



March Edition
2015

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Schultz

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.

Saint Mary's Wins National Award

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Consultative Cncl	4th
Art Show St. Pius	6th-7th
P/T Conferences	11th-12th
Early Dismissal	12th-13th
Spring Break	16th-20th
Stations of the Cross	6th
Living Stations	27th



March is National Nutrition Month



The National Catholic Education Association has awarded our school with the 2015 Innovative projects in Marketing citation. The actual award will be presented in Florida at the NCEA Convention in April. Every year NCEA looks for schools that have increased their enrollment by reaching out to their communities in creative ways. Saint Mary's award mentioned the regular use of the local newspaper, the monthly newsletters going out to the parish, the updating of the school facility and utilizing the Rail-runner for transportation to and from Los Lunas. The full page award article appears in the March Edition of Today's Catholic Teacher Magazine that goes to all Catholic school teachers in the United States, a distribution of some 40,000. There were only two schools in the nation who received awards in marketing. The Immaculate Heart Radio station for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe recently interviewed the principal about how Saint Mary's was selected. To listen to the interview, a link to an abridged version of the interview is available on Saint Mary's Facebook Page.

A NEW ROOF FOR SAINT MARY'S

Beginning this month, J3 Systems from Bosque Farms will be putting a new roof on Saint Mary's. After a year of research and getting bids, we are able to say that our roof will soon be replaced and repaired. Construction is set to begin just prior to spring break so that the most dangerous part can be done when the students are not on campus. The estimated time will be approximately 6 weeks from the start to the finish. There will be some weeks when the front parking area will be cordoned off to cars while still allowing entrance through the front doors.

TEAM NUTRITION RAMPS UP FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

March is Nutrition month. As part of the Saint Mary's nutrition challenge, Team Nutrition will be distributing information, recipes, tips for buying good fruits and vegetables and ways to increase your physical activity. The theme for 2015 is "Bite into a Healthy Lifestyle." The campaign focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and activity habits. Team Nutrition is made up of teachers and parents who are interested in helping our families achieve more healthy life styles and reduce the risk of chronic diseases. The idea came about when the teachers were noticing the trash cans on the playground were filled with wrappers of very unhealthy snacks. Since then an effort has been made to encourage healthy snacks for recess and more awareness of the choices we make for eating and fitness.

The Bird Word
Monthly Newsletter

Registration for 2015-16 is in full swing. Returning students must get registered by March 13th or the fee increases to \$350.

TRACK AND FIELD SEASON BEGINS

Saint Mary's is hoping for a season like Cross Country where SMS Roadrunners finished at the top. We won't be having any track meets at Belen HS this year like we had in the past. Most track meets will be held at Menaul School. Over 30 students have signed up.



Super Stars

New in our cafeteria this year are manager, Susie Armijo, and her helper April Foster. They have made a huge gain in the number of

students eating daily. Susie has had to learn all the ins and outs of the federal guidelines for student nutrition. We have gotten A ratings from the biggest critics-the students as well as from the trainers from the state program. Thanks Susie and April!

Optimist Essay Winners

The Sunport Optimists Club has announced the winners of their recent essay contest. Three Saint Mary's students will receive awards at the April Awards assembly. First place goes to Dominic Sais; second, Olivia Montoya; and third place goes to Kamryn Duenas. Way to go Roadrunners!

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE TO PRESENT AN ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM

Beginning in March, agents from New Mexico State University will present "Take a Stand," a program that helps kids understand that bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose and the person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Examples of bullying include physical violence, spreading rumors, keeping people out of a particular group, teasing, ganging up on someone, cyberbullying such as texting, posting mean information or pictures on a social networking site, blog or personal web page. Take A Stand lessons focus on five topics: conflict resolution and bullying, communication, etiquette, teamwork and cultural awareness. There are three levels of the curriculum which target the following grade levels: 3-5th grade and 6-8th grade.



ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT

Saint Mary's students had the opportunity to attend sessions with Sister Caritas, Father Steve and Father Felipe, and Mrs. Good during their Ash Wednesday Retreat. Mrs. Good met with the kindergarteners through third graders for a session on burying the alleluia. Somewhere on the playground, the alleluia is waiting to be resurrected at Easter time. The middle school asked if Father Steve could talk about what happens to us after death. Father Felipe helped the younger students to understand that our Catholic Mass is truly the sharing of the body and blood of Christ. Students and teachers were able to go to confession after Mass.



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