



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

Weekly School Bulletin
November 7, 2014

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Virtue of the Month – Conscience

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using either stories or activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Conscience" this month.

Reminders for Next Week

4th Grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass, and will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

Monday, November 10: Scrip Gift Card Sales Begin

See more details below.

Monday, November 10: DPL Basketball Registration Deadline

[Click here](#) to register.

Tuesday, November 11: 8th Grade Visits Bishop Lynch High School

Wednesday, November 12, 10:00 AM, Church: 2nd Grade Reconciliation

Wednesday, November 12: Teacher Luncheon Hosted by 1st and 7th Grades

Friday, November 14, Church: All School Mass

Our All-School Mass will be held at 8:30 AM in the church. All are invited to attend. This Mass will be presented by the 4th grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts.

Sunday, November 16, 4:30 PM, Church: St. Mark Children's Choir Sings at Mass

Confirmation Information

Attention 8th grade families: Please make note of the following dates ...

Confirmation Retreats

8th graders will attend a day-long retreat that is mandatory for all candidates preparing for Confirmation. Two retreats will be offered. Students are assigned a retreat date based on their class color (see below). The cost is \$35. Checks can be made payable to "St. Mark Youth Ministry" and sent to the school office (please write your student's name and "Confirmation Retreat" on the memo line).

Saturday, March 21, 2015: 8th Grade Green

Saturday, March 28, 2015: 8th Grade White, 8th Grade Yellow

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation for St. Mark Catholic School students will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM in the church. Students and their sponsors will meet in the Cafetorium at 9:30 AM to check in and line up.

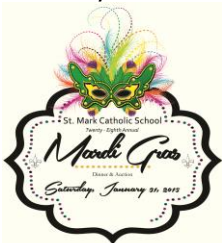
"Pastry" Apology

Thank you to everyone who came to "Pastries For Parents" on Wednesday. We had such an overwhelming turnout that we actually ran out of pastries -- that's a first! Our sincere apologies -- we promise that we will plan for more hungry parents and students next year!

Don't Wait: Participate!



Calling all Dads! If you'd like to volunteer for a day at school during the month of December as a Watch D.O.G.S. Dad, you must sign-up by November 15th! For more information and the sign up calendar, [click here](#). You will need to be Safe Environment cleared before you can serve. [Click here](#) for more information on Safe Environment Training.



The Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction will take place on Saturday, January 31, 2015. We need all hands on deck to pull off our biggest fundraiser of the year! Contact Auction

Co-Chair Raju Kattady at rajukattady@hotmail.com for more information about how to get involved in the event planning.

News from the Athletics Department

Volleyball Playoffs: Our 5th Grade Gold and 6th Grade D1 volleyball teams won their playoff games and are now playing for DPL Championships tomorrow (Saturday, November 8) at Bishop Dunne ...

5th Grade Gold vs. St. Joseph – 9:00 AM

6th Grade D1 vs. POP – 11:20 AM

Congratulations to 8th graders Grace B., Izzy C., and Athena B. who have been named to the 2014 volleyball All-Star team! The All Star game will be played on Monday, November 10 at John Paul II High School. Check the [DPL website](#) for the time.

Come out and support your Lady Lions as they play for the DPL Championship in their division!

The 7th grade volleyball team made it to all the way to the semi-finals. They fought hard Wednesday night, and took it to three sets against MIS, but alas, victory eluded them. They are still winners in our book, and we congratulate them on a great season!

Football Season Comes to an End: Our Varsity football season has come to a close and we want to congratulate our Lions on a hard-fought season. Though they did not make it to the playoffs this year, we are proud of their effort and their dedication. Thanks to the entire team, coaches, cheerleaders, water boys and fans for another fun season!

Home & School Association (HSA) News

Scrip Gift Cards: Plan for the holidays and beyond -- purchase plastic gift cards or ScripNow eCards from participating retailers and a percentage is given back to St. Mark!

Over 400 retailers participate including Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Chipotle, Friday's, Hyatt, Macy's, Dillard's, Toys R Us, Kohls, and many more.

Stock up for stores and restaurants that you frequent. Use the gift cards/eCards as you would your own cash or credit cards. Tell family and friends - anyone can order and St. Mark receives a percentage from every sale!

As a bonus, the three families who purchase the most gift cards between November 10 and December 3 will receive a complimentary gift card from HSA!

There are two ways to shop and earn money for St. Mark:

1. Order plastic gift cards. These orders will be taken November 10 through December 3 using the attached paper order form (a copy of this form was also sent home with your oldest child). Cards will be distributed to families before Christmas break.
2. Order ScripNow eCards online. This option is available now, and lasts year round. Continue purchasing and reloading cards all year long while earning money for our school. To learn how to order ScripNow eCards, please see the attached instruction sheet.

If you have questions, contact Miki Heiss, Scrip Card Coordinator, at StMarkScrip@outlook.com.

Box Tops Winners: Our box top winners will have their award parties on Friday, November 21. Our first place winners (2nd grade) will have an ice cream party at 2:00 PM, and our second place winners (3rd grade) will have a popcorn party at 1:00 PM. Congratulations to both of our winners! Though the fall competition is over, please keep sending in your box tops. We will have another competition in February!

Used Uniform Sales: Please consider donating your gently used uniforms to the Used Uniform Sale. This sale will take place in January and the funds generated will be put towards HSA activities. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the school office.

Upcoming HSA meeting: Save the date for the next HSA General Meeting: December 10, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium.

Book Fair Poster Contest: Be sure to check out all of the posters entered in the contest, which are on display in the school hallway between the Administration offices and the Cafetorium. Our contest winners are:

Kindergarten: 1st Place-Cooper D.; 2nd Place-Isabelle F.

1st Grade: 1st Place-Pedro R.

2nd Grade: 1st Place-Nicholas K.; 2nd Place-Chloe S.; 3rd Place-Jackson D.; Honorable Mentions-Avery Q., Adrienne F., Alfredo R.

3rd Grade: 1st Place-Sofia M.; 2nd Place-Lana N.; 3rd Place-Marli H.

4th Grade: 1st Place-Theresa T.; 2nd Place-Ava P.; 3rd Place-Daniel A. & Savannah B.

Bishop Lynch Open House/Tour Opportunities

Moms' Tea and Tour: Bishop Lynch High School invites all moms of prospective students for their annual Moms' Tea and Tour. The event will take place on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 9:00 AM in the Bishop Lynch Bistro. Enjoy breakfast and beverages as you gain insight into the BL high school experience from administration and Friar moms in-the-know. You will also be given a guided tour through the campus to learn more about academics and facilities. Please RSVP to: admissions@bishoplynch.org.

BL Sunday: BL Sunday is open to all prospective students and parents. Every Bishop Lynch faculty member, staff member, and many current students attend BL Sunday to assist prospective families. The event will be held on November 16, 2014 at 1:00 PM in the new

gymnasium. After the opening session in the gym, visitors are able to visit classrooms, attend information sessions, and tour the campus.

Informational flyers for both events are attached.

At St. Mark, We Serve

Respect Life Club: This month's topic for Respect Life Club was "Respect for the Poor," and RLC would like to thank Mrs. Hollenbeck and Mrs. Hazzard for sharing their experiences with volunteering for the St. Mark St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. It was encouraging and inspiring to know that an opportunity to serve those in our very own community is right here at St. Mark. And great job to the RLC kids who donated items and created over 200 snack bags for local kids and teens in need. These bags will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul as well as another local place of help, Minnie's Food Pantry (located right here in Plano at Parker and Independence). Great job, kids! See their photo at the top of the bulletin.

In Alumni News...

Katie Pace (St. Mark Class of 2012) is among four Ursuline Academy Honors English students who were selected to read their essays at the colloquium, *Celebrating Flannery O'Connor: A 50-Year Retrospective*. Forty-eight students were chosen out of 153 submissions from twelve schools. The academic seminar was held yesterday at Cistercian and celebrates O'Connor's work during the 50th anniversary of her death. Katie analyzed O'Connor's short story "Revelation," and her essay was called "'Revelation': An Analysis of Mrs. Turpin's Startling Realization." "We've been learning theology for a lot of years now, and 'Revelation' has a lot of comparisons," Pace said. The Ursuline essays will be published on the [Cistercian Conference website](#).

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

Inaugural All Souls Run A Great Success! Last Saturday, St. Mark held its first annual All Souls Remembrance 1K/5K Run. Nearly 300 runners/walkers/strollers convened on the St. Mark campus and braved the chilly air to take part in the two races. Participants personalized their race t-shirts to run in memory of a loved one for All Souls Day.

Several sponsors had booths, and the St. Mark community spirit was alive and well with great participation from families and staff alike! The St. Mark Boy Scouts conducted the opening flag ceremony, and two of our 8th grade students, Shannon R. and Kate B., sang the national anthem. There was a great band playing live music. Whole families, and students of all ages ran or walked in the races. Parents volunteered at tables and were passing out water. At many points along the race route, there were parents and 8th grade students cheering as participants went by. Many 8th graders ended up at the finish line cheering for everyone who finished. Certificates were awarded for the top finishers in each age category. Our run committee members worked tirelessly to make this inaugural event a successful one. By all accounts, everyone came away with a feeling of great "lion pride" for our dedicated families and our school community.

[Click here](#) for official race results. Note the many familiar names including students, parents and alumni! Of special note: 5th grader Ryan L. won first place in the 1K Fun Run and 5th grader Keanne A. won 1st place overall!

All proceeds from the run benefit our St. Mark Athletics Department.

A note of thanks from the All Souls Remembrance Run Committee: Thank you to Krishna Penney for all the design/branding/art work for our race; Debbie Reed for support in marketing and advertising; to all of our students, parents and teachers who helped as volunteers; and to our sponsors: Bill Butcher (realtor), Blue Star Residential Lending, Inc., the Broussard family, CB Jeep, Forrest Portrait Designs, Fusion Fit Camp, Get Clean Services, IES, The Joint, Kathi Thompson (realtor), The Kid Salon, the Librea family, Lifestyle Wellness Center, Plano Urgent Care, Stretch and Grow, Texas Superfoods, Wholesome Grub, Wylie Eye Center, and Yoga Synergy.

Your All Souls Remembrance Run Committee,
Marlene Ehring, Race Executive Sponsor; Aneeliz Alamo, Race Director/Volunteer Coordinator; Kenneth Alamo, Sponsor Coordinator; Eric Librea, Entertainment Director/Volunteer Coordinator; Jen Taylor, Marketing Coordinator; Rachel Volmer, Logistics Coordinator; Thomas Volmer, Logistics Coordinator



Book Fair: Thank you to everyone who visited and purchased books from our annual Book Fair. The students enjoyed their class visits, teachers received additional books for their classrooms, and Student Council was able to collect books for children at Scottish Rite Hospital. All proceeds benefit our school library. Special thanks to all of our parent volunteers, and to Ruby Librea and Theresa Meyers for organizing another successful event!

Mobile Dairy Classroom: On Monday, students in Preschool through 5th grade enjoyed a visit from the Mobile Dairy Classroom, sponsored by Southwest Dairy Farmers. It is a traveling milking parlor featuring a live cow and an oral presentation that teaches kids about the dairy industry. Students saw a demonstration on how cows are milked and heard a description about how milk goes from the farm to the consumer. The experience incorporated math, science, health/nutrition, and agriculture, all presented in an outdoor classroom format.



Living Saints Museum: In honor of All Saints Day, the 8th grade class presented the “Living Saints Museum” for our students on Tuesday. Each of our 8th graders dressed as a saint, and were stationed around the Bethany Narthex. As students approached them, each “saint” provided a brief history of his/her life, allowing our younger students to learn from our 8th graders.

3rd Grader Presents the Tabernacle: Ms. Steinkirchner’s third grade students are given the opportunity to make optional presentations to the class about topics that interest them. Evan V. took that challenge, and presented information about the Tabernacle. He constructed a model and explained its significance in detail to small groups of students. Impressive work, Evan!



LION PRIDE!

Just a few of the many reasons we’re so proud to be St. Mark Lions! ...



Blue Ribbon Nomination: St. Mark Catholic School has qualified to apply for a **third** U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award in 2015! To qualify, standardized test scores must be in the top 15% in the nation, and a school must not have received a Blue Ribbon Award within the past five years. Applications are due in December, nominations will be announced in January, and 2015 winners will be announced in September. St. Mark has already received this award **twice**, once in 1992 and again in 2007. Our entire community should take great pride in this **third** qualification. It is a reflection of our shared commitment to academic excellence. No matter the outcome, it truly is an honor just being nominated!

8th Grader Serves at Sixth Floor Museum: Congratulations to 8th grader Athena B. who was chosen to be part of the Sixth Floor Museum Youth Advisory Council. The YAC is a group of 7th-12th grade students who care about history and its preservation. Members serve as ambassadors at special museum functions, programs and events, provide opinions and

suggestions, and assist in community, civic and school activities that support the museum's mission.

1st Grade Soccer Team Success: Congratulations to the "Thundercats" who finished an 8-0 season in the 1st grade girls soccer division at PSA, scoring forty-five goals while only giving up four. Reid G. set team records with fourteen goals for the season and six in one game. Other St. Mark students on the team are Addison V., Cameron G., Leah D., Audrey M., Sophia G. (third leading scorer with six goals), Diya C., and Sneha M.

