



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

October 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.

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

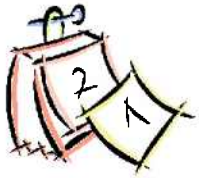
Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parents,

It was wonderful seeing many of you at our Jog-A-Thon last Friday. The children are always brimming with excitement and have such energy; if only we could get them to do their homework with the same gusto! This is the time of year when we specifically stop and give thanks for our many blessings. As I have told the students, we are all extremely blessed, even in this economic downturn. We all have the opportunity during the next couple of weeks to share what we have with our brothers and sisters who are truly in need. We are participating again in UNICEF's Trick or Treat campaign to assist children around the world and in the Sacramento Food Bank's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Please join us in utilizing these two events as community service lessons for your children, and by reminding them of Jesus' words, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me." Thank you in advance for your anticipated support and participation!

The end of the first trimester is approaching in a few weeks. If your child is in grades 3-8 please make sure you are checking their progress through our online grading program. First trimester report cards will be given out on Tuesday, November 24th.

In the Peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power



St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
October-November 2009

October

- 30 Halloween Class Parties, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Students may wear orange and black
- 31 Halloween

November

- 1 All Saints Day
- 3 Make Up and Volleyball Pictures
- 6 NOON DISMISSAL/WASC Preparation
All Kindergarten to attend classes,
8:00 am – 11:00 am, TK 8:00 am – 10:30 am
- 11 NO SCHOOL/Veterans Day

ATTENTION !!!

It's almost BOOK FAIR time!

Look at the end of this GUBBIO for details.



MAKE UP & VOLLEYBALL PICTURES

WILL BE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009.

**STUDENTS MUST BE IN SCHOOL
UNIFORM
(OR VOLLEYBALL UNIFORM)
FOR TEAM PICTURES.**

JOG-A-THON YEARBOOK PICTURES

If you have Jog-A-Thon pictures you'd like to submit for the yearbook, please drop them off in the school office. CDs welcomed!

Religion Round-up

"Whatever you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me"

Mat. 26:40



This year make Halloween count. The 6th grade is once again sponsoring the "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" drive. Their prayer service on Monday connected the Corporal Works of Mercy with participation in this project. If your child will be trick-or-treating on Halloween, encourage him or her to carry an orange UNICEF box. Last year we collected over \$900. Mrs. Power challenged us to break \$1000.

The prayer service last Monday was led by our 3rd grade. They reenacted the conversion of St. Paul. They reminded us that we are missionaries, too, by our actions and words.

Next Monday, the 4th grade will celebrate Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, on the Feast of All Souls, November 2nd. They will be building an altar to remember those who have died.

Congratulations to first grader **Paige Saylor** and the Saylor family. Paige was baptized at St. Francis Parish on Sunday Oct. 25th. Welcome to the Church, Paige!

Our schedule for the rest of the month is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Time</i>
Mon Nov 2	4 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Mon Nov 9	8 th Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.
Thurs Nov 12	7 th Mass	8:30 a.m.
Mon Nov 16	2 nd Prayer Service	8:10 a.m.

Parents are always welcome to join us for prayer services and Masses.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Skeletexts (our Halloween holiday grams) were selling like hot cakes this year. They will be delivered to the classrooms on Friday, October 30th. Don't forget to wear black and orange on that day!

Hopefully, you've noticed the barrels as you walk through the front door of the school. They are for our Thanksgiving food drive for the Sacramento food Bank. Don't forget your donations for the less fortunate members of our community.

WELCOME BABY COSTA!

We have a new little wolf in our St. Francis School community! Congratulations to Amy and Josh Costa on the birth of their baby boy, Miles, and to big sister, Cecilia (kindergarten), also. We look forward to meeting him soon!

Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



FICTION

The Spoon in the Stone: A Lesson in Serving Others by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso
(Big Idea Books / VeggieTown Values) (Bk. 1)
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “Junior Asparagus and Laura Carrot learn the value of having a servant's heart. Junior and Laura have more important things to do than helping an angry old pickle. A visit to Mr. O'Malley sends them into the world of Ham-a-lot, where they discover what happens when servants stop serving others. Laura is captured by the dreaded giant, Grizzle, but no one will help. Junior is left alone to save the day and everyone learns to take time to serve one another.”

In the Rain Forest by Maurice Pledger
(A Nature Trail Book – A touch-and-feel adventure)

Reading level: Grades 1 – 3 / “Open up Maurice Pledger's wonderful world of nature with these interactive touch-and-feel books. Inside, young readers can stroke a furry monkey or a fuzzy bat, feel a beetle's shiny shell and much more. Complete with flaps to lift and seven jungle frogs to find... On every page there's a surprise...”

A Visitor for Bear by Bonny Becker

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “Bear seems happy in his solitude and even has a sign posted on his house, “No visitors allowed.” A mouse who taps on Bear's door is told to go away. But Mouse won't, and keeps reappearing until Bear finally dissolves into tears and gives in. Soon Bear realizes it's pleasant having someone else around, and when Mouse is ready to leave, Bear doesn't want him to go; he even removes the sign, declaring that it was for really just for salesmen, “not for friends.” Watercolor, ink and gouache illustrations in a soft color palette show a comfortable, expansive house that seems to emphasize Bear's need for a friend to fill it up. The characters are highly expressive, making the pictures fun, and the dramatic text will lend itself to reading aloud...”

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / “It's not easy for duck parents to find a safe place to bring up their ducklings, but during a rest stop in Boston's Public Garden, Mr. and Mrs. Mallard think they just might have found the perfect spot--no foxes or turtles in sight, plenty of peanuts from pleasant passers-by, and the benevolent instincts of a kindly police officer to boot. Young readers will love the mother duck's proud, loving protection of her wee webbed ones, and those with fond memories of Boston will enjoy familiar locales, from Beacon Hill to Louisburg Square, and over the Charles River--often from a duck's-eye view. Robert McCloskey, creator of [Blueberries for Sal](#), never fails to elicit happy story-time giggles from youngsters, and his soft, brown-toned,

Caldecott-winning illustrations make this gentle world come alive.”

Bear Cub by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso
(All Aboard Science Reader)
Reading level 2 / Grades 1 – 3 / “Another fabulous nonfiction joins the ranks of this successful series, in the style of *Baby Alligator* and *Baby Wolf*. The easy-to-read narrative voice and detailed illustrations follow the development of three young bear cubs as they are born, leave the den, and learn to survive in the world.”

Zen Shorts by Jon J. Muth
Reading level: Grades Kindergarten - 4 /
“Beautifully illustrated in two distinct styles, this book introduces readers to a Zen approach to the world, wrapped in a story about three siblings and their new neighbor, a panda. One by one, the children visit Stillwater, enjoying his company and listening to him tell a brief tale that illustrates a Zen principle. Each time, there is a link between the conversation shared by Stillwater and his visitor and the story he tells; it's somewhat tenuous in regard to the two older siblings, quite specific in the case of Karl, the youngest. The tales invite the children to consider the world and their perceptions from a different angle; for Karl, the panda's story gently but pointedly teaches the benefits of forgiveness. Richly toned and nicely detailed watercolors depict the "real world" scenes, while those accompanying the Zen lessons employ black lines and strokes on pastel pages to create an interesting blend of Western realism and more evocative Japanese naturalism. Taken simply as a picture book, *Zen Shorts* is interesting and visually lovely. As an introduction to Zen, it is a real treat, employing familiar imagery to prod children to approach life and its circumstances in profoundly "un-Western" ways. An author's note discusses the basic concept of Zen and details the sources of Stillwater's stories. Appealing enough for a group read-aloud, but also begging to be shared and discussed by caregiver and child, *Zen Shorts* is a notable achievement.”

Why Frogs are Wet by Judy Hawes
Reading level: Ages 5-8 / “This volume from the *Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science* series, first published in 1968, clearly presents basic information about the physical characteristics, evolution, and behavior of frogs. Minor changes make the text more precise and inclusive. A two-page appendix entitled "What do frog eggs feel like?" is a new addition. This section suggests making tapioca and comparing its texture with that of a boiled egg after five minutes, a few hours, and overnight. It fulfills requirements of the series' new format, but seems a bit of a stretch educationally. The most striking change comes in the new illustrations: Fraser's well-composed and beautifully colored acrylic paintings add immeasurably to the overall look of the book, increasing its eye appeal as well as its educational value. A fine choice for primary-grade science collections.”

Stallion in Spooky Hollow by Ben M. Baglio
(Animal Ark Holiday Treasury #16) (Animal Ark Series #53)
Reading level: Grades 3 – 5 / “At Animal Ark, Mandy Hope helps her parents treat animals of all shapes and sizes. Even outside the clinic, Mandy can't resist helping any animal in need. This Halloween, Mandy and her parents are staying on the southern coast of England, taking care of a friend's veterinary clinic. Mandy is thrilled to care for some new pets. She's also eager to explore the misty countryside, said to be haunted by a ghostly horse and rider – the spirit of the notorious smuggler, Harry Hawkins. Mandy can't believe it when she sees the galloping horseman that very night! But investigation reveals the pair to be much more earthly. Someone is trying desperately to scare people from the area nicknamed “Spooky Hollow” by locals. Can Mandy figure out why in time help the culprit?”

Mimosa and the River of Wisdom by J.H. Sweet
(*The Fairy Chronicles* series)
Reading level: Grades 3 - 5 / “Inside you is the power to do anything. For Mimosa, protecting all the people of the world may be easier than saving just one. Blessed with the gift of great caring and understanding, Alexandra Hastings

