



Pastor: Rev. Clement Niggel

Principal: Melodie Good

September Edition  
2016

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.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS

Grandparents Lunch	2nd
Early Release	2nd
Labor Day no school	5th
Volley Ball home	6th
Volley Ball home	8th
Volley Ball away	12th
Volley Ball away	13th
Picture Day (dress up)	13th
ATV tickets incentive	14th
Volley Ball Away	15th
No School inservice	16th
Volley Ball home	19th
Volley Ball away	22nd
Early Release	30th

## Catholic Foundation Awards St. Mary's

For the first time ever, the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe awarded one large grant in addition to their many small grant awards. Charlene Baca, first grade teacher at St. Mary's, could not let this opportunity pass by without trying to get this grant to offset the cost of the new Lablearner science program for the PreK through 8th grade. Ms. Baca submitted the grant application in April, and just before school started, St. Mary's received the call that they had been selected over other applicants to receive \$22,000 to put toward the new lab. On September 22nd, Saint Mary's will receive the grant at the annual Grant Awards Luncheon. Ms. Baca has written several small grants for the school. The bathrooms have been remodeled; new ergonomic rockers were purchased for students; teachers have received money to restock their classroom novels—all with the help of the Catholic Foundation's small grant awards. This year the Foundation decided to grant one recipient a larger sum of money for a worthwhile project. Saint Mary's is honored and humbled to be recipient of this money. With the help of this grant, Saint Mary's students for many years will receive a top notch quality science education.

**National  
Grandparents  
Day Sept. 11**



### ENROLLMENT UP FOR 2016-17

Kindergarten at St. Mary's has been full since July. The smallest class is now third grade with only 13 students. All other classes have only a few openings. The enrollment is over 175 this year. The last time there were more than 175 students at St. Mary's was 2003.

Tickets available in the school office



Thank you New Mexico Tractor!

# The Bird Word Monthly Newsletter

## WCEA Grants a Full Six Year Accreditation

Based on the findings and presentation of data from Saint Mary's School in the spring, the Western Catholic Education Association has awarded the school its top accreditation. The school will not undergo another full scale accreditation for six more years. Citing the quality of the school program, the organizational support and data analysis for student learning and the instructional methodology used by Saint Mary's instructors, the committee scored the school consistently effective and highly effective. They were impressed with the school's commitment to the growth of Catholic identity, academic potential and community involvement. The Archdiocese made the change to go with WCEA for accreditation purposes for their high expectations and the inclusion of rubrics for Catholic identity in our schools. Saint Mary's joined two other schools in the Archdiocese to be the first schools to go through the new process. The team Chairman was Christine Tax from St. John Vianney in Tucson.

## FALL FEST IS NEXT MONTH

Plans are underway for lots of fun and many nice auction items. Save your money to bid on our



\*Family pack of 1-day Disney Park Hopper Tickets valued at \$620.

\*International Deer Hunt valued at \$4700

\*49ers vs. Jets NFL game on December 11th

\*10 Class Auction items

These are just a few of the fabulous items up for auction in addition to the many cash prizes in the drawing. Tickets for the event and the chance to win \$10,000 are available in the school office and from all Saint Mary's parents.

### SAINT MARY'S ANNUAL FALL FEST FUNDRAISER OCT. 29th

#### Our Lady of Belen Parishioners!

Thank you for saving Box-tops for us. There is a collection box in the back of the church.



#### FALL SPORTS ROCK!

For the first time in many years, Saint Mary's will have three volley ball teams: C team, JV and varsity. Head coach, Carolyn Mendoza, is excited about having the opportunity to build the skills of young team members as well as the experienced ones in hopes of having good teams for the foreseeable future.

Cross country, coached by Mr. Rubin Martinez, is off to a running start with 15 members. Cross Country is always one of our best sports. We are looking for some top APIAL awards with this group.

Victor Mendoza and Jerry Saiz are coaching flag football which begins in mid September. They have several returning students along with many new ones.

#### MONDAY MEETINGS

Students who are having trouble producing their work product on time during the week will have a Monday meeting with the principal after school. Teachers will submit names on Monday morning and parents will be called to pick up their students from school at 4 PM. One of our school wide learning expectations is that **students will take pride in submitting timely work**. This is an extra effort to make sure that happens.

#### Before School Care

Saint Mary's offers morning care beginning at 7:30 AM. Parents who need to drop off earlier than 8 AM are welcome to bring their child to school at 7:30 and send them to the art room. The charge is \$2 for this service.

#### Saint Mary's first Blog has been posted on Sycamore



Deacon Michael has posted a reflection on our Sycamore blog spot. Please try to get on and participate in our Catholic faith by writing a response. Some parents have already responded. Deacon Michael will offer new postings from time to time. So get on and check out the latest and read what other parents have to say about these topics.