



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

**April 17, 2015**

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## REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

### Saturday, April 18

-10:00 AM, Church: Sacrament of Confirmation, followed by reception; St. Mark Children's Choir Sings at Mass

-Deadline to register for the Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament (see details below)

### Monday, April 20



**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!

-Food items for the April All-School Service Project must be turned in by 10:00 AM (see details below)

-7th grade field trip - Dallas Zoo

### **Tuesday, April 21**

-Robotics Competition - St. Monica

-6:30-7:30 PM, Cafetorium: 2015-16 School Sports Info. Night for parents of rising 5th graders

-7:30 PM, Cafetorium: 2015-16 JV & Varsity Cheerleading Info. Night for interested rising 5th-8th graders (see details below)

### **Thursday, April 23**

-Barnes & Noble Book Fair Begins (see details below)

-6:30-8:00 PM, Cafetorium: 2015-16 Fall Volleyball Information Night for parents of rising 5th-8th graders (see details below)

### **Friday, April 24**

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

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

-1:00 PM, The Courses at Watters Creek, Allen: Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament

-Free dress day and ice cream at lunch for all students to celebrate our technology fund success (see more details below)

-Scrip gift card sales end

### **Saturday, April 25**

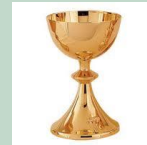
-St. Mark Feast Day



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND**

### **Virtue of the Month - Love**

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 "Love" this month.



### **Vocations Chalice**

Fifth 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 must turn in donations by 10:00 AM on Monday, April 20.** Remember, the monthly service project counts as a grade for all students.

Preschool - Canned Beans

TK &K - Canned Meats

## TEMPLETON CHALLENGE RESULTS

**\$303,850!**

Thank you once again to the entire St. Mark community for your overwhelming generosity towards our school technology fund. Our students are ready to take learning to the next level!

Mrs. Opon sent a special message out to all school families earlier this week which provided information on the funds raised, as well as our technology plans. It also contained a video message from our students. If you haven't had a chance to view it, [click here!](#)

Our students will take part in the celebration on Friday, April 24 with a free dress day and ice cream at lunch!



- 1st Grade - Canned Fruit
- 2nd Grade - Canned Soup
- 3rd Grade - Canned Vegetables
- 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.)

### April Brag Board

Check out what 4th grade has been up to this month! As always, bring along your tablet or smartphone and scan the QR codes for more. The Brag Board is located in the breezeway between the Cafetorium and the



Administration Offices.

### 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.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT ON SUMMER CAMP  
REGISTRATION, AND WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM  
EVERYONE!**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FULL-TIME SUMMER  
CAMPS WITH KIDVENTURE, OR MORNING  
SUMMER CAMPS WITH ST. MARK TEACHERS,  
PLEASE READ BELOW AND CLICK TO REGISTER  
NOW!**

**OPTION #1:  
CAMP ST. MARK - FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS WITH  
KIDVENTURE**

"Camp St. Mark" will take place on the St. Mark campus and will serve three-year-olds through rising 7th graders. It will begin June 8 and run through August 7. Each camp week will take place Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, with the option of adding a 7:00 AM drop-off, and a 6:00 PM pick-up. [Click here](#) for more information and registration.

**OPTION #2:  
LION SAFARI CAMP - MORNING SUMMER CAMPS  
WITH ST. MARK TEACHERS**

Weeklong morning camp sessions will be offered for those students who would enjoy a part-time summer camp experience. These camps are facilitated by St. Mark teachers and include a wide range of interesting, educational, and engaging topics. Enrollment is limited. The cost is \$80 per session. For more information and registration, [click here](#). Two sessions are available:

Session I, June 8-12, 8:30-11:30 AM  
Session II, June 15-19, 8:30-11:30 AM

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE -  
APRIL 29**

Do you know anyone interested in Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten for their young child? St. Mark will hold an "Early Childhood Education" Open House on Wednesday, April 29 from 4:30-6:30 PM (come and go). Visitors can learn more

Click [here](#) for more information.

**WELCOME NEW  
FAMILIES**

A warm St. Mark welcome to the new families who have recently joined us:

TK - Collin B. - Mrs.  
Young's Class

1st grade - Daniel C. - Mrs.  
Hazzard's class

3rd grade - Kassadi B.-  
Mrs. Dansby's class

6th grade - Oscar C.- Mrs.  
Smith's homebase

7th grade - Josemaria C.-  
Mrs. Mitchell's homebase

**CARPOOL LINE  
REMINDER**

Please remember that if you are dropping off or picking up children from the ECE Building, you must rejoin the larger carpool line. Please do not cut through the parking lot, as this is a safety hazard to our students.

**LOST AND FOUND  
SWEATERS**

Sweaters are beginning to pile up again in our Lost and Found. Please claim them soon. Unclaimed

about our programs, tour our facilities, meet our staff, and enjoy a picnic dinner. Pre-registration for the Open House is available [here](#).

### UPCOMING FREE DRESS DAYS

Friday, April 24: Technology Celebration - free dress day and ice cream at lunch

Tuesday, April 28: Pay \$2.00 and receive free dress. Proceeds benefit the St. Mark NET Team.

**Free Dress Day Guidelines:** Students should wear modest shirts and neat jeans/pants free of holes. No shorts or sandals. Clothing should be free of inappropriate slogans and graphics.

### FIELD DAY VOLUNTEER MEETING

There will be a Field Day Volunteer Meeting on Thursday, May 7 at 7:50 AM in the Cafetorium. This meeting is for everyone who has already signed-up to be a volunteer and is Safe Environment cleared.

### ST. MARK'S 37th WORK OF HEART AWARD

Congratulations to Athletic Director, Marlene Ehring, who recently received the Work of Heart Award! Presented by the Catholic Foundation, Work of Heart awards honor those who "go the extra mile" in serving our educational community. This is the 37th time a St. Mark staffer has earned this award since its inception in 2005. For more information about the Work of Heart award, or to nominate a staff or faculty member, please

visit the [Work of Heart web page](#).



### CATHOLIC FOUNDATION GRANT

sweaters will be donated to the Used Uniform Sale.

### NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



### Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament:

**We've extended the registration deadline to April 18** so get your foursomes together 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, registration, and sponsorship opportunities!

**Come out and cheer on your St. Mark Lions! Visit the [DPL website](#) for more information.**

St. Mark Catholic School sends a special thank you to The Catholic Foundation for the generous \$25,000 technology grant awarded to our school this year. This donation contributed greatly to our overall technology fundraising efforts and will help to ensure that our students have access to the technology they need to take their learning to the next level.

### HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY OPEN HOUSE



#### HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

Holy Trinity Seminary will hold its first ever Open House on Sunday, April 26 from 2:00-5:00 PM, and invites everyone, especially students and their families. Meet your future priests, take a tour and enjoy food, entertainment and kids' activities. [Click here](#) for more details. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girl Scouts of St. Mark are coming and will be recognized for a special project they completed for the seminary, making much needed medical kits for them. For further information, please call or text Mrs. Denvir at 214-607-2391 or call the seminary at 972-438-2212 or visit [www.holytrinityseminary.org](http://www.holytrinityseminary.org) or [www.facebook.com/htseminary](https://www.facebook.com/htseminary). Thank you for supporting our future priests and participating in World Day of Prayer for Vocations with Holy Trinity Seminary.

(photo removed)

### 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

Upcoming Track Meets:  
4/18 - Varsity @ Bishop Lynch

Upcoming Baseball Games:

4/19, 3:30 PM, Varsity vs. POP @ POP

Upcoming Softball Games:

4/19, 3:30 PM, JV vs. All Saints @ Oran Good Field

#### Important Dates for 2015-16

##### Athletes/Parents:

-Tuesday, April 21:

6:30-7:30 PM, Cafetorium: School Sports Information Night (for rising 5th grade students).

7:30 PM, Cafetorium: Cheer Information Night (for anyone interested in 2015-16

JV or Varsity cheerleading

-Thursday, April 23, 6:30-8:00 PM, Cafetorium: Fall Volleyball Parent Information Meeting (for rising 5th-8th grade students)

-Monday, April 27 - Friday, May 1: Volleyball Evaluation Week (each grade will participate in a 2.25 hour session which will be held



order and St. Mark receives a percentage from every sale!

**As a bonus, the family that places the largest purchase of gift cards will receive a gift card from HSA!**

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](mailto:stmarkscrip@outlook.com).

**Barnes and Noble Book Fair: April 23-26 in stores; April 23-May 1 online at:**  
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/bookfairs/>

The event schedule follows:

April 23-26 - Book Fair for in-store sales

April 23- May 1 - Book Fair for online sales (dates revised)

April 23, 4:00 PM - St. Mark school band performs

April 23, 5:00 PM - Mrs. Opon and Ms. Steinkirchner read after the school band performs

\*Book fair number is #11597556.

after school in the Bacot Gym; official schedule TBD)

**GO LIONS!**

**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS**

Our local Catholic high schools offer summer sports 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 Cistercian Jesuit College Prep John Paul II High School Ursuline Academy of Dallas](#)

**DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!**

**Parish Fall Festival Planning Meeting:** It is time to begin planning the 2015 Parish Fall Festival & Raffle. Help is needed in all areas including: Graphics, Solicitations, Raffle, Food, Games, Entertainment, Volunteers, Safe Environment, and Set-Up. All are welcome to participate!

**Event Date:** October 31, 2015

\*The class with the most participation (there will be a sign-up sheet at B&N) will receive a special prize from HSA!

**PK-5 Memory Books:** The deadline to order Pre-K-5th grade Memory Books has passed. If you still wish to order one, please contact [Mrs. O'Connor](#). She has started a waiting list for those who did not pre-order. However, please note that there will be a very limited number of extra books available this year. Once the books come in at the end of May, we will contact those on the waiting list and let them know if there is a book available to purchase. Not sure if you placed your order?

Contact [bethsalava@hotmail.com](mailto:bethsalava@hotmail.com) or [dterhaar1@hotmail.com](mailto:dterhaar1@hotmail.com).

**New HSA Officers for 2015-2016:** Congratulations to our new HSA officers: Ashley Ternan, President; Erica Rivera, Vice President; Danielle Terhaar, Secretary; Morgan Ashwander, Treasurer.

### SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Our own Dr. Tara Blankenship has qualified for the Masters Regionals for the Crossfit Games! She just finished five weeks of workouts for the Open in order to qualify. The top 200 competitors in the world qualify, and she finished 41st! She also placed second in the South Central Region. At the regionals, she has a chance to qualify for the Crossfit Games, which is the "Olympics" of Crossfit. Please add her to your prayers over the April 23-27 weekend!

### IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

#### Congratulations to...

... Kayla E. (St. Mark Class of 2006, graduate of Ursuline Academy and Santa Clara University) who was just accepted to the Forensic Science graduate program at Sam Houston University. The program is ranked eighth in the nation and is extremely competitive and

### Planning

**Meeting:** Monday, April 27 at 7:00 PM, Smyth Pastoral Building, West Wing, Rm. 209.

Please contact [Claudine Humphries](#) for more information.

### "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" SPRING MUSICAL

Join the middle school "Spring Musical" elective on Thursday, April 30 at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium for their production of "Alice in Wonderland." Tickets are \$5.00 at the door and all proceeds benefit our Fine Arts Department. You won't want to miss our wonderful performers, the staging and design by Father Cliff, and musical direction by our own Patty Corsi! [Click here](#) to see a recent story about the production that appeared in the *Dallas Morning News*' "NeighborsGo Plano."



prestigious. Only seven students are accepted per year on an international basis.

... And to Conar E. (St. Mark Class of 2011 and senior at Jesuit College Prep), who attended his college signing day/press conference on Wednesday as a member of Jesuit Crew. He has accepted an offer to row for the University of Delaware. He will be rowing against Harvard, Cornell, Georgetown, University of Pennsylvania and Princeton (he declined offers from a couple of those schools to row for the University of Delaware coach).

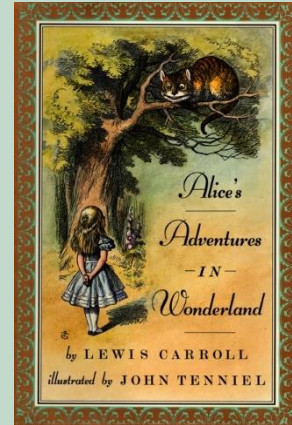
**Another Alum Signs Intent:** Congratulations to Zachary S., St. Mark Class of 2011 and current senior at Jesuit College Prep, who also attended his college signing day/press conference on Wednesday as a member of the Jesuit Baseball team. He will be playing for St. Edward's University.

Conar and Zack were supported at the signing ceremony by fellow Jesuit classmates who are also St. Mark Class of 2011 alums. See the photo below.

(photo removed)

**Alum Performs in Beauty and the Beast:** Class of 2012 alumna and current junior at The Highlands School, Maria R., played "Cogsworth" in a recent performance of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Irving Arts Centre presented by The Highlands School. Bravo!

**Alum Enters Congressional Art Competition:** St. Mark Class of 2013 alumna, Abby M., has entered an art piece in the Congressional Art Competition to represent Congressman Sam Johnson's Third District. [Click here](#) to see it, and to vote for her piece. Voting ends today!



## SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

**Teacher Luncheon:** A special thank-you to the 3rd and 4th grades who hosted our April teacher luncheon. Wonderful Mexican food, a beautiful cake and desserts, and a festive atmosphere = one happy and appreciative staff!



**Pre-K3 Donates Food:**  
Even our smallest students participate in our

all-school service projects  
and make a BIG  
difference!

(photo removed)

**First Grade Fairy Tales:**  
Students completed a unit  
on fairy tales. Using  
Thinking Maps, they  
compared and contrasted  
fairy tales, authored their  
own stories and created  
life size characters. This  
picture depicts class  
drawings of a giant and a  
princess.

(photo removed)

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