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# St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish  
Cupertino, California  
~~ Founded 1913 ~~

## Flyer

September 2016



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### Mary Lyons retires after 25 years as SJC School Principal

By Steve Hill



Mary Lyons retired after 25 years as principal of St. Joseph of Cupertino School. Her working career spanned 42 years, starting in San Francisco at St. Anne's as a teacher, 15 years at St. Elizabeth's as a teacher (4 years) and principal (11 years).

She was hired by Msgr. Milani in 1991 to be principal of St. Joseph of Cupertino School.

Mary's long list of accomplishments improved the quality and richness of the SJC

education and experience. Over the years, she nurtured an excellent faculty, added academic enrichment and tutoring programs, expanded the athletic programs, and maintained a healthy enrollment. She earned the respect and affection of a generation of students and parents.

The cultural foundation for the school is the SPARCCLS Student Learning Expectations program. The Student Learning Expectations work hand-in-hand with the school's mission, philosophy and goals. These learning expectations were developed in 2002 using a process which involved faculty members, school support staff, clergy, parish staff, parents, St. Joseph of Cupertino graduates and St. Joseph of Cupertino Student Council officers.

Below are the "SPARCCLS" attributes that St. Joseph of Cupertino School strives to instill in its students:

- Spiritual
- Peaceful
- Academically Prepared
- Respectful
- Confident
- Community Oriented
- Life-Long Learners
- Strong Communicators

The School's Mission statement begins with:

"St. Joseph is not just a school, we are a community."

St. Joseph of Cupertino School, with the support of our families, is committed to educating the "whole child." We place importance on the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical development of each unique child. We base our education upon the teachings of Jesus – teachings which foster respect, responsibility, justice, gratitude and peacefulness.

Mary's "whole child" approach is the foundation of our parish school, and explains the loyal bond between the school and the school families.

Academic programs added by Mary include foreign language (Spanish to all classes and after-school Chinese), advanced math, math enrichment, and math and reading intervention. Two tutoring rooms and the Sister Peter Joseph Learning Center were added. The computer lab classroom was created. Recently, iPads were provided for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Electronic white boards are in all classrooms. The extensive fine arts program includes a specialized art teacher for all grades and a full-time drama and music teacher.

In 2009, the Preschool and Multi-Purpose Room were built. The AV Room was remodeled to become the preschool. This enables families to start their preschool-aged children at SJC and then continue in the elementary grades.

For the convenience of school families, the one-day per week cafeteria lunch was upgraded to a five-day hot lunch program with nutritious meals.

Recognizing that child development extends beyond the classroom, SJC offers numerous special-interest clubs that foster exploration of niche academic and skill areas. The school's clubs include art, baking, band, cheer and yell leaders, chess, computer coding, geography, geometry, Lego robotics, math, origami, project center, reading, robotics, technology and yearbook! These clubs are led by a combination of faculty and parent volunteers.

Mary expanded the sports program by extending football and basketball to students below grade 4. New, safer playground equipment was installed, and artificial turf replaced tanbark.

Another noteworthy capital improvement was converting an asphalt playground into Milani grassy field, with a track, baseball diamond and trees (1992).

Catholic schools undergo rigorous accreditation reviews every six years. The reviews are conducted by the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) working in partnership with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Schools (WASC ACS). Our school underwent four accreditations under Mary's tenure, and passed each of them with flying colors.

In addition to making improvements to the school plant, Mary also ensured long term financial stability by planning for the future. This included establishing an endowment fund (by forming L.I.F.E, The "Legacies in Faith and Education" Development Program in the early 2000s), bringing back a carnival, and instituting the pledge program as well as renting classrooms to summer camp company Camp Galileo.

Mary will be missed by a grateful St. Joseph of Cupertino School community. Congratulations, and God bless her during her retirement years!

## Michael Lee promoted to School Principal

By Steve Hill



Vice Principal Michael Lee was promoted to Principal, effective August 1. He was appointed by Fr. Greg to replace retiring Mary Lyons.

Mike is married to Nicole, and they are the parents of two young daughters.

Mike came to St. Joseph of Cupertino in 2003. He taught eighth grade for nine years, and then taught advanced math as well as serving as Vice

Principal. Mike has been working three years as full time Vice Principal, conducting the duties of that job and, increasingly, handling tasks and responsibilities of the principal. He was mentored by Mary to be capable of taking a principal's job and continue adhering to the school's Mission, Philosophy and Student Learning Expectations.

Mike earned this position through education, mentoring and work experience. He has a Master of Arts Degree in Education Administration, an Administrative Services Credential and a Catholic School Leadership Certificate from Santa Clara University. The Masters degree is in addition to his Master of Arts in Education from Bethany University and his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mike has been a school leadership team member for the past nine years, teaching him the responsibilities of a school principal. His first official experience of working on the leadership team came in the 2007-2008 school year as he worked with the principal and vice principal in developing the school's WCEA/WASC Process for School Improvement document. Since that time he has had numerous experiences with technology, data disaggregation, and the WCEA/WASC Improving Student Learning protocol that have further refined his skillset to promote the academic excellence of the school.

Mike has extensive experience implementing, managing, and maintaining the school's technology plan, which has included installing SMART Boards in all classrooms and training the teachers on their usage, and successfully implementing a 1:1 iPad program for the seventh and eighth grades. As a testing coordinator, he has worked with standardized assessment results both at the local and diocesan level, and has maintained the robust longitudinal studies that St. Joseph of Cupertino conducts each year. In March 2014, he was the chairperson for the school's most recent WCEA/WASC accreditation visit, and since then he has been responsible for creating the annual reports and managing the next steps from the action plan. He has been very involved with Diocesan committees. This past year, he spearheaded the most recent capital improvement project, the Sister Peter Joseph Learning Center.

During the last three years, his work as a full-time vice principal has included training under Mary and Fr. Greg to prepare him for the role as principal. Focus areas included leading the faculty, working with the school board, and building relationships with the entire community. He has emerged as a leader with the faculty by directly offering them support and constructive feedback and by leading projects to improve student learning. For the past three years, in addition to being the liaison for the technology committee and the WCEA/WASC process with the school board, he has taken a very active role by working on the budget and monitoring the school's financial investments. He has worked with Mary on student discipline issues and parent communication – always keeping the best interest of the child in the forefront of any decision. He has built and continues to build relationships with the entire community – faculty, clergy, staff (both parish and school), students, parents, alumni, donors, and parishioners.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Lee as he begins this new stage in his career!



## Mercy Today

By Joanne Park, a 2016 graduate of SJC School

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8) As Christians, we are called to show mercy to everyone. From our closest friends and family to those suffering in a distant third-world country, everyone needs compassion in their lives. Jesus' Law of Love tells us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [Matthew 22:35-40]. Loving your neighbor is directly correlated to loving God.

We are all followers of Christ, and by showing mercy, we are spreading God's word. One powerful example of showing mercy

is evident in the compassionate people that have done everything they could to aid the refugees from the Syrian refugee crisis. With large sums of refugees pouring into Europe every day, some have hastily closed their doors, hoping to avoid conflict. But others have shown the world the real meaning of mercy: offering compassion to those who are in dire need of kind gestures. Those who have rejected the burden of the refugee crisis do have valid reasons. From economic harms to fear, it isn't easy to try and accept those who are fleeing from a war-torn country. But, by smuggling refugees to shelter or organizing donations for children who have next to nothing, many have fulfilled God's message by performing such incredible acts of mercy and grace. As activist Angelika Neuwirth expresses in an interview, "I can't close my eyes anymore. We are all human. No one is illegal."

Truer words have never been spoken. That very statement proves that these people have opened their eyes and hearts to accept these suffering refugees, and that they have shown grace to both the refugees and to the rest of the world by braving through hardships and by doing great acts of mercy to those who really need it. They are, in essence, the epitome of compassion and mercy that God wants us to follow.

Both this touching story of mercy and Pope Francis's declaration of the "Holy Year of Mercy" have inspired me to contemplate on what mercy really means. Yes, sometimes, it means to forgive someone who is under your power. But as illustrated in this powerful example, it doesn't always have to be forgiveness. It can be a mere act of kindness. I define mercy as an unending gift from God that we *must* give to others by performing acts of compassion.

Last year, as a 7th grade class receiving a Catholic education, our class took a retreat to our local homeless shelter. And although we didn't expect much, the aftermath of that trip landed us in the diocesan newspaper. By deciding to "take over" our school's annual reach-out project, we organized a donation. Then, with the proceeds, we bought toiletries, backpacks, detergent, and sets of forks and spoons. We then spent the next few weeks assembling backpacks filled with a variety of necessities, along with thousands of sets of forks, spoons, and napkins. I cannot describe in words the swelling pride that filled us as we hauled boxes and boxes of these items into vans that would then deliver to the abovementioned shelter. The sweet smell of detergent still lingers in that classroom to this day, reminding us of how *we* carried out mercy in our world today.

The refugee crisis and my life experience are only some examples out of many. Everyone, whether it is your family, your friends, even strangers you see on the street, would appreciate a little kindness in their lives. But mercy doesn't always have to be as grand or as obvious as my examples. Even small acts of kindness count. You can give some of your pocket change to a homeless person on the street. You can help an elderly citizen with their groceries. I have found that even giving people a smile can brighten both their day-and yours. There is so much you can do on a *daily* basis that illustrates mercy.

We can make a difference in the world by performing acts of mercy. What can *you* do for this Holy Year of Mercy?

## SJC Hosts Annual Cupertino Carnival

What is the Cupertino Carnival?

The Cupertino Carnival is a three-day festival featuring

- Live music
- Entertainment
- Real amusement rides
- Arts and crafts
- Jump houses/inflatables
- Games for kids of all ages
- Wide variety of food and beverages
- Rummage Sale

Admission is **free**.

The Cupertino Carnival will take place on:

Friday, September 9	5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 10	11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 11	10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

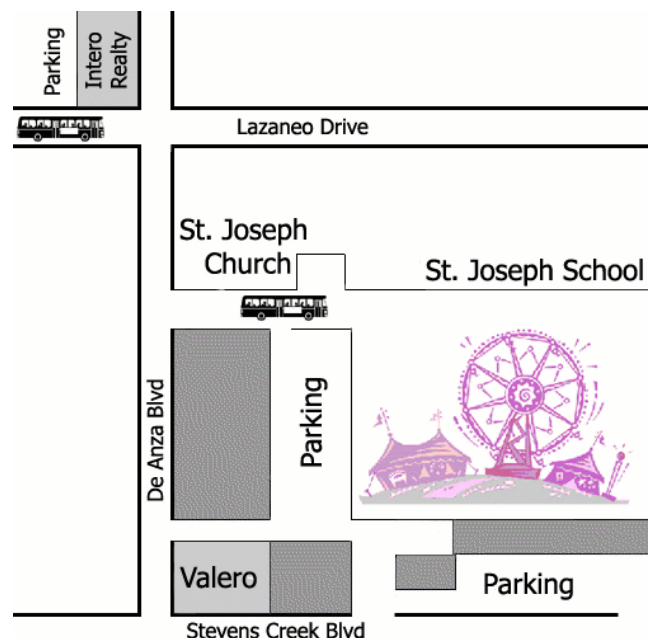
The Carnival is managed by SJC School parents, and is open to the parish and the community at large. Proceeds benefit the school.

Check out the Carnival website to learn more:

<http://www.sjcschool.org/carnival/index.php>

### Parking

Free parking is available at Stevens Creek Blvd., beside the school ground and at Lazaneo Dr. beside Interco Realty. There will be a shuttle bus ferrying patrons between the Lazaneo Dr. parking lot and the carnival.



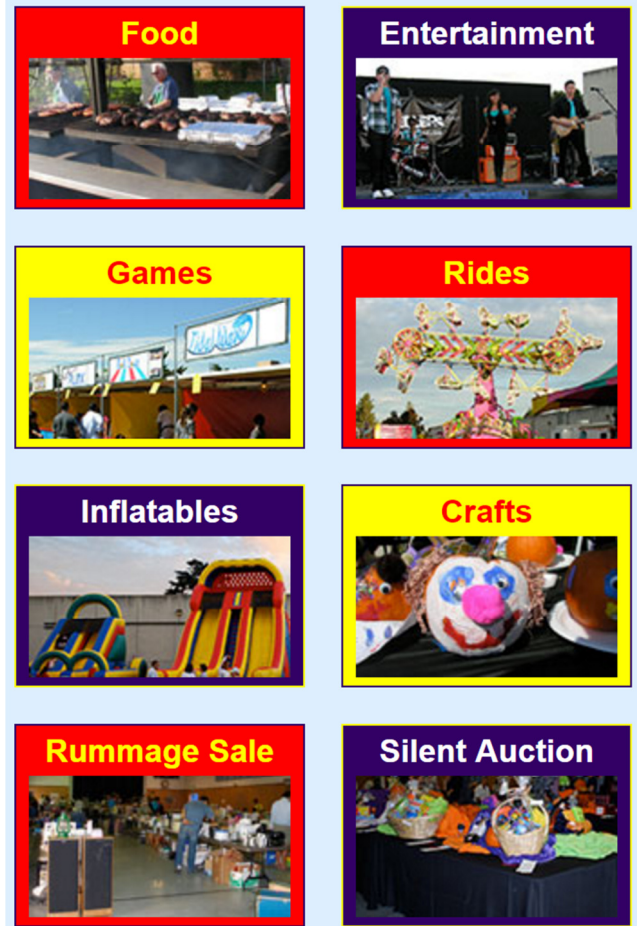
**St. Joseph of Cupertino Word Search**

*By Lorinda Rodrigues*

D S S D W Y K W A W F R A N C I S C A N  
 J A R N T C T U Y D T M K G J R Z X S M  
 O C E S V K S A S S I S I Q F E T X Z D  
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 T C A N O N I Z E D N N I G B E C S O K

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|-----------------|------------|---------|
| AIR TRAVELERS   | AVIATORS   | ASSISI  |
| CAPUCHINS       | CANONIZED  | ECSTASY |
| FLYING FRIAR    | FRANCISCAN | JUNE    |
| FOSSOMBRONE     | ITALIAN    | NAPLES  |
| RELUCTANT SAINT | LEVITATION | NARDO   |
| SACRO CONVENTO  | MIRACULOUS | OSIMO   |
| ST JOSEPH       | SEPTEMBER  |         |

**Come to the Carnival !!**



Find the answers to the puzzle on the parish website, <http://www.stjoscup.org/>.

<b>Parish Calendar</b>			
Sept. 7	7:00 pm	Rectory	Inquiry about becoming Catholic
Sept. 9 – 11	See above	Yard, hall	Cupertino Carnival, sponsored by SJC School
Sept. 15	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Comm. Center	Bible Study begins (Corinthians)
Sept. 18	11:00 am	Hall	Feast Day Celebration, mass, followed by celebration in hall
Oct. 4	1:15 pm	Comm. Center	Meeting for children and family for RCIA
Oct. 23	2:00 pm	Comm. Center	TBA movie with Deacon Ron
Oct. 28 - Nov. 2		Comm. Center	Dia de Los Muertos Display
Nov. 4	6:30 pm	Hall	Volunteer appreciation Dinner
Tuesdays	2:00 – 3:00 pm	Comm. Center	Meditation with Sr. Dorothy
Wednesdays	7:15 – 8:45 pm	Rectory	RCIA
Wednesdays	9:00 am – 12:15 pm		Eucharistic adoration
1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	9:00 am	Comm. Center	Talk by Fr. Athanasius on Mary
Sundays	10:30 – 11:00 am	Front of church	Video Lending Library
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Morning masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after mass – coffee and donuts
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Rectory	Grief Support

**St. Joseph of Cupertino Flyer**  
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The Flyer, with color photos, is posted on the parish web site.

Articles for the Flyer are welcomed from parishioners.  
 Contact the Communications Ministry with a topic before writing it, communications@stjoscup.org