



# St. Mary of the Angels Catholic School NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Letter

Advent, from the Latin word *adventus* meaning arrival, is the four week period prior to Christmas that **Christians dedicate to making our hearts ready to receive Christ anew.** This year Advent starts on Sunday, December 3. 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!"** This is the same message the Blessed Mother gave to the children at Fatima—pray for peace! This season of Advent provides us with the brakes to slow down, recollect our values and reflect on why we celebrate.

As a school, we had a remarkable experience on All Saints Day. The World Religions class, taught by Jin Jr Shi from the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas girls high school, joined us at our school Mass. During the Sign of Peace, Fr. Oscar asked **our eighth grade class to offer the high school students a sign of peace.** The Mass ended with our students singing the Dominican blessing. Upon their return to class, each high school student wrote a reflection, and Jin Jr Shi shared several with us. One student ended her essay with this insight: "I notice the similarity between their religion and Buddhist beliefs, we are searching for the 'peace.' It was indeed a precious experience to me. I appreciate this opportunity." It is heartening to know how universal the desire for peace is, and **how many young people trust in the power of prayer to make a difference in our world!**

**A big thank you to Sr. Mary Susanna Vasquez, OP for the time she spent visiting the classrooms on Nov. 1 and 2.** As the Director of Schools for the Mission San Jose Dominican Sisters, Sr. Mary Susanna **found St. Mary's School to be outstanding in both it's Catholic identity and academic excellence.** Sister also joined us at our All Saints Day school Mass, and Fr. Oscar asked her to share with the students some of her favorite saints. **The presence of the Dominican Sisters on our campus brings a certain joy to all the work that we do as a faculty and staff.**

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. 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!

You and your family are true blessings to me and all of the staff and faculty of St. Mary's School.

God bless,

## DECEMBER 2017

Early Dismissal Days	Dec. 6,21
Teacher Inservice-No School	Dec. 1
Rummage Sale	Nov. 30-Dec 3
Christmas Tree Champagne Brunch	Dec. 3
Awards Assembly	Dec. 5
Writer's Reception	Dec. 7
School Mass-Immaculate Conception	Dec. 8
Christmas Program	Dec. 20
Cozy Day	Dec. 21
Christmas Vacation	Dec. 22-Jan 5

**St. Mary's School would like to thank our School Community that contributed so generously to the Wildfire Tuition Assistance Fund...**

**Dennis and Marie Brodie  
Allyne and Dave Brown  
Paul Conrado  
Janet Hagen  
Lama Jabbour and Ziad Hanna  
Michael Hindery  
Carol Ann Hulsmann  
Tony Jacinto  
Christine Johnson  
Johanna and Antonio Lopez  
Norma and Dave Marks  
Marie and Patrick McGraw  
Joy and Dick McClintock  
Judy Morgan  
Ozzie and Amber Bushway  
Joan and Robert Ranochak  
Mary Pat and Tony Thing  
Lorena and Gil Tournour  
Vera Vargas  
Marlene and Robert Werra**

**Lynda and Don Coursey for their generous donation to our school**

## KINDERGARTEN

How busy our Kindergarten students have been: clearing out the garden, collecting acorns and leaves, baking pumpkin pie and pumpkin bread. In the classroom, we learned about the pumpkin life cycle and read Pumpkin Circle. For science, we made sink or float predictions and put our pumpkins in a tub of water. We counted lines and seeds. We cut a pumpkin open and made models of the life cycle. I was especially proud of the Kindergarten students as they shared their first book report with their classmates. And the students were quite proud of their pumpkin story characters. A special thank you to all of you who helped make El Dia de los Muertos community celebration so special; and to the Dawson family for the lady & gentlemen figures who graced the entry. Did you know they made a trip all the way from Mexico? Soon we will bid the FALL season farewell and welcome in the WINTER. Brrr!

## SECOND

The school year is flying by. We are learning lots and having fun! We are finishing our Family Unit and we will be starting our dinosaur projects after Thanksgiving vacation. Keep up the good work at home and remember to keep reading. Books can take you anywhere!!

## THIRD

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving break with family and friends. We have been learning about the phases of the moon in science. We used oreo cookies to help with our understanding of the phases. Our state reports are now finished and up on display in the hallway. Come by and check them out!

## FOURTH

We have begun our study of California’s Native American Tribes. Please look forward to seeing our Native American Poster Projects outside the fourth grade classroom!

## LIBRARY

Last week we concluded our annual Scholastic Book Fair. It was quite a success! Our students were enthusiastic and impressed to see the large selection of books available. I was able to select many new books and new titles for our school library collection. A big “thank you” to all the parents, grandparents and students who helped set-up and run the book fair. An especially a huge thank you to Aundrea and the Spencer family for all the work they contributed to the organization and success of the fair!

## **OCTOBER AWARDS**

### **Student of the Month**

Kaylani McAsey, Cord Phenicie,  
Tatiana McAsey, Joseph Collins,  
Sarah McGrath, Bode Gower,  
Tyler Simerson, Alex Castagna,  
Ava Kindopp

### **Principal Award**

Aliyah Martinez, Skylar Marston,  
Anna Dunncliff, Giamanni Zazueta,  
Laila McAsey, Alice Ostrom,  
Cameron Hubley,  
Zachary Hunter, Natalie Niderost

### **Personal Success Award**

Enoch Collins, Orion Novoa, Samari Bakker,  
Chase Hanelt, Stella-Brooke Spencer,  
Connor Quigley, Brady Banks,  
Hailey Lucido, Dillon Augustine,  
Pamela Lopez, Gavin Looney, Cole Fowler,  
Carson Galletti, Angel Ortega,  
Kaden Thurston

### **Athlete of the Month**

Makai Muñoz, Delaney Kornegay,  
Hudson Ford

### **After School Program**

Kaylani McAsey

### **Carousel of Books**

Brayden Bushway, Kaylani McAsey,  
Phoebe West, Cassidy Geimer,  
Bailey Simerson

**SPANISH**

Thanks to our many parent volunteers and the creativity of our students, this year’s annual Día de los Muertos was a celebration to remember! The children commemorated their deceased family members and pets by bringing in pictures and mementos for their altars. Señora Lopez’s 4th graders created their own individual altars depicting various attributes of their deceased relatives or friends. The children’s papel picado, sugar skulls, calacas and máscaras were featured at each altar in a display that was bright and cheerful. Many thanks to our parent decorators, Michele McQueen, Moneca Vargas, Allison Scott, Tina Simms, Mercy Johnson, Angela Kelley, Doris Bills, Marty Bakker and Blanca Mendoza. We appreciated our new lifesize calacas and other items donated by Kristin Dawson. Our altars were decorated with many authentic blankets from Mexico, thanks to Cynthia West and her mother Sarah Hernandez and Moneca Vargas and her mother Josie Vargas. Our tablecloths were wrinkle free thanks to the fastidious ironing of Marjorie Maize. Once again, we thank Zach Schat, at Schat’s Bakery, (Jose the baker) for their donation of 15 delicious pan de muertos. This year we also thank Alex Muñoz, owner of El Azteca restaurant, who kindly donated 200 cups of Mexican hot chocolate, which was enjoyed by all our students and faculty. I appreciated the help of Michele McQueen in distributing the chocolate. Our students were treated to a sugar skull decorating class, taught by Señora Jackie Orozco (Mendocino College) the week before our celebration. The children were excited to learn how to make an altar and especially how to decorate sugar skulls. We thank Jackie and her husband Juan for molding 100 sugar skulls for our 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th graders to decorate. Thank you to all the parents who helped their children cut out their papel picado stencils and of course for helping them to honor their deceased loved ones! ¡ Feliz Día de Acción de Gracias! Remind the children to ¡Da Gracias!

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**Our alumni continue to make us proud as they excel in sports at Ukiah High School!  
The following alumni were recognized at the Ukiah High Fall Sports Awards.**

**Blanket Award**

Megan Dolan (Varsity Water Polo), Grant Miller (Varsity Cross Country)

**Coaches Award**

Josie Woldemar (JV Volleyball), Jacob Dyer (Freshman Football), Lucas Gott (Freshman Football), Ayled Zazueta (JV Cheer), Emma Dolan (Varsity Tennis)

**Captain Award**

Megan Dolan (Varsity Water Polo), Rene Chavez (JV Water Polo), Lauren Lazarevich (JV Water Polo), Morgan Clark (Varsity Cross Country), Sarah Barr (JV Cross Country), Alex Morfin (JV Football)

**Most Inspirational**

Josefina Cavalin (Varsity Water Polo), Lauren Lazarevich (JV Water Polo),

**Most Improved**

Karina Alvarado (JV Volleyball), Regina Reyes (Varsity Tennis)

**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**

Maria Oberti

**Grade 1**

Christina Wilson

**Grade 2**

Julie Wilson

**Grade 3**

Dana Geimer/  
Andrea Keffeler

**Grade 4**

Johanna Lopez

**Grade 5**

Jack Brown

**Grade 6**

Jim Caruso

**Grade 7**

Rick Cleland

**Grade 8**

Dan Vilotti

**Music**

Sam Kircher

**Spanish**

Kathy Shipley

**Gardening**

Jill Scheller

**Librarian**

Marilyn McGrew

**Title 1**

Carl Morgensen

**Computer**

Joe Selzer

**Kitchen**

Kristin Myers

**Classroom Aides**

Beth Pacheco, Allie Skipper,

Chrissy Galletti,

Kathi Gower

**Kid’s Club**

Beth Pacheco, Nicole Quigley,

Lulu Jimenez

**Finance**

Lisa Cavalin

**Secretary**

Kris Scaturro, Jasmine Boek

**Athletic Director**

Michele Bodnar

**Maintenance**

Jim Werner

**Development Director**

Mary Golden

### Information & Reminders

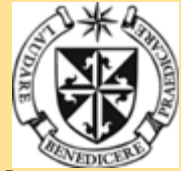
- Rummage Sale: November 30-December 3rd. This is a great way to get parent hours, be sure to contact Dave and Doris Bills at 485-0290.
- Again this year we honored our veterans with a display that included a prayer, names and pictures of our veterans, and letters of appreciation written by our first grade class. Thank you, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. W!
- Our student Christmas program this year is titled “A Classical Kids’ Christmas.” Señor Kircher involves all of our students in telling the Christmas story with music and instruments. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 6 pm at the Church. Thursday, Dec. 21, is a half day and the last day of school before Christmas break. Students return on Monday, Jan. 8.
- Did you know that each Box Top from Box Tops for Education is worth 10 cents! All we have to do is look for them on various products, such as, cereal boxes, Ziplock boxes, and other household products. Clip them off and turn them into the school office! They will be sorted, counted and sent in. The school then receives a check! It’s an easy way of earning money! Last year we earned \$316.70.
- 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.

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### THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIRE VICTIMS TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND!!!

THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ISSUE A CREDIT ON THE TUITION ACCOUNT OF THE FOUR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE TRAGEDY. TO DATE, EACH FAMILY HAS HAD A CREDIT FOR \$1,711.25.

Your contribution to the Fire Victim’s Tuition Assistance Fund will help to relieve some of the immense stress this tragedy has caused. Your generosity is one of the miracles of this tragedy and is further proof that our St. Mary’s School community comes together when others are in need.



### Dominican Corner

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic School was founded by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose and is rooted in the Dominican tradition of study, spirituality, service and community. These are what we call the four pillars of Dominican life.

Last month we talked about the **pillar of prayer/spirituality**. In this newsletter we will talk about the **pillar of community**. We need community because we need each other. We do not learn to walk alone, we do not learn to pray alone, we cannot fully know the mystery of God in isolation. Community challenges us with interdependence and diversity.

The Order of Preachers, St. Dominic’s order, began over 800 years ago in 1216. Dominican life has not been about uniformity but about a celebration of unity in diversity. It raises the questions: What is the common good? How do we make room for others and their needs?



**ST. MARY of the ANGELS**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL