



# St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

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

## GUBBIO GAZETTE

February 11, 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.

### 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,

How do I begin to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls, emails, and flowers you sent me in memory of my dad? Your overwhelming kindness has been a tremendous source of comfort to me at this very difficult time. I thank God for the gift of my dad and for the gift of my faith. Without my faith, this would be unbearable. As my dad's daughter, my job now is to carry on his generosity, kindness, and goodness. My prayer is that I continue to make him proud! Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Laurie Power

### 2009-2010 Registration Packets for Current Students

Re-registration packets for the 2009-2010 school year for your child(ren) who are currently enrolled in our school will be sent through the mail next week (not in today's Wednesday Envelope as stated on the February calendar.)



St. Francis Elementary  
School Calendar  
February 2009

- 12 School-wide Mass, 9:00 am
- 12 School Advisory Commission mtg, 5:30
- 13 Valentine's Day Class Parties
- New Student Registration Deadline
- 16 NO SCHOOL/ President's Holiday
- 20 NO SCHOOL/Teacher Inservice
- 24-27 Drama Club Performance, 6pm
- 25 Ash Wednesday, 8am prayer service with ashes; Lent begins
- 27 Parent Club Family Fun Bowling Night  
Country Club Lanes, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

REMINDER

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be a minimum day (noon dismissal), as our teachers will be at a diocesan in-service that afternoon. It is not on our yearly calendar that was handed out at the beginning of the year. Extension will be open.

**SIBLING REGISTRATION  
FOR 2009-2010**

If you have another child who would like to attend our school next year, now is the time to fill out an application. Kindergarten applicants must be five by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Our Transitional Kindergarten Program is for children who turn five between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> (or who are five but not yet ready for kindergarten). Go to our website or come by the office for an application. Siblings have first priority among all of our new applicants as long as the application is received on time. **Applications are due by February 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**KIDS IN CARS !!**

Parents, please do NOT leave small children unattended in your parked car when you come into the school building. This warning applies to purses and backpacks as well. We have occasional "smash and grabs," where car windows are shattered and things are taken in a matter of seconds!

*Italian Carnevale*

The Italian classes will be celebrating "Carnevale" (along with the major celebrations in Venice and Viareggio) beginning February 15<sup>th</sup> (quindici di febbraio). We will be making full face masks, having mask parades, and studying Bella Venezia!

***Buon Divertimento !!***

**OOPS!!**

In the last Gubbio, we inadvertently overlooked 8<sup>th</sup> grade mom, Joy Orr, who also helped with our Pancake Breakfast. Thank you, Joy!!

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE LIPPER FAMILY  
WHO WON THE  
SCHOOL UNIFORM QUILT**

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## Religion Round-up

*Love one another as I have loved you*



Tomorrow we celebrate our February school Mass. The theme for the Mass will be "Love Everyone". Eighth grade is in charge of this celebration. For the offertory, they are collecting clothes and supplies for Javier, our "adopted student" from Mexico. He is back at Shriner's hospital for about one month.

First grade prepared the prayer service last Monday. They dramatized the story of St. Valentine. They also treated us to their thoughts about what love is. It was a beautiful description of how love is perceived by a first grader.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The last few days of Ordinary Time are a time for revelry. The parish is sponsoring a dinner/dance scheduled for Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Dante Club. The cost is \$50 per person and the proceeds go to the parish Steps Ministry. You can buy your tickets on-line at the parish website. Party on!

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Time</i>
Thurs Feb 12	8 <sup>th</sup> Mass	9:00 a.m.
Tues Feb 17	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Feb 23	5 <sup>th</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Wed Feb 25	8 <sup>th</sup> Ash Wed Service	8:00 a.m.
Mon Mar 2	6 <sup>th</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.

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

## KUDOS

Ivneet Singh Bhullar, a St. Francis Elementary alumnus, has been selected to compete for a prestigious honor: the Presidential Scholars Program, begun by President Lyndon B. Johnson and now in its 45<sup>th</sup> year. Ivneet, currently a student at Jesuit High School, joins 3,000 graduating seniors nationwide for the competition. A panel of educators will narrow the list to 500 semi-finalists in early April. Final selections will go to one boy and one girl from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto

Rico and from American students living abroad, 15 students at large and 20 students from the creative and performing arts. The honors will be announced in May. Students will then travel to Washington, D.C. for recognition.

## Mr. Cain's Book Shelf

### FICTION



**Bella's Gift** by Felicity Brown

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Journey to the world of magical horses... The majestic mare Bella must enlist the help of Fiona, Thunder, Jewel, and Nike to save an imprisoned girl and her animal friends from an evil presence in North of North."

**Jewel's Magic** by Felicity Brown

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Journey to the world of magical horses... Meet the graceful and wise mare Jewel as she guides a young girl on a dangerous quest to find an ancient treasure."

**Valkrist's Flight** by Felicity Brown

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Journey to the world of magical horses... Introducing Valkrist—a majestic winged steed that will help a farm girl discover that her dreams about magical horses might be more real than she ever imagined."

**Football Hero** by Tim Green

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Ty Lewis can't believe it when Coach V recruits him for the football team. This is Ty's big chance to prove how fast he is on the field, get a fresh start in a new school, and be like his older brother, Thane "Tiger" Lewis, who's about to graduate from college – and is being courted by the NFL. But Ty's guardian, Uncle Gus, won't let him play. Uncle Gus needs Ty to scrub floors and toilets for his cleaning business while he cooks up gambling schemes with the local mob boss, a man called "Lucy." When Lucy hears just how famous Ty's older brother is, he becomes suddenly friendly. Are the questions Lucy is asking Ty *really* about fantasy football... or is the Mafia using Ty to get valuable insider info from his superstar brother? Desperately

worried, Ty must come up with a plan to save Thane's football career – and, ultimately, his life."

### **Ever** by Gail Carson Levine

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Newberry Honor author Gail Carson Levine has created a stunning new world of flawed gods, unbreakable vows, and ancient omens in this spellbinding story of Kezi, a girl confronted with a terrible destiny. Attempting to thwart her fate, Kezi and...Olus -- the god of wind and loneliness -- embark on a series of dangerous and seemingly impossible quests."

### **The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman

[This is the 2009 Newberry Medal Winner ! !]

Reading level: Ages 10 and up / "In *The Graveyard Book*, Neil Gaiman has created a charming allegory of childhood. Although the book opens with a scary scene--a family is stabbed to death by "a man named Jack" --the story quickly moves into more child-friendly storytelling. The sole survivor of the attack--an 18-month-old baby--escapes his crib and his house, and toddles to a nearby graveyard. Quickly recognizing that the baby is orphaned, the graveyard's ghostly residents adopt him, name him Nobody ("Bod"), and allow him to live in their tomb. Taking inspiration from Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, Gaiman describes how the toddler navigates among the headstones, asking a lot of questions and picking up the tricks of the living and the dead. In serial-like episodes, the story follows Bod's progress as he grows from baby to teen, learning life's lessons amid a cadre of the long-dead, ghouls, witches, intermittent human interlopers. A pallid, nocturnal guardian named Silas ensures that Bod receives food, books, and anything else he might need from the human world. Whenever the boy strays from his usual play among the headstones, he finds new dangers, learns his limitations and strengths, and acquires the skills he needs to survive within the confines of the graveyard and in wider world beyond."

### **Reviews:**

"The Graveyard Book manages the remarkable feat of playing delightful jazz riffs on Kipling's classic Jungle Books. One might call this book a small jewel, but in fact it's much bigger within

than it looks from the outside." -- *Peter S. Beagle, author of The Last Unicorn*

"After finishing *The Graveyard Book*, I had only one thought -- I hope there's more. I want to see more of the adventures of Nobody Owens, and there is no higher praise for a book." -- *Laurell K. Hamilton, author of the Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter novels*

"It takes a graveyard to raise a child. My favorite thing about this book was watching Bod grow up in his fine crumbly graveyard with his dead and living friends. *The Graveyard Book* is another surprising and terrific book from Neil Gaiman." -- *Audrey Niffenegger, author of The Time Traveler's Wife*

"The Graveyard Book is endlessly inventive, masterfully told and, like Bod himself, too clever to fit into only one place. This is a book for everyone. You will love it to death." -- *Holly Black, co-creator of The Spiderwick Chronicles*

"The Graveyard Book is everything everyone loves about Neil Gaiman, only multiplied many times over, a novel that showcases his effortless feel for narrative, his flawless instincts for suspense, and above all, his dark, almost silky sense of humor" -- *Joe Hill, author of Heart-Shaped Box*

### **Hotel for Dogs** by Lois Duncan

(Book One in the *Independence Hall* series)

(Now a major motion picture)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "The Walkers are moving to a new town, and staying with an aunt who's allergic to dogs. Too bad for Andi and her brother Bruce, who love dogs -- and happen to meet a stray that needs help. Soon, Andi hatches a plan, turning the abandoned house down the block into a hotel for dogs. But as more and more tenants move in, the secret gets too big to keep. Can the kids save their canine castle? Or will the hotel have to close?"

**I.Q.** by Roland Smith

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Fame has arrived for rockers Blaze and Roger! Just married, leaving Los Angeles, and touring the United States with teenagers Q (Quest) and Angela in tow, the excitement heightens in Philadelphia when Angela realizes she's being followed. Q

soon learns the secret about Angela's real mother from a former Secret Service agent." "With Boone's spy buddies to help them, Angela and Q try to unravel the past, and at the same time they try to stay ahead of their enemies. In this thrilling first title in the I.Q series, Roland Smith - who wrote *Elephant Run* - tells an exciting story that is packed with surprises and colorful characters. Readers who think that it would be easy to be a spy will discover how wrong they were. They will explore a grey world where no one really knows what is going on, and where the righteous do not always win. Roland Smith paces the story beautifully, and he leaves his readers in a place that will have them eager to find out what happens next."

**The Marvelous Effect** by Troy Cle  
(Book one of *Marvelous World* series)  
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Louis Proof, an African-American teen, loves listening to hip-hop, racing radio-controlled cars, and hanging out with his best friend, Brandon. Louis and Brandon receive an invitation to go to a mysterious amusement park and their trip leads to strange experiences, which become stranger after Louis slips into a coma and, upon his recovery, discovers that he has special powers. Soon, Louis finds himself battling creatures from another dimension, led by the often-funny Galonious Imperial Evil. He will learn that his illness is connected to everything that is wrong, and that it's not only his responsibility but his destiny to set things right. In the course of the extremely complicated plot, Louis and his friends fight many high-octane battles. Little is resolved at the end, but readers will discover more when they read this title's sequel. Louis' adventures completely parallel those typical of computer games, and this title is clearly an attempt to capture the video-game world in prose. Whether young gamers will find a game in book form more appealing than actually playing remains to be seen, but this first installment in the planned *Marvelous World* series makes for an interesting effort... This story is a megadramatic...super action fantasy. Get ready!"

**Sunny Holiday** by Coleen Murtagh Paratore  
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Sunny Holiday thinks that every month should have a kid-

friendly holiday. Valentine's Day, July 4th, and Christmas definitely fit the bill--but months like January and August are lacking. So Sunny takes it upon herself to make new holidays for the months that need them, getting her friends and family involved. Sunny is headstrong, funny, and trying to make the best out of every situation--whether it involves holidays or family problems. She's got spirit to spare--and you can't help but love her for it."

**The Time Paradox** by Eoin Colfer  
(The newest *Artemis Fowl* novel)

"After disappearing for three years, Artemis Fowl has returned to a life different from the one he had. Now he's a big brother, and spends his days teaching his twin siblings the important things in life, such as how to properly summon a waiter at a French restaurant. But when Artemis's mother contracts a life-threatening illness, his world is turned upside down. The only hope for a cure lies in the brain fluid of the silky sifaka lemur. Unfortunately, the animal is extinct, due to a heartless bargain Artemis himself made as a younger boy. Though the odds are stacked against him, Artemis is not willing to give up. With the help of his fairy friends, the young genius travels back in time to rescue the lemur and bring it to the present. But to do so, Artemis will have to defeat a maniacal poacher who has set his sights on new prey: Holly Short. The rules of time travel are far from simple, but to save his mother, Artemis will have to break them all...and outsmart his most cunning adversary yet: Artemis Fowl, age ten."

## NON FICTION

**National Geographic Visual Atlas of the World** by The National Geographic Society  
"...Incorporated in the many up-to-the moment regional maps that portray each continent are hundreds of brilliant photographs—each depicting unique natural and cultural treasures that have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites. From the vast plains of the Serengeti to the Kasbah of Algiers, from prehistoric rock art to the Statue of Liberty, these incomparable locales are under UN protection for future generations to know and enjoy. Thematic maps enhance the global coverage, detailing trends and characteristics of today's critical issues: natural resources, energy,

population, religion, economy and trade, conflict, climate change. The latest political boundaries and country names are incorporated, as well as vital information on the oceans, space, national flags, and more. Engaging layouts, functional design, and a new comprehensive place-name index allow the reader to easily navigate around the globe to discover or confirm more than 50,000 locations. The supreme accuracy and practicality of the maps, charts, and country facts and tables—as well as the inspirational collection of more than 600 photographs, satellite images, and illustrations—make the *National Geographic Visual Atlas of the World* a must-have reference for families, travelers, students, and scholars.” “...More than 550 detailed maps, 350 color photographs, and 500 illustrations, charts, and graphs. Maps and satellite images of the moon, Mars, and beyond. Comprehensive mapping and listing of all UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Newly produced ocean floor maps reveal fascinating views of Earth’s largest mountain range and deepest trenches. Multi-layered regional portraits highlight the unique character, culture, and geography of each area, with emphasis on population, protected areas, and urbanization trends. Pivotal world themes including climate change, megacities, and conflict zones are given dimension through corresponding maps, photographs, diagrams, and in-depth text.”

**Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out** created by 108 renowned authors and illustrators  
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “*Our White House: Looking in, Looking Out* is an astounding collection featuring more than 100 award-winning children’s book authors and illustrators. It is much more than a history about the home and office of U.S. presidents and their families. Commissioned by the National Children’s Book and Literary Alliance, this stunning picture book transcends the bounds of educational textbook, or any particular genre, for that matter. Chronologically ordered, the entries range from poems to presidential speeches, satirical cartoons to stately portraits. It includes essays by historians and well-known nonfiction writers (like David McCullough), fictional stories, poetry (including a memorable poem about Lincoln and a butterfly by Kate DiCamillo), imagined letters to the president,

texts of actual speeches, memoir (including an essay by Linda Johnson Robb about the eerie history of a White House room where she once stayed), transcripts of TV interviews, and clever games such as a “Best in Show” presidential pet contest and a “Who’s in the House?” presidential board game. Barbara Kerley details Thomas Jefferson’s passion for paleontology, and M.T. Anderson describes White House ghosts (Churchill, visited by a spectral Lincoln, tapped the ash off the end of his cigar and said, ‘Good evening, Mr. President. You seem to have me at a disadvantage’). But few of the writers create the same impact as the occasional document: Robert Kennedy addresses the nation after Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated, and Richard Nixon bids farewell to the White House staff. Among the book’s most captivating features are the “illustration essays” which feature stories or ideas rendered completely through pictures. Notable examples include David Small’s sketch journal “Backstairs at the White House,” depicting all the people who work in the house and keep it running, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms” speech illustrated by Calef Brown, Peter Sis, Ed Young, and Stephen Alcorn. *Our White House* will likely be a favorite of children—and adults—who love presidential trivia, historical facts, and old stories. Children who weren’t White House buffs already will surely be drawn into this colorful, fun history of an iconic building that simultaneously tells the story of the United States.”

**The Science Book: Everything You Need to Know About the World and How It Works**

by The National Geographic Society  
“A delight for the casual reader, yet so complete and wide-ranging that science buffs and students will welcome it, *The Science Book* encapsulates centuries of scientific thought in one richly illustrated volume. Natural phenomena, revolutionary inventions, and the most up-to-date investigations are explained in detailed text, and 2,000 vivid illustrations—including 3-D graphics and pictograms—make the information even more accessible and amazing to discover. *The Science Book* offers both a general overview of topics for the browsing reader and more specific information for those seeking deeper insight into a particular subject. Six major sections, ranging from the universe

