



Dear St. Margaret Mary School Families,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wishing all SMMS school families a wonderful 2016 year!! Let me first begin by thanking everyone for attending this year's Christmas Music Program on December 17th. The children performed wonderfully!! Their Christmas spirit demonstrated by song and dance put smiles on everyone's faces. "Job well done" to my faculty and staff who planned, prepared and choreographed the event. Thank you Kent Eggert for providing the piano accompaniment.

Congratulations to our Fall Sports student athletes! They were honored at our Fall Sports Banquet on December 2nd. A special thank you goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Traversa and the Mom's Club for planning and preparing the Sports Banquet event. It was an evening enjoyed by all.

As we look ahead, I am honored to continue serving you as your child's principal for the second half of the school year. I am fully aware of the financial sacrifice you make in choosing a Catholic education for your child. As a proud educator and mother myself, I know the importance of a quality education and value my role in ensuring that your child's learning experience at SMMS is not only filled with academic rigor but enjoyment as well.

Below is a list of the many happenings in January. Please mark your calendar for a special Las Posadas event on January 6th. Due to the LAUSD school closure, we were unable to celebrate 'Las Posadas.' However, we will now celebrate 'Las Posadas – Epiphany' on Wednesday, January 6th. On January 8th, our wonderful little 2nd graders will experience their first Reconciliation retreat. As you are probably aware of, 2nd grade is a very important sacramental year. The Reconciliation retreat prepares our youngsters for two very important sacraments (Reconciliation and Communion) in the Spring.

RE- REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL AID FOR 2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Although not noted below, **Re-registration** and **Application for Financial Assistance** are just on the horizon. These two important and separate processes will be presented to you next month. To complete the **re-registration** process, you will receive a booklet filled with pertinent information and forms. Secondly, the only way to receive **financial aid** at SMMS is to qualify for financial aid through the **Los Angeles Archdiocese Catholic Education Foundation**. Paying for a Catholic education must be the first and foremost responsibility of the family. While it is my job to keep the school fiscally sound, I certainly understand and appreciate the financial commitment and sacrifice families undertake in deciding to send their children to a Catholic school. This commitment is the hallmark of our faith and service in regards to the educational mission of the Church. That's why I am requiring that all school families, who would like financial aid, to first qualify through **The Los Angeles Archdiocese Catholic Education Fund**. As an effort to be a good steward of the resources entrusted to my care, and to prevent inequitable distribution, I will utilize the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Catholic

Education Fund application process for determining financial need in allocating tuition assistance. With the grace of God and the assistance of wonderful benefactors, we will continue to offer students the lasting gift of a Catholic education who otherwise would not be able to afford such an opportunity. More information and forms to come in February!

SPORTS NEWS

Basketball season is officially underway! Coach Eron Calip and Coach Ramirez worked through the Christmas holiday to properly train our young players for the competitive season ahead. Thank you coaches for your continued dedication and hard work. The schedule of this week's games is listed below.

SCIENCE NEWS

In our continuing effort to place a strong emphasis on science education, two important events took place over the holiday break. The first was that our science lab received more exciting new equipment. By July, the SMMS Science Lab will be complete with wonderful new equipment so that teachers- T.K through 8th grade, can engage students in laboratory investigations. Thank you SMMS Golf Club for your continued support of our science program.

The second event was with our newly formed ***Science Scholars Program***. You see, last summer, I visited several prominent high schools whose science programs are considered to be the best in California. Although these schools only accept the top 1% of their applicants, I wanted to obtain an understanding of the qualifications needed to gain entrance into these prestigious high schools so that I may build a program where SMMS students can be competitive in such an environment. While it's true that our students do indeed fulfill the requirements of above average grade point averages and excellent standardized test scores, I needed to know what more should be done to earn entrance into these schools. The answer: *extracurricular science program*. I was told that even students with high g.p.a's and standardized test scores are not guaranteed entrance. They must be involved in an extra-curricular science program while maintaining outstanding behavioral and academic requirements. In October, I implemented (experimental) a preliminary Science Club. If successful, I will offer it to all junior high students who meet the academic and behavior requirements.

On Monday, December 21st, ***the SMMS Science Scholar*** took their first field trip. Eighteen 6th grade students were invited by Professor Armani (a world respected chemist and electrical engineer) to visit her lab at the University of Southern California. Professor Armani spoke to the students about a career in chemical and electrical engineering while showing them the many interesting and intriguing facets of her lab. Our SMMS students were able to see how Professor Armani develops new types of optical devices (like lasers) and uses them to study how biological systems work. Later that day, they were given a tour of USC, then were off to the SCIENCE CENTER to tour the ENDEAVOR Space Craft and watch an IMAX movie about our universe. On the following day (December 22nd) the 6th grade students came back to school to perform dissections on a sheep brains. Through this 'hands on' experiment, they were able to learn and develop skills of observation and comparison. They also discovered and learned about the unique structures and processes of specific organisms, and developed a

greater appreciation for the complexity of life. The two day science and engineering field trip and dissection experiment proved to be a great success. More news to follow on the expansion of this extra-curricular program.

JANUARY 2015

4 - School Resumes

5 – Girls A team basketball vs American Martyrs

6 – Boys A team basketball vs Holy Trinity

7 – Girls A team basketball vs St. James

11 – 12:00 p.m. DISMISSAL. Western Association of Catholic Schools meeting

12 – 12:00 p.m DISMISSAL Faculty meeting

15 – JUNIOR HIGH CHRISTIAN SERVICE HOURS DUE

1:00 p.m Ice cream Fundraiser

18 – NO SCHOOL - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

19 – JUNIOR HIGH FINALS

20 – JUNIOR HIGH FINALS

21 – JUNIOR HIGH FINALS NED SHOW 1:00 p.m

25 – 12:00 DISMISSAL Faculty meeting

26 – ACRE TESTING

28 – REPORT CARDS PUBLISHED

31- SMMS Annual Open House (Catholic Schools Week)

Looking forward to a wonderful 2016! I will see you all on Monday January 4th!!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Zimmerman
Principal (: