



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

August 21, 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Reminders For Next Week
Principal's Corner
Welcome New Families
Summer Thank-Yous
School Calendar Updates
RenWeb Info. & Ethnicity/Race Form
What's Happening in Lionland
New "Forms/Links" Web Page
Watch D.O.G.S. Now Enrolling Dads
Ms. Tammy Needs Bottle Caps
Look for St. Mark Banners at PSA
Beverage Pouch Recycling
After School Program
Home and School Association (HSA) News
Student Advisory Council
News From Athletics
Don't Wait: Participate!
No Rescue
Prefect Duty
Seen and Heard Around St. Mark
LION PRIDE!

REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

TODAY - Friday, August 21, 12:00 PM: Early dismissal for students; the After School Program will be available until 6:00 PM



**A NATIONAL SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE**

St. Mark Catholic School is a two time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Award, and has been nominated to apply for a rare third award in 2015. This means that our students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Tuesday, August 25, 6:30 PM, Cafetorium:
Back To School Night For Middle School
(grades 6-8); see details below

Wednesday, August 26, 6:00 PM,
Cafetorium: Band Information & Instrument
Rental Meeting

Thursday, August 27:

-Student Picture Day. Students should be in
full uniform, including the school sweater.

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Back To School Night
For Preschool-5th Grades; see details below

Friday, August 28, 8:30 AM, Church: All
School Mass. The Mass will be presented by
the 8th grade. They will perform the Call to
Worship, the Mass readings, and present the
Communion gifts. All are welcome.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Mark families: The faculty and staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the 2015-16 school year, and to welcome our new families to St. Mark! We hope everyone enjoyed their summer vacations, and took time to relax and recharge together. We are looking forward to another great year with your children, full of learning and fun, lots of familiar St. Mark traditions, and some exciting changes, too. As we begin this school year, let us all be reminded that it is our mission to "educate each student in a spirit of faith, gospel values, and academic excellence according to Roman Catholic principles." We pray that we can all continue to work together to make that mission statement come alive each day.

Follow us and stay connected!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Vocations Chalice

8th grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.



Faith: Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Faith" this month. [Click here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues.



All-School Service

Service is an integral part of the mission of the Church. To help students understand that by serving others, they are serving God, they will participate in a required all-school service project each month. **Students will receive a homework grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.**

Don't forget to attend your "Back To School Night" next week (see dates above). We will be sharing lots of valuable information about the school year. In addition, this is your opportunity to visit information tables representing all of our wonderful St. Mark organizations. Learn more, and sign-up to participate/volunteer (see details under the "HSA" section below). Our "Lions Den" Spirit Store will also be open with lots of spirit gear for sale -- the perfect place to stock up for our new St. Mark Spirit Days (they take place the first Monday of each month). Don't miss out!

We are all so blessed to be a part of this wonderful St. Mark community. Here's to another successful school year!

Patricia Opon
Principal

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

We'd like to extend a warm St. Mark welcome to the new students who are joining us for the first time this year:

Arlex M.	4K	Mrs. Helm
Audrey .	4K	Mrs. Helm
Christian R.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Christiano A.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Elizabeth P.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Isaac G.	4K	Mrs. Helm
Jayden .	4K	Ms. Escobar
Olivia B.	4K	Ms. Escobar
Abrielle N.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Alyssa C.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Audrey L.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Bella R.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Carrington M.	3K	Mrs. Jackson

August Project: 5 Random Acts of Kindness in 10 Days

Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity

Who Benefits? Various individuals and organizations

Due Date: August 31, 2015

Link: [Random Acts of Kindness Form](#)



Calling all alumni ... join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network! Keep up with former classmates, learn about mentoring opportunities, and volunteer for service hours. Click [here](#) for more information.



Get your official LION gear here! Check in at the school office on Fridays from 7:30-8:15 AM and shop 'til you drop at the Lion's Den Spirit Store located in the Cafetorium.

Can't visit in person? [Place your order online anytime!](#)

This is a great place to stock up on St. Mark shirts for our St. Mark Spirit Days, which will be held the first Monday of each month!

Carson B.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Clayton T.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Elle Marie B.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Francis K.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Giancarlo S.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Hailey O.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Ian C.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Jacob M.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Lincoln K.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Luke D.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Nahla P.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Owen W.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Priya M.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Renner B.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Roarke B.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Tierney K.	3K	Mrs. Oliver
Valencia M.	3K	Mrs. Jackson
Austin D.	TK	Mrs. Young
Lee-Ann F.	TK	Mrs. Young
Reid A.	TK	Mrs. Young
Addie K.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Ali N.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Ashley K.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Dahlia S.	K	Dr. Blankenship
Jacob N.	K	Dr. Blankenship
Johana R.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Joseph B.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Kazi P.	K	Dr. Blankenship
Keelan S.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Maria Q.	K	Dr. Blankenship
Netty W.	K	Dr. Blankenship
Roxton M.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Sean S.	K	Mrs. Thompson
Sloane J.	K	Dr. Blankenship
Gavin D.	1	Mrs. Hazzard
Gianna B.	1	Mrs. Bongiovanni

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM ATHLETICS

Important Reminders:

*Cross Country registration is open until August 31 for students in grades 5-8. [Click here](#) for details.

*Information on individual DPL team sports for 5th-8th grade students is available on our website under the "Campus Life" tab. Simply click on "Athletics" and find the sport you are interested in. Here, you will find registration dates and instructions, fees, details on the current season, etc.

*Parents will be alerted to sports team registration dates in the "Weekly School Bulletin." Please register your athlete during the open registration dates only for each sport. Registrations submitted outside the official registration dates for each sport are considered invalid.



GO LIONS!

UPDATED SCHOOL CALENDARS

We have made some slight updates to our 2015-16 Events

Henry H.	1	Mrs. Hazzard
Matthew B.	1	Mrs. Hazzard
Ezekiel R.	2	Mrs. Eisele
Justin M.	2	Mrs. Brooks
Renit G.	3	Mrs. McCormick
Casie P.	4	Mrs. Mercado
Rosie O.	4	Mrs. Mercado
Sabrina R.	4	Mrs. Samples
Clare O.	5	Mrs. Ostermann
Diane S.	5	Mrs. Ferri
Elijah P.	5	Ms. Pennartz
Jacqueline N.	5	Mrs. Ostermann
Jeremiah B.	5	Ms. Pennartz
Jeremy M.	5	Mrs. Ferri
Justin B.	5	Mrs. Ferri
Lauren G.	5	Mrs. Ostermann
Sebastian R.	5	Ms. Pennartz
Elissa L.	6	Mrs. Mitchell
Manuela B.	6	Mrs. Smith
Samuel O.	6	Mrs. Smith
Bella L.	7	Mrs. Smith
Breigh P.	7	Mrs. Orchowski
Elizabeth R.	7	Mrs. Smith
Michael L.	7	Mrs. Salvia
Michael R.	8	Mrs. Smith

SUMMER THANK-YOUS

As anyone who has recently visited campus knows, we have made many enhancements to our facility. Special thanks to the following people who spent countless hours helping us during the summer months:

- ***Charisse Boisbrun** for completely (and beautifully) redecorating the Teacher Lounge.
- ***Tammy Williams** for the beautiful new artwork gracing our halls.

Calendar. Click below to access the latest version. The calendars are also available on the homepage of the school [website](#) under "Quick Links."

A reminder that you can also add calendar dates to your personal electronic calendar by clicking on the .ICS icon (located at the bottom of the school's online calendar on the [website](#)).

[2015-16 Academic Calendar](#)
[2015-16 Events Calendar](#)

RENWEB INFO. & ETHNICITY/ RACE FORM

The school directory will be produced soon. Please make sure all of your information is current in RenWeb, which is where family addresses, phone numbers and email addresses will come from for the directory.

Instructions:

Log in to RenWeb by [clicking here](#). From the left hand menu, select "School Information," then "Web Forms" and then click on "Family Demographic Form."

*A "Grandparents Day" is in the works. Please complete the contact information for all grandparents so that we can be sure to invite them.

*Our fabulous maintenance staff (**Joe Walter, Ruben Mendoza, Juan Sandoval, Jose Arteaga, and Vicky Adams**) for all of their hard work painting, hanging artwork, cleaning, helping with Kidventure Summer Camp...the list goes on and on.

***Father Cliff** for the fantastic new stage in the Cafetorium, and for the colorful cross and statue of Mary hanging in our halls.

***Mark & Kristie Hoops** for donating iPad covers for all of our school iPads.

*Parents and alumni who have recently stepped-up as leaders of our committees and events, particularly **Eric Librea** (Mardi Gras Auction), **Aneliz Alamo** (All Souls Run), and **Bryan Ashley '02** (Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament).

*Our HSA volunteers: **Holly Lewis** and **Jennifer Pike** for coordinating host families for our newcomers; **Janelle Bain** and **Jennifer Arnold** for a successful used uniform sale; **Vashtai Kekich** and **Kelly Mann-Kekich** for their fabulous spread of food at our "Back To School Breakfast"; and our dedicated HSA board: **Ashley Ternan, Erica Rivera, Morgan Ashwander** and **Danielle Terhaar** for all of their preparations for the 2015-16 school year.

Your hard work and dedication to our school are so very much appreciated!!



WATCH D.O.G.S. NOW ENROLLING DADS FOR OCTOBER-MAY

We are now enrolling Dads for WATCH D.O.G.S. days at school, and are offering half days for dads who cannot commit to full days. The deadline to register for October is September 20. Visit our table at one of the

Note: If you do not want your information included in the directory, be sure to check the appropriate section.

If you haven't done so already, please complete the Ethnicity/Race form on RenWeb. This is mandatory for all families.

Instructions:

1. Login to [RenWeb](#).
2. Click on School Information.
3. Click on Web Forms.
4. Select the Ethnicity and Race form and complete for each of your students.
5. Save the form before closing.

NEW "FORMS/LINKS" WEB PAGE

Our school website now has a "Forms/Links" page where you can quickly access forms and important links. [Click here](#), or you can always access it under "Quick Links" on the homepage, or under the "Parents" tab.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

ASP Signature Pages Due: If you will be taking advantage of the After School Program and have not turned in your signed "signature page" from the After School Program Handbook, please do so immediately. [Click here](#) to access the handbook

"Back to School Nights" to get the latest information and learn more about our Dads Pizza Night at school on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 PM where we will have our full school calendar sign-up, allow you to meet other dads at St. Mark, enjoy giveaways, and more. Pizza Night will serve as Orientation for all new dads to the program, so be sure you attend this night! Our website has been updated for the 2015-16 school year, so visit today to learn more at www.stmarkwatchdogs.com.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA) NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has already committed to be involved in the 2015-2016 school year!

Committee Chair Openings: We still have the following chair positions open: Scrips, Class Baskets, and Paper Pulling/Reading Coordinator.

There are volunteer opportunities on each of our HSA committees. You will have the opportunity to sign up for open positions and meet with committee chairs at the "Back To School Nights." You can also view the volunteer information and requirements by [clicking here](#).

"Back To School Night" Information:

*August 25, 6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Back To School Night for Middle School (grades 6-8)

*August 27, 6:30 PM, Cafetorium: Back To School Night for Preschool-5th grade

that contains the signature page.

ASP Substitutes Needed: Need some extra money? After School Program substitute workers are needed. You must be safety-trained, and be available between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 PM on days when school is in session. The position pays \$15.00/hour. If interested, please contact toni.jobses@stmcs.net.

BEVERAGE POUCH RECYCLING



Remind your students to recycle their beverage pouches (Capri Sun, Honest Kids, etc.) during lunch. They simply need to remove the straws and place the empty drink pouches in the special collection bin located at the front of the Cafeteria. Not only do we keep these pouches out of landfills which is good for the environment, but the school earns money for recycling them!



**SCHOOL
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

St. Mark is a child-centered community in which the majority of our events include the entire family. However, BTSN is reserved for "parents only" to come meet the teachers and learn how they can help make the learning experience a successful one. Please make whatever arrangements are necessary so you can attend the event. Please try to arrive a little early to allow time to visit the Home & School Association "Information Fair" offering information and sign-up sheets for various events, volunteer opportunities, and clubs for parents and students.

Principal Patricia Opon will begin the formal "Back To School" presentation promptly at 6:30 PM, followed by classroom visits and teacher/grade level presentations. The entire program is usually complete by 8:00 PM.

School Directories: Directories will be distributed at the end of September so that we are sure to include all new school families. Please make sure your contact information is current in RenWeb (this info. will be printed in the school directory).

MS. TAMMY NEEDS BOTTLE CAPS

Ms. Tammy is collecting bottle caps. She needs blue, green, yellow, orange, red, black and clear. If your child brings in a minimum of 20 caps at once, he/she will receive a "Caught Being Good" certificate!

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!



St. Mark Band: Registration is now open for the St. Mark Band. Students in

The purpose of the School Advisory Council is to act in an advisory capacity to the Pastor and Principal in the areas of school policy, finance, strategic planning, operational effectiveness and promotion of Catholic education. Members are appointed by the Pastor. Welcome new members of the School Advisory Council: Angie Baldwin, Mitch Bates and Jeff Hoke. They join current members Gilberto Aguilar, Paula Allgood, John Garvey, Claudine Humphries and Bill Wray. If you would like more information about the SAC, please [click here](#). We thank these individuals for their invaluable service to our school community.

LOOK FOR ST. MARK BANNERS AT PSA

Next time you're at a Plano Sports Authority (PSA) facility, look up! St. Mark now has promotional banners hanging at their PSA 1, PSA 2, McKinney and Murphy locations. PSA is home to 75,000 young athletes and their families, and boasts 5 million visitors each year, providing St. Mark great exposure to families with young children in our community.

grades 4-8 may participate. Our program is facilitated by Music Learning Band. They will conduct an "Information & Instrument Rental" meeting next Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 PM in the Cafetorium. [Click here](#) for more information.



Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament - Friday, September 18, The Courses at Watters Creek, Allen: Get your foursomes together and join us for the annual golf tournament, hosted by our very own St. Mark alumni! Anyone can participate: family, friends, co-workers. You'll be treated to a round of golf, dinner and some great prizes. The registration deadline is September 10. [Click here](#) for more information and the online registration form.

**Saturday, October 31:
Two great events, same great day ...**



**Parish Fall Festival,
Saturday, October 31:** Planning is in full swing and volunteers are needed! All are welcome to participate and service hours are available. Please contact [Claudine Humphries](#) for more information. [Click here](#) for more details, and follow the Parish Fall Festival on [Facebook!](#)



SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

Dr. Blankenship Rocks the CrossFit Games! In case you missed our summer Facebook posts, our own Dr. Tara Blankenship tied for 12th place in the world at the Reebok CrossFit Games in July. We are so proud of her and this amazing accomplishment. She's a true winner both in and out of the classroom! You can watch a recap of all the action by [clicking here](#).



4th Grade Origami: Our 4th grade students created origami cranes this week in honor of their summer reading book, "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes."

(photo removed)

Help Needed With Raffle Tickets: The Fall Festival Raffle is the largest source of income for this event. Please come and help stuff tickets into envelopes on Friday, August 28 at 8:00 AM in the Smyth Pastoral Center, Conference Room 202. Coffee and bagels will be served! Contact [Ann Rossigno](#), 972-533-5355, if you can be there.



All Souls 1K/5K Run, Saturday, October 31: Registration is now open for our second annual 1K/5K run. Anyone can register, so help spread the word! [Click here](#) to sign-up for the run or to become an event sponsor. Volunteers are needed, and no job is too small. Contact [Tiffany Duncan](#) if you can help. Service hours are available.



Register Now for the St. Mark Respect Life Club: This is an after-school opportunity for students in grades 1-8 to grow in their appreciation of the dignity of all human life. It is unique to St. Mark Catholic School. Monthly meetings include fun and educational activities. We invite you to learn more and to register for the 2015-16 "Respect Life Club" by [clicking here](#).

NO RESCUE

Children take great pride in showing all of us that they are responsible individuals ready to

Middle School STEM Project:

Middle school students participated in the "Saving Sam" STEM activity on Thursday involving gummy worms and lifesavers. The lesson encourages problem solving and cooperative learning while teaching the scientific method. Ask your middle school student if his/her group was able to "save Sam."

(photo removed)

All School Mass: Today, our students attended the first "All School Mass" of the year. Father Cliff gave a special blessing to our students and teachers and we all prayed for a successful school year. Our prayer partners did a wonderful job, too!

(photo removed)



LION PRIDE!

Just some of the many reasons we're so proud to be St. Mark Lions ...

Boy Scouts Receive "Order of the Arrow" Honors:

Congratulations to alumnus Zach M. (Class of 2015) and 8th

fully participate in a successful school experience. We discourage parents from rescuing students who tend to forget assignments or school supplies at home. Truly, it can be a learning experience if they are given the chance to deal with the natural consequences. A forgotten lunch can be an exception, but we ask that you work with us to help students leave home fully prepared. If items (other than lunches) are brought to the school office, we will not be able to deliver them.

PREFECT DUTY

Upon enrollment, all families with students in grades Preschool - 5th make a registration commitment to five days of prefect duty (lunch & recess supervision). Prefecting is not required of families with only a Middle School student. A \$100.00 Prefecting Fee is paid at the beginning of each school year and is a deposit on this time commitment. This fee is refunded upon completion of all five days. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for prefect duty by [clicking here](#). Childcare will be available during one week in October and one week in April.

grader Matthew M. who were recently elected to the Boy Scout "Order of the Arrow." OA is scouting's National Honor Society, and recognizes scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

Former St. Mark Student Excels on Duke TIP ACT

Test: Former St. Mark student, Joel K., has received both State and Grand recognition in the 2015 Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP). He earned a score in the 99 percentile on the ACT test as a middle school student.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Forward To A Friend](#)

St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075
www.stmcs.net | (972) 578-0610