



September Edition

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schultz

Principal: Melodie Good

Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, NM

Guided by Catholic traditions and values, the mission of Saint Mary's Catholic school is to prepare our students for the future and for eternity.

New School Year Begins with Enrollment Up

IMPORTANT EVENTS

No School	1st
Grandparents Lunch	12th
Early Dismissal	12th
<u>Special Early Dismissal</u>	
<u>noon</u>	19th
Home Games	
Volleyball 6:30	4th
Volleyball 5:00	18th
Cross Country Meets	
Bosque School	9/10
St. Pius	9/17
Bullhead Park	9/25

Saint Mary's school began August 11th with a twelve percent increase in students over last year bringing us close to 140 for the first time in five years. The administration and staff have worked hard on helping to affirm Saint Mary's as the place for a child to excel in academics, form their faith, be safe, and have fun. The result is increased enrollment.

Many exciting events are on the horizon for Saint Mary's. Grandparents Day is coming up on September 12th. That is an important event for the students who bring their grandparents to lunch and to an art show that day. The annual Fall Fest is coming up October 25th. The committees have been working on some great prizes for the live auction as well as the silent auction.

Raffle tickets are available for the New Mexico Tractor royal blue 4-wheeler which will be raffled off on January 25th as part of the 5K Run kicking off Catholic Schools Week.

The Saint Mary's Parents Association has plans for Father/Daughter and Mother/Son events this year, and it looks like a family night with hamburgers and a bon fire is being planned soon. Watch Sycamore for more details.



Sports Continue to Thrive at SMS

Back in 2011 the St. Mary's boys basketball team was honored by the City of Belen for their outstanding performance in the APIAL league that year. In 2012 the girls basketball team took 2nd place in the APIAL Championship game after a hard fought game with Bosque Prep. Last year, our

girls placed 1st in the Billy Jaramillo tournament and we had the top APIAL golfers. This past week our volley ball girls crushed both Holy Ghost and St. Therese in the opening league game. Values such as teamwork, self-esteem, and self-control are a natural outgrowth of our students' partici-

pation. SMS offers very competitive athletic teams for both boys and girls grades 5th-8th grade. This year, an active Booster Club is forming to help support our sports teams and to bring some other opportunities to adults in our school and parish in the way of intermural games.

Early Noon Dismissal on September 19th

Teachers from all over the Archdiocese will be meeting at 1 PM on September the 19th in Albuquerque. This is an unusual pick up time for parents so we are trying to get the word out early. Our normal release time is 1 PM on early dismissal days, but on this day, teachers must leave Belen by 12:15 so parents need to pick up their child at noon-12 PM. Teachers will be working in grade level groups on curriculum.

The Bird Word
Monthly Newsletter

SAINT MARY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The SMPA is back in full swing and ready for another year! Back to School Night and our first New Family Orientation event were successful and well attended by our St. Mary's families. We have a full year of events scheduled and we are ready to start planning. Committees this year will include: Outdoor Family Night, Christmas Shop, Catholic Schools Week, 5K Fun Run, Student Recognition, Teacher Appreciation, Mother & Son Event and a Father & Daughter Event. We would love to have some new AND old faces get involved with these fun events. Any hours you spend with the SMPA, at meetings or on committees, count toward your 20 service hours. We also have some Vice President roles available this year. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 9th at 6:00 pm in the School Cafeteria, please join us, we guarantee there is something for everyone! Questions? Email Carolyn at smpabelen@yahoo.com



New Teachers

New to kindergarten this year is Ms. Kellie Lopez. She is a former LLS teacher who has brought three of her children with her to Saint Mary's.

Ms. Kristy Cordova is the new middle school science and social studies teacher. She also does 6th grade home room. She has two children at Saint Mary's.

Ms. Lora Chavez is a busy lady with Pre-K, Spanish, and music. She also comes from LLS.

Mr. Joey Fresquez is the new Saint Mary's AD and PE teacher. He comes to us from Belen Schools. He has two children here at Saint Mary's.

Family Faith Formation

Faith education in the 21st century involves helping learners understand their own faith so they can confidently and respectfully engage with people of other religions or beliefs in ways to reflect God's love and plan for the world. Saint Mary's wants to partner with each parent to help us guide our students through this process. We wish to provide opportunities this year for parents to gain confidence in their ability to be a Catechetical leader in their own family.

Help Saint Mary's by Dancing

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of Renee Antoinette's School of Dance, Ms. Renee is donating 20 % of any Saint Mary's student's September tuition to the school. Thank you, Ms. Renee! Let's Dance!!

Wednesday Morning Rosary

Parents who plan on attending our Wednesday children's Mass may want to get a bump in morning prayer by meeting at 8:20 AM in church to pray the rosary. Mrs. Sais leads the rosary every Wednesday beginning at 8:20 AM. She is looking for parents who want to join

SMS Seventh Grader is Top Golfer

Jacob Lucero traveled to Scottsdale, AZ on August 24th to compete at Grey Hawk Championship Golf Course. He will be competing in the Drive, Chip and Putt golf competition. The sectionals were held in Albuquerque at UNM South Championship Golf Course this summer. Each player has 3 Drives, 3 putts and 3 chips. The putts and chips are from different distances. The player is scored on each shot. Jacob won the sectional here in Albuquerque which earned him the right to compete in Scottsdale. Although the competition was very stiff in Arizona, Jacob returned with plans to go back next year and take top honors and then shoot for the Masters!

Box Tops For St. Mary's



Please remember to save your Box Tops for our students. We collect them all month and tally them up at the end of the month. We are saving for a large reader board sign to be installed in front of the school.

Fall Fest coming up in October!! Turn in your tickets and silent auction items as soon as possible. Do you know a sponsor?

New Bathrooms for the Little Ones

Beginning in July, the front hall bathrooms were gutted, and new tile, fixtures, partitions, and walls were put back in place. The bathrooms are finally finished and looking great. Many, many parents and friends helped make this possible after Mrs. Charlene Baca got a grant from the Catholic Foundation. The students are very happy to have clean and bright bathrooms.

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