



Dear St. Margaret Mary School families,

I hope all you all enjoyed the 'three day weekend.' I thought I would quickly inform you of a few tidbits in regards to the upcoming weeks:

1. **THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS VACATION** - The school, including EXTENDED DAYCARE, will be closed during Thanksgiving and Christmas vacation. As mentioned in my previous e-mail, the water main underneath the boys' bathroom needs to be repaired. This is an extensive repair that will encompass both holiday breaks. The concrete slab will be pulled up and all water access has to be turned off. These two factors, along with many unforeseen factors, create an unsafe environment for the children therefore, there will be no extended daycare for both Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. I am very sorry for this inconvenience.
2. **HALLOWEEN SCHEDULE** – Believe it or not, Halloween is almost here. This year Halloween lands on a Friday. On that particular day, the school children will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. However prior to that, the students will participate in our traditional 'Halloween Parade.' In the morning upon 'drop off,' the children will arrive in their normal uniforms yet at 10:30 a.m, they will be allowed to change into their Halloween costumes. At 10:50, the children will gather in their designated spots on the playground for the S.M.M.S. HALLOWEEN PARADE!!! In regard to the children's costumes, GUNS, KNIVES and inappropriate costumes are not allowed.
3. **ACADEMIC DECATHLON** – The Saint Margaret Mary Academic Decathlon team is currently being selected. Qualifications are a 3.5 grade point average, Junior High student and an eagerness to compete on a team against Southern California's smartest kids! It is an incredible event held at the Los Angeles Sports Arena in March. If you would like to participate, please see Mrs. Zimmerman
4. **COMPUTERS** – Our brand new lap top computers are set to arrive by the end of the month. I am busy preparing for their arrival by checking and verifying that all safety policies and procedures are firmly set into place. More news to follow!
5. **FAMILY NIGHT – Saint Margaret Mary School's first FAMILY NIGHT IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE COME TO THE SIZZLER RESTAURANT ON 2880 SEPULVEDA BLVD in Torrance (11:00 a.m -9:00 p.m) TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL. A PERCENTAGE OF THE COST OF YOUR MEAL GOES DIRECTLY TO SAINT MARGARET MARY SCHOOL. PLEASE PARTICIPATE TO MAKE THIS EVENT SUCCESSFUL!!! SEE YOU THERE!!!**
6. **DAYCARE CHANGES** – There will be exciting new changes to our AFTER SCHOOL EXTENDED DAYCARE. Although day-care will indeed be available this week, Dawn Taylor, our Director of Daycare will not be on site (for this week only) because she will be attending a DAY CARE WORKSHOP. Our new daycare procedures will include: 1. Structured and regulated activities (both indoor and outdoor). 2. Healthy snacks

3. Sectioned off areas for smaller children  
4. New and improved supervision strategy.  
4. Extended Daycare Handbook
7. **HOMEWORK CLUB** - If your child is interested in a quiet environment to do homework, try the HOMEWORK CLUB located in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom.
8. **CONFERENCES** – By now you should have received a ‘conference time’ so that you may discuss all aspects of your child’s classroom environment as well as academics with his/her teacher. If you have not received a time, please contact me or your child’s teacher a.s.a.p. Unless you have made different arrangements with the teacher, the official ‘Conference day’ is **October 24<sup>th</sup>**.
9. **FINGERPRINTING** - **Fingerprinting is a key component of the Archdiocese’s background checking procedures for clergy, religious, paid personnel and volunteers who have regular contact with minors. To facilitate the process, the Archdiocese has purchased Livescan machines and provides fingerprinting on a regular schedule at no cost. The rule was that anyone needing to be fingerprinted, must do so at the sites specifically designated by the Archdiocese. However, due to the overwhelmingly amount people attending these fingerprinting sites, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has decided that you may get this done through a private fingerprinting company yet you will have to incur the cost. HOWEVER, before you get this done privately you must obtain an ORI CODE from the Archdiocese. Please call Albert Dominguez at 213 637 – 7411 for the fingerprinting code.**
10. **HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT** – St. Margaret Mary School welcomes interested parents and students to preview the programs offered at our Catholic high schools. The event offered this WEDNESDAY will give attendees the opportunity to become better acquainted with participating high schools and their admissions processes. Please join us for this wonderful event! **WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 7:00p.m – Hegarty Hall**
11. **BOOK FAIR** – Remember the Book Fair is coming!! Book Fair will be open Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>! It will be open all-day on Parent Conference Day.
12. **FALL PICTURE DAY** – Picture day is October 21<sup>st</sup>. All students must be in Formal Uniform for these pictures. Free dress is not allowed.
13. **P.E** – Regularly scheduled P.E for all students will continue this week.
14. **KARATE** – After school Karate is here! If interested, please contact the school office.
15. **DRESS FOR CHANGE** – Thank you MRS. K and her STUDENT COUNCIL TEAM for organizing our first ‘in-house’ fundraiser. Due to the incredible participation by our SMMS students, over \$320.00 dollars was raised! The money will now be donated to the *SMMS CHRISTIAN SERVICE HOLIDAY OUT REACH PROGRAM*.

*Well, that’s all for now. Have a super week. If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please never hesitate to contact me at 310 251-5645(text only) or [elisafzimm1@cox.net](mailto:elisafzimm1@cox.net).*

*Sincerely,*

*Mrs. Z ( :*

*Principal -St. Margaret Mary School*