



January Edition
2017

Pastor: Rev. 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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK APPROACHES

IMPORTANT EVENTS	
Second Semester	5th
Consultative Council mtg	11th
Geo Bee	13th
Awards	13th
Early Release	13th
No School	16th
Pius testing	26th
Early Release	27th
Kick off CWS Mass	29th
5K Run/Walk	29th

CELEBRATE SCHOOL CHOICE

Parents in Valencia County have options when it comes to choosing a school for their child to attend. Catholic Schools Week and National School Choice Week seek to highlight that choice. Many activities are planned in January to focus on the excellent education provided by Saint Mary's in Belen. In half of US states, students can access opportunity scholarships, tuition tax credits, or education savings accounts to attend qualifying private schools. More American parents have the opportunity to choose motivating, challenging, and effective educational environments for their children than ever before. In New Mexico, while we haven't yet been able to secure tax credits similar to those in our neighboring states, we have expanded financial opportunities so that no child who truly desires a Catholic education will be turned away without some help. While we continue to work for more access to educational excellence, Saint Mary's will continue to reach out to the Valencia County community to insure parents that a school doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way can be found on the corner of Church and 10th right here in Belen.



Catholic Schools Week Jan. 29th-Feb. 4th


Sunday:	Kick Off with Mass and 5K
Monday:	Community Appreciation
Tuesday:	Parent Appreciation
Wednesday:	Pastor Appreciation
Thursday:	Teacher Appreciation
Friday:	Student Appreciation
Saturday:	Pancake Breakfast



The Bird Word

Monthly Newsletter

Students Meet Archbishop Wester



When the Archbishop visited St. Mary's the day before Christmas break, he stopped off in the PreK classroom to see what the four year olds were doing. Most PreK students were anxious to tell him what was on their Christmas wish list. Archbishop Wester met with members of the Consultative Council as well as all support staff, teachers, and all students at Saint Mary's. Even the principal, Mrs. Good, got to have a one on one conversation with the Archbishop about what she feels the strengths and challenges are at the school. One of the big challenges facing St. Mary's is the aging school building. Archbishop Wester also heard from the parents that this was a concern for them. Highlights for our school are the excellent staff, new science program, and overall strength of our school community.

Registration for the 2017-18 School Year will begin in February

Current students and families will be able to enroll for next year beginning February 6th. We will not be taking any new enrollments until February 21st. Since some of our classes are already at capacity, this will give our families time to secure their spot for next year before opening enrollment for new students. The only classes with much room to grow is 4th and 6th grades. We will fill our classes first with returning students then open up any extra spaces to new students. Registration will run until March 17th before there is an increase in fees.

Three Saint Mary's Students Qualify for County Spelling Bee

In the Belen District Spelling Bee held December 13th at Belen High School, three of the top ten winners were SMS students. Ms. Sofia Castillo placed Second overall. Fifth grader, Ms. Brooke DeLeon, placed sixth, and eighth grader, Natalie Martinez, placed ninth. All three will move on to Los Lunas to the County Spelling Bee.

National Geographic Bee

The National Geographic Bee is an annual competition organized by the National Geographic Society, designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. Each year, thousands of schools across the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee, competing for college scholarships and the glory of being the National Geographic Bee Champion. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for the National Geographic Bee. Saint Mary's will host their annual Bee on January 13th at 10.

Have you purchased your table or dinner tickets to the 90th Birthday Party at Isleta Grand ballroom?

2/11/2017

FUN!!



Second Round of Elementary Sports

Students in first through 4th grades are able to sign up for soccer, basketball or golf. All sign ups are taken care of on the APIAL website. We are hoping to have some games scheduled in our gym, but parents should be prepared to compete in Albuquerque.



Word of the month: VISION

Martin Luther King had a vision of a society in which race was not an issue in how people were treated or in how they were allowed to live their lives. It's a sad fact of today's society that King's vision is not a reality in America, or anywhere else in the world; but it is possible to say that his vision affected us.

While nothing is perfect or complete in the battle for civil rights, the efforts of King and those like him have, in fact, changed the country and the world, for the better, in noticeable ways. His vision has made the world a more equal place, if not an equal one, and it has helped to ensure that minorities have a voice. As a Catholic, what is your vision for a better world?