



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

December 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Mark Alumni and Parents:

It's the most wonderful time of the year....though I must admit...it's *always* a wonderful time to be a St. Mark LION!

Since my last message to you just a few short months ago, so much has happened around our campus. The annual Fall Festival, All Souls Run, and Fall Theater Production were all big hits. Second grade teacher, Ms. Carolyn Eisele, helped to develop an Advent app that is now available. And of course, our alumni have had some amazing accomplishments.

Plans for our new SmartLab, announced just weeks ago, are continuing to move forward with lightning speed and we are on track for installation over the summer months. Soon, St. Mark students will be the only students in our area who can take advantage of cutting edge, technology-supported activities in a self-contained lab, enhancing classroom lessons on a whole new level. We continue to welcome input on this project from our alumni community. If you are interested in contributing your expertise or corporate connections to St. Mark's SmartLab, please email me directly.

In addition, our gym renovation was finished over the Thanksgiving holidays. The new murals, scoreboard, score table and logo chairs for our players look amazing. Come and see for yourself during the upcoming DPL basketball season!

Or, just make a point to pop-in to the gym during your visits to the campus over the holidays. St. Mark is in school through 12:00 noon on December 16 and we return from Christmas break on January 3, so if you're home for the



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.

This means that St. Mark students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

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holidays and wish to bring lunch to a younger sibling or just pay a visit to your former teachers, we invite you to stop in. We especially love your visits during this most wonderful time of year!

It is my wish that you and your family have a blessed Christmas season.

Peace, joy, and LION PRIDE,



Patricia Opon, Principal
patricia.opon@stmcs.net

AROUND CAMPUS

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) so you can keep up with all of the updates from our campus!

2nd Grade Assists with Advent App Development: One of our school families, the Osongs, are founders of [Biblezon](#), a Catholic tablet that allows you take your faith wherever you go, complete with resources and activities. The tablet was piloted in Ms. Eisele's 2nd grade class. Her students suggested adding more information about Advent, so the Osongs tapped Ms. Eisele's expertise to develop information and activities for an Advent app. That app is now available. This is an amazing resource, and one that we are especially proud of because of its close affiliation with our St. Mark Community.



More Gym Improvements: Next time you're on campus, stop in to see the latest additions to the Bacot Gym. Through generous support of our 2016 auction, we were able to add beautiful murals, a new scoreboard and score table, and St. Mark logo chairs for our players. The gym has never looked better ... just in time for basketball season!



LIFETIME LIONS

St. Mark alumni are invited to join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network. Keep up with former classmates, become a mentor to current students, and learn about opportunities to earn service hours. Click [here](#) to register.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child?



Open Houses for the 2017-18 school year will be held on January 31 and February 7. [Click here](#) for more details.

LIONS DEN

Get the gear! Brand new St. Mark logo merchandise and spirit wear are available in our Lion's Den Spirit Store. Order your St. Mark gear [online](#) anytime!

GET INVOLVED!

We love it when our alumni and alumni families come back to volunteer, mentor our students, or just take part in our events! Here are some upcoming opportunities for you to get involved on campus (and if you're a high school student, you can even earn service hours):



All Souls Run: Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our 3rd Annual All Souls Run! The event was our largest yet with proceeds benefitting our Athletics Department.



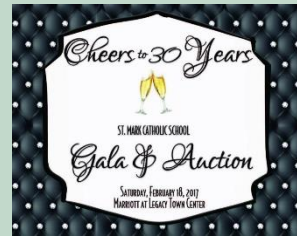
Parish Fall Festival: Additional thanks to everyone who attended the annual St. Mark Fall Festival! This fall tradition kicks off the holiday season each year and brings our community together for fun, fellowship, and of course, some amazing food!



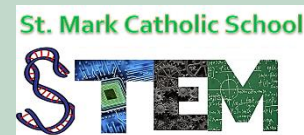
The Emperor's New Clothes: The St. Mark Theater program continues to impress with their latest production last month. *The Emperor's New Clothes* featured amazing performances and backstage work by our students, outstanding lighting, staging, music and costumes by Father Cliff and Mrs. Corsi, plus a very special musical accompaniment on a Chinese zheng by one of our students who hails from China. BRAVO!



Basketball season starts soon. Come out and cheer on our LIONS in the newly renovated Bacot Gym. Check the [DPL website](#) for home game schedules.



Gala & Auction: Join us for the 30th annual St. Mark Gala & Auction! We're raising a glass to 30 years of auctions, and raising money for our St. Mark SmartLab. Join us at the event, volunteer, donate, become a sponsor...it all adds up in a big way! [Click here](#) for details.



S.T.E.M. Fair: Do you participate in an organization or club, or work for a company that utilizes science, technology, engineering or math? We want you to participate in our upcoming S.T.E.M. Fair on Friday, May 5, 2017 organized by our very own **Allison N. '14**, current junior at John Paul II High School! If you're interested, simply contact [Pam Steinkirchner](#).



ALUMNI UPDATES

Amy D. '90, who teaches Math at Bishop Lynch High School, was chosen as a "Teacher of the Year" by the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

Sarah C. '13, senior at Bishop Lynch High School, was recently inducted into the National English Honor Society.

Elena G. '15, sophomore at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, and **Jaibin M. '15**, sophomore at Jesuit College Preparatory School, were cast members in the recent Ursuline fall play, *The Ash Girl*. **Valeria M. '14**, a junior at Ursuline, served as Prop Master.

Gavin L. '13, senior at Jesuit College Preparatory School and **Molly M. '13**, senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, both played parts in Jesuit's production of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

David F. '13 received a scholarship to row crew at Boston University where he is currently a freshman.

Congratulations to **Kevin P. '16** who was elected Homecoming Lord and **Julianna S. '16** who was elected Homecoming Lady at John Paul II High School. Both are current freshmen.

Carissa T. '16 is one of only two freshmen on the 2nd ranked Bishop Lynch High School Varsity Soccer team.

Amanda L. '14, a junior at John Paul II High School, was recently named to the TPSMEA All Region Choir.

The Bishop Lynch High School Varsity Volleyball team earned the titles of District Champion and State Finalist this year. **Audrey M. '14** (junior) and **Izzy C. '15** (sophomore) are both team members. In addition, Izzy was recognized post-season with an All District Honorable Mention award.



Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic:

This annual event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email [Marlene Ehring](mailto:Marlene.Ehring@diocese.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

LIONS MENTOR LIONS

Thanks to **Gena-Marie M. '14** who recently visited 5th grade with the John Paul II High School PALs and mentored them on subjects such as the different types of bullying to watch out for.

FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY

When registering for "Lifetime Lions," you are asked to share your favorite St. Mark memories.

Casey B. '13, a current senior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, recalls winning the DPL Volleyball Championship four years in a row. Our 5th grade Volleyball teams can relate. Both the St. Mark Gold and Green teams won their divisions this season, and the decision was made that they would share the 2016 DPL Championship title. They are well on their way towards the goal of multiple championships!

Mary Kate T. '14, a junior at John Paul II High School, is a member of the school yearbook staff. They received a Gold Medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Athena B. '15, sophomore at Ursuline Academy, recently participated in the YMCA District 5 Youth and Government Competition. Competing in the Legislative Section of the competition, her bill dealt with teaching religious tolerance in Texas schools. Athena won the prestigious Angie Baggot Award for her outstanding character, observing the four YMCA principles (respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring). She was also selected to mentor delegates at the middle school state conference in March, and advanced to the state competition in Austin.

Jason B. '14, a junior at John Paul II High School, is a member of the Academic Decathlon Team. He recently placed 4th in Math at the Rockwall Scrimmage competition.

Savannah H. '15 and **Shannon R. '15**, both sophomores at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, have been named Captains of the JV Soccer Team.

Dylan C. '14, a junior at John Paul II High School, won an All-State Cast Award for his role in *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* at the recent TAPPS One Act Play contest.

**"ONCE A LION,
ALWAYS A LION!"**



STAY CONNECTED

Keep us posted! As we receive alumni updates, we incorporate them into our social media posts, weekly school bulletins, and alumni communications. Tell us about your recent activities and accomplishments -- we'd love to hear from you! Need to update your contact information? Simply contact [Debbie Reed](#) with all of your updates.

WAYS TO GIVE TO ST. MARK

St. Mark Catholic School appreciates your support. If you would like to make a donation of time, expertise, or financial support, please follow the links below.

*Donate your time or expertise. Simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and let us know what you are interested in contributing to our school.

*[SmartLab](#) - Contribute to this groundbreaking new facility that will forever change the way our students are educated.

*[Gap Fund](#) - This fund helps St. Mark bridge the gap between the tuition amount our families pay, and the actual cost to educate each student. For 2016-17, that cost is \$1,140 per student.

[Forward To A Friend](#)

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*[Technology Fund](#) - This fund assists St. Mark with keeping current on the technology made available to our students.

*[Other Monetary Donations](#) - Make a general donation, or designate funds towards a specific program such as Fine Arts, Athletics, or Robotics.

*[Legacy Brick](#) - Commemorate your time as a LION. Buy a personalized brick for \$100 that will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School.

*[Merchant Programs](#) - Raise funds for our school simply by linking your Tom Thumb and Kroger shopper cards to St. Mark.

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