



St. Mark Catholic School
Weekly School Bulletin
October 31, 2014

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Virtue of the Month – Empathy

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

Reminders for Next Week

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

Today, Friday, October 31: Deadline to Register for ISEE Pretest at St. Mark

Saturday, November 1, 8:00 AM, St. Mark Campus: All Souls Remembrance Run

Sunday, November 2, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Library: Open House for Prospective Families

Sunday, November 2-Thursday, November 6: St. Mark Book Fair, Lions Lair Gym

Monday, November 3: Book Fair Poster Contest Submissions Due

Monday, November 3: Mobile Dairy Classroom

Preschool-5th grade will learn about the dairy industry during an interactive presentation.

Tuesday, November 4, 7:00 AM: Mathfax Competition

Qualifying students were notified.

Tuesday, November 4: Living Saints Museum, Bethany Narthex

Students will visit during the school day and learn about the lives of the saints.

Wednesday, November 5, 7:30 AM, Cafetorium: Pastries For Parents

Parents and their children are invited to join us for breakfast, then visit the Book Fair! (Children must be accompanied by a parent.)

Friday, November 7, Church: All School Mass

Our All-School Mass will be held at 8:30 AM in the church. 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.

Don't Forget Your Annual Parish Contribution

In order to qualify for the parishioner discount, families must make an annual contribution of \$800 to St. Mark Catholic Church by December 31, 2014. Please send your payment to the parish (not the school). Checks may be placed in the weekly collection basket, or [click here](#) to submit your electronic payment to the parish.

Open House on Sunday

Do you know anyone who is interested in a Catholic education for their children? St. Mark will host our first Open House of the school year for prospective families this Sunday, November 2 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the school library. Everyone is welcome. Pass it on!

November All-School Service Project

For the month of November, St. Mark students will help to stock the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Students are asked to donate one item from the list below (for their grade level). These are items that the food pantry is in particular need of at this time. Each student's donation will count as a homework grade. Students should turn in items to their teachers by November 30.

Preschool, TK & K – Your choice of any item listed below

1st Grade – Vegetable Soup (no cream soups needed)

2nd Grade – Canned Fruit

3rd Grade – Canned Tomatoes, Tomato Sauce

4th Grade – Canned Pork & Beans

5th Grade – Canned Chili

Mrs. Salvia – Canned Tuna

Mrs. Smith – Canned Chicken

Ms. Schnoebelen – Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans
Mrs. Oliver – Peanut Butter
Mrs. Pantuso – Bottled Oil
Mrs. Mitchell – Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
Mrs. Gerwer – Cereal
Ms. Burke – Oatmeal
Mrs. Orchowski - Spaghetti Sauce

Popcorn Sale

Students in 2nd -8th Grades: The middle school Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn next week to raise money to cover the cost of printing the yearbook. Popcorn is \$2.00 per bag, and can be ordered Monday, November 3 through Friday, November 7. Exact change is appreciated. Choose from White Cheddar, Salsa, or Butter flavors. The popcorn will be delivered between 9:30-10:30 AM on Friday, November 14 for a mid-morning snack. Please help support the yearbook and enjoy a tasty treat! (Please note: If you have allergy concerns, please visit the popcorn vendor's website at www.deanan.com to check the ingredients. Also, popcorn orders cannot be accepted on delivery day, so if your child would like to enjoy a popcorn snack, please be sure the order is placed next week.)

Don't Wait: Participate!



All Souls Remembrance Run: Tomorrow is race day, and it promises to be a memorable event! See below for some important race day reminders. [Click here](#) for more information/registration.

- Parking will be available off-site at the St. Mark Parish Center, 1105 West 15th Street, Plano, TX 75075. Look for the 5K signs. Volunteers will be on-site directing traffic. Please do not park in the north parking lot of the church. Be careful crossing the street – please use the crossing signal at the intersection.
- If you need assistance on race day, look for our friendly volunteers wearing "VOLUNTEER" stickers. They will be happy to assist you or answer any questions you may have.
- Race Day Schedule:

6:30 – 7:30 AM – Late registrant packet pick-up

7:00 AM – Vendor / Sponsor tent setup

7:30 AM – National Anthem/Flag Ceremony
8:00 AM – 1k Fun Run start
8:30 AM – 5k start
8:50 AM – Post-race party begins
9:30 AM – Overall winner awards presentation
11:00 AM – Close



St. Mark Book Fair: Support our school library at the "Wild about Reading" Book Fair! A few important reminders:

- Students visited the Book Fair today and had an opportunity to fill out a wish list and take it home.
- Money can be sent to school next week to purchase your child's wish list items. Please remember that 8.25% tax will be added to all items purchased. We take cash, check, and credit cards (Visa and MasterCard only).
- Teachers will also have wish lists available at the Book Fair if you would like to purchase books for their classrooms.
- Parents are welcome to stop by anytime Monday through Wednesday between 7:40 AM and 4:00 PM, and Thursday between 7:40 AM and 12:00 NOON. The classroom schedule is posted below if you would like to visit the Book Fair during your child's class visit.

Sunday, November 2, 9:00 AM-12:00 NOON – OPENING DAY - FAMILY AND PARISH DAY

Stop by Sunday morning before or after Mass and shop 'til you drop!

Monday-Wednesday, November 3-5, 7:40 AM – 4:00 PM - STUDENT BROWSE AND SHOP

"Pastries For Parents" takes place on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 AM. The Book Fair will also open at 7:30 AM that day so that parents may visit. See details below.

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM - PreK
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - 4th Grade
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM - 5th Grade
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM - TK and Kindergarten
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM - 1st Grade
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM - 3rd Grade
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM - 2nd Grade
1:05 PM-1:35 PM - 6th Grade
1:35 PM - 2:05 PM - 7th Grade

2:05 PM - 2:35 PM - 8th Grade

Thursday, November 6, 7:40 AM - 12:00 NOON - LAST CHANCE TO SHOP!

Only those who are making purchases will go to the Book Fair.

Pastries for Parents: You and your child(ren) are invited to join us at "Pastries For Parents" on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 AM in the Cafetorium (children must be accompanied by a parent). Enjoy a special breakfast of donuts, juice, and coffee. Then, support the St. Mark Library and stop by the Book Fair in the Old Gym to pick up some new books -- hope to see you there!

Book Fair Poster Contest: All students are encouraged to participate in the "Wild About Reading" poster contest. Please have your child use a half sheet of poster board to draw a scene including an animal from their favorite book. Students are to write the title of the book on the front of the poster, and their name, age, grade, and teacher's name on the back. Posters are due to the school office by Monday, November 3. Winners will be chosen on Wednesday, November 5 and will be displayed in the school hallway. The names of the winners will be announced in an upcoming school bulletin.

NEW THIS YEAR! Student Council Collects Books for Scottish Rite: This year our Student Council will be collecting new children's books benefitting the children at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. This is a new service project for St. Mark Catholic School. Please consider donating a new children's book for Christmas. There will be a poster and a decorated collection box to drop off the books in the "Lions Lair" gym (formerly the Old Gym).

Volunteer: Sign up to volunteer at the Book Fair! If you'd like to volunteer during your child's classroom visit time, refer to the schedule above. To register, simply go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10cob4ba5af2ba31-book>.



January 31, 2015 – Don't forget to mark your calendar for the 28th annual Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction! More information coming soon about ticket sales and auction items.

Volunteer: Please contact Auction Co-Chair Raju Kattady at rajukattady@hotmail.com for more information about how to get involved in the event planning. We need all hands on deck for our biggest fundraising event of the year!

Auction Baskets: It is a St. Mark tradition that each class donates a themed "class basket" that will go to the highest bidder during the silent auction portion of the event. Details about your child's class basket were sent home today via RenWeb. The list of class basket themes can also be found on the [auction page](#) of the school website. Donations may be placed in the collection box located in your child's classroom between November 3 and December 19.

News from the Athletics Department

Volleyball Playoffs: Last weekend, all of our Lady Lions volleyball teams won their games and advanced to the playoffs which are being held this week/weekend – results to come!

Football Playoffs: The Varsity football team is in a three-way tie of 1-2 records -- playoffs start November 6.

Cross Country Success: Jordan H. placed 5th and Keanne A. placed 7th in the JV Girls division at the October 25 DPL Meet. Overall, the JV Girls placed 4th – congratulations!

St. Mark Swim Team Dominates DPL Meet! St. Mark's swim team competed in the Dallas Parochial League Swim Meet Tuesday night at Loos Natatorium against 15 other Diocesan schools. The St. Mark team showed incredible team spirit outside the pool, and dominated in the water! The Varsity girls won 1st place, the Varsity boys and girls combined earned 1st place, and the JV boys also took 1st place overall! Congratulations to all of our swimmers!

Basketball Registration Deadline: The deadline to register for DPL Basketball is Monday, November 10. [Click here](#) for more information.

Home & School Association (HSA) News

Box Top Winners: Thank you to everyone for sending in your Box Tops For Education! We raised \$691.80 for St. Mark this fall! The following classes brought in the most Box Tops and win a class party: First place -- 2nd grade; Second place -- 3rd grade. Though the fall competition is over, please keep sending in those Box Tops. There is another competition in February!

Used Uniform Collection/January Sale: Are your students beginning to outgrow uniforms already? If so, please consider donating your gently used uniforms in good condition to the Used Uniform Sale. Donations can be dropped off at the school office. HSA will hold a Used Uniform Sale during Catholic Schools Week and funds raised will benefit HSA activities, so plan to do some uniform shopping towards the end of January!

North Texas Giving Day Proceeds

The results are in and the check is in the bank...St. Mark Catholic School raised a net total of \$10,446.46 from the North Texas Giving Day fundraising event on September 18! This total includes individual donations, bonus matching funds from the event, the \$1,000 "golden ticket" award that we won during an hourly drawing, and the cost of event fees – a great success by all accounts! Thank you once again to all of our generous donors. We couldn't have done it without you!

Bingo Knight

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Bingo Knight on Saturday, November 15 at 6:30 PM in the Cafetorium. This event will salute our Military and Veterans. In addition to Bingo, the

Knights will have a raffle for a special ticket package, and will also offer a WiFi hook-up for any active military or veteran to sign up for free tickets to the Armed Forces Bowl on January 2, 2015. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. The grand prize is \$600 in VISA gift cards. To register, visit www.KOFC-6065.org or fill out a registration form available in the Narthex.

Cistercian Varsity Basketball Clinic For Players/Coaches

The Cistercian Varsity Basketball head coach is offering a basketball clinic for any 3rd-8th grade boys and any coaches who will be working with school basketball teams. Reserve a spot by emailing Coach Craig Sklar at csklar@cistercian.org. See the attached flyer for more details.

John Paul II Softball Skills Camp

The John Paul II High School Cardinal Varsity Softball team is offering a free "Cardinal Softball Skills Camp" on Saturday, November 1 at the John Paul II East Sports Complex (800 Woodburn Corners in Plano). Kindergarten-4th grade: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; 5th-8th grades: 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Bring your glove! For more information, contact diannejones@johnpaulihs.org.

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

Red Ribbon Week: Each year, St. Mark participates in Red Ribbon Week, a national drug awareness program. You've all seen the red ribbons that your children have been wearing to school each day. These ribbons are provided to St. Mark by the Knights of Columbus. Our Student Council distributed the ribbons to our students on Monday, and each morning they made announcements to the students educating them about drug awareness.

Fire Clown Show: For St. Mark's ongoing recognition of Fire Safety Month, The Plano Fire Department visited our TK-3rd grade students on Wednesday and presented their "Fire Clowns" show. Students were introduced to "Snuzzle" the fire clown and his friends, who taught them about fire, kitchen and bicycle safety, discussed how to avoid choking, and how to address bullying. They did it all in a fun (and funny) way. The show was recorded by the City of Plano and will be broadcasted through their media outlets in the coming weeks – more details to come soon.



Spunky Pumpkin: Our 2nd graders treated parents and our Preschool through 1st grade students to their annual "Spunky Pumpkin" play on Thursday. This was the culmination of an entire unit which incorporated reading and language, as well as theatrical performance. They did a wonderful job – see their photo at the top of the bulletin.

Halloween Fun: Halloween celebrations at St. Mark never disappoint, and today was no exception! The school day started with our All-School Mass where we had some princesses, super heroes, and other characters in attendance. We also saw some crazy sock and tie choices

in the hallways (courtesy of the Student Council fundraiser). The Cafeteria staff got in on the act too. The lunch line was a little “darker” than usual, lit only by Halloween lights, and we heard some “spooky” music playing in the background during the lunch periods. This afternoon, students were treated to their first party of the year. Treats, games, and crafts were enjoyed by all, and the entire school was treated to the cutest Halloween parade ever as our Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students paraded through the classrooms and greeted our elementary and middle school students. Special thanks to our HSA Room Parents, our faculty/staff, and our Cafeteria staff who always make Halloween memorable for our children!

Patriotic Rosary: Last week, the Knights of Columbus, and members of the St. Mark Boy Scouts and American Heritage Girls participated in a “Patriotic Rosary” ceremony at the church, officiated by Fr. Jack Hopka. This was an opportunity for our parish family to come together and pray the rosary for our nation. Our Music teacher, Patty Corsi provided the music for this special occasion.

Photos with the Bishop: 6th Grader Aenghus D. recently had the honor of visiting with Bishop Farrell at the Columbian Squires of the Diocese of Dallas Diocesan conference. Younger brother (and first grader), Ambrose, took a photo of Aenghus and Bishop Farrell, and little did he know that a photographer from the *The Texas Catholic* was behind him taking a photo of the whole scene! See *The Texas Catholic* article by [clicking here](#).