

The Bird Word



Roadrunner Country

Saint Mary's Catholic School



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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

Advent Retreat	12/4
SMPA meeting	12/4
Early Release	12/6
Christmas Shop	12/12
District Spelling Bee	12/13
Dining Out at Quiznos	12/17
Culinary Arts Café	12/18
Christmas Program	12/18
Vacation begins with early release	12/20
Christmas Eve Mass	6 PM

Looking Back on a Year of Exciting Events!

Beginning with the ground breaking of the new Parish Center to the recent success of our 2013 fundraiser, Saint Mary's has had a great year! When you walk into Saint Mary's these days, it's hard not to notice the upbeat attitude that prevails. The school itself looks transformed when you enter and see the reception window and newly plastered walls. The teachers are utilizing technology and enjoying the benefits that come with teaching classes of children who perform at or above grade level in their skills. They know this because the students are assessed three times a year on a low stress, nationally normed computer-based test. Teachers are immediately aware of how students perform and are able to make adjustments in instruction right away if necessary. The students enjoy the advantages of a brand new gymnasium and cafeteria and the opportunity to take Spanish, music, art and culinary classes. The parents are an integral part of their child's education at Saint Mary's and are assured that their participation and input are both desired and welcomed. Yes, 2013 has been a great year!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Sarah Foster 2nd Grade
Sarah is new to our school and is so happy to be here. She is always smiling and has exemplary behavior. Sarah is well deserving of student of the month.



Merry Christmas to all!



Saint Mary's Christmas Program December 18th

Last year, the Christmas play brought rave reviews from all who attended. This year, we're hoping for the same response. All the children will have a part in Saint Mary's presentation of an Old Fashioned Christmas. The event will be held in the gymnasium at 6:30 PM on the 18th. If you want to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas, please plan to attend our production.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

Parents will be asked to fill out a survey next week. This survey is to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of Saint Mary's. The Consultative Council and the school administration want to know how we can do a better job in all areas. The survey will be completely anonymous and will be returned in the envelope directly to the principal's office. When you receive the survey, please fill out and return promptly.

Saint Mary's Parents Association News

Your St. Mary's Parents Association is getting ready for the 4th Annual Christmas Shop! On Thursday, December 12th, all students will have an opportunity to shop for inexpensive Christmas gifts for family and friends. The gifts will range between \$0.25-\$5.00. The shop will be set up in the new Parish Center this year. We are asking for donations of any sort: gifts, wrapping paper, gift bags, tags, etc. We also need volunteers to help that day as well! This is one of the most enjoyable events of the year, we will need parents to help the little ones shop, gift wrap, deliver gifts to classrooms, etc. All hours count toward your 20 required service hours for the year.

If you are interested in helping please sign-up in the office, email: smpabelen@yahoo.com or text: 505-573-6754

We have some exciting events planned for our spring semester including our Mother Daughter and Father Son events as well as Catholic Schools Week. Our December meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Everyone is welcome to attend, we would love to hear some new ideas, start planning our upcoming family events and meet some new faces. Please join us!

As Christmas break is slowly approaching, some of your child's uniforms may be getting too small. The SMPA is working to build up our inventory of gently used school uniform pants, shorts, polos, skirts, jumpers and cardigans. In the near future, we will be offering our uniform shop to all families at a significant discount. Please consider donating those uniforms that you will not use again.

Advent Retreat

On December 4th, students will begin their Advent retreat with the 9 AM mass. After mass, students will have an opportunity to go to confession and then enjoy different sessions with Sister Mary from the SOLT community, Father Steve, Father Malachy, Mrs. Good and Coach Rodriguez. Their teachers also have Advent projects planned for them. All normal school activities are canceled for the day to allow for these special events.

SPELLING BEE WITH A NEW SPIN

The Scripts Spelling Bee has introduced a new skill to the event—a vocabulary piece.

Students will be asked to identify difficult vocabulary words by the way they are used in a sentence. St. Mary's jumped on board to include it in our school bee. Representatives from Belen Schools opted not to include this piece in their school bees but did observe ours to see how they might include it next year. It will be included in the County Spelling Bee this year. Our winners will be well prepared for the competition. They are Adrian Maez, first place; Tommierae McKnight, second place; and Elena Carrejo, third place. Completing the top six places are: Jasmine Day, Ethan Trujillo, Braiden Koester and Alternate, Jacob Lucero.

Saint Mary's Students Collected Food to Help Make One Hundred Food Baskets



As 2013 draws to a close, I would like to thank all the staff, parents, friends, alumni, and parishioners who have donated, worked and prayed for the continued success of Saint Mary's.

Melodie Good, Principal