



## *St. Mark Catholic School*

Weekly Bulletin

May 23, 2014

### In This Issue:

Reminders for Next Week

Virtue of the Month

Two St. Mark Alumni Named High School Valedictorians!

Memorial Day

Field Day T-shirts

Summer Reading at the St. Mark School Library

From the Health Office

News from the Athletics Department

The Marketing Department Needs Your Help!

More Help Wanted: St. Mark Parish Facility Department

Lunch Menus for the End of the Year

**ATTENTION 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND ALUMNI PARENTS!**

Only 3 Weeks Left to Order School Supplies for 2014-15

Dallas Catholic Youth Conference Reminder for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

CHRP

St. Mark Car Stickers Available in the School Office

Summer Shredding

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

LION PRIDE!

Principal's Corner

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### Reminders for Next Week

**Monday, May 26 - Regular school day, early dismissal 12:00 NOON, Free Dress Day!**

Wear your red, white, and blue in honor of Memorial Day -- shorts and flip flops are allowed.

Additional details below.

No lunch service; no After School Care.

**Wednesday, May 28 - Field Day**

Get ready for a day of fun and games!

Lunch will be provided to all students – no need to send a lunch with your child.

**Friday, May 30 - Last Day of School, early dismissal 12:00 NOON**

8:30 AM All-School Mass

No lunch service; no After School Care.

### **Virtue of the Month – ACCEPTANCE**

Each month, our students are asked to focus on a virtue. For the month of May, it is acceptance. Teachers incorporate the Virtue of the Month into their classrooms through stories and activities that enable students to see the virtue in action.

## **Two St. Mark Alumni Named High School Valedictorians!**

**St. Mark is proud to announce that two of our alumni have earned the title of Class Valedictorian. Of the four Catholic high schools in our area, St. Mark alumni captured the top spot at two of them!**

**Congratulations to ...**

**Courtney Koch, 2014 Valedictorian, Bishop Lynch High School  
and**

**Grant Uy, 2014 Valedictorian, Jesuit College Preparatory School**

**St. Mark is where it all began. We are so proud to call them *Lions!***

### **Memorial Day**

Monday, May 26 is a regular school day with an early release time of 12:00 PM. We are making up for an inclement weather day used earlier in the school year. It is a free dress day! Students are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue. Shorts and flip flops are allowed, but please keep them taseful. **If your child will be absent that day, you must send an email to [Mrs. O'Connor](#) to let her know.**

### **Field Day T-shirts**

Field Day t-shirts will be sent home with students on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Remember to check those backpacks!

## Summer Reading at the St. Mark School Library

Although school is out and the physical library is closed, the St. Mark “cloud” library is still open for business all summer. By going to the [St. Mark web page](#) and clicking on “Academics,” then “Library,” you have access to a number of fun, yet educational activities. The “Homework and Research Links” tab has many web pages, including fun author and book web pages, as well as the Bluebonnet and Lonestar reading list web pages. The “Destiny” tab has our databases, which are still live over the summer, Mrs. Hollenbeck’s blog (which has lots of book trailers), and our catalog, which has access to nearly 100 ebooks. (Please note that after you click on “Destiny” in the tab, you have to click on it once again when it pops up by Mrs. Hollenbeck’s picture.) Once in the Catalog, click on “FollettShelf” on the side menu. The Guest login is **guest**, password **lions**. Most 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students have their own login they can use; if you don’t have one, contact [Mrs. Hollenbeck](#) for your barcode number. If you have a compatible device and decide to download “Follett Digital Reader,” the URL is **wbb31467**. Guests can read any books that aren’t checked out, while if you have an account you can check out a book for a 3 week period. We hope many of our students make use of these resources over the summer.

## From the Health Office

Please stop by and pick up any medication that your child has kept in the Health Office. Any medication that is not picked up by June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be discarded.

## News From the Athletics Department

Congratulations to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls Varsity Softball team! They won their game against St. Paul last weekend with a score of 13-12. They are now in the semi-finals, which will be played today (Thursday, May 22) at 6:00 PM at Prince of Peace. Come out and support our Lady Lions! Check the [DPL website](#) for more information.

## The Marketing Department Needs Your Help!

This summer, the Marketing Department will be busy at work, implementing exciting new ways to spread the word about St. Mark Catholic School. We are in need of parent volunteers to help make these programs a reality. Projects will involve a limited amount of time in June and/or August. They will consist mainly of information-gathering, emails, and phone calls from home. It’s going to be a lot of fun, and it’s a great way to get involved in the school community. If you can give us some time in June or August, please contact [Debbie Reed](#) for more information. Our most immediate needs include the following, and we are happy to have more than one person volunteer for each project:

- \* **Ambassador Family Coordinator** – Assist the Marketing Director with coordinating school families to represent St. Mark at open houses, masses, and other events throughout the year
- \* **Historian** – Search school photo/press/artifact archives to create a “History of St. Mark Catholic School” display for the new front lobby; Mrs. Bacot will be helping out, too!
- \* **Research Coordinator** – Assist the Marketing Director with information-gathering as we create new marketing materials for prospective families

\* **Website Information Coordinator** – Assist the Marketing Director with gathering information about St. Mark Catholic School clubs/organizations/sports teams, etc. for our website enhancement project

### **More Help Wanted: St. Mark Parish Facility Department**

The St. Mark Parish Facility Department is seeking a college student who is home for the summer to assist with grounds keeping and other projects. This is a paid position for the summer only, and will be approximately 20 hours per week. Must be 18 years old. Flexible schedule during office hours. Contact Will Alt at [walt@stmarkplano.org](mailto:walt@stmarkplano.org) if interested.

### **Lunch Menus for the End of the Year**

The Cafeteria staff has planned the menus for the “Chef’s Choice” days shown on the May lunch menu as follows:

Friday, May 23 – Hamburger, oven baked fries, lettuce/tomatoes, grapes

Tuesday, May 27 – Chicken nuggets, cheesy pasta, vegetables

Thursday, May 29 – Breakfast for lunch

### **ATTENTION 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE AND ALUMNI PARENTS!**

Graduation is upon us! Don’t forget to commemorate your child’s years at St. Mark by signing them up for our official alumni network, *Lifetime Lions*. Simply visit our [website](#) to register and learn more. Each graduate who registers will receive a numbered Lifetime Lions membership certificate, and will be placed on our mailing list to receive future alumni communications, including opportunities to come back and mentor St. Mark students while earning valuable high school service hours through the new “Lions Mentor Lions” alumni service program.

A *Legacy Brick* is also a great way to commemorate your child’s years at St. Mark (or to honor your family or organization). [Click here](#) for information and the order form.

### **ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT to Order School Supplies for 2014-15**

Friday, **June 13, 2014** is the deadline for ordering school supplies for the 2014-15 school year. There is ONE order form (attached) for all required supplies. For your convenience, payments can be made via cash or check to the school office, or electronically through the school website via credit/debit card. **Note: If you pay online, you will still need to submit the order form.**

If you will be purchasing your school supplies elsewhere, you **must still use this form to order the mandatory St. Mark Specialty Supplies.**

**Note: ALL families with 3rd-8th graders MUST use this form to order the St. Mark Assignment Book.**

All pre-ordered supplies will be available for pickup on **Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON in the OLD GYM**. We will have a limited stock of supplies available for sale on a first come/first serve basis.

2014-15 [school supply lists](#) by grade are now posted on the St. Mark Catholic School website under the "Parents" tab.

### **Dallas Catholic Youth Conference Reminder for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Reminder for 8th Graders! You have until May 28<sup>th</sup> to get the early bird \$70 price on registration for Illuminate: Dallas Catholic Youth Conference 2014. This includes your stay in the Embassy Suites Frisco, food for the weekend, and registration for the conference where you'll hear talks by great Catholic speakers, experience worshipping Jesus led by the Steven Joubert Band, and meet other Catholic high schoolers from all around the Diocese! You must register through your parish to attend. More information about the conference can be found at [www.dcycdallas.com](http://www.dcycdallas.com). You may also email St. Mark Youth Ministry Director [Megan McQuaid](#), or call her at 972-578-9583.

### **CHRP Weekend Retreat**

With school almost out, take a couple of minutes to schedule one more thing! As you plan your vacations, camps and lives for summer 2014, don't forget to take time to renew your faith. The women of St. Mark Catholic School are personally invited to the upcoming *Christ Renews His Parish* (CRHP) weekend retreat scheduled to be held at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. It begins at 7:00 AM on Saturday and ends at 4:00 PM on Sunday with that weekend's Mass included. The retreat provides an atmosphere for individual growth through prayer, inspiring presentations, and personal reflection. Come join other women from our parish and share the joys and challenges of living a Christian lifestyle in our families, at work, with friends, and in this challenging world. The school year is so busy with many demands, so search your heart to see if you can share a *mere 33 hours* with our Lord in community with other St. Mark women. [Click here](#) to register, or pick up a brochure in the Bethany Narthex. Prayerfully consider participating.

### **St. Mark Car Stickers Available in the School Office**

A new supply of the green oval-shaped St. Mark car stickers has arrived in the school office. They are \$5.00 each. Get yours while supplies last!

### **Summer Shredding**

On Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark Parish has made arrangements to bring in a professional shredder. It will be available to school families and parishioners. They are even able to haul away old furniture, monitors, etc. Check the church bulletin for more information.

### **Seen & Heard Around St. Mark**

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Makes Volcanos:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade got “messy” this week and constructed their own volcanos. Tin cans, paper mache, and paint did the trick. The best part comes next week -- eruption!

**The Dallas Zoo Visits 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** A few weeks ago, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade visited the Dallas Zoo. This week, the Dallas Zoo came to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and brought with them some animal friends that fly, slither, crawl, and swim. Highlights included two penguins, a boa constrictor, and a bird of prey that flew right over the students’ heads!



**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Week:** Cardinals and Friars and Bears ... oh my! Rangers and Hawks ... the list goes on! This week, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders started a new tradition: *High School Spirit Day*. They had the opportunity to wear spirit shirts from their future high schools. Our local Catholic high schools were well represented, as were some of our local public schools. [See the full list of 8<sup>th</sup> grade high school matriculations attached.](#) They also had a chance to meet with their prayer partners one last time to exchange handmade cards that they made for each other. Earlier in the week, memory boards were hung in the Cafetorium – a true walk down memory lane (see the photo at the top of the bulletin). Paper airplanes, bubbles, and rockets could be seen flying through the air on Tuesday. 8<sup>th</sup>-grade-itis? No, just some fun science “labs” on topics such as the Bernoulli Principle. Thursday was their last full day at school, celebrated with a special family luncheon. Now they look forward to their graduation day on Friday, steeped in St. Mark tradition.

**Librarian for A Day:** 1<sup>st</sup> grader Anthony F. got to spend an entire day last week helping Mrs. Hollenbeck keep the library running smoothly. Anthony had a great time helping students with their library books, and learning what it’s like to be a real Librarian! This opportunity is auctioned-off at our annual Mardi Gras event.

**Lights, Camera, Action!:** Last week, a video crew could be seen all over campus filming our St. Mark faculty and students. They will be featured in a video produced by Virtus, an organization that creates best practices programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "right doing" within religious organizations. St. Mark Catholic School incorporates Virtus lessons into the curriculum each year.

## 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 ...**

**Diocesan "Best Book I Read This Year" Contest Results:** Two of our students placed in this contest at the Diocesan level: In the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade category, Theresa T. won 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade category, Sarah H. won 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Congratulations to our Diocesan winners!

**Congratulations on Advancement to Cub Scout Pack 285:** Last Thursday, the St. Mark Catholic School Cub Scouts in Pack 285 held their Cross-Over ceremony. During this special occasion, the Scouts earned their rank badges for the 2013-2014 year and moved up a rank. Congratulations to our first graders who earned their Tiger Badge and moved into the Wolf Den, to our second graders who earned their Wolf Badge and moved into the Bear Den, and finally to our fourth graders who earned their WEBELOS badge and moved up to WEBELOS II.

There is still time to sign-up for the St. Mark Pack and to participate in the summer activities. If you are interested, please contact one of the leaders below for more information:

John Petroff – Cubmaster

469-408-0895

[jpetroff@oceusnetworks.com](mailto:jpetroff@oceusnetworks.com)

Miriam Brainard – Committee Chair

972-489-2021

[Miriam.Brainard@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:Miriam.Brainard@UTSouthwestern.edu)

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Students:** Each year, five 5<sup>th</sup> graders from each homeroom are selected to attend a special RoughRiders game in honor of students who go above and beyond in the areas of hard work and commitment to helping others. We are excited to have our 15 selected 5<sup>th</sup> graders attend the RoughRiders game on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and we celebrate the successes of all of our amazing 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

**Our students continue to succeed outside of school:** Congratulations to Hannah B., Daniela B., Kennedy G., Alyssa H., Chloe K., Lainey M., Mary Kate M., Zosia S., Victoria T., and Tessa T., who played in the Allen Sports Association recreational volleyball league. They won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the regular season, and also earned 1<sup>st</sup> place at the end of season championship tournament!

## Principal's Corner

Graduation is a time of great excitement, and also a time of reflection. As our 8<sup>th</sup> graders leave our doors for the last time as students on Friday evening, filled with excitement and anticipation for what's to come, it is our hope that they will continue to build upon the principles of faith, gospel values, and academic excellence that we strive to instill in them here at St. Mark. We hope that they will reflect fondly upon their years at our school, and that they will always consider it a place that they can call "home." We hope that they will continue to come back and visit, and to interact with our students through the new alumni service program, "Lions Mentor Lions" (details follow). Last but not least, we wish them well in all of their future endeavors. We know that they will continue to make us PROUD. Best of luck to the Class of 2014!

