



St. Mark Catholic School
Weekly School Bulletin
January 9, 2015

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Virtue of the Month – Self Control

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 "Self Control" this month.

Vocations Chalice

7th 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.

Reminders for Next Week

Lion's Den Spirit Store: Open Fridays, 7:30–8:15 AM; between Bacot Gym & the cafeteria

Check in at the school office and stop by for all of your St. Mark spirit gear needs! Can't come in person? Online ordering is available. See more details below.

January Brag Board

Check-out what 5th grade has been up to all month long in the hallway between the administration offices and the Cafetorium!



Friday, January 9 – Friday, January 23: Spring Enrichment Club Registration

See more details below.

Friday, January 16, 8:30 AM, 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 7th grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts.

Saturday, January 17: Hike For Life

Monday, January 19: Martin Luther King Day; No school for students

Welcome Newcomers

A warm St. Mark welcome to our new students joining us in January:

Mrs. Oliver	Naomi C.
Mrs. Jackson	Faith V.
Mrs. Helm	Nathan C.
Ms. Steinkirchner	Alex J.
Mrs. Ostermann	Brandon N.

Don't Wait: Participate!



Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction reminders for this week:

1. Our 28th Annual Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction will take place on Saturday, January 31 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Richardson -- don't miss out on our biggest fundraiser of the

year! [Click here](#) to purchase auction tickets, make your meal selections, and learn more about donation and volunteer opportunities. **Each person who purchases a ticket and attends the event has a chance to win free tuition for a year!**

And if you haven't had a chance to view this year's auction video on the CD that was sent home last month, [click here](#).

2. Just as a reminder, if you haven't sent a donation for your child's class basket, please hurry. All students who do so by Tuesday, January 13 will receive a free dress day on Thursday, January 15. [Click here](#) for the class basket themes.
3. Please contact Auction Co-Chair Raju Kattady at rajukattady@hotmail.com if you can assist with the following:

*Transport auction items to the DoubleTree Hotel

*Decorate for the event

Remember, all proceeds from this year's event will help put iPads into the hands of your children!



Calling all Dads! If you'd like to volunteer for a day at school during the month of February as a Watch D.O.G.S. Dad, you must sign-up by January 15! For more information and the sign up calendar, [click here](#). You will need to be Safe Environment cleared before you can serve. [Click here](#) for more information on Safe Environment Training.



Digital Wish Technology Donations: St. Mark is now accepting technology-specific donations through Digital Wish. [Click here](#) to help equip our students with iPads and iPad carts, and feel free to share this link with family, friends and associates who might like to help.



Catholic Schools Week: A Time to Promote St. Mark

Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year, Catholic Schools Week is scheduled for January 24-30, 2015 and the theme is "Catholic Schools - Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." At St. Mark, we traditionally observe Catholic Schools Week with special activities each day that celebrate the

people who make up our Catholic community. [Click here](#) for more detailed information and mark your calendar with these important dates:

January 24-25, 2015 - WE CELEBRATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Students represent St. Mark Catholic School in uniform at parish masses.

January 26, 2015 - WE CELEBRATE OUR PASTOR

Pastor Appreciation Day Assembly – 9:10 AM for preschool; 9:30 AM for grades TK-8
Laps For Leukemia

January 27, 2015 - WE CELEBRATE OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES

Open House for New Families, 9:00 - 10:00 AM
Family Lunch Day – 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Lion's Den Spirit Store Open – 11:00 AM – 1:00PM

January 28, 2015 - WE CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS

Buck-A-Jean, Buck-A-Tennie Day
Ice Cream Parties
Pep Rally

January 29, 2015 - WE CELEBRATE OUR TEACHERS

Teacher Appreciation Day
8th Grade Student-Teacher Switch Day

January 30, 2015 - WE CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD AROUND US

All School Mass
International Tasting Faire

Ways You Can Join in the CSW Celebrations:

1. Come to the Pastor Appreciation Day Assembly, Family Day Lunch, Pep Rally and All School Mass.
2. Catholic Schools Week coincides with our Open Houses and registration for the 2015-16 school year. We have two Open Houses coming up and need you to help spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in a Catholic education for their children. Pre-registration for Open Houses is available on our [website](#).

January 27 – 9:00-10:00 AM, Cafetorium
February 3 – 6:00-7:30 PM, School Library

3. Students can help spread the word by representing St. Mark in uniform at weekend Masses on January 24-25, both at our parish and other area parishes. **Please complete the attached permission slip to sign up for a Mass and return it to the school office by January 20.** All students who represent St. Mark at a Mass (either at our parish or another area parish) will receive a Free Dress Day on Monday, February 2!

January All-School Service Project

The All-School service project for the month of January is "Laps for Leukemia." This annual service project raises money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and provides our students with an opportunity to give back to the community during Catholic Schools Week. Students will be challenged to solicit pledges from family and friends. During CSW, they will walk as many laps as they can during P.E. class, and collect pledges accordingly. More details will be sent home soon.

Spring/Session II Enrichment Club Registration Begins

The St. Mark Spring/Session II Enrichment Clubs are now open for registration. See the attached list of spring offerings. Clubs will take place February 2-March 30. They will meet on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:00 PM. There is no charge for these Enrichment Clubs, and they will all be conducted by St. Mark teachers.

If your child would like to participate in an Enrichment Club during Session II, please print and complete the attached Permission Slip and return it to Mrs. O'Connor in the school office by January 23. Students who attend the After School Program are able to participate and will be taken to the ASP classrooms after club dismissal at 4:00 PM (simply indicate ASP participation on the attached Permission Slip).

School Uniform/P.E. Uniform Updates

School Uniform: Effective immediately, all new school uniform items purchased through our official uniform supplier, Academic Outfitters, will carry our new school logo. Please note that existing uniform items with the former version of the school logo will continue to be acceptable as part of the school uniform, but moving forward, Academic Outfitters will no longer be reproducing the former logo.

Also effective immediately, newly purchased school sweaters will be embroidered with the new school logo and the family last name only in our standard "Corbel" font. (First names, and fonts other than Corbel, will no longer be an option for name embroidery.) This will allow siblings to continue to share sweaters, and also keeps the sweater embroidery style consistent among all students. Again, existing sweaters with first names and other fonts will continue to be acceptable.

P.E. Uniforms: In addition to the standard P.E. uniform outlined in the Parent Student Handbook beginning on page 28, students may now wear the following in P.E. classes during the colder months: Pants: Plain gray or black sweatpants, or any sweatpants purchased at the St. Mark Lion's Den spirit store. No writing, big logos, or yoga pants. Tops: Any sweatshirt purchased at the St. Mark Lion's Den spirit store.

Cafeteria Menu Change

Please note that the school cafeteria will be closed on Tuesday, January 27 due to the "Family Day" event during Catholic Schools Week. The updated menu is posted on the [school website](#).

1st-8th Grades: Buy A Pretzel and Support the Yearbook!

The Middle School yearbook elective will be selling soft-baked pretzels to students next week to raise money to cover the cost of printing the yearbook. Pretzel orders will be taken during

class time on Monday, January 12-Friday, January 16. Pretzels are \$2.00 each. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The warm pretzels will be delivered to students during school as a morning snack between 9:00-10:30 AM on January 22. We will not be able to accommodate any orders on January 22, so if your child would like to enjoy a warm pretzel in class, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between January 12-16. Please help support the yearbook and enjoy a tasty treat!

From the School Nurse ...

Scoliosis Spinal Screenings: During the next few weeks, the school nurse will be screening the 5th and 8th grade students (boys and girls) for signs of scoliosis. The purpose of spinal screening is to detect signs of abnormal curves of the spine at their earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined. Please be on the lookout for emails with more information about this annual state-mandated screening if your child is in 5th or 8th grade.

"The Year of Technology" Is Off To A Great Start!

Our technology fundraising initiative is off to a great start thanks to long-time St. Mark parishioners and former school family Andy and Jacalyn Schwitter. The Schwitters recently made a generous donation to the school's technology fund, effectively kick-starting our ability to purchase iPads and iPad carts for our students this year. The Schwitters have three children who graduated from St. Mark in 1992, 1994 and 1995, respectively, and Andy currently serves on the St. Mark Parish Finance Council. We are most appreciative of this donation and hope others will be inspired to follow the Schwitter family's example. Donations in any amount are accepted and are tax deductible.

As we continue our technology fundraising efforts through the [Digital Wish website](#) and at our upcoming [Mardi Gras Dinner & Auction](#), we invite all of our families to participate, and to spread the word to family, friends and business associates who would like to help equip St. Mark students with personal technology.

News from the Athletics Department

Basketball Schedules Are Out: Plan to come out and cheer on your St. Mark basketball teams! Full schedules can be found by [clicking here](#).

This week's games:

Saturday, January 10

5th grade boys Gold vs. St. Rita Green @ St. Mark, 11:00 AM
5th grade boys Green vs. St. Rita White @ St. Mark, 12:00 PM
5th grade girls Gold vs. St. Monica @ St. Mark, 9:00 AM
5th grade girls Green vs. CKS @ St. Mark, 10:00 AM
6th grade boys D2 vs. POP @ POP, 12:00 PM
6th grade girls D1 vs. All Saints @ All Saints, 11:00 AM
7th grade boys D2 Gold vs. St. Monica Blue @ St. Mark, 7:00 PM
7th grade boys D2 Green vs. St. Rita @ St. Mark, 5:00 PM

7th grade boys D2 White vs. St. Monica White @ St. Mark, 6:00 PM
8th grade boys D1 vs. St. Thomas @ St. Mark, 2:00 PM
8th grade boys D2 vs. St. Rita @ St. Mark, 4:00 PM
8th grade boys D3 vs. St. Mary-Sherman @ St. Mark, 1:00 PM
8th grade girls D2 vs. All Saints @ St. Mark, 3:00 PM

Sunday, January 11

5th grade boys Gold vs. St. Monica Blue @ St. Monica, 12:00 PM
5th grade boys Green vs. St. Patrick @ St. Mark, 12:00 PM
6th grade girls D1 vs. St. Rita @ St. Mark, 1:00 PM
7th grade boys D2 Gold vs. St. Joseph @ St. Mark, 6:00 PM
7th grade boys D2 Green vs. POP Blue @ St. Mark, 5:00 PM
7th grade boys D2 White vs. MIS @ MIS, 3:00 PM
8th grade boys D1 vs. St. Rita @ St. Rita, 1:00 PM
8th grade boys D2 vs. POP @ St. Mark, 3:00 PM
8th grade girls D2 vs. St. Augustine @ St. Mark, 2:00 PM

Remember to visit our fully-stocked Concession Stand during home games, as well as the Lion's Den spirit store!

Announcing Lion's Den Spirit Store Hours: The Lion's Den spirit store is now open every Friday from 7:30-8:15 AM. It is located between Bacot Gym and the cafeteria. Check-in at the school office and shop 'til you drop for new St. Mark logo merchandise! Many of the items can be worn by students during P.E. classes. It's also open during basketball home games, and will have special hours on Tuesday, January 27 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM for Family Day during Catholic Schools Week. Can't visit in person? Order merchandise online by [clicking here](#).

GO LIONS!

Home & School Association (HSA) News

Box Tops: Please keep sending in your Box Tops. Remember to place them in a plastic bag labeled with your child's grade level and teacher name. We will have another grade level competition in February!

Used Uniform Sale: We are still accepting gently used uniform donations for the Used Uniform Sale. This sale will take place Sunday, January 25 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Lion's Lair Gym. The funds generated will be put towards HSA activities. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the school office.

Paper Pulling/ Reading: Help Needed! We are still in need of additional volunteers for Paper Pulling/Reading in Mrs. Bongiovanni's class. If you can help, please contact Erica Cremar at erica.cremar@gmail.com.

Junior Achievement: Help Needed! We are also in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement for the following teachers: Helm, Bongiovanni, Ostermann, and Pennartz. JA classes span five weeks, and each class is 30 minutes long. All teaching materials are provided. The volunteer works directly with the classroom teacher to schedule sessions that are convenient for both. If

you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Julie Rogers at julie.rogers@chase.com.

REMINDER: All volunteers including Paper Pullers, Readers, and JA must be Safe Environment trained. [Click here](#) for more details.

In Alumni News...

Alumni Visit During Their Christmas Break: We invited our alumni who were still home on Christmas break to pay us a visit this week, and many of them took us up on our offer! It's always nice to see our former students on campus!



Alum's Eagle Scout Project Benefits St. Mark Robotics: St. Mark Class of 2012 alum Kevin G. (current junior at Greenhill School) completed his Eagle Scout project over the Christmas break, and St. Mark Catholic School was the beneficiary! Kevin enlisted the help of three current St. Mark 8th graders Kristian G., Nick L. and Worth G., as well as several scout parents, and fellow St. Mark alumni including Alex R. (current junior at Jesuit), David F. (current junior at John Paul II), Alonso M. (current freshman at Cistercian), and Jason B., Kyle S. and Kolbe B. (current freshmen at John Paul II). They added locking cabinet doors and hardware to existing shelving in our Computer Apps lab, creating permanent storage for our robotics equipment. Thanks to Kevin and his assistants for this much needed storage space. By the looks of the photo at the top of the bulletin, our Robotics sponsor, Mrs. Benavides, couldn't be more pleased!

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

The next Women's Christ Renews His Parish retreat (CRHP) is January 17 and 18. Life gets busy with our many, many demands, but taking one weekend to spend with the Lord will be worth it. As the year 2015 begins, you will have an opportunity to say, 'Here I am, Lord'. In His gentle love, you might hear Him say, 'I am here for you.' You can learn more about the weekend and register online by going here: <http://www.stmarkplano.org/index.cfm?load=page&page=328>

John Paul II Drill Team Clinic

Join St. Mark alumni Caroline G. (class of 2014), Mary W. (class of 2013), Lacey L. (class of 2012), Audrey E. (class of 2012) and the rest of the John Paul II High School "Cardinal Belles" drill team at their "Mini Belle" Clinic on Saturday, January 24 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Girls ages 5-14 will learn dance and kick technique and a fun dance routine. The cost is \$35, which includes a commemorative t-shirt. [Click here](#) for more information and registration. The registration deadline is tomorrow, January 10.

Beauty and the Beast Ballet Performance

Everyone is invited to attend Gotta Dance's local ballet production of the fairy tale "Beauty and the Beast" at the Courtyard Theater in Plano. St. Mark 7th grader Samantha I. is performing, as are alumni Amanda L. (class of 2014) and Isabelle C. (class of 2012). Please see the attached flyer for show dates and times, including special Girl Scout performances. Shows continue from January 9-17. Our own Sharon Thompson (Kindergarten teacher) assisted with costuming, particularly Belle's beautiful costume!

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

5th Grade Presents Puppet Theater: Our 5th grade students were recently put into groups in English class and asked to choose a fairy tale. From that fairy tale, they had to choose characters, write a script for each one, and build a puppet theater including the stage, props and character figures. They presented their creations in class with each group member playing a part. The teacher recorded a video of each presentation so that the students could view their presentations.

St. Mark Cub Scout and Boy Scout Activities: Recently, the St. Mark Cub Scouts participated in a campout at the AT&T Cowboy Stadium. There were many boys in attendance from the North Texas area. Activities included stadium tours of the locker rooms, a mini-combine, games, a movie on the jumbotron, and of course a lot of throwing the football around on the Dallas Cowboys' home field.



St. Mark Boy Scout Troop 285 also recently hosted a family hike for the Cub Scouts. Scouts from first, second, third and fifth grades were in attendance. The Boy Scouts led the hike and taught the Cub Scouts about first aid, knot tying, equipment used in camping and camp cooking, which ended with yummy Dutch oven brownies!

Come join the fun! If you have a son interested in Cub Scouts, please contact John Petroff at petroffhome@verizon.net.

6th Grade Studies Greece; Makes Mythological Monsters: The 6th graders have been studying Greece as a thematic unit. They created and built their own mythological monsters in their social studies class this week. The students will also write a paper and present their monsters to their classes. They did a wonderful job and were very creative!