



February Edition
2016



Pastor: Ft. Clement Niggel
Principal: Melodie Good

Saint Mary's Catholic School Belen, N.M

At Saint Mary's School, we are committed to the growth of our Catholic identity, academic potential, and community involvement.

IMPORTANT EVENTS	
Catholic Schools week	1-6
Enrollment begins	8th
Ash Wednesday	10
Retreat	10
No School	12th and 15th
Open House 3:30-5	17
Focus 11 6th Grade	16
Early Dismissal	26
Accreditation begins	29

Registration Begins for 2016-2017 School Year

February is enrollment month for the next school year. Parents of students currently attending Saint Mary's can get on Sycamore and register their child beginning on February 8th. Fees must be paid and paperwork updated for next year prior to **March 11th**. After that registration fees will increase. Parents of students who are considering Saint Mary's for next year are encouraged to register their child early in order to guarantee a space in the classroom. Some of our classes are approaching full status. For new students, there are registration packets in the school office or you can download the forms from our website. For returning students, after filling out the forms on Sycamore, registration can be paid in the office.

REGISTRATON
BEGINS ON
SYCAMORE 2/8/16

An Open House will be held February 17th from 3:30 to 5 PM at Saint Mary's for parents and students who are interested in a tour of the school or a chance to talk to the principal about what Saint Mary's has to offer. Arrangements can be made at that time for prospective students to shadow a student or visit a class during a school day for a good idea of how the day goes at the school.



Saint Mary's offers a low pupil teacher ratio. Students have an abundance of opportunities to reach their potential through service projects, after school activities, science labs, and rigorous curriculum. While providing a stimulating and demanding education, St. Mary's School gives students a high level of individualized attention. This commitment is reinforced by participation in programs such as robotics, 4-H, choir, art and athletics.

Over 120 Run/Walkers Participated in 2nd Annual 5 K

The Kick Off for Catholic Schools Week got off to a good start with over a hundred runners or walkers



participating in our second annual 5K. The winners were: Mens in 22:31: Ruben Martinez; Women's in 24:26: Desiree Sanchez; Boys in 22.04; St. Mary's 8th grader: Andrew Foster; and girls in 22:53; St. Mary's sixth grader: Gracie Baca. Organizers Victor and Carolyn Mendoza were pleased that more runners participated this year. That means Saint Mary's athletic booster club benefited greatly. Proceeds from the 5K insures that new sports uniforms and equipment can be purchased as needed.

The Bird Word
Monthly Newsletter

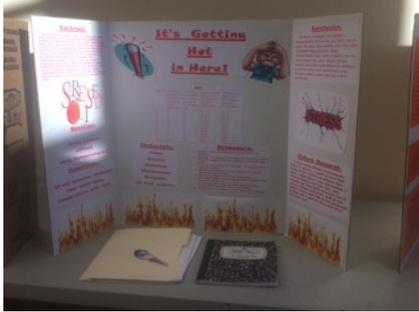
Lenten Retreat for all Students on Ash Wednesday

Teachers will be suspending their normal routines on Ash Wednesday while all student attend retreat activities from prayer time in the church to Lenten art projects. Older students have the opportunity to go to confession after Mass. The younger students learn all about almsgiving, fasting and prayer.

SCIENCE FAIR YIELDED SIX WINNERS AND AWESOME PROJECTS

Winners of the science fair were: 1st Place: Natalie Martinez, 2nd Place: Michael Mendoza and 3rd place: John Dieterichs. Three honorable mentions who will also be competing at the Regional Science Fair are Alia Rodriguez, Taeya Padilla, and Selena Fresquez. Mrs. Bockisch, the middle school science teacher, has worked with our students since August to prepare them for our school science fair. There was a wide variety of projects displayed by the kids which very much impressed the judges. Saint Mary's is thinking about alternating Science Olympiad with science fair so that students will be able to work in problem solving teams for competition next year.

Natalie Martinez's winning project



Boys Basketball is underway with coaches Jared Schmock in charge of varsity and junior varsity and Mark Garcia heading up the C team.

Family Faith Formation—God's Invitation

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. Lent is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. "Come back to me, with all of your heart," our Lord beckons. "We will," we respond, but we aren't quite ready yet, our hearts are not prepared. We want to squirm, evade, avoid. Our souls not yet perfect. We are not ready for God to love us. We could take the earliest moments of our day, before we have gotten out of bed to thank God for such a loving invitation and ask for help in opening our hearts to it. We could read about beginning our Lenten patterns. We could remember throughout the day the invitation that has moved our hearts: *Come back to me, with all of your heart.* And we can rejoice along with God. Will you accept the invitation this Lenten season?



Creighton University Ministry 2016



Go Roadrunners!



SMS Parents Are Fabulous
During the past week of activities to celebrate Catholic schools Week, many parents gave up their time to supervise, organize and participate in an event every day of the week. Without the overwhelming support of parents, this fun and recognition of our wonderful school could not have happened.

THANK YOU!



Students Enjoy a Formal Lunch in Parish Center

During Catholic Schools Week, on Faith Appreciation day, all students had lunch together in the Parish Center. They were served lunch and a fabulous dessert by parent volunteers. The students were thankful to have a break from the usual lunch in the cafeteria. This lunch followed the student Mass at which Father Clement gave a wonderful homily relating each class's artifact that was presented at the altar to our Catholic values and beliefs.



THANK YOU FAT SATS FOR OUR GREAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

Thank you to Our Lady Of Belen Parishioners for the wonderful generosity in our envelope collection. We are abundantly blessed.