



# ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

## WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN

January 6, 2017

### 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.

## REMINDERS

### TODAY, Friday, January 6:

-8th grade received the Vocations Chalice at today's All School Mass. They will be praying for vocations during the upcoming week.

### Monday, January 9:

-St. Mark Spirit Day (refer to pg. 26 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#))

-8:00 AM, Rm. 142: Community Prayer Team Meeting. All are welcome.

-Popcorn Sale Benefitting Middle School Yearbook (details below)

### Friday, January 13:

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

-2nd Quarter Ends

### Saturday, January 14:



A National School of  
Excellence

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connected!



## QUICK LINKS

[Calendar](#)  
[Limited Openings for  
2016-17](#)

-P.S.A.T. Exam administered by Duke T.I.P. (participants previously notified)

**Monday, January 16:**

-NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Day

**Tuesday, January 17:**

-3rd Quarter Begins

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year -- I hope you all had a blessed Christmas season and are ready to make 2017 the best year yet!

January 27-February 17 is the time for re-registration for the 2017-18 school year. More details will be forthcoming, but for now, I am pleased to share with you that **we anticipate one of our lowest tuition increases in at least five years.**

By their very nature, Catholic schools operate with investments by both the school community and the parish. This is done in an effort to keep the base cost of education affordable. Because we have been blessed with a community that supports St. Mark Catholic School through tuition and through additional fundraising, and because we pride ourselves on good stewardship of funds, we can continue to make both organizational and budgetary decisions in the best interest of our students, and to continually provide them with the most advanced education available.

I think this is the perfect time to take a moment and give you a snapshot of where your tuition dollars go, how fundraising supports our school programs, and share how we continue to provide an exemplary program while keeping costs down.

#### **TUITION DOLLARS**

Every one of your tuition dollars goes towards the basic expenses related to the education of our students including:

\*Textbooks, workbooks, classroom and learning materials, IXL  
\*Staff salaries and benefits (Although our staff earns well below their public school counterparts, they are here as a part of their personal commitment to Catholic education. It is not about the money, but their mission to educate each student in the spirit of faith, gospel values, and academic excellence according to Roman Catholic principles. In addition, we are able to maintain a low staff count because parents help with Prefect Duty, pulling papers, library volunteering, etc. Without our volunteers, we would have to hire permanent staff to perform these tasks. Even our office staff runs lean at 7 employees. For comparison, Prince of Peace

[Lifetime Lions Alumni Network](#)  
[Lunch Menu](#)  
[Safe Environment Training](#)

### FAITH IN ACTION



#### **January Virtue -**

**Fortitude:** Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month with students to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. [Click here](#) for the 2016-17 virtues.



#### **January All-School Service Project: Blanket Making**

Each class will make blankets with materials provided by the school.

#### **Catholic School Teaching:**

Life and dignity of the human person.

#### **Who Benefits?**

Seagoville Manor Nursing Home/Refugee Services of Texas

#### **Due Date:**

Blankets will be made by January 20 and Cafeteria Manager, Linda Gaines, will deliver them.

has 18, All Saints has 10, St. Paul has 6, and St. Joseph has 7 office staffers.)

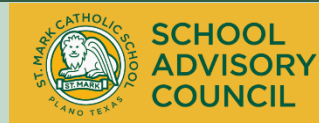
- \*Student accident insurance
- \*Library books and subscriptions
- \*Accreditation fees (\$2,300 annually)
- \*Catholic Schools Office fees (\$8,900 annually)
- \*Iowa standardized assessment costs (\$7,000 annually)
- \*Facilities repairs/maintenance (For example, we pay \$5,000 each summer to paint the school halls; this year, we must also paint the classrooms.)
- \*Technology support
- \*General business operating expenses (postage, copy machine rentals, paper, office supplies)
- \*Credit card merchant fees (\$9,000 annually)
- \*Safe Environment background checks
- \*Renweb subscription (\$13,000 annually)
- \*Marketing expenses for materials and advertising

**It is important to note that, even after you pay tuition each year, there is still a difference between the amount you pay and the actual cost incurred by the school to educate your child. That difference is called the "gap." In 2016-17, the gap per student is \$1,140. It is through fundraising efforts and the generosity of donors that this additional cost is met. So, as you can see, your tuition dollars cover many, but not all of your child's basic education expenses.**

#### **ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS**

In addition to basic expenses, the school is responsible for funding other projects and programs. Without our major fundraisers and additional donations to the school, these items would not be possible:

- \*The "gap" for each child described above.
- \*Capital improvements such as the SmartLab, gym renovations, playground updates and enhancements, front entry remodel in both the main building and ECC for safety purposes
- \*Student technology items, technology infrastructure
- \*Smart boards and projectors
- \*P.E. equipment
- \*Art and Music supplies
- \*Additional maintenance costs (We continue to be fortunate that our St. Mark parish contributes towards maintenance, and covers all the utilities and grounds work. We pay extra maintenance support for special events such as the STEM Fair, Back to School Sunday, Grandparents Day, and any other large event that requires setup, tear down, and clean up.)
- \*Our ever growing list of future needs and wants includes new water fountains, an outside water fountain, repairs to the playground fence, an electronic gate at the entrance between the



Minutes from the November 17, 2016 School Advisory Council meeting are now available [here](#).

#### **OPEN HOUSES**



Know anyone interested in a cutting-edge education for their child that is rooted in our Catholic faith? Spread the word about our upcoming Open Houses:

**\*Tuesday, January 31,  
9:00-10:00 AM**

**\*Tuesday, February 7,  
6:00-7:30 PM**

Visit [www.stmcs.net/open-house-registration](http://www.stmcs.net/open-house-registration) for details.

#### **WELCOME NEW STUDENT**

A warm St. Mark welcome to our newest student, 6th grader Ansley B., who is in Mrs. Smith's homebase.

#### **SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ST. MARK & YOU CAN WIN A GIFT CERTIFICATE**

Can you help us spread the word about St. Mark to your friends and

playground and the school, a cushioned floor in the Lion's Lair Gym, and pottery wheels for the Art Department.

I hope this illustration has given you some insight as to how we do what we do from a financial standpoint, and why we continue to seek your involvement with our fundraising and volunteer opportunities. Every dollar and volunteer hour benefits every one of our students.

More information is forthcoming regarding the re-registration process. In the meantime, check out our "Spotlight" display about tuition dollars in the front lobby, and please contact me directly with any questions.

*Patricia Opon*

Patricia Opon, Principal  
[patricia.opon@stmcs.net](mailto:patricia.opon@stmcs.net)

## POPCORN SALE BENEFITTING MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

The Middle School Yearbook elective will be selling popcorn to all students (PK3-8th grade) next week. Popcorn orders will be taken during class time between Monday, January 9 and Wednesday, January 11. Popcorn bags are \$2.00 each. Choose from Butter, White Cheddar, Caramel, or Salsa. Order extra bags for gifts or snacks. Exact change is appreciated. Payment must be made during the order process. The popcorn will be delivered to students during school on January 17. If your child would like to enjoy a bag of popcorn, be sure that he/she pre-orders and pays between 1/9-11. Please help support the middle school yearbook elective and enjoy a tasty treat!



## HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

**Junior Achievement Help Needed:** We are in need of volunteers for Junior Achievement for the following teachers: Paulson, Flores, 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 [Kathleen Frye](#).

neighbors? There are a couple ways you can help:

\*Do you participate in a **neighborhood blog or website** such as [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com), or a neighborhood Facebook page? If so, please post our Open House dates (see above)! If there is room for more details, simply email [Debbie Reed](mailto:Debbie.Reed) and she'll send them to you for posting.

\*Soon, we'll have **St. Mark yard signs** advertising our Open Houses. Are you willing to place one in your front yard? If so, email [Debbie Reed](mailto:Debbie.Reed).

**Open House Referral Incentive:** If you refer someone to an upcoming Open House, you'll automatically receive a gift certificate! Here's how it works: Simply send someone you know to visit an upcoming Open House. Once they attend in person and indicate you as a referral, we'll send you a \$10.00 gift certificate to the Lion's Den Spirit Store...it's that easy!

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL



NEWS FROM  
ATHLETICS

**Basketball Season Begins!** [Click here](#) for game schedules. Come out and cheer on your

**PK-3 - 2nd Grade Readers/Paper Pullers Needed:** The HSA would like to extend our appreciation to our Classroom Readers and Paper Pullers for their gift of time. We still have opportunities available for PK3-2nd grade. Please contact [Jill Dourty](#) if you have any questions or are interested in signing up.

**Library Volunteers Needed:** Ms. Paulson's 3rd Grade class is in need of library volunteers. If you're Safe Environment trained and can volunteer 30 minutes of your time once a month, please contact [Paola Colon](#).



Don't forget -- St. Mark earns money when you shop at Amazon through the link on our school website. **We've made it even easier for you by adding the Amazon "a" logo at the very top of the homepage, next to the social media links:**



**Earn Money for St. Mark by Grocery Shopping:** Link your Tom Thumb and Kroger shopper cards to St. Mark today by [clicking here](#) and earn money for our school simply by shopping for groceries.

**Safe Environment:** A reminder that you must be [Safe Environment](#) cleared to volunteer in any capacity at school. Contact [Toni Jobes](#) with questions.

## 30TH ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

**2017 Gala & Auction Class Theme Baskets:** It is tradition that each class donate a themed gift basket to be auctioned at the event. Parents should have received information about each child's class basket, items needed, and/or how to make a donation towards basket items. If you have not heard from your child's Classroom Parent Auction Coordinator, please reach out to [Michelle Martin](#). Collection boxes are located inside each classroom, and in the Library for middle school students. The final day for items to be donated is February 3. We will have parents at each school drop-off location to collect last minute donations. Please have these donations in bags labeled with your child's name, teacher name, and grade. If you have any questions, please contact your child's class Room Parent or [Michelle Martin](#).

LIONS! And don't forget to visit the Lion's Den Spirit Store during home games for all of your St. Mark gear!

**Swim Meet Rescheduled; Registration Reopened:** This year's DPL Swim Meet has been rescheduled from the fall to sometime in February. [Registration](#) is now open for anyone else wishing to participate. The deadline is January 20. If you have already registered, no further action is necessary. More Swim Meet details will be forthcoming.

**Upcoming Sports Registrations:** Save the date! Registration will open on January 16 for baseball, softball and track. The deadline to register for these sports will be February 28.

**DPL/Ursuline Academy Basketball Night:** Join the UA Bears tonight at 6:00 PM for DPL Night. Wear your DPL jersey and get in free. [Click here](#) for more information.

**Download Game Photos:** Check out the [Dallas Parochial League Smug Mug photo site](#). View and purchase photos from recent events.

**Coach Safe Environment Training:** All volunteer coaches for Baseball, Softball, and Track must submit their Safe

**Buy Tickets:** The 30th Annual Gala & Auction is less than two months away - February 18, 2017 at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center. We are filling up quickly and you don't want to miss the opportunity to bid on this year's first ever "**Jump with Me Teacher/Parent Sky Diving**" live auction item, or a hand-carved nativity scene straight from the Holy Land.



See below for other great incentives to buy those tickets now:

- Swag bags await each family that attends the event. We currently have coupon and/or item commitments from Kenny's Restaurant Group (Kenny's Smoke House, Kenny's East Side Pizza, Kenny's Burger Joint), Raising Cane's, Jumpstreet, 7-11, Patrón Spirits, and we're expecting more!
- Students whose parents attend and are from the **class** with the best parent turnout will get an ice cream party at Sweet Firefly!
- Students whose parents attend and are from the **grade level** with the best parent turnout will get an afternoon of bowling, bounce house, trampoline jumping, or something similar!
- Commemorative stemless wine glasses to first-time event attendees!
- Surprise items will be included in randomly selected swag bags!

Purchase your tickets now by [clicking here](#). If you have questions, ideas, or would like to help out, please reach out to [Eric Librea](#). If you feel like attending but don't have a group or table to join, please reach out to Lori Gonzalez ([dlgonzalezfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:dlgonzalezfamily@yahoo.com)) and she will make sure you are seated with the fun crowd!

**How to Donate:** Do you own a business that would benefit from promotion within the St. Mark community? If so, become a **St. Mark Catholic School 2017 Gala & Auction Sponsor**. Sponsorship packages range from \$500 - \$2,500 and can include ads on the auction website, in the auction program and in the St. Mark school directory. In addition to cash donations, the auction committee would also like your in-kind donations...gift certificates, experiences, etc. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Ann Rossigno](#) and for in-kind donations, please contact [Chandi Owen](#).



Environment certification to [Marlene Ehring](#) as soon as possible.



**Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic:** This annual event is scheduled for May 19, 2017. We are looking for volunteers to head various committees. Please email [Marlene Ehring](#) if you are interested.



Is your child interested in drama? Join Drama Kids for the spring semester! Classes meet on Tuesdays from 3:40-4:40 PM on campus. [Click here](#) for details, and [here](#) for registration.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

St. Mark's annual Father/Daughter Dance hosted by the Knights of Columbus Council 6065 will be held on February 4 from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Cafetorium. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$15 for each additional daughter. Please [click here](#) for tickets.

**SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK**



**Calling All "Dads of Great Students":** [Click here](#) to learn more about our Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer program for Dads only, and to reserve your spot during the month of February. Sign-ups are due January 15. Half days and full days are available. Please remember, you must be [Safe Environment](#) trained to volunteer.

## COMMUNITY PRAYER TEAM

**January's Prayer Intention for our School:** For the finances of our school and church.



**This Week's Prayer:** A Prayer for the New Year: *God, thank you for a new year. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what You want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.*

### Upcoming Events:

\*Our next meeting will be THIS Monday, January 9 at 8:00 AM in Room 142 near the Music Room. It will last approximately 30 minutes. Please come join us in praying for our school. All are welcome. Praying out loud is not required.

\*Our next Community Prayer Walk will be held on Friday, January 20. We will meet by the cross in front of the Narthex at 7:50 AM. We will be walking the perimeter of the school and church while praying for the teachers, students, administration, clergy, school, etc.

\*Join us every Monday at 2:30 PM in the Church Cry Room to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for our school and country.

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Learn the stories behind these photos on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

### 6th Grade Brain Break:



### Green Uniform Pant Donations Benefit the Madeline School in Africa:



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