



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

May 27, 2016

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**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." This
means that our students consistently
score in the top 15% in the nation on
standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



REMINDERS

Friday, May 27:

-5:30 PM, School Lobby: Graduate Photos

-6:30 PM, Church: Graduation
Mass/Ceremony

-8:00 PM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Family
Reception

-9:00 PM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade
Graduate Dance (8th graders only)

Monday, May 30:

-No School, Memorial Day

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

Wednesday, June 1:

-Last day to withdraw without
penalty. Withdrawal notices received
after June 1 will be subject to a \$300
withdrawal fee per family.

Thursday, June 2:

-Field Day (details below)

Friday, June 3:

-8:30 AM, Church, All School Mass/Mass
of the Holy Spirit: The Mass will be
presented by the faculty. They will offer
the Call to Worship, the Mass readings,
and present the Communion gifts. All are
welcome.

-Last Day of School: 12:00 PM Early
Dismissal

-Report Cards Sent Home

BE SURE YOUR SCHOOL FEES ARE CURRENT

As we near the end of the school year,
please be reminded that all school fees
must be paid in order for students to
participate in end-of-the-year activities
including Graduation and Field Day.
Fees include library, cafeteria,
textbooks, and other school fees. If you
need to verify outstanding fees, please
contact Annette Vela at
Annette.vela@stmcs.net.

CAFETERIA MENU CHANGE NEXT WEEK

Please note that the salad bar will not
be available on Tuesday, May 31 or
Wednesday, June 1.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



Zeal: 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 "Zeal" this month. [Click
here](#) for the full list of monthly virtues
for 2015-16.



All -School Service Project:
Service is an integral part of the mission
of the Church. To help students
understand that by serving others, they
are serving God, they will participate in
a required all-school service project
each month. **Students will receive a**

-After School Program available until 3:00 PM (details below)

-Raising Cane's Fundraiser (details below)

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 2016 -- come back and visit often! And remember:
Once a Lion, Always a Lion!

Patricia Opon

Patricia Opon
Principal

**PK3 TEACHER, EARLY CHILDHOOD
AIDE & P/T CAFETERIA
WORKER NEEDED**

homework grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.

May Project: The May service project is the St. Mark Catholic School Clean Up. Each grade level will participate in caring for our school, parish, and campus during class time.

Catholic Social Teaching: Care for God's Creation

Who Benefits? St. Mark Community

Due Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2016



**LIFETIME
LIONS**

Calling all alumni ... 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.

LIONS DEN

Get your official LION gear here!

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!](#)

This is a great place to stock up on St. Mark shirts for our Spirit Days, which are held on the first Monday of each month!

Due to our ever increasing enrollment numbers in Early Childhood Education, we are needing to hire an additional PK3 teacher and a part-time PK aide. Anyone interested should submit a brief resume to Mrs. Opon at patricia.opon@stmcs.net.

In addition, we are looking for a part-time Cafeteria worker. If interested, please email linda.gaines@stmcs.net.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that two St. Mark staffers will not be returning next year.

4th grade teacher, Ms. Amy Wells, has made the decision not to return. As most of you know, Ms. Wells is getting married soon, and as a result, she will be inheriting two teenage daughters who maintain very busy schedules. She also looks forward to eventually starting a family of her own. As a result, she has decided to become a stay-at-home mom. Ms. Wells has been a beloved teacher at St. Mark for 16 years, earning the Work of Heart Award, as well as the love and respect of students and co-workers alike. Our students have benefitted from her talents, her kindness, and her special ability to make reading fun. Ms. Wells' presence in our halls will truly be missed. We wish her and her new family the very best of luck in their new journey together.

Cafeteria staff member, Mrs. Angelika Trombetta, has also decided not to return next year. She is planning to spend more time at home taking care of her family's

SAC MEETING MINUTES NOW AVAILABLE

Minutes from the April 28, 2016 SAC meeting are now available by [clicking here](#).

LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with school sweaters with no names inside. If your child is missing a sweater, please check with the school office. Items that are unclaimed by the end of the school year are donated to the Used Uniform Sale.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION REMINDERS

A few important reminders for 8th grade graduates and their families:

Today, May 27 - Graduation Day

- 5:30 PM, School Lobby: Individual graduate photos
- 6:30 PM, Church: Graduation Mass and ceremony
- 8:00-9:00 PM, Cafetorium: Reception for graduates and families
- 9:00-11:00 PM, Cafetorium: 8th Grade Dance (graduates only)

DONATE GREEN PANTS/SHORTS TO CHARITY

As the school year comes to an end, please consider donating your gently used green uniform pants and walking shorts to Orphan Outreach. [Click here](#) to learn more about this organization that works with at-risk children

needs. Mrs. Trombetta has been a kind, familiar face to our students during lunch since 2012, and has also been instrumental in securing an annual visit from the Easter Bunny during the ECE lunch period! We will all miss seeing her smiling face in the cafeteria. We wish her, too, the very best of luck.

PRESS COVERAGE

Check out the [May 27, 2016 issue of The Texas Catholic, page 2](#), for a great article about our recent *Joseph the Dreamer* production and how Father Cliff uses his theater background for the benefit of our students. While you're at it, take a look at the last page ... you may see some familiar faces there too!



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

IMPORTANT HSA DATES:

Thursday, June 2: Field Day

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Open Committee Chair Positions for 2016-17:

- Membership Coordinator
- Hospitality
- Scrip Gift Cards
- Early Childhood Room Parent Coordinator

For more information on these positions, [click here](#). Please contact Ashley Ternan at ashleyternan@gmail.com with additional questions.

worldwide, some of whom wear green pants as part of their school uniforms. A special donation box will be located in the school office from May 31 until June 30. Donations made after June 3 will be accepted during summer office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM).

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, June 3. 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.

DRAMA KIDS PERFORMANCE

Our Drama Kids group presented their spring production entitled *The Grasshopper and the Ants* last weekend. The costumes and sets were incredibly impressive, and were only upstaged by the fantastic performances given by our young drama students. Congratulations to them on an outstanding production! St. Mark is proud to bring such high-quality Fine Arts programming to our students of all ages.

(photo removed)

TEXAS QUIZ BOWL CAMP

Mrs. Mitchell would like to encourage all students in 4th-8th grades to attend the Texas Quiz Bowl Camp, July 17-30 at The University of Texas at Dallas. It's a great way to prepare for

THANK YOU:

Junior Achievement: Thank you to all of the HSA volunteers and teachers that made Junior Achievement successful this year. With the support and generosity of our teachers and volunteers, every classroom, K-5, got to experience Junior Achievement during the spring semester. The volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to teach in the classroom. The students enjoyed learning some valuable life lessons about money and entrepreneurship. Thanks to everyone, Junior Achievement 2016 is a wrap!

(photo removed)

REMINDERS:

Helping Hands Committee:

If you know any St. Mark families that are in need of help due to a birth, sickness, death or any life changing event, please [click here](#) to contact the Helping Hands Committee.

Attention Volunteers: All volunteers must sign and return a "Volunteer Pledge Form" before the first day of volunteering. This form can be found in the [Volunteer Handbook](#). Also, volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

Link Your Shopper Cards & Earn Money for St. Mark: Remember to link your Kroger, Tom Thumb and Target cards to St. Mark. Kroger cards need to be re-linked every year. [Click here](#) for more details.

next year's Quiz Bowl tournaments where historically, our St. Mark team performs very well. The registration deadline is fast approaching, so if your student is interested, please contact carole.mitchell@stmcs.net or visit www.texasquizbowlcamp.org.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING UPDATES

Parents: Summer is the perfect time to update your annual Safe Environment Training. Simply [click here](#) for details. This will ensure that all paperwork will be processed prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year and you will be cleared to volunteer at all of our wonderful school activities. **Even if your training renewal isn't due until later in the year, we encourage you to retrain over the summer if at all possible. This will prevent many problems later on, as well as make the system we use to keep our children safe more efficient and effective. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this important task.**

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark has limited availability at various grade levels. For more information or to schedule a school tour, please call the school office at (972) 578-0610, or visit the school website at www.stmcs.net.

St. Mark Info. Cards: We also have "information cards" available at the church and school that contain



Box Tops: Keep collecting Box Tops over the summer!

SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK

8th Grade Graduation Week: St. Mark traditions were evident all over campus this week as our 8th graders counted down the days until graduation. The tradition of 8th 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)

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

(photo removed)

On Thursday, we had lots of Cardinals, Bears, Rangers, and Friars roaming our hallways as our 8th graders celebrated "High School Spirit Day" by wearing shirts from the high schools they will attend next year.

Click here to see which high schools our students will attend. (hyperlink removed)

Families also joined their students for the traditional "Parent-Graduate Luncheon" in the cafeteria. Later that afternoon, our 2nd graders met with their 8th grade

general school information. Feel free to stop by and pick some up. Pass them along to anyone who is interested in St. Mark Catholic School. [Click here](#) to see a sample.

JOSEPH THE DREAMER VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

St. Mark is offering copies of the *Joseph the Dreamer* middle school Spring Musical performance on DVD. **The deadline to order DVDs is today, May 27.** The price for each DVD is \$10. To place your order:

1. Email rene.oconnor@stmcs.net and indicate the quantity you wish to order.
2. Either send a check to the school office made out to St. Mark Catholic School, or pay electronically by [clicking here](#). If paying electronically, use the "Miscellaneous" category and indicate "Spring Musical DVD" in the comments section.

DVDs may be picked up in the school office beginning on Tuesday, May 31.

2016-17 AUCTION NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are getting ready for the 30th annual St. Mark Gala & Auction to be held on February 18, 2017 at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. The Walton Stout Band (<http://www.thewaltonstoutband.com>), one of Dallas' premiere dance bands, will be performing at the event so get ready to party!!! Would you like to be part of the planning team? Would you like to help secure items for the live and silent auction? Would you like to help plan the program and assist at event night? Would you like to join in promoting the event throughout the

prayer partners one last time to say farewell, and the 8th graders had an opportunity to sign each other's yearbooks on their last day together at St. Mark.

(photos removed)

This morning's events kicked-off with our All School Mass dedicated to the 8th grade. Father Cliff encouraged our graduates to take what they've learned at St. Mark and apply it to the rest of their lives. We enjoyed a preview of the graduation speeches and The Class of 2016 concluded their last Mass with a farewell song. As always, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. A family breakfast was enjoyed by all as we celebrated our graduates and recognized those families who have their last child leaving St. Mark this year. We look forward to seeing our graduates and their families tonight for their final Graduation Mass, ceremony, reception, and 8th grade dance.

(photo removed)

Stay tuned next week for more about tonight's graduation ceremony and festivities!

Newcomer Welcome Coffee: Last Friday, we held a Newcomer Welcome Coffee for our newly registered school families. We had a great turnout and were able to provide them with a wealth of information about St. Mark to carry them through the summer months. A very special thank you to the Home and School Association for organizing this event on behalf of the school, and to our

school year? Maybe even be a co-chair? If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Eric Librea at ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu. We will have a blast!

FIELD DAY REMINDERS

Field Day will take place on Thursday, June 2. This is a fun day for students in PK-7th grade where they participate in many different indoor and outdoor games and activities organized by the P.E. Department and the Field Day Committee. Examples include an egg relay race, tug-of-war, obstacle course, water balloon toss, etc.

A few reminders:

- A pizza lunch is provided to all students by the school, so there is no need to send a lunch with students on Field Day unless your child prefers not to eat pizza.
- Students should wear modest shorts, their Field Day t-shirt, and athletic shoes.
- Please send a towel to school.
- We encourage you to apply sunscreen to your child before school, and we encourage your child to wear a hat.

NEW "REFERRAL THANK YOU PROGRAM"

Each year, St. Mark is honored to welcome new families to our school community, many of whom were referred by our current school families. We think you should be rewarded for bringing new families to our school!

Host Families for volunteering to help welcome our new families to St. Mark!



Mrs. Gerwer's Send-Off: The staff got together on Tuesday to send Mrs. Gerwer off in style as her retirement approaches. We hosted a special pot-luck lunch in her honor, and presented her with a lovely bench for her garden so that she will always be reminded of her 31 wonderful years at St. Mark.



I Can Write My Name! One of our PK3 students wanted to show how well he could write his name -- at lunch! Now that's a creative use for noodles. Nice job, Owen!

(photo removed)

Shaving Cream Art: Some of our students drew pictures in shaving cream this week. They are learning to draw by

Through our new "Referral Thank You Program," your family can receive a \$500 tuition credit for referring one new family to St. Mark. Please [click here](#) for details!

1/2 DAYS ARE CANE'S DAYS AT ST. MARK!



Plan to eat at Raising Cane's on June 3 to celebrate the last day of school! Visit anytime on Friday, June 3 between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Simply mention St. Mark as you place your order and a percentage will be donated to the St. Mark Athletic Department. Treat your family, and earn money for our school!

ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK TODAY



Order your St. Mark Legacy Brick Today! This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. For \$100, purchase a custom designed engraved brick with your family name, ministry, organization, your child's name and graduating class, or to honor a loved one, mother, father, brother, sister, friend... the possibilities are endless. There are many ways to personalize your brick, with logos for all kinds of interests including religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir, and music, just to name a few. These special custom engraved bricks will

proportion. They first sketched their drawing, then they recreated it in shaving cream. The butterfly is by a TK student, and the message that "says it all" is by a 1st grade student! Messy and educational fun!

(photo removed)



Kindergarten STEM: Kindergarten students did a STEM project this week that involved building a wheel out of gum drops and toothpicks that can roll about 36 inches.

(photo removed)

1st Grade Volcanoes: 1st grade is learning about the power of volcanoes. They built volcanoes out of newspaper and glue, painted them, and will set them off using baking soda and vinegar.

(photo removed)

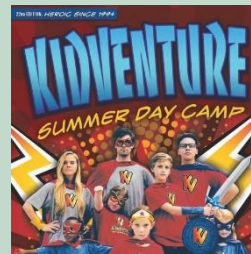
3rd Grade Olympics: Third grade participated in their last STEM Challenge of the school year this week. The students had to build sports equipment to

become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School. **Simply [click here](#) to place your order.**

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE ...

If your student is currently keeping a medication in the nurse's office (including EpiPens, inhalers, prescriptions, or over-the-counter medications), please arrange to pick up the medication by the last day of school. We do not store medication from year to year, so anything that is left at school over the summer will be disposed of.

PLAN SUMMER WITH KIDVENTURE!



St. Mark Summer Camps With Kidventure: We are pleased to once again offer full-time summer camps on the St. Mark campus with Kidventure. Kidventure is in its 22nd season of summer camp. This year's theme is **Summer Quest 2016**, a comic book come to life. Each week provides a new and unique adventure.

General registration for Kidventure's Summer Quest 2016 Day Camp is now available at <http://kidventure.com/register>. Click to select your child's Summer Quest adventures.

compete in five events: sailing, parachuting, diving, archery and basketball. This was a cross-curricular activity that ties in to their last reading story *Atlantis, The Legend of the Lost City*. They discussed and studied the history of the Olympic games which were started in Athens, Greece to please the Greek gods. They also discussed the Summer 2016 Olympics being held this July in Brazil.

(photo removed)

5th Grade Book Trailers: Our 5th graders acted out their own book trailers this week and recorded them using the classroom iPads. They even made costumes for the "actors."

(photo removed)

For more information, please visit <http://kidventure.com/plano-summercamp/>, or call [214-303-9789](tel:214-303-9789).



NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Fall 2016 Sports Registration:

Registration for the following 2016 fall sports is now open. Registration fees for each sport are indicated. Please click the links below for more information about each sport.

[Football \(\\$115\)](#) - Registration deadline: Today, May 27, 2016

[Varsity Cheerleading \(\\$45\)](#) - Registration deadline: Today, May 27, 2016

[Cross Country \(\\$70\)](#) - Please note that registration for 2016 Cross Country has been moved back to August. More details will be provided at that time.

Upcoming Athletic Events: Our baseball and softball teams have both made it to their Championship Games! Come out and cheer on your LIONS teams:

Baseball:

JV vs. MIS, June 2, 5:00 PM @ John Paul II High School

Softball:

JV vs. POP, June 1, 5:45 PM @ John Paul II High School



Upcoming Raising Cane's Fundraiser Benefitting the Athletics Department:

-June 3, 2016 (last day of school)

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Our local Catholic high schools offer summer 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 High School](#)

[Cistercian Preparatory School](#)

[Jesuit College Preparatory School](#)

[John Paul II High School](#)

[Ursuline Academy of Dallas](#)

JESUIT LIL RANGERETTE SUMMER CAMP

The Jesuit Rangerettes drill team offers a summer camp for girls in preschool-6th grade. The camp will take place June 20-24 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Jesuit. Please [click here](#) for more information and registration.

DRAMA KIDS SUMMER CAMP



Drama Kids International is now enrolling for summer camps. Children participate in fun activities that help them think more creatively and learn new acting and confidence-building skills through plays, improvisations, silent scenes, mini-scripts, theater

games and more. [Click here](#) for more details. To register, visit dramakids.com/tx3 or call (972) 363-2369.

IN ALUMNI NEWS...

More High School Academic

Honors: Click here to see more awards that our alumni have received at their high schools this year. (hyperlink removed)

LION PRIDE!

Congratulations to the following St. Mark 7th grade students who took the SAT college entrance exam earlier this school year as members of the Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) and who scored high enough to earn recognition at the state level: Courtney B., Nicholas C., Natalie J. and Anish K. This above-level testing provides helpful insight into the extent of these students' academic abilities, and allows students to gain experience from taking an exam that college-bound seniors take.

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