



# St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

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

## GUBBIO GAZETTE

January 28, 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,

Happy Catholic Schools' Week! The theme this year, "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service," is very familiar to us at St. Francis. As a Franciscan school, serving others is an action that is embedded in our curriculum.

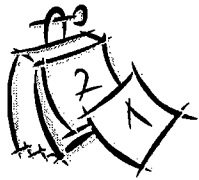
So far, we have had a very busy and exciting kickoff to this nationally recognized week. On Friday night, our students proudly displayed their art work in our annual Student Art Show. Saturday night, we hosted our very first Alumni Mass and Homecoming, which brought back almost 300 alumni to our school. Our two oldest alumni were from the class of 1932, both a spunky 92 years old! On Sunday, we celebrated with our annual Pancake Breakfast and Open House. In between both of these events was our School Mass at 9:30. Our school choir sang beautifully, and members from our Student Council re-enacted the first reading about the conversion of St. Paul. The faculty and I were so very proud of all of them! Student Council members also generously donated their time to our school by providing tours to the alumni on Saturday night and prospective families during Open House on Sunday. What wonderful student ambassadors!

Our school week began Monday with Community Service Day, as each class became involved with a community service project. Yesterday, we celebrated Staff Appreciation Day. We complete the week with Family Day today, Student Appreciation Day tomorrow, and Spirit Day on Friday.

Thank you to everyone who helped with all these events. Because of you, we have been able show our alumni, parishioners, and prospective families what makes our school so special!

In the peace of St. Francis of Assisi,  
Mrs. Laurie Power

# Catholic Schools Week



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

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

**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>.

**SLE AWARDS**

In an effort to acknowledge students for demonstrating our Student Learning Expectations (SLEs) we have changed our Friday morning Virtue Awards to SLE Recognition Awards. Students in grades 1-8 will be recognized for demonstrating specific characteristics of our SLEs.



**Italian Carnevale**

*The Italian classes will celebrate "Carnevale" (along with the major celebrations in Venice and Viareggio) beginning February 15<sup>th</sup> (quindici di febbraio).*

*For these celebrations, we will make full face masks, have mask parades, and study Bella Venezia!*

*Buon Divertimento! !*

**REMINDER**

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

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Patti Sanchez, the Extension staff, and all parents who helped make our Student Art Show such a success. Because of your efforts, the social hall looked like an official art gallery!

Thank you to Michele Villarreal who chaired the Alumni Homecoming. Michele and her mom, Helen, transformed the cafeteria into an elegant hall! Special thanks to Stephanie Pierson, Bonnie and Jess Villalva, Irene and Paul Borgfeldt, Greg and Jesse Bunker, Eric Church, Linda Delgadillo, Ted Gabales, Ruth Green, Sherry Lamm, Kathy Perry, and Octavio Ruiz. Also, thank you to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade "waitresses!"

Thank you to the entire Pancake Breakfast crew! Thank you to Troy Nunley and Sandy Hampton who stepped up to the plate and chaired the event this year. Also a big thanks to all the wonderful parents who helped in every area; Tom Solorio, Warren Shingle, Mary Behnoud, Shoab Siddique, Regina Keith, Dolores Mejia, Michele Milota, Jose Altamirano, Drew Hudnut, Ted Gabales, Amanda Johnson, Lynn Byerly, David, Eden and Will Saalsaa, Ruth Green, Debbie Velasquez, Jose Michel, Tracy Hendrickson, Mark Tavianini, Diane Schnabel, Terri McClendon, Michelle True, Kathy Perry, Celia Velez, Phuong James, Anna Carroll, Matt Rocco, Marty Bailey, Andrea Willis, Maureen Allen, and Ihuoma and Chris Uba. If we have inadvertently left anyone out, please let the office know so we can properly thank you in the next Gubbio!

Thank you to the Room Parents who provided the staff with a delicious luncheon yesterday for Staff Appreciation Day. We felt so appreciated and spoiled!! Your kindness and efforts are very much appreciated by all of us!

## Religion Round-up

"Pray always"

Ephesians 6:18



I hope many of you were able to attend some of the activities offered for Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year is "Celebrate Service", something this school does often. For Community Service day on Monday the TKs made "Birthday Bags" for homeless children, the Kinders, First and Second graders brought socks for Wellspring Center, Third and Fourth grade donated art supplies to the Sutter Children's Bereavement Center, Fifth grade baked treats and delivered them to the nearby Fire Station, Sixth grade will be working at the Sacramento Food Bank, Seventh grade made baby blankets for the Sacramento Crisis Nursery, and Eighth grade will be cooking hot meals for the WIND Youth Center. This is in addition to the many service projects we do for our school Masses and for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Advent and Lent. Our students learn that we serve God when we serve others.

In honor of our Open House, our classroom doors are now decorated with part of the Prayer of St. Francis. Many former students, parents, and prospective families admired the beautiful artwork and how it conveyed the meaning of the prayer.

Seventh grade began our week with a prayer service about Catholic Schools Week. In keeping with the theme of "Celebrate Service," some read from their recent Saint reports about how their Saint inspires them to love God and serve others.

Third grade is preparing the next prayer service. It falls on the day the church remembers the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. As Simeon and Anna recognized the Messiah in the baby Jesus, the third grade will explain how we recognize Jesus in each other.

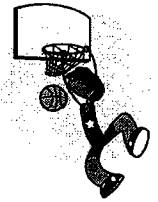
***Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Time</i>
Mon Feb 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Feb 9	1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
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.

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

## KUDOS !!

Mieke Rosecrans, one of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders, competed for the first time from December 25<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> as a Black Belt and in the Belt Finals for the National Black Belt League and the Sport Karate Amateur Internationals. The challenge for her was to qualify. Her competitors had qualified by competing all year in preparation for these finals. Some of her competitors came from New Jersey, Utah, Texas, Guatemala, and New York. She had to compete as a "Wild Card," which meant she had no prior ranking. She also had to compete first. Five judges scored her performance 29.82, which meant she beat out five veteran competitors and place 4<sup>th</sup>. Congrats, Mieke!!! Way to go!!



## Good News ! !

for our Boys Varsity Basketball Team  
at the Jesuit Jr. Classic

The St. Francis Elementary School's  
Boys Varsity basketball team  
took 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of about 24 teams!

-AND-

Devin Hunter and Andrew Gosselin  
made all tourney!

## Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



### FICTION

#### **Can You See What I See? On a Scary Scary Night** by Walter Wick

(Picture Puzzles to search and solve)  
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “Co-creator of the popular I SPY series, Walter Wick is at it again. Mr. Wick dazzles the senses with spooky scenes that achieve new levels of aesthetic excellence! This book offers readers lots of search and find fun as they peer through pages and pages of brilliant photographic compositions looking for fascinating toys and objects. This highly collectable book is a must.”

#### **The Class from the Black Lagoon** by Mike Thaler

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “It's another scary day at the Black Lagoon . . . for the new teacher, Mrs. Green. There's a new class coming for the first day of school and Mrs. Green is worried. Is it true that the class is really weird and that they put their last three teachers into early retirement? Will the students really turn into horrible ghouls as soon as they get to school? Will Mrs. Green really need her ultimate survival kit to teach the class or tame the class?”

#### **Fight for Life** by Laurie Halse Anderson (#1 in the *Vet Volunteers* series)

Grade 4 – 6 / “This first volume of the Wild at Heart series, a spin-off of the popular American Girl stories, features 11-year-old Maggie, who has been raised by her grandmother since her parents were killed in a car accident. Gran is a veterinarian who owns the Wild at Heart Animal Clinic, where Maggie is a volunteer. The plot centers on a crisis involving 10 sick puppies brought to Gran's clinic. Maggie suspects that they all came from the same place—a puppy mill. With the help of other teen volunteers at the clinic, she sets out to find the person who's behind the mill and shut it down. Maggie's first-person narrative describes the veterinary procedures in simple language and

builds suspense in the key adventure scenes. But it is Maggie's portrayal of her grandmother as a feisty, capable vet that will stick in readers' minds. The other teen volunteers introduced in this story each get a turn to shine in upcoming books in the series.”

#### **Say Good-Bye** by Laurie Halse Anderson (#5 in the *Vet Volunteers* series)

Grade 4 – 6 / “Yum-Yum is an adorable shih tzu and one of Zoe's favorite clients. When Zoe and Yum-Yum visit a ward of cancer patients, she is amazed by how much joy the tiny dog can spread in an instant. But then Yum-Yum is diagnosed with cancer himself. How can Zoe help the little dog pull through?”

#### **Storm Rescue** by Laurie Halse Anderson (#6 in the *Vet Volunteers* series)

Grade 4 – 6 / “Sunita Patel is book smart and good with cats. When a hurricane approaches, Sunita realizes that Lucy, a diabetic cat with a broken leg, is in danger, along with her owner, Mrs. Clark. When the vets are called out on emergency, the evacuation starts. Will Sunita be able to save Lucy or will she be a scaredy-cat?”

#### **Cover-Up** by John Feinstein

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “The third outing for precocious teen reporters Steve Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson finds the intrepid pair transformed into TV personalities, stars of a cable talk show called Kid Sports. On the eve of the Super Bowl, however, Steve is fired (the network wants to pair sexy-beyond-her-years Susan Carol with a twenty something rock star). Steve still has a newspaper gig, though, so the pair reunite at the Super Bowl, where, of course, they stumble on yet another scandal, as they did in *Last Shot* (2005) and *Vanishing Act* (2006). Feinstein doesn't try to pretend that his premise is even remotely realistic—even the kids laugh at the odds of two teens ferreting out the biggest stories at the biggest sports events in the country—and once the reader suspends a few gallons of disbelief, this series delivers an entertaining mix of mystery, insider detail (including cameos by big-name sports media figures), and ripped-from-the-headlines subject matter (the scandal this time

deals with steroid-taking offensive linemen). Good fun for younger teen sports fans willing to go with the formula."

**Darnell Rock Reporting** by Walter Dean Myers

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Darnell Rock is not the kind of kid who volunteers to write for the newspaper—it sounds too much like homework. But this is Darnell's last chance to pull himself together and make a positive contribution to his school. At first, Darnell would rather be hanging out with his sister and his friends. But soon he gets interested in the *Oakdale Gazette*. Much to his surprise, Darnell discovers that people pay attention to the words he writes. Before he knows it, Darnell changes from a kid who can't do anything right to a person who can make a difference."

**Deep and Dark and Dangerous** by Mary Downing Hahn

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "A chilling supernatural tale! Just before summer begins, thirteen-year-old Ali finds an old photograph. She recognizes the two children. One's her mother, the other her aunt Dulcie...but who is the third person, the one who's been torn out of the picture? Ali will have all summer to figure it out, since she's spending the summer with her aunt and her cousin in the same house her mom and aunt used to visit when they were kids. Then Ali meets Sissy. Sissy is mean, spiteful, and determined to ruin Ali's summer. Sissy also has a secret. Could it have something to do with the old photo? Ali is dying to find out, and if she's not careful, that's exactly what might happen to her."

**Fairest** by Gail Carson Levine

Grade 6 & Up / "In a world in which elegance, beauty, and singing ability are revered, Aza is bulky, awkward, and homely. Her saving grace is that she can sing and has a gift of voice manipulation that she calls illusing. Through a chance meeting at her family's inn, a duchess invites Aza to act as her companion and accompany her to the palace to attend the king's wedding. When the beautiful new queen discovers Aza's gift for throwing her voice and for mimicry, she sees a way of protecting her reputation and disguising her own lack of

talent. Pressured by the woman's threats upon her family, Aza deceives the court into believing that Ivi is a gifted singer. When the ruse is discovered, Aza is forced to flee the castle in order to save her life. Through her adventures, she discovers her own strength of character, learns about her true heritage, and decides that her physical appearance is not worthy of the stress and worry she has wasted on it. The plot is fast-paced, and Aza's growth and maturity are well crafted and believable. Readers will enjoy the fairy-tale setting while identifying with the real-life problems of living in an appearance-obsessed society. A distinguished addition to any collection."

**Found** by Margaret Peterson Haddix  
(Book 1 in *The Missing* series)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Thirteen-year-old Jonah has always known that he was adopted, and he's never thought it was any big deal. Then he and a new friend, Chip, who's also adopted, begin receiving mysterious letters. The first one says, "You are one of the missing." The second one says, "Beware! They're coming back to get you." Jonah, Chip, and Jonah's sister, Katherine, are plunged into a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, an airplane that appeared out of nowhere -- and people who seem to appear and disappear at will. The kids discover they are caught in a battle between two opposing forces that want very different things for Jonah and Chip's lives. Do Jonah and Chip have any choice in the matter? And what should they choose when both alternatives are horrifying?" "With *Found*, Margaret Peterson Haddix begins a new series that promises to be every bit as suspenseful as her *Shadow Children* series -- which has sold more than 41/2 million copies -- and proves her, once again, to be a master of the page-turner."

**Igor - A Movie Novelization** adapted by Catherine Hapka

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "In this hilarious and offbeat tale, Igor, the hunch-backed lab assistant of an Evil Scientist from the Kingdom of Malaria, dreams of winning first place in the annual Evil Science Fair and becoming a scientist himself. Igor has some top-secret

plans for an evil invention of his own, and through an unexpected twist of fate finally gets his chance to realize his dreams. But instead of creating something evil, he ends up with Eva, a giant, lovable creature who literally cannot hurt a fly, and whose only dream is to become an actress. With just a few days left before the fair, he must find a way to trick her into acting evil. But as Igor's ambition carries him further and further away, it is ultimately up to his best friends, Scamper and Brain, to help him stay true to himself. Based on the upcoming CGI-animated comedy, *Igor*, this 128-page novelization features 8 pages of full-color movie photos!"

**Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull** by James Luceno

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "This exciting, fast-paced retelling adapts all the action straight from the movie. Readers can relive the page-turning experience over and over again with an insert of full-color photos!"

**Into the Woods** by Erin Hunter

(In Manga, from the *Warriors* series: Tigerstar & Sasha)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Sasha has everything she wants: kind housefolk who take care of her during the day and the freedom to explore the woods beyond Twolegplace at night. But when Sasha is forced to leave her home, she must forge a solitary new life in the forest. Life on her own is exciting at first but quickly gets lonely. When Sasha meets Tigerstar, leader of ShadowClan, she wonders whether she would be better off joining the ranks of his forest Clan. But Tigerstar has many secrets, and Sasha must decide whether she can trust him."

**Princess** by Ellen Miles

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "It seems like it's going to be just another normal Peterson family trip for haircuts - that is until Charles meets Princess, a spoiled but irresistible Yorkie pup. She belongs to one of the stylists but Princess's owner is moving and can't take the puppy with her. Charles volunteers to care for Princess until they find her a new home. But it doesn't take long for the Petersons to get tired of Princess's privileged ways. How will Charles

ever find the right family for this high maintenance pup?"

**Riding the Flume** by Patricia Curtis Pfitsch  
Grade 5-8-Between 1890 and 1903, whole forests of giant sequoia trees were felled for lumber in northern California. In this exciting adventure story, Francie, 15, begins to unravel a mystery when she finds a hidden note left by her sister, now deceased, in the hole of a tree and sets out to stop the logging of the biggest giant. Set in 1894, the novel is a fast read, ending with a daredevil ride on the loggers' flume. Francie is a brave, high-spirited teen who values commitment, history, the environment, and the legacy of her sister's memory. A subplot involves the family dealing with the loss of Carrie six years earlier. The uneasy decision between whether to save the tree in memory of Carrie or save the economy and the loggers' jobs is handled objectively. Pfitsch has researched her subject well and gives the California mountain landscape and its inhabitants a note of realism. However, the book is weakened by too simple a resolution, the downplaying of natural hazards in the wild, and many dangers either glossed over or omitted. The writing is sometimes repetitious, but it is easy, making the story an accessible and enjoyable read. Some moral-value issues, such as telling the truth and minding parents, are nicely handled. The attractive jacket depicting the dangerous ride on the flume should draw readers and help sell the book." "Pfitsch brings together a brave heroine, authentic background, and an intriguing view of a little-known part of U.S. history to make this a winner, especially for girls who like historical fiction. A glossary and notes are provided."

**The Tales of Beedle the Bard** by J.K. Rowling

"In December 2007, J.K. Rowling unveiled *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, a very special book of five fairy tales illustrated by the bard herself, embellished with silver ornaments and mounted moonstones. Amazon was fortunate to come into possession of one of the original copies, and it was our privilege to share images and reviews of this incredible artifact. Now J.K. Rowling is giving millions of *Harry Potter* fans worldwide cause for celebration

