



ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET

LIFETIME LIONS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear St. Mark Alumni and Parents:

If the Groundhog Day prediction is correct, we can look forward to an extended winter. But that's ok with us -- St. Mark is definitely making the most of it! Read on to learn more about the many things we've been up to this winter season, including being named **one of three finalists for the ICE Award, a national award recognizing the use of innovative technology**, not to mention a pretty spectacular Diocesan Religion Bowl win, and the official Class of 2017 portrait unveiling.

From the looks of it, our alumni have been making the most of it as well. I just love reading about all of your incredible accomplishments!

The 2018-19 admissions season is in full swing and we hope you'll spread the news about St. Mark to family, friends, and co-workers. We have two more Open House events coming up, as well as our new "Come and Play Days" where families with Preschool and Kindergarten age children can play on our school playground and learn more about our programs. Simply encourage interested families to pre-register for an event at www.stmcs.net/open-house-tours.

Open Houses:

- March 27, 8:00-9:00 AM, School Library
- April 24, 5:30-7:00 PM, Early Childhood Building

Come and Play Days:

- March 20, 9:00-10:30 AM, St. Mark Playground
- April 11, 9:00-10:30 AM, St. Mark Playground



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 St. Mark students consistently score in the top 15% in the nation on standardized tests.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Follow us and stay connected!



AROUND CAMPUS

Reminisce with us. Learn about all of the new things going on at your alma mater. Keep up with former classmates. Like and share on your

I also hope you will make it a point to visit us soon. The Middle School Spring Musical promises to be another spectacular performance, the annual STEM Fair is always a "must attend event," and of course we invite all alumni to participate in some way with our 2018 Auction & Gala and the Monsignor Smyth Golf Tournament. Details can be found below. These are all wonderful traditions no matter the season!

Until spring,

Patricia Opon

Patricia Opon, Principal
patricia.opon@stmcs.net

P.S. Don't see your recent accomplishment mentioned below? Please send it to us at debbie.reed@stmcs.net. We'll include it in the next alumni newsletter.

ST. MARK ON INSTAGRAM

St. Mark is now on Instagram. Follow us for even more great pics from around campus!



**LIFETIME
LIONS**

St. Mark alumni are invited to join Lifetime Lions, our official alumni network. Keep up with former classmates, become a mentor to current students, and learn about opportunities to earn service hours. Click [here](#) to register.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Daniel V. '14, a senior at Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas, was named an AP Scholar With Honor (receiving an average of 3.25 on his AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on four exams).

Zach M. '15 and **Alex C. '15** were selected to represent John Paul II High School on the 2018 Diocesan Mission Trip to Nicaragua.

Athena B. '15, a junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, was selected to be one of two delegates at YMCA's Texas Alliance on Capitol Hill. Athena, who has been a participant in YMCA's Youth and Government Program

social media. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) for all of the updates from the St. Mark campus!

Academic Success:



*We are proud to announce that St. Mark Catholic School has been named one of twelve nationwide finalists in the 2018 *Today's Catholic Teacher* "Innovations in Catholic Education" (ICE) Awards and will receive special recognition at the ICE Awards event at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in April. St. Mark is one of three finalists in the category of "An Innovative Project Facilitated by Technology" for the integration of the new SmartLab into the curriculum.

*Nearly half of all St. Mark 3rd-8th graders qualified to apply for the Diocesan Junior and Senior DECATS programs. The DeBusk Center for Academically Talented Students seeks to identify and challenge gifted/talented students through a summer enrichment program. Students qualify to apply based on standardized test scores.

*The St. Mark Religion Bowl Team won 1st place out of 30 teams at the annual Reverend Thomas Cloherty Religion Scholars Bowl held during Catholic Schools Week.

since 6th grade at St. Mark, was also recognized at the Youth and Government District Conference at Duncanville High School.

Amanda L. '14, a senior at John Paul II High School, was selected for the TPSMEA All-State Mixed Choir.

Ivanka P. '14 and **Uyen L. '14**, seniors at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, were named to the TPSMEA Region Choir. **Ivanka**, a four-time Region I choir member, also advanced to sing with the High School All-State Choir.

Ethan J. '15 is a member of the Jesuit College Preparatory School Debate team. He and his debate partner finished the Berkner High School preliminaries as the second seed, and he also recently made it to the semi-finals in the Guyer MLK Debate Invitational and qualified for the State tournament.

Caroline G. '14, a senior at John Paul II High School, was voted "Miss JP II" for 2018.

Izzy C. '15, a junior at Bishop Lynch High School and a member of the Girls Varsity Volleyball team, earned 2nd Team All-State honors and 1st Team All-District in a breakout season that included 303 kills and 67 blocks.

Savannah H. '15, a junior at Ursuline Academy of Dallas, was selected to serve on the UA Student Leadership Team, a select group of students who assist others in the areas of stewardship, community, unity, and well-being.

Tom S. '04, a graduate of Jesuit College Preparatory School, TCU and UTD, was recently featured in a video promoting [NORAD's Santa Tracker](#). Tom is also a member of the USA Karate Team and is the topic of the cover story in their Winter 2017 official magazine.



*6th grader, Lana N.'s poem, "Seaside," was selected to be published during Creative Communication's Fall 2017 national poetry contest. It will appear in their upcoming edition of "A Celebration of Poets."

*7th grader, Theresa T., was a top finisher at the Diocese of Dallas Spelling Bee and has advanced to the Dallas County Private Schools Spelling Bee in February.

*For the second consecutive year, St. Mark sent three teams to the Visioneering event at Southern Methodist University's Lyle School of Engineering where they participated in an engineering challenge.

*The St. Mark Math Counts team, headed by Ursuline Academy of Dallas senior, **Ivanka P. '14**, continues to compete in area math competitions including a recent one at The University of Texas at Dallas.

*The St. Mark Quiz Bowl Teams recently performed well at the Texas Quiz Bowl Tournament held at Cistercian Preparatory School. The 7th grade team placed 10th overall and Louis T. ranked 8th out of 81 students. The 6th grade team made it to the quarter finals and Anthony N. ranked 3rd overall.

Amber R. '14 and **Kylie M. '14**, both seniors at John Paul II High School and members of the Girls Varsity Volleyball team, recently received honors. **Amber** was named to the TAPPS Volleyball 2nd Team All District and was honored as an outstanding JPII Offensive Player. **Kylie** was honored as an outstanding JPII Defensive Player.

During the Fall National Signing Day, **Lexie P. '14**, a senior at Lovejoy High School, committed to play volleyball for Simpson College. During the Spring National Signing Day, **Cherish A. '14**, a senior at John Paul II High School, committed to play soccer for Northwestern University; **Jeremy H. '14**, a senior at Bishop Lynch High School, committed to play football for Trinity University; **Lauren M. '14**, a senior at John Paul II High School, committed to play soccer for Bellarmine University; and **Amber R. '14**, a senior at John Paul II High School, committed to play volleyball for Harding University.



Harrison K. '17 was selected as an Ambassador at Jesuit College Preparatory School.

Tessa T. '17 was chosen to participate in the Bishop Lynch High School Spring Break Mission Trip to Costa Rica.

*Two students received honors during the Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Poster Contest: Ella P. placed 4th in the 1st/2nd grade category and Quyendi T. received an Honorable Mention in the 3rd/4th grade category.

Faculty News:

*Second grade teacher, Vicki Crider, was named "St. Mark Teacher of the Year" and will now compete for the Diocesan "Distinguished Educator of the Year" award.



*Middle School Foreign Language Teacher, Agnes Denvir, was chosen as one of 18 teachers from all over the U.S. to participate in the filming of a new "Senor Wooly" Spanish video. These videos are used extensively in Mrs. Denvir's Spanish classes, and it's great fun to know that she will appear in the newest one! She is also working directly with Jim Wooldridge, aka "Senor Wooly," to develop new French resources.

The John Paul II High School Academic Decathlon Team placed 9th out of 18 teams at the Region X Competition. Individual awards went to **Dylan C. '14**, 1st Place in Speech, and **Will O. '14**, 3rd Place in Math.

Ethan K. '16, a sophomore at Clark High School, recently served as Prop Manager for Clark's musical production, *Sweet Charity*, and was the Stage Manager for their original play, *The Substitute Teacher's Tale*. In the 2017 UIL competition, he was a member of the crew that won Best Stage Crew, and the cast and crew won 2nd Place Overall for *The Substitute Teacher's Tale*.

Amanda L. '14 and **Samantha I. '16**, both students at John Paul II High School, recently performed in the Plano Metropolitan Ballet's production of *Sleeping Beauty*.

Chloe K. '17 and **Sona S. '17** are members of the freshman Basketball team at Ursuline Academy of Dallas. Both were lead scorers at a recent game.

Katie H. '16 and **Lainey M. '17**, are members of the new Bishop Lynch High School Women's Lacrosse team. They recently played in a weekend exhibition where Lainey recorded 12 saves as a goalkeeper, and in their first official contest, Lainey made seven saves and Katie scored a goal.

Shelby V. '15 is a member of the Ursuline Academy of Dallas Swim Team that recently won its 11th straight TAPPS North Regional Championship. Shelby was a top 5 finisher in the 200 Free event.

Charlie S. '16 is a "lawyer" on the Bishop Lynch High School Mock Trial Team that is headed to the State Championship.

Claire W. '14, **Kaitlyn C. '15**, and **Matt C. '17**, are all members of the John Paul II High School Swim Team. At the recent C/FB 5A Non-TISCA Meet, the Women's Team placed 2nd, and the Men's Team placed 12th.

Jordan P. '14 and **Jordan V. '15** are both members of the Jesuit Rangerettes drill team from Ursuline Academy of Dallas. The team recently took part in the North Texas Regionals Dance/Drill Team Competition. The team won the Sweepstakes Award, the Gussie Nell Davis Award, the Judges Award for four routines, the Academic Champions Award in the Large School category, the Giving Back Award (out of 30 teams for outstanding



Community Service:

In December, students participated in two service projects: the annual Angel Tree drive where grade levels adopt families in need and provide them with Christmas gifts and a "Letter to Santa" collection. Over 400 letters to Santa were written by students, gathered, and taken to Macy's. Macy's made sure the letters reached the "big guy," and then donated \$1.00/letter to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



January's All School Service Project involved collecting travel-sized toiletries and making "blessing bags" for The Samaritan Inn, the only homeless shelter in Collin County.

community service), the Gold Award as Best Overall in three categories, Best in Class Runner Up in the Large Team division, and the Best of the Best Teams award. The officers, including **Jordan P.**, won the Judges Award, the Bronze Award as Best Overall, and Best in Class Runner Up. **Jordan** also won 5th place for a solo performance. The team is soon headed for a performance at Disney World.

Caroline G. '14 and **Ella P. '17** are members of the John Paul II High School "Cardinal Belles" drill team that placed 3rd in the TAPPS State competition. **Caroline** was also named to the 2nd Team All State. **Mary Kate T. '14** serves as Manager.

LIONS MENTOR LIONS

Thanks to **Ethan M. '15**, **Nick M. '14**, **Carter P. '14**, **Harrison R. '15**, and **Kyle S. '14**, basketball players at John Paul II High School, who assisted the St. Mark Athletics Department with basketball team evaluations by demonstrating drills and working with our players.

Nate K. '14, a senior at John Paul II High School, is serving as an Assistant Coach for one of St. Mark's 8th grade boys basketball teams.

More thanks to **Mary Kate M. '17**, **Alyssa H. '17**, **Kennedy G. '17**, **Sydney B. '17**, **Natalie J. '17**, **Angela M. '17**, **Lindsey G. '16**, **Hannah B. '17**, **Zosia S. '17**, **Lainey M. '17**, **Daniela B. '17**, **Michael L. '17**, **Luis R. '17**, **Anish K. '17**, **Bryan V. '16**, **Zach V. '17**, **John N. '16**, **Ian P. '17**, **Mark R. '17**, and **Michael D. '17** who recently visited with our 8th grade class during lunch and gave them great insight into their high school experiences as the 8th graders prepare for their own journeys.



Dylan C. '14, **Gabby G. '16**, **Mitchell J. '15**, **Amanda L. '14**, **Mary Kate M. '17** and **Declan W. '17** recently visited campus as part of the John Paul II High School Theatre group and presented *Honk Jr.* to our students.



The annual "Laps for Leukemia" fundraiser, benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, is taking place now, with students walking laps for pledges during PE classes. Want to donate? Simply [click here](#).

A few more images from around campus:

1st Grade's *The Giving Tree* Play:



Middle School Fall Play, *A Christmas Carol*:



Christmas Pageant:

FAVORITE ST. MARK MEMORY

When registering for "Lifetime Lions," you are asked to share your favorite St. Mark memories. Many alumni, including **Sabrina K. '14**, include the International Tasting Faire among their favorites. This year's Tasting Faire had to be postponed until after Catholic Schools Week, but our students are still looking forward to it on March 29!

WAYS TO GIVE TO ST. MARK

St. Mark Catholic School appreciates your support. If you would like to make a donation of time, expertise, or financial support, please follow the links below.

*[Donate your time or expertise](#). Simply email [Debbie Reed](#) and let us know what you are interested in contributing to our school. Need ideas? Community members have provided special presentations to students on a variety of topics including cell phone use, the Titanic, and the Holocaust. Parents and alumni with interesting careers have presented at the St. Mark Career Days, others have taught electives on subjects such as the stock market and Pinterest projects, and many have served as interviewers at the annual 8th grade interview practice sessions.

*[Gap Fund](#) - This fund helps St. Mark bridge the gap between the tuition amount our families pay, and the actual cost to educate each student. For 2017-18, that cost is \$1,430 per student.

*[Technology Fund](#) - This fund assists St. Mark with keeping current on the technology made available to our students.

*[Other Monetary Donations](#) - Make a general donation, or designate funds towards a specific program such as Fine Arts, Athletics, or Robotics.

*[Legacy Brick](#) - Commemorate your time as a LION. Buy a personalized brick for \$100 that will become part of the entryway to St. Mark Catholic School.

*[Merchant Programs](#) - Raise funds for our school simply by linking your Tom Thumb and Kroger shopper cards to St. Mark.

STAY CONNECTED



Catholic Schools Week:



Class of 2017 Portrait Unveiling:



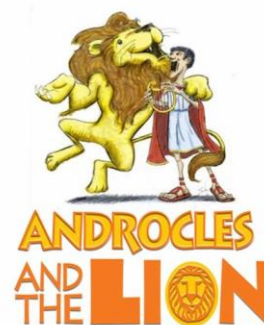
GET INVOLVED!

We encourage all alumni and alumni families to come back to campus as a volunteer, a mentor to our students, or simply to take part in our events. Here are some upcoming opportunities (and if you're a high school student, you can even earn service hours):

Middle School Spring Musical - Androcles and the Lion: May 3, 2018; Contact [Patty Corsi](#) for volunteer information, or plan to attend a performance.

Keep us posted! As we receive alumni updates, we incorporate them into our social media posts, weekly school bulletins, and alumni communications. Tell us about your recent activities and accomplishments -- we'd love to hear from you! Need to update your contact information? Simply contact [Debbie Reed](#) with all of your updates.

"ONCE A LION,
ALWAYS A LION!"



An Original Musical
Script, Direction & Design by C. G. Smith
Musical Direction by Patty Corsi
St. Mark Catholic School Theatre
Production Class
May 3, 2018
St. Mark School Cafetorium
6:30 pm

Annual Auction & Gala: April 7, 2018; Volunteer for service hours or, if you are 21 or over, purchase tickets and join us at this "don't miss" event by [clicking here](#).



3rd Annual S.T.E.M. Fair: April 27, 2018; Earn service hours or come to this interactive event just for fun! Contact [Pam Steinkirchner](#) for information.

St. Mark Catholic School



Monsignor Smyth Golf Classic:
May 4, 2018; Contact [Marlene Ehring](#) for volunteer opportunities and registration information.



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