 Dear St. Margaret Mary School Families,

 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wishing all SMMS school families a wonderful 2017 year!!

 Thank you again to everyone for attending this year’s Christmas Music Program. 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 and prepared the festive event. Thank you - Kent Eggert for providing the piano accompaniment.

 December proved to be an incredibly busy month (even with a two-week vacation!)

1. Congratulations to our student athletes who were honored at our Fall Sports Banquet. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Sankar, Mrs. Tesoro, Coach Calip and the awesome crew of Moms Club members for planning and preparing the Sports Banquet event. It was an evening enjoyed by all.
2. Thank you, Mrs. Priscilla Marquez and her crew of MOMS for all her efforts in producing another fun and profitable ‘SANTA’S SECRET SHOP.’ It’s incredibly fun to watch our students shop at our very own Christmas store.
3. Thank you, Mrs. Tami Garcia and her crew of fabulous MOMS for planning our very first SMMS Christmas Boutique!! Lots of fun was had as church goers shopped at the boutique for Christmas presents while enjoying delicious goodies presented by 3rd grade room mom Mrs. Marquez - McDade and her 3rd grade parent helpers!
4. Thank you, Ms. Benitez and your fantastic 6th graders for hosting our monthly ‘all school Mass.’ The tribute paid to ‘Our Lady of Guadalupe’ was lovely.
5. Thank you, Mrs. Vicelja and your wonderful kindergarteners for leading the entire school through Las Posadas. Your little ones did a great job in reminding all of us about the true meaning of Christmas.
6. Thank you to our 36 school MOMS who participated in the Mom’s Club Ornament party! Fun, fun, fun was the theme of the party. Yet the fun does not stop now! More fun, laughs and good times ahead as we plan for our ANNUAL DINNER DANCE! Next meeting is January 17th.
7. Thank you, SMMS Advisory Council for all your time and effort in partnering with me to pursue an ambitious vison of continued success for SMMS. A special ‘thank you’ to Mr. Nozaki for your efforts in leading our pursuit for a safer campus.

 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 sacrifices 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.

* Just a reminder, school begins tomorrow- Tuesday January 3rd at 7:45 a.m. I have attached an ‘updated’ calendar due to a few scheduling changes. Changes are highlighted in red.

RE-REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL AID FOR 2016-2017 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 in equitable 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!

**JANUARY**

January 3rd – School resumes

**January 9th – Faculty Meeting 12:00 dismissal**

 Star Testing Begins

January 13th – All School Mass

January 16th – Martin Luther King Holiday – No School No Daycare

January 17th – STAR TESTING Begins!! Mother’s Club Meeting 7:00 p.m

**January** 23 – **Faculty Meeting - Day** **Hal**f

January 26th – Acre testing for 5th and 8th grades

January 29th – OPEN HOUSE!! School Book Fair Opens Today!

Looking forward to a great 2017!

Mrs. Zimmerman

Principal