



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

September 2, 2016

Prayer for the 2016-17 School Year

Lord, help us to come together as a community to support one another, encourage one another and show each other kindness. Amen.

St. Mark Mantra

Every day we treat others as we would Jesus Christ with all our hearts, mind and soul.

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REMINDERS

Monday, September 5:
-No school for students; Labor Day holiday



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!

Wednesday, September 7:

-8th grade to the Pines Leadership Retreat (9/7-9/9)

-8:00 AM, Cafetorium: HSA Committee Chair & Room Parent Meetings

-7:00-9:00 PM, Cafetorium: Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Party

Friday, September 9:

-7:30-8:15 AM, Cafetorium: Lions Den Spirit Store

-8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass planned by the 6th grade. All are welcome.

-HSA Membership Drive Ends

Monday, September 12:

-St. Mark Spirit Day! (details below)

-8:00 AM, Room 137: St. Mark Community Prayer Team Meeting

-Safe Environment Virtus Lessons

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE - 2016 PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Each school year, St. Mark conducts a survey among our parents. Results are studied carefully by the school administration and faculty/staff, and form the basis upon which decisions are made going forward. At St. Mark, we take a collaborative approach to all decision-making with the goal of continuous improvement. We can't do that without your input, so we thank everyone who responded to the 2016 survey and provided such valuable input. For your information, here is the breakout of responses by grade level:

Grades PK-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-7	Grade 8
24%	27%	31%	17%

Strengths

The 2016 survey tells us that, overall, parents are very happy with the school's approach. Three areas that garnered particularly high ratings were in the areas of community service, helping parents support their child's



QUICK LINKS

- [Calendar](#)
- [Limited Openings for 2016-17](#)
- [Lifetime Lions Alumni Network](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND



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.



Friendship: Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. [Click here](#) for the 2016-17 monthly virtues.



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 an all-school service project each month.

September Project: "Spreading Hope" - We are conducting a peanut butter drive in conjunction

faith life, and helping parents support their child's education. Faith, service and academics are the three pillars of our school mission statement, so it is very gratifying to know that St. Mark Catholic School is meeting or exceeding expectations in these areas.

Opportunities

Of course, we know there is always room for improvement, and the 2016 survey also identified three areas that warrant more concentration on our part. They include increasing awareness of the School Advisory Council, better communicating how we challenge students to think critically and ethically about the world around them, and better communicating our practices of diversity and differentiation within the classrooms. We have met collectively as a staff to discuss these areas in depth, and have formally targeted them for improvement during the 2016-17 school year.

I hope you had a chance to read my "Principal's Message" in last week's bulletin where the School Advisory Council was introduced. We will continue to find ways to incorporate these advisory board members at parent gatherings so that you can get to know them and begin to utilize them as a resource. They are your voice at our monthly board meetings, and we encourage you to present your ideas and suggestions to them, as well as to administration. Please continue to look for the monthly SAC meeting minutes in the weekly bulletins, and don't forget to stop by the new SAC board in the hallway by the administration offices to learn more about our individual council members. More information about SAC can also be found on their [web page](#).

In that message, I also mentioned that there will be an even greater effort to increase the communication between school and home. Look for your child's teachers to stay in close contact with you regarding classwork and activities, how we are all living out our gospel values throughout the day, and how teachers are "meeting children where they are" in the everyday learning process and employing a variety of teaching methods to meet our students' individual needs. Also, don't forget to follow us on social media! We frequently post school day highlights that are not only fun to see, but also show you how students and staff are consistently carrying out our school's mission.

Parent input is vital to the success of our program and we invite you to maintain an open dialog with us, and to send

with John Paul II High School. Donate as many jars as you are able.

Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Who Benefits? Plano Food 4 Kids

Due Date: September 28, 2016



Come out and cheer on your St. Mark LIONS at these upcoming games:

Volleyball

5th grade kicks-off the 2016-17 volleyball season with a Pre-Season Tournament this weekend at Sportsplex in Dallas:

Friday, 9/2:

6:00 PM, Court 2 - 5th Grade Green vs. St. Bernard

6:00 PM, Court 4 - 5th Grade Gold vs. SPX

6:45 PM, Court 1 - 5th Grade Green vs. St. Patrick

6:45 PM, Court 3 - 5th Grade Gold vs. St. Monica

7:30 PM, Court 2 - 5th Grade Green vs. St. Monica

7:30 PM, Court 4 - 5th Grade Gold vs. MIS

Saturday, 9/3:

Championship Bracket Play



us any suggestions you may have along the way. It is our collective goal to make St. Mark the best it can be!

Thank you again for your support of our parent survey.

Patricia Opon

Patricia Opon
Principal

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WORKERS NEEDED

The St. Mark After School Program is in need of workers. Workers earn \$15.00 per hour, and their children may attend the program for free. Interested? Contact toni.jobses@stmcs.net.

Flexible schedules are available:

*Work 1-5 days per week, or be a substitute

*Arrive at 3:15 PM and work until 5:00 or 6:00 PM

DONATE OLD T-SHIRTS TO THE ART DEPT.

Art Teacher, Ms. Williams, is in need of old t-shirts (child medium to adult sizes) to use as smocks during art classes. If you would like to donate your old t-shirts, please drop them off at the front desk.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Annual vision/hearing screens for all students will be taking place during the month of September. Any referrals will be sent home after all screenings are completed.

30TH ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION NEWS

Volunteer Meeting: The Auction Committee will be holding an "all-hands volunteer meeting" on Wednesday, September 14 from 6:45-8:00 PM in the Cafetorium. Light snacks will be served.

Auction Survey: We want to hear from you! Be on the lookout for a survey to help us understand what you would like to see at this year's event. We also have many volunteer needs. Please contact Eric Librea (ericlibrea@alumni.duke.edu) if you are interested in helping out at this year's event.

Cross Country News:

Our Cross Country coach has been confirmed. Thank you to Coach John Owen for leading our St. Mark team!

We are in need of an Assistant Coach for the Cross Country meets that take place over three Saturdays in October. The tentative location is Norbuck Park in Dallas.

If you have registered your child for Cross Country but have not yet turned in a Sports Physical Form, please [click here](#) for more information and the form. It must be submitted immediately to Mrs. O'Connor.

More team details will be sent shortly to all Cross Country families by Coach Owen and/or Athletic Director Marlene Ehring.

DPL Sports Team Registration Information:

*The DPL Tennis Tournament will take place on November 12 at Collin College in Plano. Registration will open September 19 and close October 14. [Click here](#) for more details.

*Coming soon: DPL Swim Meet date



All Souls

Remembrance 1K/5K Run: Mark your calendar for the annual St. Mark All Souls Run -- Saturday, October 29! [Click here](#) for registration and more information.



HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

The Home and School Association is so thankful for all of our wonderful volunteers who have signed up for the 2016-17 school year. We know your time is valuable and we are so grateful that you are willing to spend your time giving back to our St. Mark community.

For those of you interested in volunteering but not sure where to start, we have a few openings still available:

Library Volunteers - 30 minute time commitment

Mrs. Dansby - 3rd grade

Mrs. McCormick - 1st grade

Room Parents

Mrs. Paulson - 3rd grade

Mrs. Samples - 4th grade

Reading in the Classroom - 30 minute time commitment

PK3-2nd grade

Paper Pulling - 30 minute time commitment

1st & 2nd grade teachers

*Note to Volunteers - Please be sure to contact your coordinator if you need to cancel your volunteer timeslot, even if it is last minute. We have lots of resources to help you find coverage so that the needs of our students and teachers are still met.

HSA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

Did you know that your HSA membership dues help fund things such as Field Day, ice cream sandwiches during Catholic Schools Week, First Communion, Graduation and Confirmation receptions, movie nights, and more throughout the school year?

Haven't paid your HSA dues yet? Not to worry, there is still time! All families who have paid their \$20 dues by 3:30 PM on Friday, September 9 will be entered into a raffle drawing to win one of the following prizes. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, September 14...

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for the All Souls Run! Athletic Director Marlene Ehrling will be contacting you soon with more details.

Sponsorships Available: We are currently seeking sponsorships for the All Souls Run, and we are offering some fun incentives to anyone who brings in \$250 or more in sponsor dollars:

*Any athlete who raises over \$500 in sponsorships receives a St. Mark Letter Jacket!

*Any athlete who raises over \$250 in sponsorships receives a certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store to purchase the gear of their choice!

Click the link above for more information about sponsorships.



Monsignor Smyth Golf

Classic: This annual event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email marlene.ehrling@stmcs.net if you are interested in helping.

FALL FESTIVAL

Save the date!

The 2016 St. Mark Fall



Festival takes place on Saturday, October 29! It kicks-off with the All Souls Run, followed by a craft fair, basketball tournament, games, live music, Trunk or Treat, great food, a raffle, and more.

- *Reserved seating at the Christmas Pageant (grades PK-5th)
- *Front circle pick-up for the remainder of the school year (grades 1-8)
- *Free school supplies for the 2017-18 school year
- *Free 2016-17 Memory Book (grades Pk-5)
- *First choice for elective (one time; grades 6-8)
- *1/2 page ad in the 2016-17 Yearbook (8th grade only)

To pay your dues and become an HSA member, please [click here](#).

REMINDERS:

School Directories: Directories will be distributed at the end of September to ensure that all new families are included.

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.



Box Tops: Keep saving those Box Tops! They will be counted throughout the year and prizes/parties awarded. Be sure to write the grade level on the baggies when you turn them in to the school office.

ST. MARK SPIRIT DAY!

Monday, September 12 is St. Mark **Spirit Day!** Students may wear a St. Mark t-shirt or sweatshirt of their choosing (this includes any shirt with the St. Mark name, including Field Day shirts). These may be worn with jeans, slacks, Capri-style pants, the school skirt, the school pants, or the school uniform walking shorts. Students may wear any closed shoe. Sweatpants, leggings, shorts (other than the school uniform walking shorts), caps/accessories, and solid green/gold shirts without the St. Mark name are not permitted. Please follow the dress policy as written. No



Volunteer! Donate! Sponsor!

Your help is needed to make this fun-filled, community-building fundraiser a success. Contact Fall Festival Chair Darrel Sharpe at 443-955-4863 or darrel.sharpe@gmail.com, or Co-Chair Sarah Sharpe at 443-670-2100 or sjsharpe@gmail.com for more details.

Safe & Family-Friendly Environment

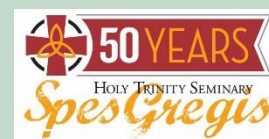
All adult volunteers must participate in the Diocesan [Safe Environment Training](#) Program.

Check the Fall Festival [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for even more information.

This event is open to the public, so be sure to invite your friends!



St. Mark Catholic School has formed a special relationship with [Holy Trinity Seminary](#) and takes great pride in supporting our future priests. Following are upcoming opportunities to become involved:



You are invited to attend the Holy Trinity

Seminary "50th Year" Spes Gregis Dinner (the hope of the flock), welcoming their seminarians and introducing them to the Catholic community. The dinner will take place on Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. For tickets, sponsorships, underwriting or donations, contact

exceptions. For your reference, Spirit Days for the entire school year have been added to the electronic calendar located on the homepage of our [website](#). St. Mark spirit wear is available online (visit the link at the top of this bulletin), every Friday morning from 7:30-8:15 AM at the Lions Den Spirit Store located in the Cafeteria, and at all home volleyball games.

WATCH D.O.G.S.

Dads, please don't forget to RSVP for the Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Night event on Wednesday, September 7! Simply email or call Aaron Baldwin at ab3163@att.com, or 972-822-9088.



ST. MARK COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

The mission of the Community Prayer Team is to provide ways that we, as a community, can come together and pray throughout the year.

Praying for our Teachers: We would like to invite the community to pray for our teachers who so selflessly serve our school.



Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us in your ways. Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that we may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life, forever and ever. Amen.

Source: [Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers](#)

Meetings: Mark your calendars. The first meeting is September 12 at 8:00 AM in Room 137 near the Athletic Director's office. If you have a prayer request concerning our school, or another intention you would like us to pray over during this meeting, please send an email to kathleenfrye@yahoo.com. Please indicate if you would like your prayer to be shared, or submitted in the Prayer Box to remain confidential.

If you are unable to make the meeting, but would like to be part of this team, contact KathleenFrye@yahoo.com; 214- 551-8887. There will be many ways to participate this year, no matter what your schedule is.

Mrs. Agnes Denvir directly at agnes.denvir@stmcs.net.

" YOUR TWEEN & YOU" PARENT WORKSHOP

5th-8th grade
parents --

Learn how collaboration, ownership, and seconds can change the dynamics between you and your child. You'll be empowered and inspired as you gain skills and learn strategies to help your middle schooler thrive. You'll understand your child better and build our Catholic faith. [Click here](#) to register.



Date: September 15, 2016

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Place: Great Room in the St. Mark Parish Center



ENDOW (Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women) is a Catholic study program that engages the intellect of women. More information can be found [here](#). St. Mark's new fall ENDOW study begins September 7. We will be studying the apostolic letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*. Meetings take place on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Upper Room of the Smyth Pastoral Center and childcare is available upon request. [Click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact [Chris Keith](#) or [Liz Quarles](#).

JESUIT 'LIL ROWDY RANGER CHEER CLINIC

The Jesuit Cheerleaders will be hosting the 2016 Lil Rowdy Ranger Cheer Clinic on Friday, October 14 from 5:00-7:00 PM at Jesuit. The clinic is ideal for students in the 4-10 year old age range who have an interest in cheerleading, and who would enjoy the opportunity to perform under the "Friday night lights" with the Jesuit Cheerleaders at Postell Stadium. [Click here](#) for details.



"The Choice Wine" marriage enrichment program integrates the latest findings from modern science with the teaching of the faith and the wisdom of saints. Hosted by St. Mark Catholic Church in the Parish Center, it will begin with a Saturday morning retreat on September 17 and will continue with weekly Thursday evening meetings from September 22-November 3. Please [click here](#) to register.

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