



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

November 25, 2008

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.

Look inside for articles from our 8th grade journalists!!

Principal's Message

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving! Even during these trying economic times, we all have so much to be thankful for. God has given us countless blessings, and it is our responsibility to stop often and thank Him for all of them.

Today, your child is bringing home their first trimester report card. If your child is in grades 3-8, their grades should be of no surprise to you, as you have access to them online 24 hours a day. Please check on the report card to see if your child's teacher has checked to schedule a conference with you. As always, it is our teachers' desire to work with you to assist with every child's academic success.

Also included with the report card are your child's ITBS results (grades 2-8 only) from the standardized testing they took in September. I have attached a letter explaining more about the test, which should answer any questions you may have. If you need more clarification, please feel free to ask me.

In an effort to be as safe and prepared as possible for any emergency, I had an earthquake/fire drill while in church on Monday. The children handled it incredibly well and did a wonderful job following all instructions. I was very proud of them, and although I hope we never have to actually utilize the evacuation drill from church, I feel confident that we are prepared as a school.

Again, Happy Thanksgiving to all of you! May our loving God continue to bless you and your beautiful families!

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power



**St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
November-December 2008**

November

- 25 1st Trimester Report Card Day
- 26-28 NO SCHOOL/Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- 1 Last Day to RSVP for Family Fun Night
- 1-5 Christmas Book Fair
NO AFTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
- 5 Family Fun Night, 5:00 – 8:30 pm
- 8 School-wide Mass
Led by 5th Grade, 9:00 am
- 11 Advent Reconciliation Service, 10:30 am
- 11-12 See's Candy Pick Up, Assisi Room
- 18 Christmas Pageant, 7pm
- 19 Last Day of School
NOON DISMISSAL/NO EXTENSION

School Resumes January 5, 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Due to a diocesan teacher inservice, we will have a **minimum day** on **Friday, April 3rd**. Teachers from our diocese will be coming here to meet with their counterpart grade level teachers. **All students will be dismissed at noon.** Extension will be open for those children enrolled.

Lost & Found

There are several nameless, non-uniform items in the Lost & Found. Items include jackets, computer flash drive, thermos, etc.

PLEASE CHECK THE LOST & FOUND OR CALL THE OFFICE TO CLAIM THESE.

Items not claimed after our return from Thanksgiving break will be donated to charity.

Lost & Found is located on the second floor outside the office.

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Jerry Gonsalves, Diane Waters, and the facilities committee for coordinating the renovation of the sidewalk strip outside our school! We now have a safe, sidewalk strip, free from roots, sprinklerheads, and mud. Thank you, thank you!



"Buon Natale"

On December 11th, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Italian classes will celebrate "Natale" (Christmas) by making "Sfingi" (Italian donuts).

They will translate the Italian recipe, form cooking groups, bring the ingredients, and then make (and eat, Mangia!) this wonderful treat. **Buon Appetito !!**

WELCOME FUTURE WOLVES!

Congratulations to the Villaflor family (Brandon, first grade) who welcomed baby daughter, Jocelyn, into the world on November 3rd!

Congratulations also to the Wong-Martinusen family (Alana, fifth grade) who welcomed baby daughter, Adelae, into the world on November 17th!

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Crandall's husband's Aunt Margie. May she rest in peace.

REMINDING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the parents who have already completed the mandatory online safety course for school volunteers. So far, I have received a record of completion from the diocese for 49 of you. If you haven't yet begun the online training, go to **shieldthevulnerable.com** and take the course. It takes about one hour and can be stopped and continued at your convenience. This is a diocesan mandatory requirement for you to volunteer around our children and needs to be completed by the end of the school year. Thank you!

UNIFORM REMINDER

All students must be in proper, clean uniform everyday. Uniforms must not be torn or altered in any way to make a fashion statement. Only uniform sweatshirts or sweaters are allowed in the classroom. See Student Handbook for more details.

HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TESTS

The High School Placement Tests for all students interested in applying to St. Francis, Christian Brothers, Loretto, and Jesuit High Schools will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Contact each High School for the times.



Religion Round-up

Await the Lord with hope!

This weekend the church begins a new liturgical year with the first week of Advent. During Advent we prepare our hearts for Jesus's coming in history (2008 years ago), in mystery (*in the present time*), and in majesty (*the Second Coming at the end of time*). Most of our readings during the year will be from the gospel of Mark.

Our second graders treated us to a beautiful prayer service about St. Elizabeth of Hungary on her feast day of Nov. 17. They shared how other people in their class act like a saint.

On Nov. 24th the first grade prepared their very first prayer service. They showed us how we can praise and thank God by helping and caring for others.

The prayer services in December will involve building a Jesse Tree. Each week we will add more signs of God's presence in the time preceding Jesus.

Please note that we will have school Mass on Monday December 8th to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a holy day of obligation.

Our schedule for next few weeks is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Led by</u>	<u>Time</u>
Mon Dec 1	4 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Dec 8	5 th Mass	9:00 a.m.
Thurs Dec 11	Advent Reconciliation Service	10:30 a.m.
Mon Dec 15	6 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.

Parents are always welcome to attend prayer services and Masses.

The Haunted Hall of Blood and Guts Enter if you Dare

By: Eighth Grade Students Alyssa Byerly, Alex Lemon, Elaina Z. Padilla, Stephen Sanchez, Daniel Stites, and Amelia Herrera

On Halloween Day, 2008, the eighth grade class filled the third floor hallway with monsters and creatures of all sorts, including a witch, a cat, a pirate, a zombie, a caveman, Old Father Time, a faceless man, and Jack Skellington. A few favorites were the bees, the werewolf, and Jason, from Friday the 13th. Many students who entered the haunted hall said that they loved the sound effects of screaming and the drumming. Fifth grader Jonah Artru said, "It was spooktastic." Fifth grader Hjordis Grogan said, "Scariest than last year!" Mrs. DaRosa even said, "It was an outstanding theatrical performance. It really brought me into the moment and was the spirit of Halloween." As it turns out, everyone loved the Haunted Hall and was glad to have some sort of excitement at school on Halloween.

The costumed 8th graders were:

- Jace Becker – Jason
- Elise B. – Geisha
- Alyssa – A Cat
- Cydney – Scream
- Madeline – Witch
- Marisol – Vampire
- Andrew – Mad Scientist
- Hudson – Dead Drummer
- Miranda – Egyptian Princess
- Rigo – Zombie
- Devin – Old Father Time
- Dominic – Burglar
- Lucia – Fairy
- Peter – Scream
- Gilbert – Jack Skellington
- Reilly – Werewolf
- Charlie – Faceless Man
- Monica – Pirate Lord
- Stephen – Mike Myers
- Troy – Eternal Darkness
- Daniel – Gorilla
- Toby – Pirate
- Kendall – Caveman
- Audrey, Amelia, Elizabeth, Alex, and Elaina – Dead Bees

Sadly, Antonio could not make it to this event. Although he did comment, "I'm sorry that I missed it, it sounded fun."

The 8th grade wants to thank all their victims for making their last Halloween at this school exciting and especially for the support of their creepy, old substitute. (P.S. She is really a witch!). Hopefully you will have the same experience when you are in the 8th grade.

SLE: Leads and Cooperates

Authors Share their Knowledge

By: Eighth Grade Students Audrey Carroll, Dominic Loeffler, Madeline Esquivel, Rigo Herrera, and Reilly Metzker

So far the eighth grade has had the privilege of meeting two great authors, Caroline T. Patti and Elizabeth A. Hanks. Caroline T. Patti has already published her first book in a series of five, titled The World Spins Madly On, while Elizabeth A. Hanks is still in the process of publishing her book about a sixth grader named Piper. Although these authors differ, they both have great skills in writing.

Last September, Hanks surprised the class with her outgoing and witty attitude towards "vomiting for your brain," a.k.a. journaling. We were easily comforted by her presence and the way she related to us. After spending one class period with her, we were told to go home and write a journal entry for every day of the weekend. When we got back we weren't afraid of sharing what we had written.

Hanks also told us to not be afraid to write down what we were thinking. She inspired within us a new confidence in writing. Before she left she also told us that she would send the first draft of her book for us to look over and give her tips on what we like and do not like about it. We hope to see that draft soon and to get to meet up with "Liz" again.

Caroline T. Patti was interviewed by the eighth grade on the 14th of November. She told us that she has two daughters who go to St. Francis Elementary, a kindergartener and a 3rd grader.

The World Spins Madly On is about an eighth grade girl named Nettie who likes a boy named Andrew. Andrew has become a jerk, even though he used to be Nettie's best friend when they were

kids. Here is what Antonio Alvarado has to say about The World Spins Madly On. "It was very funny. I liked the characters and it was one of the best books I've read in a long time. I would love to read the sequel."

Mrs. Patti hasn't come up with the title for the sequel yet. Miranda Hendrickson says, "I am excited because the first book was great and I'm sure the second one will be way better."

Mrs. Patti told the class that it took her five years to write and revise The World Spins Madly On. It was originally a college project, but Caroline had a feeling that it could become a great hit. Nevertheless she had to rewrite the story when the publisher did not like the way Drew (a mean girl and Andrew's girlfriend) was the main character for two chapters. After that she decided to write it with one half of Andrew's point of view and one half of Nettie's point of view. Lucia Lopez said, "It was an honor to have another author in our class. I thought that the way she had written her book was very interesting and unlike most authors."

Everyone in our class read the novel and most people loved it and can't wait for the next books. Everyone we talked to would give The World Spins Madly On five stars. We hope that the next book will be just as good, maybe even better, than the first book!

SLE: Demonstrates a Curiosity and Respect for Learning

Classical Music: A Teaching Point?

By: Eighth Grade Students Elise Borgfeldt, Elizabeth Herrera, and Hudson Grieve

Picture this, a large group of eighth graders milling about thinking and looking at a huge stage where the altar of the church would usually be, wondering "Why? Why so many strange instruments and doodads? What's with the huge stepping stool in the middle?" These questions came about at the All Hallows Church Symphony that your St. Francis fifth through eighth grade went to on October 24, 2008.

First Grade Books

By: Eighth Grade Students Cydney Chilimidos, Lucia Lopez, Miranda Hendrickson, and Marisol Figueroa

This past Halloween season, the eighth grade class had the great honor of working with our first graders to help each one of them publish his or her own book. It was a great experience for the first grade as well as for the eighth grade. First, Mrs. Stefanki taught the first grade about the writing process. They got very excited when she informed them that they were going to get to be authors. The books were to be about a witch.

At first, the first graders had a little trouble developing their stories, but when their personal eighth grade editor prompted them, they did better than we could have imagined!

Once they completed the story with illustrations, which they drew, they got to sit in the "Author's Chair" and have their editor read their story to both classes. Every child in the "Author's Chair" glowed with satisfaction!

A few days later, the eighth grade received a letter from the first grade. It read as follows:

**"Thank you 8th grade for publishing our books. We had fun learning from you!
Love, 1st grade."**

Mrs. Crandall, first grade teacher, added on to that letter, writing:

"And thank you from me, eighth grade, for using your time to complete this project. It was also very touching to hear you read the finished project as the author sat in the author's chair, their little faces beaming with pride! Again, thank you for being such good role models.

Love, Mrs. Crandall."

Reporters Lucia and Cydney interviewed Mariah Hudnut and Vincent Burton from first grade about their books. Mariah said, "It was fun having a new person in eighth grade instead of the one in Kindergarten." Vincent said, "Making the story was fun, we got to make our own book." They both expressed happiness with the way we read their books to the class.

Our students got to hear the very interesting musical composition that was played in the huge, elegant, All Hallows Church. It was Beethoven's ninth symphony (commonly known as the Ode to Joy). This symphony is very moving and was beautifully played by the Academy at All Hallows. The Academy is new to Sacramento's classic music scene, but they played expertly under Pete Nowlen, the conductor, who masterfully controlled the movements of "The Ode to Joy."

Reporters for the Gubbio Gazette quickly and helpfully collected some of St. Francis's class thoughts about the symphony. Our music director, Mrs. Stites, said, "If that had been now, he (Beethoven) would probably be in foster care." Eighth grader Audrey Carroll said, "I think they talked too much, and that made me sleepy when they talked too much. It was really pretty, though." Devin Hunter (eighth grade) believed, "he (Beethoven) would be mute."

Sixth grader Enriqe Ramirez thought it was "cool." Jason Byerly (fifth grade) thought it was "good, and I liked the tone." Christian Edwards, also in the fifth grade, did not like the food. Christian thought the apples were too smooshy, but the turkey sandwiches were good.

To prepare for the symphony, our teachers taught us about Beethoven's life. Mrs. Stites also made a CD of "The Ninth Symphony" for each grade so we would be familiar with it. Eighth grade also viewed a great excerpt from Immortal Beloved in which a young Beethoven floats in a pond on a star-filled night while "Ode to Joy" plays in the background.

SLE: Appreciates Diversity and Uniqueness of Others

SLE: Develops and Shares Knowledge and Talents

Eighth Grade Loses to Seventh Grade in Jog-a-Thon Competition

**By: Andrew Gosselin, Peter Mackensen,
Gilbert Martinez, and Antonio Alvarado**

It all began before the Jog-a-Thon started, when the eighth and seventh graders began a competition to see which class could raise the most money. An eighth grader who prefers to remain anonymous suggested that we put a reward in for the winner; the loser would have to throw a party for the winner, and the party would include some "delicious" food. The eighth grade really wanted to win this competition over the seventh graders.

The seventh grade took the lead early, and had their hopes up, not knowing that the eighth grade had a "secret weapon." Then the eighth grade's "secret weapon" put them in the lead. However, the seventh grade teacher, Ms. Emery, inspired the seventh grade to bring in lots of money.

Then the final day came, the day of the Jog-a-Thon. Both classes tried to run to victory. After the Jog-a-Thon, the eighth grade had high hopes.

Then the announcement came. Both classes listened closely. Unfortunately, the announcement destroyed the eighth grader's hopes, while the seventh graders rejoiced in their victory.

When asked about the seventh grade win, seventh grader Andrew McGee said, "I was excited that those eighth graders will have to serve our class food." As you can see from this response, it's clear that the seventh grade has taken this competition way too seriously.

After learning of their defeat, the eighth grade discussed what to do for the seventh graders. The eighth grade is leaning toward making pancakes for them. Who knows, maybe the eighth grade will have some fun cooking the pancakes. Obviously they would rather make pancakes than do work.

SLE: Owns His/Her Choices

Here We Come A-Caroling!

Our school Choir was asked to perform at the Christmas Tree Lighting in Old Sacramento on Wednesday November 26th. We are looking forward to singing Christmas Carols in front of the mayor!

The choir will also be singing for the Festival of Trees and Lights on December 4th at 2:00 p.m. in Downtown Plaza.

Finally, we will entertain the residents of St. Francis Manor at 25th and J St. on Friday December 12 at 1:15 p.m. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Mr. Cain's Book Shelf

FICTION



Thanksgiving Turkey Trouble by Abby Klein
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "It's a Thanksgiving disaster for Freddy Thresher! When his first-grade class begins planning the annual Thanksgiving play, everyone will have a role. Freddy's friends are all happy to be Pilgrims and Indians, but there is one part that nobody wants to be: the turkey! Freddy hopes he won't get the part, but – you guessed it – he gets the unlucky role. Now Freddy has to find a way to play the turkey while everyone is laughing at him... For extra fun, the word "fin" is hidden in every illustration, and children will have a good time playing the games in "Freddy Fun Pages" at the end of the book. Attention shark lovers! Freddy Thresher is a first-grade expert on sharks, and each book features cool facts about sharks as an added bonus."

Charlie Bone and the Beast by Jenny Nimmo
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Life should be perfect for Charlie now that his parents have

