



April Edition 2016



Pastor: Ft. Clement Niggel
Principal: Melodie Good

Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, N.M

At Saint Mary's School, we are committed to the growth of our Catholic identity, academic potential, and community involvement.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

First Communion	2nd
Consultative Cncl Noon	8th
Awards Ceremony	8th
Track Meet	9th
Book Fair	11th-15th
Track Meet	19th
Spring Luncheon	15th
Early Release	15th
CDA Athletic Banq.	20th
Mars Link up 5th gr.	22nd
ASF Art Show	22-23rd
Admin. Prof. Day	27th
Faith Challenge	29th
Early Release	29th

Fifth Graders Prepare for Mars Link Up

After completing all Base Operation preparations, Saint Mary's 5th graders will meet with other Mission to Mars teams on April 22nd and build their Martian Colony. They will simulate their Mission after arriving at the Mars docking station. Mission Control will instruct them to proceed through various holding stations and then to their colony habitat site. After they construct their team's habitat, they will eat their specially prepared lunch in their Mars habitats. Then they will link up with their neighbors through their colony tunnels. After their neighborhood visitation, they will deflate their habitats and transport back to Earth. Saint Mary's Habitat director is 5th grade teacher, Ms. Kristy Cordova. Ms. Sohaila Lucero and Ms. Janet Sanchez will be part of Mission Control that day. Fifth graders have been preparing for the mission since September. They have built habitats, designed patches, figured out regulation lunches, and created a saga (ballad) that they must sing describing their space journey from Earth to Mars. This activity is sponsored by an outreach program from Kirtland Airforce Research Laboratory called La Luz Academy. Saint Mary's is participating as part of our accelerating Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math (STREAM) program.



Fifth graders Judah Rodriguez, Garren Cervantes, Miguel Medrano, Adriano Garcia, Diego Sanchez and Isabella Sisneros hold their small scale habitat they built as part of their Mission to Mars study.



The Bird Word Monthly Newsletter

Mrs. Bockisch and Three Students Win Science Awards at Regional Research Challenge

On March 18, at the Central New Mexico Science and Engineering Regional Research Challenge in Albuquerque Saint Mary's Middle School science teacher, Ms. Lisa Bockisch, along with three of her students won special awards. Teacher Lisa Bockisch won a Regional Research Challenge Jr Encouragement Teacher Award and a New Mexico Science Teachers Association Teacher Award. These awards garnered Mrs. Bockisch cash prizes. Alia Rodriguez, 8th grade, won a 1st place \$100 cash award from the Society of Women Engineers for her project on Developing an Artificial Pancreas. Seventh grader, John Dietrichs, won a \$15 cash prize for 3rd place Regional Research Challenge Encouragement Award for his project on Dominant Vs Non Dominant: ICE. Selena Fresquez, 6th grade, was awarded honorable mention in Animal Science Top of Category Award and 1st place in Regional Research Challenge Encouragement \$25 Award for her project on saddle blankets for horseback riding. This is the first time in several years that Saint Mary's has competed in the Regional Science Fair. (picture on back)

Saint Mary's Salutes Ms. Janet and Mrs. Zamora for their Support



When you come in the door of St Mary's the first face you see is that of Ms. Janet Montoya. Janet has been the face and voice of our school for 15 years. She does all the hard work in the office like putting on band aides, calling parents when things are cancelled, and comforting teachers when they've had a hard day. St. Mary's would be lost without Ms. Janet. Thank you Ms. Janet!



Ms. Lucille Zamora makes sure all of St. Mary's financial books balance. She received high praise from the auditor from the Archdiocese for her excellent bookkeeping skills during an audit last year. Ms. Zamora began as a teacher aid ten years ago, but for the last six years, she has been our very competent bookkeeper. Thank you Mrs. Zamora

Catholic Daughters Celebrate Lady Athletes

For many years the Catholic Daughters of America have honored all Belen lady athletes at a banquet in the spring. This year is no exception. On April 20th girls from St. Mary's and Belen Schools who participate in athletics during the school year are once again invited to the Parish Center to be honored by the Catholic Daughters. Thank you, CDA, for recognizing Belen girls' achievements in sports.



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



ALLELUIA! Christ is risen! The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. **The Paschal Candle** is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time, and lit for all liturgical celebrations. The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one "great Sunday." These are the days above all others in which the Alleluia is sung.

SCIENCE RESEARCH CHALLENGE WINNERS

7th grader: John Dietrichs, 6th Grader: Selena Fresquez, 8th grader: Alia Rodriquez and teacher winner: Lisa Bockisch



REMINDER: PARENTS WHO BRING IN FALL FEST SPONSORSHIPS GET VOLUNTEER HOURS KNOCKED OFF NEXT YEAR. BRING BACK THE SPONSOR FORM THAT WAS SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD ALONG WITH YOUR SPONSOR'S CHECK AS SOON POSSIBLE.

Faith Challenge Team to Compete at St. Pius

On April 22, the Saint Mary's Faith Challenge teams will compete against all other Archdiocese schools in the annual Faith Challenge Bowl. Two years ago St. Mary's came away with a hard fought for third place. This year, under the direction of Ms. Kellie Lopez, we hope to be declared winners. Club member are: Damian Lopez, Adrian Maez, Carlos Bustillos, John Dietrichs, Adan McKnight, Taeya Padilla, Dominic Sais, Ruby Bencomo, Elena Lopez, Julian Sisneros, Rosie Bockisch, Mayce Tellez, Ella Zamora, Andy Baca, Natalie Martinez and Mathias Sanchez.