



# St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

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

## GUBBIO GAZETTE

May 27, 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,*

*It is so unbelievable that the end of the school year is fast approaching. I'm sure you are in as much disbelief as I! As your child's principal, I am so very proud of the spiritual, academic, and emotional growth your children have made this year. This growth is because of the love and guidance you, their primary educators, give them and the dedication and compassion given by our faculty and staff. For all of you, I am extremely grateful and thank you from the bottom of my heart!*

*Please read the rest of this newsletter thoroughly, as it contains some very important information regarding this school year, this summer, and next school year.*

*As this will be the final newsletter before summer, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy summer. Again, thank you for your ongoing support and concern for our school. May our loving God continue to bless you and your family!*

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



### SCHOOL PICNIC

**McKinley Park**

**JUNE 3, 2009**

**10am – 2pm**

**(This is a regular school day)**





St. Francis Elementary  
School Calendar  
May, & June 2009

May

- 27 8<sup>th</sup> grade Retreat  
29 8<sup>th</sup> grade Baccalaureate Mass 8:15 am  
8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation 7:00 pm

June

- 1 Prayer Service, 8:10am; Move-up Monday  
3 End of Year Picnic  
McKinley Park, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
5 Last Day of School  
Kindergarten/ TK Graduation 10:00 am

**SCHOOL WILL BE OUT AT 11:00AM  
ON JUNE 5, 2009  
NO AFTER SCHOOL  
EXTENSION !  
(PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CHILD  
PROMPTLY, AT 11:00AM)**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Three of our students' grandfathers passed away recently. Please keep the following students and their families in your prayers: Cole Tillman, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; Megan Perry, 7<sup>th</sup> grade; and Jessica and Alexa Mendez, Kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. May perpetual light shine upon all of their grandfathers.

**PARENT CLUB SUMMER SWIM PARTY**

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. The St. Francis Parent Club will again host their annual Family Summer Swim Party in Natomas. More details will follow, but put it on your summer calendar now!

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

Our office will be open the week of June 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm. It will reopen the week of August 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12 noon. If you need to contact us the summer, please email us, as we will check our emails often.

**2009-10 New Uniform Requirement  
for Mass Days and Special Events**

*Beginning next school year, sweatshirts will not be allowed in church on Mass days. All students will be required to wear a navy sweater with their uniform on all Mass days (on warm days, a polo shirt or blouse is fine.) This sweater may be a button up cardigan or pullover v-neck. You may purchase one at True Grits or any other department store that sells navy sweaters.*

**LIBRARY & COMPUTER LAB  
INFORMATION FOR THE END OF THIS  
SCHOOL YEAR**

**MONDAY, MAY 21<sup>st</sup> FINAL DAY**  
for checking out books.

**THURSDAY, May 28<sup>th</sup> FINAL DAY**  
for Daily Library/Computer Lab classes  
AND  
After-School Library/Computer Lab

**THURSDAY, May 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**ALL LIBRARY BOOKS MUST BE RETURNED!!!**

**- NEWS FOR PARENTS -**  
*You and/or your children  
may check out books for the summer.*

**Transitional Kindergarten –  
Kick Start Program**

St. Francis Elementary School is considering offering a "Kick Start" Transitional Kindergarten program beginning on January 6, 2010. This program would be available to students who turn five between December 3, 2009 and March 31, 2010. Students whose birthday falls on April 1 or later would not qualify. The class will be based on our current TK program, which is a wonderful springboard into Kindergarten. While there are many academic, social, and spiritual benefits to this Kick Start program, another plus is that your child will be considered a student of our school which would give them first priority into our Kindergarten the following year. If this interests you, please call the office by June 1.

## RUMBLE-MANIA RETURNS



Supreme Pro Wrestling returns to  
St. Francis on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 1p.m.

\$5.00 for students  
and  
\$10.00 for adults

Proceeds go to  
St. Francis Athletic Department

If any of you parents can donate a  
pot-luck item for the wrestlers,  
please contact Mr. Reynoso.

You can Earn Parent Hours if you do!

### Family Participation Hours Forms

are due in the office by  
June 5, 2009.

*All families are expected to perform 25 hours of service in support of the school and its activities. Hours are reported to coincide with the actual school year. Summer service hours are applied at the discretion of the parent toward the past or upcoming school year, but not both. Additional hours forms are available in the form file outside the office.*

**Yearbooks are on sale in the office.**

**\$25.00 each**

**Get them while supplies last!!**

## Religion Round-up

*"Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,  
which parted and came to rest on each one of them."  
Acts 2:3*



This weekend the Church celebrates its "birthday" with the descent of the Holy Spirit onto the apostles at Pentecost. Celebrate the Spirit by wearing red to Mass this weekend!

The prayer service last week was led by 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They chose to remember the appearances of Mary to the children at Fatima, to Bernadette at Lourdes, and to Juan Diego at Guadalupe. They reminded us that Mary wants us to pray, pray, pray, to stay close to God.

Yesterday the eighth grade led us in their final prayer service. They read about the commissioning of the disciples by Christ and how they have a similar commissioning.

All parents are invited to our Baccalaureate Mass this Friday at 8:15 a.m. The eighth grade graduation will be also on Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Next Monday will be the final prayer service of the year. The staff will lead us in blessing the students for the summer.

Blessings to you too, parents, as you begin the summer routine. Go with God and see you next year!

### **Our schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>	<u>Time</u>
Fri May 29	7 <sup>th</sup>	Baccalaureate Mass 8:15
Mon June 1	Staff	Prayer Service 8:10

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

**PARENTS, YOU AND/OR YOUR CHILDREN  
MAY CHECK OUT  
BOOKS FOR THE SUMMER**

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**Mr. Cain's Book Shelf**



Well, our Book Fair this month was another **SUCCESS**, especially in light of our recession. I thank all of you parents who remembered the importance of your child reading. My expectation was that we would have sales far less than before, but we grossed **\$5,003.58**, only \$580 less than at the Book Fair in December. **And this time our library's cash profit was \$1,501.08.**

In addition, a **VERY BIG SPECIAL THANKS** goes to all the parents who helped set up and dismantle the Book Fair, and to all the parents who spent time with me overseeing everything each day and helping ring up all the sales. Your presence is absolutely essential, as are your good humor and tolerance. I know you'll forgive me for working you *so hard!*

And, I must acknowledge my perennial "Thank-Goodness-She's-Here" helper, the generous Mrs. Pauline Daly. Yes, she was here helping again, even though her grandkids haven't been at this school for a few years. This lady remains my life-saver!

By the way, our wonderful 'Angel' from the parish (who still wishes to remain anonymous) floated again into this Book Fair and gave another donation of **\$50.00** in books and cash. Thank you, 'Angel,' for your generosity!

***Now to the New Books***

**FICTION**

**Totally Talented Pets** by Cecile Skies  
(*Littlest Pet Shop* series)

Ages 4 – 8 / "This Level 2 reader features a Littlest Pet Shop talent show in which each pet displays his or her unique skills! Who will win "best in show?"

**Rapunzel** by Samantha Brooke  
(*Littlest Pet Shop* series)

Ages 4 – 8 / "This Level 2 reader is a retelling of the classic fairy tale-- starring the Littlest Pet Shop pets!"

**Teacher's Pet** by D. Jakobs  
(*Littlest Pet Shop* series)

Ages 4 – 8 / "Find out what happens when the Littlest Pet Shop pets go to school in this Level 2 reader!"

**The Ultimate Handbook** by Samantha Brooke  
(*Littlest Pet Shop* series)

Ages 4 – 8 / "This ultimate handbook is an essential for every Littlest Pet Shop collector. Includes all of the pets from the Littlest Pet Shop toy launch, along with details about each pet's likes, dislikes, favorite foods, and favorite toys!"

**The Black Book of Secrets** by F.E. Higgins  
Ages 9 – 12 / "A boy arrives at a remote village in the dead of night. His name is Ludlow Fitch—and he is running from a most terrible past. What he is about to learn is that in this village is the life he has dreamed of—a safe place to live, and a job, as the assistant to a mysterious pawnbroker who trades people's deepest, darkest secrets for cash. Ludlow's job is to neatly transcribe the confessions in an ancient leather-bound tome: *The Black Book of Secrets*. Ludlow yearns to trust his mentor, who refuses to disclose any information on his past experiences or future intentions. What the pawnbroker does not know is, in a town brimming with secrets, the most troubling may be held by his new apprentice."

**Blue Mountain Trouble** by Martin Mordecai  
Grade 5 – 8 / "Pollyread and Jackson, 11-year-old fraternal twins, live a simple, peaceful life with their parents high in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica—until the morning that the huge, masklike head of a

goat mysteriously appears to them out of the clouds and everything begins to change. Mama gets sick, local “bad bwoy” Jammy squats on the family’s property and begins raising mysterious plants, parental secrets start to spill out of the silence . . . what’s next? Born in Jamaica but now living in Canada, Mordecai has written a nostalgic valentine to his native island that is sometimes a bit adult in its sensibility, but is always rich in characterization with a beautifully realized setting. The elements of magic and mystery are intriguing, too, but best of all is the author’s use of wonderfully idiosyncratic, powerfully expressive, and downright musical Jamaican English.”

**The Book of Time** by Guillaume Prevost  
Ages 9 – 12 / “Dramatic cover art will draw readers to this time-travel story, and the fast-paced adventure will hold their interest. Sam’s father has been missing for 10 days. Searching a dusty bookstore for clues, Sam discovers a hidden room containing an old book, a strange coin, and an oddly carved stone that send him on a gut-wrenching journey back to medieval Iona, just in time for a Viking invasion. Next, he lands in France during World War I, then in ancient Egypt. After he returns, Sam struggles to understand how the time-travel device works and what it all means. The book ends as he discovers that his father, imprisoned in the castle of Vlad Tepes (a.k.a. Dracula), has sent him a message across six centuries: Help Me, Sam. The appeal of the novel, which is translated from French, comes from both well-drawn characters and a swiftly moving story. With the central mystery as yet unsolved, a villain still unmasked, and Sam’s father in peril at the end, readers will be scrambling for the second book of the planned trilogy.”

**Catmagic** by Holly Webb  
Ages 9 – 12 / “The last thing Lottie wants is to spend the holidays with her boring uncle. But when she discovers his pet shop is full of magical animals, everything changes...There’s only one thing that could make Lottie’s summer even better - having magical problems of her own.”

**Bram Stoker’s Dracula the Graphic Novel**  
adapted by Gary Reed  
(This is a donation from a school parent)  
Ages 9 – 12 / “When Englishman Jonathan Harker is sent to Transylvania to visit his client, the mysterious nobleman Count Dracula, he uncovers

the terrifying secret of his host...Set in a world of innocence...this is an all new suspense-filled graphic novel adaptation of the benchmark horror novel.”

**Jake Ransom and the Skull King’s Shadow** by James Rollins

Grades 5 – 8 / “Rollins, a best-selling author of adult adventure, takes on the youth market with mostly good results, including a strong opener: a package from a Mayan archaeology site is lost (along with its sender) in quicksand, but it is only a decoy. Jake Ransom and his older sister receive the matching halves of a gold coin, an artifact that eventually fires them into a strange land where tribes of lost civilizations live side-by-side with prehistoric animals. In premise, this is very Harry Potter—Jake, a virtual orphan (his archaeologist parents have disappeared), has the fate of many resting on his skinny shoulders as he tries to fight a Voldemort-like specter, who has inspired traitors to his side. Stylistically, however, Rollins is no Rowling, though his short paragraphs and staccato sentences make this a fine read for the reluctant or those who put a premium on action. Oddly, things get a bit more ho-hum as they become more fantastical, but those left wondering what’s next will apparently have many sequel opportunities to find out. The intensive media campaign will no doubt promote demand.

**The Last Olympian** by Rick Riordan  
(Book 5 (the final book) in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series)  
Ages 9 – 12 / “All year the half-bloods have been preparing for battle against the Titans, knowing the odds of victory are grim. Kronos’s army is stronger than ever, and with every god and half-blood he recruits, the evil Titan’s power only grows. While the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster Typhon, Kronos begins his advance on New York City, where Mount Olympus stands virtually unguarded. Now it’s up to Percy Jackson and an army of young demigods to stop the Lord of Time. In this momentous final book in the New York Times best-selling Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, the long-awaited prophecy surrounding Percy’s sixteenth birthday unfolds. And as the battle for Western civilization rages on the streets of Manhattan, Percy faces a terrifying suspicion that he may be fighting against his own fate.”

**The Soldiers of Halla** by D.J. MacHale  
(Book Ten in the *Pendragon* series)

Ages 9 – 12 / “It has all been leading to this. Every victory. Every loss. All the thrills and sadness; the hope and despair. Bobby Pendragon's heart-pounding journey through time and space has brought him to this epic moment. He and his fellow Travelers must join forces for one last desperate battle against Saint Dane. At stake is not only the tenth and final territory, but all that ever was or will be. Everywhere. This is the war for Halla. Every question is answered. Every truth is revealed. The final battle has begun.”

**Star Wars: Rebel Force** by Alex Wheeler  
Ages 9 – 12 / “It is a critical moment in the struggle between the Rebels and the Empire: the Force itself hangs in the balance, and all the hopes of the galaxy depend on the adventures of Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, and a host of other heroes...”

## NON FICTION

**George Washington Carver** by Tonya Bolden  
Grades 3 – 6 / “In the latest standout biography by Coretta Scott King Honor author Bolden, the writer’s expressive powers marry to a truly fascinating subject, the slave-born black scientist whose affectionate nicknames included “the Wizard of the Goober and the Yam.” Bolden provides the requisite biographical details, including Carver’s early, tragic separation from his mother, but also traces themes of his career, drawing connections between his kind masters’ waste-not values and his future devotion to finding new uses for farm by-products. Offering sourced quotations throughout, Bolden covers subtleties that simpler treatments tend to bypass, such as Carver’s trepidation about leaving the mostly white Midwest to join Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute. Directly and indirectly, Bolden also addresses criticisms of Carver for his lack of political activism: the mild-mannered researcher, Bolden writes, “was his own unique self with much to offer from his insights...into nature’s ways and gifts.” Photos and reproductions, many of Carver’s own paintings, are exceptional, and their arrangement in the style of an old-fashioned album lends the book a suitable gravitas. A selected

bibliography closes this absorbing look at a man whose celebration in a traveling exhibition, launching this month at Chicago’s Field Museum (a partner in this book’s publication), will draw extra attention to both the Peanut Man and this fine portrait.”

**Michelle Obama: Meet the First Lady** by David Bergen Brophy

Grades 4 – 8 / “A great choice for reluctant readers, this title introduces the First Lady with accessible language and anecdotes from Obama’s friends and family. From descriptions of her childhood bedroom to her Princeton dorm room decor, the small details contribute to a larger sense of the First Lady in various stages of her life. It’s the direct quotes, though, including many from Obama herself, that will draw readers most. Many of these quotes have been repeated in other youth biographies about Obama, and in fact, one quote is repeated within the pages of this volume. Still, for readers encountering them for the first time, the quotes add immediacy and personality to what could otherwise have been a somewhat dry presentation in a title that lacks photos. Many young people will enjoy his-and-her remarks about the Obamas’ first impressions of each other, and Brophy is frank about the strains that political life places on a family, particularly when one parent hits the campaign trail...”

**Mr. President: A Book of U.S. Presidents** by George Sullivan

Ages 9 – 12 / “Hail to the chief! The highest title in the United States belongs to the president. Here, readers will learn about all the inspiring individuals who’ve occupied the Oval Office--from George Washington to the president elected in 2008! Chock full of information, this accessible book chronicles each president’s life and times, and even highlights some funny anecdotes. The process of electing a president is clearly explained, as is the job of a president. Freshly updated for ‘09, the cover features the newly elected commander-in-chief!”

**Miley Cyrus: Miles To Go** by Miley Cyrus with Hilary Liftin

Ages 9 – 12 / “Three years ago, Miley Cyrus was a virtual unknown. Her life in rural Tennessee was filled with family, friends, school, cheerleading, and the daily tasks of living on a farm. And then came a little show called *Hannah Montana*. Almost

overnight, Miley would rocket to superstardom, becoming a television and singing phenomenon. Quiet days were replaced with sold-out concerts, television appearances, and magazine shoots. But through it all, Miley has remained close to her family and friends and has stayed connected to the Southern roots that made her so strong. In *Miles to Go*, Miley offers an honest, humorous, and often touching story of one girl's coming-of-age--from private moments with her pappy to off-roading with her dad, Billy Ray, to her run-ins with mean girls. Miley talks about suffering through drama and heartbreak and coming out the other end unscathed (relatively). And now for the first time, she will discuss it all--the milestones still left to reach (driver's license! voting!), dreams to live out (travel to Asia! find true love!), and the lessons to be learned (remembering to enjoy every moment!). This is a truly unique look inside the world of one of today's biggest and brightest stars as she tackles looking back and moving forward."

