



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

March 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.

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,

We have so many reasons to be proud of our school! This past weekend, our school's Academic Decathlon Team competed against twenty-two Catholic schools from our diocese. Not only did the team have a great time, but they also did really well. Five of our students placed either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the eight subject tests – quite a remarkable feat considering twenty-three schools participated! Overall, the entire team was fantastic. Their smiles that day said it all! Of course, none of this could have happened without the guidance and organization of Ms. Pressburg, our 6th grade teacher and Academic Decathlon Coach and Moderator. The following students make up our 2009 Academic Decathlon Team:

Alyssa Byerly, Cydney Chilimidos, Hudson Grieve, Elizabeth Herrera, Rigo Herrera, Peter Mackensen, Grace Rosburg, Julia Ruiz, Stephen Sanchez, and Victoria Vardanega. Alternates were: Antonio Alvarez, Arthur Cheung, Noah Christe, Julia Maddox, Fallon McMahan, Megan Perry, Andrea Siller-Michel, and Troy Stannius. Congratulations AcaDeca Team!

As you all know, our school will be going through the WASC accreditation process next school year. Part of this process is to have parents fill out a survey regarding our school. We have decided to put this survey online for your convenience. Please see the enclosed flyer for information and instructions. The survey should take only 10-15 minutes to fill out. However, I will give each family one hour towards your volunteer parent hours if you complete this. In order for it to be accurate and worthwhile, it is vitally important that each family participate. Thank you for your anticipated support!

Tonight, at 5:30, Father Anthony will be leading a Lenten Retreat for our parents. Hopefully, many of you are planning on joining us!

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



St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
March 2009

- 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
19 The Feast of St. Joseph
25 8th grade Formal Dinner with parents, 5:30
26 Lenten Reconciliation Service, grades 5-8, 10:30
27 Diocesan Choral Festival, School Choir to participate, Christian Brothers High School
31 Drama Club Performance (thru April 3rd)

SHIELD THE VULNERABLE

If you have not completed the online "Shield the Vulnerable" course, you need to do so before next school year, in order to volunteer with the students. This is mandated by the diocese. You can access this course from our website; there is no charge. Call Stephanie if you have any questions.

YEARBOOK PICTURES



Thank you parents for your response to the call for yearbook pictures.

We're still looking for the following pictures:

4th Grade
Varsity Boys' Basketball
2008 Extension's Annual Waterfight

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

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

TO THE FOLLOWING
alumni who received the following
distinctions at Jesuit High School
for the first semester 2008-2009:

SENIORS - FIRST HONORS

Ivneet Bhullar
Eric Jackson

JUNIORS - FIRST HONORS

Justus Carlisle
Forrest Mayer

SOPHOMORES - FIRST HONORS

Jose Mari Batilando
Jorjit Bhullar
Brian Grau

SOPHOMORES - SECOND HONORS

Andrew Kentopp

FRESHMEN - FIRST HONORS

John Flynn
Hunter Straine

FRESHMEN - SECOND HONORS

Ehson Amini
Jonathan Westmoreland

ALERT !!! PARKING SERVICES NOTICE

Within the next week, the 10-hour parking meters located on the K Street block between 25th and 26th will be adjusted to reflect the City-wide meter rate as follows:
\$1.25 per hour with a maximum of \$6.00.
When the maximum rate of \$6 is deposited, the meters will automatically credit up to 10 hours.
The City of Sacramento also offers discounted metered parking locations and off-street parking. Parking Meter Debit Cards are also available for this area. To inquire, visit their website at www.sacpark.org or call 808-5354.

Religion Round-up

Be merciful, just as God is merciful
Lk 6:36



During Lent we strive to become closer to God. We try to remove some of our distractions that keep us from our prayer life. Another way to grow closer to God is through the sacraments. Many of our students are preparing to receive God's grace through the sacraments.

Fifteen people will be baptized at St. Francis Church this Easter Vigil. One of them is our very own 5th grader, Christian Edwards. Let's remember her and all the elect as they journey to the water.

Congratulations to these Fifth graders who made their First Reconciliation at St. Francis Church on Feb. 26th: **Adriana Alvarado, Marcella Bertolino, Jana Brown, Miranda Esquivel, Seamus Hudnut, Kyle Lutz, Sam Macias, Patrick Mahan, Isabella Monteverde, Londa Torres, and Brooke Uhlenhop.** May God continue to bless you!

Last Monday the 6th grade began our week with the first Lenten Taize-style prayer service. There was chanting, incense, Scripture, meditation and prayer. They did a great job setting the tone for our future prayer services in Lent.

Fifth grade continued the prayerful meditative style for this past prayer service. We heard the story of the transfiguration and spent some time in silent reflection.

Third grade is preparing our school Mass for tomorrow, Thursday March 12. They have chosen the Sacramento SPCA to receive their offering.

We have several Lenten traditions at this school. We continue to pray for our Lenten prayer partners. We pray the Stations of the Cross. The eighth grade attends Mass on Fridays. We also pray for those who will become fully Catholic at Easter Vigil. We make Easter cards for them and for our prayer partners that we will deliver on Holy Thursday.

Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thurs Mar 12	3 rd Mass	9:00 a.m.
Mon. Mar 16	7 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Mar 23	2 nd Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Thurs Mar 26	8 th Reconciliation Service for Grades 5-8	10:30 – Noon

Parents are always welcome to attend prayer services and Masses.

Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



FICTION

Counter Clockwise by Jason Cockcroft
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "What if your mother was hit by a bus? And what if your father disappeared one day through a hole in the bathroom wall? Is there a way to change the course of your life's history? What if time moved *Counter Clockwise*? In this dazzling debut novel, Jason Cockcroft has crafted a mind-bending adventure with a startlingly original narrative structure."

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt
[This is a **2009 Newberry Honor Book** and National Book Award Finalist]
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "There is nothing lonelier than a cat who has been loved, at least for a while, and then abandoned on the side of the road.

A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a chained-up hound deep in the backwaters of the bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. Ranger urges the cat to hide underneath the porch, to raise her kittens there because Gar-Face, the man living inside the house, will surely use them as alligator bait should he find them. But they are safe in the Underneath...as long as they stay in the Underneath. Kittens, however, are notoriously curious creatures. And one

kitten's one moment of curiosity sets off a chain of events that is astonishing, remarkable, and enormous in its meaning. For everyone who loves *Sounder*, *Shiloh*, and *The Yearling*, for everyone who loves the haunting beauty of writers such as Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Flannery O'Connor, and Carson McCullers, Kathi Appelt spins a harrowing yet keenly sweet tale about the power of love -- and its opposite, hate -- the fragility of happiness and the importance of making good on your promises.

NON FICTION

Children's Great Explorers Encyclopedia

by Simon Adams

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “The *Children's Great Explorers Encyclopedia* is a clear and comprehensive guide to intrepid adventurers and their travels. It is full of fascinating facts and intriguing information. Includes the following topics: traveling the Silk Road; Marco Polo's epic journey; Francis Drake-the pirate adventurer; the conquest of the Incas; Darwin and the naturalists; Captain Cook and his ship the *Endeavor*, the race to the North Pole; to the Moon and beyond. ...and many more. Discover the answers to questions such as: who discovered America? How did Viking explorers travel? Did explorers bring back souvenirs from their travels? What is the future of exploration? ...and many, many more.”

Heavy Equipment Up Close by Andra Serlin Abramson

Reading Level: Ages 4 – 8 / “From building skyscrapers to loading freight trains, from tearing down old houses to mining fuel, heavy equipment is everywhere! Children will enjoy taking a close-up look at these important machines, including terrific tractors, bucket wheel excavators, and even a super space shuttle crawler—the largest self-powered tracked vehicle in the world. Great-looking and large shots showcase extra-big tires, a tractor's advanced hydraulic system, a control stick for steering, a bulldozer blade, and the long, wide tracks of a crawler crane. And kids will really dig into fascinating facts and information on

heavy machine achievements such as building the Chunnel, the longest tunnel on earth.”

Submarines Up Close by Andra Serlin Abramson

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “This UP CLOSE takes readers down the hatch, below the ocean's waves, and into the exciting world of submarines. It's filled with thrilling images and fascinating details about how subs are built, equipped, maintained, staffed, and stocked. Photos provide an inside view of the Control Room and display such important elements of the submarine as the powerful main computer, torpedo tube, periscope, and ballast tanks used to raise and lower the ship. Watch the crew as they carry out their duties, and learn about the sub's sonar, its weapons, how it recycles air and water, and how it stays hidden from enemies—and pinpoints its targets during battle.”

Fighter Planes Up Close by Andra Serlin Abramson

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “These aircraft are the military's best—they scramble into action in minutes, reach speeds of Mach 3, deploy missiles, and perform amazing acrobatic feats. So young plane enthusiasts will be flying high as they pore through this breathtaking volume, opening up gatefolds and gazing at every detail of these ultra-modern machines. Photos show them the plane's thick outer hull, transport them right into the cockpit (including the ejection seat), and allow them to examine the engines, stabilizers, landing gear, wings, joystick, little black box, and more. Dozens of “plane facts” discuss the science behind such things as the sonic boom as well as piloting technique.