



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

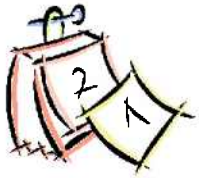
Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parents,

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

leads the fight against the spirit of ignorance. But even the most sensitive fairy cannot understand why her mother continues to smoke. She knows that she wants to quit, but somehow she just can't do it. Mimosa's magic could help-but Mother Nature only permits magical solutions for magical problems! When the fairy with the gift of limitless love finds a problem with no solution, she may have to decide who needs that love most. What if you discovered you had magical fairy powers? Meet the girls of *The Fairy Chronicles*, otherwise normal girls like you who are blessed by Mother Nature with special gifts. Their extraordinary adventures will change the world!"

Twister on Tuesday by Mary Pope Osborne
(*Magic Tree House #23*)

Reading level: Ages 6 – 9 / "In book 23 of the *Magic Tree House*, award-winning author Mary Pope Osborne's popular young adventure series, siblings Jack and Annie travel back to American pioneer times. Their task, assigned by mysterious Camelot librarian Morgan le Fay, is to find "something to learn." When their magic tree house alights on a Kansas prairie in the 1870s, Jack and Annie quickly find a one-room schoolhouse with classes in session. Something to learn! After an all-too-brief school day, the two return to the tree house with their mission completed. But wait: "In the distance, twisting black clouds had dropped out of the storm clouds. They swirled into a funnel shape." A twister! And the young teacher and students in the school don't realize there's a storm cellar under the floor. Jack and Annie must brave the howling winds to return and save their new friends. Osborne's insatiable devotees will devour her latest adventure story, following [Civil War on Sunday](#), [Revolutionary War on Wednesday](#), and all the other titles in this exciting series. What better way to learn about history than to travel through time and space, experiencing it firsthand?"

Dog Days by Jeff Kinney
(This is *Book 4 of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series!* ! !)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "It's summer vacation, the weather's great, and all the kids are having fun outside. So where's Greg

Heffley? Inside his house, playing video games with the shades drawn. Greg, a self-confessed "indoor person," is living out his ultimate summer fantasy: no responsibilities and no rules. But Greg's mom has a different vision for an ideal summer . . . one packed with outdoor activities and "family togetherness." Whose vision will win out? Or will a new addition to the Heffley family change everything?"

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

Reading level: Grades 3 – 6 / "In this enchanted and enchanting adventure, Minli, whose name means "quick thinking," lives with her desperately poor parents at the confluence of Fruitless Mountain and the Jade River. While her mother worries and complains about their lot, her father brightens their evenings with storytelling. One day, after a goldfish salesman promises that his wares will bring good luck, Minli spends one of her only two coins in an effort to help her family. After her mother ridicules what she believes to be a foolish purchase, Minli sets out to find the Old Man of the Moon, who, it is told, may impart the true secret to good fortune. Along the way, she finds excitement, danger, humor, magic, and wisdom, and she befriends a flightless dragon, a talking fish, and other companions and helpmates in her quest. With beautiful language, Lin creates a strong, memorable heroine and a mystical land. Stories, drawn from a rich history of Chinese folktales, weave throughout her narrative, deepening the sense of both the characters and the setting and smoothly furthering the plot. Children will embrace this accessible, timeless story about the evil of greed and the joy of gratitude. Lin's own full-color drawings open each chapter."

Children Just Like Me: Our Favorite Stories From Around the World by Jamila Gavin
(A DK Publishing Book)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "*Our Favorite Stories* have been chosen and retold by prize-winning children's author Jamila Gavin and illustrated by Amanda Hall. The combination of brilliant storytelling, beautiful illustration, and stunning photography is unique. The ten children who introduce us to the stories in this book were originally featured in *Children Just*

Like Me, by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley. This extraordinary portrait of the daily lives, families, hopes, and dreams of the world's children was the children's publishing sensation of 1995, and was selected as an ALSC – ALA notable children's book. Barnabas and Anabel traveled for nearly two years to every corner of the globe to photograph and interview the children."

Williams and the Great Escape by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

(This is the author of *The Egypt Game*)
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "William S. Baggett is a good kid trapped in a really awful family. William has his running-away money ready to go, he's just been waiting until he's older than twelve to leave. When his big brothers flush his sister's pet guinea pig down the toilet, she insists they leave now. And take the two littlest Baggetts with them. So they head out in the middle of the night, ready to escape to their Aunt Fiona's house. Unfortunately the trip doesn't go exactly as planned. It's not so easy traveling with two little kids, and some help from a lonely rich girl makes it even more complicated. Will they ever make it to Aunt Fiona's? And if they do, will she let them stay? This is the story of four children who learn that sometimes you have to run away before you can find your way home."

City of Fire by Laurence Yep

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Sure to appeal to fans of Rick Riordan and Eoin Colfer, this action-packed tale takes readers on an unforgettable journey through an alternate version of our world in 1941—a world filled with magical beings such as dragons in human form, tiny "lap griffins," reincarnations of legendary Chinese warriors, Japanese folk creatures, and goddesses in disguise ... Twelve-year-old Scirye sets out to ...recover [a] precious item. Helping her are Bayang, a dragon disguised as a Pinkerton agent; Leech, a boy with powers he has not yet discovered; and Leech's loyal companion Koko, who has a secret of his own. All have a grudge against the thieves who stole the treasure: the evil dragon Badik and the mysterious Mr. Roland. Scirye and her companions pursue the thieves to Houliani, a new Hawaiian island being

created by magic. There, they befriend Pele, the volatile and mercurial goddess of volcanoes. But even with Pele on their side, they may not be able to stop Mr. Roland from gaining what he seeks: the Five Lost Treasures of Emperor Yu. Together, the treasures will give him the power to alter the very fabric of the universe."

This Book is Not Good For You by pseudonymous bosch

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Between the pages of this book lies the secret to the best-tasting chocolate in all the world. I promise, your taste buds will tingle. Your palette will sing! Oh no, have I accidentally tempted you to read this book? I will warn you, however, the most delicious things are *never* good for you...and this story is particularly scrumptious! In this tooth-rotting adventure, Cass's mom has been kidnapped by the evil dessert chef and chocolatier, Señor Hugo! The ransom...the legendary tuning fork. Can Cass and Max-Ernest find the magical instrument before it's too late? Will they discover the evil secret ingredient to Señor Hugo's chocolate success? If you're tempted, take a taste, but just remember...this book is not good for you."

NON FICTION

DK Eye Wonder Rocks and Minerals by Caroline Bingham

Reading level: Grades 3 – 8 / "Eye Wonder Rocks and Minerals introduces geologic elements to budding scientists -- Did you know that the amount of gold in any material is measured in carats and that 24-carat gold is pure gold? Find out facts like this and much more in this fascinating guide to rocks and minerals." "Dig into the earth and discover the amazing treasures beneath our feet. Travel on an incredible journey through earth. Take trips through deep diamond mines, locate hidden secrets in the rocks, and find out what salt really is. Packed with facts, accessible text, and dramatic, atmospheric photography, *Eye Wonders* are the perfect educational start for young children."

1000 Facts on Rocks & Minerals by Chris & Helen Pellant: Consultant: Keith Ambrose
“Discover the world of rocks and minerals – Moh’s hardness scale, fossil fuels, rock formation, and gems are all explained and accompanied by stunning photographs and artwork. Fascinating facts about strange mineral properties, rock erosion, and features help to make this book an indispensable geological guide. Detailed images provide a fantastic visual account that is ideal for use at home and at school. Ten bulleted facts on every spread; Fascinating fact panels; Highlighted subject areas; hundreds of color illustrations and pictures.”

Rocks and Minerals (National Audubon First Field Guide) by Edward Ricciuti and Margaret W. Carruthers
Reading level: Grades 5 – Up / Ed. Note: 2 reviews are copied.

“**Amazon.com Review:** This book is part of a series of guides designed for [those] interested in natural history and nature... Each guide [*Rocks and Minerals, Birds, Wildflowers, and Insects*] is appropriately sized to fit in a field vest pocket. Readers who remember previous versions of these field guides from the 1970s that were dull and overly detailed will be pleasantly surprised. These books are arguably the most beautifully photographed and laid out field guides yet published for young people. Each book has an introductory section filled with interesting facts, descriptions of early naturalists, definitions of many of the terms used in the book, and a guide to using the field guide portion of the book. Best of all, the books also come equipped with laminated field “cheat sheet” cards, for quick identification while on the go, in any kind of weather. Each field guide features 50 common specimens with photos and brief descriptions of many more regionally occurring rocks and minerals. Brief discussions of threatened and endangered species are particularly valuable. Great first guides for children and adults with limited natural history background. The *Rocks and Minerals* guide has excellent photographs and descriptions of many minerals and rock types. Most junior naturalists will never see mineral crystals in the

field as shown in the photographs, but the guide gives a good understanding of where and how these minerals formed.”

“**From School Library Journal:** ... These handsome books, illustrated with vibrant, full-color photographs, have a lot to offer, but calling them “first field guides” is somewhat misleading. They assume some previous knowledge and background vocabulary, and are not designed to give users quick reference to found items. Instead, they introduce their respective subjects and offer tips on equipment and observation. “How to look” sections give the basic science behind the fields of study. Then come the actual guides, which contain photographs of 50 common wildflowers or rocks and other similar species or formations. Boxed inserts detail the specific information. In *Wildflowers*, each entry lists what to look for, leaves, height, when the flower blooms, habitat, range, and cautions (when applicable). For *Rocks*, the boxed inserts give the mineral composition, texture, color, and environment. Each book concludes with an illustrated glossary; *Wildflowers* includes pictures of the 50 state flowers. Both titles have current lists for further reading that cover a wide range of reading levels and include Web sites. These are attractive and useful additions, but are not stand-alone field guides, per se.”

Mummies and Pyramids by Will Osborne and Mary Pope Osborne
(*Magic Tree House Research Guide – A nonfiction companion to Mummies in the Morning*)

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / “If the first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions a mummy is a ghastly, bandaged creature staggering forth from a tomb, it’s time to take a look at *Mummies and Pyramids*. This entertaining and enlightening research companion to Mary Pope Osborne’s *Mummies in the Morning* is perfect for readers who developed an insatiable taste for the mysteries and science of ancient Egypt while reading about Jack and Annie’s time- and space-traveling adventures at the pyramid of Queen Hutepti. Guided by siblings Jack and Annie, stars of the Magic Tree House series, the easy-to-read text offers up the secrets of pharaohs, hieroglyphic writing, the building of

pyramids, how and why mummies were made, the Book of the Dead, Egyptian gods and goddesses, tomb treasures--and tomb robbers--and more. Divided into chapters covering everyday life in ancient Egypt, religion, funerals, and the most famous mummy of all, King Tutankhamen, the book also offers suggestions on how children can do their own research. Plentiful black and white illustrations and reproductions of Egyptian art make learning extra fun, as do regular appearances by Jack and Annie as they explain details of the text or offer commentary ("Not fair!" Annie says, "Only boys could go to school and become scribes!"). Stimulating and lively, this research guide is a stellar introduction to a subject guaranteed to intrigue young readers."

**TURN THE PAGE
FOR
BOOK FAIR INFORMATION**

Dear Parents

October 2009

Our school is hosting another Scholastic **Book Fair** starting on **Nov 30th** and ending on **Dec 4th**. These events are like a weeklong celebration of reading, and reading makes kids engage their imaginations.

This will also be an excellent opportunity to stock up on books for Christmas presents!

Volunteers will be needed for the Book Fair.

Each day will be divided into two shifts.

Each shift needs 2 volunteer cashiers and an additional 1 to 2 volunteers to assist children as they browse the displays.

If you are able to volunteer, please return your responses on the attached page to me by Nov 16th.

All volunteers must be fingerprinted.

REMEMBER:

There will be NO after-school library or computer lab during the week of the Book Fair.

SHIFT TIMES:

Nov 30, 2009 (Monday)

9:50am - 1:00pm and 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Dec 1, 2009 (Tuesday)

9:50am - 1:00pm and 1:00pm - 6:00pm

(This is FAMILY NIGHT – We're OPEN UNTIL 6:00pm!)

Dec 2 and Dec 3, 2009 (Wednesday and Thursday)

9:50am - 1:00pm and 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Dec 4, 2009 (Friday)

9:50am - 1:00pm and 1:00pm - 6:30pm

(The Parent Club is sponsoring a Spaghetti dinner and caroling this night.)

**PLEASE RESPOND ON ATTACHED FORM &
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO OUR SCHOOL**

I WILL BE A BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEER

MY NAME _____

MY PHONE # _____

My CHILD'S NAME _____

Dates I am Available	Shift Time
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please CIRCLE the 'YES' below if you can help **SETUP** the Book Fair on Saturday, Nov 28, 2009, starting at 10:00am

YES

Please indicate below if you can **STAY** Mon, Tue, Wed, Thur, or Fri **AFTER** the Book Fair closes to **TALLY** the day's receipts.

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4

Please indicate below if you can **help us dismantle** the Book Fair when it closes on Friday at **6:30pm** on Dec 4, 2009.

I CAN HELP DISMANTLE THE BOOK FAIR AT 6:30pm

YES

(CIRCLE 'YES' IF YOU CAN)