



September Edition

Pastor: Ft. Clement Niggel
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	
Picture day	1
Fall Fest Mtg 5:30	3
Grandparents Day	4
1 pm Dismissal	4
Labor Day no school	7
ATV Jeans deadline	15
Early NOON dismissal	18
Pack the House bon fire	22

Father Clement Welcomes Students and Parents on the First Day

A surprise greeted the students and their parents when they arrived at school on the first day. Father Clement and Father Jonas were both shaking hands and welcoming students to their first day of school. Father Clement stayed and prayed with the students as they gathered in the hallway, as they always do, for their morning prayer. He made the comment that the students were standing at the hallway intersection in the form of a cross and that praying together there was the perfect way to start their school day.

Since that day, Father Clement has dropped in to the cafeteria a few times to eat lunch with the students and share some funny stories with them. He also keeps them on their toes with the homily at the school Mass on Wednesdays. He engages students with questions about the previous liturgy and makes sure that they are participating—not just sitting there. Everyone from the Principal and teachers to the smallest student enjoys seeing our priests around our school campus.

Welcome Father Clement and Father Jonas! We are so glad you are here!

SAINT MARY'S
ROADRUNNERS VOLLEY BALL
AND CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS
WILL BE A FORCE TO BE RECK-
ONED WITH THIS YEAR!
WATCH US!

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL



When the strategic plan for St. Mary's was developed in 2012, the Saint Mary's Consultative Council settled on six areas of concentration: finance, marketing and enrollment, technology, facility, development, and family faith formation. Since that time we have strived to retain people on our council who have expertise in each of those areas. Every year the strategic plan is updated to remain current with the needs of the school. The council is chaired by Ms. Holly Chavez, owner of Academic Solutions. The facility chair is Mr. Robert Chavez, owner and CEO of Advanced Environmental. Chairing our fundraising committee is Ms. Jennifer Trujillo, PA. Ms. Sohaila Lucero, St. Mary's IT specialist, is responsible for the technology plan. Ms. Brenda Montoya serves as the family faith formation chairperson. Our marketing and enrollment committee is led by former attorney and Our Lady of Guadalupe's DRE, Monica Casias-McKay. Recently, Ms. Sabrina Sweeney from Hair Innovations has offered to come on the council as our secretary. We are looking for a financial and development person to head those two committees. The council holds ten regular meetings a year to look out for the interests of Saint Mary's.

The Bird Word
Monthly Newsletter

GRANDPARENTS' LUNCHEON



Saint Mary's long standing tradition of eating lunch with the grandparents is coming up September 4th. Reservations need to be in to Ms. Janet by Wednesday, September 2nd. Lunch that day will be lasagna with rolls, salad and apple cake for dessert. All students' grandparents are eagerly invited to attend.

FALL ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

FALL FEST INCENTIVES

Those of you out there selling tickets have some extra opportunities. If you sell 15 tickets then the 16th ticket is yours free. You can sell it and keep the money or give it to someone free. If you are the top ticket seller, then you get \$300.00. Also, the person who sells the winning ticket will receive \$500. If you have sold all four of your Fall Fest tickets and turned in the money by October 1st, then your child can wear jeans with the spirit shirt every Friday for the **SECOND** semester. (First semester is for ATV tickets sold by Sept. 15th) Thanks again for your support of Saint Mary's!

FALL SPORTS

Just when we all thought that we wouldn't have a **volley ball** team for lack of 8th grade girls, two teams emerged from our 5th through 8th grade girls. Besides two volley ball teams, our **cross country** team participation doubled from last year. This team took top honors in the league finals last year so with twice the runners, we are expecting great things this year.

Volley Ball Roster

Kaeley Chavez	Guin Mayse
Roisin Shaughnessy	Alesha Foster
Faith Baldonado	Christina Moya
Caroline Maestas	Rosie Bockisch
Taeya Padilla	Michaela Jack
Gabriella Bustillos	Ruby Bencomo
Savannah Jiron	Katherine Smith
Melany Bencomo	Coaches are:
Kaydence Zamora	Lorraine
====Cordova	and Ruben Martinez

Cross Country Roster

David Castillo	Sofia Castillo
Selena Fresquez	Adrian Trujillo
Amelia Griego	Patrick Castillo
Alia Rodriguez	Judah Rodriguez
Natalie Martinez	Joshua Silva
Trysten Garcia	Andrew Foster
Gracie Baca	Elena Lopez
Damian Lopez	Marcus Rimorin
Braiden Koester	Coach: Carolyn
	Mendoza

Family Faith Formation



Deacon Michael Montoya will be starting a Sycamore blog on topics related to Catholic Faith, scripture, and tradition. Everyone on Sycamore will be able to respond to it and participate in the blog. He will be posting a question or reflection on a regular basis in the hopes that we can engage parents and students together and build on our Catholic identity—which is part of our school mission and purpose. You can access this blog from the front page of Sycamore just by signing in and clicking the blog link. We will let you know when it is ready to access.

Coding AKA Computer Programming is being taught in the SMS Lab Reading and writing code is the new literacy. Those students who master it are better prepared for a technical revolution that spans cultures and language boundaries. That's because coding isn't just a language. It's a way of thinking about problem solving. Second through 8th graders are bridging the digital divide by learning to be more creative with technology—part of our STREAM initiative at Saint Mary's.

First Volley Ball home game—Sept. 3rd 3:45
First XCountry meet—Sept. 9th at Pius

PLEASE SAVE BOX TOPS FOR US

Last year, the accumulation of three years of box top cash helped us pay for our new sign. Each one is worth ten cents and that adds up!



On **September 22nd** all families are invited to watch the Roadrunner volley ball game and stay after for a bon fire and hamburger cook out. Last year's event was a lot of fun and this year is gearing up to be just as much fun. Mark your calendar!