



# St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at [www.stfranciselem.org](http://www.stfranciselem.org)

## GUBBIO GAZETTE

December 10, 2008

### 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.*

### PHILOSOPHY

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School, an educational ministry of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, strives to create a Franciscan environment which serves the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical needs of our students. Understanding that parents are the primary educators of their children, the staff's vocation is to inspire and facilitate learning. Together, we instill Catholic Christian values and traditions in our children.*

### Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness; joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*



### Principal's Message

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parents,

It was such a pleasure to spend Friday evening with many of you and your children at our Pasta Dinner and Christmas Caroling Family Fun Night. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time, truly embracing the Christmas spirit! The dinner was delicious thanks to Eric Church (our very own Extension staff member) and his friend Al. They worked tirelessly Thursday night and all day and night Friday making sure everything was perfect. Thank you, also, to Patti Sanchez and her Extension crew who helped prepare, set-up, and clean up. It was because of their hard work that the night went so smoothly. Last, but not least, thank you to the Parent Club Leadership Team for organizing the caroling and for making the cookies for dessert. As you can see, it was a group effort!

Next Thursday evening, December 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual Christmas Pageant. This year, however, we will be telling the nativity story in the form of a Christmas musical called "Angels Aware." I'm sure you will once again come away from the evening feeling a little bit more ready for the birth of Jesus. All students in grades TK through 7<sup>th</sup> grade will need to dress like an angel for the pageant. Please see the directions for the simple "costume" under "Calling all Angels" on the next page.

As we continue on our faith-filled journey during Advent, let us remember the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, perfect charity, and sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command."

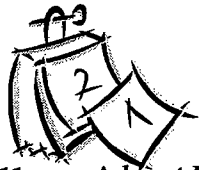
In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power

## CALLING ALL ANGELS

On Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, all students in grades TK-7<sup>th</sup> will need to dress as angels for our Christmas Musical, "Angels Aware." TK and kindergarten students will have their costumes provided by their teachers. Grades 1-7 students will need to follow these simple angel costume rules:

- Students need to at least wear solid white on their upper half of their body. This can be a white shirt, white sheet with a hole in the neck, white shawl, or even a ladies' white half slip (or be creative!) We will provide the garland for the halos.



### St. Francis Elementary School Calendar December 2008

- 11 Advent Reconciliation Service, 10:30 am  
 11-12 See's Candy Pick Up, Assisi Room  
 18 Christmas Pageant, 7pm  
 19 Last Day of School  
 NOON DISMISSAL/NO AFTER SCHOOL  
 EXTENSION

*School Resumes January 5, 2009*

## LITTLE DRIBBLERS

Little Dribblers **SIGN UP** and **HEALTH VERIFICATION** forms have been sent home to parents. Both forms **and** the \$20.00 fee are due December 19<sup>th</sup>. Check the Sports Board (by Extension and boy's restroom) for game schedules. Also, if you have any questions, contact Coach Adamo at [cadamo@stfranciselem.org](mailto:cadamo@stfranciselem.org)



## Religion Round-up

Await the Lord with hope!

For those who need gift ideas for Christmas, take a look at the new Parish book, "A Century of Grace". It was published to celebrate the centennial of the church building. Not only does it have brilliant photos of our liturgical celebrations, but every window, statue, and painting in the church is photographed with an explanation of who or what is depicted and why. If you ever wondered about the people in the stained glass windows, this book is for you. They are available for \$50 in the Parish Center or on the Parish website,

[http://www.stfrancisparish.com/book\\_order.htm](http://www.stfrancisparish.com/book_order.htm)

The fourth grade began our Advent season with a prayer service about the Jesse Tree. They read a story about Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph and hung their symbols on our tree.

On Monday, the fifth grade prepared the Mass of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. They collected toys and clothes for Mustard Seed, a school for homeless children.

Our school Advent Reconciliation Service will be Thursday December 11 from 10:30 to Noon. The following day, December 12<sup>th</sup>, is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Say a special prayer with Mary on that day.

*Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thurs Dec 11	Advent Reconciliation Service	10:30 a.m.
Mon Dec 15	6 <sup>th</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
	<i>Christmas Break</i>	
Mon Jan 5	8 <sup>th</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Jan 12	1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Thurs Jan 15	4 <sup>th</sup> Mass	9:00 a.m.

*Parents are always welcome to attend prayer services and Masses.*



## Choir Notes

*Hark! The herald angels sing.*

The choir did a lovely job singing Christmas carols at the Festival of Trees and Lights in Downtown Plaza last Thursday and at the Old Sacramento Tree Lighting Ceremony before Thanksgiving. They will be caroling again at St. Francis Manor on J and 25<sup>th</sup> this Friday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

The choir has been working very hard on their Christmas concert music. The concert will begin about 15 minutes before the Christmas Pageant. Make sure you get there early and enjoy their angelic singing.

One of our Schoolwide Learning Expectations is: *a St. Francis of Assisi Student is academic who develops and shares knowledge and talents.* That describes our choir to a tee!

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## COMPUTER LAB UPDATE

Thanks to your support, the profits from the Back-To-School BBQ and the See's Candy Drive have provided us with enough money to purchase our new student computer lab! We will be installing it over Christmas break, so when the students return in January, it will be ready to go (at least that is the plan!) What an accomplishment!

We had another fabulous Book Fair last week, and it was fun. Thanks to all the parents who helped set up and dismantle the 'Fair,' and thanks to all the parents who spent time with me overseeing everything each day and helping ring up all the sales. It couldn't happen without all of you! Thanks for your good humor and good company. I'll let you know the final tally of the receipts in Gubbio's next issue.

Some of the books mentioned below are from the Book Fair!

### FICTION

**Tiger Can't Sleep** by S.J. Fore  
Grade: PreSchool – 2 / "This upbeat entry in the something's-in-my-closet subgenre of bedtime picture books pairs a little boy who actually wants to sleep with a hyperactive, scared-of-the-dark tiger who keeps the child awake with his noisy shenanigans. Crunching potato chips, turning cartwheels, clicking the light on and off – everything seems like a good idea to the tiger in the closet, and each new activity offers a satisfying sound-word for young children to enjoy. The simply written story is amplified by the illustrator's energetic ink drawings, washed with cheerful colors. In both words and pictures, the boy's demeanor will go a long way toward reassuring preschoolers with baseless night fright that they can handle whatever oddities their closets may hold. Fun for reading aloud, by daylight or night-light."

**Not Norman** by Kelly Bennett  
Grade: Kindergarten – 3 / "The African-American boy who narrates this boy-meets-fish story wants a pet for his birthday, but not a *goldfish*. Too bad. Though he suspects that Norman is the lamest, tamest pet around, he takes his fish to school to "talk him up real good during Show-and-Tell" in hopes that someone else will want him. But after cleaning Norman's bowl, rescuing him from puppies, and noticing that Norman listens to him talk and even quiets his fear of night noises, he

realizes that there is no pet he would rather have. Repeated several times during the story, the title phrase "Not Norman" takes on a new shade of meaning in the verbally clever turnaround that concludes this amusing picture book. Distilled to essential shapes and flat colors, the lively digital artwork expresses both action and emotion with flair. This eye-catching book makes a satisfying read-aloud choice for pet day or any day."

**You Can Do It** by Tony Dungy

Reading level: Ages 4 – 7 / "Tony Dungy's little brother, Linden, is a third grader who is having a bad day at school. Linden is the youngest of the Dungy family and the least motivated because he hasn't found "it." In a family where everyone seems to have found their special talent, all Linden knows is that he wants to make people happy. With encouragement from his parents, a helping hand from his older brother Tony, and inspiration from God, Linden learns that if he dreams big and has faith, he can do anything!"

**The Worst Day of My Life** by Bill Cosby

[A Little Bill Book for beginning readers-Level 3]  
Grade 1 – 3 / "Little Bill must spend a Saturday all dressed up in a suit and tie while his parents host a party. Many children will relate to the boy's boredom and his attempts to converse with the adult guests. Little Bill patiently endures the party, though, and, in the end, is quietly proud of the fact that he didn't do anything to upset his parents' special day...includes primitive, striking illustrations that reflect the humor and action of the texts."

**Double Team** by Michael Teitelbaum

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "It's basketball season and all of the Backyard Sports kids love playing games after school. But it's not all fun and games—a lot of the kids, like Pablo, love basketball and take it pretty seriously. Unfortunately, Ernie isn't one of them. He's too busy showing off funny moves and telling jokes on the court! Can Pablo convince Ernie to stop goofing off and focus on the game before Ernie's horseplay sends them on a major losing streak?"

**The Moon Over Star** by Dianna Hutts Aston and pictures by Jerry Pinkney

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Pinkney's vibrant illustrations exquisitely complement the moving

story. Gorgeously universal." "In July 1969, the world witnessed an awe-inspiring historical achievement when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the moon. For the young protagonist of this lyrical and hopeful picture book, that landing is something that inspires her to make one giant step toward all of the possibilities that life has to offer. Caldecott Honor-winning painter Jerry Pinkney and the poetic Dianna Hutts Aston create a moving tribute to the historic Apollo 11 Mission, just in time to commemorate its upcoming fortieth anniversary."

**Dunk Under Pressure** by Rich Wallace

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Dunk stared at the basket, the one where he'd missed those three shots last night. He took a deep breath and let it out. His heart was beating hard, as much from anxiety as the running. He made the first shot and looked quickly toward the ceiling with relief, shaking his wrists and feeling a nice surge of adrenaline. "yes, Dunk!" came a cry from the bench. "Back at it!" said Lamont, who was lined up to Dunk's right. Dunk calmly made the second shot. He turned and watched for his man, but the horn sounded to end the quarter before Montclair could get off a shot. Dunk looked at the scoreboard. The game was tied..." "...this story is packed with plenty of action." "...this story will engage young sports fans."

**Elephant Run** by Roland Smith

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "In 1941, bombs drop from the night skies of London, demolishing the apartment Nick Freestone lives in with his mother. Deciding the situation in England is too unstable, Nick's mother sends him to live with his father in Burma, hoping he will be safer living on the family's teak plantation. But as soon as Nick arrives, trouble erupts in this remote Burmese elephant village. Japanese soldiers invade, and Nick's father is taken prisoner. Nick is stranded on the plantation, forced to work as a servant to the new rulers. As life in the village grows more dangerous for Nick and his young friend, Mya, they plan their daring escape. Setting off on an elephant's back, they will risk their lives to save Nick's father and Mya's brother from a Japanese POW camp. In this thrilling journey through the jungles of Burma, Roland Smith explores the far-reaching effects of World War II, while introducing readers to the fascinating world of wild timber

elephants and their mahouts.” {definition of “mahout” = a keeper and driver of an elephant.}

**Protecting Marie** by Kevin Henkes

Reading level: Ages 12 and up / “Fanny has wanted a dog all her life. For a brief moment her dream came true, but then her father decided the puppy brought too much chaos to his neat, ordered home. Fanny has never been able to forgive him for it. So when Fanny’s father brings home a new, older dog, she’s not sure she can trust him. She reasons that perhaps she shouldn’t get too attached, in case this one is taken from her as well. But how can she help falling in love with the perfect dog?” “Henkes does not settle on a pet ending. Instead, he dares to enter the deeper complexities of the father–daughter relationship, exposing...readers to the emotional vulnerability of both parents and their children.”

**Playing for Pizza** by John Grisham

Grade: 6 – Up / “Third-string Cleveland Browns quarterback Rick Dockery becomes the greatest goat ever by throwing three interceptions in the closing minutes of the AFC championship game. Fleeing vengeful fans, he finds refuge in the grungiest corner of professional football, the Italian National Football League as quarterback of the inept but full-of-heart Parma Panthers. What ensues is a winsome football fable, replete with team bonding and character-building as the underdog Panthers challenge the powerhouse Bergamo Lions for a shot at the Italian Superbowl. The book is also the author’s love letter to Italy. Rick is first baffled and then enchanted by all things Italian—tiny cars! opera! benign corruption!—and through him Grisham (The Firm) instructs his readership in the art of gracious living, featuring sumptuous four-hour, umpteen-course meals. The writing sometimes lapses into travel-guide (“most Italian cities are sort of configured around a central square, called a piazza”), but it’s invigorated by appealing characters and lively play-by-play. The result is a charming fish-out-of-water story.”

**The Road to Paris** by Nikki Grimes

Grade: 4-7 / “In clear, short chapters, Grimes tells a beautiful story of family, friendship, and faith from the viewpoint of a child in search of home in a harsh world. Nine-year-old Paris’ closest bond is with her older brother, Malcolm, who protects her when their alcoholic mother has no use for them and when they flee their abusive foster home. Then

Paris is placed in a loving foster family, but the price is separation from Malcolm. What is more, as a biracial kid in a mainly white neighborhood, it’s difficult for her to find a friend, and the racism is ugly. Her foster brother tells her to keep God in her pocket, something she never forgets, even when she must leave because her birth mother wants “to give this family thing another go.” The big upheavals are quietly told; and although God is Paris’ support, the religion is not didactic. The foster family is kind but never idealized, just as Paris’ birth mother is not demonized. In one hilarious scene, Paris tricks the self-important therapist, and it is the human story behind the case file that readers will remember.” “A poignant and plausible story, *Paris* is well crafted and simply but elegantly told. Even secondary characters are well drawn and recognizable as they grow, mature, and propel readers to a satisfying, hopeful, though not pat conclusion. Readers will pull for a successful life for Paris and Malcolm as they reunite with their mother and her new husband. They are also confident that Paris now knows what and where home really is.”

## NON FICTION

**Saint Francis and the Wolf** by Jane Langton and illustrated by Ilse Plume

Grade & Reading level: All ages / “With a smooth storyteller’s pacing and an eye for kid-friendly detail, Langton (*The Fledgling*) retells the legend of how Saint Francis of Assisi used kindness to negotiate peace between the people of Gubbio and the wolf that was terrorizing their village. Though many tales of Francis’s good deeds and selfless service are well known, children especially will gravitate to this story and its elements of suspense. Children stay indoors, warned that “the wolf will gobble you up.” The farmer, the miller and the baker, suffering their own hardships from the menacing beast, frantically express their concern for Francis. And the hungry wolf licks its chops, dreaming of fat sheep, while the villagers cower. As a complement to the dramatic tension, the young friar’s Dr. Doolittle-like communication with animals also holds much appeal. The book’s design goes far in capturing the flavor of Saint Francis’s Italy. The font suggests, in a more humble style, the sturdy forms of calligraphy and illuminated letters of the day. On each spread, Plume (*The Bremen-Town Musicians*) alternates spot illustrations of

flowers and plants with slightly larger scenes of Gubbio framed in Renaissance-inspired shapes. Her delicate lines and sunny watercolor palette depict the flourishing flora, fauna and stone dwellings of the Italian countryside. A brief biography of Francis is included, and his Canticle of the Sun appears on the end papers.”

**Hubble: Imaging Space and Time** by David Devorkin & Robert W. Smith with forewords by Neil Degrasse Tyson & John M. Grunsfeld  
“In the spirit of National Geographic’s top-selling *Orbit*, this large-format, full-color volume stands alone in revealing more than 200 of the most spectacular images from the Hubble Space Telescope during its lifetime, to the very eve of the 2008 final shuttle mission to the telescope. Written by two of the world’s foremost authorities on space history, *Hubble: Imaging Space and Time* illuminates the solar system’s workings, the expansion of the universe, the birth and death of stars, the formation of planetary nebulae, the dynamics of galaxies, and the mysterious force known as “dark energy.” The potential impact of this book cannot be overstressed: The 2008 servicing mission to install new high-powered scientific instruments is especially high profile because the cancellation of the previous mission, in 2004, caused widespread controversy. The authors reveal the inside story of Hubble’s beginnings, its controversial early days, the drama of its first servicing missions, and the creation of the dynamic images that reach into the deepest regions of visible space, close to the time when the universe began. A wealth of astonishing images leads us to the very edge of known space, setting the stage for the new James Webb Space Telescope, scheduled to launch in 2013. Find the stunning panoramic of Carina Nebula, detailing star birth as never before; a jet from a black hole in one galaxy striking a neighboring galaxy; a jewel-like collection of galaxies from the early years of the universe; and a giant galaxy cannibalizing a smaller galaxy. Timed for the 2008 shuttle launch and coinciding with the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s first telescope, *Hubble: Imaging Space and Time* accompanies a high-profile exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum and will be featured on the popular NASM website.”

**Paula Deen’s – My First Cookbook** by Paula Deen

“What better way to celebrate childhood than with pancakes around the kitchen table? Or how about a quick snack of Ants on a Log? Paula even shares her tricks for whipping up the perfect breakfast in bed for Mom on Mother's Day or a fancy dinner for Dad on Father's Day. *Paula Deen's My First Cookbook* is like a big hug from the queen of Southern hospitality and charm herself. So get in the kitchen with your favorite little ones today and start making those memories!”