



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

**May 1, 2015**

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## REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

**Saturday, May 2**

-6:30 PM, St. Mark Parish Center: Theology of the Body Dinner & Dance (see details below)

**Monday, May 4**

-3:30-4:45 PM, Cafetorium: Respect Life Club Meeting/International Rosary

-6:15 PM, School Library: Orchestra Information Meeting (see details below)



**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!

**Wednesday, May 6 - Friday, May 8:** Scrip Gift Card  
Pick-up in school office

**Wednesday, May 6**

-6:30 PM, Cafetorium: HSA General Meeting (see details below)

**Thursday, May 7**

-7:50 AM, Cafetorium: Field Day Volunteer Meeting (see details below)

**Friday, May 8 - May Crowning**

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

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass & May Crowning. The Mass will be presented by the 2nd grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome. (See details below.)

**At the conclusion of Mass, our 2nd graders will sing their traditional "sunflower" song in anticipation of their First Communion. You won't want to miss the opportunity to see their performance!**

**Saturday, May 9**

10:00 AM, Church: Second grade receives the Sacrament of First Communion, followed by a reception; Children's Choir Sings at Mass

**MAY CROWNING - FRIDAY, MAY 8**

May Crowning will take place on Friday, May 8 at 8:30 AM in the church. Students may wear "Sunday best" clothes to school and are asked to bring one flower to present to our Blessed Mother Mary. The All-School Mass will immediately follow. All are welcome to attend.

**SIGN UP NOW FOR "LION SAFARI" CAMP!**



**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND**

**Virtue of the Month - Acceptance**

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 "Acceptance" this month.



**Vocations Chalice**

Second 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.

**May All-School Service Project**

For the May service project, St. Mark will collect donations for the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry and for Hope's Door. Students may donate any item from the list below.

St. Vincent DePaul:  
Any canned food, beans or pasta

Hope's Door:  
Small toiletry items or make-up samples



## THIS SUMMER, WOULD YOUR CHILD LIKE TO:

- COOK DISHES THEY READ ABOUT IN BOOKS?
- CREATE NATURE CRAFTS?
- PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL "CHOPPED?"
- CREATE INVENTIONS WITH MARTHA?

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT!  
SIGN-UP NOW FOR OUR "LION SAFARI" SUMMER CAMPS!**

**DEADLINE: May 15, 2015**

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

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](#).

### TEMPLETON FAMILY TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE UPDATE

Just when we thought our technology fundraising effort couldn't have been more successful, the Templeton family brings us more good news. Though

**Students must turn in donations to their classrooms by Thursday, May 21.**

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

### May Brag Board

Check out what 2nd 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. Click [here](#) for more information.

### NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

they originally committed to match up to \$100,000 of funds raised, they were so impressed by the fact that our community exceeded that amount, they have taken it a step further. The Templeton family is not only matching all \$117,850 raised by St. Mark, but they are rounding up to \$125,000! **Our grand total raised now sits at \$327,850.** We extend our profound gratitude to the Templeton family for their overwhelming generosity, and for inspiring our St. Mark community to come together for this great cause. Our faculty, staff and students can't wait to utilize the new technology that they have helped bring to St. Mark!

### **SUPPORT BOY SCOUTS AND SAVE -- TODAY!**

Boy Scout Troop 285 will be selling "Camp Cards" in all afternoon carpool lines today. Purchase a card for \$5.00, then save \$5.00 at Kroger, \$10.00 at Dick's Sporting Goods, plus additional savings at area retailers such as Wendy's, Sonic, Hawaiian Falls, Bass Pro Shops and LEGOLAND. Support our St. Mark scouts and save!

### **SAVE THE DATE - ST. MARK WEEK AT ACADEMIC OUTFITTERS**

Mark your calendars for a special "St. Mark Sweater Preorder Week" at Academic Outfitters -- May 11-16, during regular store hours. During this week, all school uniform sweaters and vests (only) will be 10% off. Ordering during this week allows plenty of time for monogramming. Don't wait until the end of summer to order yours! Simply complete the sweater order form below and take it to the store located across the street from the school.

Then, during the month of June, Academic Outfitters will hold their annual sale when all uniform items will be 10% off. A large inventory of uniform items will be available at that time.



### **DPL Baseball Night**

- **Tonight!** Come out and support the #1 State and #4 Nationally ranked Jesuit Ranger Baseball team as they take on the R.L. Turner Lions on Friday, May 1 at 7:30 PM. FREE admission for all students wearing DPL gear. [Click here](#) for more info.

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

Upcoming Track Meets:  
5/2 - Varsity @ Jesuit

Upcoming Baseball Games:  
5/3, 3:30 PM, Varsity vs. MIS @ Oran Good Field

Upcoming Softball Games:  
5/3, 3:00 PM, JV vs. St. Thomas @ Oran Good Field

### **SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN:**

Register now for the following spring sports ...

**Annual DPL Golf Tournament,** open to 5th-

For your reference, Academic Outfitters has also prepared easy-to-read "uniform guideline" charts with photos that should simplify uniform purchases -- please see below.

[2015-16 Uniform Guidelines Chart - Girls](#)  
[2015-16 Uniform Guidelines Chart - Boys](#)  
[Academic Outfitters Sweater Preorder Form](#)

### ORCHESTRA MEETING

There will be an informational meeting on Monday, May 4 at 6:15 PM in the School Library regarding next year's after-school Orchestra programs. We will offer Suzuki Orchestra to students in 1st-3rd grades, and Orchestra to students in 4th-8th grades. Meet the teacher and get all of your questions answered!

### 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. The meeting will conclude by 8:15 AM.

### THEOLOGY OF THE BODY DINNER AND DANCE

The entire St. Mark community is invited to attend the annual

**Theology of the Body Dinner and Dance**  
**Saturday, May 2 at 6:30 PM**  
**St. Mark Parish Center**

Tickets are \$35 each, or two for \$60. Beer and wine will be provided. Please [click here](#) for more information.

The keynote speaker is Monica Ashour, who is an expert on St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body teaching, as well as a national speaker and author.

8th graders. [Click here](#) for more details.

**DPL Soccer Tournament** -  
At this time, the boys and girls teams are full.

**REGISTRATION ALSO  
OPEN FOR FALL SPORTS:**

### **Fall Volleyball**

The deadline for Fall Volleyball registration is May 8. [Click here for more information.](#)

### **Volleyball Evaluation**

**Week:** The dates for volleyball evaluations have been changed. They will now take place May 11-12. Each grade will participate in a two hour session which will be held after school in the Bacot Gym. [Click here](#) for more information about evaluations. The schedule by grade level:

Monday, May 11, 4:00-6:00 PM - rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders

Monday, May 11, 6:00-8:00 PM - rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders

Tuesday, May 12, 4:00-6:00 PM - rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders

Tuesday, May 12, 6:00-8:00 PM - rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders

### **Fall Football**

The deadline for Fall Football registration is May 20. [Click here for more details.](#)

Theology of the Body teachings are incorporated into our school curriculum at an age-appropriate level from 5th-8th grades. Monica Ashour has supported our students and parents in a variety of ways. She recently served our 8th graders during their "Day of Reflection" in preparation for Confirmation. She has also lead two "Respect Life Club" meetings at St. Mark.

Theology of the Body is crucial to our children, and is authentically Catholic. Please help support this beautiful ministry. Contact [Chris Keith](#) or [Cathy Sanchez](#) with questions.

### Staff 20 YEAR PINS

Congratulations to Dr. Tara Blankenship (Kindergarten), Rene O'Connor (School Receptionist), and Cathy Pantuso (7th/8th Grade Science). They are celebrating 20 years as employees of St. Mark! Mrs. Opon presented them with their 20 year pins at this morning's All School Mass.



### HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA) NEWS

#### Spring Scrip Gift Card Sales

**Winner:** Congratulations! The family with the largest purchase of gift cards was Kasey H. (school parent Kristin M.'s mother). Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser!

#### Scrip Gift Card Pick-Up

Gift cards will be available for pick between May 6-8 in the school office.

Important St. Mark Football Program meeting for Varsity and JV: Wednesday, May 6, 6:30- 7:45 PM, Bacot Gym. [Click here](#) for more details.

#### Fall Cross Country

The deadline for Fall Cross Country registration is May 20. [Click here for more details.](#)

#### Fall Cheerleading

The deadline for Fall Cheerleading registration is May 20. [Click here for more details.](#)

Cheer teams will be based on football team sign-ups.

Each sport has a dedicated page on our [school website](#). Please visit them for more details, as well as registration information.

## GO LIONS!

### SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK



HOLY TRINITY SEMIN

**St. Mark Students/Families Attend HTS Open House:** Several St. Mark families attended the Holy Trinity Seminary Open House last weekend. Our St. Mark Girl Scouts were recognized for

**Barnes and Noble Book Fair: Today is the last day for online purchases!** <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/bookfairs/>

\*Book fair number is #11597556.

\*Remember, 2015 required summer reading, and 2015-16 required classroom books can be purchased through Barnes & Noble. [Click here](#) for the lists.

\*The class with the most participation will receive a special prize from HSA! Please note: If you make an online purchase, please email [Theresa Meyers](#) or [Ruby Librea](#) with your child's name and teacher so the class will receive credit.

**Box Tops:** Today is the last day to turn in Box Tops! Please make sure the bag is labeled with your child's grade.

**Last HSA Meeting of the Year!** The fourth and final HSA General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium. All parents are encouraged to attend! The class with the most parents in attendance will win a surprise reward. In addition, all students whose parents attend will receive a "5 points on a test" pass!

### IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

**Another NHS Inductee:** Congratulations to St. Mark Class of 2013 alumna, Jenny D., who was inducted into the Ursuline Academy chapter of the National Honor Society this week!

**Alumni Succeed on JP II Academic Octathlon Team:** The JP II Academic Octathlon team recently competed at the Region III Competition at Heritage High School in Frisco. The team placed third overall out of 27 teams and placed first in the Super Quiz

their contribution of medical kits to the seminary. They even received a special private tour of the seminary from Seminarian Ivan Torres, who has forged a special relationship this year with St. Mark. Students also made rosaries with Ivan and taught other Open House attendees how to make them. Our special relationship with our Seminarians has truly come full circle!

(photos removed)

### **Alice In Wonderland Is A Hit --"We're All Mad Here!"**

Congratulations to our middle school "Spring Musical" elective on three great performances of "Alice in Wonderland" yesterday! Our student performers were outstanding in their roles! The sets, costumes and music were simply beautiful thanks to our students, and to the amazing handiwork of Father Cliff and Mrs. Corsi. Students and staff enjoyed two performances during the school day, followed by an evening production for families and friends. It was truly a performance to remember!

(photo removed)

event. Alumni team members are: Dylan C. (2014), Will O. (2014), and Kyle S. (2014).

### 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 which will take place on October 31, 2015. Help is needed in all areas including: Graphics, Solicitations, Raffle, Food, Games, Entertainment, Volunteers, Safe Environment, and Set-Up. All are welcome to participate! Please contact [Claudine Humphries](#) for more information.

### KIDVENTURE -- FULL-DAY SUMMER CAMPS

"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.

### LION PRIDE!



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

One of our 5th grade students even summed up the theme of the play on Free Dress Day earlier in the week ...



**1st Grade Litter Bugs:** In recognition of Earth Day, our first graders made their own "litter bugs" out of recycled materials and used thinking maps to write about them. These "creative creatures" are on display now in the library!



**2nd Grade Continent Song:** Our second graders have a great way to learn about the continents and oceans. (link disabled).

**2nd Grade Makes Solar Ovens:** Our second grade recently worked in groups in their science



**Correction to Last Week's Bulletin:** Anish K. (6th grade) was also a member of the St. Mark Robotics Team that took first place in the Invention Division at the Diocesan Robotics Competition last week. We apologize for the oversight.

**2015-16 Student Council Officers:** Congratulations to the new Student Council officers for the 2015-16 school year!

President - Charlie S.

Vice President - Matthew M.

Secretary - Gabby G.

Treasurer - Megan W.

**Students Place at PSIA State:** Congratulations to the following students who placed at the Private Schools Interscholastic Association's state competition held last weekend at Texas Christian University: Joann N. - 3rd place, Maps, Graphs, Charts 7th grade; Theresa T. - 6th place, Math 4th grade; Joel K. - 2nd place, Modern Oratory 7th/8th grade; Biya C. - 2nd place, Spelling 4th grade; Megan W., 1st place, Vocabulary 7th/8th grade. Well done!

**Texas Quiz Bowl:** The 2015 Texas Quiz Bowl Middle Grades Championships was held on April 25 at St. Mark's School of Texas. This competition was for the Middle School State Title. Teams had to qualify based on their previous performance. Congratulations to our St. Mark team that placed 8th out of several middle schools across the state of Texas! The participants were Jaibin M., Minh-Khanh P., Minh-Tuan P., Ian S. and Antonio M. They also calculate individual scores and Antonio M. ranked 8th out of 153 competitors! Mrs. Mitchell is the team sponsor.

(photo removed)

classes on a STEM-based\* project where they were challenged to engineer their own solar ovens.

The students will now wait for a sunny day to test their oven's effectiveness by attempting to cook eggs inside.

(photo removed)

\*Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

### **5th Grade Flies A**

**Kite:** As an extension of their writing lessons, Mrs. Ostermann told her English classes to "go fly a kite!" Each class took to the field in groups and took turns flying kites while documenting what they observed with their senses. Then, they were challenged to create descriptive prose based on their results.

(photo removed)

### **7th Grade Creates Zoo**

**Presentations:** After our seventh graders visited the Dallas Zoo and took photos representing things they had learned during the school year, they were challenged to present their findings digitally using Thinglink. What is Thinglink? [Click here](#) to see an example. It's an

**Lions Qualify for Duke TIP:** The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) is a non-profit organization that identifies academically talented and gifted students based on standardized test scores achieved while in elementary and middle school. Students who receive a 95% or above on standardized testing are invited to participate. St. Mark had 46 students receive invitations to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade program this school year! Congratulations to the following St. Mark Lions

...

4<sup>th</sup> grade:

Theresa T., Sean W., Paul S., Alex D., Biya C., Jacob A., Jonas A., Kayla T., Alex R., George L., Evan J., Constance G., Louis T., Austin G., Morgan S., Jason L.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Cristian T., Kendell K., Veronica J., Jordan H., Andrew S., Lauren D., Abby A., Thomas W., Jacob R., Alexandra M., Becca L., Keanne A., Tiffany T.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Mason T., Taylor W., Declan W., Benjamin R., Audrey P., Grant P., Paul K., Anish K., Natalie J., Marti F., Nicholas C., Courtney B., Hannah B., Justus B., Robert V., Sophia S., Emilio R.

#### **Cistercian Summer Program Scholarship**

**Recipients:** Congratulations to 6th grader, Aenghus D., and 7th grader, John N., who are the recipients of full scholarships to the Cistercian Preparatory School's Summer Program. Students were nominated to apply for the scholarships and were asked to write letters explaining what it would mean to them to attend. These students are considering summer courses in Latin and 3D Printing.

**Mathfax Competition Results:** Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding performance on the 2014-15 Mathfax tests:

Algebra I

interactive presentation that allows you to click on key areas to learn more detail, and incorporates embedded videos and images.

#### **8th Graders Build Circuits:**

Our students built parallel and series circuits in science class this week. Seeing their bulb light up was so exciting!

(photo removed)

#### **Principal Appreciation:**

Today is Principal Appreciation Day! Mrs. Opon was presented with a gift card to Calloway's (she's an avid gardener) at Mass this morning by HSA on behalf of our school parents, as well as a Stella & Dot gift from the entire staff. Then, the faculty and staff surprised her with a potluck luncheon in her honor. Ms. Tammy created some amazing "likenesses" of Mrs. Opon that were hung in the teacher's lounge, and staff members added notes of thanks and appreciation. Mrs. Opon spent the day visiting the classrooms, reading to, and interacting with, our students, who also gave her their own tokens of appreciation and said special prayers for her. **We love you, Mrs. Opon --**

Ethan J., Algebra Division 1 Third Place, St. Mark Catholic School First Place  
Ian S., St. Mark Catholic School Second Place  
Mark V., St. Mark Catholic School Third Place

#### Seventh Grade

Antonio M., Math 7 National First Place; Math 7 Division 1 First Place; St. Mark Catholic School First Place  
Megan W., Math 7 Division 1 Third Place, St. Mark Catholic School Second Place  
Joel K., St. Mark Catholic School Third Place

#### Sixth Grade

Taylor W., St. Mark Catholic School First Place  
Marti F., St. Mark Catholic School Second Place  
Luis R., St. Mark Catholic School Third Place

#### Fifth Grade

Cristian T., St. Mark Catholic School First Place  
Tiffany T., St. Mark Catholic School Second Place  
Andrew S., St. Mark Catholic School Third Place

#### Fourth Grade

Sean W., Math 4 National Fourth Place, Math 4 Division 1 First Place, St. Mark Catholic School First Place  
Theresa T., Math 4 Division 1 Third Place, St. Mark Catholic School Second Place  
Biya C., St. Mark Catholic School Third Place

#### Third Grade

Max Z., St. Mark Catholic School First Place  
Gabby L., St. Mark Catholic School Second Place  
Madelin M., St. Mark Catholic School Third Place

In addition, St. Mark received a Math 7 National Championship First Place and Math 7 Division 1 First Place.

Thanks to all of our participants this year -- great job, everyone!

**you are a blessing to St. Mark Catholic School!**



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