



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic School NEWSLETTER

Principal's Letter

Advent, from the Latin word *adventus* meaning arrival, is the 4-week period prior to Christmas that Christians dedicate to making our **hearts ready to receive Christ anew**. It is easy to become so caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas that we can lose sight of the real reason for the season. The **original gifts of Christmas were the coming of justice, peace and freedom as expressed in the words of the angels—"Peace on earth, goodwill to all!"** The season of Advent provides us with the brakes to slow down, recollect our values and reflect on what we celebrate. An Advent wreath can be a teaching tool and a reminder for us of the true meaning of Christmas. Children love the beauty of the simple **lighting of the candles in an Advent wreath**. It's a wonderful way of starting a tradition of family worship in the home. The scriptures at Sunday Mass are particularly rich during the Advent season. If you do not already have a habit of attending church on Sunday, Advent is a great time to start!

Our seventh and eighth graders are back from Washington, DC, and our students were great ambassadors for our school in our nation's capital. A tour guide at Jamestown commented that **he appreciated how much history our students knew because he was able to go into more depth**. We were especially proud of our students as they laid a wreath with St. Mary's name on it at the **Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery**.

Check out the new bulletin board between third and fourth grade--we now have a **Millionaires Club!** We are encouraging all our students to read a million words. **Every month the high readers/most improved readers in third through eighth grades will be acknowledged in the classroom, and their names will go in a jar for a drawing at our Awards Assembly**. Kindergarten through second grade will begin after the first of the year. **Look for student names to be added to the bulletin board as they reach 1,000,000 words!**

Again this year **we honored our veterans with a display of their pictures**, and letters of appreciation written by our first grade class. **Thank you, Mrs. Ross and Ms. W!**

Our student **Christmas program this year is titled "Twas the Year Before Christmas."** Señor Kircher involves all of our students in telling the Christmas story with voices and instruments. **Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 6 pm at the Church**. Wednesday, Dec. 21, is a half day and the last day of school before Christmas break. Students return on Monday, Jan. 9.

You and your family are the true Christmas blessing for myself and St. Mary's School.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Early Dismissal Days	Dec. 7,21
2nd Qtr Ends	Dec. 1
Rummage Sale	Dec. 1-4
Teacher Inservice-No School	Dec. 2
Christmas Tree Champagne Brunch	Dec. 4
Family Mass, 7th and 8th	Dec. 4
Awards Assembly	Dec. 6
Writers Reception	Dec. 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass	Dec. 8
Christmas Program	Dec. 20
Christmas Vacation	Dec 22-Jan 8
Welcome Back to School	Jan. 9
2nd Trimester Progress Period Ends	Jan. 13
MLK-No School	Jan. 16
Teacher Inservice-No School	Jan. 17
2nd Qtr/1st Semester Ends	Jan. 20
Catholic Schools Week	Jan 29-Feb 4

Mardi Gras Sign ups will go live at 6 am on Tuesday, December 6th.

Kristi Ross will be available that morning in the school office from 8am-9am for anyone that needs assistance.

There will be links to the sign ups on the school website.

St. Mary's School would like to thank...

The Kircher Family for their donations to the PE program

Janice Preston for her donation in memory of Catherine Thomas Golden

The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose for their donation to help fund MSP, our school wide communication system

KINDER

It’s hard to believe that December is already here. Kinders have been introduced to all letters of the alphabet and are now working on letter review and reading short vowel words. We will also be reading sight words and writing them into sentences. In math we will be comparing numbers up to 10 and working on teen numbers. Keep counting at home as the goal is to count to 70 or beyond for the second trimester. We have a lot of fun activities planned for Christmas. Please make sure you are checking your child’s folder and your email every day for information.

THIRD

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Third graders welcomed Mrs. Coursey into the classroom to make El Salvadorian crosses. They turned out beautifully and are displayed on the back bulletin board in the classroom. We are looking forward to starting cursive and practicing our multiplication tables in the coming month

FOURTH

The fourth graders have begun their study of California’s Native American tribes. Please look forward to seeing our Native American Poster Projects outside the fourth grade classroom.

SIXTH

In 6th Grade English we have written Alliterative Poems about Halloween and Acronym Poems about Thanksgiving. In Math we have been studying fractions, looking at different ways of solving equations involving fractions. The students have also been busy this week filling in for the Student Council at Morning Assemblies--Great job by the way! They also will be giving the readings at the Thanksgiving Mass and delivering food donations afterward. We’ve made 2 field trips this year so far, to the Ropes Course (everyone liked it) and to Luther Burbank for Rock The Presidents (the adults liked it). Currently in English, having just read Rip Van Winkle, the students are writing their own stories about finding themselves 20 years in the future, and what they might find there.

OCTOBER AWARDS

Student of the Month

Poppy Walley, Jax Keffeler, Brady Banks,
Delia Siderakis, Skylar Taglio,
Shawn Harmon, Hudson Ford,
Natalie Niderost, Angela Passalacqua

Principal Award

Skyler Ostrom, Anna Dunicliff,
Giamanni Zazueta, Canyon Darger,
Bode Gower, Joanna Ford-Barrera,
Zachary Hunter, Sophia Dunicliff,
Sidney Castagna

Personal Success Award

Presley Wellington, Antonio Maciel-Suarez,
Kayden Nevarez, Alekii Sandoval,
Annabelle Degallier, Nate Wilson,
Chelsea Hiatt, Shaylee Pardini,
Darius Rosales, Gavin Looney,
Roman LaBrash, Landon Degallier,
Alex Castagna, Ethan Rinehart,
Kolby Thornton, Jimena Malfavon

Language Arts Award

Maggie McNerlin, Montgomery Johnson,
Berlin Salvadori Solverson, Joseph Collins,
Beau David, Brody Ford, Erin Lazarevich,
Hayden Maeyama, Seth Schelller,
Trenton Ford, Tyler Simerson,
Nathan Looney, Natalie Niderost,
Luke Gott

Athlete of the Month

Dylan Morris, Jesse Myers,
Austin Ford

After School Program

Zoey Matilton

Carousel of Books

Makai Muñoz, Poppy Walley,
Bailey Simerson, Berlin Salvadori Solverson,
Hailey Lucido

SPANISH

Many thanks to our creative students and parent helpers for their participation in our 2016 Día de los Muertos celebration! A special thanks to the following volunteers who helped to make this day a success. Zach and Missy Schat (Schat’s Bakery) donated 18 delicious “Pan de Muertos”. Our students were able to taste this delicious bread this year and thoroughly enjoyed its flavor. Rubi Alvarez-Malfavon molded more than 80 sugar skulls for our 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th graders to decorate. Señora Lopez and the entire 4th grade created calacas, altares, diamante poetry. 6th graders Alex Castagna, Hudson Ford, Zachary Hunter and Angel Ortega and 8th grader Sidney Castagna helped cut out and glue endless masks and decorations. Allison Scott and Marjorie Maize helped to iron countless tablecloths. Decorators Allison Scott, Valeria Sanchez, Monica Vargas-Sanchez, Michelle McQueen, Grecia Maciel, Jade Morgan, Angela Kelley, Aimee Collins, Kylie Phenicie, Jill Scheller, Kristin Myers, Kathi Gower, Grandma Vera Vargas, Allie Skipper, Marie Hunter, Josie Vargas, Lisa Cavalin, and Stacey Claderone all pitched in. I would like to also thank Julie and Christie Wilson for creating the first teacher altar. Thank you to all those who donated icing for the sugar skulls and other decorations for the altars including the delicate papel picado which looked lovely. Thank you to Wendy Augustine for helping the children in the 3rd grade decorate their sugar skulls. Much love to our deceased friends and ancestors for what they mean to us in our lives. We will never forget you! In December we celebrate the following cultural events, La Virgen de Guadalupe, las posadas and el nacimiento de Jesús. The kindergartners and 1st graders will be making tilmas like Juan Diego’s and the older students will be working on vocabulary associated with these special days. Feliz Navidad!

We welcome Sr. Carolyn Marie and Sr. Alicia on campus December 12. They are driving up from the motherhouse in Mission San Jose and will be visiting all the classrooms. We look forward to welcoming them.

In the front hallway of the school is a giving tree to benefit foster children through Redwood Children Services. This is an opportunity for our families to provide a child with a wish list item. What a wonderful way to celebrate the true spirit of Christmas! Thank you, Kristi Ross, for providing this opportunity for our families.

Student Learning Expectations

A St. Mary of the Angels Student is a child of faith who:

Respects all of God’s creation, Lives the Catholic faith and traditions, Serves others

A St. Mary of the Angels Student is a lifelong learner who:

Succeeds academically, Communicates effectively, Integrates technology efficiently

A St. Mary of the Angels Student is responsible citizen who:

Demonstrates leadership skills, Appreciates and respects diversity,
Exercises self respect and self discipline

St. Mary’s School Faculty & Staff

Pastor

Fr. Oscar Diaz

Principal

Mary Leitter Thomas

Kindergarten

Amanda Velasco

Grade 1

Christina Wilson

Grade 2

Julie Wilson

Grade 3

Dana Geimer/
Andrea Keffeler

Grade 4

Johanna Lopez

Grade 5

Matthew Alaniz

Grade 6

Jim Caruso

Grade 7

Rick Cleland

Grade 8

Dan Vilotti

Music

Sam Kircher

Spanish

Kathy Shipley

Computers

Peter Marshall

Gardening

Jill Scheller

Librarian

Marilyn McGrew

Title 1

Carl Morgensen

Kitchen

Kristin Myers

Classroom Aides

Beth Pacheco, Debbie Brutocao,
Allie Skipper, Chrissy Galletti,
Kathi Gower

Kid’s Club

Beth Pacheco, Kelly Mavrakis,
Jill Scheller, Lulu Jimenez

Finance

Lisa Cavalin

Secretary

Kris Scaturro, Jasmine Boek

Athletic Director

Michele Bodnar

Maintenance

Jim Werner

Development Director

Mary Golden

Information & Reminders

- Please remember to not park in the church lot across the street on Dora.
- Remember no parking in the fire lanes south of the gym.
- Remember **NO PARKING** in the Mardi Gras designated spot.
- Be sure that the back gate shuts behind you when you enter or exit the school through the gate by the music room. Help keep our school safe!
- Back Parking lot safety: Please remind your children to use the cross walk and grass to walk to and from cars. Students may not walk across the pavement between the field and the creek. Parents must be parked to load and unload children. Parents may not stop and drop off by crosswalk. Exception: Before 8am, parents may drop off Spanish/Kid’s Club students by the music gate.
- Kathi Gower and Heather Woldemar are our new yearbook editors! Thank you! If you have pictures from field trips or school activities please submit the pictures to smsyearbook@smsukiah.org. You can also upload pictures to our St. Mary’s Facebook page.
- Does anyone have a used cyclone gate they are not using? Mr. Werner needs a cyclone gate that is 4-5 feet high and 10 feet long. Please call the office if you have one you wish to donate.
- We have reusable St. Mary’s water bottles for sale in the front office for \$5.00. We encourage students to use water bottles that can be refilled in our hydration station. They can leave these water bottles by their desk, and when they return from recess and lunch they can have a drink of water while getting right back to work- therefore losing less class time. This also helps with our school wide goal of having no plastic water bottles or cups on campus.
- In order to work in the classroom, drive on field trips, coach teams or participate in any classroom activity you **MUST** have completed your live scan fingerprinting **AND** completed the on line training at santarosa.cmgconnect.org.

**Our rummage sale is this weekend December 2-4th.
Please stop by and check out the merchandise, and tell your neighbors and friends. Sunday is Dollar Bag Day!**

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Tuesday December 6th.**

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ST. MARY of the ANGELS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dominican Corner

These are some hallmarks of the Dominican passion for truth and compassion for humanity:

Freedom and fearlessness

French Cardinal Jean-Marie Villot once described Dominic as a man who was “stupefyingly free,” and the spirit of freedom as deeply stamped on the whole Dominican tradition. Because the search for truth is always the search for God, Dominicans do not fear to go wherever the truth leads them. Veritas (“Truth”) is even one of the mottos of the Dominican Order.

While it is clear that, for Dominicans, the word of God is found in Sacred Scripture in a privileged way, and that God’s “best word” about God’s self (and about us) is incarnated in the person of Jesus Christ, it is also true that Dominicans have always recognized that God’s “word” is also spoken in all of creation.

Accordingly, Dominican spirituality and intellectual life are world-embracing, sweepingly inclusive. No field of study is excluded. Those who would follow Dominic search every aspect of creation to discover and understand the truth that God wishes to speak there. Dominicans are to be found in every field of study – from the Irish Dominican archaeologist working in the lands of the Bible to the young Norwegian Dominican sister working on a research project in experimental particle physics at the CERN laboratory outside Geneva, Switzerland.

