



HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS

WINTER 2010

What I Love About St. James'

What I love about St. James' is the acceptance, respect and values that are shown in the diversity of our unique community. Diversity is a word that is often freely tossed around, without seeing much of it in action. However, at St. James', it is a reality. The word *diversity* sounds good and a bit impressive, but when diversity is reality, you know you are in a special place.



St. James' friends at recess.

In Romans 13:9, God commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

This is the true meaning of diversity. Our children will take this treasure and way of life out into the world and make it a better place.

Every day at St. James' is a celebration of distinctiveness. Although we are all different, we are all the same. When I look at the medley of faces of the beautiful children at our school, I see a magnificent quilt of life.

Not only do I love the diversity of St. James', I also love the compassion. In 2007, four weeks after excitedly accepting Mr. Bowers's job offer to teach Fifth Grade, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. This was a life-changing blow that I did not see coming; I was devastated. Unsure of how my new employer would accept this news, I prayed and went to meet with Mr. Bowers. I was met with love, compassion and open arms. The offer of teaching Fifth Grade still stood, and I was welcomed into this unique community.

My first year teaching here, my three daughters attended another school. We didn't want to move them until we were sure it was the right fit for them too. Well, as you can probably imagine, in a very short time, we recognized that not only was diversity a reality here, but we also recognized the level of academic excellence that is a historical element of St. James'. So in 2008 they too became members of this wonderful community, and we have never looked back.

– Mrs. Jeffries, Fifth Grade Teacher and mother of Chaiya, Chanya, and Chasia

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Valentine's Day

In classrooms across St. James' School, gifts were exchanged on February 14 in the name of Saint Valentine. But, as we all finish off our heart-shaped candy, does anyone know how Valentine's Day came about?

The origins of Valentine's Day are shrouded in mystery – both Christian and ancient Roman tradition talk of it.

Roman legends talk about a priest called Valentine, who served during the third century A.D. in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men.



Heart-shaped "Día de Amor" cards are made in Spanish class.

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Realizing the injustice of this decree, Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret—until he was discovered and thrown into jail.

There, he sent the first “Valentine” greeting, having fallen in love with a young girl, who may have been his jailer’s daughter. He wrote her a letter, signing it “From Your Valentine” — an expression that is still in use today.

No one really knows how true this story is. But it is a known fact that by the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church recognized a saint called Valentine.



Kindergartners enjoy festive Valentine's Day cupcakes.

Written Valentine’s greetings began to appear around 1400 in England and France — the oldest known Valentine’s card is on display at The British Museum in London. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700’s.

Today over 188 million Valentine’s Day cards are exchanged in the United States. And some of those made it all the way to St. James’.



Kids get crafty with handmade Valentine's Day glasses.

Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ Day 2009

Everyone at St. James’ loves Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ Day — but no one loves it more than our guests.

“It’s a wonderful event. And I have a chance to see what my grandchildren do every day,” says Kim Fitz-Hugh, who as Malcolm and Quentin Wise’s grandmother, has attended no less than seven Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ Days.

“When I have a vision of where my grandchildren are every day it makes me feel good. It’s germane to the closeness of family life.

“I enjoy sitting next to my grandchildren in chapel, seeing their classrooms. It’s particularly great to witness the atmosphere at St. James’ and see teachers who are genuinely interested in the children, and not just doing a job. But it’s also really great meeting all the other grandparents. There are so many generous hearts.”

During their time in the children’s classrooms, grandparents are often invited to join in some exercises with the students. And it is this that many grandparents find thought provoking.

“One of the questions I was asked this year was to think of events that affected me when I was growing up,” says Kim.

“I said the Korean War because my dad was in the service. Sitting next to me in the same classroom was a Korean grandmother who gave the same answer. And yet it affected her in a different way.”



Grandparents participate in classroom activities.



Special friends assist with arts and crafts.



Grandparents and Special Friends get to experience what it's like to be a St. James' student.

Christmas Pageant

Parenthood has many surprises: the discovery that children are non-returnable, that enough Lego can block a toilet completely, and that it's impossible not to cry at the St. James' Christmas Pageant.

This year's performance was as emotional as ever. From the minute Bo Young Lee bravely sang those first words of *Once in Royal David's City* from the back of the church to the final rousing chorus of *Joy To The World*, with thundering organ and sensational bell introduction, there was a lump in my throat and a tangle in my heart.



Mrs. Vodrey and the shepherds.

The St. James' School Christmas Pageant has barely changed in over 20 years. With its collection of carols from around the world, its readings from Matthew, Luke, and John, and of course the Kindergartners as the stars of the nativity, it is a service that has inherent beauty.

"The service fits St. James' because it is an Episcopal school," explains Mr Casey, who is the director of the music, and works in collaboration with chaplain Father Koh and the other teachers to put on the event.

"We are allowed to tell the Christmas story without fear of being too religious. It gives our children a chance to experience great carols in the context of worship – a good contrast to what they hear in the malls during that time.

"It also gives further experience with the Anglican tradition of church music in that it follows the traditional 'Lessons and Carols' format."

Preparations for the Pageant begin at Thanksgiving. Every class rehearses their own carol and reading.



The Virgin Mary and angels prepare for the pageant.

Mr. Casey works hard with the choir and bell choir. Mrs. Vermette and Mrs. Vodrey prepare the Kindergarten children. Then there are three dress rehearsals leading up to the big night.

This year was Mrs. Vermette's 22nd Christmas Pageant at St. James' – not that she has ever seen it all the way through, because the Kindergartners leave during *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. "St. James' Christmas Pageants are a sight to behold, even after 22 years!" she exclaims. "I tell our Kindergarten parents each year that it is a particularly beautiful Pageant, and I really mean it."

– Lucy Norland

If you would like a copy of the Christmas Pageant DVD please contact Zoe Proser at zproser@sjsla.org. The suggested donation is \$5.

Larchmont Fair

A beautiful sunny Sunday and families are out walking the Larchmont strip. There is so much to do – from games to rides to our famous Korean Barbeque.

Our family arrives and immediately we are met by three or four of Jade's friends. Before we know it, she is off and running with pure excitement.



The St. James' booths are a success.

Kent and I walk the street admiring all the booths set up by the neighborhood schools and the children dressed in their Halloween costumes. Watching the clock, I suddenly realized it was time to volunteer at our school's booths. Approaching our tables, we immediately notice all the scrumptious baked goods being sold by Karen Cowan and smell the Korean Barbeque being organized by Ji Kim.

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In the midst of it all, I caught a glimpse of Mr. Bowers holding a baby while standing behind a table with St. James' School brochures. I thought to myself, in a humorous way, that the nurturing of the child starts early at St. James' Episcopal School.

As the Fair came to an end, it was time to gather the missing piece of our family (Jade) and head home. Reflecting back on the day, I realized how nice it was to have an opportunity to see the parents, teachers, and families together in a casual environment. We often spend so much time rushing in and out of carpool lines and school buildings that this day gave us an opportunity to connect in a more human way.

– Teresa Taylor, Parent of Jade Taylor



Volunteers serve Korean Barbeque.



Kids check out the toy booth.

Dads' Pancake Breakfast

Who could not have loved those delicious pancakes served up by the St. James' dads in the parish hall on February 7?

But for those who couldn't make it, why not make your own with some of the truly mouthwatering Husky Highlights Pancake Recipes?

AWESOME BANANA PANCAKES:

Ingredients

- 1 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 3 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 4 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 5 1 egg, beaten
- 6 1 cup milk
- 7 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 8 2 ripe bananas, mashed

Directions

1. Combine flour, white sugar, baking powder and salt. In a separate bowl, mix together egg, milk, vegetable oil and bananas.
2. Stir flour mixture into banana mixture; batter will be slightly lumpy.
3. Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium high heat. Pour or scoop the batter onto the griddle, using approximately 1/4 cup for each pancake. Cook until pancakes are golden brown on both sides; serve hot.

CHUNKY MONKEY PANCAKES

Ingredients

- 1 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 5 3/4 cup skim milk
- 6 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 7 2 eggs
- 8 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 9 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 10 1 large banana, diced
- 11 1/2 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 12 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 13 cooking spray

Directions

1. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Set bowl aside. In a separate bowl, whisk together the skim milk, melted butter, eggs, sugar, and vanilla. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and stir in the wet ingredients, being careful not to over-mix the batter. Gently fold in the banana, chocolate chips, and nuts.
2. Heat a large skillet over medium heat, and coat with cooking spray. Pour 1/4 cupfuls of batter onto the skillet, and cook until bubbles appear on the surface. Flip with a spatula, and cook until browned on the other side.

APPLE SAUCE PANCAKES

Ingredients

- 1 2 cups dry pancake mix
- 2 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 2 eggs
- 4 1 cup applesauce
- 5 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6 1/2 cup milk

Directions

1. In a large bowl, stir together pancake mix and cinnamon. Make a well in the center of the pancake mix. Add the eggs, applesauce, lemon juice and milk; stir until smooth.
2. Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium high heat. Pour or scoop the batter onto the griddle, using approximately 1/4 cup for each pancake. Brown on both sides and serve hot.

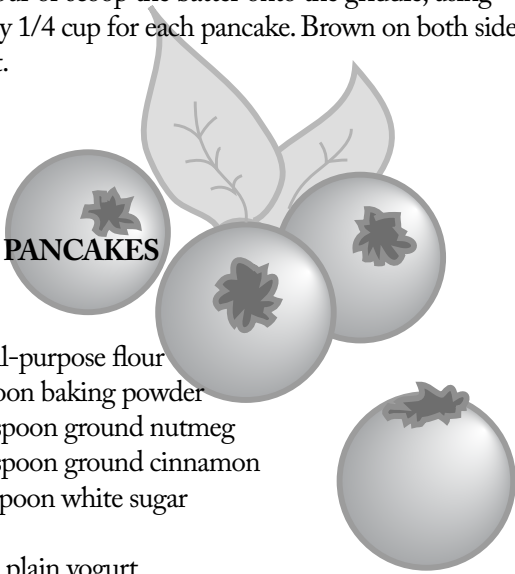
BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

Ingredients

- 1 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 4 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 5 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 6 1 egg
- 7 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 8 1/2 cup milk
- 9 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 10 3/4 cup fresh blueberries

Directions

1. Preheat griddle over medium heat. Stir together the flour, baking powder, nutmeg, cinnamon and sugar, set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, stir together the egg, yogurt, milk and oil. Gradually stir in the flour mixture, then fold in the blueberries.
3. Pour batter onto hot greased griddle, two tablespoons at a time. Cook over medium heat until bubbles pop and stay open, then turn over and cook on the other side until golden.



Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby

Tensions ran high. Everyone was on the edge of their seats, and the cars were neck and neck.

But in the end, it was Fourth Grader Tommy Lane who triumphed in first place at the Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby with his splendid red-painted vehicle, which he nicknamed "The Bloodbath."

Held annually in the basement of the St. James' Church Parish Hall, the Pinewood Derby is one of the highlights of the Troop 10 Cub Scout calendar. All the boys spend several weeks building their seven inch long vehicles, sanding down the wood, adding wheels, decorating and carefully positioning weights, under the careful guidance of cubmasters Gia Paladino-Wise and Diane Gilmore.

Then on the big night, the cars are raced down a long wooden track in groups of five. Judging is a serious business. Seconds count. There are a number of heats before the fastest vehicle gets first prize.

"It all comes down to weight," explains Jeff Lane, Tommy's dad. "The cars are not allowed to weigh more than six ounces, but if you put as much weight at the back as you are allowed, the car is going to race faster."

Cub scouts, take note for next year.



The Scouts prepare their cars for the derby.



The Scouts pose at the race track.



My Great-Great Grandfather

If you ask questions, the answers will come. Mine usually fall into my lap in the form of big adventures, usually involving a crazy set of circumstances, interesting folks, music, and dance. Two years ago at the Gospel Chapel Service, I shared the story of my great-great grandfather and our connection to the Yoruba tribe in what is now Nigeria. One of my biggest questions at the time was, “What were we doing before we were forced from our homes and into generations of slavery? We must have been living our lives in a way that was meaningful to us.”



Dancing the rumba.

Last year, I stumbled upon an Afro-Cuban dance class, and little did I know that Cuba has been the keeper of Yoruba religious practices and folkloric traditions since the 1800's, when large numbers of West Africans were imported and forced into slavery on the island. Although Cuba is a much-debated subject, and many Americans have varying opinions of its politics, traveling on a Humanitarian Visa to Havana last summer and meeting its people helped me create my own point of view. In short, I fell in love.

It is difficult to articulate the sense of belonging I felt as I went to community events and stood among folks who felt like cousins, kindred spirits even. My deep-seated joy of dancing seemed to make sense in this context; I didn't need to keep still as the bembé drum, cajas, and shekeres played at the Saturday Rumba. In fact, I hopped right in! I later participated in a celebration for one of the female Orishas (goddesses) of the Yoruba religion, and it made sense that church involved clapping, singing, dancing, and community participation. Worship, when shared, not simply observed, creates a communal sense of joy.

While my journey is too lengthy to be fully shared in

this column, I look forward to one day communicating what I learned with St. James'. Discovering that we were, in fact, a productive, artistic, and intelligent society BEFORE slavery is absolutely priceless. Maybe my folks were teachers, musicians, or dancers before we were brought here. Whatever the case, it is soothing to my soul to discover the context of who I am and that I “make sense” somewhere in this world.

– Ms. Arrington, Director of Upper Elementary

Jim Casey: The man, the legend.

At what age did you start singing?

I joined the choir in Sixth Grade at public school, but I sang hymns at school every day before that, at the Lutheran parochial school I attended up to Fifth Grade... so that was the start. I sang in choirs and musicals in junior high and high schools.

What benefits do you think singing together brings?

At St. James', it creates a level playing field... everyone's on the same footing. There's an emotional element involved, that everyone can hook into. I really like hearing that when the kids are on the bus coming back from a field trip, when they reach a point of boredom they start singing one of the songs they sing in class. It's always a point of satisfaction to know that they resorted to singing, and that everyone on the bus participated.

Tell us about some of your other musical commitments.

The main one is being the organist at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Westwood, and also the unofficial assistant director of the choir there. And lately I've been helping out at All Saints in Beverly Hills. I've been playing at Evensongs there, and also playing at a Catholic church in Brentwood. And I recently accompanied a children's choir at their two concerts in Altadena.



Jim Casey teaches the First Grade the difference between rhythm and beats.

I've noticed that in chapel, the St. James' Children's Choir often sings settings that you composed. What role does composition play in your life?

It's utilitarian... I composed the mass setting for use when we have Eucharist. It includes the Kyrie, Gloria, etc., and I composed them with some very clear parameters. Up until Fifth Grade, the kids only sing pentatonic melodies with complete melodic awareness. There's no Fa or Ti in the scale. The mass settings share common motifs with "Day By Day," which I wrote as a pentatonic alternative to what we had used in its place at the time. And there was a choral hymn, a few years ago, that I composed because I just didn't have anything in the library that fit the Gospel text that Sunday.

What role does music play in helping children grasp the core values of St. James'?

It sets them up to be sensitive to be each other.

What do you listen to when you go home at night?

Nothing. Sometimes it's too much to think about to find a CD to pull out.

Do you ever listen to pop music?

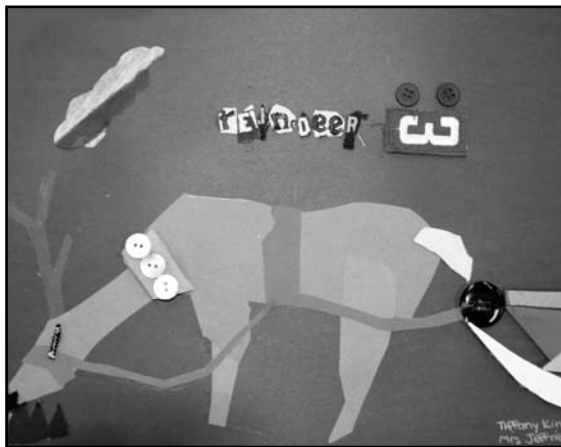
Actually I do, especially when I'm driving. I like quite a few, but Rufus Wainwright comes to mind.

– Interview by David Norland

Student Art



*Painted gingerbread man
by Elias Peter, First Grade*



*Holiday collage
by Tiffany Kim, Fifth Grade*



*Elf collage
by Charlie Carrington, Third Grade*



*Holiday Snowman
by Sabrina Sang, First Grade*



*Santa collage
by Ariel Finch, Second Grade*



Husky Highlights Announces A Short Story Competition for Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Graders.

Stories should be no more than 400 words. Send them either by Backpack Express or email to Lucy Norland at lucybroad@mac.com by Friday, March 19.

Stories will be judged by the Husky Highlights editors, and the winning entry will be published in the next issue of Husky Highlights and posted to our school website. The writer will be presented with a certificate at the April Community Update.



Husky Harbor

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Call 323-934-1270

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Editors: Gregg Daniel, father of Kennedy, and Lucy Norland, mother of Jack and Tom.