



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

**March 2015**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Mark Alumni,

Spring is a busy time at St. Mark! We are looking forward to many of the traditional events that you experienced as a St. Mark student, and a few new ones as well!

As you probably know by now, one of our most important projects for 2014-15 is to put iPads into the hands of all St. Mark students by the end of the school year. It is in this spirit that alumni family Mary and Richard Templeton recently announced ***The Templeton Family Technology Challenge***. This is a very exciting development for our school community that will multiply each donation to our school technology fund! See more details below.

In April, we'll hold our annual Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament. Several of our alumni organize this event. All St. Mark alumni and their family members are invited to take part as participants or as volunteers. It's always a great day of golf, dinner and prizes!



**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.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

In June, we launch two new summer camp programs for children of all ages, including our very first "Lion Safari" camps led by St. Mark teachers. Alumni are eligible to volunteer at the "Lion Safari" camps to earn service hours.

Read on for more information about all of these opportunities, as well as some updates on your former classmates. There is much to be excited about at St. Mark Catholic School, and we hope you will continue to be a part of it!

Sincerely,

Patricia Opon  
Principal

### THE TEMPLETON FAMILY TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE



2014-15 is the "year of technology" at St. Mark Catholic School. It's an exciting time as we continue to pursue our goal of putting iPads into the hands of all St. Mark students by the end of this school year!

St. Mark alumni family, **Mary and Richard Templeton**, have joined in our excitement. They challenge all of us to make a donation to the St. Mark Catholic School Technology Fund before April 6, 2015, and they will match it 100%. The Templetons have committed matching funds of \$100,000 for this challenge. With the proceeds from the recent Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction, your help, and the Templeton Challenge, we are committed to achieving our total technology fund goal. For those with a company match program, those funds will also

Follow us and stay connected!



### HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL!

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark is now accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year. [Click here](#) for more details.

**Upcoming Open House:**  
Wednesday, April 29, 2015  
4:30-6:30 PM  
Early Childhood Education Bldg.  
[Click here](#) to pre-register.

### CALLING ALL ALUMNI - JOIN 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.

### LION'S DEN SPIRIT STORE HOURS

be matched 100%. It's a wonderful way to leverage a \$1,000 donation into a \$3,000 donation! [Click here](#) to donate!

Since this challenge was announced, we've reached \$37, 715 in donations, and we recently took delivery of our teacher iPads, thanks in part to our alumni donors. Our students are having fun watching the "mercury" rise on the tally board located in the school lobby. Will you help us to keep it moving?



#### ALUMNI UPDATES

**Class of 2014 Composite Unveiled:** The Class of 2014 officially took their place among the St. Mark Catholic School alumni during January's "Catholic Schools Week" as their class

Get the gear! Brand new St. Mark logo merchandise and spirit wear are available in our Lion's Den Spirit Store each Friday from 7:30-8:15 AM in the Cafetorium. Simply check in at the front desk and stop 'til you drop! Can't visit in person? Order your St. Mark gear [online](#) anytime!

#### AROUND CAMPUS

**St. Mark Teacher of the Year:** Each year, the schools within the Diocese of Dallas nominate their own "Teacher of the Year." Nominees must have been a teacher in a Catholic elementary school for at least ten years, have a clear, integrated philosophy of Catholic education, and held in high regard by peers, students and parents. Congratulations to second grade teacher, **Carolyn Eisele**, who was voted St. Mark's 2015 "Teacher of the Year." It is safe to say that this dedicated educator fits all of these criteria, and more!

**St. Mark Parent Receives Bishop's Award For Service:** Congratulations to St. Mark parent **Claudine Humphries** who was recently among 144 recipients of the Bishop's Award for Service to the

composite was unveiled and hung in the main school hallway. Thanks to the alumni and their families who attended this special ceremony. Remember... once a lion, always a lion! As Principal Patricia Opon said, St. Mark will always be your home and we want you to come back and visit often!



**Two Alumni Named to All Region Choir:** Congratulations to **Jessica Blume** (Class of 2011) and **Ivanka Perez** (Class of 2014), who were two of five Ursuline Academy of Dallas students named to the Texas Private School Music Educators Association All Region Choir out of the more than 800 singers who auditioned.

**Alumna Receives "1" at TPSMEA:** Congratulations to **Amanda LaPorte**, Class of 2014 and current freshman at John Paul II High School, who participated in the TPSMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival-Dallas Area on February 21. Amanda sang "Danny Boy" and was awarded a "1," the best score possible for this competition. Amanda continues to sing and cant with our St. Mark Children's Choir.

**SECOND St. Mark Student Earns John Paul II High School Bishop Grahmann Award This Year:** **Patrick Morgan**, Class of 2011, became

Church. Bishop Farrell bestowed the awards earlier this month at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe located in downtown Dallas. During his homily, Bishop Farrell said that to serve is to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Claudine has served St. Mark Catholic Church and School in numerous ways over the years including chairing the annual parish carnival committee, serving on the School Advisory Council, and coordinating the 8th grade Living Stations of the Cross program.

**St. Mark Adds Drama, Orchestra and Gardening:** We are pleased to announce that drama, orchestra and gardening programs will be added to our extra-curricular line-up beginning in the fall of 2015. Students will be able to take advantage of these opportunities right on the St. Mark campus!

**St. Mark Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction a Huge Success:** Thank you to everyone who attended the 28th Annual St. Mark Catholic School Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction and made it a success! We had a packed house as attendees enjoyed a fabulous dinner,

the second St. Mark alumni to earn the Bishop Grahmann Award at John Paul II High School this school year. This award is bestowed on students who exemplify the qualities of the John Paul II mission statement through their academic performance, faith journey, citizenship and leadership. **Fernanda Barrientos** (Class of 2011) received the award earlier this school year.



**Alumnus Named Channel 8 Scholar Athlete:** Congratulations to **Luke Canan** (St. Mark Class of 2011 and current senior at Bishop Lynch High School) who was recently named "Scholar Athlete of the Week" by Channel 8's Dale Hansen.

dancing, and some competitive bidding on live and silent auction items. We had a great time celebrating with current school families, alumni families and friends, all while raising funds for our school technology initiative. Special thanks to our auction co-chairs Raju Kattady and Beth Lipscomb, to the entire auction committee, and to all of our sponsors for making it an evening to remember -- we couldn't have done it without you. Our students will soon reap the benefits!



School parents Mark and Kristie Hoops came as "New Orleans street performers" and collected "donations" for the school technology fund.



**Alum's Eagle Scout Project Benefits St. Mark Robotics:** St. Mark Class of 2012 alum **Kevin Gonzalez** (current junior at Greenhill School) completed his Eagle Scout project over the Christmas break, and St. Mark Catholic School was the beneficiary! Kevin enlisted the help of three current St. Mark 8th graders Kristian Gonzalez, Nick Ligad and Worth Gilbert, as well as several scout parents, and fellow St. Mark alumni including **Alex Reilly** (current junior at Jesuit), **David Fox III** (current junior at John Paul II), **Alonso Medina** (current freshman at Cistercian), and **Jason Bondi, Kyle Schichl and Kolbe Bauer** (current freshmen at John Paul II). They added locking cabinet doors and hardware to existing shelving in our Computer Applications lab, creating permanent storage for our robotics equipment. Thanks to Kevin and his assistants for this much needed storage space. By the looks of the photo below, our Robotics sponsor, Mrs. Benavides, couldn't be more pleased!

## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



**Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament:** Alumni families -- get your foursomes together and mark your calendars for the 2015 Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament - Friday, April 24, 2015 at The Courses at Watters Creek. This annual event, hosted by fellow St. Mark alumni, is always a fun outing complete with a round of golf, dinner and prizes. Shotgun start at 1:00 PM. Click [here](#) for details, registration, and sponsorship opportunities!

### **2015 Track Meet Dates Announced:**

The JV and Varsity Track Meet dates have been scheduled. Come cheer on your alma mater! [Click here](#) for complete schedules.

JV Meets: March 21 @ Bishop Dunne, March 28 @ Bishop Lynch, April 11 @ Bishop Lynch (city meet)

Varsity Meets: April 18 @ Bishop Lynch, April 25 @ JP II, May 2 @ Jesuit, May 9 @ Bishop Lynch (city meet)



**Alums Visit During Christmas Break:** Over the holidays, we invited our alumni who were on Christmas break to pay us a visit, and many of them took us up on it. It's always nice to see former students on campus!



## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



**Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament:**  
Want to get involved as an alumni volunteer? Contact Bryan Ashley, St. Mark Class of 2002, at 214-334-3796. Bryan and the alumni committee are making plans now!



**St. Mark "Lion Safari" Summer Camps:**  
Want to earn service hours this summer? Several St. Mark teachers are offering morning summer camps for students during the weeks of June 8 and June 15, and need assistance from alumni volunteers. [Click here](#) to access the complete list of "Lion Safari" morning camps. All summer camp volunteers who are age 18 and older, must be Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for Safe Environment information. To volunteer, contact Patricia Opon at [patricia.opon@stmcs.net](mailto:patricia.opon@stmcs.net).

**STAY CONNECTED**



### **St. Mark Grad Is A National Merit Finalist:**

Congratulations to **Madison Schoeberl** (St. Mark Class of 2011 and current senior at Ursuline Academy) who has advanced to "finalist" in the National Merit Scholarship Program. First recognized as a National Merit Semi-Finalist in September, Madison will now continue in the competition for 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$33 million, as well as the Merit Scholar title.

**John Paul II Students Succeed at Academic Decathlon:** Congratulations to **Kaitlyn Redeman** (St. Mark Class of 2011) and **Eric Noe** (St. Mark Class of 2012) who are both members of the John Paul II Academic Decathlon team. Kaitlyn recently competed in the Scholastic Division in the State Competition held in San Antonio and placed 5th overall.

### **FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY**

When registering for "Lifetime Lions," you are asked to share your favorite St. Mark memories. **Amber Foster**, Class of 1998, fondly remembers math class with Mrs. Gerwer. Our

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@stmcs.net](mailto:debbie.reed@stmcs.net) with all of your updates.

**Join Our Mailing List**

**Forward To A Friend**

students are still enjoying Mrs. Gerwer's math classes, Amber!

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

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