

### **WEEKLY SCHOOL BULLETIN**

### **April 8, 2016**

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### **REMINDERS**



### 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, April 13:

- -Teacher Luncheon Hosted by 3rd & 4th Grades
- -7:00 PM, Cafetorium: Rising 5th Grade Parent Meeting for School Sports (details below)

### Thursday, April 14:

- -St. Mark/Chipotle Day (details below)
- -St. Mark/Barnes & Noble Book Fair (details below)

### Friday, April 15:

- -8:30 AM, Church: All School Mass. The Mass is planned by the 1st grade. They will offer the Call to Worship, the Mass readings, and present the Communion gifts. All are welcome.
- -St. Mark/Barnes & Noble Book Fair
- -Principal Appreciation Day

### Saturday, April 16:

-St. Mark/Barnes & Noble Book Fair

### Sunday, April 17:

-St. Mark/Barnes & Noble Book Fair

### FIELD DAY DETAILS COMING SOON

Be on the lookout next week for details about Field Day t-shirt orders. Please note that, this year, student shirt orders will be taken first. Volunteer shirt orders will taken separately at a later date.

**Student Shirt Orders:** Student shirt orders will begin next week. Details will be





## PLAN AHEAD: 4 DAY WEEKEND IN APRIL

Because we did not use the inclement weather days that are built into our school calendar, we will have a 4-day weekend in April. Friday, April 22 and Monday, April 25 are now school holidays. Enjoy!



### Nominate Someone for a Work of

Heart Award: Do you know a St. Mark teacher or staff member who goes "above and beyond" for our school community? If so, consider nominating him or her for a Work of Heart Award. Presented by The Catholic Foundation, these awards honor those who "go the extra mile" in serving our educational community. For more information about the Work of Heart award, or to submit a nomination, click here. 37 St. Mark staffers have received this award since its inception in 2005.



D.O.G.S. DAYS NOW AVAILABLE

Calling All "Dads of Great

**Students":** Click here to reserve your spot during the month of May,

emailed to school families. The deadline to order is May 2.

**Volunteer Shirt Orders:** Once student shirts are ordered, we will announce the timeframe for ordering volunteer shirts.

Field Day Volunteer Opportunities: All those who signed-up at Back To School Night to volunteer for Field Day on June 2 need to have their Safe Environment Training up-to-date by May 10 (see HSA section below). This includes signing the Volunteer Pledge Form (see HSA section below) and returning it to Mrs. O'Connor. Further information about Field Day volunteer opportunities will be provided at a later date.

### WANTED: 2016-17 ECE PART-TIME AIDE

St. Mark Catholic School is looking for a part-time aide for 2016-17 Early Childhood Education classes. Interested parties should contact Mrs. Opon at patricia.opon@stmcs.net.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. MARK S.T.E.M. FAIR

St. Mark Catholic School



St. Mark Catholic School's First Annual S.T.E.M. Fair

TONIGHT! Friday, April 8, 2016 or for more information about our Watch D.O.G.S. program. Sign-ups are due April 15. Half days and full days are available. Remember, you must be <u>Safe Environment trained</u> to volunteer as a Watch D.O.G.



Half Days are Cane's Days at St.
Mark! On each early dismissal day
this school year, eat at Raising
Cane's across the street from the
school. Simply mention St. Mark as
you place your order and a
percentage of your purchase will be
donated back to the St. Mark
Athletic Department! Visit
anytime TODAY, April 8, between
10:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Treat
your family, and earn money for our
school!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LIONLAND

Vocations Chalice: 1st 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.



**Justice:** Teachers discuss the Virtue of the Month

### 5:00-8:00 PM St. Mark Campus

Bring the whole family! Experience interactive displays, hands-on activities and interesting information for children of all ages from the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. <u>50</u> companies and organizations will be represented, including ...

AT&T
Fujitsu
IBM
Intel
Raytheon
Texas Instruments
The University of North Texas
The University of Texas at Dallas

### **DINNER**

If you didn't pre-order pizza through the school, feel free to bring your own dinner and enjoy it in the Cafeteria beginning at 5:00 PM. A Dippin' Dots truck will also be on site!

### <u>Agenda</u>

5:00 PM - Dinner and fellowship in the Cafetorium

5:30 PM - The Science Presentation, presented by The University of Texas at Dallas, begins in the Cafetorium. Be amazed by the world of chemical reactions while your family enjoys dinner!

6:00 PM - S.T.E.M. rotations begin in the Bacot Gym!

All attendees will receive a goody bag!

with students by using stories and activities to engage them into seeing the virtue in action. Ask your child what he/she is learning about "Justice" this month. <u>Click here</u> for the full list of monthly virtues for 2015-16.



### 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 a required all-school service project each month. Students will receive a homework grade in Religion class for each month's assignment.

April Project: The April service project is the annual Catholic Charities of Dallas Food Round-Up. Students will donate food by grade level. Please see the list of needed items below\*:

PreK - Dried beans, rice or pasta TK & K - Cereal or oatmeal 1st grade - Jam or jelly 2nd grade - Peanut butter 3rd grade - Canned meat 4th grade - Canned fruit 5th grade - Cooking oil

6th grade - Canned soup (15 oz.) 7th grade - Canned beans

8th grade - Canned vegetables

Questions? Contact pam.steinkirchner@stmcs.net.

We are honored to have John Paul II High School students **Allison Noe '14** and Natalie Jenkins serve as the event Co-Chairs.

## ST. MARK/BARNES & NOBLE BOOK FAIR

The annual St. Mark/Barnes & Noble Book Fair will take place from Thursday, April 14-Monday, April 18 (in-store) and Thursday, April 14-Sunday, April 23 (online).

In-store sales take place at the Creek Walk Village location at 801 West 15th Street in Plano (near the school).

To place an online order, visit <a href="https://www.barnesandnoble.com/bookfairs">www.barnesandnoble.com/bookfairs</a>. The St. Mark book fair ID # is 11846631.

### **Special Attractions:**

After school on Thursday, April 14, the St. Mark Catholic School Band will perform from 4:00-5:00 PM. Starting at 5:00 PM, Mrs. Opon and Ms. Steinkirchner will be reading *The Cat in the Hat* and other Dr. Seuss stories, with a special appearance from the Cat in the Hat himself, followed by photo opportunities. Plan to stop by Chipotle for dinner afterwards where 50% of your purchase benefits LLS -- see details below.

<u>Don't Forget Your Student's Required</u> <u>Reading:</u> Next week, you will receive an email with further details about the Barnes \*Please note: Students should check the expiration dates on any donated foods to make sure they are still good. Items with past expiration dates cannot be given to food pantries.

<u>Catholic Social Teaching</u>: Option for the poor and vulnerable

Who Benefits? Catholic Charities of Dallas

Due Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2016



Calling all alumni ... join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network!
Keep up with former classmates, learn about mentoring opportunities, and volunteer for service hours. Click <a href="here">here</a> for more information.



### Get your official LION gear here!

Check in at the school office on Fridays from 7:30-8:15 AM and shop 'til you drop at the Lion's Den Spirit Store located in the Cafetorium.

Can't visit in person? <u>Place your order online anytime!</u>

This is a great place to stock up on St. Mark shirts for our Spirit Days,

& Noble Book Fair, including the 2016-17 required summer and classroom reading by grade level. The book fair provides a great opportunity to pick up those books now!

### ST. MARK/CHIPOTLE DAY



St. Mark

Catholic School may have wrapped up our "Laps For Leukemia" all-school service project benefitting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, but we have another opportunity to add to our fantastic results! Visit the Chipotle at 1009 N. Central Expwy. (near the school) on Thursday, April 14, mention LLS, and 50% of your purchase goes towards our fundraising total. Take a break from cooking and pick up lunch and/or dinner (after visiting the St. Mark/Barnes & Noble Book Fair) for the family -- it's all for a great cause!



### **IMPORTANT HSA DATES:**

**Wednesday, April 13:** Teacher Luncheon hosted by 3rd and 4th grades

**Thursday, April 14-Monday, April 18:**Barnes & Noble Book Fair (details above)

### **REMINDERS:**

which are held on the first Monday of each month!

SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know anyone interested in a Catholic education for their child? St. Mark has limited availability at various grade levels. For more information or to schedule a school tour, please call the school office at (972) 578-0610, or visit the school website at www.stmcs.net.

St. Mark Info. Cards: We also have "information cards" available at the church and school that contain general school information and Open House dates. Feel free to stop by and pick some up. Pass them along to anyone who is interested in St. Mark Catholic School. Click here to see a sample.



Upcoming Open House for PreK-3, PreK-4, PreK-5/Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten

Family Picnic & Open House
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
Come & go between 4:30-6:30 PM
Early Childhood Education Bldg.
Click here to pre-register.

### **Helping Hands Committee:**

If you know any St. Mark families that are in need of help due to a birth, sickness, death or any life changing event, please <u>click here</u> to contact the Helping Hands Committee.

Attention Volunteers: All volunteers must sign and return a "Volunteer Pledge Form" before the first day of volunteering. This form can be found in the Volunteer Handbook. Also, volunteers must be Safe Environment trained. Click here for more details.

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 sending in those Box Tops. 3rd grade is leading the competition and 4th grade is in second place. The deadline for the competition is Friday, April 22. The class with the most Box Tops will win a free dress day on Thursday, April 28!

### FROM THE NET TEAM

## NEW "REFERRAL THANK YOU PROGRAM"

Each year, St. Mark is honored to welcome new families to our school community, many of whom were referred by our current school families. We think you should be rewarded for bringing new families to our school! Through our new "Referral Thank You Program," your family can receive a \$500 tuition credit for referring one new family to St. Mark. Please click here for details!

## ORDER YOUR ST. MARK LEGACY BRICK TODAY



Order your St.

Mark Legacy Brick Today! This is a wonderful opportunity to leave your own personal and permanent impression at St. Mark for generations to come. For \$100, purchase a custom designed engraved brick with your family name, ministry, organization, your child's name and graduating class, or to honor a loved one, mother, father, brother, sister, friend... the possibilities are endless. There are many ways to personalize your brick, with logos for all kinds of interests including religious symbols, sports, cheerleading, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, choir, and music, just to name a few. These special custom engraved bricks will become part of

# Let Us Adore 7:30-9:30pm @ St. Mark's Church

Let us Adore is a evening of Eucharistic Adoration, led by the NET Team, that is full of charismatic praise and worship as well as silence. Young and old are invited to pray together as a parish community.

Feb 12th • March 10th • March 31st April 14th • May 6th



Middle School Open

Youth House: This popular weekly gettogether for 6th-8th graders takes place every Friday from 3:30-6:00 PM at the St. Mark Youth House, located behind the church. It is an opportunity to hang out with the NET Team and other students from the community. Notify Patricia Opon by Thursday of each week if your student wishes to attend. St. Mark students are escorted to the Youth House by NET Team members immediately following dismissal. A Youth Ministry Enrollment Form must be submitted for each participant on an annual basis.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

Attention 6th, 7th & 8th Graders: Join the St. Mark Youth Ministry for their annual Amazing Jake's Lock-In:

**Cost**: \$38.00

the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School. Simply <u>click here</u> to place your order.

## START PLANNING SUMMER WITH KIDVENTURE!



St. Mark

### **Summer Camps With**

Kidventure: We are pleased to once again offer full-time summer camps on the St. Mark campus with Kidventure. Kidventure is in its 22nd season of summer camp. This year's theme is Summer Quest 2016, a comic book come to life. Each week provides a new and unique adventure.

General registration for Kidventure's Summer Quest 2016 Day Camp is now available at http://kidventure.com/register. Click to select your child's Summer Quest adventures.

For more information, please visit <a href="http://kidventure.com/plano-summercamp/">http://kidventure.com/plano-summercamp/</a>, or call <a href="http://example.com/plano-summercamp/">214.303.9789</a>.

### FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE ...

**IMPACT Testing:** The IMPACT test provides baseline concussion testing. If you'd like your child to participate, please make an appointment by <u>clicking here</u>.

Who: 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

When: April 29-30, 2016

What: Unlimited games, pizza buffet

(12:00-2:00 AM), and drinks

<u>Where</u>: St. Mark Cafetorium/Amazing Jake's Plano (meet Friday night at St. Mark Cafetorium @ 10:00 PM; pick-up Saturday morning at St. Mark Cafetorium @ 6:30

AM)

Paperwork deadline is April 21, 2016 (make checks payable to St. Mark Youth Ministry)

# Paperwork and more information available at:

www.stmarkplanoyouth.org, or contact Cristina Ochoa: 972-578-9583 or cochoa@stmarkplano.org

Questions? Contact Mario Beltran, Middle School Coordinator, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, 972-578-9583, or <a href="mailto:mbeltran@stmarkplano.org">mbeltran@stmarkplano.org</a>.

# ST. MARK PARISH 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Join us at the following events as we continue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our parish...

HISTORY OF ST. MARK FROM A
DIOCESAN PERSPECTIVE - April 16,
2016, 10:00 AM, Great Hall of the Parish
Center



**Track & Field:** Come out and cheer on your LIONS teams! Upcoming meets:

### JV Track

Saturday, April 9, Jesuit Saturday, April 16, Bishop Lynch

### Varsity Track

Saturday, April 23, JPII Saturday, April 30, Jesuit Saturday, May 7, JPII Saturday, May 14, Bishop Lynch (City Meet)

**Baseball:** Come out and cheer on your LIONS team! Upcoming games:

JV vs. St. Patrick, April 10, 3:30 PM @Breckenridge #2

**Softball:** Come out and cheer on your LIONS team! Upcoming games:

JV vs. POP, April 10, 3:30 PM @ POP

### Fall 2016 Sports Registration:

Registration for fall sports will open on the following dates. Registration fees for each sport are indicated. Stay tuned for more information We are pleased to announce that Steve Landregan, Historian and Archivist for the Dallas Diocese, will be joining us for a presentation on the history of St. Mark from a Diocesan perspective. Steve is the former Editor of *The Texas Catholic* and author of numerous historical books. Coffee and danish will be served.

## FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND - APRIL 23-24, 2016

Mark your calendars for St. Marks' 50th Anniversary Fellowship Weekend. A breakfast of pancakes and sausage with beverages is available after the 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 10:30 AM Masses. A lunch/dinner of hamburgers, hot hogs, chips and beverages will be served after the Saturday 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM, and the Sunday 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM, 3:00 PM, 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM Masses. Meal tickets must be purchased in advance. Cost for all meals is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. There will also be scheduled entertainment by many of our own St. Mark parishioners throughout the weekend. You may purchase your meal tickets for the Fellowship Weekend during the weekends of April 2-3, 9-10, and 16-17 (cash or check only).

### FEAST OF ST. MARK -50th CELEBRATION MASS - April 25, 2016

Our celebration will wrap-up on Monday, April 25. The Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, D.D., will celebrate our "Feast of St. Mark 50th Anniversary Mass" on April 25, 2016 at 6:30 PM, followed by a reception in our Bethany Narthex. The concelebrants for this Mass will be Fr. Cliff in upcoming "Weekly School Bulletins":

April 18, 2016 Volleyball (\$115) Football (\$125) Cheerleading (\$45)

May 16, 2016 Cross Country (\$70)

## 2016-17 Volleyball Open Gyms & Team Evaluations:

Open Gyms will be held the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday prior to Team Evaluations on Wednesday. Open Gym sessions are two hours long and include one hour of skills review and one hour of live game drills. Students may attend any or all of the Open Gym sessions, and pre-registration is NOT necessary.

Team Evaluation sessions take place on Wednesdays, and last for two hours. They are conducted by outside staff and are closed to spectators.

### Varsity (Rising 7th/8th Graders)

**Open Gym:** May 15-17, 4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym

# Team Evaluations: May 18, Bacot Gym

-Rising 7th graders: 4:00-6:00 PM -Rising 8th graders: 6:15-8:15 PM Smith, our current priests, as well as our homegrown priests, Fr. Jason Cargo, Fr. James Yamauchi, and Fr. John Szatkowski. Father Cliff said it perfectly: "We come together this month to celebrate who we are and what our faith community means: what it was, what it is now, and what it will become."

Please mark your calendars and join us for our special Golden Anniversary Celebration.

### **SEEN & HEARD AROUND ST. MARK**

Principal and Assistant Principal for the Day: Some lucky students got to shadow our school leaders this week and carry out their duties. Their parents bid on and won these opportunities at the recent Sweethearts Gala & Auction. 2nd grader, Rhys W., spent the day on Thursday serving as our "Principal for the Day." 5th grader, Jessica C., and 3rd grader, Jamison B., both had the opportunity to serve as "Assistant Principal for the Day" this week. They each got a free dress day, learned all about leading a school, and enjoyed a special lunch hosted by Father Cliff, Mrs. Opon, and Ms. Steinkirchner. A coveted "no homework pass" was also awarded at the end of the day. Being the leaders of the school sure is an honor!

(photo removed)

Biblezon Founder on EWTN: Biblezon founder, Mosongo O., parent of 2nd grader, Courtney, and 4th grader, Karsil, will be interviewed on *Bookmark* on the EWTN network on Saturday, April 9 at 4:30 PM CST. He will introduce features

### <u>Junior Varsity (Rising 5th/6th</u> <u>Graders)</u>

**Open Gym:** May 22-24, 4:00-6:00 PM, Bacot Gym

# Team Evaluations: May 25, Bacot Gym

-Rising 5th graders: 4:00-6:00 PM -Rising 6th graders: 6:15-8:15 PM

Rising 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting for School Sports: Attention all rising 5th grade parents! Is your student interested in participating on a St. Mark sports team or cheerleading next year? This is the meeting for you! There will be a parent information meeting on Wednesday, April 13 from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Cafetorium. Fall sports, cheerleading, the annual sports schedule, open registration announcements, coaching opportunities, physical forms, and more, will be discussed. Please plan to attend if school sports are in your student's future!

### 2016-17 Cheer Team Meeting:

Wednesday, April 27, 6:30-8:00 PM, in the Cafetorium. This meeting is for all JV and Varsity cheerleaders/parents (5th-8th grades).

Upcoming Raising
Cane's Fundraisers Benefitting the
Athletics Department:

from the Biblezon Tablet, which is the first mobile tablet that allows Catholics to learn and live their faith free from distractions.

Our Kiln Has Arrived: Thanks to Father Cliff, St. Mark recently took delivery of a new kiln for the art department. Art teacher, Ms. Williams, is excited to introduce pottery and ceramics to her students and to have the ability to fire the pieces on site!

(photo removed)

3rd Grade Visits Heritage Farmstead: 3rd grade completed their Sarah, Plain and Tall (written by Patricia MacLachlan) book unit last week by visiting Heritage Farmstead in Plano. They learned how families lived in the late 1800s. Doing laundry by hand is a lot of work...!



4th Grade Visits Perot: Our 4th grade students took a field trip to the Perot Museum in Dallas last week where science class truly came to life!

(photo removed)

5th Grade Junior Achievement: Our 5th grade students enjoyed a Junior Achievement lesson this week about how

- -TODAY, April 8, 2016
- -May 6, 2016
- -May 19, 2016 (last day of 8th grade finals)
  June 3, 2016



## HOLY TRINITY SEMINARY

St. Mark Catholic School has formed a special relationship with Holy Trinity Seminary and takes great pride in supporting our future priests.

Join Us for Public Masses at Holy Trinity Seminary @ 9:15 AM: April 17th, 24th; May 1st

Address: 3131 Vince Hagan Drive, Irving, TX 75062

Questions about the Public Masses? Call or text Agnes Denvir, VP of Vocations, President-Elect, Serra Club of North Central Dallas. Cell: 214-607-2391, agnes.denvir@stmcs.net or

## FRENCH MASSES AT CISTERCIAN

agnesdenvir@gmail.com.

Mrs. Denvir extends an invitation to St. Mark French students, and any students/families who are interested, to attend the French Masses at Cistercian. There is an opportunity to do the readings, and to sample some French snacks at the end of every Mass. Masses take place at Our Lady of Dallas Cistercian Abbey in Irving every 3rd

to get a job and keep it, and also learned some "soft skills" such as keeping a good attitude and avoiding texting during



**Boy Scouts:** St. Mark Boy Scout Troop 285 recently participated in a Wilderness Survival campout. The boys were challenged to build their own shelters out of natural materials found at the campsite. They did an impressive job!



### IN ALUMNI NEWS...

Congratulations to the cast and crew of John Paul II High School's *Shrek the Musical*. They gave outstanding performances last weekend! Several St. Mark alumni participated in the production (both on stage and

Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM. Upcoming dates: April 17, and May 15.

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Our local Catholic high schools offer summer camps for kids of all ages. As we receive their brochures, we will make them available in the school lobby, or you can click below to learn more:

Bishop Lynch High School
Cistercian Preparatory School
Jesuit College Preparatory School
John Paul II High School
Ursuline Academy of Dallas

## JESUIT RANGERETTES 2016 TRYOUTS

Is your Ursuline Academy student interested in trying out for the Jesuit Rangerettes Drill Team?

Parent Information Meeting April 11, 6:30 PM, Jesuit

<u>Tryout Practices</u>
April 11 & 12, 4:00-6:30 PM, Jesuit

<u>Tryouts</u> April 13, 4:00-8:30 PM, Jesuit

Click here for more information.

JPII CARDINAL BELLES JUNIOR CLINIC

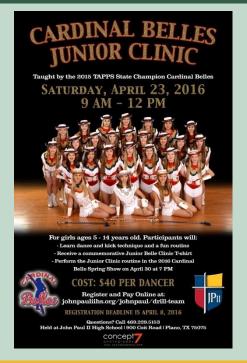
off): Amanda L. '14 (played Dragon, Teen Fiona, Happy Person and Bird), Dylan C. '14 (played Farquad), Mitchell J. '15 (played Donkey), Daniel G. '12 (played Captain of the Guard), Madison O. '14 (backstage crew), Isabella F. '15 (piccolo), Amanda B. '12 (flute), and Eric N. '12 (electric guitar).

(photo removed)

Last week, we told you about **Blair T. '07** who is a member of the Lubbock Christian University NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Team that was headed to the championship. They won the championship game on Monday, capping off a perfect 35-0 season! Click here to read more, including a quote from Blair.

(photo removed)

Inspiring Come Back Story! Click here to read about Jackie D. 'og and her inspiring story about how she battled a life threatening illness during her senior year at Bishop Lynch High School, and came back stronger than ever.





### LION PRIDE!

### **PSIA Overall Results:**

Congratulations once again to all of our students who competed at the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) academic meet in February. St. Mark placed 3rd overall among the 11 competing schools in our division. In addition, a remarkable 17 St. Mark students qualified to compete at the State level in their respective categories later this month. GO LIONS!

SOLES 4 SOULS SHOE COLLECTION

Isabella, a 13-year-old St. Mark parishioner, is hosting a shoe drive for the needy. Her goal is to collect 1,000 pairs of gently used shoes of any kind and size during the period of March 20-April 24, which will be donated to the non-profit organization Soles4souls. As you do your spring cleaning and clear out your closets, please consider bringing your unwanted shoes to Mrs. O'Connor's office during this time period.

**Join Our Mailing List** 

Forward To A Friend

St. Mark Catholic School | 1201 Alma Drive, Plano, TX 75075 www.stmcs.net | (972) 578-0610

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