



May Edition
2015

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schultz

Principal: Melodie Good

Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, NM

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

IMPORTANT EVENTS

National Education Week	4-10
Teacher Day	5th
May Crowning	6th
Consultative Cncl	6th
Choir Retreat	8th
Mothers Day	10th
Talent Show	12th
Athletic Banquet	14th
PreK celebration	19th
Kinder celebration	20th
8th grade celebration	20th
Early Dismissal	21st
Play Day	22nd
Last day 12 PM	22nd

Saint Mary's Preparing for Accreditation

The schools within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe are moving from North Central Advanced Ed accreditation to a rigorous comprehensive protocol from the Western Catholic Education Association. Saint Mary's, along with two Albuquerque schools, will be the first group to go through the accreditation process. Normally it is an 18 month process but our school is on the fast track to be ready for visits by March of 2016. The teachers are now involved in a self study of every aspect of our school. A consensus will determine three final goals, and an action plan will be written around these goals for the purpose of improving St. Mary's. The information that parents, staff and students have contributed in the surveys that were done in March are helping each group to prepare their part of the self-study. The in-depth study looks at how well Catholic identity is infused into the total school program and how well the students are attaining the student learning expectations (SLEs).

Saint Mary's Celebrates 15 Eighth Graders



Bryce Chavez, Chris Chavez, Justin Clarke, Emilio Medrano, Scott Rogers, Carlina Tellez, Dominique Gallegos, Mandi Koester, Monique Aragon, Lorena Baldonado, Isabella Sais, Olivia Montoya; not pictured Caitlyn Cordova and Tommierae McKnight

Every year it is hard to say good bye to the 8th graders who are leaving Saint Mary's for high schools in the area. This year is no different. Five students have registered at St. Pius. Some will go to Belen High and others to Valencia or Los Lunas High Schools. No matter where they go, we know they are prepared for the rigors of any high school program. This class has the good fortune of **every student** performing at or above grade level on recent normed tests. Emilio Medrano, Caitlyn Cordova, Isabella Sais, Mandi Koester, Carlina Tellez and Kamryn Duenas have been at Saint Mary's since kindergarten. Justin Clarke left us for one year but decided this was his home and came back the next. The celebration Mass will begin with the procession at 5:45 PM and end with the reception for families at the Parish Center. Good luck Saint Mary's class of 2015! We will miss you.



Saint Mary's Pursues STREAM Programming

Several grants have been sought by the SMS staff to create a state of the art science lab at the middle school level in order to serve as the science center of the school. STREAM is the addition of art and religion to the science, technology, engineering and math curriculum. New Mexico Tech will be invited to partner with teachers. This endeavor is part of our commitment to grow the academic potential of each student at Saint Mary's.



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The Bird Word

Monthly Newsletter

On May 5th We Salute the Wonderful Teachers at Saint Mary's

May 5th is National Teacher Appreciation Day. When it comes to appreciation, Saint Mary's teachers are very deserving. Not only do they work for about a third less pay than public school teachers and few benefits,



Rose Trent EA, Heather Sanchez, Melanie Chavez, Arleen Sanchez, Jared Schmock, Charleen Baca, Catherine Vigil, Lora Chavez, Kristy Cordova, Joey Fresquez, Janet Montoya (front office), Kellie Lopez, and Angela Padilla, missing is Ms. Janet Sanchez, EA.

they give up their weekends and evenings to attend fund raisers, soup suppers, First Communions, Catholic Schools Week activities, Fiestas, along with all the other duties that all teachers must do. Saint Mary's teachers are caring and nurturing and have prayer on their side when it comes to helping students with not only their academics, but also with the day to day problems that come up in in the lives of children. Each teacher is highly qualified in their area and attends professional development offered by the Archdiocese as well as local teacher trainings. Three of our teachers, Ms. Angela Padilla, Ms. Melanie Chavez and Ms. Heather Sanchez, have been nominated for the 2015 Catholic Foundation Teacher Award which comes with \$1000. Ms. Charlene Baca was the 2013 recipient of this award. On Tuesday, May 5th, the teachers will be honored with a barbeque luncheon and some teacher treats. **Happy National Education Week!**

Kaeley Goes To Tech Trek

Ms. Kaeley Chavez, daughter of Melanie and Mark Chavez, was selected out of many New Mexico girls going into 8th grade to participate in the Tech Trek program at New Mexico Highlands University in July. At Tech Trek, girls are immersed in a world that empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists. This one-week STEM camp for rising eighth-grade girls got its start 15 years ago, from a grant at Stanford University in California. After seeing how effective the program is — alumnae are more likely than their peers to take advanced science and math classes and eventually to go to college — the women's program at Stanford decided to take the program nationwide. In 2013, Tech Trek was expanded to Ohio, Oklahoma, Florida and Washington, and now New Mexico. It is already changing the lives of the girls who have attended.



The summer reading list for each grade will be posted in the summer Bird Word available. June 1st.



The SMS ROADRUNNERS will be competing in track championships at Menaul School Stadium on May 8th. St. Mary's has over 30 kids ready to bring home medals. Coaches are Lorraine Cordova and Jared Schmock. Go Roadrunners-Beep! Beep!

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.

GIVE me a fish
and I eat for a **day**.
TEACH me to fish
and I eat for a **lifetime**.
Chinese proverb
@ThankYouDiva.com

For more information about Saint Mary's Catholic School go to www.stmarysbelen.com or see our Facebook page