



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

April 22, 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 trustworthy

Principal's Message

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parents,

I hope your Easter was filled with great joy! As we continue this Easter season until Pentecost, may we all be reminded of Jesus' resurrection and the new life He brings to all of us every moment of our lives.

I look forward to seeing many of you at FERIA 2009 on Saturday evening. Not only is this our biggest fundraiser of the year, it is also guaranteed to be a memorable, fun-filled event. From the delicious food and wines, to the exciting silent and live auctions, FERIA 2009 cannot be missed! I look forward to sharing this evening with you, your family, and friends.

We are already midway through the third and final trimester. Next Friday, you will receive your child's progress report for this trimester. Please keep an eye out for it. Also, if your child is in grades 3-8, you should be monitoring their progress on their online grading account. You were given information and your personal password at parent-teacher conferences in October. If you have misplaced your password, email our technology teacher, Mr. Wenk, at computerlab@stfranciselem.org.

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power

**St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
April, May, & June 2009**

April

30 Spring Concert grades 1 – 4 7pm

May

3 1st Communion – Noon Mass

4 – 8 Spring Book Fair – No After School Library or
Computer Lab

7 Choir Concert grades 5 – 8 7pm

13 Parent Club Meeting 5:30pm

14 SAC Meeting 5:30pm

25 No School – Memorial Day

29 8th grade Baccalaureate Mass 8:15am

8th grade Graduation 7pm

June

5 Last Day of School

Kindergarten/ TK Graduation 10am

Dismissal – No Extension 11am

CONGRATULATIONS

...to the Tedesco Family
on the birth of Madelyn Grace
born on April 14, 2009

Religion Round-up

The Lord has risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!



Happy Easter! I hope all our St. Francis families had a blessed Easter vacation. Our rejoicing season lasts for 50 days, until Pentecost on May 31st.

To kick off the first day back to school, our eighth grade led a prayer service in which they reenacted the discovery of the empty

tomb. They also explained the symbolism of some of our Easter decorations.

Please join us tomorrow for our school Mass. Our sixth grade will be leading us. They have chosen to donate items to the Sacramento SPCA.

Next Monday, the seventh grade will prepare a prayer service based on the "Road to Emmaus" reading.

Please keep our second graders in your prayers as they prepare for their First Communion during the Noon Mass on May 3rd.

Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Time</i>
Thurs April 23	6 th Mass	9:00 a.m.
Mon Apr 27	7 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon May 4	1 st Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon May 11	3 rd 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

Hello, Biscuit! By Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Reading level: Ages PreSchool – 5 / “Biscuit, star of the bestselling My First I Can Read Books “Biscuit” and “Biscuit Find a Friend”, debuts in his first two picture books--appealing stories perfectly attuned to the interests and funny bones of young children. Full color.”

Fairy School Dropout by Meredith Badger
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Step away from the wand. . .We aren’t usually big fairy fans, but for Elly Knottleweed-Eversprightly, we’ve made an exception. You see, Elly—although she is a fairy—isn’t a big fan of fairies either. In fact, she hates being a fairy. She hates her itchy tutu school uniform and she hates flying the fairy flock to school every morning—she would much rather take her cool skateboard. She’s fed up with her baby sister who *accidentally* makes magic happen, when she can never make her wand do what she asks. Elly has already been expelled from two prestigious fairy academies; once, for turning her teacher purple (it was an accident!), and another time for catching a flyrus (which so wasn’t her fault!). What’s a fairy to do? Elly meets Jess, a human girl who is not at all interested in fairies (but handy with wand repairs). Finally, Elly makes a friend who understands her—even though Jess is only human.”

Moving Day (Book One in the series: *Allie Finkle’s Rules for Girls*) by Meg Cabot
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “...The first installment of a new series presents a nine-year-old girl attempting to impose rules for living on her increasingly complex world. Allie is funny, believable and plucky (of course; all girls are plucky, at least in books), but most of all, and most interestingly, Allie is ambivalent. As the book starts, Allie learns that her family is moving across town. It is a mark of Cabot’s insight to understand that, to a nine-year-old, a car ride’s separation from the world she has

known makes that distance as vast as the universe. Allie will be enrolled in a different elementary school, and will therefore be that most hideous thing: the new kid. To make matters worse, the Finkle family will be moving to a dark, old, creaky Victorian, which, Allie becomes convinced, has a zombie hand in the attic. Moving will mean leaving behind not only her geode collection but also her best friend. And here is where the story deepens. Allie’s best friend is difficult. She cries easily and always insists on getting her own way. To keep the peace, Allie makes rules for herself, often after the fact, to teach herself such important friendship truisms as Don’t Shove a Spatula Down Your Best Friend’s Throat. Mary Kate is the kind of best friend anybody would want to shove a spatula down the throat of, is the thing. As Allie marshals her energies to fight the move in increasingly desperate ways, sophisticated readers may well conclude ahead of Allie that the friends she is meeting at the new school are more fun and better for her than spoiled Mary Kate and the cat-torturer, Brittany Hauser. Coming to this realization on their own, however, is part of the empowering fun. Told from the distinctive perspective of a good-hearted, impulsive, morally centered kid, this is a story that captures the conflicted feelings with which so many seemingly strong nine-year-olds struggle. Ambivalence is uncomfortable. It is also a sign of growing up. Early elementary school is all about primary colors, where rules, imposed by adults, are clear guidelines to good behavior and getting along. The more complex hues of the second half of elementary school, when complicated friendship dynamics begin to outpace the adult-imposed rules of home and school, leave many kids floundering and confused. In the character Allie Finkle, Cabot captures this moment of transition and makes it feel not just real, but also fun, and funny.”

Best Friends and Drama Queens (Book three in the series: *Allie Finkle’s Rules for Girls*) by Meg Cabot
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Allie looks forward to starting school again after winter vacation, but the arrival of a new girl, Cheyenne, changes everything. Within days, Cheyenne gathers a clique, starts a chase-

and-kiss game at recess, and bullies most of her classmates into pairing off and “going with” each other, even though they’re not sure exactly what that means. Using Allie’s fresh voice and believable fourth-grade perspective, Cabot gets across her “let children be children” message in a way that will make sense to other kids. The third Allie Finkle’s *Rules for Girls* book sympathetically portrays the broad emotional range of fourth-graders.”

Pendragon Before the War: Book One of the Travelers by D. J. MacHale

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Before Bobby Pendragon. Before Saint Dane. Before the war... Every territory of Halla has a Traveler. They lived for years—some even for decades—before learning of their true destiny. What was life like for Bobby Pendragon's fellow Travelers before they joined him in the fight to save every time and place that has ever existed? What led up to their becoming the guardians of Halla? The answers are here! In this first of three thrilling Pendragon prequels, read about Vo Spader's death-defying adventures in the underwater world of Cloral, Gunny Van Dyke's race to find a murderer in 1930's Manhattan on First Earth, and the tough challenges Kasha faced on Eelong well before Bobby Pendragon arrived...”

Pendragon Before the War: Book Two of the Travelers by D. J. MacHale

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “...In this second of three thrilling Pendragon prequels, read about Aja Killian's first introduction to Lifelight, Alder's quest to become a Bedoowan knight, and Elli Winter's daring adventures on Quillan...”

Pendragon Before the War: Book Three of the Travelers by D. J. MacHale

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “...In the third of three thrilling Pendragon prequels, read about Patrick Mac's discovery that being a teacher can come with surprising dangers, the betrayal that led Siry Remudi to become a Jakill, and the first time young warrior Loor was put to the test...”

The Ultimate Handbook: Volume 4 By Samantha Brooke

(Part of the series *Littlest Pet Shop*)

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “This handbook is the comprehensive guide to the fourth batch of Littlest Pet Shop pets! Features photos and descriptions of more than 80 pets--in full color!”

NON FICTION

A Girl's Book: Stories- Poetry- Activities- Recipes- Heroines- Facts & Fun

“They’re clever and capricious. They’re tomboys and tree climbers, ballerinas and bookworms. They’re little women and big dreamers...they’re girls! And this book is especially for them. Filled with the best “girl stuff” imaginable, *A Girl's Book* is brimming with tons of material guaranteed to occupy, fascinate, and delight. Designed with vintage illustrations that are as timeless as its contents, *A Girl's Book* is destined to become a well-thumbed classic in no time at all.”

Lincoln and His Boys by Rosemary Wells

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Wells offers a small, evocative peek into the daily lives of President Lincoln's children. Basing her work on a juvenile fragment written by Willie Lincoln, the novelist presents three vignettes that span from 1859 to 1865 and focus on the relationship between Lincoln and his two younger sons. Willie's trip to Chicago, when he was almost nine, includes observations on both politicians and entertainers of the day. Two years later, at the White House, Willie and Tad find playmates in the Taft children. Lastly, at the end of the Civil War, Tad travels with his father to the capital of the defeated South, Richmond, Virginia. Lincoln is shown to be a caring and fun-loving parent, while his wife's justified fears of losing her children add a darker shade to home life. Lynch's paintings are sentimental and, like Wells' choice of idiom for the boys' voices, reflective of the period. Background facts are offered through invented conversations and scenarios.”

Stars on the Court by Paul Ladewski

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “The best NBA players come in all shapes and sizes--this

book's got the scoop on eight of them. From LeBron James to Steve Nash to Kevin Garnett, find out how these superstars began their basketball careers and skyrocketed to super stardom. These guys are at the top of their games. Check 'em out while they're hot!"

**The following items were donated by
the staff and students involved in
the Academic Decathlon**

**Eyes On The Prize (America's Civil Rights
Years 1954 to 1965)**

**[Program 1: Awakenings]
VHS Tape/Color/60 Minutes**

"Emmett Till... Rosa Parks... Martin Luther King, Jr....these are names that awakened America to the injustice of racial discrimination.

"Awakenings" tells the stories that launched the modern movement for civil rights. It takes us back to the days when "separate but equal" was the legal basis for segregation and inequality in America. And it brings us to the Supreme Court for the decision, in *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka*, that segregated schools were unconstitutional.

Alongside triumph is heartbreak in the story of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy whose murder in Mississippi shocked the nation.

"Awakenings" reveals the courage of people who stood up against this wrong, and inspired others to join them. We meet ordinary people who played extraordinary roles – people like Rosa Parks, whose act of civil disobedience sparked a boycott that started a movement. And we meet a man who would become one of America's most eloquent leaders – a 26-year-old preacher named Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. From grass-roots protests to Supreme Court victories, "Awakenings" captures the courage of Black Americans as they stride toward freedom. Because of them, the struggle for civil rights would never be the same."

What Happened at Vatican II by John W. O'Malley

"From 1961 to 1965, the world closely watched the proceedings of Vatican II, the Catholic Church's council on the condition and future of the faith. Georgetown historian O'Malley presents the most thorough account of the proceedings of the council itself, from the time

it was declared in 1959 until its conclusion in 1965, fulfilling the book's title. O'Malley gives a thorough and detailed history of the event, situating it in the longer history of the church and previous councils. But the bulk of the book concerns the characters and controversies of Vatican II itself, the biggest meeting in the history of the world. Though challenged by a conservative minority, the progressive majority of Vatican II reoriented and refashioned the Catholic Church: opening it to ecumenical relations, declaring its support for religious liberty and ending the practice of the Latin Mass. Infusing the council was the spirit of *aggiornamento*—Italian for updating. O'Malley shows how Vatican II allowed the church to modernize while also remaining true to its traditions and convictions."

**Vatican Council II (The Basic Sixteen
Documents)**

**Constitutions, Decrees, Declarations
A Completely Revised Translation in
Inclusive Language**

General Editor Austin Flannery, O.P.

"The Church's twenty-one ecumenical councils have been crucial to its understanding of its biblical heritage. They have taken place less frequently in recent centuries, only three since 1517: Trent (1545-1563), Vatican I (1869-1870) and Vatican II (1962-1965). Their absorption into the day-to-day belief and practice of individual Christians has always taken time. And Vatican II has been no exception. Hence the importance of this completely revised translation of Vatican II's six documents, without commentary or additional documentation, and in inclusive language. A new edition of the documents of the 21st ecumenical council, for the 21st century."

Monet by Christoph Heinrich

"...Claude Monet was *the* incomparable painter of bright daylight – the painter of the sky, the snow, clouds reflected in water, the first painter ever to paint pictures almost entirely monochrome white. Till his old age, till his majestic late paintings of waterlilies, Monet continued to mix this white into his pure colours, thus banishing the muted shades of somnolent interiors...from the art. Monet was the painter of light..."

Smithsonian Q & A: American Art and Artists: The Ultimate Question and Answer Book by Tricia Wright

"...[This book] covers the history of American art and artists from the eighteenth century to the present. The book...encompasses the visual arts, including painting, photography, and sculpture, and...features prominent movements as well as artists from a variety of backgrounds."