



Sacred Heart Nativity Schools

Newsletter

"Breaking the cycle of poverty through education"

JUNE 2010 ISSUE

Sacred Heart Nativity Schools
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President

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Principal

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Vice Principal,
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Bridgit McGarry
Vice Principal,
Our Lady of Grace

Lisa Blickenstaff
Director of Development

Join us in the Sobrato \$50,000 Challenge Grant

Your new or increased donation will be matched 100% by the Sobrato Foundation up to \$50,000 beginning 02/01/2010 and ending 12/31/2010.

Upcoming Events...

Save the Date!

3rd Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, September 27, 2010
San Jose Country Club

If you are interested in event sponsorship, sponsoring a hole, tee prize or drink cart contact our development office at 408.993.1293 ext. 107 or email lblickenstaff@shnativity.org

9th Annual Fiesta
Saturday, February 26, 2011
Bellarmino College Preparatory

If you are interested in hosting a gift gathering party contact Lisa Blickenstaff at 408.993.1293 ext. 107 or lblickenstaff@shnativity.org

Thoughts from Father Peter Pabst, S.J. ...

Dear Friends,

What do Santa Clara University, University of California Santa Cruz, San José State University, and Sonoma State University have in common? They are all schools that members of our third class of graduates, the Class of 2006, will be attending in the fall! I bought lunch for these characters after their high school graduations and was delighted to hear of their collegiate plans. These young men, for the most part, will be the first in their families to go to college. Here are the statistics of which we can be proud:

- 14 boys graduated in 2006 and we are currently in regular contact with 12 of them.
- 7 of the 12 have been accepted into four year colleges.
- The remaining 5 have enrolled at De Anza College, San José City College and Foothill College.
- In the United States, 47% of Latinos do not graduate from high school.

Part of the NativityMiguel Schools program is called Graduate Support. We stay in touch with our young people while in high school to encourage, cajole, motivate, tutor, mentor, help with high school tuition when needed, and be inspired by them. It is great to watch these boys grow into capable young men. Soon we will be watching the young women of Our Lady of Grace enter colleges and universities, too.

Our Baccalaureate Mass turned out to be a prayerful experience as we thanked God for three years of journeying together to grow and to deepen our relationship with God and each other. Graduation was the first joint ceremony for our schools and Sacred Heart Church was filled with proud parents, grandparents and graduates. We bestowed Honorary Diplomas upon Marlene and Jim D'Amico and Josefina Madrigal. The D'Amico's have been financial benefactors of the school even before we opened our doors in 2001. Jim served many years as the Vice-chair of our Board of Directors. Ms. Madrigal is the mother of two of our graduates who strongly encouraged her sons to excel in their studies. She pushed *herself* to be a good student and she received *her* diploma from San José State University at the end of May. Josefina also was a formidable force in our Parent Guild. She is a great role model to our parent community.

Thanks for your prayerful support! Thanks to all who made contributions to summer camp - we start July 10. If you haven't had an opportunity to donate for camp, we have provided an envelope for your convenience. Thank you for your assistance in *breaking the cycle of poverty through education.*

God bless you and yours,

Peter G. Pabst, S.J.
President

P.S. Soon we will be sending information regarding our planned giving program, the *Monsignor Mateo Sheedy Legacy Circle.*

2nd Annual Science and Poetry Night

Held every spring our Annual Science & Poetry Night is a highlight of the school year. Parents, guests and faculty rotate through classrooms as students present their poetry and science experiments. You may ask, "Why combine science and poetry into one night?" Marjorie Bennett, long-time science teacher at Sacred Heart Nativity Schools believes that science is poetry, hence our pairing of the night.

Guests begin by attending a general meeting where the schedule for the evening is explained. Each classroom is set-up for either poetry readings or science experiments. Guests are encouraged to visit each classroom as the students read their poetry and explain their experiments. Students present in both English and Spanish!

To prepare for the science portion of the evening, students work in groups to pick a topic, develop and conduct their experiment, and then write up their results. Then students make posters and prepare samples of their experiments. During the evening, as students present their experiments, guests have the



Vegetative Propagation Experiment

opportunity to participate "hands-on" with the students. Hands-on-learning is very important in science. If the students can explain their experiment and results in a way that others can comprehend, then the information has been understood and internalized.

There were 18 experiments presented that night ranging from methods for identifying rocks and minerals, explanations of volcanoes and plate tectonics (6th grade), to dissections of squid and anatomical demonstrations on earthworms and vegetative

propagation (7th grade), to physics demonstrations and chemical reactions (8th grade). At Our Lady of Grace, a 6th grade team prepared a crystal garden experiment to show how scientists use



Crystal Garden Experiment

crystals to identify minerals. A 7th grade team prepared a Vegetative Propagation experiment to show how plants can reproduce asexually from stems and roots. Another 7th grade team prepared an Earthworm presentation showing anatomical features of the earthworm. Parents were able to hear the bristling sound earthworms make as they crawled across paper plates.



Earthworm Presentation

Poetry is a strong component of our writing curriculum. We invest two months into teaching, interpreting, and writing poetry. It has been said that poetry is the art of "painting the colors of the wind," and in that spirit the students use figurative

language, personification, rhyme, etc., to explore and express a deeper side of themselves. Students read a wide variety of work from Langston Hughes, Shel Silverstein, William Carlos Williams, Walter Dean Myers, Bob Dylan, Maya Angelou, and a host of other renowned poets. They deal with subjects the likes of *coming of age, depression, injustice, relationships, tolerance, and responsibility*. Teachers often begin the poetry unit with formula poems, and then as the students become more exact and select more powerful language, they offer students more freedom.

Poetry Night provides students an opportunity to read and/or perform before a live audience and to experience the joy of presenting a *work of their own*. Artwork often accompanies student presentations to give substance to the author's voice and ideas. Music may also be incorporated into the program to broaden the experience.

Below are a few examples of Sacred Heart Nativity School's poets. Enjoy.

Someday

By Alejandro Gonzalez, 8th Grade

Someday I will get married.
Someday I will get a great job.
Someday I will travel the whole world
By sea, air, and land.
Someday I will wrestle a shark to see who is the real shark
around here;
A gorilla to see who is stronger;
An elephant to see who is bigger;
A tiger to see who is scarier;
A lion to see who is better.
Someday I will see every corner of the world.
Someday I will have my own family.
Someday I will be a better person.
Someday.

The Sea Of Grass

By Hector Martinez, 7th Grade

On a sea of grass I sat,
The grass waving at me.
I smiled back.
The afternoon sun wrapped me with its arms.
I sprang forward to silent tree,
And then it leaped to life.
A soft breeze touched my cheek,
The tree applauded with its leaves.
It giggled with joy.
It was visited by me.
And I was whistling.
I slept with the shadow wrapping me.
I had visited him.

Destroying Jungles

By Mike Gomez, 7th Grade

Choo-choo the train passed by.
Chirp, chirp, the birds sang as they flew near the sky.
The tiger roared in the jungle.
Slurp, slurp, the elephants drank water from the lake.
It was a beautiful day outside.

Boom! The trees fell down.
Room, room the chainsaw roared in the jungle.
Stomp, stomp the elephants are running away.
The tiger looks and runs away.
Choo-choo the train passes by again.
The jungle is desolate again.
Why destroy the animals' home?

What is a Middle Schooler?

By Francisco Gutierrez, 8th Grade

He is noisy, wild, timid and shy.
He is laughter and smiley faces.
He is smart and dumb.
He is going through puberty.
He studies for all of his tests,
But sometimes forgets his homework.
He plays sports and has fun.
He likes nice teachers and dislikes mean teachers.
He is getting girlfriends.
He has a lot of time and sometimes wastes it.
He has to go through peer pressure, but is trying to be the
best he can.

Piano

By Eric Jimenez, 6th grade

Sitting in the living room with his four legs on the ground.
Staring at you with keys in one pocket and notes in the other.
And his great big hat that covers nearly his entire face.
When you are sad he sings in his most beautiful voice ever
imagined.
When he's missing a foot he wobbles from place to place.
After a long day of hard, tiring work he can be clueless
enough to lose some of many keys.

Thankful Poem

By Aldo Caballero, 6th Grade

My sister's goodnight sayings,
When my dad carries me,
My mom's hugs,
The clean dishes,
Very soft and warm blankets,
My supportive friends,
My cozy clothes,
The wonderful, loving cats that I have,
The knowledge in every book I have read,
The life-giving air of plants and trees,
The life-giving food I have eaten,
Jesus, our savior, for helping us,
My leaf-green house,
My hands that let me eat and write,
My legs for letting me walk,
My supportive family,
The Earth for us a home,
The Lord for giving us everything that we need,
For my cozy, fitted shoes,
The Greeks that gave us our alphabet,
The Chinese for their invention of silk,
For the water I drink,
For the happiness of my life.

Sacred Heart N Class o

A Baccalaureate Mass, celebrated by President Peter Pabst, S.J., was held on Tuesday, June 1 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church for the Class of 2010. The graduation ceremony for Sacred Heart Nativity Schools followed on Thursday, June 3.

The graduates proudly processed into the church wearing their robes, the girls in gold and the boys in

green, and took their places in the front two rows, eager to begin the ceremony. Oscar Ramirez and Melissa Romo led the salute to the flag, Diego Barriga and Daniela Bogarin had words of welcome for the guests and recited the opening prayer. Diego spoke in English followed by Daniela speaking in Spanish. Our Mistress and Masters of Ceremonies Bridgit McGarry, Vice Principal of Our Lady of Grace, and Jeff

Cunjak, Vice Principal of Sacred Heart Nativity, announced the recipients of the academic awards.

Jazmin Barba and Luis Villalpando received the Steve Ronco Memorial Valedictorian Awards. Both these students embody the goals of a Jesuit education. They are academically



Jazmin Barba-Iñiguez
Presentation High School



Daniela Bogarin
Notre Dame High School



Jocelyn Caballero
Notre Dame High School



Montserrat Cabrera
Notre Dame High School



Rosario Canales
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Lizette Castaneda
Presentation High School



Diana Colchado
Lincoln High School



Vanessa Hernandez
Notre Dame High School



Mariana Jaimes
Notre Dame High School



Dioscelina Lopez
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Berenice Medel
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Lisette Mendez
Downtown College Prep



Andreina Meza
Downtown College Prep



Anais Ortiz
Downtown College Prep



Diana Piña
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Chantal Piñon
Notre Dame High School



Melissa Romo
Notre Dame High School



Cinthia Salazar
Presentation High School



Maria Sanchez
Lincoln High School



Andrea Selvog
Presentation High School



Jocelyn Serrano
Presentation High School



Jessica Verduzco
Notre Dame High School

Nativity Schools of 2010

successful, spiritually active, intellectually responsible, and personally respectful. They exemplify the Jesuit spirit of being people for others and lead by example and kindness. Jazmin spoke of her dreams for the graduating class of Our Lady of Grace.

“Strive for the best we can do. Whichever high schools we attend, we should walk into these schools with our minds set on graduating and then moving on to college.”

Luis spoke of his hopes for the graduating class of Sacred Heart Nativity.

“I hope that our eighth grade class succeeded in leaving a legacy for the sixth and seventh grades to follow—to be tolerant. I also hope that all the SHNS graduates succeed in high school.”

President Peter Pabst, S.J., conferred the presentation of diplomas. When completed the graduates proudly moved their tassels from the left to right, symbolizing they had successfully graduated! Father Pabst then awarded honorary diplomas to Marlene and Jim D’Amico and Josefina Madrigal, exceptional friends of Sacred Heart Nativity Schools.

In closing Principal Kevin Eagleson inspired the graduates to believe in themselves and make the world a better place.

“Believe in your conscience; believe in your training; believe in yourself. ...As you leave, take your faith and friendship with God with you. Take your gift of tolerance and compassion. Take your teamwork and your love of life. Use all these gifts to make the world a better place.”



Alfredo Algarate
Cupertino High School



Diego Barriaga
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Oscar Ceja
Lincoln High School



Ricardo Cervantes
Downtown College Prep



Alan Enriquez
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



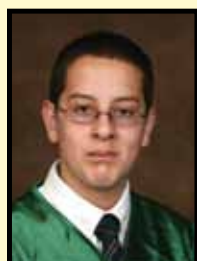
Alejandro Escamilla
Lincoln High School



Flavio Escamilla
Lincoln High School



Alejandro Gonzalez
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Cesar Gonzalez
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Ramón Gonzalez
Lincoln High School



Francisco Gutierrez
Bellarmine College Prep.



Giovanni Lirios
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



José Mejia
Willow Glen High School



Oscar Ramírez
Lincoln High School



Aaron Rodríguez
Bellarmine College Prep.



José Rodríguez
Bellarmine College Prep.



Luis Villalpando
Archbishop Mitty H.S.



Miguel Villatoro
Bellarmine College Prep.

SHNS's College Bound Class of 2006

Class of 2006 College Summary

De Anza College	3
Foothill College	1
San José City College	1
San José State University	3
Santa Clara University	1
Sonoma State University	1
Notre Dame de Namur University	1
University of California Santa Cruz	1

Thoughts from our College Bound Alumni

When I started school at Sacred Heart Nativity, I could not imagine going to school until six in the evening every day from Monday through Thursday. At least we got out early on Friday. I remember the first day waiting to leave for summer camp. I was excited and anxious to get to the camp. When we got there we were paired up with an older classmate who showed us around the camp. As I got to know my classmates, I discovered many different people with different personalities. Each one of us was a unique individual. As years passed, we became closer as friends and classmates. In September of 2005, Sacred Heart took the eighth grade class on a very challenging trip to Yosemite. This trip brought our class together even more, due to the fact that we helped each other reach the top of Half Dome. When looking at the view all around me, it was a breathtaking sight to see. Like Yosemite, Sacred Heart was another mountain that I had to climb to reach the top. The next mountain I climbed was high school, Mt. Downtown College Prep.

Downtown College Preparatory was very demanding. In my freshman year, school ran from 8:45 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Many of my classmates were mad at the schedule arrangement, but I looked at it as a luxury! I mean, I get to go in later and get out earlier; there was no reason to complain. DCP challenged my knowledge and thankfully Sacred Heart prepared me well so that I was able to use my skills to overcome these challenges. Now I stand on the top of the mountain of high school. As summer approaches, so does my life as a college student. I know that San José State University will be the biggest challenge that I have ever tackled, the biggest mountain, bigger than Mount Everest. This mountain will teach me the skills that I will need to survive the wilderness of life. Thanks to the most momentous decisions in my life, Sacred Heart Nativity and Downtown College Preparatory, I can honestly say that I am ready to face this challenge. I am ready to beat the status quo.

Adolfo Gomez

My journey with the Jesuits has not yet come to an end. In the fall of 2010, I will be walking the halls of Santa Clara University as a proud graduate of Bellarmine College Preparatory and Sacred Heart Nativity School. It began at SHNS and I can never thank the faculty enough for everything they did for me as a student and everything that they are now doing for me now as a graduate. It was in room 209 that I learned that setting and achieving goals for myself makes a big difference.

Sacred Heart Nativity School was the first stepping-stone to the successes that I have had. I learned the values of the "Men for Others" motto of the Jesuits and realized that this type of education is not just in the classroom. My years at SHNS came to an end in 2006 and the new challenge became Bellarmine College Preparatory. While at BCP, I was able to use the values that I was taught at SHNS to become a leader for the Latino community there.

I must emphasize the immense gratitude I have for all the people that have contributed to my success. Without the benefactors at SNHS and my sponsor at BCP, I do not believe that I could have made as big of a difference as I have made in my life. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me to reach my goals because now I will be attending Santa Clara University. I will do everything that I can to come back and give back to the places where help was always offered to me.

Jorge Meza

Sacred Heart Nativity School was one of the biggest and best decisions I have ever made in my life. If I were to describe my experience at SHNS in one word, it would be *unexpected*. When I was in elementary school, I never thought I would be going to an all boys middle school that went from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. I felt that it would be torturous, but it wasn't—it was completely the opposite. SHNS became my second home, where I could express myself and where I could learn new things. It was the place that saved me. It kept me away from trouble, gangs, and bad influences. Moreover, it was the place that opened new doors to a better future for me, especially being admitted to Archbishop Mitty High School.

AMHS gave me a unique experience. The diverse community and the students' energy are things that I noticed. I feel that if I had gone to another high school, I would not have had the great friendships that I have now. Furthermore, Mitty's rigorous schedule has prepared me for my future in college. Although high school only happens once in a lifetime, if I had to live another high school experience, I would choose Mitty all over again.

I believe the only way to success is through education. Therefore, my educational goals are attending a four-year university and pursuing a career that will enable me to obtain a good job—one that involves business and management. I would like to continue to take advantage of the opportunities that are given to me. The reason for my perseverance is that I know how my mom was unable to obtain an education to help her succeed financially. I have been fortunate enough to receive a scholarship for a private education in both middle school and high school. Now my best chance at accomplishing my educational goals is attending Notre Dame de Namur University. They have not only accepted me, but have also offered me a grant that will cover half of the total cost to attend.

Omar Torres

Fiesta 2010

On March 6, 2010 our students greeted over 450 guests with a handshake, eye contact and words of welcome as they entered The



Students greeting guests

Liccardo Center at Bellarmine College Preparatory for our 8th Annual Fiesta fundraiser. Highlights of the evening included a silent auction, student speeches and performances, a piñata raffle, a delicious Mexican feast, and an exciting live auction that, for the first time, included a successful "Last Person Standing"

event to benefit our student scholarship fund.

Guests enjoyed visiting with one another while sipping their beverages of choice, munching on delicious appetizers, and bidding on silent auction items.

Meanwhile, students were busy selling 100 fish piñatas for \$100 each for the chance to win a one-week stay at the luxurious Villa La Estancia located in Cabo San Lucas. Guests were so excited at the chance to win such a fabulous vacation that many couples bought two fish piñatas.



Students selling piñatas

Each year the raffle piñatas are handmade by a talented group of SHNS mothers led by our expert piñata maker Josefina Madrigal. This raffle raises \$10,000 for our schools!

The program included students singing, tin whistle performances, and speeches. 8th grade speakers Jocelyn Caballero and Cesar Gonzales spoke with eloquence, poise, and humor, demonstrating what a quality Catholic, Jesuit education provides and how our schools

have changed their lives. Jorge Meza, SHNS Class of 2006, spoke about his accomplishments at Bellarmine and his desire to give back to the community. Jorge exemplifies our Nativity School Model of education. His achievements at SHNS led to his acceptance at BCP and his achievements at BCP led to his acceptance to Santa Clara University!

The Live Auction, conducted by auctioneer extraordinaire Frank Sunseri, was a huge



Debbie & Ed Kaufman with their fish piñatas

success. Frank got the crowd rolling with guests out-bidding each other for fabulous dinners, trips and golf packages. Highlights included a one-week stay at a Pebble Beach Mansion, a U.S. Open Carmel Golf package, and a fabulous dinner package titled, A Night of Tropical Delights. The Live auction raised \$44,100! Frank also led the crowd through our Last

Person Standing event which raised over \$100,000. A big thank you goes to our Last Person Standing Lon Normandin, and his wife Peggy, who donated \$15,000 which sponsors one student for a school year.

Each year we count on numerous volunteers to guarantee the success of our Fiesta. This year special thanks goes to our committee chairs Willy Brown: Silent Auction, Fred Brown: Premium Wine Bar & Silent

Auction Table, Xochitl Castillo: Reservations, and Heather Crane: Check-in/Check-out. These committee chairs, along with a talented group of supporting volunteers, worked tirelessly for many months to ensure a wonderful event. In addition, we'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to our event sponsors, donors, gift gathering party hosts and our Fiesta guests. With their support, once again we raised over \$300,000 for our schools!

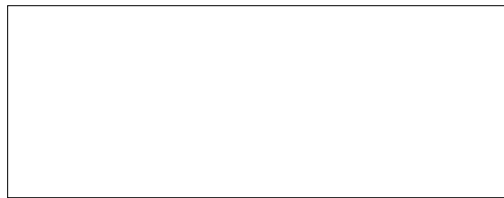


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Celebrating Fiesta 2010



BJ Cassin, Gene Ravizza, Father Peter Pabst, S.J., Dianne Ravizza, and Bill Almon



Guadalupe "Lupe" Rojas performs
"Danny Boy" on the Tin Whistle.