



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

February 25, 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,

Today is Ash Wednesday, and it marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Our school went to church today for a beautiful prayer service and received ashes. As the ashes were placed in the form of a cross on each person's forehead, the words, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" were said. These words are so simple, yet so powerful. May we all remember them during the forty days of Lent.

Next year, our school will be accredited by WASC. It has already been six years since our last accreditation. As part of our preparation, a variety of surveys will need to be completed. For your convenience, the parent survey will be online and should only take you about 10-15 minutes to complete. Because of the importance of receiving input from all of you, I will be giving each family one volunteer service hour for completing the survey. Specific details will be given once we have the survey ready; look for information regarding this in the next week or so.

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power

Prayer Request

Please keep Nneka Uba, a 2007 graduate of St. Francis Elementary, in your prayers. She is in a coma in the pediatric intensive care unit at Kaiser Hospital and needs all of our prayers. Please also pray for her mom, dad, and brothers Toby (8th grade) and Olisa (3rd grade.)

*A Reminder ---
LENT 2009 Regulations*

Days of fast and abstinence:

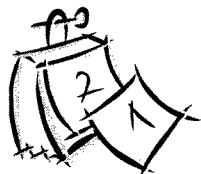
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

Days of abstinence only:

All Fridays in Lent

Abstinence means not eating meat, and binds Catholics 14 years of age and older.

Fast means limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals each day, and binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday. One is not bound to fast if health or the ability to work is affected.



**St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
February-March 2009**

February

- 25 Ash Wednesday,
8am prayer service with ashes; Lent begins
- 26 "Club" Yearbook Pictures

March

- 4 End of 2nd Trimester
- 7 Diocesan Academic Decathlon
- 10-12 Re-registration Days for the 2009-10 school year
- 11 Parent Lenten Retreat, 5:30-7:30
- 13 Report Card Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day; students may wear green
- 25 8th grade Formal Dinner with parents
- 26 Lenten Reconciliation Service, grades 5-8, 10:30
- 31 Drama Club Performance (thru April 3rd)

Drama Club News

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Drama Club's performance has been postponed to March 31st - April 3rd.

PARENT LENTEN RETREAT

It is time for all of us to slow down and deepen our relationship with God. Mark your calendars now for a mini retreat led by Fr. Anthony that will include dinner and childcare. This night of spiritual growth is on Wed., March 11th from 5:30 – 7:30. Treat yourselves, and model for your children the importance of giving some time to God.

EXTENSION NEWS

The Extension staff would like to thank all of you for your continued support and thoughtfulness. We all feel very lucky to be working with St. Francis children and their families.

Extension will be starting some new activities this spring – On Thursdays we will hold our Extension Book Club. The children may sign up and receive a book to read and review. After they have reviewed a book, they may pick another book. The children may keep the books or donate them back to the club. We hope to encourage reading for enjoyment.

Another club that we plan to start will be our Lego Club. The club will work on large Lego Group Projects as well as individual building. Any small Legos that you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated!

Next month Eric Church will be heading up a "Fun Raiser" for Extension. He will be having "March Madness Lunch" available to purchase on Fridays. Along with the delicious lunch prepared by Eric, there will be chances for the children to win March Madness Prizes. Order forms are available in Extension or in the school office.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to eighth graders **Madeline Esquivel, Amelia Herrera, and Lucia Lopez.**

These girls entered some of their artwork in the St. Francis High School Art Show, which took place on February 3rd. All the girls were awarded prizes for their pencil sketches: **Madeline's** rendering of the Twilight book cover, **Amelia's** drawing of her sister, and **Lucia's** sketch of a beautiful lion head.

YEARBOOK PICTURES



The Yearbook Committee **needs pictures**. If you have classroom, sports, or staff pictures, or a favorite photo or two of your student, we could really use them.

CDs or hard copy photos will be accepted.

Please label them as yearbook pictures and send them to Ms. Pierson in the office.

Deadline for submission is March 4th.

Thanks

Religion Round-up

Turn from sin and be faithful to Jesus



Welcome to Lent, the Church's primary penitential season in the liturgical year. It begins today, Ash Wednesday, and lasts until Holy Thursday evening. The season is forty days long which reflects the forty days Christ spent praying and fasting in the desert.

The Church Laws require that adults (ages 18 through 59) must fast and abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On Fridays during Lent abstaining from meat is required of Catholics over age 14 and in good health. This practice is a spiritual discipline that sharpens our senses and focuses our minds on Christ.

During Lent we try to grow closer to God. The prayer services during Lent will be in the style of Taize, meditative style of prayer consisting of repetitive chants, Scripture, and quiet prayer. We look for God within us and listen for God's whisper.

Last week our second graders reminded us about the seasons of the liturgical year, complete with colors and highlights of each season.

On Monday, the 5th grade prepared us for Lent with suggestions of what we can do to grow closer to Jesus during Lent. They even tied our Lenten sacrifices to our School Wide Learning Expectations! We bid farewell to "Alleluia" by singing four different Alleluia songs.

Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wed Feb 25	8 th Ash Wednesday service	8:00 a.m.
Mon Mar 2	6 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon. Mar 9	5 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Thurs Mar 12	3 rd Mass	9:00 a.m.
Mon. Mar 16	7 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Thurs Mar 26	Lenten Reconciliation Service Grades 5-8	10:30 – Noon

Parents are always welcome to attend prayer services and Masses.

Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



FICTION

Criss Crow by Donna Malloy [This author is the aunt of kindergartener Miles Allen.]

[Picture Book]

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Criss never thought he was different until sister Callie shoved a reflective piece of tin foil in front of his beak and cawed: "You're weird!" For the first time in his life, Criss Crow wonders *why, if we all come from an egg, do I look so different?* Join Criss Crow as he sheds his layers of doubt to become leader of the crows. To be enjoyed by all ages, because – there's a little bit of Criss Crow in all of us."

Geek Chic by Margie Palatini

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 /

"Meet Zoey

Age: Eleven. Well, *almost* eleven. Backspace. *Halfway* to eleven.

Factoid: 198 days to sixth grade.

Problem: Coolability (see glossary inside).

Connect the dots: A bad hair situation . . . Growing earlobes . . .

Wanted:

1. A fairy godmother.
2. A Molto chic makeover.
[molto = very in Italian].
3. A seat at the primo lunch table.
[Primo is also Italian. It means best.]

The solution:

Tune in!”

Great Bear Lake by Erin Hunter

(Book Two in the *Seekers* series)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Destiny has brought them together. Young black bear Lusa has left the comfort of the zoo, determined against all odds to make her way in the wild. It is there that she encounters grizzly cub Toklo and a mysterious changeling named Ujurak. Once united, the cubs find themselves on a journey toward a mystical place—if only they knew where. Meanwhile, separated from her family, polar bear cub Kallik trusts her intuition to lead her on a path traveled by many bears before her. At last the four cubs meet at the sacred Great Bear Lake, a place of peace and healing where bears gather to celebrate the longest day. But all is not harmonious. Danger lurks beneath the calm surface of the lake, and only if they put aside their differences and truly come together will the young bears have any chance of surviving the harsh realities of the wild.”

I, Lorelei by Yeardley Smith

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Lorelei Connelly is no ordinary eleven-year-old. She’s practical and a forward thinker. When her favorite cat, Mud, dies, she starts a journal to him, chronicling her daily life as a sixth grader so that he can continue to follow her rise to fame and fortune as a beloved actress, celebrated chef, and/or bestselling author. She figures it’s also a good way to make sure her future biographers don’t get anything wrong about her. But when her parents’ marriage starts to unravel, Lorelei’s lighthearted daily log becomes a poignant and defiantly humorous account of a family in distress as Lorelei grapples with the ground shifting under her feet. Yeardley Smith engages the reader with wit, candor, and authenticity.”

The Lucky Stone by Lucille Clifton

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “A lucky stone provides good fortune for its various owners...There is nothing Tee enjoys more than sitting out on the porch with her great-grandmother,

listening to the fascinating stories about the lucky stone. Shiny and black as night, it brought good fortune to each of its owners for over one hundred years. First it helped Mandy, a runaway slave, win her freedom. Then it saved Vashti from death by lightning at a prayer meeting. And it even saved Tee’s great-grandmother from the ferocious dancing dog and helped her meet her husband. Now Tee can’t help wondering what the old stone has in store for her. She certainly could use some luck on Valentine’s Day. But the lucky stone doesn’t belong to Tee. How can her wish come true?”

Luke Skywalker and the Shadows of Mindor by

Matthew Stover

“Emperor Palpatine and Darth Vader are dead. The Empire has been toppled by the triumphant Rebel Alliance, and the New Republic is ascendant. But the struggle against the dark side and the Sith Order is not over. Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, Lando Calrissian, and their faithful comrades have had little time to savor victory before being called on to defend the newly liberated galaxy. Powerful remnants of the vanquished Empire, hungry for retaliation, are still at large, committing acts of piracy, terrorism, and wholesale slaughter against the worlds of the fledgling New Republic. The most deadly of these, a ruthless legion of black-armored Stormtroopers, do the brutal bidding of the newly risen warlord Shadowspawn. Striking from a strategically advantageous base on the planet Mindor, they are waging a campaign of plunder and destruction, demolishing order and security across the galaxy—and breeding fears of an Imperial resurgence. Another reign of darkness beneath the boot-heel of Sith despotism is something General Luke Skywalker cannot, and will not, risk. Mobilizing the ace fighters of Rogue Squadron—along with the trusty Chewbacca, See-Threepio, and Artoo-Detoo—Luke, Han, and Leia set out to take the battle to the enemy and neutralize the threat before it’s too late. But their imminent attack on Mindor will be playing directly into the hands of their cunning new adversary. Lord Shadowspawn is no freshly anointed Sith Chieftain but in fact a vicious former Imperial Intelligence officer—and Prophet of the Dark Side. The Emperor’s death has paved the way for Shadowspawn’s return from exile in the Outer Rim, and mastery of ancient Sith knowledge and modern technology has given him the capability to mount the ultimate power play for galaxy wide dominion. Dark prophecy has foretold

that only one obstacle stands in his way, and he is ready—even eager—for the confrontation. All the classic heroes, all the explosive action and adventure, all the unparalleled excitement of Star Wars come breathlessly alive as the adventures of Luke Skywalker continue.”

Mouse by Jeff Stone

(Book six in the *Five Ancestors* series)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Little street urchin ShaoSu has always wanted to belong. His small size makes him an easy target for bullies and baddies and this little “mouse” always needs a place to hide. When he is befriended by Hok and Ying, he thinks he has found a new family, and eagerly tags along as they continue on their travels. What he doesn’t know is that his new friends are the most wanted criminals in China, and their adventures will land him in the middle of a battle not only for their lives, but for the future of China itself. As the characters rush towards a dramatic conclusion to the Five Ancestors series in this, the penultimate title, Jeff Stone has again created a marvelous story, a compelling voice, and a ton of exciting action.”

Why Rat Comes First: A Story of the Chinese Zodiac retold by Clara Yen

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “The Chinese-American author says that, when she was a child, her father read her several folk tales explaining the ordering of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac, but she preferred this one, which he had “made up.” High in the heavens, the Jade King announces he will invite all of the animals of China to a grand feast. But a gust of wind scatters the invitations, and the ruler does not know which animals will receive them. When only 12 show up at his celebration, the king decides to reward his guests by naming one of the 12 years in the calendar cycle after each of them. The creatures are honored, but two--Rat and Ox--both want the first year to carry their name. The Jade King lets the children on earth choose which one will come first in the cycle. A deft storyteller, Yen adds both grace and vivacity to this Chinese folktale. Her narrative's occasional, well-placed rhyme makes this an especially good choice for reading aloud. While Yoshida's sketchy ink and colored-pencil drawings are not quite as impressive, they possess a vibrant, somewhat old-fashioned panache. Included is a brief guide to the signs of the Chinese zodiac.”

The Wolves in the Walls by Neil Gaiman

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Truth be told, Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean's picture book *The Wolves in the Walls* is terrifying. Sure, the story is fairytale-like and presented in a jaunty, casually nonsensical way, but it is absolutely the stuff of nightmares. Lucy hears wolves hustling, bustling, crinkling, and crackling in the walls of the old house where her family lives, but no one believes her. Her mother says it's mice, her brother says bats, and her father says what everyone seems to say, “If the wolves come out of the walls, it's all over.” Lucy remains convinced, as is her beloved pig-puppet, and her worst fears are confirmed when the wolves actually do come out of the walls. Up to this point, McKean's illustrations are spectacular, sinister collages awash in golden sepia tones evocative of the creepy beauty in *The City of Lost Children*. The wolves explode into the story in scratchy pen-and-ink, all jaws and eyes. The family flees to the cold, moonlit garden, where they ponder their future. (Her brother suggests, for example, that they escape to outer space where there's “nothing but fozzles and squossucks for billions of miles.”) Lucy wants to live in her own house...and she wants the pig-puppet she left behind. Eventually she talks her family into moving back into the once-wolfish walls, where they peek out at the wolves who are watching their television and spilling popcorn on slices of toast and jam, dashing up the stairs, and wearing their clothes. When the family can't stand it anymore, they burst forth from the walls, scaring the wolves, who shout, “And when the people come out of the walls, it's all over!” The wolves flee and everything goes back to normal...until the tidy ending when Lucy hears “a noise that sounded exactly like an elephant trying not to sneeze. This rather lengthy picture book displays the striking characteristics of a graphic novel: numerous four-panel pages opening into spreads that include painted people; scratchy ink-lined wolves; and photographed, computer-manipulated images. Children will delight in the “scary, creepy tone” and in the brave behavior displayed by the intrepid young heroine. Adult fans of this talented pair will revel in the quirky story and its darkly gorgeous, deliciously shadowy trappings... Adult fans of this talented pair will revel in the quirky story and its darkly gorgeous, deliciously shadowy trappings.”

NON FICTION

The Boys' Book of Survival: How to Survive Anything, Anywhere by Guy Campbell

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Lost in the desert? Stuck in quicksand? Confronted by a man-eating tiger? Trapped at a school dance? Fear not, brave reader! With this essential survival guide, you'll find a way to get yourself out of every imaginable predicament, whether it's an avalanche or a zombie invasion! How to survive anything all in one handy book! Inside you'll find out how to treat a snakebite, send an SOS message, track an animal, make a map, and build a ladder. Find out how to survive a school dance, a shopping trip with your mom, a pop quiz, and a shark attack!”

Eat This, Not That! for Kids by David Zinczenko with Matt Goulding

“It's no secret that children are getting fatter: 17% of this country's youth are overweight or obese, and the number of diabetic children has nearly quadrupled in the past thirty years. Now, to help combat the problem, David Zinczenko, editor-in-chief of *Men's Health*, and co-author Matt Goulding have created *Eat This, Not That! for Kids*. This must-have guide for concerned parents offers detailed analysis and nutritional tips on thousands of the most popular food choices for kids. Covering the best and worst options available at the most popular restaurants in the country as well as the healthiest—and most harmful—foods in the supermarket aisles, if kids are eating it, this book is probably analyzing it.

Other features include:

- Restaurant Report Cards on the best chain restaurants for your kids
- Drink This, Not That! for Kids
- The 20 Worst Kids' Meals in America
- 10 "Healthy" Foods that Aren't
- The 8 Foods You Should Feed Your Kid Every Day

Get help making meals with nutrition guides from *Eat This, Not That! for Kids*”

The Girls' Book of Glamour: A Guide to Being a Goddess by Sally Jeffrie

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “Transform yourself from drab to fab with this nifty guide to all things glamorous! Whether you want to have the shiniest hair or convince people you're a celebrity, this book will show you how! Being a glamour goddess has

never been so easy. Inside this handy guide you'll find instructions on how to host a spa party, create your own style, exit a limo gracefully, make your own body glitter, persuade your best friend to lend you her clothes, put on a fashion show, make your own jewelry box, and much, much more!”