



St. Mark Catholic School

Weekly Bulletin

May 30, 2014

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In Alumni News ...

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*!

Some of our area Catholic high schools have shared the names of St. Mark alumni who graduated with honors and/or college scholarships in 2014. Be sure to check the June 13 issue of the *The Texas Catholic* newspaper for more information on 2014 Catholic high school graduates and college matriculations. Congratulations to ...

Bishop Lynch High School: Samantha C., Carli C., Katlyn F., Courtney K., Mackensie M., Selena P., Taylor T.

Jesuit College Preparatory School: Grant B., Jimmy B., Andrew G., Rick H., Tyler K., Andrew P., Kyle S., Jack T., Grant U.

John Paul II High School: Christopher A., Anthony B., Kaelin D., Claire R., Madison L.

Ursuline Academy: Megan D., Ariana D., Maria M., Maddy M., Sydney K., Alliana V.

In other alumni news: Emily P., St. Mark Class of 2011, was elected Student Council President at Ursuline Academy -- congratulations!

Two More “Work of Heart” Awards For St. Mark Staffers

What a way to round out the school year! Two more of our wonderful teachers have been honored with the Catholic Foundation’s Work of Heart Award for the month of May: Kindergarten teacher Sharon Thompson, and 5th grade teacher Krissy Ferri. Congratulations to them both on this award, and many thanks for their ongoing dedication to our St. Mark students!

Parents: The Work of Heart Award is such a nice way to honor teachers and staff members at St. Mark. We encourage you to take some time over the summer to show your appreciation for teachers and staff members who truly go “above and beyond” for our school community each day. Simply visit the Catholic Foundation [website](#) and fill out the nomination form. It’s easy to

do, and anyone can submit a nomination. Each recipient is recognized with an award as well as a \$500 check, not to mention the reward that comes from simply being recognized by a school family for a job well done.

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 2nd will be discarded.

Home and School Association (HSA) News

2014-15 HSA Volunteer Opportunities

At St. Mark, parent involvement is one of the keys to our success. Without parent involvement, many of the activities and programs enjoyed by our students could not happen. **We invite and encourage all parents to get involved with your children's school.** The best way to do this is through our St. Mark Home and School Association. The HSA is responsible for planning the majority of our school events and fundraising activities, and coordinates the parent volunteers for these events.

There are many HSA Executive Board and Chairperson positions open for the 2014-15 school year (see below) and we need your participation to fill them. Please consider how you can share your talents to help make these programs and events a reality for our students. Whether you volunteer as an HSA Executive Board member, Committee Chairperson, or just want to help with a particular event, we welcome your participation at any level of involvement. Please contact the school office and let us know how you can contribute.

Executive Board Openings:

President - Presides over the HSA. Calls all meetings, collects items for meeting agendas, and oversees the HSA committees and events.

Vice President - Assists the President. Organizes the Back to School Nights and coordinates the teacher luncheons.

Treasurer - Manages the finances of HSA. Deposits income from family donations/fundraisers, and pays expenses to vendors/volunteers.

Secretary - Writes the monthly HSA newsletter, the weekly HSA updates for the school bulletin, and updates the documents for the Back To School Night packets.

Committee Chairperson Openings:

Used Uniform Sales

A Chair or Co-Chairs organize the summer and winter used uniform sales, including managing the parent volunteers.

Field Day

A Chairperson works with the P.E. coaches to plan and run the Field Day event in May, including managing the parent volunteers.

Field Day T-shirt Coordinator

A Chairperson works with the P.E. coaches and teachers to coordinate the ordering of t-shirts for students, faculty, staff, and parent Field Day volunteers, including placing the order with the approved vendor and distributing the t-shirts before the event.

Room Parent Coordinators for Preschool, TK-5th Grade, Middle School

Three (3) volunteers organize/supervise the Room Parent activities for Preschool, TK-5th grade, and Middle School.

Scripts Gift Card Program

A Chairperson manages volunteers and orders, sorts, and distributes gift cards for the spring and fall Scripts Gift Card sales.

Memory Book: Preschool - 5th Grade

A Chair or Co-Chairs manage volunteers, create photo layouts, and distribute the annual Memory Books.

Newcomer Welcome Committee

A Chairperson manages the "Newcomers Welcome" event in August, organizes "Newcomer Host Families," and sends email news/updates to new St. Mark families during the school year.

Helping Hands

A Chairperson coordinates volunteers to supply meals or assistance to families in need within our school community.

Hospitality Committee

A Chairperson plans and runs our social events where food donations are requested from parent volunteers including the "Newcomers Welcome" event, the "Back to School Breakfast," "Pastries for Parents," and "Ice Cream Socials."

Box Tops Program

A Chairperson counts, tracks, and communicates the progress of our “Box Tops For Education” collections, and plans the parties for the grades that collect the most Box Tops.

Grocery Card Program

Co-chairs coordinate communication and distribution of our local grocery store shopper programs.

Spiritual Life Committee Chair

A Chairperson assists with the 8th grade performance of “Living Stations of the Cross,” and helps families in need with prayers.

1st & 2nd Grade Paper Pulling/Classroom Reading Coordinator

A Chairperson coordinates and schedules parent volunteers to help 1st and 2nd grade teachers with pulling workbook papers and reading in the classroom.

Graduation/Confirmation Coordinator

A 7th grade parent plans and coordinates the 8th grade Confirmation retreat and reception, as well as 8th grade graduation events.

First Communion Coordinator

A 1st grade parent plans and coordinates the 2nd grade First Communion retreat and reception.

School Directory Coordinator

A Chairperson edits the data for the School Directory, sends the data to the directory publisher, and arranges for distribution of the directories.

HSA Dues & Memory Book Orders

Please be sure to pay your HSA dues for the 2014-2015 school year. Your family will receive one complimentary School Directory with your paid dues. Also, remember to order your 2013-2014 Memory Books.

HSA dues, and orders for the School Directory and the Memory Book, can all be submitted using the form on the St. Mark web site under the “Parents/HSA” tabs. Memory Books and School Directories will be available for pickup at the Back to School Nights in August.

After School Program Workers Needed

Need some extra money? After School Program workers are needed. You must be safety-trained. Hours are 3:00 – 6:00 PM on days when school is in session, and the position pays \$15.00/hour. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Immediate Help Needed For the Newcomer Welcoming Committee

The St. Mark Catholic School Home and School Association provides each new incoming family with a “host” family. This service provides a friendly contact as we welcome the new family into our St. Mark Catholic School community. We are in need of immediate help for this committee as follows:

Newcomer Welcome Committee Chairperson

We have an immediate need for a volunteer to take charge of this HSA committee. This Committee Chairperson will manage the “Newcomers Welcome” event in August (with assistance from school personnel), organize the “Newcomer Host Families,” and send email news/updates to new St. Mark families during the school year.

Newcomer Host Families

We are also in need of volunteer “host families.” Host families are asked to provide a phone call or two to help answer questions and make the new family assigned to them feel “at home.” In the past, host families have chosen to coordinate a casual get-together with other grade-level families to welcome our new families. We try to match each host family with a new family that has children close in age.

7th/8th Grade Service Hours & Parent Volunteer Opportunity

The “Newcomers Welcome/Orientation” will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. Service hours are available for incoming 7th and 8th graders who wish to help at this event. Volunteer parents are also needed to meet and greet, and help give school tours.

For additional information or to volunteer, please contact the school office.

Raising Cane’s Fundraiser After School Today



On Friday, May 30 (the last day of school), visit Raising Cane’s across the street from the school anytime between 10:00 AM and 11:00 PM, mention “St. Mark Catholic School,” and they will donate 15% of the purchase amount back to St. Mark. Treat your kids to a special lunch, and support St. Mark!

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

Photo Call

From the first day of school to the last, from Catholic Schools Week to Field Day -- do you have any photos from school events that you'd like to share with the St. Mark Marketing Department? We will be incorporating photos into many of our upcoming school communications, and the more we have to choose from, the better! Simply email any photos you're willing to share to debbie.reed@stmcs.net.

ATTENTION ALUMNI PARENTS!

One last reminder 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 2 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 3rd 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.

A Time for Farewell ... A Time for Welcome

As we end our 2013-14 school year, and begin to prepare for the next one, we pause to take time to thank those of our faculty and staff who are moving on. The following are those dedicated members who will either join Mrs. Bacot in retirement, or be heading to other horizons for new adventures:

Suzanne Bacot	Principal
Kathi Ehring	Assistant Principal
Linda Rood	1 st Grade
Karen Schnurr	Preschool
Karen Smith	6 th Grade Language Arts
Laurie Savino	6 th Grade Religion and Social Studies

Our sincere gratitude and best wishes go with them. Our gratitude for their dedication and service to the mission of this school will always be remembered.

The following faculty and staff will either be joining us for the first time or will be assigned to a new or different teaching position for the upcoming school year:

Patricia Opon	Principal
Sarah Samples	1 st Grade
Vicki Parks	2 nd Grade
Sarah Salvia	6 th Grade Language Arts
Kelly Smith	6 th Grade Religion and Social Studies
Erin McCormick	Physical Education
Amy Garrison	Resource Teacher

We welcome all of our new members to this beautiful school community "Where Faith and knowledge Meet."

Seen & Heard Around St. Mark

Memorial Day Parade: On Monday, Mrs. Corsi's 1st grade music class took advantage of the Memorial Day holiday to spread their patriotism. They marched through the school playing instruments and singing "Yankee Doodle" – the cutest Memorial Day parade ever seen!

Volcanos Erupt in First Grade: The volcanos that 1st grade created last week erupted this week! All it took was some baking soda solution, and there was "lava" everywhere. What fun!

4th Grade Records Memories: Our 4th grade students made "memory books" this week. They recalled their favorite memories from the school year and created booklets with all of the highlights. Then they got autographs from all of their friends, making a nice keepsake from their 4th grade year.

Middle School Has a Yearbook Signing: Our 6th and 7th grade students got together today to sign each other's yearbooks. One last hurrah before they become our new 7th and 8th graders!

St. Mark Girl Scouts Do Good: Throughout the school year, our St. Mark Girl Scout troops have been busy doing good deeds. Seven troops donated "Birthday Boxes" that were given to children in need who come to the St. Mark food pantry. These boxes contain everything a child would need to help make their birthday special. The 6th grade troop donated all of the proceeds from their Father-Daughter Dance raffle to St. Vincent De Paul. They raised \$240 and shopped for breakfast and lunch items for school-age kids. They also worked during National Scrapbook Day and donated \$100 to the St. Mark chapter of St. Vincent de Paul. The 1st grade troop put together gift bags at Christmastime for the volunteers at the St. Mark food pantry and used a portion of their cookie money to purchase needed items for them. Our Kindergarten troop cleaned up trash on the school campus and learned how an easy act of kindness can make our world and environment a better place. This past March, several St. Mark Girl Scouts earned their "My Faith, My Promise" pin, as well as Diocesan Catholic Awards. Interested in joining? Contact Christina Flores at 214-704-6986 or threekidsandbusy@verizon.net.

Graduation Recap: Last Friday was a day of long-standing St. Mark traditions which surround 8th grade graduation each year. The day began with an All-School Mass where readings were done by 8th grade students, graduation speeches were given, and the entire school bid farewell to the Class of 2014. The evening festivities commenced with composite pictures, followed by the Graduation Mass led by Fr. Cliff who expressed the desire that the students take what they've learned at St. Mark and use it to better themselves and the world around them. He also noted that the Class of 2014 was in 1st grade when he came to St. Mark, and he has been honored to be their Pastor. At the conclusion of Mass, the Graduation ceremony was led by Mrs. Bacot where each student was presented with a diploma, more graduation speeches were given, and high school scholarships were awarded (see a full list of scholarship recipients attached). Teachers and Administration took part in the ceremony and were there to support the graduates.

A new tradition was announced as well. With Mrs. Bacot's impending retirement, the School Advisory Council wanted a way to commemorate her 31 years of service to our school, and to ensure that her name would be forever linked with service at St. Mark. With Fr. Cliff's blessing, the **Suzanne Bacot Award for Lifetime Service to St. Mark Catholic School** was created. It was first announced to Mrs. Bacot at the 2014 Graduation ceremony. Each year, it will be presented to a St. Mark parent or parents who have continually given of time and talent during their years at the school. Other than working very hard, the only other qualification is that their last child must be graduating in the year the award is given. The very first Suzanne Bacot Award was presented to Rick and Julie Shannon by Mrs. Bacot herself on Friday evening. A permanent plaque with the award recipients' names will be hung in the new school entryway, and each recipient also receives a plaque. Congratulations to Mrs. Bacot on this honor, and to Rick and Julie Shannon, who couldn't have deserved this award more!

The day ended with a wonderful reception for graduates and their families. Once family time was over, the Cafetorium became the scene of a dance party for graduates only, complete with a DJ, laser lights, food and refreshments, and a candy bar. What a deeply meaningful and wonderful send-off for the Class of 2014!

A Note of Thanks to Our Graduation Volunteers: MANY THANKS to all of the 7th grade parents who contributed their time, decorating abilities, and financial support for a spectacular Graduation celebration for our 8th grade students and their families. Without their generosity and HARD work, things would have never turned out the way they did - FANTASTIC!!!! Thank you so very much. -Victoria James, Confirmation/Graduation Coordinator

Field Day

The 2014 St. Mark Field Day was a roaring good time! Students from every grade enjoyed a day of fun in the sun. Relay races, egg races, obstacle courses, dancing, singing, and of course, lots of water sprayers were all part of the festivities. Everyone took a break for a pizza lunch, and then it was back to the activities!

Thank you to the P.E. coaches, the Home and School Association, and the faculty and staff for organizing this event, and thank you to all of our wonderful parent volunteers who made sure that each and every student was able to play hard, eat pizza, and of course, get soaked!



Mass

Our last All-School Mass of the year was held this morning. This particular Mass was especially poignant since it was Mrs. Bacot's last as our Principal. After Communion, a surprise celebration was held in her honor. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and their families, and members of our parish gathered to celebrate Mrs. Bacot and her 31 years of service to St. Mark Catholic School. Teachers, alumni, and current students spoke of the impact that Mrs. Bacot has had on their lives. Gifts and tokens of appreciation were presented. And one last time, Mrs. Bacot dismissed each grade back to their classrooms by saying, "Please stand, genuflect, and you may go." A special reception was held immediately following the Mass in the school Library. It was a morning of smiles and tears, and was a very special way to honor our beloved Principal as she embarks upon her retirement career.



Principal's Corner

The month of May has not disappointed us! We usually enter into this last month of school anticipating a flurry of special events, traditional activities, and an expectation for the summer months of rest and relaxation. For me, personally, this month has been all that and more. It truly seems like just few weeks ago I announced that at the end of this school year, I would begin my retirement career. Since then, each step of the way has provided a memory of all those things we do throughout each and every year. The reflection upon each of those events has not so much brought a sense of sorrow, only nostalgia. The reflection upon each of those events has not so much brought a sense of loss, only accomplishment. The reflection upon each of those events has not so much brought a sense emptiness, only hope for the future.

The words "Thank You" seem too simple to express the gratitude I have for every member of this faith and school community. However, in its simplicity there is an avalanche of deep and sincere appreciation for this lifelong ministry and the people connected to it. There have been so many words shared in these past weeks. Words that describe the unique community of St. Mark the Evangelist and all those who have walked this path in the past, in the present, and for those who will walk it in the future. Together, we have built a place where faith and knowledge meet. Under new and talented leadership, all who enter these doors will continue in that tradition. Each day, in my prayers of gratitude I will thank God for bringing me to this place called St. Mark. It has left a permanent mark in my heart and in my soul.

It isn't often that I am at a loss of words. There are so many to capture. I believe we say it best when we say it simply. So, simply said, "Once a Lion, Always a Lion."

Suzanne Bacot
Principal
St. Mark Catholic School
1983-2014

As the last day of school came to a close at 12:00 noon, Mrs. Bacot led us in our closing prayer, "Angel of God." She said "you are the best students ever, and I love you." Farewell, Mrs. Bacot. We love you too!