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On behalf of the Saint Margaret Mary School Faculty and Staff

I would like to express my deepest sympathies to

Maricela Fernandez

 and

her entire family

 at the loss of her Father.

May his soul be at peace with our Heavenly Father.



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**Dear St. Margaret Mary School families,**

 **December is here! The school is buzzing with the SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS! If you walk through the halls, you can hear the wonderful sounds of our students singing Christmas Carols in preparation for the much-anticipated Christmas Music Program. Our school building has also been decorated with a bit of Christmas flair! With the help of Andrew Aparicio (father of Andrew-first grade, Anthony-Kindergarten and Angelina-Transitional Kindergarten), the school shines bright with Christmas lights!! *Thank you- Andrew and South Bay Hardscapes for making our school shine bright!***

**Big month ahead as we enter the first week of December:**

1. **Tryouts to play for the SMMS basketball team are officially over. Team practices begin tomorrow! All players must have their paper work complete and turned in before allowed to play.**
2. **On December 4 through the 6, the 5th grade and 8th grade will take the ACRE TESTS. ACRE-Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE) help our school faculty evaluate the faith knowledge and attitudes of our students.  It measures religious beliefs as it relates to God, the Church, Liturgy and Sacraments, Revelation, Life in Christ, Church History, Prayer/Religious Practices and Catholic Faith Literacy.**
3. **SANTAS SECRET SHOP OPENS MONDAY DECEMBER 4TH!!! ALL SMMS STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO PURCHASE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. Shhhh, it’s a secret!**
4. **On December 7th (please note the calendar change), Mrs. Traversa and her awesome crew of MOMS (Moms Club) will host the FALL SPORTS BANQUET. On this night, the faculty and parents of SMMS will gather to honor our athletes. If you have not R.S.V.P.’d for this event, please do so asap! The Fall Sports Banquet will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. *Casual business attire is mandatory for all in attendance. No jeans allowed*. Dinner will be served at 6:30p.m. Please know that an adult must accompany a child to this event. Students may not be ‘dropped off.’**
5. **On Friday, December 8th the entire student body will attend the 8:15 a.m Mass for this Holy Day of Obligation- The Immaculate Conception. On that same day, the students will visit the church once again for a Las Posadas Prayer Service. This prayer service begins at 1:00 p.m. Parents welcome!** **ALERT !! PARENT SERVICE HOURS OPPORTUNITY!!!! Mrs. Vicelja is looking for a piano player to help with the Las Posadas Prayer Service. Please call the office asap if you can help!**
6. **On Tuesday, December 12th, the students will attend Mass as a SMMS family to honor our Mother Mary through a special ‘Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.’ For millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, December 12th holds special significance. It marks the date in 1531 when the Virgin Mary purportedly appeared to an indigenous Mexican, in the last of several apparitions.  Today, Our Lady of Guadalupe remains a** [**powerful symbol of Mexican identity**](http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-ff-mexico-pope-virgin-guadalupe-20160211-story.html) **and faith, and her image is associated with everything from motherhood to feminism to social justice. Following this very special Mass, the faculty and staff will present academic awards to those students who have achieved academic merit for the Fall Quarter of 2017. The ceremony will take place immediately after the 8:15 Mass. Awards given will be for all students who have achieved a :**

 **3.0 – Silver Award 3.5 – Gold Award 4.0 – Principal Award**

6. **PLEASE COME SUPPORT SMMS AT FAMILY NIGHT!! ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13TH RED WEST PIZZA WILL DONATE 25% OF YOUR PURCHASE TO SAINT MARGARET MARY SCHOOL!!!!!** Flyers will be in the Wednesday Family folder…see you there!!!

7. **CALENDAR REMINDER\*\*\*\*\*\*\*12:00 DISMISSAL - FACULTY MEETING FRIDAY DECEMBER 15TH**

8. **CHRISTMAS CONCERT - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH**

9. **All SMMS students in grades 3,4,5,6,7 and 8 will attend ‘confessions’ this month to prepare for Advent.**

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***ATTENTION 5TH 6TH 7TH and 8th GRADE STUDENTS!!!***

**Mrs. Adajar is in need of students who would like to participate in:**

**PANUNULUYAN**

**A FILIPINO TRADITION**

**On**

**DECEMBER 16TH 2017**

**Slots are still available for students who would like to act and dance! Participating in this event is an awesome way to learn about the Filipino culture, earn Christian Service hours and receive extra credit hours in Science. Practices are fun and held every Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 to 4:40. COME JOIN THE FUN!! Please call the office if you are interested!!**

Thank you,Mrs. Zimmerman Principal