



September

Saint Mary's Catholic School

101 No. 10th Street
Belen, New Mexico 87002
505.864.0484
www.stmarysbelen.com

Principal: Melodie Good

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schultz

*Guided by Catholic traditions and values, Saint Mary's
prepares students for the future and for eternity*

Important Events

Back to School Night TBA
No School 9/2
Volley Ball (home) 9/10
Grandparents' Lunch 9/13
Early Release 9/13
Early Release 9/27
St. Marys Mass OLB 9/28
5PM

Check website for games

New Student Council Forms

Elections for officers will be held after press time on August 28th. This year's officers will be tasked with leading the students at Saint Mary's with more school wide service projects and more opportunities for faith building. Ms. Janet Sanchez and Ms. Melanie Chavez lead this group of 4th through 8th graders.

Excitement Surrounds Beginning of School

Moving into a new gym and cafeteria, new culinary arts and Spanish classes, renovations in the school entry way, new Pre-K building, new students and teachers--all good things are happening at Saint Mary's School this year! Eighth graders got a tour of the new Parish Center by Father Steve. Smiles and giddy screams of delight came from the girls as they entered the new locker rooms in the gym.

Middle School students spend the last class of the day on Monday and Wednesday afternoons cooking and studying food service entrepreneurship. They are anxious to try their skills in the new cafeteria. A new building with a new wood floor and fresh paint awaited the Pre School students. Ms. Chavez, who teaches kindergarten through 8th in the Spanish Language Arts and Culture class, is getting even kinders to greet the principal in Spanish!

Ms. Janet, our secretary, is asked every day how she likes her new view of the world. Her answer is always, "I love it." The new window into the hall increases our ability to monitor the comings and goings of people through the front door--besides looking great! This is the first change since the front office was added in the 40's. If you haven't seen it, come by and visit.

Fall Fest Tickets selling fast!

Planning is ongoing for the BIG Saint Mary's Fall Fest on **October 26th**. While not only showing off the new gym and cafeteria, the ATV raffle and class basket auctions are sure to bring in a big crowd the year! Don't forget to get your \$100 ticket and a chance to win \$10,000. There are some exciting changes to the format this year. Be sure to mark your calendars for this event!

Saint Mary's still has a few spaces in Kindergarten and Pre-K. Students leaving for first grade are all reading ready and able to take on the task of reading the mass liturgy by mid year. There is no replacement for giving your child a strong academic foundation AND a firm foothold in Catholicism.

The St. Mary's Parents Association is back in full swing for our new school year! All parents and guardians are members of our association and are welcome at all meetings, events and are encouraged to participate on any of our ten committees. The SMPA is about men and women working together to create a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to present activities that bring St. Mary's families together for fun and fellowship. We focus on building community, teacher appreciation, student recognition and service to the school. Everyone is welcome to attend our first meeting on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 p.m. in on events you would like to see us doing, meet new families, etc. We will have sign-up sheets and information on the following committees: Family Event, Father & Son, Student Recognition, Teacher Appreciation, Mother & Daughter, Christmas Shop, Catholic Schools Week, Dining Out Nights, Uniform Exchange and Merchandise Sales. We would love to have you join us! If you are unable to attend the meeting or need additional information about the St. Mary's Parents Association, feel free to email: smpabelen@yahoo.com. Our first Family Event is scheduled for September, stay tuned for more information! Submitted by Carolyn Mendoza, Pres.



Saint Mary's LOVES the people who donated products to make our "new look" possible!

Willie Martinez-Kenyon Plastering
Castillo Concrete
Ned's Pipe and Steel
Mario Baldonado
Michael Duenas
Amy and Mark Garcia
Hard Rock Concrete
Carpet Warehouse
Gary Moore

Tutoring and homework help available for all grade levels. Call Kathleen Hill at 505.321-1042 or email at hounddoatrio@yahoo.com



Are you still clipping your boxtops for us? We have earned about \$1400 in cash with our boxtops. We are saving for playground equipment for our new area.

School Wish List
 Legos for our kindergarten and art room
 A new or gently used sharp paper cutter
 Metal tricyles for Pre-K
 Swing set for little ones
 The school would love to have them.

Teachers Take Part in Back-To- School Retreat

The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) hosted the Saint Mary's teachers in an all day retreat at their center in Pueblitos on August 6th. The day began with Mass at the small chapel on the property and continued with Sister Mary Leo who led the staff in prayers and reflections on their theme of **"Together, we shine."** Sister Mary Paul arranged music for the group to listen to as they each sculpted a symbol of their day out of clay. The retreat ended with reflections of the wonders of the Lord in each of their lives

ATV Tickets
 Families still have \$2.00 ATV tickets for sale. Don't miss out on a chance to win the ATV sponsored by NM Tractor. Drawing will be at the Fall Fest.

Culinary Arts Class
 Be sure and go see Saint Mary's dried fruits and jam at the New Mexico State Fair—produced by SMC Middle School!

Calling all GRANDPARENTS!
 Make your reservations for lunch on the 13th not later than Sept.11th.