

## Sacred Heart Parish School Wins VFW Essay Awards - By Adam Breen

Several students at Sacred Heart were honored this winter for writing essays in the 2009 Veterans of Foreign Wars Hollister Post 9242 Patriot's Pen essay contest.

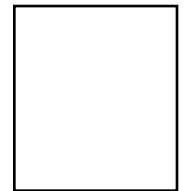
Seventh grader Cooper Scherr, a runner-up in the last year's competition, had his writing named the best of 55 entries from junior high students from around San Benito County. He received a check for \$200 and his essay - along with those of two local runners-up will be entered in the district competition against essays by students from South San Francisco to King City.

"It felt really good to be in front of the school and win the award," Scherr said. "I've always seen other kids receive it, so I thought it would be neat if I won." Scherr's mom, Mindy, gathered copies of some of the Sacred Heart Parish School essay entries and brought them to the V.A. hospital where her husband works, so that patients there could feel the appreciation from the younger generation.

Eight runners-up in the essay contest will receive \$25 each for their patriotic prose. They are: Sacred Heart students Benjamin White, Mikayla Irvin, Jack Morris and Daniel Gonzales; Ryan Ruiz of Cienega School; Brittany Lake and Dane Miller from Spring Grove School; and Caleb Mendez, who is home-schooled. Lake and Ruiz were honored for their writing last year as well.

More than 115,000 students participate in the contest each year, with the overall national winner receiving a \$10,000 savings bond and a trip to Washington, D.C.

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# Heart of the MATTER

✠ SACRED HEART PARISH SCHOOL



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## Letter from the Principal

With the ringing in of the New Year, it is our staff's sincerest wishes that 2010 brings you and yours the health, good fortune, strength, happiness, and wisdom from each and every moment of this new year. It is also at this time of year that we look back and take stock in our students' accomplishments, your support at home, and the talent and dedication of our staff.

At Sacred Heart Parish School, we encourage our students to set goals for themselves. Whether it is learning new songs to play, a sports skill, or reading a particular piece of literature, they will appreciate your time, as always, in finding ways to interact and learn with them along the way. One of our goals this year is to assist parents by providing information from experts through our Parent Information nights.

We believe that both parents and teachers are the most significant role models for students, and that the relationship between the two needs to follow a respectful and caring model. We believe that parents and staff agree that what is promoted or allowed at home and what is permissible or encouraged at school are consistent.

We are truly blessed to have the opportunity to be a part of your children's lives, to create the foundation that will support them for the rest of their lives.

Peace and Blessings,  
Gayla Jurevich

*Principal, Sacred Heart Parish School*

## upcoming events

### february - may

- 2/23 **Lenten Liturgy**
- 3/2 **Reading Challenge Celebration**
- 3/12 **Professional Development Day**
- 3/22 **SHPS Science Fair**
- 3/22 **Lenten Food Drive Week**
- 3/30 **San Benito County Science Fair**
- 4/1 **Stations of the Cross**
- 4/2 **Passion Walk**
- 4/19 **Earth Week Activities**
- 4/29 **Talent Show**
- 5/3 **Teacher Appreciation Week**
- 5/10 **Student Council Election Week**

# What makes Sacred Heart Parish School so Special?

Hear it from the students and parents:

## Lifelong Friends:

♥ "Being at Sacred Heart practically my whole life, I have SO many great memories. I'll never forget the friends I've made and held onto all these years. They helped me become who I am today and I thank them for that!"

– Gianna Brigantino, freshman at San Benito High School

## Building Self-Confidence:

♥ "My favorite memory at Sacred Heart Parish School is when I made a dance video. I played it in class and everyone liked it. I got extra credit for it. People still remember it."

– Zach Martin, freshman at San Benito High School.

## Strong Family and Community:

♥ "The feeling of family and community is so strong. We feel so comfortable here and our children are so happy. We have been blessed with wonderful teachers thus far."

♥ "Sacred Heart Parish School enforces Catholic morals and values, instills confidence in my child."

## Rigorous Academics:

♥ "Provide a safe, respectful Catholic based environment, with a good academic program."

♥ "Sacred Heart has been great for my daughter as a student. I wish she would have started when she was younger."

♥ "I think our Junior High staff and curriculum is EXCELLENT and is one of our strongest points. Standards and expectations are high - I'm confident our junior high students will do well in high school and beyond. Don't change anything!!!"



SHPS Sixth graders exploring tide pools at Natural Bridges State Park during Science Camp, 2009

## Science Camp

Each fall, Sacred Heart Parish School sixth graders carry on the tradition of taking a week off from classroom learning to attend an outdoor classroom where they explore nature, leadership training, and conflict resolution lessons. Known as "Science Camp," it has become a sort of rite of passage into Junior High and provides an invaluable learning experience for students, teachers and chaperones.

"I see 6th grade as a big transition year, both maturity-wise and academically. It's a time when the students really need to start knowing

themselves and developing lots of self-confidence. I think Science Camp encourages that," says Mary White, mom of Beatrice and a chaperone on this year's trip. The camp, located in the Santa Cruz mountains, offers students hands-on science education in the outdoors. They learn standards-based exploration of scientific concepts and natural history through field study, group initiatives, fun songs, active games and living together in a community.

"Science Camp is such a unique experience for the students," White

says. "They learn the science by seeing and hearing it come alive around them - it's hands on, very natural. This is something that cannot be done in the classroom. Also, Science Camp is a sort of rite of passage... for many, it's the first time they're away from home for an extended time without their family. The Camp is set up to teach them to be more self-sufficient, responsible and to give them simple opportunities to make good choices on their own - you really see their individual personalities."

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# Continuing Education: Know your "EQ"

## What is Emotional Intelligence?

One of our goals at SHPS is to keep learning! Our faculty and staff are involved in continuing education so that we can sharpen our skills and continue to provide our students with the most up-to-date curriculum and information. In addition to teachers attending conferences and keeping their credentials current, we offer informational classes to the staff and parent community on practical life skills. One of our focuses this year is Emotional Intelligence, or "a person's ability to recognize one's own emotions and the emotions of others and respond to those emotions in a healthy way."

We have an "EQ Corner" in our weekly school newsletter, "The Pulse" with simple tips for families on how to improve their EQ. We want to foster emotionally healthy families and are here to be a resource.

For more information, visit [www.familypedia.com](http://www.familypedia.com)



## Wish List

- Interactive Whiteboards
- Document cameras
- Projectors
- Laptop computers (Vista OS)
- Classroom set dictionaries
- Folding chair caddies for under stage storage
- Classroom set novels
- Atomic clocks in every classroom
- Lab microscopes
- Lunch tables (large and small)
- Raising a Reader resources for Preschool

## Great Ways to contribute TO SACRED HEART in your EVERYDAY SHOPPING

When you buy groceries, gas, household goods or just about anything, there are hundreds of merchants who will donate a percentage of their sales to our school. Simply sign up your credit card numbers with SCRIP and they will do the rest! Safeway, Nob Hill, Macy's, American Express and Visa and Mastercard all participate. Gift cards are sold on campus or you can log on to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) for a complete list of participating merchants and easy instructions on how to register your credit cards.

- New Hollister Downtown Association cards
- New to SCRIP : WalMart, K-Mart, Mars Hill and Peet's Coffee.
- If you cannot come in when SCRIP is being sold, leave your order and check/cash in the front office and it will be filled by the following day.
- Last, but not least, shop at eScrip merchants using your registered cards!

### Please Help Jump Start Our eScrip Program Today!

If you have not yet registered with eScrip, please visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). SHPS's ID number is **138335084**. For questions, contact **Diane Gibbs**.

## SCRIP goal progress chart



eScrip 2009-2010 Goal - 32K  
eScrip total as of Nov. 2009 - \$7.8k

## Extra-Curricular Activities List:

Students can play sports year-round, choosing from **basketball, volleyball, soccer, flag football**, and **track**. We also offer **choir, Math club, Chess club** and **Spanish club** for those students who want to **develop additional** skills after school.