



St. Mark Catholic School Lifetime Lions Alumni Newsletter Inaugural Edition - October 2014

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

To our esteemed St. Mark Alumni:

Greetings, and welcome to the very first edition of the Lifetime Lions alumni newsletter! I am the new Principal of St. Mark Catholic School, and I am thrilled to be able to welcome you to the Lifetime Lions alumni organization.

I'd like to take a moment to reflect upon the very special nature of our alumni. While I am new here, it is plain to see that students who leave St. Mark's doors take with them years of special memories, as well as a solid foundation upon which to build their lives. One's relationship with their former school as an alumni is a unique one. It is formed out of a solid bond developed between student and school during their years together. I want to invite each of you to continue to nurture your bond with St. Mark, no longer as a student, but as someone who has a special connection with our school, and who can give back to our community like no other.

Many of you are high school students. Many of you have moved on to college and into your adult lives. It is my hope that, whatever your stage of life, you will consider staying involved in our St. Mark community, and giving of your time and talents to benefit our students. Whether it's mentoring our current students in a particular subject area, volunteering at one of our events, participating in our annual Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament, or donating to our new "Gap Fund" campaign, we hope you'll continue your strong connection with St. Mark (learn more about our new Gap Fund below).

While we have many wonderful people involved with the school, it means so much to know that our alumni choose to stay engaged with our community, and help to further the mission of a Catholic education at St. Mark. What was done for you, you can truly “pay forward” to others!

Read on to find out what’s happening around St. Mark now, and we’ll continue to send alumni newsletters periodically throughout the year to keep you informed.

Though I was not privileged enough to meet you in person during your years at St. Mark, I do hope to have the opportunity to meet you at one of our many events and activities that we have planned, both traditional and new. During your visit, please stop by and introduce yourself! I want to meet as many former students as I can, and see for myself how each of you embody the values and ideals of this wonderful school and parish community.

Blessings as you continue on your journey,

Patricia Opon, Principal
St. Mark Catholic School

CALLING ALL ALUMNI -- LIFETIME LIONS REGISTRATION IS ONLINE!

Haven’t registered for Lifetime Lions yet? Complete your registration and become eligible for even more St. Mark alumni information and opportunities. [Click here](#) to register.

LIFETIME LIONS CERTIFICATES COMING SOON!

When you submit your official registration for Lifetime Lions, you are promised a numbered and personalized membership certificate. For those who have completed registration, we have not forgotten! Since our 2014 graduation ceremony last spring, we’ve received many membership requests, and are attempting to print all of these certificates at once. They will be individually mailed in the coming weeks, so watch your mailboxes! Haven’t registered yet? [Click here](#) and we’ll mail your certificate, too!

CHECK OUT OUR REDESIGNED LOGO & WEBSITE; FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

St. Mark Catholic School’s winged lion logo was recently redesigned. Check out the new logo at the top of this newsletter, and see our new “Branding Guide” online by [clicking here](#)!

Our [website](#) was also recently enhanced and redesigned. New photos and information are being added all the time. Take some time to browse the links. You may even recognize some faces! There is also a dedicated “Alumni” link where you can find Lifetime Lions registration information, copies of alumni newsletters, and we’ll be adding even more information over the coming months.

While you're at it, check out the Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest widgets at the top of our homepage, and be sure to follow us! We'll be adding more alumni information to those pages as well.

ANNOUNCING THE ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL "GAP FUND" CAMPAIGN

At St. Mark, every effort is made to keep tuition at a reasonable rate, allowing more of our parish families to provide a Catholic education for their children. Each year, there is a "gap" between the tuition amount charged to each family, and the actual costs incurred by the school to educate each child. In 2014-15, that difference is \$1,075 per student. It is through fundraising efforts and the generosity of donors that this additional cost is met.

The purpose of the St. Mark Catholic School Gap Fund campaign is to provide a direct way for donors to help bridge this gap.

Donations in any amount are appreciated, all donations are 100% tax deductible, and matching funds are welcome. To donate to the St. Mark Catholic School Gap Fund campaign, please [click here](#).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



October 10-12, 2014: St. Mark Community Carnival

Come out and enjoy this three-day community event on the St. Mark campus this weekend, October 10-12! Carnival rides, music, great food, and activities are all part of the fun! Visit our [website](#) for more information. Do you want to volunteer or do you need service hours? Check out the [online sign-up for volunteers](#).

October 26, 2014: St. Mark Catholic School Homecoming

Cheer on the St. Mark Lions Varsity football team as they face-off against St. Paul at 2:00 PM at John Paul II High School and enjoy all of our St. Mark Homecoming traditions!



November 1, 2014: Announcing the first annual St. Mark Catholic School "All Souls Remembrance" 5K Run!

Join us on the St. Mark campus on Saturday, November 1 for our first annual "All Souls Remembrance 5K Run" benefiting our Athletic Department! There will be a 1K Fun Run starting at 8:00 AM, followed by a 5K at 8:30 AM. Strollers and wheelchairs are welcome in both categories. Registration includes a commemorative t-shirt and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers. Personalize your race t-shirt as you run in memory of a loved one for All Souls Day, a day designated for lifting up prayers for the departed in our Catholic tradition.

Registration Fees:

1K Fun Run: \$10.00

5K Run: \$25.00 for early bird registration, or \$30.00 after October 17

Details and registration information can be found on our [website](#). There are also many adult and student volunteer positions available. Contact Marlene Ehrling at marlene.ehrling@stmcs.net for more information. For student volunteers (eligible for service hours), please contact Eric Librea at ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu.

All Souls Remembrance 5K Run Volunteer Coordinator Position Available:

Would you like to volunteer the day of the event? We are in need of Race Day Volunteer Coordinator. Hours are 8:00AM – 12:00 NOON on November 1. We'd love to put an alumni in this spot! Contact Athletic Director Marlene Ehrling at marlene.ehrling@stmcs.net if you are interested.



Annual St. Mark Catholic School Mardi Gras Dinner and Auction:

Dear Alumni: We are delighted to inform you that St. Mark Catholic School will be conducting our 28th Annual Mardi Gras Dinner and Auction on Saturday, January 31, 2015. The "Mardi Gras" themed evening will be held in the Great Hall of the St. Mark the Evangelist Parish Center and will include a live and silent auction, casino tables, music and dancing. We would like to take this opportunity to invite you and your family to this event. We hope to make this a memorable evening for all of you, our alumni.

Our annual auction is the primary fundraising event that helps make our school's mission and goals possible. All proceeds from the upcoming auction will be used to bring the latest technology into the classroom, and more importantly into the hands of each of our students.

We are counting on your participation and support to make this auction a grand success. If you would like to help out in organizing this event as a volunteer, or if you would like to donate auction items, please reach out to us.

This is a great way to come out and celebrate Mardi Gras, and a great way to give back to your alma mater. We hope to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Steve Nasche (steve.nasche@yahoo.com)

Raju Kattady (rajukattady@hotmail.com)

2015 Mardi Gras Auction Committee Co-Chairs

GO ST. MARK LIONS! The fall sports season is in full swing! Check out the DPL Football and Volleyball team schedules -- [click here!](#) Bring the family and come out to cheer on your alma mater!

STAY CONNECTED

We want to brag about you, so let us know what you're up to! As we receive alumni updates, we incorporate a section in our "Weekly School Bulletin" called "Alumni News" that is sent to our entire school community, and we include it in our alumni newsletters, and on our social media pages, too. Tell us about your recent activities and accomplishments. High School into adulthood -- we'd love to include them all! Our goal is make this Alumni Newsletter a place where you can learn about fellow alumni and ultimately, keep in touch with each other. Simply email debbie.reed@stmcs.net with details.

Need to update your email address or other contact information? Contact debbie.reed@stmcs.net.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that St. Mark has four pet turtles that live in the school courtyard? Some of our wonderful teachers, and our Facilities Department, make sure they are fed each day. This school year, they have been officially named "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John." Rumor has it that one of them lived in Monsignor Claude Smyth's garden (he was St. Mark's pastor from 1968-1997 and oversaw the opening of St. Mark Catholic School).



ALUMNI NEWS

Longtime St. Mark Principal Suzanne Bacot Retires: We would be remiss if we didn't begin our "Alumni News" section with one of our most visible "alumni!"

For 31 years, Suzanne Bacot served as the Principal of St. Mark Catholic School. In 2013, she announced that she would retire at the end of the school year. Her last days as Principal were met with honors and celebrations of her esteemed career and her dedication to our students and families. One very special honor was the creation of the "Suzanne Bacot Award For Outstanding Service." This award was created to honor Mrs. Bacot's decades of service to St. Mark, and it will be presented annually to a parent or parents who have gone "above and beyond" in volunteering their time and talents for the good of the school. The first award was presented at the 2014 graduation ceremony (much to Mrs. Bacot's surprise!), and honored longtime St. Mark parents Rick and Julie Shannon. Mrs. Bacot's name, and her spirit of dedication to St. Mark lives on!



Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament Coordinators: This past spring, Class of 2002 alumni Bryan Ashley, Carl Mentosana, Katie Lewis, Allie Weibring, Olivia Pajda, and Nick Zitaglio joined forces to host St. Mark Catholic School's annual Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament. Current and former St. Mark parents, alumni, and friends of St. Mark enjoyed an afternoon of golf, dining, prizes, and

fellowship, while raising money for the St. Mark Athletics Department. It was a very successful event, made even more special by our alumni involvement. Stay tuned for information on the 2015 tournament!



National Merit Scholars: About 1.5 million high school Juniors nationwide entered the 2015 National Merit Program by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT (PSAT).

Ursuline Academy Senior Madison Schoeberl (St. Mark Class of 2011) has been named a National Merit Semifinalist. The Semifinalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, and are the highest scoring entrants in each state.

Jessica Blume, Elizabeth Nipper, Madeleine Wehrmann (St. Mark Class of 2011 and current Ursuline Academy Seniors), as well as Amanda Ehnis (St. Mark Class of 2011 and current Bishop Lynch Senior) have been named National Merit Commended Scholars. They placed among the top five percent of competing students.

Mary Holguin (St. Mark Class of 2011 and current John Paul II Senior) was named a National Hispanic Scholar. The College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) identifies academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students. Each year, the NHRP honors about 5,000 of the highest-scoring students from over 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT.

St. Mark Alum Drafted by WHL Team: Matthew O'Brien (St. Mark Class of 2012) who played hockey while attending St. Mark, was drafted by the WHL hockey team, Lethbridge Hurricanes. He was one of only two players from Dallas to be drafted in 2013 and attended the training camp this past August 2014. Check out his exit interview with the Hurricanes: [O'Brien's Thoughts on Camp](#).

Citadel Graduate Moves on to Law School: Carlos Carrington III (St. Mark Class of 2003) received his Bachelor of Arts in History concentrating on Middle Eastern studies from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. Carlos achieved Dean's List while a cadet. He will attend Law school in South Carolina.



Is There a Doctor in the House? Congratulations to Stephen Sarmiento (St. Mark Class of 2000) who graduated in May with his Doctor of Medicine degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

St. Mark Grad Wins Photography Award: Emily Ward (St. Mark Class of 2014) won Third Place at the State Fair of Texas in the Creative Arts Photography Competition, Junior Black and White Print Division. Emily's photograph and ribbon will be on display in the Creative Arts building for the duration of the 2014 State Fair of Texas.



FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORIES:

When registering for "Lifetime Lions," you are asked to share your favorite St. Mark memories. In honor of the 2014 Lady Lions Volleyball season, the following memory seems appropriate:

From Caroline Garvey, Class of 2014: "One of my favorite memories is the 2013 Dallas Parochial League 8th Grade Varsity D1 Volleyball Championships. Final Score: 25-14; 25-18, St. Mark!"

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CLASS OF 1995

Does this look familiar? It is hanging in our main gym and was a gift from the Class of 1995's Student Council.



"Once A Lion, Always A Lion!"