



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

January 14, 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.

Happy New Year



Principal's Message

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parents,

Happy 2009 to all of you! I hope that this year brings all of you much happiness and great health!

Over Christmas break, our new computer lab was unpacked and installed. I am so proud that we were able to accomplish this enormous task. The students already began using the new computers last week and were quite excited! Our technology curriculum is second to none, and now we have the proper equipment to enhance the students' learning. I hope you can drop by to take a peek soon; if not, the Computer Lab will be open for Open House on the 25th.

We are currently accepting applications for new students for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have another child who you would like to attend our school next year, please go to our website to download an application or come by the office. Applications are due by February 13th. Siblings of current students have first priority of all our applicants!

Your child should have brought home the January calendar last week with the Catholic Schools' Week schedule on the back. If it did not make it home, please either have your child stop by the office for another copy, or go on our website to download a copy (stfranciselem.org)

Enclosed is a copy of the uniform policy from the Parent/Student handbook. There are some children who are not adhering to the uniform rules. Please re-read and make sure your child comes to school every day in appropriate uniform.

I look forward to seeing all of you at many of our Catholic Schools' Week events beginning January 24th!

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power



**St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
January 2009**

- 14 Parent Club Meeting, 5:15 pm
- 16 Mid-Term 2nd Trimester
- 17 Diocesan Speech Contest
- 19 NO SCHOOL/Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 22 Catholic Schools Week Rally, Capital
- 23 Student Art Show, Brunsmann Hall, 5:00 pm
- 24 Alumni Mass, Church, 5:15 pm
Alumni Open House/Reception, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 25 Catholic Schools Week Kick Off
School-wide Mass, Church, 9:30 am
Pancake Breakfast, Cafeteria, 8:00-11:00 am
Open House, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 26-30 Catholic Schools Week
- 26 Community Service Day
- 27 Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day
- 28 Family Day
- 29 Student Appreciation Day
- 30 School Spirit Day

Little Dribblers



Game Schedule and Time

- Jan 10th @ St. John Notre Dame
- Jan 17th @ Holy Trinity
- Jan 24th @ St. Alban
- Jan 31st vs. OLA
- Feb 7th vs. Presentation
- Feb 14th @ Courtyard
- Feb 21st vs. Merryhill
- Feb 28th @ John Paul

@ = Away Game Vs. = Home Game

Girls

- 4th grade 9:00 am
- 3rd grade 10:00 am
- 2nd Grade 11:00 am
- 1st Grade: 12:00 noon

Boys

- 1st grade 1:00 pm
- 2nd grade 2:00 pm
- 3rd grade 3:00 pm
- 4th grade 4:00 pm

Please check the Sports Board for updated information. Students will not be able to play until the Health Verification form is on file in the office.

NEED PARENT VOLUNTEER HOURS?

HERE ARE 4 OPPORTUNITIES!

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!!!

1. STUDENT ART SHOW

This year the Annual St. Francis Student Art Show will be held on January 23rd from 5 – 7p.m. in the Social Hall. Featured are various forms of art work from all the grades. This is a fun event and it is all the more enjoyable when appetizers are served! Extension will gratefully accept all donations of finger foods!

Art Show Volunteers Needed* * Sign up in Hallway * * SEE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL INFO

2. ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Parent volunteers are needed to help with our Alumni Homecoming, which happens on the evening of January 24th. Please contact Stephanie Pierson in the office if you would like to help with the fun!

3. PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Parents are needed to help with our Annual Pancake Breakfast. Please see the flyer or downstairs bulletin board for more info.

4. LITTLE DRIBBLERS

We need referees and snack bar volunteers for Home games on Jan 31st, Feb 7th, and Feb 21st. Please contact Coach Adamo.

**MID 2ND TRIMESTER PROGRESS
REPORTS WILL BE HANDED OUT
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD**

QUILT RAFFLE

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, we will raffle off a quilt made of school uniforms. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00, and may be purchased in the office. Proceeds will go to the STEP MINISTRY that serves the homeless in our community. Watch for the quilt around school. The drawing will be on January 30th.

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 1st. Our Transitional Kindergarten Program is for children who turn five between September 2nd and December 1st (or who are five but not yet ready for kindergarten.) Go to our website or come by the office for an application. Applications are due by February 13th.

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST for CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION

The High School Placement Test for applicants to all five of the Catholic High Schools in Sacramento will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Registration for the test should be done at the school you would like to attend in the fall. For more information, contact the Admission Office at the school of your choice:

**Christian Brothers High School: 733-3690
or www.cbhs-sacramento.org**

**Cristo Rey High School: 733-2660 or
www.cristoreysacramento.org**

**Jesuit High School: 482-6060 x 227 or
register on line @ www.jhssac.org**

**Loretto High School: 482-7793 x 103 or
www.loretto.net**

**St. Francis High School: 452-3461 x 195
or www.stfrancishs.org**

Religion Round-up

"Pray always"

Ephesians 6:18

Happy New Year to all!

Our eighth grade began the year with our prayer service celebrating Epiphany. We heard how Jesus came for all people and that Christianity is found all over the world. We even heard the "Our Father" proclaimed in Greek and Spanish!

First grade prepared our prayer service this week. They celebrated the Baptism of Jesus by demonstrating an infant baptism. Their reading was from Mark: "Let the children come to me". They pointed out that the window in church showing this story was donated by the school.

Next Tuesday the sixth grade will be leading the prayer service on social justice in general and Martin Luther King Jr. in particular.

The fourth grade is preparing the school Mass this Thursday. The Mass will be celebrating National Vocations Awareness Week. As part of their community outreach they are collecting school supplies for the Sacramento Children's Home.

Catholic Schools Week is coming soon. It will begin with the Alumni Homecoming Mass on Saturday January 24th at 5:15. This promises to be a huge event with graduates coming from last year to those graduating generations ago.

If you are not involved in the alumni Mass, consider coming to the 9:30 School Mass the following day, January 25th. That is our Pancake Breakfast/Open House day to kickoff Catholic Schools Week. The choir will be the music ministers for that Mass, and some Student Council members will be dramatizing the reading. There will be alumni proclaiming Scripture and a school family bringing up the gifts. Our school will be well represented that day! Come and join us!

Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thurs Jan 15	4 th Mass	9:00 a.m.
Tues Jan 20	6 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Jan 26	7 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Feb 2	3 rd Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.

Parents are always welcome to attend prayer services and Masses.

PE News:



5th and 6th grades completed their second Presidential Challenge. All students have shown improvement. Continue the hard work.

7th and 8th grades will be discussing the importance of staying active and exercising safely this month.

Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



On behalf of all the St. Francis staff, I thank all the families that contributed to OUR Santa's Helper Christmas gift. What a wonderful surprise!

And to all the families that remembered me personally, I thank you for your thoughtfulness.

As I promised last month, here are the final figures from the December Book Fair: we grossed \$5582.30 in sales, excluding sales tax. Our library's profit was \$1,443.98 in cash and \$401.43 in books.

FICTION

Sugar Plum Ballerinas: Plum Fantastic by Whoopi Goldberg with Deborah Underwood
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Alexandrea Petrakova Johnson does not want to be a beautiful ballerina, and she does not want to leave her friends in Apple Creek. Unfortunately, that doesn't stop her ballet-crazy mother from moving them to Harlem, or from enrolling Al at the Nutcracker School of Ballet. Life is hard when you're the new ballerina on the block, and it's even harder when you're chosen to be the Sugar Plum Fairy in the school recital! Not only is Al a terrible dancer, but she's also got a rotten case of stage fright! Al's ballet classmates are going to have to use

all the plum power they've got to coach this scary fairy!"

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things by Lenore Look

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Alvin Ho is an Asian American second grader who is afraid of everything – elevators, tunnels, girls, and, most of all, school. He's so afraid of school that, while he's there, he never, ever, says a word. But at home he's a very loud superhero named Firecracker Man, a brother to Calvin and Anibelly, and a gentleman-in-training, so he can be just like his dad... a funny and touching chapter book – perfect for both beginning and reluctant readers – that introduces a truly unforgettable character."

Every Soul A Star by Wendy Mass

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "My parents knew that for one day, our two-square-mile campground will be the only patch of land in the entire country to lie right smack-dab in the path of the Great Eclipse when it passes overhead. In precisely twenty-two days and some hours, the sun will get erased from the sky, the planets will come out to greet us, the birds will stop singing, and a glowing halo of light will flutter like angels' wings above our heads." "With humor and warmth, Wendy Mass weaves an intricate and enchanting tale. Told from three unique perspectives, *Every Soul A Star* is about strangers coming together, unlikely friendships, and finding one's place in the universe."

The Last Invisible Boy by Evan Kuhlman

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "I don't want to give anything away, so I'll tell you what you could probably guess from looking at the cover and flipping through the book.

1. It's about an invisible boy. Obviously. That's me. Actually, I'm not totally invisible. Yet. But I'm getting there.
2. There are a bunch of my drawings.
3. There are some really funny, really happy moments.
4. Just so you know, there are also some sad moments.
5. Everything in here is the truth. So if you like stories about true things, you might like this book.

That's all I'm going to tell you. All the stuff about my dad and my mom and my brother Derek and my friend Meli and whether or not I actually turn invisible or become completely visible again or figure out how to use my invisibility for the good of all mankind or just disappear altogether, you're going to have to read to find out. So, let's get started. Just remember: This is my story, and anything can happen." Following are some of this book's reviews: "If you're looking for a tender, redemptive story told by a fierce, fragile protagonist, meet Finn Garrett, the *Last Invisible Boy*. You'll love him." "*The Last Invisible Boy* may be written as a journal, but it's no blog. Protagonist Finn isn't writing for an audience – he's writing to a friend. Sad, funny, and sincere." "*The Last Invisible Boy* is at turns heartbreaking and uplifting...A gutsy book..."

The Last Straw by Jeff Kinney
(Third book in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series)
The highly anticipated third book in the critically acclaimed and bestselling series takes the art of being wimpy to a whole new level.

Let's face it: Greg Heffley will never change his wimpy ways. Somebody just needs to explain that to Greg's father. You see, Frank Heffley actually thinks he can get his son to toughen up, and he enlists Greg in organized sports and other "manly" endeavors. Of course, Greg is able to easily sidestep his father's efforts to change him. But when Greg's dad threatens to send him to military academy, Greg realizes he has to shape up . . . or get shipped out. Greg and his family and friends, who make the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books a must-read for middle school readers, are back and at their best in this hilarious new installment of the series, which is sure to please current fans while attracting new ones.

Long Shadows by Erin Hunter
(Book 5 in the *Power of Three [Warriors]* series)
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "The Clans are in turmoil. ShadowClan has turned its back on StarClan and pledged to follow the dark predictions of Sol, the strange cat who foretold the solar eclipse. But not all the cats have lost faith in their warrior ancestors...Jaypaw is convinced that StarClan still holds an important place in the warrior code, and his search for

answers leads him far back into the past, farther back than even StarClan can remember. Lionblaze, tortured by violent dreams and bloody visions, wishes he had never been prophesied to be one of the three, but to turn his back on his littermates would be the ultimate betrayal. And Hollyleaf is terrified that once the Clans lose their faith, the warrior code will fall apart. She's willing to fight tooth and nail to preserve it – whatever the cost..."

One False Move by Gordon Korman
(Book Two in *The 39 Clues* series)
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "THIS JUST IN! Amy and Dan Cahill were spotted on a train, hot on the trail of one of 39 Clues hidden around the world. BUT WAIT! Police report a break-in at an elite hotel, and the suspects ALSO sound suspiciously like Amy and Dan. UPDATE! Amy and Dan have been seen in a car...no, in a speedboat chase...and HOLD EVERYTHING! They're being chased by an angry mob?!? When there's a Clue on the line, anything can happen." "The race is on to find 30 Clues that safeguard a great power, and fourteen-year-old Amy Cahill and her younger brother, Dan, are shocked to find themselves in the lead. The search seems to be taking them to Vienna, and they hold a coded piece of Mozart's sheet music that's key to finding the next Clue. But tailed by a pack of power-hungry relatives, Amy and Dan can't see if they are sailing toward victory - or straight into a deadly trap." "READ THE BOOKS – Follow Amy and Dan around the world as they hunt for the 30 Clues. COLLECT THE CARDS – Look for the 39 Clues Card Packs with more leads you'll need. PLAY THE GAME – Join the search for the 39 Clues at www.the39clues.com. WIN THE PRIZES – Start now for your chance to win...prizes."

**Here's more from the Classic Series,
"CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE"
15, yes fifteen, more books in that series
from which you can choose
from many possible endings
this time written by:**

R.A. Montgomery
Shannon Gilligan
Jay Leibold
Jim Becket

- Book 11: Trouble On Planet Earth (113 pages)**
Book 12: War With the Evil Power Master (123 pages)
Book 13: Cup Of Death (120 pages)
Book 14: The Case Of the Silk King 116 pages)
Book 15: Beyond Escape! (117 pages)
Book 16: Secret Of the Ninja (124 pages)
Book 17: The Brilliant Dr. Wogan (112 pages)
Book 18: Return To Atlantis (119 pages)
Book 19: Forecast From Stonehenge (127 pages)
Book 20: Inca Gold (125 pages)
Book 21: Struggle Down Under (123 pages)
Book 22: Tattoo Of Death (113 pages)
Book 23: Silver Wings (107 pages)
Book 24: Terror On the Titanic (122 pages)
Book 26: Moon Quest (128 pages)
Book 27: Project UFO (121 pages)
Book 28: Island Of Time (116 pages)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Choose Your Own Adventure" titles have sold at least 250 million copies around the world since the series debuted with Bantam Books in 1978, and anyone who remembers reading them probably knows why. You were the protagonist. When you're 9 years old, that's a pretty exhilarating feeling. Your fate depended on the choices you made at the bottom of each page. Each installment had dozens of endings, and the more rabid fans...wanted to experience every one."

"After a brief hiatus from the presses, the venerable series is back and moving into the 21st century...Each book has many possible endings and side stories, some with over 100 variations. Furthermore, you can continue reading until you attain a favorable ending...."

"These books are different from other books. You and YOU ALONE are in charge of what happens in this story. There are dangers, choices, adventures and consequences. YOU must use all of your numerous talents and much of your enormous intelligence. The wrong decision could end in disaster...But, don't despair. At any time, YOU can go back and make another choice, alter the path of your story, and change its result."

NON FICTION

Our Country's Presidents by Ann Bausum (Foreward by President Barrack Obama)
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Ladies and Gentlemen: the next President of the United States will soon be included within the pages of one of our perennial favorites. National Geographic Children's Books will publish this fully revised and updated edition of *Our Country's Presidents* in time for the Inauguration of our 44th head of state—the first Presidents reference book on the market after the election. This president will follow in the footsteps of 43 predecessors who have assumed America's greatest responsibility: these men have faithfully executed their duties—they have signed treaties, addressed Congress, brokered peace, and waged war. Each has left his own indelible mark on the history of the United States and on the lives of the American people. Find out why George Washington gave up his life as a Virginia planter to lead the nation; why John Taylor was deemed "His Accidency;" walk with the presidents through wars, depressions, civil rights movements, and the space race; romp with the Garfield children in a White House pillow fight; and mourn with a nation for John F. Kennedy. This timely update will offer fascinating and comprehensive profiles of all the presidents, timelines of their administrations, historic images, and features on important aspects of their terms. A fresh cover design and informative insight about our new leader will make this volume stand apart from all other contenders, and confirm its place as the definitive family reference guide to the fascinating lives of our leaders past and present."

