

# St. Mary's Catholic School

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St Mary's,  
Continuing Our Commitment to  
Quality Catholic Education

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## Falcon's Pride

A weekly newsletter of the current events at St. Mary's Catholic School

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[www.stmarys-temple.org](http://www.stmarys-temple.org)

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to share with you details of our new Middle School Language Arts teacher and 7<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teacher. Mrs. Lucrisha Menjivar comes to us from California. She holds a Doctorate and Masters in Education and a Bachelors of Arts in Cinema and Television Production. Her experience is plentiful in both Language Arts instruction and Drama. Prior to her application she was a prospective parent and chose St. Mary's Catholic School for her son, Jacob, who has joined our Middle School.

In the past two newsletters I have asked for volunteers to sing at the VA on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Tim Hodge, a parishioner and School Board member, is asking for help. So far only two people have volunteered. Please, if you are going to be in town and are free, join this wonderful cause. All grades are invited and parents are asked to join to. We will have a set list of carols. Students and parents may consider this a Christian service project.

This Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m., please join us for our annual Band Concert. Prior to the concert, those students who did not have a speaking part in Angel's Aware will be performing a Christmas Skit entitled A Kindle of Kindness. Please join us for a wonderful evening of Christmas performances with our children. Band students and students in the skit should be at the gym by 6:00 p.m.

We still have ornaments left on the Giving Tree. Time is running out as the gifts are due to school by Friday morning. Each ornament has written upon it the details of the Christmas wishes of a person in our community who is less fortunate.

If you would like to help one of these people, simply take an ornament, record with Ms. Morales or Mrs. Brown which ornament you have selected, and bring a wrapped gift back to school by the morning of Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, using the ideas on the ornament. Attach the ornament to the wrapped gift so it can be given to the correct person. If you bring more than one gift please put them together in a bag or write the name on the second gift. If you have questions please ask.

**On behalf of the faculty and staff I would like to wish you a blessed Christmas and a wonderful new year. School will reopen Wednesday, January 4, 2017 ☺.**

**Please keep our 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders in your prayers this week as they complete their semester exams.**

**Sincerely,  
Mrs. Wyles**

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## **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Portable Sound System**

Yesterday I had a phone call and then a visit from a couple who had joined us for our Veterans Day program in November. This wonderful couple are not parents, nor grandparents, but friends of one of our families. They were so impressed with our students, not only by their performances, but by the very demeanor of the children, their Catholic Identity.

The visitors then went on to say that they were only sorry that the sound system was poor and how they would like to help us with the seed money to purchase a new high quality system. I was then presented with the gift amount of \$1,500. Our anonymous donor asked that we find a good system and challenge our families to help with any additional cost.

We will begin the process of researching the choices and costs of a new sound system. When we have found what is best for our school I will let you know. In the meantime if you have resources that you would like to share to help us with our search or if you would like to help us meet the cost challenge let me know. This is so exciting!

### **Middle School Spring Electives**

Elective choices for Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) are due today. If your child has not turned in the sheet please send Mrs. Wyles an email and she will send you a blank copy [twyles@stmarys-temple.org](mailto:twyles@stmarys-temple.org) Some classes have filled so please make sure each section has first and second choices.

### **Attention Visitors/Parents**

As we continue to make our school safe for everyone, we are asking that you come directly to the office each time you enter the school to visit, volunteer or simply drop off items for your child. Please do not walk your child to his/her class until you have signed them in or until you have signed in and picked up a visitor badge.

In the event of an emergency (fire, hard/soft lockdown) we will be collecting the clipboards so we know who is still in the building and/or who has left.

### **Please note Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**

On December 16<sup>th</sup> school will be dismissed at 12:00 for Christmas vacation. There will be no After School Zone care on this day. As well, faculty and staff will be leaving campus shortly after 12:00. Please make sure you have made arrangements to pick your child up on time on this day

### **A Message from Student Council and NJHS**

In the spirit of Christmas, on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited to wear a Christmas sweater in addition to their spirit wear. If your child decides to participate, the appropriate wear is regular spirit uniform, but with a Christmas-themed sweater worn on top.

\*\*All sweaters must be appropriate

Thank you

### **Friday: Sunday Best**

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> we will carry on the tradition of *Sunday Best* dress on the last day of school before Christmas vacation. This is a special dress-up day for the students and we are looking forward to it. Please make sure your students follow the guidelines set up for this day.

Girls:

\*Nice dress or skirt of appropriate length (knee or below). Dress must have regular sleeves and not have a low-cut neckline.

\*Dress pants with a nice blouse or sweater (no jeans or t-shirts)

\* Nice shoes may be worn. Please no heels or open toes. Boots are fine as long as the heels are not high. School shoes are acceptable but no non-uniform tennis shoes please.

Boys:

\*Nice pants with a nice shirt or sweater. No jeans or t-shirts.

\*Nice shoes, (School shoes are acceptable.)

As always, students may choose to wear their uniform on this day.

### **Canned Food**

In conjunction with the Giving Tree gifts, families will be receiving food items to help them through the holidays. If you can donate nonperishable food items please drop them off at the office. Your donation will be greatly appreciated by a family who has less.

### **Christmas Wreaths from NJHS**

Dear St. Mary's Catholic School Families,

Christmas is around the corner and it is with immense exuberance I would like to inform you that our kids have been working hard and diligently to make the beautiful "Wreaths" for Christmas.

The kids will be putting these wreaths for auction and the funds generated will go towards nurturing their various school activities. Therefore please join us and help in fulfilling our goal.

The wreathes will be displayed outside the office. Final bids will be taken the night of the Christmas concert, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks!

Merry Christmas!!!!!! To all of you.

Pictures are up on the website. Take a look and call the school if you would like to place a bid and can't get here.

Mrs. Guleria and NJHS members

### **Looking Ahead**

Catholic Schools Week, January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it. We are asking for volunteers: parents, students and alumni, to speak at all Masses, in all our parishes, on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, inviting parishioners and future alumni, to join us for our annual Open House on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

We ask that you give a brief testimonial and invite families to visit our school for Open House. Holy Trinity will be joining us for the Masses and will have information at our Open House as well.

### **Box Tops for Education Competition**

Please collect the Box Tops for Education off your groceries and send them into school to your child's homeroom teacher. For every Box Top that is donated, the school receives 10 cents. There will be a competition between the classrooms from now until February 10th. The classroom with the highest average box top per student will receive a Pizza Party.

The Box Tops need to have the Expiration Date on them. When cutting, ripping or tearing them off the packages please be sure to keep the dotted line surrounding the Box Top visible. You may place your Box Tops in an envelope, plastic baggie, or on a collection sheet. Be sure to visit [CashForYourEducation.com](http://www.cashforyoureducation.com) to print a collection sheet. This is a great way for your kids to track their collection progress.

You can also go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com> to find out how you can use the New Box Tops Bonus App to earn even more cash for St. Mary's.

### **Celebrating Catholic Schools**

This year's nominee for St. Mary's Catholic School is Mrs. Angie Stolp. Mrs. Stolp has been a dedicated member of the St. Mary's family for over 30 years and is very deserving of this award. The event will take place January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Hyatt at Town Lake in Austin. The featured speaker this year will be Cardinal Dolan.

Please visit the Diocesan website for Catholic Schools <http://csdatx.org/>, and look for this picture. Help us fill the house in support of Mrs. Stolp! Ticket prices will go up to \$150 on December 1<sup>st</sup> so please purchase your ticket before then.



### **Amazon Smile**

As you are getting ready for the holidays, don't forget to shop for their treats, and decorations at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate to St. Mary's Catholic School.

*#StartWithaSmile at [smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1297273](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1297273) to stock up for the holidays and Amazon donates to St. Mary's Catholic School.*

### **Recycle Ink with us**

Bring in your empty ink or toner cartridges from home or the office. The money raised will help with office expenses.

### **School Spirit Items**

Have you had the chance to purchase our very cool looking Spirit items yet? We are proud of our school and want all to know. We have hats, koozies, cooler cups and stickers in the office. All have the school logo. Stop by the office and take a look. These make great Christmas gifts for family and friends ☺

### **Important Dates to Remember**

Mon. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>-Thurs. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

Thurs. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

Fri. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>

Wed. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>

\*Semester Exams grades 4-8

\*Christmas Concert (details above)

\*All School Mass 8:15 a.m. Dressy Dress Day

\*Noon dismissal for Christmas vacation

\*Second Quarter ends

\*School reopens: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Begins

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Reports card open on RenWeb  
(grades 1-8)

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Cards sent home Pre-K & K