



Summer 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.

## Father Steve Leaves Our Lady of Belen

**IMPORTANT EVENTS**  
Office closed June 7-July 7  
Steubenville July 10-12  
SCHOOL STARTS  
AUGUST 17th  
Sell your ATV tickets!

After 12 years at Our Lady of Belen, Father Stephen Schultz is taking a new assignment at Our Lady of Fatima in Albuquerque. He will be sorely missed by the students and staff at Saint Mary's. At the recent 8th grade commencement Mass Father remarked to the students that he had been at Saint Mary's through their entire schooling. These days, that usually doesn't happen with Pastors.

His unwavering support of the students has always been evident during his twelve years. Father started the tradition of recognizing students birthdays at the end of each Wednesday Mass and the students have looked forward to that. He has also made it possible for Saint Mary's to grow and prosper in the last few years by his forward thinking ideas and strong support of Saint Mary's school being an active ministry of our Parish.

His brother Father Mark Schultz is the Pastor at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Albuquerque. Father Steve is looking forward to being closer to him. We will all miss Father Steve.



## Saint Mary's Enrollment Up for 2015-16

At press time, the enrollment for the school is at 150, a number this school hasn't seen in several years. The growth is being attributed to the word getting out about the wonderful environment offered at our school. The time spent in classroom instruction has remained solid and consistent over the years since schools in the Archdiocese are not affected by testing requirements that keep public schools scrambling. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe uses one nationally normed assessment that takes approximately one hour per student three times a year with immediate results. The teachers at Saint Mary's are highly qualified and love teaching at our school. That satisfaction is passed down to the children in their classes. Expressing our Catholic identity every day through prayer and religion class, Saint Mary's is experiencing a rise in enrollment and some classes are already filled.

**The Bird Word**  
**Monthly Newsletter**

**SAINT MARY'S WILL BE CLOSED IN JUNE**  
The School will be closed from June 5th to July 7th. Beginning in July, office hours will be 9 AM to 3 PM until August when hours will resume 8 AM to 4 PM.

**ITBS AND STAR READING AND MATH ASSESSMENTS SHOW GROWTH IN ALL CLASSES**  
Tests are back and Saint Mary's students showed an average of 2 years growth in most classes. We are anxiously awaiting the Blue Ribbon School criteria to be posted in September. We think we have met the assessment cut scores to apply for 2016.

## Saint Mary's Students Thank our Classroom Volunteers

Mrs. Aileen Littlejohn has been tutoring students in reading for the past three years. Her help has been invaluable in helping struggling students. Mrs. Littlejohn, a retired reading specialist, enjoys spending her time traveling with her husband, Ernie when she is not working with Saint Mary's students. Thank you Mrs. Littlejohn!

Mrs. Melissa Sanchez has been the number one kindergarten helper. She has come to school with her daughter, Madison, and helped out every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday for the entire year. Mrs. Lopez, the kinder teacher, has really appreciated Mrs. Sanchez! Thank you Mrs. Sanchez!

Mrs. Renee Chavez has been a regular sight in the 1st grade classroom. Ms. Chavez is a graduate of SMS and her oldest child, Jasmine left us last year for St. Pius. It seems like Ms. Renee has made a lifetime commitment to nurturing and helping Saint Mary's. She recently helped us with our talent show and our CSW Dance. Thank you!

We love our volunteers. We wouldn't be the loving, caring school we are without these committed people. Even though Ms Janet Sanchez and Ms. Sohaila Lucero now work part time at the school, its important to recognize all the extra hours that they give to Saint Mary's school for which there is no compensation. To all of you who give so much of your talent to this school---

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WELCOMES LISA BOCKISCH

With the increase in our STEM to STREAM activities, Ms. Bokisch comes to the science department with excellent credentials and experience. She will help launch our new programs that will feature more "making" activities and hands on science. Ms. Bockisch received her Masters Degree from NM Tech and has taught middle and high school in Los Lunas. She also taught chemistry at UNM- Valencia. She is a member of San Clemente Parish. She and her husband Bernie have three children. Her youngest, Rosie, will be coming to Saint Mary's as well. Welcome Mrs. Bockisch!



### SUMMER READING LISTS

#### SUMMER SCIENCE PROJECT

Students are to come to school in August with two possible ideas for a science fair project. The school science fair will be held December 1st The information necessary to select a project is on Sycamore under science summer project in the news section or you can pick up a hard copy in the office.

**First Grade:** Pete the Cat Too Cool For School, Pete the Cat at the Beach, Drop It, Rocket!, Busy Butterflies **Second Grade:** Choose between Goldie Rock and the Three Bears and Charlie the Ranch Dog: Charlie's New Friend then read Bad Kitty: Drawn to Trouble **Third Grade:** Snoop Troop It Came from Beneath the Ground, Magic Bunny: Dancing Days Choose between Fly Guy: Insects and What if you had Animal Feet **Fourth Grade:** Duke and How to Speak Dolphin **Fifth Grade:** The Iron Trail and Sugar. Middle School has projects that go along with the readings. To access the projects, get on Sycamore and look in the news for Summer Reading. **6th Grade:** Choose 2 books—one must be a classic Promises to Keep, Boy: Tales of Childhood, The Boy who Harnessed the Wind, The invention of Hugo Cabret, Love that Dog, Star Girl—Classics: The Time Machine and Flowers for Algernon. **7th Grade:** Choose one book from each category. Non-fiction: Promises to Keep, The Year We Disappeared, We've Got a Job: The Birmingham Children's March, Fiction: Isabella's Libretto, Skeleton Key, Wonder—Classics: The War of the Worlds, The Outsiders, The Giver **8th Grade:** Choose one in each category—Non fiction—The Year We Disappeared, I am Malala, Girl in the Dark, Fiction: Okay for Now, Isabella's Libretto, Miss Pererine's Home for Peculiar Children, Classic: To Kill a Mockingbird, Of Mice and Men and The Once and Future King

**Have a blessed summer!**

*For more information about Saint Mary's Catholic School go to [www.stmarysbelen.com](http://www.stmarysbelen.com) or see our Facebook page*