



Hello St. Margaret Mary School Families,

I am writing you on this Thursday afternoon to inform you on a few upcoming events and to make two very important announcements.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Sadly, our school will say goodbye to our Kindergarten aide, Mrs. Diab on Friday. A long-time parent and valued employee of the school, she will venture off into the business world to take on the position of ‘office manager’ for a medical company. Although we wish her lots of success in her new job, we will most certainly welcome her back with open arms if she tires of the “grown up” world! The silver lining is that Mrs. Flores will take over as the new Kindergarten aide. Mrs. Flores, a long standing parishioner and school mom, has given countless volunteer hours to our school serving as room mom, team mom and field trip chaperone for the different grades. Her and her husband, Coach Tim, have been active members within our school community for years. They have three boys, two of which have graduated from SMMS and one that is currently in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We are thrilled that she has decided to join our team!! Welcome Mrs. Flores!
2. On Monday the SMM school community will also welcome two substitute teachers to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I must admit, finding a substitute for Ms. Lippen as she goes off to maternity leave was quite difficult. **I wanted to find a replacement that has all her wonderful qualities:**
  - a. *Compassionate* – Recognizing that your students have problems outside of school, and making the necessary adjustment to help them through those issues.
  - b. *Creative* – Taking a concept and shaping a lesson that is unique, engaging, and dynamic.
  - c. *Dedicated* – Showing up everyday and spending the necessary time to provide students with the best education.
  - d. *Determined* – Finding any means necessary to reach all students no matter the challenge.
  - e. *Engaging* – The ability to grab the attention of a classroom full of students and to maintain their attention throughout the entirety of class.
  - f. *Inspirational* – The ability to motivated life long learners.
  - g. *Joyful* – Coming to class each day in a good mood, excited, and enthusiastic about doing your job.
  - h. *Kind* – The ability to say and do things that uplifts and inspires.
  - i. *Organized* – The ability to keep things neat and in order.
  - j. *Passionate* – Teaching with enthusiasm and exuberance on a daily basis because of love for the content and the students.

Well, I think I did find a replacement! However it does indeed take two people to fill her incredible shoes!! On Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will welcome Mr. Simon Kim and Ms. Kathrin Zimmerman. Mr. Kim is our resident seminarian who hopes to be ordained a priest in 2017. He is a former middle school math and English teacher as well as vice-principal for St. Paul Catholic School in Los Angeles. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Masters of Arts degree in Education. He will be teaching the children

Religion and Math and sharing the 'homeroom' responsibilities with his co-teacher, Ms. Kathrin Zimmerman. Ms. Zimmerman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Berkeley and will attend medical school in the Fall. She was a course instructor at U.C Berkeley and also taught Science at a local Catholic elementary school. She will be teaching the 5<sup>th</sup> grade children Science, Social Studies and Language Arts. While it's true that many changes will occur in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the wonderful 'constant' will be Mrs. Bender. I have re-arranged her schedule so that she may spend more time in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom until the children become comfortable with their new teachers. It should be quite an exciting 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter as we wait for the arrival of the newest Lippen!!!

3. **CAREER DAY** – hosted by the MOM'S CLUB, is set for tomorrow. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. and finish at 10:30 a.m. I am so grateful to the SMMS parents who have generously volunteered their time to share their job experiences. A thousand thank yous!
4. **REGISTRATION PACKETS** are due tomorrow. Please fill out the forms and submit a \$25.00 registration fee (per child) to reserve a seat for the 2015 – 2016 school year. It's going to be a terrific year!!!

### **JUNIOR HIGH ENGLISH NEWS**

If you don't have a child in the Junior High then you may not be interested in the following information. I am going to sneak in JUNIOR HIGH ENGLISH news to save myself from writing a separate e-mail.

1. Vocabulary worksheets will be given to all junior high students tomorrow. They are due next Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Every Sunday night I will post an ENGLISH SYLLABUS. This syllabus will inform the students of the daily tasks for the week. It will list important events, including the week's homework assignments, reading assignments and when projects are due. It will also give the dates for quizzes and exams so that students can begin studying in advance. Please look for this every Sunday night.
3. Homework Folders will be distributed this Tuesday. They will contain all your child's work from the previous week so that you may review it. Please sign the signature sheet located on the inside cover so that the teachers are aware that you have reviewed the work.
4. All grades will be posted every Tuesday. Parents should be made aware of their child's homework and test scores in a timely manner. On Tuesdays, the junior high teachers will post all homework and tests grades from the week prior.
5. All junior high students will have an English quiz on Monday. The quiz was originally set for tomorrow however it is PARENT APPRECIATION DAY! I am giving the kids (and you!) the night off. Please review NOUN STEPS 1-3 with your child so that she/he may do well for the very short quiz o Monday.

Have a great evening!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Zimmerman

Principal