar, grandfather of Mia Sanchez, first grade. May he rest in peace.

School Choir Astounds Judges at Diocesan Choral Festival

On Friday March 27, the school choir participated in the Diocesan Choral Festival held at Christian Brothers High School. They beautifully sang the song "There is One" by Tom Booth. The guest directors were very impressed with their confidence and unity. They gave special praise to our drummer, Tommy Lipper, for his ability to blend into the group, a rare trait in a drummer! Our 8th grade girls were also given a round of applause for singing as one voice, especially given the tricky rhythms. Our choir did an excellent job, getting the highest scores we have ever received at the choral festival. Great work, choir!

Religion Round-up

"My children, I will be with you only a little while longer." John 13:21



Today is the last full day of Lent. The most sacred season of the year, Triduum, begins at the Holy Thursday Mass tomorrow evening. It is a time of prayer, special fasting, and expectation. I hope you will be able to attend some of the beautiful services during this most holy time.

During the Easter Vigil Mass, there will be 27 people who will become fully initiated into the Catholic faith here at St. Francis Parish. Among those receiving Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation will be our very own fifth-grader, **Christian Edwards**. Receiving First Eucharist and Confirmation will be **Mr. Andrew Hudnut**, father to fifth-grader Seamus and first-grader Mariah Hudnut. Congratulations to these two and to all who will be receiving the sacraments this Saturday. We are praying for you!

Tomorrow, Holy Thursday, is the day we exchange Easter cards with our prayer partners. Some classes are also making Easter cards for the people being initiated into the Church at Easter Vigil. Between our alfombras, the prayer service and the Last Supper reenactment, Holy Thursday is a spiritual day of remembering and prayer, a beautiful way to end Lent and begin Triduum.

Last week our third grade led the school in a Taize-style prayer service. Their reading was about the raising of Lazarus from the dead. They were very reverent and prayerful throughout the service.

On Monday, our fourth grade reenacted the Stations of the Cross for our weekly prayer service. They really brought to life the story of Jesus' passion and death and his love for us.

Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thurs Apr 9	8 th Holy Thursday Service	10:30 a.m.
	Easter Break	
Mon Apr 20	8 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Thurs April 23	6 th Mass	9:00 a.m.
Mon Apr 27	7 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.

Parents are always welcome to attend prayer services and Masses.

Coming Soon!

School Choir Spring Concert

The Choir is working hard on the music for their Spring Concert, which will be held on Thursday May 7th in the church at 7:00 p.m. Our music will be both sacred and secular, with songs of hope and inspiration. All are invited to hear the young talent with which we are blessed in our school.

Let the Sun Shine!

Grades 1-4 Spring Concert

The annual Spring Concert for First through Fourth Grades will be held on Thursday April 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Our theme this year is "Hippie Songs" or music from the late 1960's to the early 1970's. Be prepared for some tie-dye, long hair, and lots of peace and love, man.

Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



FICTION

All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg
Grades 6 – 10 / "Two years after being airlifted out of war-torn Vietnam, Matt Pin is haunted: by bombs...[and] the terrible secret -- he left behind. Now, inside a caring adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events force him to choose between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom. By turns harrowing, dreamlike, sad, and triumphant, this searing debut novel, written in lucid verse, reveals an unforgettable perspective on the lasting impact of war and the healing power of love."

The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings
by Alan Gratz

Grades 5 – 8 / "Gratz builds this novel upon a clever enough conceit—nine stories (or

innings), each following the successive generations in a single family, linked by baseball and Brooklyn—and executes it with polish and precision. In the opening stories, there is something Scorsese-like (albeit with the focus on players, not gangsters) in Gratz's treatment of early New York: a fleet-footed German immigrant helps Alexander Cartwright (credited with creating modern baseball) during a massive 1845 factory fire; a young boy meets his hero, the great King Kelly, who by age 30 is a washed-up alcoholic scraping by as a vaudeville act. The pace lags a bit in the middle innings, where a talented young girl stars in the WW II-era All-American Girls Baseball League and a card-collecting boy lives in fear of the Russians, Sputnik, and the atomic bomb. But the final two stories provide a flurry of late-inning heroics: a Little League pitcher's shot at a perfect game told with breathtaking verve; and a neat stitching-together effort to close the book. Each of the stories is outfitted with wide-ranging themes and characters that easily warrant more spacious confines, but taken together they present a sweeping diaspora of Americana, tracking the changes in a family through the generations, in society at large for more than a century and a half, and, not least, in that quintessential American pastime."

The Desperado who Stole Baseball by John H. Ritter

Grades 5 – 8 / "A prequel of sorts to *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* (2003), this novel dials back the time period to the Wild West. Twelve-year-old Jack Dillon, the self-proclaimed "world's greatest baseballist in the 'tire nation," befriends Billy the Kid on the trail to California. Ritter depicts the famous outlaw as a lightning-reflexed, misunderstood loner looking to fade into obscurity in Dillontown, while the brash Jack intends to join his uncle's renowned amateur baseball squad. The Dillontown Nine have challenged the mighty Chicago White Stockings (run by a low-down, scheming coal baron) to a high-stakes game, with the future of the town riding on the outcome, and sure enough, Jack's unbridled enthusiasm and Billy's natural athleticism figure to play a role in that outcome. The story lopes along on the strength of its delightful and articulately

brusque dialogue and Jack's far-fetched innovations (his "convolutionary secrets" include the hit-and-run and suicide squeeze plays). Although Ritter overshoots the wholesome-versus-greedy America angle—Dillontowners literally just want to play baseball and make apple pie—that's small shakes in light of this wildly entertaining yarn."

Heck: Where the Bad Kids Go by Dale E. Basye

Grades 3 – 6 / "Welcome to Grizzly Mall: Home of the State's Second-Largest Bear-Themed Marshmallow Statue! Such is the Kansas-fed, white-bread suburb 13-year-old Marlo Faustus longs to escape. And escape she does, with her unwitting, innocent younger brother, Milton, when said sculpture explodes, and they arrive, newly deceased, in Heck—where the bad kids go. Puns and allusions abound, enough to sate the corniest appetite, even if many will slide right by the reader: the kids' limbo is ruled by one Bea Elsa Bubb, Principal of Darkness, and faculty include Mr. Nixon (ethics), Lizzie Borden (home ec), and Mr. Dior... Beneath the jocular surface, though, Marlo and Milton work through a complex sibling relationship on their quest for escape. Can they put aside their differences to elude the Boogeypeople and hall demonitors to free the jarred blobs of lost souls, hatch a getaway, and stay together? Heck if I know."

The Super Sluggers: Slumpbuster

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Banjo H. Bishbash is known on his Little League team as the Great Walloper because of his ability to hit home runs. Banjo's team is on the verge of winning the pennant, but the weather turns hot, Banjo ends up in a deep slump, and the team skids. If all this wasn't bad enough, his slump is covered in ruthless detail by his erstwhile friend, the ace girl sportswriter Gabby Hedron. Predictably in this sort of story, Banjo is benched for the big game, comes up as a pinch hitter in the ninth, and (laying it on in great dollops here) breaks up a perfect game by smashing the winning home run. Banjo tells his story in the first person, frequently speaking in the cornball clichés of a small-town sportswriter. Even though the author doesn't capture the speech patterns of a contemporary

sixth grader, however, his approach fits this straightforward, sunny, somewhat retro sports novel, which will appeal to many young baseball fans looking for a simple, fun story...Kevin Markey's debut novel is a hilarious tall tale of baseball action and high jinks that will have fans reveling in every trip around the pages."

Top of the Order by John Coy

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "An unusual focus sets this girl-joins-a-team-of-boys tale apart from the general run of such. The Panthers have no one to cover second base, so when Sydney shows up with her pink glove, they reluctantly give her a go, even over the enraged objections of her brother, team pitcher Gig. But Coy leaves Sydney a peripheral character, building his main story around four fifth-graders at the top of the Panthers' lineup: Gig; outfielder Isaac; power-hitting newcomer Diego; and Jackson, who narrates and plays shortstop until the catcher breaks an ankle. All four have individual issues, from a father about to ship to Afghanistan to the stress of shuttling between divorced parents, but they share a simple desire to win ball games—as well as anxiety over the rumored atrocities awaiting them in middle school. Keeping the tone light and folding in suspenseful game action, Coy underscores the importance of teamwork, bonding, and being open to change both on and off the field. Matt Christopher fans will recognize the pitch."

Young Samurai: The Way of the Warrior by Chris Bradford

Grade 6 – 9 / "Debut author Bradford comes out swinging in this fast-paced adventure set in medieval Japan, the first in the projected Young Samurai trilogy...In 1611, a British merchant ship bound for "the Japans" is attacked by ninjas, and the lone survivor, 12-year-old Jack Fletcher, is taken into the home of a revered samurai...After dispensing with Jack's initial sense of being lost in a new culture, the story dives directly into what...boys will be looking for: fighting, and lots of it. The action comes fast, and Bradford writes with the authority of a black belt—which he happens to be—and a genuine respect for the subject. The minutiae of Jack's samurai training are

conveyed with clarity and plenty of bravura... Jack's story alone makes for a page-turner, but coupling it with intriguing bits of Japanese history and culture, Bradford produces an adventure novel to rank among the genre's best. The intricate and authentic descriptions of martial arts contests will hold readers spellbound. Just as potent for many readers, though, are the outright hatred and prejudice Jack faces as a *gaijin*, or foreigner, while he attempts to master an elaborate code of honor...Employing a wide range of Japanese terms will have the dual effect of drawing readers intrigued by Japanese culture into the story..."

NON FICTION

Ancient Egypt: Discover the Nile valley civilizations – from Pharaoh's court to the daily lives of workers by George Hart

(An Eyewitness book that includes a Clip-Art CD and a wall chart)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Eyewitness Books' *Ancient Egypt* continues the tradition of excellent, accurate, and beautiful reference works for kids 9 to 12 years old. Ancient Egyptian civilization holds a special fascination for many, with its mummies, pyramids, and highly stylized artworks...Each two-page spread treats one particular aspect of the civilization, such as architecture, religion, agriculture, or recreational activities. All items pictured are identified with brief captions and clear definitions. Most are of excavated artifacts, but when these would not suffice to demonstrate visually some aspect of the culture, drawings or modern reconstructions are used... However, it's unfortunate that there are no timelines to help readers grasp the historical period. Similar books have been produced before, but seldom with the kind of stunning visuals provided here. Browsing through these books is second only to seeing the articles attractively displayed in a museum."

Birds of Prey: Winged Masters of the Sky

by Michael Petersen

"*Birds of Prey* presents the world's most powerful birds in this meticulously researched, lavishly illustrated edition. Hawks, kestrels, merlins, falcons, ospreys, eagles, and owls are all featured, along with dozens of other species in a variety of settings. Generally classified as birds that hunt using their talons, all birds of prey display characteristic curved tip to the beak and share superb vision and sometimes hearing. Nevertheless birds of prey can range in size from the huge great horned owl to the small but sharp merlin; one thing all have in common is the ability to strike with swift deadly accuracy. With over 160 full color photographs *Birds of Prey* gives detailed information on the habitat, feeding, and breeding of birds native to the Americas, the UK and Europe. Bird lovers of all types will enjoy this informative and engaging read."



Have a Happy Easter

Snakes & Other Reptiles: Includes America's Deadliest Snakes by Deborah M. Alexander

"Here they are... The sometimes-deadly, always-fascinating order of creepy-crawlies known as reptiles. We find snakes and other reptiles in almost every corner of the world, on almost every continent: buried in the dust of deserts and in the leaf litter of rainforest floors, swimming through ocean coral and lake reeds, burrowing in the bushes of our own back yards. Some lizards, turtles, and snakes we adopt as pets – yet we often misunderstand these shy creatures, fearing them for the wrong reasons, failing to see their many benefits to our environment and health. Here it is... A stunning overview of the rich variety of these mysterious creatures that have caught our imagination, inspired our myths, and enriched our lives since the beginning of time."

April 2009

Dear Parents,

Our school is hosting another Scholastic **Book Fair** starting on **May 4th** and ending on **May 8th**. These events are like a weeklong celebration of reading, and reading makes kids engage their imaginations. This will also be an excellent opportunity to stock up on books for summer reading!

Volunteers will be needed for the Book Fair.

Each of the first four days will be divided into two shifts and the last day will have only one shift.

Each shift needs 2 volunteer cashiers and an additional 1 to 2 volunteers to assist children as they browse the displays.

If you are able to volunteer, please return your responses on the attached page to me by April 20th.

REMEMBER:

There will be NO after-school library or computer lab during the week of the Book Fair.

SHIFT TIMES:

May 4, 2009 (Monday)

9:50am - 1:00pm **and** 1:00pm - 4:00pm

May 5, 2009 (Tuesday)

9:50am - 1:00pm **and** 1:00pm - **6:00pm**

(This is family night – We're open until 6:00pm!)

May 6 and May 7, 2009 (Wednesday and Thursday)

9:50am - 1:00pm **and** 1:00pm - 4:00pm

May 8, 2009 (Friday)

9:50am - 1:00pm

**PLEASE RESPOND ON ATTACHED FORM &
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO OUR SCHOOL**

I WILL BE A BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEER

MY NAME _____

MY PHONE # _____

My CHILD'S NAME _____

Dates I am Available

Shift Time

Please CIRCLE the 'YES' below if you can help
SETUP the Book Fair on Saturday, May 2, 2009, starting at 10:00am

YES

Please indicate below if you can **STAY** Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur, or Fri
AFTER the Book Fair closes to **TALLY** the day's receipts:

MON
May 4

TUE
May 5

WED
May 6

THUR
May 7

FRI
May 8

Please indicate below if you can **help us dismantle** the Book Fair **after it**
closes on Friday at 1:00pm on May 8, 2009.

I CAN HELP DISMANTLE THE BOOK FAIR:
(CIRCLE 'YES' IF YOU CAN)

YES