

# The Sacred Heart Nativity School Newsletter

“Breaking the cycle of poverty through education”

Fall 2005  
Volume 4  
Issue 1

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

Sacred Heart Nativity School now has 28 alumni. Soon we will need to have an alumni association just like a long established school! We do have an alumni support program though, and it allows us to help our guys be successful in their new endeavors. Part of the culture of Nativity Schools is that we make a commitment to our students for 7 years, not just the three years we have them on campus.

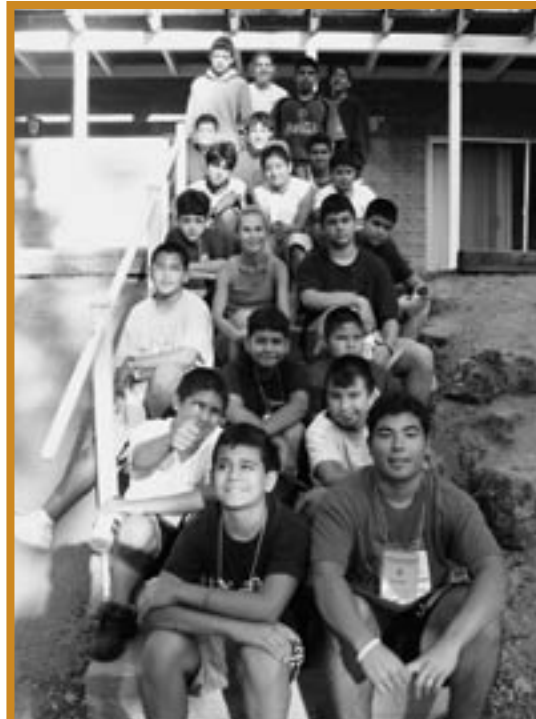
We ask our students to commit to us for the four years they are in high school by attending a study hall one day a week and keeping us up to date on their grades. We want our grads to know that we are here to support them in whatever way we can.

One of our sophomores from Bellarmine recently was seeking some feedback on an essay comparing King Oedipus to Arnold Schwarzenegger and we were delighted he understood he could come for help. Another day Kent Campbell, our Graduate Support Director, was teaching 3 alumni mothers how to use a mouse for the computer, access the Internet, and then visit the Mitty High School website to check on their son's academic progress. We are planning a session for the parents of our boys at Bellarmine to be able to do the same. Having our mom's learn these skills is a positive by-product of the Nativity School experience.

According to David Brooks of *The New York Times*, “students in the poorest quarter of the population have an 8.6 percent chance of getting a college degree. Students in the top quarter have a 74.9 percent chance.” Our great hope is to educate and empower our students and their parents to truly embrace the concept of the value of a college education. Thank you for helping us break the cycle of poverty through education.

P.S. Another positive by-product of the Nativity School Experience is that I had the privilege of presiding at the wedding of Kerry Porcaro and Charlie Cownie in New York. They met while working at our summer camp in 2002!

*Many thanks for all the kind notes, cards and donations in memory of my mother. Your support was a great aid to the Pabst family. ~ Fr. Peter*



**SAVE THE DATE:  
FEBRUARY 18, 2006!**

*Fiesta 2006*

is fast approaching!

Please remember to reserve your table for Saturday, February 18, 2006. We have many sponsorship opportunities available and we would love to have your participation. We are in need of corporate sponsors, event sponsorships, table hosts, raffle items and silent auction items. We also have volunteer opportunities for the event. Join us in making this a *Sell-Out Year!* And, help us in our mission, “Breaking the cycle of poverty through education in the service of faith and the promotion of justice.” If you can help in any way, please call Debbie Pearson at (408) 993-1293 X123

## **From the desk of the Principal...by Kevin Eagleson**

The 2005-06 school year began on June 21<sup>st</sup> when our students walked into morning classes at Bellarmine College Preparatory. Attending classes on a high school campus offers Nativity students a different learning perspective – classes are larger, students are from different areas, and teachers are not familiar. However, learning is still the expected result. By mid-July the student body had arrived at Camp Applegate, the Jesuit retreat center in the Sierra foothills. The three weeks of community-building spent in this rural environment generated the spirit of teamwork that must carry us through the entire year. Our theme, *Somos Familia (We Are Family)* was daily put to the test as we studied, prayed, and played our way through July. August allowed us time to recharge our batteries, and we opened the school doors on Tuesday, September 6th to 62 eager young boys.

Our first 30 days have been busy – national testing, Saturday School, a trip to the Golden Gate Bridge and Fort Point, and two all-morning tutoring sessions with St. Francis High School sophomores. The eighth graders managed to slip away to Yosemite for five days, and in the process they hiked Vernal and Nevada Falls, Glacier Point, and Yosemite Falls. The seventh grade traveled to Archbishop Mitty High School to watch a frosh football game, and the sixth grade, not to be outdone, went to San Francisco's Orpheum Theatre to enjoy a performance of *Holes*.

Our two graduating classes have helped us develop a proud identity – ten students at Bellarmine, six at Downtown College Prep, five at Archbishop Mitty, and one student each at Pioneer, Andrew Hill, Willow Glen, Latino Prep, and San Jose Academy. Graduates are given an opportunity to return to SHNS every Tuesday evening for study hall and tutoring, so we often see the fruits of our labors.

Finally, if you visit us at Nativity, you will see two student art pieces of which we are very proud. In 2004, four members of our first graduating class painted a beautiful replica of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*. It is the focus of our main hallway. And just recently an eighth grade student, Alex Mon, completed a colorful political map of Mexico, detailing the many states from where our families have come. These art works help unify our spiritual and cultural lives, and bring us back to our theme – *Somos Familia*.

### **The Sobrato Family Foundation** has issued a 2:1 Challenge Grant to us –

We need to receive \$100,000 in new or increased donations from individuals, corporations or foundations in order to receive a second \$100,000 grant. This is a good way to put your gift to work! Please consider a donation or an increase in past amounts!



Each year the boys get to attend the **Ronnie Lott Celebrity Golf Invitational**. The 10th annual tournament was held August 22-23, 2005 at Pebble Beach. This spectacular event generates funds for Lott's *All Stars Helping Kids* Foundation which in turn distributes to organizations promoting the education, development, and health of children in the Bay Area.



## Summer Camp 2005 – “Comunidad!” (community)

*“To act justly, Love tenderly, and Walk humbly with our God”*



### Memories from camp - Martin Acosta, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The best part of camp was playing Capture the Flag. It was very fun, but I will try to make it more fun next year by cheering on and congratulating both my teammates and my opponents. Camp was a good experience because it was the first time that I was away from home for two weeks. One fun thing was that I met kids from different schools. I would like to go again next year for three weeks so that I will have more fun.

### Mark Gonzalez, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Camp was a good experience for me because we had a lot of activities like football, swimming, art, and much more. We had English, Reading, and Math classes every day, including Saturday, but not on Sunday. We got breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and the food is delicious. Our teachers and camp counselors helped us to become better swimmers in the pool every day. We worked on treading water and some different strokes. The free time in the pool was my favorite part. The whole school went to the American River, but we went separately by grades. We had to walk and hike for about one and a half hours in each direction. I was exhausted, but I had a lot of fun when we got to the river. Camp was fun and I wish I could go every summer.

*“Eliminating poverty through education brings about positive change in our community and in our world.”*

## To our Summer Camp Donors, we say...

Emma R. Anderson,  
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Steve Argyris,  
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Frank and Louise Zarka,  
Ruben and Irene Zuniga

**... big thanks! You helped make it possible!**

**Thank you also to Bellarmine College Prep for hosting our 7th and 8th grades for three great weeks of summer school!**

## *Speaking from the heart...*

### **Sacred Heart Nativity School parent, Josefina Sandoval Madrigal**

When Josefina met Martin in an English Language Class at Sacred Heart years ago, she had no idea that one day they would have two sons attending school at that same site.

Josefina Sandoval Madrigal moved to San Jose from Guanajuato, Mexico 14 years ago, while Martin came to this area from Zacatecas, Mexico. Today they have two boys attending SHNS - Jose is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Anselmo is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader.

"How grateful I am to Sacred Heart Nativity School," Josefina says.

Josefina and the boys feel that SHNS is their extended family. They feel that the staff at SHNS takes the time to care and support both the boys and the family. The president, principal, teachers and staff at SHNS are very loving and caring and work very hard to help all the students. Anselmo was in a public school prior to coming to SHNS and was having some challenges due to the larger classes and was feeling lost at the school. Since arriving at SHNS, the difference in Anselmo is amazing. He has overcome many of his challenges and has shown great improvement - both in his academics and his new found belief that he can create a future for himself.

At first the extended day was difficult for Anselmo, but, as he became more involved, his motivation increased and he now has enough faith in himself that he is thinking about how he can attend Harvard or Stanford University someday. This could have never happened without the love, discipline and dedication he receives at SHNS every day.

Jose, her 6<sup>th</sup> grader, is very happy at SHNS and he helps to motivate his older brother. He tells Anselmo that he needs to work hard to go to Harvard or Stanford and he better get A++ and be the best he can be. The boys are proud of themselves and Josefina feels her moral values and beliefs are echoed at SHNS.

Josefina speaks from her heart when she describes the school as a family. She feels encouraged by SHNS to become a better parent. Parents play such an important role in their children's life and she believes in getting involved with the Parents' Guild and in giving back to the community. She also recognizes that there is no better place for her children. Her participation in the Parents' Guild has given her the strength and tools to succeed with her boys. Not only has she gained these new tools through the parenting classes at SHNS, it has also been a way to meet other parents.

Josefina wants to thank all the wonderful donors who have given her two boys and all the other children at SHNS the opportunity of a lifetime - a chance to better themselves. This is the first step in climbing out of the 'cycle of poverty' to a better way of life. By giving these children a solid academic and moral background and belief in themselves, they are given the opportunity to succeed. Education is the only way out of the cycle of poverty.

Dear Friends,

As I look back on my first year, I enjoyed it very much. I couldn't imagine that I could be in this school. I am thankful because you did everything that has made it possible for me to go to the school and camp. Thank You!

*Jonny Diaz, 7<sup>th</sup> grader*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of the things you have given us. Without you it wouldn't be possible to have this school. Thank you for the school supplies and sports equipment, especially soccer balls. Also thank you for the money so we can stay at summer camp at Applegate. Camp lets me see nature and still focus on school work.

*Angel Ibanez, 8<sup>th</sup> grader.*

Dear Friends,

As I look back on my first year, I notice what I have done, how much I have improved and how grateful I am because I have a great chance to go to Mitty or Bellarmine for high school. I am thankful for your support that you have given us. Thank you for supporting me all this year.

*Daniel Cortez, 7<sup>th</sup> grader*

### *Help Make a Dream Come True*

SHNS is in need of your donations and volunteer efforts and there are many ways you can be part of the SHNS Family of Giving. These are just a few of the ways you can help change the cycle of poverty through education...

Sponsor a Student for a Year Tuition: \$15,000

Sponsor a Student for Half Year Tuition: \$7500

Sponsor a Student for Quarter Year Tuition: \$3750

Arts Program:

Supplies \$800

Arts Program for One Year \$5000

Sponsor a student for summer camp: \$900

Academic program expenses:

Set of new literature and science text books: \$5000

*Thank You also to Martha's Kitchen! Thanks especially to Edita, Dennis and Leland for preparing and serving breakfast and lunch for our SHNS students. You're the Best!*

## ***Our Lady of Grace Nativity School for Girls plans to open its doors!***

Last fall the board of directors of SHNS voted to accept a \$500,000 anonymous leadership gift in order for us to offer a Nativity School type education for girls. This school will be called Our Lady of Grace Nativity School for Girls and will be housed on our campus. The two schools will be co-institutional which will allow us to continue to offer single-sex education yet share resources that were established for the boy's school. We are scheduled to take our first sixth grade class of girls in the fall of 2006!!

We are currently entertaining small groups for campus tours and opportunities to learn more about the girl's school. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please call Debbie Pearson in our Development Office at 408.993.1293 x123 to participate in an orientation tour that describes our dream of opening this girl's school. Tours will be available in October, November and December. For more information contact Fr. Peter Pabst, S.J. at 408.993.1293.

Mrs. Mary Pabst, mother of Fr. Peter Pabst, passed away this past May 16. The SHNS staff and students remember and honor her.

She is survived by her husband George; & children: Peter, Joseph, George, and Elizabeth.

Mrs. Pabst and her husband had celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary the day before she died.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with the Pabst family during these last few months.

*SHNS donations help us break the cycle of poverty through education.  
Our costs for an eleven-month school year are about \$15,000 per year.  
Our students count on your generosity! Thank you!*

### ***Alicia Gallegos Profile of a Board Member***

**What is your background and your family's background?** I grew up about six blocks from Sacred Heart Church and attended St. Patrick School and Notre Dame High School, San Jose; Santa Clara University where my concentrations were Political Science, Spanish and Ethnic Studies; and then Harvard Graduate School of Education for my Masters degree in Education (Ed.M) I am passionate about working to provide college opportunities for students who will be the first in their families to go to college. I began at Downtown College Prep (DCP) as a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher and my third year with DCP became the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal. I am currently in my sixth year at DCP and am now DCP's Vice Principal. My younger sister is currently at SCU law school, my older brother is a librarian with the City of San Jose, my mom works in the Sacred Heart Church office and my dad is a social worker for Santa Clara County. We have all been active members of Sacred Heart Parish for over twenty-five years. My mom was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico and my dad was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico. They met while attending San Jose High School and have been married for over 37 years.

**How long have you been involved with the SHNS?** I have been with SHNS since the first year as a board member and I have always been a supporter even as Fr. Mateo began to talk about opening a school at Sacred Heart Parish.

**What is your role and responsibilities with the school?** A member of the Board of Directors of SHNS; involved in meetings about OLG; and volunteer for the Admissions Committee. Five students who graduated from SHNS are currently attending DCP and I work with SNHS to track their progress towards college.

**Why are you involved in this capacity and what does it mean to you?** I am committed to working with students from San Jose to be the first in their families to get to college and to helping students have successful academic careers. SHNS brings awareness to the community about the importance of education and provides opportunities for students to succeed—I want to be a part of something so positive, hopeful and that is helping kids develop who they are as students and as members of the community.

*There is nothing more rewarding than giving at-risk children the chance to break out of the cycle of poverty by providing them with hope and opportunity for a brighter future.*

## ***We welcome to SHNS...***

**Debbie Pearson** joins SHNS as Director of Development and comes to us from Phoenix where she worked as Director of Development for a non-profit organization. She has three boys that attended Brophy College Preparatory and one daughter who attended Xavier College Preparatory in Phoenix. Her four children graduated from Loyola Marymount University. Debbie has devoted 22 years to fundraising and volunteering from the Pre-school level to the University level.

**Katie Nejasnich** graduated from CalPoly, San Luis Obispo in 2004 with a BA in English. Katie is an intern teaching 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical education, 6<sup>th</sup> grade literature, 6<sup>th</sup> grade writing and geography, which is an elective class with students from each grade.

**Elizabeth Riley** graduated from Santa Clara University in 2004. Liz teaches 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, 8<sup>th</sup> grade US History and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish.

**Michael Ferdinandi** graduated from Santa Clara University in 2005. Mike is an intern teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade religion and 7<sup>th</sup> grade English.

**Dori Galvin** graduated from NYU in May, 2005. Dori is a Jesuit volunteer who teaches 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade music, 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and she helps out with 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies.

**Becky Bausch** graduated from Lemoyne College in 2005. Becky is a Jesuit volunteer who teaches 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade music and 6<sup>th</sup> grade math. She also teaches the computer class for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

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