



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

March 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,

As we continue our spiritual growth during Lent, I can't help but notice the physical growth our students are displaying, also. Everyday, I notice different children looking as if they grew overnight! My prayer is that they are growing just as much spiritually, as they are physically.

Thank you to those of you who have taken the parent online survey. If you have not yet done so, please do so by this Friday. The website is listed below under "Parent Survey Reminder."

Our school choir will be performing this Friday at Christian Brothers High School for the Diocesan Choral Festival at 9:30. If you are free that morning, please consider coming. It is one of my favorite student events of the year!

As Lent is winding down, and as Holy Week is fast approaching, I would like to encourage you to slow down and speak to God. As parents, your days are more than full with responsibilities...you can't do it alone! We all need God...

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power

PARENT SURVEY REMINDER

If you haven't yet taken the parent online survey, please do so by this Friday, March 27th. This is imperative for our WASC accreditation for next year. Go to:
www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=web228v92akyjy

This takes about 10-15 minutes; however, you may earn one parent volunteer hour for your time. Thank you for your participation!

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

March

- 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

April

- 1-3 Drama Club Performance
3 Minimum Day, 12:00 dismissal
9 NOON DISMISSAL/Holy Thursday
EASTER BREAK

MINIMUM DAY REMINDER

Don't forget that next Friday, April 3rd, is a minimum day (12:00 noon dismissal) for all students. Our teachers will be going to Our Lady of Grace School for an afternoon teacher inservice. There will be Extension, as usual, until 6:00.

DRAMA CLUB PERFORMANCE

Our school's Drama Club will be performing *Keeper of the Tales* March 31st – April 3rd at 6pm in the gym. Admission prices are: SFE students free, students from other schools \$4.00, and adults \$5.00.

VERIFICATION OF SACRAMENTS

We are updating student records. Please send copies of all baptismal, first communion, confirmation, and reconciliation certificates to the office. It is mandatory that we have these sacramental certificates on file.

PARENT HELP NEEDED !!!

The awards ceremony for St. Francis Elementary athletics will be held some time in early April, before spring break, after regular school hours. I would appreciate it if I could have 5 to 7 parents help set up treats, serve, and clean up. Last year we did ice cream sundaes. We could keep that or do something different. The whole event lasts about one hour. Please call the school office and leave a message for me if you can help. Thank you so much for your support.

Mr. McCrimons

Religion Round-up

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according
to your word." Lk 1:38*



Today is the feast of the Annunciation of our Lord. We remember when the Angel came to Mary to ask her to be the mother of Jesus. Only nine months until Christmas!

We are now more than halfway through Lent. I hope you and your family is growing closer to God as we approach the most important celebration of the Church, Easter Sunday.

In our last edition, I used the incorrect list of students who made their First Reconciliation. These are the correct names. Sorry about the confusion.

Congratulations to these students who recently made their First Reconciliation at St. Francis Church: **Sharon Burk, Camille DaRosa, Jacob Esquivel, Fallon McMahan, Alexa Mendez, Tyler Moss, Cassidy Nguyen, Sharon Rocco, Nicole Unger, Kiki Velez, and Domenic Tavianini.** May God continue to bless you!

Last Monday our 7th grade prepared a beautiful prayer service. They retold the story of St. Patrick and St. Joseph in honor of those feast days last week.

On Monday, our second grade read the gospel story about the man born blind. They were very reverent and included the Student Learning Expectations into each of the prayers of the faithful. They are great singers, too!

Tomorrow is our Lenten Reconciliation Service for grades 5-8. All students in those grades

will be attending, but only those who have received the sacrament of first reconciliation may receive individual reconciliation.

Please continue to pray for those preparing for full initiation into the Church on Easter Vigil. Also, let us remember those who will be receiving First Eucharist in May.

Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Time</i>
Thurs Mar 26	Lent Reconciliation Service Grades 5-8	10:30 to Noon
Mon Mar 30	3 rd Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Apr 6	4 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Thurs Apr 9	8 th Holy Thursday Service	10:30 a.m.

Easter Break

Parents are always welcome to attend prayer services and Masses.

Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



St. Francis Elementary School has received a special treat from Mrs. Power's relatives. In honor of her father, Mr. Donald VanTricht, who passed away recently, the relatives donated the below mentioned three books in his memory. Incidentally, Mr. VanTricht loved San Francisco, as he was born and raised in S.F., and lived his entire life there!

Please take time out to look at these gems. Parents, you too can check these books out!

Each book has a decal that includes a dedication from the family.

Here's what the Amazon reviewers think of the books donated by Mrs. Power's family

This is San Francisco: A Children's Classic by Miroslav Sasek

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Here's a flat-out classic. In 1962, Czech author-illustrator Miroslav Sasek created *This Is San Francisco*, another installment of his series of children's travel guides (*This Is Paris*, *This Is London*, *This Is New York*). With his usual distinctive and charming style, Sasek tours the sights around the City by the Bay, including Lombard

Street, the cable cars, Fishermen's Wharf, Golden Gate Bridge, and Chinatown. This 2003 reissue edition also includes a number of annotations about how certain locales have changed since the book was published. There's a good chance that anyone who grew up in or near San Francisco will remember this book fondly. Everyone else has a joyous discovery ahead." "Let the rumbling cable car tell you the story! And what a story: From the crookedest street in the world to the Peking ducks in Chinatown, San Francisco is easily one of the world's most enchanting cities. Illustrator Miroslav Sasek captures both the breathtaking landscape and the cosmopolitan flavor of the City by the Bay in *This is San Francisco*. First published in 1962, Sasek's jaunty, colorful illustrations will still dazzle kids and adults alike."

The City by The Bay: A Magical Journey Around San Francisco by Tricia Brown, Elisa Kleven and The Junior League of San Francisco

Reading level: Ages 4 – 12 / "This very positive look at city life is informative, well designed, and a pleasure to read and explore."

Life's BIG Little Moments: Grandfathers & Grandchildren by Susan K. Hom and Jeffrey H. Mantler

"*Life's BIG Little Moments* honors the unique and very special bonds of love that tie family members together. This particular book is one of four beautiful titles that focus closely on tender relationships: aunts and their nieces and nephews; grandfathers and their grandchildren; mothers and sons; and sisters and brothers. Poignant black-and-white photographs—enhanced by nuggets of wisdom about the relationship—show each featured pair in candid situations: granddad and grandson playing baseball; an aunt receiving a warm hug from her niece; siblings building a snowman; mom frolicking on the beach with her little boy. Love, respect, and admiration shine through brightly in each image. These exquisitely designed gift books sweetly capture the deep affection passed down and up the family tree. They're perfect for birthdays, holidays...or any day at all."

FICTION

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! By Karen Beaumont & Illustrated by David Catrow
Reading level: Ages PreSchool-Grade 2 /
"When Mama catches her son "paintin' pictures on the floor/and the ceiling/and the walls/and the curtains/and the door," she sticks him in the tub and declares, "Ya ain't a-gonna paint no more!" Fresh from his bath, the child rescues his hidden supplies and says, "So I take some red/and I paint my.../HEAD!" Subsequent rhymes move from neck down to feet as he adds gobs of color to different areas. Since the last word of each verse comes on the following page, readers get the satisfaction of completing the anticipated rhyme and seeing each newly painted body part with each page turn. Catrow splashes color all over, uses white space cleverly, and includes playful flourishes, such as a marching row of ants on the boy's arm and Easter egg designs on his leg. Elongated figures and exaggerated expressions match the silly tone of the story, and the concerned dog who observes the antics is particularly amusing. With rhymes that invite audience participation and scenes that draw the eye, this is a strong storytime choice. Based on the song "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," the rhythmic text can be read or sung with equal effectiveness. In a mischievous conclusion, when readers think that the boy has painted everything, he finishes with, "But I'm such a nut,/gonna paint my-*WHAT?!*" Fortunately, he's out of supplies and winds up back in the bathtub."

I Like Me! By Nancy Carlson
Grade: PreSchool – Grade 3 / "The ebullient pig-heroine is a happy adherent to the adage "Love Thyself." "I like me!" she exclaims from the cover and goes on to say, "I like my curly tail, my round tummy and my tiny little feet." The fresh-faced piggy elaborates: she always treats herself with respect by keeping herself clean, eating good food and exercising properly. She takes care of other important needs, too, drawing lovely pictures, reading good books and cheering herself up when she's feeling down. Never too hard on herself for failures, she points out that when she

makes mistakes, she tries again. The formation of a healthy self-image, the cornerstone of a happy and successful life, is what this book is all about. Bright, colorful pictures complement the bouncy, upbeat text; Carlson skillfully imparts a positive message without denying that life holds embarrassing and even sad moments. The book and its heroine are loaded with appeal."

Let's Find Pokemon! Emerald by Kazunori Aihara

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "All your favorite Pokemon are hidden in different places--the ocean, the mountains, even in the fog!! Can you spot them in the crowd? Gotta catch 'em all, but you have to find them first!"

Let's Find Pokemon! Special Complete Edition by Kazunori Aihara

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Can you catch all your favorite Pokemon hidden in the pages?"

Star Wars: Luke Skywalker's Amazing Story by Simon Beecroft

(Beginning to Read book, level 1)
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "With these new classic *Star Wars* Readers, children learn about the fantastic Jedi Knights, rogue Rebels, heroic allies, and evil Sith Lords that are loved by several generations. From his humble upbringing on Tatooine to his Jedi training with Obi-Wan and Yoda, follow Luke Skywalker as he grows from boy to man to Jedi Knight."

Star Wars: I Want to be a Jedi by Simon Beecroft

(Reading Alone book, level 3)
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Enter the Jedi Academy and find out what it takes to be a Jedi. How do the Jedi work with the Force? What is the Jedi Code? How do the Jedi make their light sabers? All these questions-and more-will be answered in *I Want to Be a Jedi*. Find out all about the Dark Side and the Sith who wield power over it. Learn about evil Darth Sidious, Darth Maul and, of course, Darth Vader. Discover how the conflict began between the Jedi and the Sith. *Beware the Dark Side* has all the Dark Side details you could want to know!"

Star Wars: Journey Through Space by Ryder Windham
(Beginning to Read Alone book, Level 2)
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “*Journey Through Space* takes young readers on a journey through the Star Wars Galaxy.”

Star Wars: R2-D2 and Friends by Simon Beecroft
(Beginning to Read Alone book, level 2)
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “Join R2-D2 and his friends on their adventures through space!”

Star Wars: The Story of Darth Vader by Catherine Saunders
(Reading Alone book, level 3)
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 (also Ages 9 – 12) / “More thrilling Star Wars episodes for young readers! Kids can continue their discovery of the fantastic Jedi knights, rogue rebels, heroic allies, and evil Sith lords that were loved by their parents' generation, while strengthening their reading skills at the same time. Discover how a promising young Jedi turned to the Dark Side and became the most feared Sith lord in the galaxy.”

The Way I Feel by Janan Cain
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “...Cain covers the emotional waterfront in a series of rhymes paired with pastel pencil drawings featuring elflike children. The opening spread, “silly” (“Silly is the way I feel when I make a funny face/ and wear a goofy, poofy hat that takes up lots of space”), casts a child in a rainbow-colored clown outfit against a sunny yellow backdrop and heralds the book's main artistic conceit, a palette picked to suit each mood. “Bored,” for instance, is played out on a background of drab tans and browns, while “angry” steams with fiery reds and purples...”
Reviews: “Charming!” “Children who struggle to express their feelings of frustration may feel *The Way I Feel* was written just for them.” “Strong, colorful and expressive images.” “Wonderful for teaching how to deal with emotions.”

What to do about Alice by Barbara Kerley
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “Theodore Roosevelt had a small problem. Her name was

Alice. Alice Lee Roosevelt was hungry to go places, meet people, do things. Father called it running riot. Alice called it eating up the world. Whether she was entertaining important White House visitors with her pet snake or traveling the globe, Alice bucked convention and turned every new experience into an adventure! Brimming with affection and wit, this spirited biography gives readers a peek family life inside the White House. Prose and pictures spring, gambol, and two-step across the pages to celebrate a maverick American heroine.”

NON FICTION

Baseball's Greatest Hitters by S.A. Kramer
(Step Into Reading series: Step 5)
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “Kramer introduces young readers to five of baseball's greatest hitters--Honus Wagner, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, and Hank Aaron. For each Hall of Famer, the author offers a biographical sketch and a chart of career statistics. He explains the players' strengths and weaknesses (both on and off the field) and provides play-by-play action for significant games. A final chapter briefly profiles six other batters. The illustrations, a mix of black-and-white and color photos and drawings, help to clarify the text and, combined with short chapters and large print, make for an attractive and nonthreatening layout. Similar to other beginning nonfiction titles in this Step into Reading series (for example, Kramer's *To The Top!* [1993]), this will be popular with baseball fans.”

Cal Ripken, Jr.: The Longest Season by Cal Ripken, Jr. & illustrated by Ron Mazellan
(Picture Book)
Grade 2 – 5 / “A Hall of Famer baseball player takes a pensive look back at a difficult period in his long career. The 1988 season began on a hopeful note for the Orioles: Cal's brother, Bill, had been called up from the minors to play second base and their father was their manager. They still felt hopeful even after they lost their first few games at home. After the first week, though, they were 0-6, and Cal Sr. was fired. Cal felt that he had let his father down. Frank Robinson, a former player and Hall of

Famer, was brought on board as the new manager, but the Orioles continued to struggle until their streak finally ended at 21. From this experience, the author is able to draw some lessons, noting: Winning is easy on a person, but you learn more from losing. He asserts that losing forces you to keep trying, makes you realize how much you need your teammates, and can even teach you how to win. Mazellan's color-drenched illustrations capture the emotional intensity of the narrative. Ripken's straightforward observations and heartfelt recollections make this a book that should connect with many young readers."

Extreme Sports by Robert Coupe
(Reading with Ease book, Stage 4)
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Skydivers jump out of planes and rock climbers climb on cliffs. Bungee jumpers fall from tall heights with strong cords to stop them hitting the ground. Look inside for more scary sports!"

By My Brother's Side by Tiki and Ronde Barber & illustrated by Barry Root
(Picture Book)
Grade 1 – 5 / "NFL stars Tiki and Ronde Barber present sports fans with a sun-drenched childhood anecdote about perseverance. Although the twins were "born smaller than most babies," they grew up to be a rowdy pair. The boys never left one another's side until the summer when Tiki took a bad spill from his bike and broke his leg, forcing him to miss the entire baseball season. The narrative follows the siblings' agony during their summer-long separation and their eventual joy at being teammates again. Despite its lengthy, lackluster text and a somewhat anticlimactic ending, the authors' role-model status will attract an audience, and Root's soft, watercolor-and-gouache illustrations will capture readers' imaginations. Vibrant oranges and yellows suffuse the pages, creating a sense of nostalgia..." the Barbers' tale will be a popular addition to sports collections."

Game Day by Tiki and Ronde Barber & illustrated by Barry Root
(Picture Book)
Grade 1 – 3 / "The Barber twins, both NFL superstars, teamed up with Robert Burleigh to

write an engaging memoir that touches on themes of cooperation and individual differences. When the brothers played football in their hometown Pee Wee league, a local reporter interviewed them and seemed to focus his attention on Tiki, the touchdown hero. Ronde knew his brother could not score without his own strong defense clearing the way, but no one seemed to notice his skill. Feeling jealous and unappreciated, Ronde finally gained perspective on his contributions when he was sidelined with a minor injury. However, it was Tiki who showed him the meaning of teamwork. Root's rich illustrations, done in watercolor and gouache, realistically portray the action. This book is sure to be of interest to young athletes, but the lessons of self-acceptance and working together to contribute to the success of the group are universally valuable. Use this title to spark discussions of personal strengths and abilities."

Teammates by Tiki and Ronde Barber & illustrated by Barry Root
(Picture Book)
Grade 1 – 4 / "The Barbers, both NFL players, present a follow-up to *By My Brother's Side* and *Game Day*. When young Tiki fumbles the football in a preseason practice game, his teammates begin to question his ability as a ball carrier. Coach Mike shows him a better way to hold it and reminds him that Practice makes perfect. Ronde creates a secret Morning Practice Club so his twin can perfect his technique during tackles. When the boys' team plays its archrivals, Tiki holds on to the ball in a pileup, bringing the Vikings to victory. While the text is a little long, there is enough action to keep the plot moving along. Tiki and Ronde have a warm, supportive relationship, rare in tales featuring siblings. Root's watercolor-and-gouache full-page paintings in autumn tones, while stiff in some of the action scenes, are warm and accessible. Sports fans will welcome this addition"

Home Run by Robert Burleigh and illustrated by Mike Wimmer
Reading level: Ages 6 – 10 / "Burleigh and Wimmer, the creative team behind *Flight: The Journey of Charles Lindbergh*, give a bravura encore performance, this time turning their

attention to another 20th-century legend, Babe Ruth. The Sultan of Swat emerges in sharp relief, a multi-layered profile of one of the brightest and best of the boys of summer. In a series of poetic present-tense images, readers see the Babe at play ("there is only the echoey, nothing-quite-like-it sound and soft feel of the fat part of the bat on the center of the ball"), while a congruent series of old-fashioned baseball cards provide baseball aficionados with detailed information about George Herbert Ruth Jr., his statistics and his life ("Many people know that Babe's top home-run season was 1927, when he bashed 60 big ones for a record that would stand for more than 30 years"). This clever juxtaposition provides Burleigh with abundant creative latitude, and he makes the most of it, delivering a solid biographical snapshot tucked inside a valentine to the sport. Wimmer's larger-than-life oil portraits, marvels of realism tinged with idealism, recall Norman Rockwell. His elastic use of perspective plants readers behind the home plate to watch Babe's pop fly head skyward, at the base line as his feet round the bases, and even in front of his bat, just spitting distance from the mound where the pitcher cocks his leg to wind up for the throw. Wimmer indicates two brief flashbacks to Babe Ruth's youth in sepia tones, while the rest of the artwork is full-color, bathed in glorious light. It's a superlative tribute, and most definitely a grand slam for this talented duo."

Muhammad Ali: Champion of the World by Jonah Winter & illustrated by Francois Roca (Picture Book)

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "In the history of legendary boxers, there was Joe Louis and Sonny Liston . . . and then, "the heavens opened up, and there appeared a great man descending on a cloud, jump-roping into the Kingdom of Boxing. And he was called Cassius Clay. Clay let everyone know that he was the greatest boxer in the world. He converted to the Nation of Islam, refused to be drafted into a war in which he didn't believe, and boxed his way back to the top after being stripped of his title. The man that came to be known as Muhammad Ali was heard in a voice no one will ever forget. While other boxers were growling and spitting and slugging in the ring,

Muhammad Ali kept talking and dancing and fighting – until the whole world knew his name. More than just a boxer, Ali was a prophet for his people. Proud of his African roots, and of his Muslim faith, he was determined to be heard in a voice that no one would forget. Bursting forth with a powerful voice of his own, Jonah Winter tells how this great man came to be, evoked in loving detail by the stunning oil paintings of Francois Roca."

NASCAR's Greatest Drivers by Angela Roberts

(Step Into Reading book, step 5)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Young stock car fans looking to learn more about their favorite sport need look no further than *NASCAR's Greatest Drivers*, a survey of the greatest drivers in racing history. Featuring in-depth bios of and stats for Glenn "Fireball" Roberts (whose nickname came from playing baseball, not racing cars), Richard Petty ("The King"), Dale Earnhardt, Sr. ("The Intimidator"), and Jeff Gordon (the "face of today's NASCAR")—along with brief entries about four others. This is a leveled reader kids will *race* to pick up!"

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! By Jonah Winter & Andre Carrilho

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "This is a great book for sports-minded kids, especially baseball fanatics... Sandy Koufax, one of the first Jewish players to crack into major league baseball, was a flop in his first few years playing for the Dodgers... Then suddenly he caught fire, and was one of the hottest players of the 1960s. Just as suddenly, he decided to quit professional baseball, and abruptly retired, leaving behind one of the best pitching records in the game. This book tells his story, told in the working-class voice of one of his teammates, accompanied by wildly stylish, almost avant-garde artwork from Portugal's Andre Carrilho, whose rubbery lines snap with kinetic motion. The book is also laced with statistics-laden sidebars, the kind of thing that true sports buffs love. This first edition also features gold gilt ink throughout and a dazzling holographic-motion cover. All in all, a classy package -- a perfect read for a budding baseball fan."

