

# The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



## JANUARY EVENTS

- 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY
- 1-5 CHRISTMAS VACATION
- 8 STUDENTS & STAFF RETURN
- 12 DISTRICT SPELLING BEE
- 12 REPORT CARDS GO HOME
- 12 1:00 DISMISSAL
- 15 MLK NO SCHOOL
- 26 1:00 DISMISSAL
- 28 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK MASS
- 29 REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT FAMILIES BEGIN



Pastor: Rev. John Kimani  
Principal: Melanie Chavez

JANUARY 2024

## ST. MARY'S GRAND RE-OPENING



On January 29, St. Mary's Catholic School celebrated their Grand Re-opening with a ribbon cutting by the current eighth graders. The buildings north/south wing was damaged by the High Line Canal Flood in July 2021. New hardwood floors, renovated walls and bathrooms, and mold abatement were done to ensure the students have a safe, sound place to learn. Thanks to the generous donations from The Catholic Foundation, Red Doc Farms, Dr. & Mrs. Peggy Beaudette family, St. Mary's was able to purchase new tables, desks, and chairs for the school.

### Registration For Current Families Begins

Registration for our current families began on January 29, 2024. Current families can register their students for \$200.00 per student until February 15. After February 15, the registration fee will go up to \$350.00. We are excited to announce that this year we **did not** need to raise the tuition cost. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. All supporting documents must be uploaded on or before April 15 to be considered for financial aid. Students must be registered before a financial aid is dispersed.

#### 2024-2025 Tuition Cost:

\$4975 for first child  
 \$4475 for second child  
 \$3975 for third child  
 \$3975 for fourth child

#### Pre-K Cost:

\$4975 full day  
 \$2500 half-day

**Saint of the Month:**

**St. Cecilia**

**Virtue of the Month:**

**Fidelity**



It is GREAT to be a Roadrunner!!

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### St. Mary's Choir

St. Mary's Catholic School Choir, led by Ms. Rocco, was asked to perform the National Anthem at the Belen High School vs. St.

Pius X High School Varsity game on January 23, 2024. If they were nervous, no one could tell. They sang beautifully!

### And the Survey Says...

St. Mary's families were given a survey to complete that was conducted by the WCEA and it showed: **86.8%** of the families believes that everyone in the school community knows and understands the school's mission.

**83.2%** believe the administrator, faculty, and staff serve as role models of faith and service to students **71.7%** believe that our school has a strong culture of collaboration on all levels within the school to advance excellence

**88.6%** believe our school has a clearly articulated rigorous curriculum infused with Gospel values that prepares students for life and work

### St. Teresa of Calcutta Soup Kitchen

St. Mary's faculty and students recognized the volunteers of St. Teresa of Calcutta Soup Kitchen. The soup kitchen serves free meals to anyone who shows up on Fridays from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. The soup kitchen volunteers not only offer a variety of food and desserts, they offer a lending hand or ear to listen. St. Mary's also collected much needed food items to donate to the soup kitchen that can not only be used in their recipes, but items that could easily be handed out for those who have found themselves homeless.



### WCEA Accreditation

St. Mary's is accredited through WCEA. Every six years, our school has to look through all our data, send out surveys to parents, staff/faculty members, and our students, and assess our entire strengths for our whole community. We also have to look for areas of improvement to enhance student learning, ensuring sustained viability and vitality. All this information must be put in a self-study along with evidence being uploaded into a data library. The committee chair will be Ms. Karen Barreras, who will travel from Reno, NV. The visit committee will consist of three principals and a teacher from other schools within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Our school's pre-visit is scheduled for February 2, and our accreditation visit is scheduled for March 5-7, 2024.



### 5th Grade News

Thursday, January 25 found my fifth grade students just across the river at the Whitfield Wildlife Center studying our local ecosystem. My class searched for wildlife with binoculars, learned how the river levels affect the surrounding grasslands and sadly, studied the oldest and largest tree at the center that recently died during the Big Hole fire in the Bosque. Even now, that dead tree serves a purpose in our ecosystem. Most importantly, students spent time experiencing God's perfection and how important it is to take care of what has been entrusted to them. They were learning firsthand what it means to be Stewards of the Lord which falls right in with our mission statement here at St. Mary's Catholic School. Our mission is to prepare students to be leaders in worship, work and the world through Roman Catholic teachings, rigorous academics, and service to others. Students prepare to be leaders in worship each day through student led whole school morning prayer, structured religion classes and prayer as needed throughout the day.

~Merita Wilson 5th grade Teacher