

# The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Blessing of the pets	4
Fall Fest ticket incentive	5
No school	8
Fall Fest ticket \$\$ due	12
Early Release	12
Fall Fest	20
Parent Conf.	22-25
Early Release	25-26
Priesthood Sunday	28
All-Hallows Eve	31

Pastor: Rev. Clement Niggel  
Principal: Melodie Good

OCTOBER 2018

## ITS TIME FOR FALL FEST!

Our Lady of Belen Parish Center will be lit up with fall colors and lots of excitement waiting to see who wins the \$10,000 in this year's drawing. Have you purchased your ticket yet? While you are waiting for the 600 tickets to be drawn from the hopper, you will have the opportunity to purchase a trip to a 49ers game in San Francisco, or perhaps you would rather go on a deer hunt in Mexico. Maybe you would rather buy a \$2 ticket to win a spa date at River Bend Hotsprings in T or C or if you like to cook—\$2.00 might get you a chef's basket. You can watch our website for the exciting items that will be up for purchasing at our Fall Fest. If you haven't purchased a ticket for the drawing, you can still buy a ticket for our Italian themed dinner and then you can stay for the excitement. The drawing for the ATV sponsored by New Mexico Tractor will take place at 8PM. Join us for the evening and bring your friends. This year our fundraiser will help the building fund.



**Fall Fest**  
**October 20th**  
**5:30 Parish**  
**Center**



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## CATHOLIC FOUNDATION AWARDS ST. MARY'S WITH GRANT

On September 20th, Ms. Charlene Baca, first grade teacher, was presented a check for \$5,000 to purchase a Foundational Skills (phonics) program for our kindergarten through 2nd graders. Each year Ms. Baca has submitted a grant proposal to the Foundation and each year the school has received funding for some special project. In 2015 the school was the recipient of the Foundation's only large grant. We were able to purchase our Lab Learner Science lab with the help of that grant. This year, teachers in the primary grades will be able to assess, diagnose and instruct students in the very foundational reading skills in order to better prepare them for the process of decoding. Each student will get what they need if they are struggling readers.

## ACADEMIC NIGHT HELD TO INTRODUCE NEW PROGRAMS

Several parents sat through 5 class sessions of 9 minutes each to hear about the new math, language arts, religion, and other practices at St. Mary's. Parents actually did exit tickets such as the ones used in our language arts classes about what they learned and what they still wondered after the session. The parents proved to be good students asking good questions. New this year at St. Mary's is our top ranked language program, Wit and Wisdom, Finding God religion, Sadlier Math, Beyond Textbooks, and the continuation of Proficiency Based Grading.

**2018-19 Teacher of the Year**



**MS. MELANIE CHAVEZ IS SMS TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Ms. Chavez has taken on many jobs at our school. Student Council, yearbook, May Crowning and many other big jobs have had her hands on them over the years. That's because she would do anything she could to make St. Mary's a better school for our students. Ms. Chavez often times makes it a family affair, bringing her mother, daughter, sons and sister with her to lend their very capable hands to any and all projects. You often hear her say "this is what I do." Our school has made some huge changes in the past two years and she has shown exceptional willingness to embrace new ideas and change her whole way of teaching to accommodate change. We all say at our school that change is hard. Melanie says that without change there is no growth. That's her mindset. She is willing to forge new paths and smile while doing it—even though change is hard. During her eleven years at St. Mary's she has taught 4th, 5th and now 2nd grade. Her 3 children all went to St. Mary's and she and her husband, Mark, are putting their last one through St. Pius. She was honored with a cash award at the Archbishop's School Fund Dinner on September 28th at Sandia Casino.

**New Teachers this Year**



**4th Grade Ms. Valenzuela**



**Music-Ms. Conroy**



**SCIENCE GIRL ENTERTAINS THE CROWD AT STEM SATURDAY ADVENTURE**

All kinds of science and technology was on display at St. Mary's STEM Saturday Adventure in September. We were able to showcase our new 3-D printer and present many new scientific ideas and activities to the community of Belen. We are so grateful to all our presenters and participants for the fun and educational day!



**VOLLEYBALL AND FAMILY COOK OUT—FUN!!**



**Tickets Available for ATV**



The Archdiocese of Santa Fe and St. Mary's school comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) by providing access for the review of the management Plan at the school. The plan is kept in the principal's office and is updated as various situations develop and inspections are completed. Arrangements may be made with the principal to review the materials. Any questions may be directed to the Executive Director at ASF.