



SAINT CECILIA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

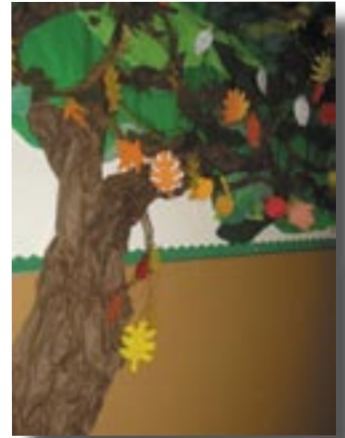
1311 S. E. Sycamore • Tustin • CA 92780

ROOTED IN READING

We believe the best way to accomplish a goal is to work together. Each year, we demonstrate our commitment to achieving academic competence by developing a school wide academic focus. Last year's focus on math skills involved implementing a program we called M&M (Math Mastery) and the purchase of new textbooks. This year we are tackling reading comprehension. Reading is the heart of education. Success in all other subjects depends on strong reading skills. With individual commitment and coordinated effort among students, teachers, and parents, we are certain our students understanding of what they read will continue to grow stronger.

We began our reading comprehension initiative this summer where we asked students to complete a summer reading assignment and delve into books on a suggested reading list. Teachers then followed up with classroom activities and projects to support our goal. On a classroom visit, visitors may spot kindergartners using highlighters to identify key text points, students in the library dramatizing story elements, primary students "reading the room" as they learn to identify beginning, middle, and end sounds, students in social studies class checking out trade books to make history come to life, or students translating text into drawings and art.

One highlight of this year was the 3rd and 4th grade class *Spotlight on Reading* event. One morning in October, all 3rd and 4th grade students transformed themselves into favorite authors and book characters. After researching their characters, students dressed up and delivered presentations on authors and book characters from Albert Einstein to Charlotte and her web. The event was an exciting celebration illuminating the worlds that are at your fingertips when reading a book.



A
COMMUNITY
OF
FAITH AND
EXCELLENCE

ISSUE 15
Fall 2009

COMING EVENTS:

- Christmas Pageant
December 15, 2009
- Open House
January 31, 2010
- Grandparents &
Special Friends Day
February 5, 2010
- Golf Tournament
May 7, 2010
- Spring Show:
May 27, 2010

2006 BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOLS PROGRAM

SINCE 1961

SUPPORTING GLOBAL EDUCATION

National Junior Honor Society continued its support of Father Marc's Orphanage in Haiti by completing a fall shoe drive entitled "Walking in My Shoes." Over the course of 3 weeks, students in grades kindergarten through eight collected gently used shoes to share with our neighbors in Haiti.

At the conclusion of the event, 620 pairs of shoes were collected. This generosity not only helps provide for a basic need for our Haitian neighbors, but also enables hundreds of children to attend school and build skills for a better future.

We applaud the effort of our student leaders in tackling this important global issue.



St. Cecilia graduates are . . .



TEACHING & LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY

St. Cecilia School stepped one foot farther into the digital age this summer with the installation of two SMART Interactive Whiteboards. Using proceeds from Auction 2008, the school installed whiteboards into the computer lab and fifth grade classrooms.

These new tools work in conjunction with our classroom computers and projectors to transform learning. Using touch-sensitive technology, teachers and students use the board itself like a mouse. Using finger pressure, students move and manipulate objects and demonstrate the relationship of their ideas to those presented by their peers. Teachers are excited by the wealth of interactive teaching and learning materials that are available using Notebook 10 software and through the Internet.

The SMART Boards have been a hit! The boards, along with the document cameras installed last year, keep learning visual and enable students to easily articulate and demonstrate their learning. We are close to our goal of raising funds to equip each of our K-8 classes with interactive whiteboards and are seeking additional ACT Sponsors to reach this goal.



Many thanks to our parents and community partners for supporting the 10th Annual Saint Cecilia Auction: "Unmask the Night" Over 220 people attended the gala event. Proceeds directly support campus improvements, science equipment and a SMART Board for the science lab, the PTG budget, and the school Endowment Fund. Special thanks to all of the current families, alumni, and businesses that contributed funds, products, and services that made the event a success.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ST. CECILIA GRADUATES?

We are proud of our graduates' accomplishments both in and out of the classroom. Here is a list of where our graduates returned this fall...



Class of 2005:

- Arizona State University
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- California State University, San Francisco
- Chico State University
- Columbia University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Notre Dame
- San Diego State University
- UCLA
- UCSB
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of San Diego

Class of 2009:

- Beckman High School
- Foothill High School
- Mater Dei High School
- Mission Viejo High School
- Rosary High School
- Servite High School
- Tustin High School
- Woodbridge High School

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

The support of the St. Cecilia community has always been a critical element in the success of our school. Whether volunteering on a field trip, organizing a fundraiser, or donating supplies, your contributions have made a difference. In an effort to work smarter, we've compiled a list of ways you can leverage your current purchasing to support our school.

Office Depot- Share our Rewards account number (714.544.1533) to earn the school credit for your purchases. We have earned \$378 in credit since July based on returns from ink and purchases. These funds are being used to pay for ink and updating computer peripherals.

Target- link our school to your Target credit card. Our school will receive a percentage of your total purchases. Last year we received \$785 in donations from Target.

Box Tops for Education- turn in box tops to the front office. Last year, we received \$483 and are on track to meet or exceed that amount this year. Please contact Terese Garrett for more information.

...spiritual ... academically competent...

STAFF PROFILE: ADINA BRAATZ

You might be surprised to learn that our Pre-K class is known informally by our staff as the space to regroup, refocus, and remember why we love to teach. This is due in equal measure to our wonderful and wonderful Pre-K students and to the thoughtful and warm demeanor of our Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Adina Braatz.

Mrs. Braatz values Catholic education and is an integral part of the parent, Parish, and School communities. She is a long-time parishioner who was confirmed and married in our Church. After working with youth ministry for a number of years, she turned her attention towards developing the School's program for our youngest members. She was instrumental in planning and earning state accreditation for our Preschool and Pre-K programs, and has taught at Saint Cecilia School for 11 years. Mrs. Braatz also directs the Preschool/Pre-K programs.

Mrs. Braatz considers Saint Cecilia her home away from home and invests in our school both personally and professionally. Her husband, Craig, and children Matthew (4th grade), Maria (3rd grade), and Elizabeth (7 ½ months, possibly class of 2022) are all active participants in our school community. Mrs. Braatz feels the school provides a firm foundation in faith and academics, and is most grateful that each of her children is valued as individuals. In her free time, Mrs. Braatz enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Some favorite activities include relaxing at the beach and watching Matthew's baseball games and listening to Maria practice the piano.

Mrs. Braatz feels blessed to be part of the Saint Cecilia community and we in turn are blessed by the love she bestows and the care she takes with each of her students and colleagues.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Open House and Registration



Open House
Sunday, January 31st
following 9 AM Mass

School Tours
Monday, February 1st
8:30 AM

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Friday, February 5th
Saint Cecilia Parish Hall
Stay Tuned for More Details...



Saint Cecilia Golf Classic

Friday, May 7th
Tustin Ranch Golf Course
For more information,
please contact
Arlene Warren x 104



Adopt A Class Today

- PreS/PreK- The McCarthy Family
In memory of Ronan McCarthy
- K- The Song Family / The Smith Family
- 1st- Charles and Lynn Tozzer /
The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation
- 2nd- The Burns Family / The Braatz Family / Carl
Braatz / The Rosa Family
- 3rd- The Loi Family / Market Timing Resources
- 4th- JMB Financial Managers / Oakland Machine Works
/ The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation
- 6th- RMJ Distributors, Inc.
- 8th- Randy and Anne Fiorentino /
JMB Financial Managers / JRA Designs
- Math- The Dental Office of Dr. Marilou D. Elido /
The Kimble Family
- Extended Day Care- Market Timing Resources
- Academic Decathlon- Travelers Foundation Community
Action Awards Program
- Art- The Guirgis Family / The Strohl Family
- Technology- The Alfieri Family
- Technology- The Alfieri Family / The Neglia Family /
Mrs. Mary Thornton
In memory of Timothy M. Thornton

...holistic... of strong moral character...



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www.stceciliak8.org

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WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please mail this back to **St. Cecilia School**. You may also update your records and information by phone (714) 544-1533, fax (714) 544-0643, or through the website (www.stceciliak8.org/alumni).

Please circle one: I am a(n) Alumnus Parishioner Saint Cecilia Friend

 First Name Maiden name (if applicable) Last Name Class Year


 Street Address City State Zip Code

 Home Phone Work Phone

 Company Name Occupation/Title E-mail Address

 City State Zip Code Spouse's Name

Please tell us some news about yourself, your family, or other St. Cecilia School graduates.



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If you would like to make a gift to the school for tuition assistance, school improvements, or would like to set up a scholarship in memory of a loved one, please contact Lourdes Lejano, Development Director, at 714-544-1533 ext. 216 or email llejano@stceciliak8.org.

St. Cecilia School is a non-profit 501 (c) organization ID#93-1159426.