



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

March 27, 2015

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REMINDERS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday)
10:30 AM, Church: St. Mark Children's Choir
Sings at Mass

Monday, March 30
Last day of Spring Enrichment Clubs

Tuesday, March 31
"Best Book I Read This Year" Entries Due

Thursday, April 2 (Holy Thursday)



**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](#)

Follow us and stay connected!

-10:30 AM, Church: Living Stations of the Cross presented by the 8th grade (all are invited to attend)

-12:00 PM, Early Dismissal (The After School Program will be available until 3:00 PM. Please pack a lunch for all ASP students.)

Friday, April 3 (Good Friday)

No school for students

Monday, April 6

-School is in session (snow day make-up)

Tuesday, April 7

-School is in session (snow day make-up)

-Free Dress Day for \$2.00 donation (benefits Middle School Yearbook)

Friday, April 10

-7:30 - 8:15 AM, Cafetorium: Lions Den Spirit Store Open

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass - All are invited to attend. This Mass will be presented by the 5th grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts.

FINAL DAYS: TEMPLETON CHALLENGE!



\$93,975



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND

Virtue of the Month - Kindness

Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Kindness" this month.



Vocations Chalice

5th grade was presented with the Vocations Chalice at the conclusion of today's All-School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

April All-School Service Project

For the April service project, St. Mark will compete against other schools in the Diocesan-wide Food Round-Up for Catholic Charities of Dallas. Each grade will donate a particular item (see the list below).

Students may bring items to their classrooms anytime between April 1-20 (please note the early deadline).

Remember, the monthly service project counts as a grade for all students.

Preschool - Canned Beans

TK &K - Canned Meats

1st Grade - Canned Fruit

2nd Grade - Canned Soup

3rd Grade - Canned Vegetables

We have a little over a week left in the challenge and \$6,025 to raise -- can you help take us to \$100,000?

Simply [click here](#) to make your donation by April 6!

If your company provides matching funds, please take advantage of that opportunity and triple your donation amount.

We Can Do It, Lions!



FIELD DAY T-SHIRT ORDERS

St. Mark Field Day will be held on Wednesday, May 27. In preparation, we need t-shirt sizing information for all students in preschool - 7th grade, as well as for all parent volunteers (shirts are provided to everyone at no charge). Please [click here](#) to order your shirt(s) by Thursday, April 16.

CLASSES WIN PASTA AND SNACK PARTIES/TRAMPOLINE TIME

- 4th Grade - Jelly (18 oz.)
- 5th Grade - Cereal & Oatmeal (16-17 oz.)
- 6th Grade - Cooking Oil
- 7th Grade - Dry Beans, Rice, & Pasta
- 8th Grade - Peanut Butter (18 oz.)

March Brag Board

Check out the "incredible" things that 1st grade has been up to during the month of March! The Brag Board can be found in the breezeway between the Cafetorium and the Administration Offices. Bring along your tablet or smartphone so you can scan the QR codes and see even more!



Lion's Den Spirit Store Hours

Check in at the school office on Fridays from 7:30-8:15 AM and shop 'til you drop at the Lion's Den Spirit Store located in the Cafetorium. Can't visit in person? [Place your order online anytime!](#)

Calling all alumni ... Join Lifetime Lions!

St. Mark alumni are invited to 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.

CLASS PICTURE ORDERS

LLS Pasta Party & Trampoline Time:

Congratulations to Mrs. Davenport's class. They won the class pasta party for raising the most money during our "Laps for Leukemia" fundraiser! Their party will take place during lunch on Tuesday, April 7 (no need to send a lunch for her students that day). Mrs. Eisele's and Mrs. Ehnis' classes came in 2nd and 3rd places, respectively, and win one hour of free jumping at Urban Air Trampoline Park!

HSA Snack Party: Congratulations to Mrs. Helm's class! They had the highest percentage of parents attend the recent HSA meeting. They will receive a class snack party on Thursday, April 2!

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA) NEWS



Spring Scrip Gift Cards on

Sale April 8-24! Purchase plastic gift cards or ScripNow eCards from participating retailers and a percentage is given back to St. Mark! Over 400 retailers participate including Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Chipotle, Friday's, Hyatt, Macy's, Dillard's, Toys R Us, Kohls, and many more. Stock up for stores and restaurants that you frequent. Use the gift cards/eCards as you would your own cash or credit cards. Tell family and friends - anyone can order and St. Mark receives a percentage from every sale!

As a bonus, the family that has the highest percentage of gift cards will receive a gift card from HSA!

Individual "spring" student pictures were sent home this week. To place an order for prints, please complete the paper order form enclosed with the proofs and submit it to the school office along with your payment. You can also order prints online (info. enclosed with proofs). Unwanted photos can be returned to school no later than April 8. Class pictures will be sent home soon.

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament:

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 in Allen. This annual event, hosted by 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,

There are two ways to shop and earn money for St. Mark:

1. Order plastic gift cards. These orders will be taken April 8-24 using a paper order form which can be accessed [here](#). Simply complete the form and return it to the school office with your payment.

2. Order ScripNow eCards online. This option is available now and lasts year round. Continue purchasing and reloading cards all year long while earning money for our school. To learn how to order ScripNow eCards, please [click here](#).

If you have questions, please contact Miki Heiss at stmarkscrip@outlook.com.

Upcoming HSA Board Elections:

Nominations for the elected positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are now being accepted. So far, we have the following volunteers on the ballot: Ashley Ternan for President, Erica Rivera for Vice-President, Morgan Ashwander for Treasurer, and Danielle Terhaar for Secretary. If you are interested in placing your name on the ballot, please contact elizabeth.ann.delaney@gmail.com by April 10. For information about each position, please [click here](#).

SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

Beverage Pouch Recycling: Five years ago, current 8th grader, Savannah H., proposed the idea of recycling beverage pouches in the school cafeteria. As a result, a collection bin was placed there, and St. Mark has collected 52,710 pouches to-date, keeping them out of landfills. The school has

registration, and sponsorship opportunities!

Come out and cheer on your Lion Baseball and Softball Teams!

Baseball Games:

3/29, 1:45 PM - Varsity vs. St. Monica @ Oran Good Field

3/29, 3:30 PM - 5th/6th grade vs. St. Joseph @ Oran Good Field

4/1, 5:30 PM - Varsity vs. St. Thomas @ Breckenridge

4/1, 5:30 PM - 5th/6th grade vs. MIS @ Oran Good Field

Softball Games:

3/28, 3:00 PM - JV vs. POP @ Oran Good Field

4/1, 7:15 PM - JV vs. MIS @ Oran Good Field

GO LIONS!

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!



Calling all Dads! If you'd like to volunteer for a half day or a full day at school during the month of May as a Watch D.O.G.S. Dad, you must sign-up by April 15! For more information and

also earned \$1,400 in the process. Savannah is graduating this year, and would love to pass this project on to another student or students. The student coordinator takes care of the collection bin located in the cafeteria, and receives help from a family member to ship the pouches off to TerraCycle (the recycling company). If your student is interested in picking up where Savannah has left off, please contact bhosea@palmbay.com for more details. This is a very worthwhile and visible project, and one that qualifies for service hours.



SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

JPII PAL Visits 5th Grade: Members of the John Paul II High School PAL program (including several alumni) visited with 5th grade students on Thursday. They discussed several topics including ways to avoid drug and alcohol in social situations.

(photo removed)

8th Grade Launches Balloons in Science: Our 8th grade students are learning about Newton's third law of motion. They were recently challenged to design their own space shuttle attached to a balloon for optimal

the sign up calendar, [click here](#). You will need to be Safe Environment cleared before you can serve. [Click here](#) for more information on Safe Environment Training.



Going On Now For St. Mark Summer Camps: It's not too late to register for St. Mark full-day and part-time summer camps! A variety of weeklong camp themes are available. [Click here](#) for more information and registration.

Kidventure Summer Camp Info. Meeting: Join us for a special Camp Night at St. Mark on Wednesday, April 15 from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Cafetorium. Come and learn all about Kidventure and the exciting camps they will offer at St. Mark this summer. The Kidventure staff will be on hand to talk about the program, share a fun slide show and give out some great camp prizes! [Click here](#) for more information or follow the event on [Facebook](#).

flight, and they had the opportunity to launch them in the school lobby.

(photo removed)

LION PRIDE!



Just some of the many reasons we're so proud to be St. Mark Lions ...

PSIA: St. Mark was well represented at this year's Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) academic competition held on Saturday, March 21 at St. Pius X Catholic School! Thank you to all of our competitors, coaches, and parent volunteers for your hard work. Congratulations to the following students who placed in their events:

Art Memory

3rd place: Angela M. (6-8)
4th place : Anupa M. (4-5)
6th place: Bernadette C. (4-5)

Creative Writing

2nd place: Audrey M. (1)
2nd place: Braden G. (2)
3rd place: Sofia S. (1)

Dictionary Skills

4th place: Abby A. (4-5)

Impromptu Speaking

3rd place: Shannon R. (7-8)

Maps, Charts, and Graphs

1st place: Joann N. (7)
5th place: Kyle M. (4)
6th place: Harrison K. (6)

Mathematics

1st place: Donte T. (2-3)



The 2015 Carnival Committee is Seeking Volunteers:

The 2015 St. Mark Carnival will be held October 30-November 1 and we are looking for committee members and ideas! Right now, we are in particular need of: **Raffle Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, Graphic Design/ Advertising Chair and Solicitations Chair.** Please contact Claudine Humphries at claudine.humphries@gmail.com if you are interested in helping at this year's event.

AT ST. MARK, WE SERVE.

Thanks to everyone who donated items to the St. Mark Baby Shower benefitting White Rose and Birth Choice pregnancy crisis centers. We collected lots of needed items. Special thanks to our middle school students who raised \$2,525 in "Change For Life" coin donations, which will be used to purchase car seats for the centers!

(Photo removed)

Our second graders are certainly learning their virtues. Adrienne F. and Tess L. asked for donations to the St. Vincent

2nd place: Theresa T. (4)
4th place: Minh-Khan P. (7)
5th place: Antonio M. (7)
5th place: Tiffany T. (5)

Modern Oratory

1st place: Joel K. (7-8)

Music Memory

3rd place: Eliana G. (3-4)
3rd place: Jaibin M. (7-8)
5th place: Lainey M. (5-6)
6th place: Hailey J. (5-6)
6th place: Ethan J. (7-8)

Number Sense

1st place: Sean W. (4)
5th place: Austin G. (4)

On-Site Drawing

5th place: Emma Q. (7)
6th place Emily S. (7)

Prose Interpretation

2nd place: Tia T. (7-8)
3rd place: Joel K. (7-8)

Ready Writing

4th place: Jacob R. (5)
5th place: Sarah H. (7)
6th place: Nataly M. (3)

Science

2nd place: Alex E. (6)
3rd place: Joann N. (7)
3rd place Minh-Tuan P. (8)
4th place: Sean J. (6)

Spelling

1st place: Biya C. (4)
3rd place: Audrey P. (6)
6th place: Carissa T. (7-8)

Storytelling

2nd place: Diya C. (1)
2nd place: Francesca F. (2)
4th place: Adrienne F. (2)
2nd place: Gia E. (3)
4th place: Sofia M. (3)

Vocabulary

1st place: Megan W. (7-8)
5th place: Jacob A. (7-8)

(Photo removed)

DePaul Food Pantry instead of gifts for their birthday party. Chloe S. did the same, but she asked for donations to an animal rescue/shelter. Great job everyone!

(Photo removed)

IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

Alumnus and U.S. Olympic Karate Team Captain Conducts Anti-Bullying Assembly: Tom Scott (Class of 2004) paid a visit to our 5th-8th graders on Monday to discuss anti-bullying tactics. Tom is a graduate of St. Mark, Jesuit, and TCU, and received his master's degree from UTD. He is also Team Captain of the U.S. Olympic Karate Team, and it is his background as an athlete that he utilized to relate to our students. He discussed ways to develop a good "offense" and "defense," and challenged students to use the remaining weeks of Lent to do good deeds and diffuse potentially negative situations. Afterwards, he signed autographs, and the students passed around his most recent gold medal from the Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada. Check out our 5th graders practicing Tom's "power poses" that can help with self-confidence.

Science Fair: Our 7th and 8th grade students recently participated in the annual St. Mark Science Fair. Projects were judged by nine John Paul II High School AP students including two alumni, a John Paul II science teacher, and our own Donna Ostermann. Congratulations to our winners:

7th grade:

1st place-Jacob A./Jalen L.-Electromagnets
2nd place-Kevin N./Josh Q.-How much sugar in soda?
3rd place -Jake B./Chase E.-Battle of the Bats; Travis A. and Antonio M.-Magnetism and Running Water; Jacob N./Jake C.-Floating and Salinity
Honorable Mention-Gabby G./Rebecca W.-Children and Sleeping; Kyanna I./Sammie I.-Aspirin and Plants; Megan T./Tia T.-How to Prevent Iron Rusting

8th grade:

1st place-Ethan J./Minh-Tuan P.-Glasses and Intelligence
2nd place-Shelby V./Jordan V.-False Information and Recall
3rd place-Ian S./Dominic M.-Catapult; Hannah F./Anna G.-Heat and Color
Honorable Mention-Isa F./Athena B.-Computer Typing and Spelling; Rafy A./Kaitlin C.-Social Mimicry; Ben S./Miles P.-Basketball Shooting Sleeve

(Photo removed)

(Photo removed)

(Photo removed)

St. Mark Grad Assists in Classroom: Hannah M. (Class of 2012), is back in our halls! Currently a junior at Plano Senior High School, she is participating in their "Education and Training" program, and we are thrilled that she has chosen to do her field work at St. Mark! Hannah will be assisting in Ms. Steinkirchner's 3rd grade classroom through the end of the school year.

(Photo removed)

Prayer Partners For Life: Alumni Elizabeth H. (Class of 2009) and Elaine T. (Class of 2003) were Prayer Partners during their years at St. Mark. Twelve years after this photo was taken, they both found themselves volunteering with the parish's Youth Ministry program and were thrilled to reconnect with each other!



Once a lion, always a lion!

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Forward To A Friend

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