



St. Francis of Assisi

Elementary School - Sacramento, California

Visit us at www.stfranciselem.org

GUBBIO GAZETTE

November 11, 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,

This Saturday, our fifth and sixth grade Religion Decathlon Team will be competing against many other Catholic elementary schools from our diocese at the "Let the Children Come to Me" Religion Decathlon. Thank you to Kelly and Samantha (6th grade), and Camille, Darnell, John, Joseph, Juan, Kiki, Sharon, Sharon, and Victor (5th grade) for your willingness to represent our school. Regardless of how well we "do," I am so proud of your dedication and commitment. Thank you also to Ms. Emery, our moderator, for preparing the children and to Elisabeth (7th grade) for co-moderating!

The end of the first trimester is next Wednesday, the 18th. Your child will receive his/her report card on November 24th. If your child is in grades 3-8, please make sure you are monitoring his/her progress through our online grading program. You have access to your child's grades twenty-four hours a day.

Please join us tomorrow, Thursday, for our monthly school Mass at 8:30am. Our seventh grade will be the lectors and our school choir will lead us in song. As always, we welcome you to celebrate liturgy with us!

In the peace of St. Francis of Assisi,

Mrs. Laurie Power



St. Francis Elementary
School Calendar
November 2009

- 11 NO SCHOOL/Veterans Day
- 12 School-wide Mass, Church, 8:30 am
- 14 "Let the Children Come to Me."
Diocesan Religion Competition, St. James,
Davis, CA, 8:00 am
- 18 End of First Trimester
- 24 Reports Cards Issued
- 25-27 NO SCHOOL/ Thanksgiving Holiday

6th Grade Fundraiser

Please see the attached flyer about our decorative and flavorful cones we are making and selling. They make wonderful, reasonable holiday gifts!

Thank you,
The Sixth Grade Class

**MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
FOR THE BOOK FAIR ! !**

If you are able to volunteer for the Book Fair, please complete the form at the end of this issue of the *Gubbio Gazette*.

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**REMINDER**

**RELIGION DECATHLON**  
Saturday, November 14, 2009  
St. James in Davis, 8A.M.

Religion Round-up

"For behold, the kingdom of God is among you."

Luke 17:21



Remember to turn in your UNICEF boxes! We are quite a bit below our goal of \$1000 so if you haven't returned your box, please do it soon. Thank you to **Mrs. Gonsalves**, mom of **Samantha** in sixth grade, for volunteering to take the coins to Coinstar.

On Monday the eighth graders honored our nation's veterans with their prayer service. They led us in a Veteran's Day prayer followed by the National Anthem. The respect they showed was a moving experience for many of us. Thank you, eighth grade!

The seventh grade will be leading our school Mass on Thursday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. The readings are about the kingdom of God among us. They chose to donate items on the wish list of the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento as part of their offering. For more information see <http://www.crhkids.org>.

Our school Book of Remembrance is being passed around each classroom. Each student has the opportunity to write the name of someone who has died in the book. We pray for the souls of those listed in the book during our prayer services and school Mass in the month of November. Parents may also add the names of loved ones to our book. It is displayed by the school book of intercessions by the prayer table near the office.

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

| <i>Date</i>  | <i>Led by</i>                  | <i>Time</i> |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Thurs Nov 12 | 7 <sup>th</sup> Mass           | 8:30 a.m.   |
| Mon Nov 16   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prayer Service | 8:10 a.m.   |
| Mon Nov 23   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer Service | 8:10 a.m.   |
| Mon Nov 30   | 4 <sup>th</sup> Prayer Service | 8:10 a.m.   |

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

## Student Council News

Thanks to everyone's enthusiasm, Student Council raised over \$300.00 from our Skeletext Halloween sale. We are now discussing ways that we can help the community with this money. Don't forget to donate nonperishable food items (canned and boxed food) to the Thanksgiving Food Bank barrels at the school entrance. We want the barrels to be overflowing with our generous donations. The last day to donate is Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, let's remember to recycle responsibly. The black recycling bins are for plastic bottles or aluminum cans only.

## Mr. Cain's Book Shelf



### FICTION

**Bears on Chairs** by Shirley Parenteau  
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Four chairs. Four adorable bears. All is well until Big Brown Bear shows up — what a stare! — and wants a seat. Can these clever bears put their heads together (among other things) and make space for one more? With endearing, expressive illustrations and a sustained rhyme in every line, here is a cozy tale that makes it clear there is room for all."

### Your Favorite Seuss: A Baker's Dozen by the one and only Dr. Seuss

Compiled by Janet Schulman and Cathy Goldsmith  
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "From his very first book to his very last book, here in one big volume are 13 classic Dr. Seuss stories, everyone's favorites. All of the words and virtually all of the illustrations are included. Each story is prefaced by a short essay by someone whose life was changed by Dr. Seuss or who is simply an unabashed admirer. Also included are photographs of Dr. Seuss, memorabilia, and original sketches from his books. The stories included are: *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, *McElligot's Pool*, *If I Ran the Zoo*,

*Happy Birthday to You!*, *Dr. Seuss's Sleep Book*, *Yertle the Turtle*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Lorax*, *The Sneetches*, and *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

Theodor Geisel (a.k.a. Dr. Seuss) was born March 2, 1904, and died September 25, 1991.

With introductory essays to each story by:

Barbara Bader, Author and Critic

Stan and Jan Berenstain, Creators of The Berenstain Bears

Audrey Geisel, Widow of Dr. Seuss

Peter Glassman, Children's Bookseller

Starr LaTronica, Children's Librarian

John Lithgow, Actor and Children's Book Author

Barbara Mason, Kindergarten Teacher

Richard H. Minear, Author of *Dr. Seuss Goes to War*

Christopher Paolini, Author of *Eragon*

Charles D. Cohen, Author of *The Seuss, the Whole Seuss, and Nothing but the Seuss*

Pete Seeger, Folksinger

Christopher Cerf, TV Writer, Composer, and Producer

Lane Smith, Children's Book Illustrator"

### 97 Ways to Train a Dragon by Kate McMaullan

(Book 9 of *Dragon Slayers' Academy* series)  
Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "Wiglaf's supposed to be a dragon slayer, but he's more like a dragon *babysitter* when he finds a baby dragon and decides to keep it! Back in his first new adventure in four years, Wiglaf is as funny and appealing as ever. In keeping with the reissue of the original books in the series, the ninth book is 112 pages long and includes a hilarious bonus yearbook section that will have kids laughing out loud."

### Junie B., First Grader: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! (P.S. So Does May.) by Barbara Park

Reading level: Ages 9 – 12 / "It's holiday time, and Room One is doing lots of fun things to celebrate. Like making elf costumes! And singing joyful songs! Only, how can Junie B. enjoy the festivities when Tattletale May keeps ruining her holiday glee? And here is the worst part of all! When everyone picks names for Secret Santa, Junie B. gets stuck with

Tattletale you-know-who! It's enough to fizzle your holiday spirit! Hmm . . . or is it? Maybe, just maybe, a Secret Santa gift is the perfect opportunity to give May *exactly* what she deserves."

**Whistle for Willie** by Ezra Jack Keats  
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Mr. Keats's illustrations boldy and colorfully capture this child, his city world, and the shimmering heat of a summer's day."

**Three Samurai Cats** by Eric A. Kimmel  
Reading level: Grades K – 3 / "Here's an adaptation of an adaptation of a story Zen masters used to illustrate how unconventional approaches to problems can be disarmingly effective. When a daimyo's castle is besieged by an enormous, ferocious rat, the lord beseeches the abbot of a nearby monastery to send a samurai cat to drive the beast away. The first and second samurai to confront him are overwhelmed by the rodent's martial-arts skills, but the third, a tattered, disreputable-looking old feline, allows the rat's greed to work against him and emerges triumphant. Kimmel's telling is reasonably successful and the message to "Draw strength from stillness. Learn to act without acting. And never underestimate a samurai cat-" is conveyed without any element of preachiness. Gerstein's lively cartoon illustrations are at their best in depicting the loathsome rat. The daimyo and the abbot are depicted as dogs, but there's no question as to who has the upper paw."

**The Chronicles of Narnia** by C.S. Lewis (a BBC 3 disc video production)  
"The Chronicles of Narnia, a seven-volume, Bible-based children's fantasy series written in the 1950s by British theologian C.S. Lewis, draws young readers into the magical, dangerous land of Narnia and plunges them into the age-old battle of good and evil. Lewis envisioned these stories as pictures before he wrote them, so it seems only proper that the books would eventually make it to the small screen. In the late 1980s and early '90s, three adventures in this series--*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (169 minutes), *Prince Caspian and the Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (168 minutes), and *The Silver Chair* (168

minutes)--were faithfully adapted into a TV series by the BBC and Home Vision Entertainment, then edited to feature-length productions. All three of these discs (nine hours of viewing!) are included in this boxed set of DVDs, along with interactive trivia games and more. Youngsters expecting special effects like those found in *The Lord of the Rings* or *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* may miss the subtler charms of these sweet but rather homespun productions, with humans dressed as woodland creatures and patched-in animation. And kids expecting fast-paced action adventures may snooze after a few hours of these relatively slow-moving scripts. But those who want a refresher course in all things Narnia will be thrilled to see these well-loved fantasies come to life in gorgeous snowy landscapes--the good lion Aslan (played by a large, talking stuffed animal), the horrible White Witch (performed with deliciously over-the-top zeal by actress Barbara Kellerman), the four siblings, fauns, dwarves, deadly sea monsters, and all."

**Peeny Butter Fudge** by Toni Morrison & Slade Morrison  
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "There is no one like Nana in the whole wide world. She is the *best*. Nana knows how to take an ordinary afternoon and make it extra special! Nap time, story time, and playtime are transformed by fairies, dragons, dancing, and pretending -- and then mixing and fixing yummy, yummy fudge just like Nana and Mommy did not so many years ago...Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison and her son Slade tell a story of what really goes on when Nana is left in charge!"

**The Princess and the Frog: Essential Guide** by Laura Gilbert  
(from the Disney Studios with African-American main characters)  
Reading level: Ages 4 – 8 / "Loaded with hundreds of illustrations, stills, and artworks from the movie, *The Princess and the Frog: The Essential Guide*, celebrates Disney's first princess film in eleven years!" "When an ambitious waitress accidentally crosses paths with a spoiled prince, it is the beginning of a magical journey for both of them. They learn

that dreams can come true – if you work hard and wish with all your heart. Learn all about the bright-spirited and beautiful Tiana, and charming Prince Naveen. Meet a jazz-loving alligator, a lovesick Cajun firefly, and many other memorable characters. Explore the bustling, jazz-filled city of New Orleans and the mysterious Louisiana bayou.”

## NON FICTION

### **The Making of America: The History of the United States from 1492 to the Present**

By Robert D. Johnston

“National Geographic presents more than 500 years of American history in this authoritative, readable, and lavishly illustrated family reference work. You’ll find: Landmark events; Social movements; Fascinating facts; A great debate from each period; Compelling biographies about people who have made a difference in America; Discussion of the values that inspired our founders and continue to drive the nation today; Detailed maps of wars, territorial expansion, movement of people, and more; An appendix of key documents for ready reference; Illustrated time lines of each period; Historic art and photography to bring past events to life; Comprehensive information for school reports; A multifaceted examination of our history that makes for hours of browsing. Fun to read, easy to use, *The Making of America* is a must-have reference to the creation and development of our great democratic nation.”

### **Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends**

by Carol Buckley  
Reading level: Ages 4 – 10 / “Best friends come in all shapes and sizes! After retiring from the circus, Tarra became the first resident of the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. When other elephants moved in and developed close friendships, only Tarra remained independent— until the day she met a stray mixed-breed dog named Bella. It was love at first sight as this unlikely duo became inseparable. They ate together, slept together,

and even understood each other’s language. And when Bella suffered a severe spinal injury, Tarra stayed by her side and was there for her until Bella regained her health. Brilliant color photographs of Tarra and Bella at home in the Elephant Sanctuary deftly illustrate this inspiring story of companionship, and an informative note about the Sanctuary provides a great resource for parents and teachers.”

**See Request for  
Additional  
BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEERS  
On next page**

**MORE VOLUTEERS ARE NEEDED**

**FOR THE BOOK FAIR ! !**

If you are able to volunteer during the following times and dates,  
please return the short form below to me by November 16, 2009.

Thanks, Kermit Cain

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| <u>Date</u><br><u>Volunteers</u><br><u>needed:</u> | <u>Number of</u><br><u>Volunteers</u><br><u>needed:</u> | <u>Shift</u><br><u>Volunteers</u><br><u>needed:</u>                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat. Nov 28                                        | 5                                                       | To Set Up Fair<br>Starting at 10am                                                     |
| Mon. Nov 30                                        | 2                                                       | 1:00pm - 4:00pm                                                                        |
| Tue. Dec 1                                         | 1                                                       | 9:50am - 1:00pm                                                                        |
| Tue. Dec 1                                         | 1                                                       | 1:00pm - 6:00pm                                                                        |
| Wed. Dec 2                                         | 2                                                       | 9:50am - 1:00pm                                                                        |
| Wed. Dec 2                                         | 1                                                       | 1:00pm - 4:00pm                                                                        |
| Thur. Dec 3                                        | 2                                                       | 9:50am - 1:00pm                                                                        |
| Thur. Dec 3                                        | 2                                                       | 1:00pm - 4:00pm                                                                        |
| Fri. Dec 4                                         | 5                                                       | To Dismantle the Fair<br>Starting at 6:30pm<br>(Double Hours Earned<br>Fri. at 6:30pm) |

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**I WILL BE A BOOK FAIR VOLUNTEER**

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ My Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates I am Available**

**Shift Time**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_