



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

**WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

**February 27, 2015**

PLEASE NOTE: If the Weekly School Bulletin is not appearing in all of your in-boxes, please check your "spam," "trash," and "junk" folders, and add "St. Mark Catholic School" as a contact.

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## REMINDERS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

### Monday, March 2

-Crazy Hat Day; Read Across America (see details below)

-3:30-4:45 PM, Cafetorium: Respect Life Club Meeting: Respect for Vocations/ Different Religions



**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.

-Deadline to register for Track & Field, Baseball and Softball (see details below)

-6:30 PM, Bacot Gym: JV Track & Field Parent Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 4**

7:00 AM, Cafetorium: Mathfax Competition. Eligible students have been notified.

### **Thursday, March 5**

-7:45 AM, Cafetorium: Confirmation/Graduation Parent Meeting

-Green Eggs and Ham served in the Cafeteria (see details below)

### **Friday, March 6**

-7:30-8:15 AM, Cafetorium: Lion's Den Spirit Store Open

-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 6th grade. They will perform the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts.

-12:00 PM: Early Dismissal. The After School Program will be available until 6:00 PM. Please send a lunch with all After School Program students.

### **Sunday, March 8**

Daylight Savings Time begins. Move those clocks forward one hour!

**Monday, March 9 - Friday, March 13** Spring Break, No School For Students

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## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND**

### **Virtue of the Month - Respect**

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 "Respect" this month.



### **Vocations Chalice**

6th 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.

### **March All-School Service Project**

During the month of March, students are supporting pro-life. See details at left.

### **March Brag Board**

Check out what 1st grade is doing during the month of March! The Brag Board can be found in the breezeway between the Cafetorium and the Administration Offices.

**Monday, March 16**

Classes resume

### INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS

Inclement weather days are built into the school calendar each year in case it becomes necessary to close the school due to bad weather. This week's two inclement weather days will be made-up on April 6 and 7. Please mark your calendars -- school will be in session on both of those days.

### MARCH ALL-SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

The March All-School Service Project is the annual St. Mark Baby Shower, which will take place at school on Wednesday, March 25. St. Mark Catholic School, in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus and the St. Mark Respect Life Club, will collect needed items for donation to Catholic crisis pregnancy centers, White Rose and Birth Choice. Preschool and elementary students will donate needed items, and middle school students will donate coins toward the purchase of car seats for these pregnancy centers. Details are as follows:

Preschool-Elementary Students - Preschool and elementary school students will donate items needed by the crisis pregnancy centers. Donations may be brought to school between March 16-24 and taken to classrooms, or they may be given to volunteers in all carpool lines during morning drop-off on Wednesday, March 25, the day of the Baby Shower. Click [here](#) for more details and the list of needed items.

Remember, participation in the monthly All-School Service Project counts as a homework grade.

### 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.

### UPDATE! THE TEMPLETON FAMILY TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE



The Templeton Family Technology Challenge is off and running! Since it was announced a little over two short weeks ago, we have received donations totaling \$33,315!

Most recently, we received a very generous \$25,000 donation from Ruth and Ray Hemmig. The Hemmigs have been St. Mark parishioners for decades, and have been associated with the

Middle School Students - Bring change for babies and be for life! Help support White Rose and Birth Choice! In lieu of donating items to the Baby Shower mentioned above, middle school students will donate coins.

From Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 20, middle school students are asked to bring change from home and deposit it into containers designated by grade level (6th, 7th, 8th), which will be located in the front of the Cafetorium each day during lunch. The containers are quite large, so it will take the entire grade to win! Students are encouraged to bring in at least \$3.00-\$5.00 worth of change to "make a change!"

The grade that fills its container first will win a free dress day, and ice cream during lunch, on Wednesday, March 25 (the same day as our Baby Shower). The grades that fill their containers for second and third place will receive ice cream during lunch on that day. The Respect Life Club will purchase as many car seats as possible with the collected money (which are especially needed by the pregnancy centers).

Students should place coins in a plastic baggie and show it to their Religion teacher for March service project credit.

### **READ ACROSS AMERICA; CRAZY HAT DAY; GREEN EGGS AND HAM**

Each year, St. Mark participates in The National Education Association's "Read Across America" event, a reading motivational and awareness program that is held on Dr. Seuss' birthday. This year's event will be held on Monday, March 2. St. Mark students will celebrate by wearing "crazy hats" to school on that day. Students

school almost from its beginning. They are the proud parents of five daughters who all graduated from St. Mark Catholic School, including our very own Transitional Kindergarten teacher Kristen (Hemmig) Young! The Hemmigs are strong supporters of St. Mark, and it is thanks to donors like them that our school technology initiative is well on its way.

And if you haven't heard by now, donations in any amount made by April 6, 2015 are being matched 100% by another St. Mark alumni family, Mary and Richard Templeton, who challenge all of us to contribute to the school technology fund. The Templetons have committed matching funds of \$100,000 for this challenge. With the proceeds from the auction, your help, and the Templeton Challenge, we are committed to achieving our total technology fund goal. For those with a company match program, those funds will also be matched 100%. It's a wonderful way to leverage a \$1,000 donation into a \$3,000 donation! [Click here to donate!](#)

should also either bring a book to school, or plan to borrow one in the classroom. At 9:45 AM, we'll all "Stop, Drop and Read!" Dr. Seuss bookmarks will be distributed to students during their classroom library times throughout the week, then on Thursday, March 5, the Cafeteria gets in on the act and serves the Cat In The Hat's favorite -- Green Eggs and Ham!



[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)



### BEST BOOK I READ THIS YEAR CONTEST

Once again, St. Mark is competing in the Diocesan "Best Book I Read This Year" contest. If your child is interested in competing, they must write an essay on the best book they've read this school year. The length depends on the age of the child. Our winners at each level will go on to compete at the Diocesan level. The contest runs from March 2 - 31. Information and rules can be found [here](#). For questions contact [anne.hollenbeck@stmcs.net](mailto:anne.hollenbeck@stmcs.net).

### NEWS FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



Our students are excited to watch the mercury rise on our donation board in the school lobby. Join the challenge today and keep it moving!



### HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HSA) NEWS

**HSA Meeting:** HSA will hold its third general meeting for all parents on March 25, 2015. Join us at 8:15 AM in the school cafeteria to meet other parents, and to learn more about upcoming volunteer opportunities. We will also be discussing officer and committee chair positions for the 2015-2016 school year. The class with the most parents in attendance will win a class snack party!

**Box Tops:** Thanks to all of our Box Top counters, St.

**Spring Sports Deadline Extended:** The deadline to register for Track & Field, Baseball and Softball has been extended to Monday, March 2. Click [here](#) for more information about Track & Field, and [here](#) for Baseball/Softball.

**JV Track & Field Parent Meeting Rescheduled:** The parent information meeting for JV Track & Field has been rescheduled for Monday, March 2 at 6:30 PM in the Bacot Gym.

**Basketball Playoffs:** Playoff games have been taking place this week and we have several teams advancing to the next round. **Come out and cheer on your Lions as they move towards the finals!**

February 27:  
5th grade boys Green - 7:00 PM @ St. Thomas

7th grade boys Gold - 6:00 PM @ St. Mark

February 28:  
5th grade girls Gold - 10:00 AM @ JP11

March 1:  
8th grade girls - 2:00 PM @ JP11

For updates on game times/locations, and how our Lions are doing, click [here](#).

**DPL All-Star Game:** The DPL Basketball All-Star Games will take place Saturday, February 28 at the American Airlines Center. The girls will play at 1:30 PM, and the boys will play at 2:30 PM. Congratulations to St. Mark students Ethan Messner, Nate Sanchez and Nicola Librea who will represent our school, as well as St. Mark coach Eric Librea who will coach the Girls All Star Red team! The All-Star Games will be followed by the Dallas Mavericks game at 7:30

Mark will be receiving a check for \$619.80! The grade competition will continue until May, so keep turning in your Box Tops. 2nd grade is in first place followed by 1st grade!

**DON'T WAIT, PARTICIPATE!**



**Registration Going On Now For St. Mark Summer Camps:** Register now for St. Mark full-day and part-time summer camps! A variety of weeklong camp themes are available. [Click here](#) for more information.



**Calling all Dads!** If you'd like to volunteer for a half day or a full day at school during the month of April as a Watch D.O.G.S. Dad, you must sign-up by March 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.

**SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK**



PM as they take on the Brooklyn Nets for Catholic Night. [Click here](#) for "Catholic Night" tickets and information.

**Letterman jackets are in!** Payment must be made before pick-up. All pick-ups take place on Fridays at the Lion's Den store between 7:30-8:15 AM.



**Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament:** Get your foursomes together and mark your calendars for the 2015 Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament - Friday, April 24, 2015 at The Courses at Watters Creek. This annual event, hosted by St. Mark alumni, is always a fun outing complete with a round of golf, dinner and prizes. Shotgun start at 1:00 PM. Click [here](#) for details, registration, and sponsorship opportunities!

**GO LIONS!**

#### ST. MARK BINGO KNIGHT

**BINGO** The St. Mark Knights of Columbus will host a Bingo Knight on Saturday, March 21 in the Cafetorium benefitting numerous pro-life projects, activities and charities. Our March All-School Service Project coincides with this Bingo Knight (see details at right). The grand prize is a \$600 VISA gift card. Bring a new baby shower gift and receive a free additional bingo card! Pre-register by March 19

**1st Grade Learns About Weather:** 1st grade had a visit from Hightouch/Hightech "Science Made Fun" on Wednesday.

They participated in hands-on lessons that taught them about the different types of weather, air pressure and even lightning!



**7th Grader Performs With Broadway Stars:** As a member of the Children's Chorus of Collin County, 7th grader Chelsea A. recently had the opportunity to perform with The Plano Symphony at the sold-out show, "Do You Hear the People Sing?" at the Eisemann Center. The show has traveled the world and features some of Broadway's best including Jeff McCarthy, Jennifer Paz, Eric Kunze, Kathy Voytko, and Marie Zamora, as well as composer Alain Boublil.

by clicking [here](#) and pay \$25 per ticket (price increases to \$30 at the door). Participants must be at least 21 years old. To become a table sponsor or to make a donation, please contact [frank.mcelligott@yahoo.com](mailto:frank.mcelligott@yahoo.com).

(photo removed)

**Snow Break!** Several classes took a break today and went outside to enjoy the falling snow, including 6th grade pictured below.

(photo removed)

### LION PRIDE!



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

**St. Mark's Claudine Humphries Receives Bishop's Award For Service:** St. Mark Catholic School parent Claudine Humphries is one of 144 recipients of the 2015 Bishop's Award for Service to the Church. Bishop Farrell bestowed the awards earlier this month at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe located downtown. During his homily, Bishop Farrell said that to serve is to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Claudine has served St. Mark Catholic



Church in many ways over the years including chairing the parish carnival committee, and serving on the Parish Stewardship Council, Families of Nazareth, Christ Renews His Parish, and Vacation Bible School. Claudine is also a strong presence at the school. She currently serves on the School Advisory Council and has held many other roles including Room Parent, class reader, Spiritual Life Coordinator, and member of the Hospitality Committee. We congratulate Claudine who is so deserving of this award! It is the involvement of people like Claudine that contributes to making St. Mark a true church and school family that we all cherish.

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