



## *St. Mark Catholic School*

Weekly Bulletin

April 17, 2014

### **In This Issue:**

Reminders for Next Week  
Early Childhood Open House  
Field Day Reminders  
St. Mark Feast Day  
Mathfax Breakfast RSVPs  
Theology of the Body Dinner & Dance  
News from the Athletic Department  
At St. Mark, We Serve.  
Spotlight on Faculty  
Home & School Association News  
Seen & Heard Around St. Mark  
LION PRIDE!

---

### **Reminders for Next Week**

**Tuesday, April 22**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade "Day of Reflection" for Confirmation**

**2:00 PM Dismissal for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Friday, April 25**

**3:45 PM Cheerleader Uniform Fitting, Old Gym**

**Field Day T-shirt Orders Due**

**Mathfax RSVPs Due**

**5:30 PM Mass -- St. Mark Feast Day**

**Saturday, April 26**

**10:00 AM 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation, St. Mark Catholic Church**

**St. Mark Early Childhood Open House**

Know anyone with young children? The St. Mark Early Childhood Program, encompassing our Preschool, Transitional (5 year old) Kindergarten, and Kindergarten classes, will be hosting an **Open House and Family Picnic** on Wednesday, April 30. Guests can come and go between 4:30-6:30 PM in the Preschool Building, and are invited to learn more about our programs, meet teachers and staff, and tour the facility. A complimentary picnic dinner will be served. Pre-registration is available on the [St. Mark website](#).

### Field Day Reminders

Field Day t-shirt orders are due on Friday. If you haven't ordered yours yet, please [click here](#).

A few more volunteers are needed – first come, first served! Please contact [Katya Guitierrez-Coto](#) to sign up. *Volunteers must be safety-trained and cleared.* As a volunteer, you will need a Field Day t-shirt (no cost to you). Volunteers can submit orders through the t-shirt link above.

### St. Mark Feast Day

St. Mark Feast Day is coming up on Friday, April 25. There will be a Mass at 5:30 PM, followed by a reception in the Bethany Narthex.

### Mathfax Breakfast RSVPs

On Wednesday, April 30 at 7:20 AM, we will be holding a breakfast for all Mathfax participants. RSVP forms were emailed to participants – please return them to Mrs. O'Connor by April 25.

### Theology of the Body Dinner & Dance

You are invited to attend an evening of dinner, dancing, and a raffle on Saturday, May 3 at 6:30 PM in the St. Mark Parish Center. Proceeds benefit Theology of the Body, whose mission is to instruct others about Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body for the renewal and sanctification of the family, the Church, and the rest of society. Keynote speakers will discuss "The Great, Modern Adventure of Love, Marriage, Sexuality, and Raising a Family." Tickets are \$25.00. Visit [www.tobet.org](http://www.tobet.org) to register or donate.

### News from the Athletic Department

2014-15 Cheerleaders: Remember to pay your cheer fees by [clicking here](#) (\$15.00) before April 20th. If your daughter needs a new uniform or would like to buy a used uniform from one of the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders, a fitting will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 PM in the Old Gym.

### At St. Mark, We Serve.

A recent school-wide service project for the chemotherapy patients at Texas Oncology at Baylor Plano was coordinated by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Religion classes under the guidance of Mrs. Steinkirchner. Students from each grade donated a particular item such as Chapstick, hard candies, and lotion. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders then decorated sacks and filled them with the collected items, which were delivered to the infusion room. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Ehnis recently visited the infusion room and was told by one of the nurses just how much those bags have meant to the patients. She said they have all asked who made them, and that upon receiving them, many

patients have been near tears. They especially loved the messages on the bags, many of which were Bible verses or wishes for improved health. One of the favorite messages was “Let Jesus Take the Wheel.” In a small twist of fate, the grandfather of one of our very own 5<sup>th</sup> grade students happens to be a patient at Texas Oncology, and received one of the bags. Unbeknownst to him at the time, his granddaughter had a hand in making it.

### Spotlight on Faculty

Did you know that there is only one elementary school teacher in the Diocese who holds a PhD, and that she is a member of the St. Mark staff? **Dr. Tara Blankenship**, part of our wonderful Kindergarten team, recently earned her doctorate degree in Child Development from Texas Women’s University. Her research involved using an iPad during free play in her classroom, with the purpose of exploring children’s learning, social interactions, and digital literacy. While Mrs. B.’s students were busy playing a game on the iPad and making up their own rules for taking turns, they were also providing valuable information which would inform her teaching methods. She discovered that when children are active in their learning process, they actually need a little less guidance and become the experts at what they are doing, enhancing and supporting their construction of knowledge. Congratulations, Dr. Blankenship on this outstanding accomplishment!

### Home & School Association News

**A Note From The HSA President:** Dear Parents: It has been my pleasure to serve as HSA president for the past two years, but sadly, my term is coming to an end. I thank everyone for all of their help and support, I could not have done it without you. On that same note, the terms of many of my fellow officers and chairpersons are also coming to an end. I do not want to leave my position without having a new board in place. If you are interested in serving HSA in any capacity, please send a note to [Mrs. Bacot](#). We have many positions available. If you can help in any way, please let us know. -Theresa Meyers

**Spring Book Fair at Barnes and Noble:** St. Mark Catholic School, in conjunction with Barnes and Noble, will be having a Book Fair from April 25<sup>th</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Barnes and Noble located at 801 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street (at Alma). Stop by any time during the weekend and pick up your summer reading, buy presents for Moms, Dads, or Grads, or buy a book for the school library. There will be characters, guest readers and music. On Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, The Cat in The Hat will appear to do a reading of his book. Local author Marci Peschke will be doing a reading and book signing of her new book *Kylie Jean, Green Queen* on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, followed by a special St. Mark-sponsored Spring/Earth Day craft. More guests are being added to the program soon. Don’t forget to mention St. Mark when you check out, as the school will receive a percentage of the sale! Bookmarks with our exclusive St. Mark number **#11352770** will be available in the school library next week. This number can be used in store until May 1<sup>st</sup> or online until May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**HSA Raising Cane's Fundraiser:** Eat at Raising Cane's, 1000 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street (across from the School) today, April 17<sup>th</sup> or on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, and the school will receive 15% of your purchase if you mention St. Mark when ordering.

**Box Tops:** Congratulations to first grade for collecting the most Box Tops! They win an ice cream party! Second grade won second place and will have a popcorn party! Watch the newsletter for an announcement of the day and time of the parties. Thank you to all who collected and counted Box Tops. Be sure to keep clipping over the summer!

## Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

### **Annual Monsignor Smyth Memorial Golf Tournament, Sponsored by Daltile and Classic BMW**



A great time was had by all at the Annual Monsignor Smyth Memorial Golf Tournament which was held last Friday at The Courses at Watters Creek in Allen. 50 participants comprised of current St. Mark parents, alumni, and parents of alumni, took to the greens after a shotgun start was announced by our Principal Suzanne Bacot. Golfers enjoyed a round of golf, while our own Assistant Principal, Kathi Ehring and Business Manager, Annette Vela drove the Hospitality Cart, passing out complimentary drink tickets and St. Mark logo gear to the players! Afterwards, participants returned to the clubhouse to enjoy a Lent-friendly enchilada dinner, drinks, a live band, and many prize giveaways including a complimentary BMW for the weekend plus a \$100 gift certificate to Nick & Sam's (donated by Classic BMW); a complimentary foursome at The Courses at Watters Creek; an autographed golf club/glove/golf balls (donated by DA Weibring); bluetooth headphones (donated by AT&T); two passes to the Byron Nelson Championship (compliments of Bestway Office Supply); and a Masters polo shirt (donated by 2002 St. Mark alumni).

Special thanks to our esteemed "St. Mark Class of 2002" alumni who coordinated the tournament this year. \$6,500 was raised and all proceeds benefit the St. Mark Athletic Department, which supports not only our sports teams, but ALL St. Mark students through our P.E. program. Look for more information in the fall about how you can get involved next year.

### **Holy Week**

Holy Week is a special time for us all, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. Our students have been busy preparing as well. Just one example involves our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who

made dioramas using the materials of their choice, each one representing a Station of the Cross to go along with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade performance of the Living Stations this week. Stop by the library where they are on display for all to enjoy.

### **Easter Bunny Visit**

Guess who came to visit the children during lunch on Wednesday? Our wonderful cafeteria staff arranged for a special visit from the Easter Bunny during the preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade lunch periods! There was lots of excitement as special stickers and Easter eggs were passed out. See the photo at the top of the bulletin.

### **Cub Scout Pack 285 Spring Campout**

St. Mark Cub Scouts, Webelos, and their families participated in their annual Spring Campout last weekend at Cedar Hill Park. Activities included a 3-mile hike, exploring historic Penn Farm where they had an Easter Egg Hunt, as well as badge earning activities, and a weenie roast. Interested in joining the St. Mark Cub Scouts? [Click here](#) to contact Cubmaster John Petroff.

## **LION PRIDE!**

**There is much to ROAR about at St. Mark! Each week, we will feature just some of the many reasons we're so proud to be St. Mark Lions ...**

### **St. Mark 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Score High on ACT/SAT Through Duke TIP**

7<sup>th</sup> graders Avery B., Kaitlin C., Ethan J., Jaibin M., and Ian S. recently took the SAT or ACT college entrance exams offered through Duke TIP, Duke University's Talent Identification Program, and placed among the top scores in the State of Texas, which means they scored at or above the national average of recent high school graduates on at least one part of the exam! These students are invited to a special recognition ceremony to be held at a university in our state. They were among 15 St. Mark 7<sup>th</sup> graders to take the exams. Duke TIP is a non-profit organization that identifies academically talented and gifted students based on standardized test scores achieved while in elementary and middle school. Candidates are invited to take the SAT or ACT college entrance exams as 7<sup>th</sup> graders. **Congratulations to all!**

### **Texas Quiz Bowl Results**

St. Mark team members Jace B., Minh-Tuan P., Minh-Huy P. and Alonso M. participated in the Texas Quiz Bowl last weekend at Cistercian. It was an honor in itself that St. Mark was invited to send a team, but this group took it one step further and won three of the games! Of special note: The event organizers, who hail from both Cistercian and St. Mark's School of Texas (in Dallas), conveyed how impressed they were by our students, not only because they performed well, but because of how well they conducted themselves at the event. Congratulations team, and thank you for representing St. Mark so well!

### **Our Alumni Continue to Succeed**

St. Mark alumni Jessica B. (2011) and Hannah M. (2012) recently had the honor of performing a ballet together entitled “Mozart Piano Concerto” at the The City of Plano’s “Focal Pointe” event at The Eisemann Center in Richardson.

At this year’s Monsignor Smyth Memorial Golf Tournament, there were many St. Mark yearbooks on display from years past, which our alumni enjoyed perusing. Pictured here is one of this year’s tournament organizers, Carl M. (Class of 2002). He is holding a yearbook which has cover art designed by him as a St. Mark student.