

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear SHS Community,

As we navigate the academic year with enthusiasm and a strong sense of community, I am thrilled to share some exciting updates from our beloved Sacred Heart School.

Our sixth graders recently embarked on another unforgettable journey at science camp, where they had the opportunity to explore the wonders of the natural world, engage in hands-on experiments, and deepen their appreciation for the sciences. I joined for one of the days, and it was truly a transformative experience, fostering a love for God's creation that will undoubtedly stay with our students throughout their academic journeys.

Our Parents' Club continues to be quite active, and I am delighted to report record-breaking achievements in our recent fundraiser. The Fun Run and Dodgeball Tournament not only showcased the physical health of our students but also demonstrated your incredible generosity. Classes with 100% participation got the chance to dunk our beloved Coach B in the dunk tank. The support from this fundraiser allows us to enhance our programs, invest in educational resources, and create an even more enriching environment for our students.

Our Faith Families continue to thrive. Once a month, a "family" of students (one from each grade) are led by an 8th grader in a time of faith, leadership, service,

and fun. Witnessing the spiritual growth and camaraderie among our students has been truly heartwarming. This past Thanksgiving, families shared a Thanksgiving meal together. I want to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Neff and our dedicated volunteers who orchestrated the heartwarming Thanksgiving Feast for our student faith families. Sharing a meal together is not just a tradition; it is a beautiful expression of our faith. In the act of breaking bread, we forge connections, foster gratitude, and strengthen the bonds that make our school community so special.

I am pleased to share that our school continues to grow, and the response to our faith-centered educational approach continues to draw families to our school. Our classrooms are nearly at capacity, a clear reflection of the trust and confidence in our commitment to academic excellence and spiritual development.

As we have reached the end of the calendar year, let us reflect on the growth and achievements that have shaped our community. Your unwavering support continues to be instrumental in our success, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Near and far, thank you for being an essential part of the Sacred Heart school family.

Rachel Meyers, Principal

MISSION STATEMENT



Sacred Heart School, a ministry of Sacred Heart Parish, unites with families to instill a lifelong commitment to Catholic Values in a safe and nurturing environment. We are committed to 21st-Century learning focused on collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. Sacred Heart School provides an exemplary academic foundation, and develops students who serve their communities and the world with Reverence, Respect, and Responsibility.

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Welcome back, Saints! The new school year kicked off with our Back to School Event featuring tacos and nachos, compliments of the Parent's Club. It was a great way to reunite, say hello to teachers and staff, and gain some momentum for the year to come!

Emotions were high on the first day of school for the students, parents, and teachers. First Day Assembly was led by **Principal**Meyers, the new student council members, and was also surrounded by our encouraging and supportive teachers, staff, and parents. The classroom lines were filled with eager students excited for their first day back!

New teachers, students, and families were recognized and warmly welcomed by all. Our wonderful Parents' Club hosted a parent coffee social following morning assembly, as students went to their classrooms to start their day. The school year was already off to a great start!











FIRST MASS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

The Feast of the Assumption was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church on August 15th. Father Ron Green presided over the mass with the participation of several teachers and students. Father Ron was successful at delivering a warm message to the students explaining that if we trust and put our faith in God, all good things will come. He also reminded us not to be afraid as God is with us. Father Ron has a special way of delivering these messages in which the students can relate to, and this mass was no exception. The service concluded with a special blessing for all the teachers and staff who work with the students in the classrooms, as well as a big applause of affirmation from the students. It was a heartfelt moment and a beautiful mass.







INDUCTION MASS

On Friday, September 1st, the entire school gathered together in the church to witness and celebrate the induction of this year's new Student Council members. Father Kelly presided the Mass with Deacon David. Liturgical Choir, led by Mrs. Rains and Mr. Lauritson on guitar, had 35 singers; an exceptional number this year. Their beautifully harmonic voices echoed in the church as they sang "Lead Me Lord" and "Pan de Vida," among other songs. Father Kelly delivered an inspiring message about setting goals, and the students raised their hands eagerly to answer his questions. His valuable message ultimately highlighted how our relationship with God is similar to the pearl in treasure and how that center will guide us to live in this world. The mass concluded with the new council member's pledge and prayer.

Our newly inducted Student Council Members are: Maya, Shayla, Colette, Mayte, Abbey, Lauren, Makyala, Nikhita, Alek, Isabellah, Sofia, Alex, Matthew, Rebecca, Kate, Adrian, Moises, Camila, Mila, Timothy, Isabella, Avery, and Amaya. God bless them, and their journey in leadership this new school year!









9/11 REMEMBRANCE DAY

On September 8th, the students, staff, and families gathered together at assembly to honor the innocent lives that were lost on 9/11. We prayed that their families continue to remember the legacy of their loved ones and the imprint they left on their lives. We also honored and prayed for our local first responders who do so much for the community to ensure the safety and well-being of others. Representatives and vehicles were present on campus, all which had close connections to our school, including American Medical Response, City of Salinas Police and SWAT Unit, California Fire Department, Monterey Sheriff's Department, Seaside Police Department, and Watsonville Police Department. Father Ron directed the students to turn toward the first responders and their vehicles, extend out their hands for a blessing in their direction, while he sprinkled holy water upon them. The assembly concluded with many thanks and appreciation, accompanied with cookies for our special guests. The students were also thrilled to take tours of the vehicles and photos with our local heroes.







NEW HAPPENINGS THIS YEAR





Sacred Heart has some exciting new clubs happening this year! Our newest club additions are the **Chess Club** and **Garden Club** moderated by **Mr. Aaron**, and the **Math Club**, led by **Mrs. Koenig**.

Chess Club meets once a week and is open to 4th through 8th graders. Students who are experienced players are teaching beginners how to play. Not only is chess a lot of fun, but it helps develop higher order thinking skills.

The **Garden Club** is open to students from 2nd through 8th grade and meets after school for an hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thanks to our **Garden Club**, the plant containers throughout the school will be watered and maintained by our very own students! New plants will also be added to the planter boxes. In addition, there are raised beds used for composting, and for growing vegetables. Sacred Heart's very own apple tree produced delicious apples, and the **Garden Club** members made applesauce to take home! Many thanks to the **Branco Family** for their generous donation of plants!

Students who really like math can now join the **Math Club**! Not only are the members making math fun, they are sharing their knowledge by tutoring other students who want or need extra support in math, via the **Math Squad**. The members of the club that

option.

want to compete with other middle schoolers in the Diocese, Monterey County, and statewide are part of a team called **Math Counts.**

» faith families





Faith Families are back again this year!
Students from every grade gather in individual families, (31 families in all), to pray and grow in community. Students gather each month in a classroom to discuss their faith. The 8th graders lead these gatherings allowing them to practice their leadership skills and become more responsibile.

PICKLEBALL!

What do you get when you combine components of tennis, ping-pong, badminton and a plastic ball? **Pickleball**! Thanks to the suggestion of Mrs. Meyers, this simple, fun and social sport has become the new rage among the upper grades here at Sacred Heart. The game can be played by all ages and skill levels, but it can also be competitive and fast-paced, which makes it an engaging recreational



"We started playing and then more people started joining. You can play with your friends and kinda be competitive but not..." says 5th grader Zoe.

According to 8th grader, Mayte, "everyone is welcome!"

FIELD TRIPS GALORE!

Fall was full of fun filled field trips! Sacred Heart's **3rd** graders were educated on the progression of our local agricultural crops and family businesses during their field trip to the **Salinas California Welcome Center**. They also participated in hands-on learning while visiting the **First Mayor's House** by completing "olden day" chores such as making butter, washing socks on a washboard, and hanging them to dry. The students also enjoyed listening to stories about the history of Salinas. What an enriching learning experience!

Our **TK** students had a memorable time visiting **The Farm** in Salinas, where they toured the hay-wagon tractor ride, windmill, wells, harvesting crops and their farm animals.













Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and **5th grade** students took field trips to **Gizdich Ranch** located in Watsonville. Students learned how an apple farm operates and how apples are processed into juice and other delicious treats! Since it was pumpkin season, the students learned how a pumpkin grows, as well, and every student was fortunate to leave with their very own pumpkin!







The **4th grade** went to the **Pacific/ Custom House** in Monterey to learn about the industries in the area when the state was known as "Alta California." They made an adobe brick and a candle. They learned how livestock became an industry, and even learned to lasso cattle!

What a rich and informative day for them!

AMAZING ALUMS

Lauren Asuncion '21 won one of the 2023 U.S. Congressional High School Art Competition Awards! Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren selected her artwork as her district's winning painting. Lauren's painting is currently being displayed at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. and will be shared with the public for one year. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren's office flew Lauren, her mom, Chona, and her brother Marc (also a Sacred Heart School alumnus and 2023 Palma High School Valedictorian) to Washington D.C. for a special awards ceremony and guided tours around Washington D.C.'s historical sites back in June.

To paraphrase Lauren's description of her painting titled "My Identity is Rooted in You": "My painting is a celebration of one of my immigrant grandmothers (Chona's mom, to be specific) and how she has influenced my own identity. It is a testament to the power of intergenerational connections and the importance of honoring our roots and heritage."





Mahi Shah, a junior at Notre Dame High School and Sacred Heart Alum '20, was selected as the Inaugural Monterey County Youth Poet Laureate. She will serve a one-year term, participate in several engagements throughout the year, and received a \$1,000 honorarium. The Monterey County Youth Poet Laureate is a program of the Arts Council for Monterey County in partnership with Urban Word, the producer of the National Youth Poet Laureate program and movement. This program celebrates youth voices that are committed to artistic excellence civic engagement and social impact. The Youth Poet Laureate position is recognized by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors with a

county resolution made in honor of this role. They received an overwhelming response of 28 applicants from students across the county.

We are SO proud of both Lauren and Mahi!

Congratulations to our SHS alumnae who graduated from Palma, Notre Dame, and other local High Schools in 2023! Best of luck at your new colleges!

Addison Amaral~University of Notre Dame, Marc Asuncion~UCLA, Isolina Barrett~Hartnell,
Andy Camacho~CSU San Jose, Jaclyn Campbell~Chapman, Chris Carreon~MPC Fire Academy,
Gursewak Ghuman~Sacramento State University, Gabriela Gutierrez~Chapman, Nate Halcon~CSU Stanislaus,
Jaden Haro~CSU San Jose, Leilana Herrera~LA Trade Technical College, Ivan Hora~CSU San Jose,
Matt Iverson~Cal Poly SLO, Sophia Lagasca~Hartnell, Xochi Leyva~University of Massachusettes, Amherst,
Bella Martinez~Cal Poly SLO, Karina Martinez~MPC, Noah Olszanowski~Cal Poly SLO,
Ashley Pacheco~Arizona State University, Nirali Pandya~MPC, Gianna Perez~Ursinus College,
Lucas Putich~CSU Monterey Bay, Brihtzell Rodriguez~Hartnell, Christian Romero~UC Santa Cruz,
Eva Rossi~St. Mary's College, Haley Sanders~Coe College, Tatum Sanders~University of St. Tomas,
Zack Toderick~MPC, Daniel Westing~UC Davis, Andrea Zuniga~UC Santa Cruz

CAMPUS LIFE

IN MEMORY OF SISTER BARBARA

To all who knew **Sister Barbara**, she was a kind, energetic, spiritual, tireless, faithful, and a true friend. In 2022, Sister Barbara celebrated her 70th year as a Sister and a teacher. Her first years in the classroom sent her all along the West Coast -Los Angeles, the San Jose area, and Seattle. Then in 1964, she was named superior, principal, and sixth-grade teacher at the new Madonna Del Sasso School here in Salinas. With the exception of six years as principal of Most Holy Trinity School in San Jose, she served most of her remaining career in Salinas, as principal of Madonna Del Sasso, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Monterey, and then, Alumnae and Community Relations Director of Notre Dame High School, Salinas. With her many, many friends in Salinas, Sister Barbara was just the right person to serve in this ministry. She and Sister Lynn were welcome "guests" at many of our Sacred Heart functions, and she regularly donated to our tuition assistance fund.

Reflecting on her many years, at the time of her 70th Jubilee, she said, "I feel I have

been greatly blessed by the journey and I am extremely grateful." We all have been

blessed that she was in our lives! She will be missed.

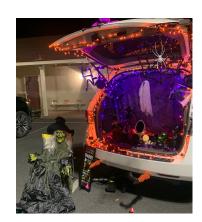


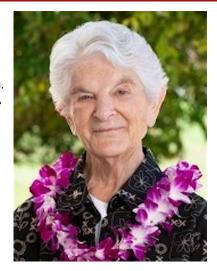












OCTOBER

On Wednesday, October 4th, we celebrated

Blessing of the Animals, on the feast day of Saint

Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. Students

brought their animals or stuffed animals, for a special

blessing with holy water by Father Kelly. Dogs, cats,

and even a goose were among the special "guests."

Father Kelly also prayed for our animal pets who are no
longer with us physically. Together we gave thanks for
the gifts that they gave us and for the variety of ways
they enriched and blessed our lives.

Many thanks, again, to the **Lyons family** for providing our students with the annual "**Pumpkin Patch**," which took place on October 9th. Thank you to the **Holtz family** who helped load and deliver the pumpkins, and the **Lozano and Calderon families** who helped unload the pumpkins onto campus. Sacred Heart is truly blessed to receive the help from such generous and dedicated families. The students were smiling from ear to ear as they picked out their special pumpkin!

Our "Safe Halloween" was spooktacular this year! Children, staff, and families came dressed in costumes and ready to celebrate! Each class provided creatively decorated car trunks for a "Trunk or Treat." The children enjoyed a variety of activities and exhibits, such as Dr. Frink's Nightmare Slime Lab, Pirates of the Caribbean and Haunted Mansion, a maze on the lawn, games, food, face painting, and a photo booth. A great time was had by all. Thank you to the Parents' Club, staff, and all the volunteers who helped to make this annual event a hit!

FUN RUN 2023

The Fun Run and Dodgeball Tournament were once again, a huge success! This year we had record-breaking numbers with over \$113,000 in funds raised! These funds will support program needs such as playground upgrades, athletic equipment, community events, school dances, field trips, and much more. We also had 90% student participation and over 40 volunteers helping this year! The morning was full of excitement and enthusiasm as music blasted while the students ran through bubbles and colored chalk, hula hooped, shot baskets, balanced on the balance beam, flipped over heavy tires, and more! Once they got to the finish line, they had their picture taken at the photo booth and enjoyed water and treats provided by the Parents' Club and Star Market. The students truly had a blast! Perhaps the most fun was had by the classes who had 100% participation, as they earned a chance to dunk Coach B in the dunk tank! As always, none of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the members of the Parents' Club, staff, and our generous families and

sponsors. Thank you!

















MORE SAINTLY FAMILY SPONSORS:

PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL: LEARNING RESPONSIBILITY AND GAINING CONFIDENCE

Aside from learning, drawing, painting, writing, playing, working on gross and fine motor skills, praying, and sharing, our preschoolers in **Mrs. Araida** and **Mrs. Mitchell's** class participate in various classroom "jobs," that teach them responsibility and help them gain confidence. Some of these jobs include line leader, flag holder, prayer leader, circle helper, calendar helper, weather reporter, etc. When asked what job was their favorite, it was unanimous with the flag holder being number one, followed closely by the line leader. The preschoolers are very proud when they feel that they are positively contributing to the classroom!









Students in Mrs. Garcia and Ms. Rodriguez's class look most forward to their chance to be Friend of the Week. Students earn this privilege when they demonstrate good behavior, kindness, and responsibility. As Friend of the Week, they get to take home the class pet Brownie, a golden brown, labradoodle, soft plush stuffed toy! The preschoolers practice responsibility, as they have to take care of Brownie and feed him twice a day. Preschoolers are also encouraged to have fun and write in Brownie's journal about what they are doing while he stays with them over the weekend. Brownie is so loved and cared for by our loving preschoolers!







ANNUAL GIVING FUND 2022-2023

After 118 years, Sacred Heart School is proud of an extended family: student families, committed faculty, a vast alumni network, amazing friends, and the wider community who support the Annual Giving Program. Their contributions reinforce the foundation of school operations each year. The unique programs and services, which our students deserve exist, because of the generosity of the following:

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(\$750-\$999)

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Many thanks to Anthony Lane and the Fox Theatre for always stepping up to support Sacred Heart's events-expecially the 2023 Graduation!

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(\$500-\$749)

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In Memory of Sister Barbara

Connie Rains, Marilyn Jaime

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SPECIAL THANKS AGAIN TO THE **PEBBLE BEACH FOUNDATION** AND ALSO TO **MONTEREY PENINSULA FOUNDATION**FOR THE GRANTSTO SUPPORT OUR
TECHNOLOGY.!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SIXTH GRADE SCIENCE CAMP

Science camp is always a wonderful and memorable experience for our 6th graders. They come back to school sharing so many stories. This year, the 6th graders went in November for four days to Camp Monte Toyon in Aptos. Here a few highlights that some of the 6th graders shared from science camp:

"At Monte Toyon I learned how to identify poison ivy, how to figure out what animals live in polluted water, and many other things. I will always remember the hike, singing songs, hanging out with everyone, having fun, and bonding with everyone and the naturalists." - **Ava**

"Some experiences I loved were the night hike, the songs they sang at the amphitheater, the beautiful walks where you get to experience nature without all the talking, and the food was amazing!" -Cameron "Monte Toyon is a great experience. When I went to the camp I learned a lot while still having fun." -Abbey









Holiday Happenings



A Thanksgiving feast, a visit from the Grinch, making gingerbread houses, and performing in the Christmas

Program were just some of the events that made this holiday season magical for our Saints!











Every gift matters! Your support makes learning possible. Making a donation to SHS means you are empowering the next generation of smart leaders, creative thinkers, and global citizens.

\$2060 cost of one trimester per student.

\$618 cost of **one month** per student.

\$181.76 cost of **one week** per student.

\$34.33 cost of **one day** per student.



Sacred Heart School

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www.shschool.com

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DONATE ONLINE

We are always grateful for any contribution to our <u>Tuition Assistance Fund</u>. If you find it in your heart to donate, please know that due to the happenings in our world today, you will be supporting those families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Saints' Word is produced by Sacred Heart School's Gina Rossi, Marilyn Jaime ('05), and Connie Rossi-Rains ('64)

Accreditations / Memberships

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Like us on Facebook and/or follow us on Instagram to see more information on our upcoming events:

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