

ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL

WELCOME S.M.M.S STUDENTS!

SCHOOL STARTS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH.

SCHOOL HOURS ARE 7:45 a.m. TO 2:30 p.m.

TUESDAY is the first day of school for the 2014-2015 school year. The S.M.M.S team is thrilled to welcome all its student members back to school from summer vacation. As you are probably aware, lots of changes have been made throughout the summer months. I am confident that you will find these changes not only beneficial to your child's academic progress but to their social and spiritual growth as well. Each change has been meticulously thought out with only one thing in mind... your child. It is the goal of the entire faculty and staff to establish and maintain a healthy school climate. If you ever have any comments, questions or concerns in regards to this, please never hesitate to contact me at (310)251-5645 (text only) or elisafzimm1@cox.net so that we (together as partners) may discuss and resolve any situation that arises.

SPARTAN FOOTBALL

Although school has not started yet, our A- football team has been busy training and practicing in hopes of a successful season. I had great fun this past Saturday watching the boys play their first game of the season. Victorious! Under the unrelenting sun, Coach Tim Flores led his mighty Spartans to a decisive win against MARY STAR. The boys played well! With speed, agility and wonderful 'eye-hand' coordination, our young Spartans rallied to capture S.M.M.S first win of the year (and in a year)! The game schedule should be posted next week by CYO and when that happens, I will be sure to pass that information along to you through the SMMS WEB PAGE and EMAIL. Come out and support our football team!!

COMPUTER UPDATE

Earlier in the summer, I wrote of our computer dilemma. Unfortunately I had to close down our computer lab due to the many hazards within our current set – up. All summer, my team and I researched, analyzed and contemplated various options in effort to somehow provide our students with a computer science program that would allow them a 'hands – on' experience while receiving a comprehensive computer science education. Because I am not quite 'computer savvy,' I sought the help of our 'parent computer experts' for advice on lap tops, chrome books and iPads so that I could make an 'educated' and financially prudent decision on the matter. A special thank you to Mr. Itchon and Mrs. Hefford for your time and effort with this project. Well, I am now happy to report that with the help of a generous donor, we have purchased thirty five brand new lap tops and two charging carts. Mrs. Cortenbach, our computer science teacher, will educate our S.M.M.S. students to attain a fundamental competency in the area of understanding the essential facts, concepts, principles, and theories relating to computer science and software. Our students will be able to use this understanding to ultimately design, develop, publish, and present math, science, religion and social studies projects to their class through the use of Word Programs such as Excel and PowerPoint to name a few. Mrs. Cortenbach will be

teaching in the classroom and implementing Computer Science Standards as the main focus to her curriculum.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Take the time this week to peek into our ‘new and improved library.’ We have removed all the tables and desktop computers to add a couch, study tables and chairs. The idea to this is to make the library readily available to all students who would like to enjoy a bit of quiet time when reading or studying. With the permission of their teacher, students may come in to a supervised library to either study or read a book in an environment of silence. It is my hope that our library will not only be a resource for our children to access wonderful books and materials, but it will also promote literacy and a love of learning! Due to budget constraints, a librarian was not hired to replace Mrs. Areyan. Instead, teachers will now be responsible for books checked in and out. This task was made a bit easier through the generous donation of the Petty Family. Along with new books, they have donated a bar-code book scanner so that all ‘checked out’ books can be scanned instead of hand written and stamped. Each teacher and parent volunteer will be able to utilize the scanner quickly and effectively. Each class has a set weekly library time. Teachers will be allowed to use their library times in a variety of ways; guest speakers, guest story readers and/or presentations.

Following are some “Frequently Asked Questions” and tips for a successful first day:

1. **What are the hours for the first day of school?** 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
2. **What are the hours for “early release Mondays”?** 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
3. What school supplies do students need to bring the first day of school? The school supply list for each class is listed on our webpage.
4. **How do students know where to go in the morning on the first day** – Everyday, including the first day, students will line up outside in their designated area. They will not be required to ‘sit down’ but rather gather in the area marked with their grade number.
5. **When do students get textbooks?** On the first day of school, students will receive their text books and necessary materials. All junior high students must bring a white 2 inch binder with 10 dividers.
6. **When do students need wear to their Mass attire?** Mass attire is ‘formal attire’ and must be worn to all school masses. Mass attire for boys is slacks, polo shirt, and sweater/ sweater vest. For girls it is skirt/skort, polo shirt and sweater/ sweater vest. Crew neck sweat shirts with new logo are acceptable. *While it is true that we will honor last year’s style uniform/ logo for this year only, p.e uniforms are never allowed on Mass days.*
7. **When is Parent Information Night?** There will be a presentation in Hegarty Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 25th to provide general information to parents. Immediately following the presentation, parents will be allowed to visit their child’s classroom to ‘meet the teacher.’ Mom’s Club will hosting this event.
8. **When is Picture Day?** - Picture Day is Tuesday, October 21. All students will be required to wear their formal Mass uniforms on this day because these pictures will be

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used for our school records and student I.D pictures. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase individual and class pictures. In January, students will once again have the opportunity to pose for a picture however this time, they will be allowed to wear ‘free dress.’ This is a fundraising opportunity for the school.

9. **When are P.E days, Spanish days, Art days and computer days?**
 - a. Computer days – every Wednesday
 - b. Spanish days – K – 4 Thursday and Friday. Grades 5- 8 Fridays
 - c. P.E – Tuesday and Thursday
 - d. Art – Kindergarten, 5,6,7 and 8 – Monday. Grade 1- Friday.
10. **If I am going to volunteer at the school, do I need Virtus Training, fingerprinting and C.P.R?** - If you are going to volunteer for the school on regular basis (more than twice), then you need to be Virtus trained and fingerprinted. Virtus training is Monday night, September 8th at 7:00p.m in Hegarty Hall. Fingerprinting must be done through the Los Angeles Archdiocese. On Saturday, September 20th L.A Archdiocese will be coming to St. Margaret Mary School to fingerprint all school volunteers. If you have called to make an appointment for this date and they have told you “it is booked,” come anyway. As a SMMS volunteer, they have to fingerprint you. If you are going to act in the capacity of a SMMS coach, then you have to be CYO certified and fingerprinted.
11. **How do I order hot lunch for the first day of school?** – As stated in my previous e-mail, SMMS will no longer offer ‘hot lunch.’ Instead, a separate company will be responsible for providing all hot lunches to our children. You must order and pay through their on – line site. The site is www.goodtastylunches.com Our school code is 413-058 (please us the dash).

I hope I have answered questions for the first day of school. However, if I did not please contact me. I am committed to offering your students an education that opens doors and provides them unlimited opportunities for their futures. Thank you for partnering with the SMMS FACULTY AND STAFF, for our students’ success as we enter a new school year. Welcome ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL STUDENTS!!!! (:

Sincerely,

Mrs. Z