



St. Mark Catholic School

Weekly School Bulletin

August 29, 2014

In This Issue:

Virtue of the Month

Next Week's All-School Mass

Reminders For Next Week

At St. Mark, We Serve: All-School Service Project For September

Late Pick-ups

After School Program Full; Waitlist Available

Announcing the St. Mark GAP Fund

Reminder: Signature Pages Due September 8

2014-15 School Calendar Available Online

Home & School Association (HSA) News

St. Mark Community Carnival Volunteer Sign-ups

Athletic News

After School Program Workers Needed

Catholic High School Info. Night Announced

Helping Hands

Keep Sending in Those Bottle Caps

Spotlight on Faculty

Did You Know...?

Follow Us on Social Media

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

Virtue of the Month – Joy

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 “Joy” this month.

Next Week's All School Mass

The All-School Mass on Friday, September 5 will be presented by the 4th grade. They will perform the Call To Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. This special Mass will be presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Deshotel. See more details below.

Reminders For Next Week

Monday, September 1: Labor Day, NO SCHOOL

Enjoy the 3-day weekend! School resumes on Tuesday, September 2.

Wednesday, September 3: 8:00 AM, Preschool Police Officer Visit, ECE Building

Wednesday, September 3: 8:15 AM, HSA Committee/Event Chair Meeting, Cafetorium

Join us for the first Committee/Event Chair meeting of the school year.

Friday, September 5: 8:30 AM, Special School Liturgy & Reception to Follow

Our All-School Mass will be held at 8:30 AM in the church. Auxiliary Bishop Deshotel will be presiding. There will be a reception in the Narthex immediately following Mass. All are invited to attend.

At St. Mark, We Serve: All-School Service Project For September

The All-School service project for September benefits the St. Michael Military Support Group. Students will make a card for a soldier and will bring in one item to pack in a goody box for a deployed soldier. More information and the list of items by grade-level are attached. As always, please allow your children to do these activities by themselves, as they are learning to live their faith.

Late Pick-ups

As a reminder, students who are not picked up on time in the afternoon carpool lines will be taken to the After School Program (which is now located in the former Kindergarten classrooms). If you need to pick up your child late, please go to the school entrance near the playground (glass doors near the former Kindergarten classrooms) and ring the doorbell.

After School Program Is Full; Waitlist Available

Our popular After School Program is now full. Applications will continue to be accepted and a waitlist is available. Program participation does change throughout the year, and applicants will be notified as openings become available.

Announcing the St. Mark GAP Fund

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 and to improve our school facilities. 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, and to allow St. Mark to continue to enhance our educational programs and our facilities, neither of which are covered by tuition.

Donations in any amount are appreciated, anyone can donate, and all donations are 100% tax deductible. To donate to the St. Mark Catholic School Gap Fund campaign, please [click here](#), or visit the “Giving” link on our homepage. Stay tuned for ways you can help spread the word about Gap Fund donations.

Reminder: Signature Pages Due September 8

Each year, our Parent Student Handbook is distributed to all families at "Back To School Night." It can also be accessed on our website by [clicking here](#). Each family is required to review the policies in this handbook. On page 1 of the handbook, you will find a "Signature Page." Parents and students are asked to read the "Signature Page," sign in the spaces provided, and return it to the school. **Please submit your signed Signature Page to Mrs. O'Connor by September 8.**

2014-15 School Calendar Available Online

The St. Mark school calendar can be accessed from two locations on our [website](#). There is an electronic version on the homepage that continuously updates itself. Dates are frequently added to this version. If you click on the ".ICS" link at the bottom of the electronic version, dates can be imported into your personal Outlook calendar. There is also a printable version under "Quick Links" on the homepage that shows the major school events and holidays. We hope you find both versions useful.

Home & School Association (HSA) News

2013-2014 Memory Books: If you are interested in purchasing last year's Memory Book, please complete the [order form](#) and submit it to Mrs. O'Connor with a check made payable to "St. Mark HSA." St. Mark HSA will continue to sell last year's Memory Books while supplies last. If you have any questions, please email Annabelle Zakarian at belz73@yahoo.com.

Committee Meeting: If you are an HSA committee or event chair, please mark your calendar for our first committee meeting on **September 3rd at 8:15 AM** in the Cafetorium.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS:

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please start collecting and turning in your Box Tops. Simply place them in a resealable bag marked with your child's grade level and turn them in to Mrs. O'Connor.

KROGER

Please help support St. Mark Catholic School by enrolling in the Kroger Community Rewards program. By enrolling, a percentage of your purchases will go directly to our school! Go to the Kroger website, www.Kroger.com. If you do not have an account, it is easy to create one. Once you have created an account, click on "My Account" and scroll down to the bottom of the page. There is a section titled "Community Rewards." Simply type our school's number **82784**.

TARGET

If you have a Target Red Card (debit or credit), you can link it to our school to effortlessly earn money every time you shop. Information about Target's Take Charge of Education program can be found on their website. Please visit Target's [Take Charge of Education web page](#) and enter our school ID **19782**. You can also call 1-800-316-6142 to link your card.

TOM THUMB

Tom Thumb will give 1% of your purchases to St. Mark after you link your shopper card to our school through their Good Neighbor Program. To enroll, print this [form](#) with our school's charity **#2748**, and fill in your Tom Thumb card number. Take it to the Customer Service desk at any Tom Thumb store and start earning money for St. Mark. In addition, for the month of September, Tom Thumb is offering Community Bucks. For every \$50 you spend, you will receive

a Community Buck (printed with your receipt). Please save Community Bucks and give them to Mrs. O'Connor in an envelope labeled "Tom Thumb Bucks-HSA."

St. Mark Community Carnival Volunteer Sign-ups

Volunteer sign-up for the St. Mark Community Carnival is now open! There are many ways to contribute your time and talents. [Click here](#) to find an area that suits your interest! Service hours are available for Middle School and High School students.

Athletic News

Lions, Get Ready to Roar For Your Teams! The fall sports season is about to begin – Volleyball season officially starts on September 6 and Football season kicks off on September 7! Complete game schedules are coming soon.

St. Mark athletic events are a great activity for the whole family. Home games are an especially fun way to show your LION PRIDE, so wear your green and gold and come out to support your St. Mark Lions! Be sure to visit our fully-stocked Concession Stand and our Lion's Den Spirit Store during our volleyball home games. Not sure which side to sit on at a football game? Look for our St. Mark cheerleaders who will be pumping up the crowd, and performing a dance/cheer routine at every halftime!

Lion's Den Spirit Wear Store: Can't visit our Lion's Den Spirit Store in person? Order online. [Click here](#) for lots of ways to show your LION PRIDE!

Announcing our first annual "St. Mark Catholic School All Souls Remembrance 5K Run"

Mark your calendar and plan to 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 run starting at 8:00 AM, followed by a 5K at 8:30 AM. Strollers 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

More details and registration information coming soon to our [website](#).

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. Contact Athletic Director Marlene Ehring at marlene.ehring@stmcs.net if you are interested.

After School Program Workers Needed

Need some extra money? After School Program workers are needed. You must be safety-trained. Hours are 3:00-6:00 PM on regular school days (or 12:00-6:00 PM on early dismissal

days). This position pays \$15.00/hour. If interested, please contact the school office or send an email to ASC@stmcs.net to request more information and to set up an interview.

Catholic High School Info. Night Announced

7th/8th grade parents: Mark your calendars. On Monday, October 6 at 6:45 PM, the Catholic High School Information Night will be held at the Terry Center at Jesuit College Preparatory School. For more information about this event, visit <https://smore.com/dv13>.

Helping Hands

Congratulations to the Vasquez family who just had their third baby and future St. Mark Lion! If you would like to help the family out by bringing them a meal, please follow the link below to sign-up.

(Link disabled.)

Throughout the year, if you hear of any St. Mark family in need of support from our community due to a new baby, illness/surgery, death in the family, etc., please contact Liz Quarles at lizquarles97@hotmail.com.

Keep Sending in Those Bottle Caps

Our Art Teacher, Ms. Tammy, needs approximately 2,000 plastic bottle caps! She is working with our Middle School students to create a large “Starry Night” mosaic out of recycled bottle caps that will hang in the school. They can be all colors and sizes from beverages such as Gatorade, soft drinks, and bottled water. Bring in at least 5 caps, and Ms. Tammy will give out a “Caught Being Good” coupon.

Spotlight on Faculty

Our very own Dr. Tara Blankenship from our Kindergarten team, has been asked to speak at a TAEYC (Texas Association for the Education of Young Children) conference in Austin on September 4th-5th. She will discuss her findings from her recent dissertation, as well as provide teachers with pedagogical changes when implementing iPads into their classrooms.

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.” The next time you walk by the courtyard, be sure to stop and see if you can spot them! Legend 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 our school).



Follow Us on Social Media

Want to get the latest St. Mark news in real time? Follow us on social media! We are on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Click on the widgets located at the top of the website [homepage](#), or connect with us as follows:

Facebook – St. Mark Catholic School - Plano, TX

Twitter - @stmarkcatholic

Pinterest – St. Mark Catholic School

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

3rd Grade Science Class: On Monday, the third grade classes visited our school courtyard for a lesson on “living” and “non-living” things. Students identified insects, plants, soil, rocks, etc. and were asked to categorize them in their Science notebooks. The favorite “living” thing? Definitely the turtles mentioned above!

4th Grade English Class: Fourth grade recently had fun learning the four types of sentences in English class (declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory). They played the “sentence ball game” where they had to throw the ball to each other and give a type of sentence depending on where their right thumb landed on the beach ball. See their photo at the top of the bulletin.

Girls Softball Win: Congratulations to current 4th grade girls Natalia B., Genevieve B., Jessie C., Skylar D., Constance G., Hope H., Ava P., Morgan S., Kayla T., and Isabella Z. who participated in the Plano Sports Association softball league last spring and took 1st place in the White Division during regular season! Players selected to participate in the PSA All-Star Game were Natalia B., Skylar D., Hope H., and Kayla T.

Volleyball Kudos: Current 8th grader Izzy C. and the Skyline Juniors 13s RoShamBo Royal team went to the Girls Junior National Championship volleyball tournament in Minneapolis, MN in June, and their team came in 13th in the nation! Well done!

Another Baseball Win: Last spring, current St. Mark 2nd grade boys Austin A., Thomas B., Jamison B., Sebastian C., Xavier C., Jackson D., Anthony F., Braden G., Christian G., Tyler J., Chase T., and Cody T. won the Plano Baseball Association 7-year-old Coach Pitch Recreational League Post Season Tournament Championship! Congratulations, boys!