



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

June 3, 2016

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**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 our students
consistently score in the top 15% in
the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!

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REMINDERS

Today, Friday, June 3:

-Raising Cane's Fundraiser (details at right)

June 6-30:

-Summer office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

July 1-31:

-School office closed

Monday, August 1:

-School office reopens

Sunday, August 7:

-10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Cafetorium:
-Back to School Sunday

Friday, August 12:

-9:00-10:30 AM, School Buildings: Pop-In Meet & Greet

Monday, August 15:

-First day of school

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents: This has been a fantastic second year as Principal of St. Mark Catholic School! Thank you for all of your support. I continue to be truly blessed.

It is hard to believe that this school year is coming to a close, and I'd like to take



1/2 DAYS ARE CANE'S DAYS AT ST. MARK!



Plan to eat at Raising Cane's TODAY to celebrate the last day of school! Visit anytime today between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Simply mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage will be donated to the St. Mark Athletic Department. Treat your family, and earn money for our school!

PK-3 TEACHER, ECE AIDE & P/T CAFETERIA WORKER NEEDED

Due to our ever increasing enrollment numbers in Early Childhood Education, we are needing to hire an additional PK3 teacher and a part-time PK aide. Anyone interested should submit a brief resume to Mrs. Opon at patricia.opon@stmcs.net.

In addition, we are looking for a part-time Cafeteria worker. If interested, please email linda.gaines@stmcs.net.



Nominate Someone for a Work of Heart Award: Do you know a St. Mark teacher or staff member who goes "above and beyond" for our school community? If so, consider

a moment to recognize those who made another banner year possible.

First, congratulations to our recently graduated 8th graders! They have been wonderful leaders and we will miss them as they start a new chapter in their lives. We hope they stay in touch and keep us informed of all of their accomplishments. Once a Lion, Always a Lion!

I'd also like to thank our fabulous teachers, staff and parents who continue to make St. Mark the nurturing, caring, and intellectually challenging school that it is. The students have worked extremely hard, and I couldn't be more proud! On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I extend a special thank you to our parents for providing those special monthly teacher luncheons that we love so much!

Our volunteers also deserve special recognition including the Home and School Association, the School Advisory Council, the Auction Committee, our Athletics volunteers, and the Watch D.O.G.S. You have helped make a difference in the lives of our students in many ways, and you have made it all loads of fun (Career Day, Junior Achievement, Field Day ... the list goes on and on)!

Additionally, thank you to all of the parents who recently responded to our Campus Needs Assessment survey. At St. Mark, we strive for continuous improvement. In order to achieve that, we must see things from multiple

nominating him or her for a Work of Heart Award. Presented by The Catholic Foundation, these awards honor those who "go the extra mile" in serving our educational community. For more information about the Work of Heart award, or to submit a nomination, [click here](#). 38 St. Mark staffers have received this award since its inception in 2005.



**WATCH D.O.G.S.
(DADS OF GREAT STUDENTS)**

The St. Mark teachers, staff, students, and parents would like to say a BIG "THANK YOU" to all the fathers who served as Watch D.O.G.S. during the 2015-2016 school year!

We had 33 dads serve this school year. A special shout out to school father, Zach Straughan, who volunteered a whopping 8 days!

If you did not get a chance to be a WATCH D.O.G. this year, no worries, they will be back for the 2016-2017 school year. Look for their booth at the "Back to School Sunday" event on August 7, or visit the [St. Mark Watch D.O.G.S. web page](#) for more information.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

If your student is currently keeping a medication in the nurse's office

perspectives. That is why it is very meaningful that so many of you took a few minutes of your time to respond to the survey, including our students in grades 5-8. I am in the process of analyzing the results, looking for strengths and weaknesses, and developing our campus improvement plan for next year. It is quite reassuring that the overall results are extremely positive. Of course, there are always areas where we can improve, and those areas will receive our focused attention. We are already looking forward to many wonderful things planned for next year. For example, Honor Choir, more S.T.E.M., Orchestra as a middle school elective, gray pants, AND most importantly, desserts on Fridays. I get excited just thinking about it all!

Catholic schools are founded on the belief that there should be no separation between a time for learning and a time for spiritual development, between acquiring knowledge and growing in wisdom. At St. Mark, these ideas are grounded in our Catholic faith...it's what we do and what we will continue to do.

Please remember to join us at "Back to School Sunday" on August 7, beginning with 9:00 AM Mass. This will be a wonderful time for our families to enjoy each other's company and a great opportunity for our incoming families to meet our community. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer full of exciting things to do, relaxation, and quality family time. May

(including EpiPens, inhalers, prescriptions, or over-the-counter medications), please arrange to pick up the medication by the last day of school. We do not store medication from year to year, so anything that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of.



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes from the May 26, 2016 SAC meeting are now available by [clicking here](#).



LIFETIME LIONS

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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING UPDATES

Parents: Summer is the perfect time to update your annual Safe Environment Training. Simply [click here](#) for details. This will ensure that all paperwork will be processed prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year and you will be cleared to volunteer at all of our wonderful school activities. **Even if your training renewal isn't due until later in the year, we encourage you to retrain over the**

God bless us all and keep us safe throughout the summer and may we remember we are always in His presence.

Patricia Opon

Patricia Opon
Principal

P.S. The 2017 Auction Committee is taking shape. We already have two Chairpersons, but three is an ideal number. I need one more person to join the committee as a Co-Chair. Feel free to email me directly if you can lend your talents --

patricia.opon@stmcs.net.

Additionally, anyone wishing to assist the Auction Committee is strongly encouraged to get involved now and help make this annual event spectacular! See more details below.

REQUIRED SUMMER READING & GRADE LEVEL SUMMER PACKETS

We want our students to keep up their skills over the summer, so our teachers have compiled "Summer Packets." These packets contain required summer reading and activities, as well as many optional activities and resources to help students stay sharp and have fun during the summer months!

Each student has received information about their Summer Packet from their teacher.

In addition, digital copies of this summer information by grade level

summer if at all possible. This will prevent many problems later on, as well as make the system we use to keep our children safe more efficient and effective. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this important task.

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark has limited availability at various grade levels. For more information or to schedule a school tour, please call the school office at (972) 578-0610, or visit the school website at www.stmcs.net.

St. Mark Info. Cards: We also have "information cards" available at the church and school that contain general school information. Feel free to stop by and pick some up. Pass them along to anyone who is interested in St. Mark Catholic School. [Click here](#) to see a sample.

NEW "REFERRAL THANK YOU PROGRAM"

Each year, St. Mark is honored to welcome new families to our school community, many of whom were referred by our current school families. We think you should be rewarded for bringing new families to our school! Through our new "Referral Thank You Program," your family can receive a \$500 tuition credit for referring one new family to St. Mark. Please [click here](#) for details!

is now available on the school website. We encourage all families to access this information now so that students will have ample time to complete their summer assignments. [Click here](#), or visit www.stmcs.net, and click on the "Parents," and "Summer Information and Forms" tabs anytime. Scroll to the "Skills to Practice Over the Summer" section and click on the links that correspond to the grade level that your child will be entering in the fall of 2016.

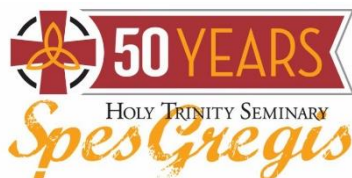
2016-17 BEGINNING OF SCHOOL FORM

The 2016-17 [Beginning of School Form](#), mentioned in the "Planning Information" bulletin that was emailed to all families last week, can either be printed and returned to the school office, or it can be returned electronically to rene.oconnor@stmcs.net.

LABELING SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We've posted instructions for labeling 2016-17 school supplies to the school website. Please [click here](#) and scroll to the "Documents" section for details.

HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY - SEMINARIAN WELCOME DINNER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Each year, Holy Trinity Seminary hosts their Spes Gregis Dinner (the hope of the flock), welcoming their seminarians

ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK TODAY



Order your St.

Mark Legacy Brick Today! This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. For \$100, purchase a custom designed engraved brick with your family name, ministry, organization, your child's name and graduating class, or to honor a loved one, mother, father, brother, sister, friend... the possibilities are endless. There are many ways to personalize your brick, with logos for all kinds of interests including religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir, and music, just to name a few. These special custom engraved bricks will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School. **Simply [click here](#) to place your order.**

TEXAS QUIZ BOWL CAMP

Mrs. Mitchell would like to encourage all students in 4th-8th grades to attend the Texas Quiz Bowl Camp, July 17-30 at The University of Texas at Dallas. It's a great way to prepare for next year's Quiz Bowl tournaments where historically, our St. Mark team performs very well. The registration deadline is fast approaching, so if your student is interested, please contact

and introducing them to the Catholic community. This year, they will also celebrate their 50th anniversary. Bishop Kevin Farrell will be in attendance, and the keynote address will be given by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York. The dinner will take place on Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas.

Because St. Mark maintains a special relationship with HTS and specifically supports this dinner with parent and student volunteers/attendees, we are offering our school families an early opportunity to get involved. [Service hours are available for St. Mark students and alumni.](#) Last year, dozens of St. Mark staff, parents, students, and alumni assisted with check-in, fundraising efforts, and raffle ticket sales at the event, in addition to filling several dinner tables. Let's show our seminarians that St. Mark is behind them again this year!

If you would like to purchase tickets to the dinner, commit yourself or your student as a volunteer, sponsor a seminarian, learn about underwriting, or make a donation, contact Mrs. Denvir directly at agnes.denvir@stmcs.net. More information can also be found at www.holytrinityseminary.org. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our future priests, including St. Mark's own **Parker Thompson '11** and **Scott Johnson '12!**

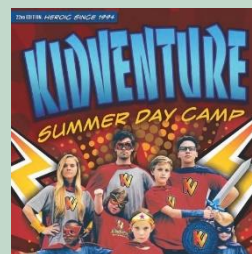
carole.mitchell@stmcs.net or visit www.texasquizbowlcamp.org.

DONATE GREEN PANTS/SHORTS TO CHARITY

As the school year comes to an end, please consider donating your gently used green uniform pants and walking shorts to Orphan Outreach. [Click here](#) to learn more about this organization that works with at-risk children worldwide, some of whom wear green pants as part of their school uniforms. A special donation box will be located in the school office until June 30. Donations made after June 3 will be accepted during summer office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM).

Please remember that green pant/walking short donations are no longer accepted for the St. Mark Used Uniform Sale.

KIDVENTURE SUMMER CAMP AT ST. MARK



St. Mark Summer Camps With Kidventure: It's not too late to register for full-time summer camps on the St. Mark campus with Kidventure! Kidventure is in its 22nd season of summer camp. This year's theme is **Summer Quest 2016**, a comic book come to life. Each week



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS FOR 2016-17:

- Membership Coordinator
- Hospitality Coordinator
- Scrip Gift Card Coordinator
- Early Childhood Room Parent Coordinator
- PK-5th Grade Memory Book Coordinator

For more information on these positions, [click here](#). Please contact Ashley Ternan at ashleyternan@gmail.com with additional questions.

THANK YOU:

Graduation Chairs/Committee:

Thank you to our Graduation Committee Chairs, Barb Johnson and Kim Broussard, and to everyone who helped with the recent 8th grade graduation events. Your efforts resulted in a wonderful week filled with fun and St. Mark tradition. Our 8th grade students and their families will forever have lasting memories because of your efforts!

PK-5th Grade Memory Book:

Thank you to everyone who helped with the PK-5th Grade Memory Book. The book looks wonderful, and our students "lit up" as they paged

provides a new and unique adventure.

General registration for Kidventure's Summer Quest 2016 Day Camp is now available at <http://kidventure.com/register>. Click to select your child's Summer Quest adventures.

For more information, please visit <http://kidventure.com/plano-summercamp/>, or call [214.303.9789](tel:214.303.9789).

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Our local Catholic high schools offer summer camps for kids of all ages. As we receive their brochures, we will make them available in the school lobby, or you can click below to learn more:

[Bishop Lynch High School](#)
[Cistercian Preparatory School](#)
[Jesuit College Preparatory School](#)
[John Paul II High School](#)
[Ursuline Academy of Dallas](#)

JESUIT 'LIL RANGERETTE SUMMER CAMP

The Jesuit Rangerettes drill team offers a summer camp for girls in preschool-6th grade. The camp will take place June 20-24 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Jesuit. Please [click here](#) for more information and registration.

JPII JUNIOR BELLE SUMMER CAMP

The John Paul II High School Cardinal Belles drill team is hosting a "Junior

through another great year here at St. Mark!

Field Day:

Thank you to our Field Day Chairs, Tara and Rick Roman, as well as LeAnn Wray who coordinated Field Day t-shirts, and to all of our wonderful parent volunteers, faculty and staff for making this year's Field Day a success! The inclement weather this week brought most events indoors, but we made the most of it and our students still enjoyed a day filled with great activities, a pizza lunch, and a raucous good time! It's always a great way to end the year!

REMINDERS:

Helping Hands Committee:

If you know any St. Mark families that are in need of help due to a birth, sickness, death or any life changing event, please [click here](#) to contact the Helping Hands Committee.

Link Your Shopper Cards & Earn

Money for St. Mark: Remember to link your Kroger, Tom Thumb and Target cards to St. Mark. Kroger cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.



Box Tops: Keep collecting Box Tops over the summer!

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

8th Grade Graduation: Our 8th graders participated in their graduation Mass

Belle Summer Camp" for girls ages 5-14 from July 25-27, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM at JPIL. [Click here](#) for more information, and [here](#) for registration.

DRAMA KIDS SUMMER CAMP



Drama Kids International is now enrolling for summer camps. Children participate in fun activities that help them think more creatively and learn new acting and confidence-building skills through plays, improvisations, silent scenes, mini-scripts, theater games and more. [Click here](#) for more details. To register, visit dramakids.com/tx3 or call (972) 363-2369.

2017 AUCTION NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are getting ready for the 30th annual St. Mark Gala & Auction to be held on February 18, 2017 at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. The Walton Stout Band (www.thewaltonstoutband.com), one of Dallas' premiere dance bands, will be performing at the event so get ready to party!!! Would you like to be part of the planning team? Would you like to help secure items for the live and silent auction? Would you like to help plan the program and assist at event night? Would you like to join in promoting the event throughout the school year? Maybe even be a co-chair? If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Eric Librea

and ceremony last Friday evening. The proceedings kicked-off with class photos, then family and friends gathered in the church for Mass, followed by the graduation ceremony. Each student received their diploma, high school scholarships were announced, and graduation speeches and a farewell song concluded the program.

Click here for the full list of scholarships that our students received. (hyperlink removed)

In addition, the Suzanne Bacot Award For Service was presented to Claire and Niel Morgan who have selflessly given of their time and talent through all of their years at St. Mark. This award is given to a parent or parents who have continually given back to St. Mark, and who's last child is graduating.

The evening continued with a beautiful reception in the Cafetorium for family and friends hosted by our 7th grade families, followed by the traditional graduate-only dance. It was truly a special evening, and one that we hope all of our graduates will never forget.

(photos removed)

Field Day: Water balloon toss, obstacle course, tug-o-war, sack races ... they were all part of the fun during this year's Field Day. Though most of the day's events had to be moved indoors

at ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu. We will have a blast!

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MIDDLE SCHOOLER

The middle school "QR Code Book Trailer" elective made a very creative video entitled, "A Day in the Life of a Middle Schooler." It's a fun look at what students do each day, as well as an introduction to our teachers -- especially useful for rising 6th graders! [Click here](#) to see it.

IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

Congratulations to **Elizabeth L. '12** and **Katie P. '12** who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Ursuline Academy of Dallas (with a grade point average of 3.9 or higher).

More congratulations to the following students who recently received academic and service awards from Jesuit College Preparatory School: **Patrick C. '12** - Excellence in Community Service Leadership; **Alec D. '14** - Outstanding Service to Ambassadors; **Alex R. '12** - Statistics; **Kolbe S. '14** - Spanish 2; **Jack W. '12** - AP Macro Economics; Jesuit Engineering Society Outstanding Service; **Nick W. '12** - Senior Magis Award

Congratulations to the following Class of 2012 alumni who graduated from John Paul II High School with honors: **Amanda B.**, **Sarah C.**, **Bianca Isabella C.**, **Audrey E.**, **Daniel**

due to the threat of rain, our Field Day committee and wonderful parent volunteers made it an extra fun day for our students, and even worked in a couple of outdoor activities between raindrops! It was capped off by a pizza lunch for all. Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more photos!

(photos removed)

Father Cliff's Auction Dinner: On Tuesday evening, Father Cliff hosted his annual gourmet wine and dinner party for the lucky 12 highest bidders who were fortunate enough to win this special package at the 2016 Sweethearts Gala & Auction. This year's theme was Disney. As Chef de Cuisine, Father Cliff created the entire menu from a cookbook featuring meals served at Disney parks and on Disney cruises. It was truly a meal fit for royalty (Disney royalty, that is!) that included a beautiful array of appetizers, salad, soup, grilled wild boar tenderloin stew, chicken pot pie with cheesy puff pastry, risotto di mare, berries in red wine, and a dessert called "The Kitchen Sink" (assorted ice creams, fruit, brownies and every topping known to *kids*) -- all complete with wine pairings. Mrs. Opon served as Sous Chef, while parish and school staff members helped with preparation and service. It was truly an evening to remember, and we look forward to seeing how Father Cliff will top himself next year, which he always seems to do! Start planning your bidding strategy now (see 2017 auction details above)!

G., Courtney J., Scott J., Jake K., Ryan M., Abby M., Eric N. Roberto O., Rachel P., and Sean R.

Emily W. '14 (pictured below with her school Principal) and **Hunter A. '14** were both awarded a Titan Teamwork Leadership Award from PISD Academy High School where they are both rising juniors. Congratulations to them!

(photo removed)

Ursuline Academy of Dallas Recognizes Drama Students: Congratulations to **Valeria M. '14** and **Elena G. '15** who were inducted into Ursuline Academy's chapter of the International Thespian Society. Elena also received an Outstanding Production Award.

Stay tuned to our [Facebook page](#) over the summer for more alumni updates!



LION PRIDE!

Congratulations to Bobby V. and Anish K. who recently participated in the Destination Imagination Globals event in Knoxville, TN where 8,000 students from 20 countries came to compete in a variety of competitions that emphasize creativity and ingenuity in the areas of S.T.E.M.,



1st Grade Erupts Volcanoes: On Wednesday, our 1st graders had a great time using a combination of baking soda and vinegar to erupt the volcanoes they created last week!

(photo removed)

7th Grade Titanic Project: This week, our 7th graders participated in their annual "Titanic" S.T.E.M. project. It involves working in teams and determining how they can survive the sinking of the Titanic by designing devices such as waterproof food storage, a shelter, and a help signal, which are then presented to the class. The students also use the classroom iPads to create videos about their projects with various apps such as Chatterpix.

(photo removed)

Fine Arts and Service Learning. The boys placed 4th out of 53 teams in the "Instant Challenge" where teams are put on the spot to complete any challenge given. They also placed 13th overall. While this is an amazing accomplishment, the boys will tell you that the overall experience was what it was most about. They met fellow students from all around the world including China, South Korea, Turkey, Columbia, Romania, Mexico and Poland, as well as from all over the United States. Incidentally, Texas and China dominated the competition for the most wins!

(photo removed)



Have a faith-filled and fun-filled summer break, enjoying the special family times that renew our minds, bodies, and spirits. We look forward to welcoming our returning families and our new families when we gather again in

**August. Please keep our
faculty and staff in your
prayers, as we will keep you in
ours.**

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