



November Edition  
2016



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.

## CALLING ALL VETERANS!

### IMPORTANT EVENTS

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HAVE A BLESSED  
THANKSGIVING

Saint Mary's is looking for Veterans in our community to come to our Veterans day program on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th. The students will be gathering in the gym to hear guest speaker Emily Cano, Retired Airforce and to celebrate the dedication of our veterans to our great country. Students will be inviting relatives in their families to submit copies of pictures to our gallery of Veterans. We hope all of our Lady of Belen Veterans and servicemen from all over the community will share this time with the students of Saint Mary's. Our third grade teacher, Ms. Heather Sanchez, served in the Marines at the Marine Corp Air Station El Toro in Southern California. She was our guest speaker the first year we put on our program.

Saint Mary's students appreciate the time Ms. Rosie Garley has taken to help us put together our event this year. We are hoping the attendance will triple so that students can see how many friends and relatives just in our community have served their country. The students are preparing souvenirs and the choir will sing patriotic songs.



### AND THE TEN K WINNER IS.....

Ms. Deanna Rickerd is the grand prize winner of a ten thousand dollar check from the Saint Mary's Annual Fall Fest. Mrs. Emily Castillo (middle) purchased the board that the winning name appeared on and Mr. John Smith purchased the winning name in the final ten auction.



## Mrs. Bockisch Named Teacher of the Year



Saint Mary's selected Mrs. Lisa Bockisch as the 2016-17 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Bockisch was presented with a check and a crystal apple from Archbishop John Wester at the Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Bockisch has only been at Saint Mary's for two years yet her impact has been felt from PreK through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in our new science lab. Last year, Mrs. Bockisch helped three of our students to earn top honors at the Regional Science Challenge in Albuquerque in March. She, herself, brought home a teaching excellence award as well. This year, she sees all students at St. Mary's in our new Lablearner Science lab. Congratulations to Mrs. Bockisch.

The Bird Word

Monthly Newsletter

## Fall Fest Chairmen Are Stepping Down After Three Great Years

Chris Smith and Julie Sanchez have said all year that this would be the last year they "drove the bus" of St. Mary's biggest fund raiser. For three years, these two ladies have brought the profits of the event from \$50,000 to over \$70,000. They have worked year long on moving us to a digital format, getting large sponsorships and increasing the value of the prizes offered. They have made the process very organized and simplified so that someone will be able to step into their shoes to get next year's event underway. St. Mary's is looking for that parent who is ready to take the lead on this 35 year old fund raiser.

Rosa Pemble and Aneile Cummins were also instrumental in making this year's event another successful year. Rosa increased our sponsorships by ten thousand dollars and Aneil gathered auction items for the fabulous live auction.

Ms. Susie Armijo, Saint Mary's awesome cook, prepared the roast beef donated by the Romero family. St. Mary's is so thankful for the hard work and dedication of all the families and friends.

### Archbishop John Wester Will Visit

On December 21st, the last day before Christmas vacation, the Archbishop will be celebrating the 9 AM Mass at OLB and then visiting each of the classes. The Archbishop will visit all schools this school year.

### Book Fair Starts November 15th

Students will begin previewing the book fair on November 14th. Beginning on the 15th, parents may come by the book fair before and after school to purchase books. Proceeds from past book fairs have purchased our SMART boards.

### ELEMENTARY SPORTS

Our elementary sports have wrapped up for the fall. Our cross country, volley ball, and track athletes did an amazing job for their first time participating in elementary API-AL sports. First through 4<sup>th</sup> graders from all around the Archdiocese met weekly to play their favorite sport. While competition was not stressed, young students had a chance to see what they might be good at when they get to fifth grade and can join the competitive sports. They all had a good time and are looking forward to basketball and soccer in the spring.



### LabLearner Visit

Mr. Ed Larranaga, Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation came to St. Mary's and met the co-founder of LabLearner, our new science program. Both were visiting the school to see how the students and staff liked the new lab. St. Mary's received a large grant from the Catholic Foundation for our Lablearner program.

### SMS Family Thanksgiving Dinner

Don't forget to sign up for our family turkey dinner. The deadline will be the 16<sup>th</sup> of November. Watch for the reservation form to come home with your child.

Congrats to the Trodden Family—  
Winners of our beautiful red ATV!



Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day, we bow our hearts to You and pray. We give You thanks for all You've done especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son. Bless our loved ones everywhere, and keep them in Your loving care. Amen