



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

May 22, 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Reminders for Next Week
What's Happening in Lionland
Principal's Corner
Used Uniform Donations Now Being Accepted
Field Day Reminders
Raising Cane's Fundraiser - Last Day of School
Sewers Needed for Student Chair Packs
2015-16 School Supply Preorders Due Today
From The Nurse's Office
After School Program - Last Day of School
Catholic High School Summer Camps
Home and School Association (HSA) News
News from the Athletics Department
Don't Wait: Participate!
Register Now - 2015-16 "Respect Life Club"
Kidventure Full Day Summer Camps
In Alumni News ...
At St. Mark, We Serve.
Seen and Heard Around St. Mark

REMINDERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Friday, May 22, 2015 - TODAY



**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!

-2015-16 School Supply Package
Preorders Due (see details below)

-5:30-11:00 PM: 8th Grade
Graduation Photos, Liturgy, Ceremony,
Reception, Dance

Monday, May 25, 2015 - Memorial Day
-No School For Students

-7 :00 PM, Church: Children's Choir
Sings at Mass

Tuesday, May 26

-4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym: 2015-16
Volleyball Evaluations for Rising 6th
Graders

-6:15-8:15 PM, Bacot Gym: 2015-16
Volleyball Evaluations for Rising 7th
Graders

Wednesday, May 27

-Field Day (see details below)

Thursday, May 28

-End of 4th Quarter Grading Period

-4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym: 2015-16
Volleyball Evaluations for Rising 5th
Graders

-6:15-8:15 PM, Bacot Gym: 2015-16
Volleyball Evaluations for Rising 8th
Graders

Friday, May 29 - Last Day of School

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass/Mass
of the Holy Spirit. The Mass will
be presented by the 3rd grade. They will
perform the Call to Worship, the Mass



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.

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 hallway 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.

readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.

-12:00 PM: Early Dismissal for Students

-3:00 PM: After School Program Dismisses (see details below)

-10:00 AM - 11:00 PM - Raising Cane's Fundraiser Benefitting the Athletics Dept.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Graduation is a time filled with excitement and anticipation for what's to come. As our 8th graders leave St. Mark this evening for the last time as students, it is our hope that they will continue to build upon the principles of faith, gospel values, and academic excellence that we strove to instill in them while they were here. We also hope they believe in themselves and in their abilities to successfully navigate this new part of their life journey as much as we do. Dr. Seuss says it best: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."

We know that "where they go" will make us PROUD, and we cannot wait for them to return as alumni to share their success stories, and to serve as role models for our students. Best of luck to the Class of 2015 -- come back and visit often! And remember: **Once a Lion, Always a Lion!**

USED UNIFORM DONATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

We are now accepting used uniform donations. Uniform items must be in clean, gently used condition. Please drop off your donations in the school office between now and June 25 (please note our [June office hours](#) posted on the school website).

FIELD DAY REMINDERS

Wednesday, May 27 is Field Day. This is a fun day filled with many indoor and outdoor activities.

Students should wear modest shorts, their Field Day t-shirt, and athletic shoes. Please send a change of clothes and a towel to school. We also encourage you to apply sunscreen before school, and we encourage your child to wear a hat. A pizza lunch will be provided to all students, so there is no need to send a lunch that day, unless your child prefers not to eat pizza.

RAISING CANE'S FUNDRAISER - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



Plan ahead -- we will have one more fundraiser at Raising Cane's on the last day of school -- Friday, May 29 between 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM. Pick up lunch to celebrate the last day of school, or grab dinner that evening. Mention St. Mark, and a percentage will be donated back to our Athletics program. New gym wall

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

8th Grade Graduation Week: St. Mark traditions were evident all over campus this week as our eighth graders counted down the days until graduation. The tradition of eighth grade memory boards took shape on Monday as each student's board was hung in the cafeteria. They always evoke a true "walk down memory lane."

(photo removed)

Tuesday brought the last science experiments of the year. Blowing bubbles, flying paper airplanes and launching rockets to demonstrate things such as the Bernoulli Principle, propulsion, and aerodynamics were all part of the fun.

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On Thursday, we had lots of Cardinals, Bears, Rangers, Friars and Hawks roaming our hallways as our eighth graders celebrated "High School Spirit Day" by wearing shirts from the high schools they will attend next year.

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Click [here](#) to see which high schools our students will attend.

Families also joined their students for the traditional "Parent-Graduate Luncheon" in the cafeteria. Later that afternoon, our second graders met with their eighth grade prayer partners one

pads, refinished floors, and new uniforms and balls are on the department's wish list!

SEWERS NEEDED FOR STUDENT CHAIR PACKS

Can you sew? Our elementary students use "chair packs" to store their books and school supplies during the day. We need your talents to make more. All supplies are provided. Please contact Rene O'Connor directly at rene.oconnor@stmcs.net if you are interested.

2015-16 SCHOOL SUPPLY PREORDERS DUE TODAY



Preorders for prepackaged 2015-16 school supplies are due today. Simply [click here](#) for the order form. Print and complete the form, and return it to the school office. Payment can be made by cash or check to the school office, or by [online payment](#).

School supply lists for each grade level are also posted on our school website -- [click here](#). Use these lists if you will be purchasing your own school supplies.

*Please note: Each grade level has required **St. Mark Supplies** that must

last time to say farewell, and the eighth graders had an opportunity to sign each other's yearbooks on their last day together at St. Mark.

(photos removed)

Friday brought the All-School Mass in honor of the Class of 2015, including graduation speeches, the 8th grade graduation song, and a breakfast reception for family members.

(photo removed)

Stay tuned next week for more about tonight's graduation ceremony and festivities, as well as very exciting news about some of our former students who sat where our 8th graders are now sitting just four short years ago!

St. Mark Tech Grant Makes the Newspaper: *The Dallas Morning News* featured the technology grant that St. Mark received from The Catholic Foundation in the Plano section of the paper last week. (We'll forgive them for misspelling Mrs. Opon's last name!) [Click here](#) to read.

Middle School Shares Dissection Project: Our middle school students dissected sheep hearts and cow eyes in Science class this week. They shared their findings with our elementary students. "Cool" and "gross" were popular reactions!

(photo removed)

be purchased directly from the school. Use the order form at the link above to order those items, even if you will be purchasing your own school supplies.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

ATTENTION PARENTS: If your student is currently keeping a medication in the school nurse's office (including, but not limited to, EpiPens, inhalers, prescriptions, or over-the-counter medications), please arrange to pick up the medication by the last day of school (May 29). Any medication that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of--NO EXCEPTIONS.

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



DPL Golf Tournament: Open to 5th-8th graders. [Click here](#) for more details. **Today is the deadline to register.**

Volleyball Evaluations: Evaluations will take place in the Bacot Gym. [Click here](#) for more information. The schedule by grade level:

Tuesday, May 26, 4:00-6:00 PM
- rising 6th graders

Tuesday, May 26, 6:15-8:15 PM - rising 7th graders

Water For Otter: Last Friday, our students in grades 3-8 saw an assembly about water conservation entitled, "Water for Otter." They learned a lot about preserving this precious resource and had fun doing it!

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7th Grade Egg Drop: Each year, school parent, Jill Brooks, brings the Raytheon STEM project, Math Moves U Egg Drop Contest, to the seventh grade Science classes. The students are challenged to work in teams to design and build a protective enclosure for a real egg. The egg is then dropped from the second floor and students learn which of their designs were effective.

(photo removed)

1st Grade "Land of Inch": Mrs. Hosea helped first grade learn about measurements. They listened to a story about the "Land of Inch" and learned about non-standard and standard units. The students used the concepts they learned in math (measurements), English (fairy tales) and Social Studies (know and think) to create their own "Land of Inch."

(photo removed)

1st Grade Volcanoes: Students constructed their own volcanoes out of paper mache this week. They need some time to dry, but soon -- they will erupt!

Thursday, May 28, 4:00-6:00 PM
- rising 5th graders
Thursday, May 28, 6:15-8:15 PM
- rising 8th graders

DPL Sports Physical Forms: If your child (incoming grades 5-8) plans to participate in the Diocesan Parochial League (DPL) during the 2015-16 school year, an annual physical form must be completed and returned to the school office before the start of school. Those participating in football, volleyball, or cheerleading must return the forms before summer camps and practices. This is a mandatory requirement for all DPL athletics at St. Mark. The form can be found [here](#). We suggest you make your physical appointments now, since pediatricians tend to get busy as we get closer to August.

GO LIONS!

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA) NEWS

Merchant Programs: Even though it's summer, you can still be making money for our school. If you haven't done so already, please link your Tom Thumb, Kroger, and Target shopping cards to St. Mark. Each time you shop, we earn funds. Instructions can be found [here](#).

Newcomer Committee Volunteers Needed: St. Mark wants all of our new families to feel like part of our community right away! Can you

(photo removed)

Kindergarten Uses iPads: Mrs. Thompson's Kindergarten class recently used the Osmo iPad application to develop spatial relationships and higher order thinking skills. They are loving it!

(photo removed)

Fr. Cliff's Auction Dinner: At our Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction held in January, a few lucky St. Mark couples bid on and won a fabulous gourmet dinner prepared by Fr. Cliff, which they got to enjoy last week. Assisted by several of our faculty and staff members, he served an extravagant menu of pasta, soup, salad, seafood, beef Wellington and dessert, each course perfectly paired with wine. It was a wonderful evening full of amazing food and conversation!



First Grade Baseball: A first grade ASA boys baseball team made up William B., Brewer B., Trey G., Jack J., Mason B., Pedro R., Will P., Brady G., Mikey T., Eli J., Jack D. and Nolan L., had a visit from

help? The Newcomer Committee is looking for volunteers to help welcome new families to our school. This could be as simple as a phone call and an email to reach out and be available for questions, or making plans to meet up with the new family for coffee or lunch over the summer. If you are interested in helping, or have any questions, please contact Holly Lewis or Jennifer Pike. Please let them know the grades of your children for the 2015-2016 school year, so we can pair you with a similar family.

Holly Lewis: 214-264-8635;
anglophilefootballfanatic@gmail.com

Jennifer Pike: 972-839-5042;
timothyandjennifer@verizon.net

Box Tops: Please continue to collect Box Tops over the summer -- every little bit counts!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

ATTENTION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FAMILIES: The After School Program will be available until 3:00 PM on the last day of school, Friday, May 29. Pizza will be served for lunch, so you do not need to send a lunch that day, unless your child prefers not to eat pizza.

DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!

Parish Fall Festival Planning Meeting: It is time to begin planning the 2015 Parish Fall Festival & Raffle.

Mrs. Thompson at a recent game. The Lions are 4-0 and in a tie for the division lead.

(photo removed)

First Grade Soccer: The first grade YMCA boys "Lions" soccer team completed their season last weekend and has a four season combined record of 26-4-2. Congratulations to the following team members: Alex V., Ambrose D., Brady G., Jack D., Jack J., Mason B., Mikey T., Nolan L., Rhys W., Trey G., Will P., William B., and Zane B.

(photo removed)

Volleyball Success: The fourth grade girls PSA volleyball team, "SMASH," placed first in the regular season and are now league champions! In addition, they went on to win the Post Season Tournament, undefeated in all of their games. Team members are: Aoife P., Morgan S., Skylar D., Jessie C., Lucy D., Anna H., Isabella Z., Genna B., Caroline B., Natalia B. and Genevieve B.

After seven games in a row, the second grade girls PSA volleyball team, "Spiker Chicks," took second place in their end of season tournament. Team members are: Dairine P., Taylor S., Camila B., Nadia S., Alex H., Chloe S., Sofia Z., Sarah H., Courtney K. and Savanah W.

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

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

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2015-16 RESPECT LIFE CLUB



The St. Mark "Respect Life Club" is an after-school opportunity for students in grades 1st through 8th to grow in their appreciation of the dignity of all human life. It is unique to St. Mark Catholic School. During the 2015-16 school year, The "Respect Life Club" will hold monthly meetings at the school. There will be educational and fun activities for 1st graders-8th graders. We invite you to learn more and to register for the 2015-16 "Respect Life Club" by [clicking here](#).

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

Taekwondo Winners: Brothers Shane (6th grade) and Anthony (5th grade) E. recently competed in the Olympic Sparing division of the AAU Southwest District Taekwondo Championship and won a bronze medal. Shane also competed in the Forms event and earned a silver medal. Both qualified for the National Championship which will be held in Fort Lauderdale, FL in July.

(photo removed)

Tennis Success: Alejandro D. and his fellow "10 and under" tennis teammates were selected to compete in the finals of the State Sectionals of the United States Tennis Association in New Braunfels this past weekend. Not only did they win the championship, competing against the best six teams in the finals, but they also received many accolades for their outstanding sportsmanship.

(photo removed)

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.

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](#)

AT ST. MARK, WE SERVE.

In a letter to Mrs. Opon, Arne Nelson, President & CEO of Catholic Charities of Dallas, thanked St. Mark Catholic School for our generous donations to their recent Food Round-up (the beneficiary of our April All-School service project). St. Mark donated a total of 1,256 food items that will provide approximately 1,047 meals to those in need. Thanks to everyone in our community who took part in this important project.

IN ALUMNI NEWS ...

Alums Receive World Languages and Academic Awards at Ursuline Ceremonies: Several St. Mark students were honored at the Ursuline

Academy World Languages Awards and Freshman/Sophomore Academic Awards ceremonies last week. For their scores on the National Spanish Exam, Kathryn P. (2012), Emily V. (2013) and Celine M. (2014) each received silver medals. For their scores on the HSK Chinese Proficiency Test, Caroline D. (2013) and Hannah K. (2013) both received medals. For her score on the Le Grand Concours National French Test, Elizabeth R. (2014) received a silver medal. She also recently won second place for Memorized Prose at the "Fete Francaise" academic competition held among area public and private high schools.

Freshman/Sophomore Academic Awards were presented to: Cassandra F. (2013) for Creative Writing; Hannah K. (2013) for American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 10 School Top 3 Scorer & Team Member; Ivanka P. (2014) for Freshman Choir, AMC 10 School Top 3 Scorer & Team Member, and Chinese I; Emily V. (2013) for Chemistry I Honors; and Valeria M. (2014) for Revelation in Scripture.

Alum Receives Bishop Lynch Math Honors: Congratulations to Amanda E. (2011), senior at Bishop Lynch, who was recently honored with the following math awards: Third place in the BL Continental Math League Calculus Contest; first place BL and 29th in State in Texas Math League; second place BL Calculus Log

1; and fifth place BL American Scholastic Math Association, Senior Division.

Grads Succeed on Jesuit Crew: The Jesuit Crew team competed in the Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia last weekend. Stotesbury is the oldest and largest national high school crew competition. Jesuit's "freshman eight" boat, including alumnus Colin J. (2014), posted the fastest time during the semi-finals race, and placed fifth overall out of thirty-nine competitors from across the nation. The "senior eight" boat, including alumnus and team captain, Conar E. (2011), placed fourth overall out of thirty-six teams.

Conar was also presented with the "Ranger Heart Award" this week, which is given to an athlete who exemplifies Jesuit's motto, "Men For Others." This is the second time Conar has received this award. In addition, he received the Jesuit Crew "Captain's Award" for his leadership role this school year.

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St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075
www.stmcs.net | (972) 578-0610

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