



Dear St. Margaret Mary School families,

Hello to all. Before I begin my newsletter, *I want to first offer my sincere condolences to Mrs. Hines who lost her father this past month. A person that departs from this earth never truly leaves, for they are still alive in our hearts and minds, through us, they live on. He is now resting in the arms of our Lord.*

Welcome to the fourth and final quarter of the 2014 – 2015 school year! I hope this e-mail finds all of you relaxed and well rested. If you thought last quarter was filled with exciting events, then hang on! This last quarter will indeed prove to be the busiest quarter yet!

Third quarter began in January with our students honoring the memory of **Martin Luther King**. The students learned about this incredible African-American clergyman who advocated social change through non-violent means. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, our outstanding 8<sup>th</sup> graders eagerly took their high school **entrance exams** in hopes of gaining an acceptance letter from the Catholic high school of their choice. On the following day, January 25, the school opened its doors on a **Sunday ready to meet and greet prospective students** and their families. Yet more importantly, to ‘show off’ all the wonderful things about SMMS. Due to our effective teachers and wonderful students, the response from the South Bay community has been excellent. I am happy to report that we now have a ‘waiting lists’ in some grades. A thousand thank yous to all our fantastic parents who made **Career Day** an outstanding success. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, our students received the opportunity to learn about a variety of exciting careers and vocations. From art to medicine to religious life, the kids walked from booth to booth thinking about what they ‘want to be when they grow up!’

On the first Saturday of February, my staff and I welcomed our student’s beloved **GRANDPARENTS** for our First **Annual Grandparents Day!** It was wonderful and quite an honor to meet the people who serve as babysitter, chauffeur, confidante, caregiver and most importantly, role model to our little ones. We love all our grandparents and appreciate these wonderful folks who are (and I quote a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader), **“The most important people in the world!”** On February 12<sup>th</sup> all our students met with our country’s presidents! Yes, it’s true! Everyone from George Washington to Barack Obama was at the annual **Presidents Day!** Ok, so these presidents were in fact our little 3<sup>rd</sup> grade critters posing as presidents but they did an incredible job speaking about the highlights of their presidency. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, **‘Valentine Grams’** were sold, created and distributed by our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. A huge thank you to our 8<sup>th</sup> **GRADE STUDENT COUNCIL** for putting smiles on the students faces! Job well done!! On Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ms. K (Director of Campus Ministry) and her SMMS Student Council, led the school in ‘fun and games’ to celebrate **MARDI GRAS** – an event traditionally known as ‘Fat Tuesday.’ Yet on the following day, she led the students in prayer as they began their forty day solemn observance of **Lent**. Lent is a season where our student focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were reminded that their days at SMMS are numbered when they posed for their **‘cap and gown’ pictures**. These sharp looking graduates, all dressed up in their ‘Sunday best,’ are ready for the world!! On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade raise over a thousand dollars for an organization called **C.A.M.P – College Assistance Migrant Program**. With their wonderful planning, organizing and ultimately running of **MISSION FAIR**, they not only provided a fun day for the entire student body, but more importantly, raised money for migrant farm workers and their families. On the last day of March, the students celebrated **CESAR CHAVEZ DAY** by learning the phrase “Si se puede,” and attending a “Yes I Can!” assembly given by one of the most highly regarded

coaches in the country – **U.S.C’s golf coach Andrea Gaston**. Her talk on ‘the **PYRAMID OF SUCCESS**’ inspired the children to put their ‘best effort’ in everything they do! A big thank you to Mrs. Traversa and her **MOM’S CLUB TEAM** for planning the **WINTER SPORTS BANQUET**. Congratulations to all our athletes for representing SMMS well. The third quarter ended with each SMMS class re-enacting the **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** with a live performance on Holy Thursday. Their artistic representations depicting Christ carrying the cross to his crucifixion was truly a blessed event. Thank you Father Paul, Simon Kim and Mrs. Cortenbach for the string accompaniment!

**“Creating an environment in which each student is expected to learn at high levels, each student is supported so he or she can learn at high levels, and each student demonstrates learning at high levels.”**

As we embark on the fourth quarter, I find myself planning for the next 10 weeks and for the 2015 – 2016 school year. I am eager to implement important and beneficial changes to the physical property of the school and of course, to our academic program. Although I will unveil my plan in June, I can tell you that:

1. **Transitional Kindergarten** - Our brand new Transitional Kindergarten will open its doors to many little 4 year olds ready for a fun-filled academic experience come September.
2. **Physical upgrades** - The interior of the school will go through a much needed refurbishment. New floors will be put in, walls will be cleaned, repaired, spackled and painted. In addition, new lighting will be put in to make our school more cost and energy efficient.
3. **Setting high expectations for students – Expecting students to succeed** - My vision to make SMMS the best academic school intensifies. While it’s true that we are indeed a high performing school, I have designed an ambitious plan that **EXPECTS ALL SMMS STUDENTS TO SUCCEED**. I firmly believe that every student has the potential to be successful. It is my responsibility, and of the partnership between the school and the parents, to make it happen. Next year you will see changes throughout the curriculum so that the **end result** can be achieved – **the high performing student**. Re- engineering the Resource Department, a mix of new and veteran teachers, clear curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core Standards and smaller class sizes are just a few of the changes that you will see next year. One such change that I will indeed be implemented **this year** in the Junior High, is the ‘splitting of classes.’ For the fourth quarter, junior high students will be learning in a classroom with half of the number of students than in the third quarter. By reducing the class size, more attention to individual students can be given and a teacher can spend more one-on-one time with each student. In this way, students' education is personalized, and they can better work more on concepts that they have problems with.

As mentioned earlier, the calendar for the next month is very, very busy. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April the school community will honor to former students who have gone on to achieve a pro career in athletics – **ANTHONY BARR** and **ANTHONY WROBLICKY**. Tickets for this event are still available so please come out and not only support the school but have a great time doing it!!! On April 24<sup>th</sup> all classes will participate in **MULTI-CULTURAL DAY!!** All parents and SMMS supporters are welcome to visit the classrooms as each grade highlights a specific country. What a great way to experience the countries of our world! The school children will greet May by attending an ALL SCHOOL MASS hosted by the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. All parents are welcome to attend the **May Crowning Mass**. For all students who are on **TEAM SCHWAB**, there will be two

track meets scheduled. The **FIYA Track Meet is on April 18<sup>th</sup>** and the **Zamperini YouthTrack Meet is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May**. Go team! **Cinco De Mayo Luncheon** for the entire school is on May 4<sup>th</sup> (lol! just kidding) The correct day is May 5<sup>th</sup>. Our wonderful little second graders will receive the **Sacrament of Communion** on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and then short of a week later, the entire SMMS community will venture off to **KNOTT'S BERRY FARM** for a day of family fun. If you would like to go Knotts, yet and have not purchased your tickets, please do so before the 17<sup>th</sup> of April so that you may receive a discounted rate.

**MUST READ!!!**

*Just in case you have skimmed over this very lengthy e-mail, I have highlighted specific **MUST READ EVENTS!!***

1. **TUITION PAYMENTS for the 2015 -2016 will not start in MAY but rather JUNE. PLEASE NOTE- YOUR FIRST TUITION PAYMENT WILL BEGIN IN JUNE.**
2. **Due to construction improvements taking place during the summer, there will be NO SUMMER SCHOOL. THERE WILL HOWEVER BE SUMMER CAMP FROM 7:30 – 6:00 P.M DAILY. This will begin the day after school ends.**
3. **FIRST DAY BACK -APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> is NOT a half day. Dismissal is at 2:30 p.m.**

Have a great week!  
Mrs. Zimmerman  
Principal