

*St. Mary's*  
**BE THE LIGHT**

Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16a).



**Tent Rocks National Monument**

"Tent Rocks is a remarkable outdoor laboratory offering an opportunity to observe, study, and experience the geologic processes that shape natural landscapes." What a great way to connect our New Mexico Social Studies curriculum to real life experiences!

**Getting Schooled in the Garden**

Mrs. Simrell with the help from volunteers worked over the summer to discuss and organize the development of our St. Mary Garden. We began the process with the guidance of Pat O'Malley (an ICC parishioner)

Our students have been busy, learning the techniques and skills of creating and caring for a garden, growing and harvesting their own food. Last week 5th Grade created yummy kale pizza using kale the students harvested from their garden. As you can see from the pictures below they did a wonderful job!

**"RESEARCH SHOWS WORKING IN SCHOOL GARDENS CAN:**

- Increase students' science achievement scores
- Improve social skills by cultivating empathy and teamwork
- Increase students' knowledge of nutrition and their willingness to consume fresh produce
- Improve emotional literacy
- Develop a sense of community and responsibility
- Instill lifelong appreciation for the natural world."





### Weather or Not

Our third graders began their weather unit with a special visit from Byron Morton from *Action 7 News*. Next, students worked collaboratively in groups of 4 to create a structure out of popsicle sticks, straws, and more to withstand harsh weather conditions of rain (spray bottle) and wind (fan). It was wonderful to see the students so engaged with their task. Students used their critical thinking skills to determine how to create the strongest structure.

### Technology at St. Mary's



5th Grade technology students are using Google CS First and Scratch to explore computer programming, or commonly known as coding. Students had the opportunity to create a Music or Art themed project. As students figured out how to code more they squeal with excitement as their "Sprite" danced or moved across their screen exactly how they imagined. Marcos shared, "I like that coding helps us make new things and will lead us to make something more!" Quinlinn coded a figure, which he drew himself, to shoot a basketball. After his figure makes the shot it makes a noise. Marisol likes how she can put different sounds together to make a song. We have amazing computer scientists at St. Mary's!

Alanna shared "Coding is super fun and it makes your mind think!"

### St. Mary's Fall Festival



Our Fall Festival was a HUGE success, thanks to the leadership of Mrs. Wilcock, room parent coordinator, Mrs. Munk, St. Mary's Consultative Council President, and Mrs. Pluemer, HSA President. The opportunity to come together as a school community and enjoy a day of family, food, and fun was amazing. Many families were able to finish out the day attending the 4:00 Mass at ICC.

Once again our ICC Knights of Columbus came out to volunteer by cooking and serving our Hot dog Lunch!! We raised over \$3,000 which will go to upgrades needed in our preschool play area.

Parents - NONE OF THIS would have been possible without your support - the amount of candy, cakes, soda and time donated to make this event success is outstanding!

Our Fall Festival Booth winners are the following:

6th grade Coco Cake Walk

4th grade Mary Poppins

**Each class will enjoy a special celebration!**

The winners for our fall Festival Raffle Tickets are:

1st Place (\$2,500.00) Victoria Lujan

2nd Place (\$100.00) Jeanette Solis  
Maria Banda

3rd Place (\$50.00) Quyen Do  
Jennifer Schaller  
Juan Bermudez  
John Deuel

### UNIFORM REMINDER

As the weather continues to get colder, please refer to our Student Handbook for our Uniform Policy especially in reference to SCHOOL APPROVED SWEATSHIRTS & SWEATERS!!

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- ✚ Early Dismissal – Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 1:00 (no after care)
- ✚ Thanksgiving Holiday – November 22 & 23 NO SCHOOL
- ✚ Christmas Program – Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 6:00
- ✚ Advent Night – Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30

*Save THE Date*

- ✚ Pastabilities Dinner– Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Hotel Albuquerque

