

# ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## 2008 Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon



# THE EAGLE

Volume 10, Issue 2 Published by the Development Department Fall 2008

### Our Mission:

St. John the Apostle Catholic School provides a high quality, Catholic education that promotes the development of the whole child.

**Fr. Karl Schilken**  
Pastor

**Fr. James Flynn**  
Associate Pastor

**Dr. Cindy Cummins**  
Principal

**Geraldine Syler**  
Assistant Principal

**Mary Kelly**  
Business Manager

**Joanne Levie**  
Receptionist

**Meg Pelzel**  
Director of Development

**Debbie Proske**  
Administrative Assistant

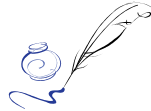
**Leah Tharp**  
Technology

**Linda Wheeler**  
Director of Admissions



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### Principal's Pen



Mrs. Tatum and I went to Washington, D.C., on October 19-21 to accept the 2008 No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School Award for St. John the Apostle Catholic School. Wow! What a wonderful and exciting time we had! We registered Sunday afternoon and then went to see the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon. That was truly a poignant site, especially since Mr. Tatum had worked at the Pentagon and was familiar with many aspects of the building and the memorial. On Monday morning we went to the National Catholic Education Association office for a reception for the Catholic schools, which received 43 of the 50 Blue Ribbon Awards given to private schools this year. Then followed the first day of the Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony at the Crystal Gateway Marriot. Several dignitaries from the U.S. Department of Education spoke, and videotaped addresses were given by President Bush and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, who was at a conference in Africa. It was interesting to note that just over 5,200 schools have been recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools since the program's inception in 1982. This year's group of 329 schools was the largest group of recipients to date, with 50 private schools and 279 public schools being awarded. We attended afternoon break-out sessions on topics of interest presented by Blue Ribbon recipients and panels of Washington Teaching Ambassador Fellows. That evening featured a reception and a Washington by Twilight bus tour of many of the different historical sites and memorials, such as the Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean War, World War II Iwo Jima, and others. Perhaps one of the most unique was the Korean War Memorial, which contained a scenario of full-size bronze American combat soldiers in a rice paddy.

Tuesday morning began with the Salute to Leadership Breakfast, the presentation of the Terrel H. Bell Awards, and panel presentations on Educational Leadership, Children as Complete Human Beings, and Models of Leadership. The Awards Luncheon featured two large Power Point presentations in the background with two action shots of each of the Blue Ribbon Schools. Not only was St. John School spotlighted here, but we also had one of only twelve pictures in the Awards Program. While we were waiting to be called to accept the Blue Ribbon plaque and flag from Kerri Briggs, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, we had good conversations with our table mates, Trish and Joe McTigue from the Council for American Private Education and the representatives from Blue Ribbon Schools in Dallas and Utah. Photos and fellowship abounded, and we will post pictures on the website when we receive them. This was truly a memorable trip and one which I wish all of you would have been able to share.

Sincerely,

Cindy Cummins, Ed. D.  
Principal

Visit us anytime on the web at [www.stjs.org](http://www.stjs.org)

## P.E. Student of the Month

### September

1st—Mathew Bonds  
Connor Cassidy  
Lollie Piceno  
2nd—Regan Marcy  
Brandon Nombrara  
Ethan Le  
Maria Risley  
3rd—Claudio Ortiz  
Elizabeth Yanez  
Dan Luong  
Allycen Toomey  
4th—Ashleigh Duerr  
Alex Isaula  
Carmen Baum  
5th—Jordan Valdez  
Arantza Vazques  
Myhien Nguyen  
6th Haley Hogentogler  
Reegan Ledet  
Gabriel Ungacta  
Isabel Walsh  
7th Daniel Fansler  
Andrea Quiles –Sanchez  
8th—Maddy Beach  
Jonathan Werline  
Anna Flaherty  
Zach Stamps

### October

1st—Derrick Age  
TuQuynh Nguyen  
Jordan Richardson  
2nd—Karina DeLeon  
Kolby Dinh  
Abby Settlemier  
Lavang Vu  
3rd—Maggie Biggs  
Tristen Gutierrez  
Madison Age  
Greyson Grieshaber  
4th—Stefanie Ly  
Hanna Pavelka  
Sophia Aleman  
Adam McCarthy  
5th—Thao Nguyen  
Katey Shedden  
Kaleb Carter  
Gabrielle Falcon  
6h—Krisin DeGennaro  
Bryar Ferguson  
James Blazi  
Maddy Zimmerer  
7th—Anna Panches  
Mia Yammine  
8th—Grace Cuny  
Mitchell Bustillo  
Lauren Reyes  
Tam Nguyen

## Class Happenings

### Pre-K—Mrs. Bernier

During the Fall we enjoyed learning our letters, Old Testament stories, graphing, telling “how many” and “what’s wrong with...”, and learning all about community helpers. We also learned about Halloween, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving and of course, Christmas. We especially enjoyed singing for the “Grandmas and Grandpas” across the street. We are rockin’ along in Pre-K and having a blast!

### Pre-K—Wingo

The Fall was full of fun learning! We learned so much, talking about the Fall and the changes that take place. We continue learning more letters of the alphabet and look forward to show and tell each week. We’ve been working on our numbers and have enjoyed going to sing for the Grandmas and Grandpas. We’ve had a great time!

### Kindergarten—Oliver

The children spent time in the Fall learning to sound out the beginning and ending sounds of words as well as reading the “Little Readers.” We learned to count with pennies, tell time to the hour as well as patterning. These young Eagles have spent much time in service, visiting the Golden Seniors, the Food Pantry and the Nursing Home. We’ve been busy!

### 2nd—Overcash

The children spent time preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation, which was celebrated on December 5. Many children are doing so well in Math Facts that some are advancing to 100 additional facts! Way to add! In Social Studies, we have been learning about city, state, and the US government. The excitement of the election added to our study. Avid readers, this class is enjoying the AR reading program. Many students earned a Pizza Hut coupon for completing their monthly reading log. The class visited the St. John Social Service Building. Mrs. Cargile thanked us for our diaper donations and explained to us how important our donations are to the needy families. We had three poster winners in the Red Ribbon Poster contest: Preson Wood, Laura Hernandez and Maria Risely. The children enjoyed working on the Corduroy auction project. The Big Book of Corduroy stories is our favorite. The clear plastic recycling project is a great success. We are saving about 100—200 bottles per week from land fills. Keep recycling and reusing!

### 3rd—Nehib

Both third grades spent October getting ready for the All Saints Mass, and what a fine job we did! We also made dioramas and gave reports about our patron saints, which were showcased at the spaghetti dinner. In November, we also went from room to room giving our saint reports to other classes. In math, we are learning multiplication and division. In religion, we are reviewing the sacrament of Reconciliation and the Ten Commandments. Many received the sacrament for the first time during Advent. Both third grades cooked hard tack and built the Mayflower on November 2.

### 4th—Felton

During November, Mrs. Felton’s class made cards and pictures to take to their buddies at Ashwood Assisted Living. In addition, the class began reading Laura Ingalls Wilder’s book , Little House in the Big Woods.

### 4th—Reinhardt

Mrs. Reinhardt’s class continues to work hard and learn new things. We are reading novels in our reading groups. We are learning about states and Regions. We finally finished writing our first five paragraph papers! We LOVE to learn!

**November**

1st-Alissa Nguyen  
Daniella Semper  
Jonah Valdez  
2nd-Paulina Aleman  
Lexie Reinhardt  
Valerie Beekman  
Kenny Dinh  
3rd-Carson FitzGibbon  
Gabby Lopez  
Eric Hernandez  
Maggie Stiles  
4th-Casey Cassidy  
Keenan D'Spain  
Marisa Stamps  
Joseph Werline  
5th-Nathan Molinar  
Aylin Payan  
Vince Le  
Katherine Panagopoulos  
6th-Tyler Knabe  
Caroline Workman  
Desiree Banez  
Nick Ruppel  
7th-Daniel Lingua  
Blaise Paulo  
8th-Ryan Hernandez  
Tori Stephens  
Joe Dao  
Mary Kate Levitt

**December**

1st-Connor FitzGibbon  
Kaitlyn Marcy  
Jonathan Stevens  
2nd-Gabriel Gardner  
Helen Perkinson  
Laura Hernandez  
Montserrat Vasquez  
3rd- Cassidy Hamlin  
Jacob Hernandez  
Rachel Hogentogler  
Victoria Rodriguez  
4th-Derek Jackson  
Kaitlyn Whalen  
Joseph Krueger  
Amanda Mercer  
5th-Megan Cardona  
Josefina Fernandez  
Christina Nguyen  
Robert Begina  
6th-Tai Nguyen  
Rosemary Rodriguez  
Mathew Castiglione  
Baylee Dawson  
7th-Gabriel Neyra  
Haley Smith  
8th-Ryan Paytonjian  
Megan Bolinger  
Eleni Korgialas  
David Matassa

**Spanish – Pre-K – 4<sup>th</sup> - Ruiz**

During the months of October and November, the students heard about "Dia de los Muertos." This is a celebration/practice in Mexico that lasts three days, from the end of October to the first of November. Families remember their loved ones who have passed away and celebrate their lives by decorating a table with items that remind them of that person.

The first and second grade students wrote the name of their loved one on a paper candle, which was placed on the bulletin board in the Spanish room. The third grade students made Marigold flowers, which is a symbol of the holiday, and wrote the name of their loved one on a leaf, which was taped to the stem of their flower. The fourth grade students made dioramas, which included pictures, their name, hobby materials, favorite foods, pets, plus other information describing the loved one who had passed away. The students discussed their family member or friend to their classmates. These dioramas were placed on a decorative table in the Spanish room and some were also displayed in the Multi Media Center.

**5th—Moody**

Mrs. Moody's fifth grade had a very exciting time working on their auction project. The theme this year was sports, and the most exciting part was our quilt! The students did the machine sewing themselves! It has been so much fun! Thank you to all who bid on it! Our academics are becoming more challenging. We're doing simple algebra problems in math. Earth science has been our focus in science. In Social Studies we just finished learning about Native Americans settling in North America and early colonization. In our religion book we are focus on the sacraments, but our faith is not just confined to a book. The fifth grade has a daily focus of treating each other with dignity and respect. We work at this every day. Our work at Baby World continues, and any donations are always welcome.

**6th—Wiersch**

Members of the National Junior Honor Society created drug-free (or drug awareness) skits and performed for younger grades during Red Ribbon Week Oct. 27-31. Students also researched the effects of various drugs such as alcohol, nicotine, tobacco, and marijuana, and informed the school over the intercom about the specific negative consequences each type has. Younger students also created drug free (or drug awareness) posters and NJHS students judged them. Winners received red yoyos and coke passes.

Sixth grade Literature classes read Saint biographies during November and created their own Saint prayers used during fruit sharing on November 25.

A group of sixth and seventh graders in Exploratory Class created a drama retelling the story of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Students also learned the Native American dance that the Hispanic culture often performs in honor of Our Lady.

Students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited every Thursday morning at 7:00 AM to their Literature classroom for breakfast and silent reading time before school. Every Thursday morning, the event has a new name, including "Books and Bananas," "Stories and Strawberries," and "Prose and Pumpkin Bread." Many teachers from all grade levels throughout the school have joined the Upper School students and modeled lifelong reading!



## Dr. Cindy Cummins Named St. John 2008-2009 Honoree Catholic Schools Week

Cindy Cummins, Ed. D., principal of SJS, has been selected by the faculty and staff as St. John the Apostle Catholic School honoree for her dedication to the students, faculty, staff and parents. She will be honored at the Catholic Schools Banquet Celebration.

Dr. Cindy Cummins has been an inspiration to St. John the Apostle Catholic School for the past five years. As principal, she has made remarkable changes during her tenure and has guided the school through both an excellent accreditation and the honor of being named a 2008 Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School. Dr. Cummins is great at seeing the overall picture, not just for the future of the school but also for each individual student. Knowledgeable in so many areas, she encourages the faculty to try various instructional practices to help reach all the children. Expecting excellent efforts from the students, teachers, staff and herself, she tries to do the best thing for everyone, especially the students. All at St. John know that her door is always open for help and guidance, or just to listen. Professionally and personally, she cares. Thanks to her wonderful leadership, hard work, wisdom, and determination to make our school the very best, St. John School is a great place, a school where parents are proud to send their children.

Please join us at the Catholic Schools Banquet Celebration, Saturday, January 31, as Bishop Kevin Vann honors Dr. Cummins, along with individuals from the twenty diocesan schools. Bishop Vann will also be honoring the recipient of the Diocesan Leadership Award.

### **Catholic Schools Banquet Celebration Information**

**When:** Saturday, January 31, 2009

**Social Hour:** 6:00 PM

**Dinner:** 7:00 PM

**Where:** Fort Worth Convention Center Ballroom,  
1111 Houston St, Fort Worth, TX

Registration: Register by email at [reservations@fwdioc.org](mailto:reservations@fwdioc.org) or by calling Mrs. Tessy Ross, Special Projects Coordinator Fort Worth Diocese, (817) 560-2452, Ext. 280

**Tickets:** \$75 per person

## Class Notes Continued

### Health Grades 5-8— Nigrelli

Grades 5-8 began The Action Plan. This is a program that deals with the trials and tribulations of children as they go forth in their life's journey. The goal of the program is to inspire and guide youth in the belief that they can act on their dreams, make a difference in their community and realize their potential one step at a time.

### 8th—Tatum

The SJS History Fair was held on November 4th. All 8th grade students participated, displaying a wide variety of important events in ancient and modern history. The Best in Show winner was Gabby Brown with Egyptian Pyramids; 1st place - Mary Kate Levitt/Julius Caesar; 2nd Place - Mitchell Bustillo/Adolph Hitler; 3rd Place - Grace Cuny/The Schism of 1054; 4th Place to the following: Ashley Obudzinski/Clara Barton; Joe Dao/Terracotta Army; Ryan Hernandez/Tenochtitlan; Kimsa Pham/The Cacao Bean; Danielle Paytonjian/Sacagawea; and Alex Hoyer/Patton. All of the students will go on to compete in the Nolan History Fair with winners from other Diocesan schools on January 31. Congratulations to all!

## Mix-It-Up Day!

Thursday, Nov. 13, was Mix It Up Day. Grades 1-7 took part during lunch time. Each child received a sticker and he or she sat at a table in the lunch room that matched their sticker. No one sat with their usual friends. The program is designed to stress boundary-crossing and hopefully provide an opportunity to make new friends.— Ms. Nigrelli and Mrs. Kalianivala

## Musical Notes

Sarah Warner

Our Christmas Show was a big success! First through fifth grade did a wonderful job as each performed one musical selection. After a brief intermission, the St. John Choir along with several members of the fifth grade class performed a play based on the story "Why the Chimes Rang," a beautiful Christmas story reminding us that the gift God wants most is for us to give ourselves to Him. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend!

## St. Jude Math-a-Thon Record!

Grade 5-8 students raised an astonishing \$2,379.63 this year for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This is UP from last year's total of \$1,923.87 (for the math nerds, that's a 24% increase, rounded to the nearest percent).

Many thanks go to Leah Tharp & Geraldine Syler, who managed the Upper School efforts in the computer lab, and to Mary Moody, who took care of the entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade effort.

Many students gave their own money, and all gave their time to support this cause. It is truly a blessing to see another Blue Ribbon accomplishment!

## Punt Pass & Kick Winners

8 & 9 year old girls  
Cassidy Hamlin  
8 & 9 year old boys  
Zachery Tice  
10 & 11 year old girls  
Olivia Stephen  
10 & 11 year old boys  
Jacob Paytonjian  
12 & 13 year old girls  
Anna Flaherty  
12 & 13 year old boys  
Jonathan Werline  
14 & 15 year old girls  
Tori Stephens  
14 & 15 year old boys  
Nicky Camperlengo

These winners moved on to the next level of competition at Pennington Field in Bedford Oct. 15

## Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge Winners

10 year old girls  
Myhien Nguyen  
11 year old girls  
Katey Shedden  
11 year old boys  
Joseph Hernandez

We wish them good luck as they advance to the next level of competition!

St. John the Apostle Catholic School Receives  
2008 Best of Richland Hills Award  
U.S. Local Business Association's Award Plaque Honors the Achievement

WASHINGTON, D.C.—St. John the Apostle Catholic School has been selected for the 2008 Best of Richland Hills Award in the Religious Schools category by the U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA).

The USLBA "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the USLBA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2008 USLBA Award Program focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the USLBA and data provided by third parties. SOURCE: U.S. Local Business Association

## Golf, Anyone?

**DATE CHANGE!** Mark your calendar for  
**May 8, 2009** for the  
7th Annual Eagle Classic Golf Tournament  
Iron Horse Golf Course



Email [golf@stjs.org](mailto:golf@stjs.org) for more information  
and sponsorship opportunities.