



**Weekly Message from the Principal,
Mary Ann McQueen**

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BAKE SALE FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016

PAC MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015 AT 7:30 AM

Two parents who have expertise with safety and security issues will be attending the meeting on Monday and will be presenting some of their ideas and experiences relative to safety here at St. Mark School. We welcome the participation of as many parents as possible. This will be the first item on the meeting agenda beginning at 7:30 AM. The meeting will take place in the library. We hope that many parents will attend!

We have reviewed several safety and security protocols on campus and are implementing them currently. Anyone who comes to the main entrance of the school at any time of day is asked to identify himself or herself and indicate their purpose for entering the building. If the person is well known to us we identify them when we speak through the speaker to them and confirm or inquire about why they are seeking entrance. There are many additional precautions taken that will be discussed at the meeting and communicated to parents. Thanks for your support!

GRATITUDE:

Parents, we are all so grateful for the very generous gifts that were made to the "Teacher's/Staff Purse."! Your constant thoughtfulness is very much appreciated! On behalf of the faculty and staff of St. Mark School I would like to thank you for thinking of us, for helping your children write such personal notes and messages and for extending yourself in this way! Much, much appreciated!

LICE REMEDIATION: Hair Fairies will be on campus tomorrow!

It's sort of hilarious to go from gratitude to lice remediation but we have to be proactive and practical in schools these days! We had a lot of cases of lice this fall. We had several cases of lice that were known to families but students were sent to school regardless. This led to the spread of lice on campus including to some of the teachers! We know that, at times, lice can be insidious and despite checking you may miss seeing or realizing that your child has lice until it has gotten pretty "itchy." When we become aware of a case of lice the parents of students in that grade are notified. If the student with lice has a sibling in another grade we inform that grade as well.

In order to insure the safest environment possible relative to the spread of lice we have contracted with Hair Fairies to complete a comprehensive screening of all of our students tomorrow, January 8, 2016. If they detect lice in any student parents will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up their child. Students will not be able to return to school until they have been treated and can provide documentation as such.

This is a prudent and proactive plan put in place by the school but it is somewhat costly and not something that we can routinely do. So, we ask that you refer to the link below in regards to how best to prevent, treat and detect lice. Finally, while it is true that the American Academy of

Pediatrics does not recommend keeping students at home who have lice we have found that the likelihood of lice spreading between our students merits adherence to our current policies. We, of course, welcome your suggestions and ideas in this regard.

<http://www.webmd.com/children/ss/slideshow-lice-overview>

ADMISSIONS NEWS:

We want to thank the many parents who have referred families to St. Mark School and who have recommended the school to them. Your support, endorsement of the school and “marketing” is very effective. Thanks to our incredible faculty, staff and student body for providing the story to tell about St. Mark.

We continue to host visitors and prospective families each month. These sessions are well attended and attract a diverse group of families all of whom seem very interested in a small, Catholic, cohesive, and progressive educational environment. We begin each session with music performed by a grade, liturgical choir or Lion Lieders. Following that a student panel fields questions for about twenty minutes. Students do an amazing job with the panel and they are both eloquent and effective at answering the queries that our guests have about student life at St. Mark School.

Should you have any questions about our admission program or if you would like to get involved as a parent tour guide please let us know! Currently Elizabeth Chartier, Pammela Jackson, Tammy Zucker and Bridget McMeel Rohmer lead tours each month. They are terrific! However, it would be great to expand the team so as to alleviate the burden from their able shoulders.

RALPHS REWARDS:

Currently we have 112 families signed up for Ralphs Rewards! This is a huge increase from the 12 or so we had last quarter! We will greatly benefit from this increase in member participation! 100% of the kindergarten class is enrolled due to the efforts of Caroline Vance and Alexandra Pribuss. The 3rd and 6th grades also have impressive enrollment in the program. Thanks to Jessica Georgopoulos, who enrolled 14 co-workers, and her co-room parents Jo Gilmore, Rachel O’Brien and Sabrina Lake the 3rd grade came in second place in the school contest. The class prize of \$200 will be used for something special decided on by the class. The 6th grade took third place. Thanks to room parents Tammy Zucker and Ghislaine Skoog. Thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors who signed up to support St. Mark School! A very special thanks to Ray and Julia Zarro who sponsored the contest and underwrote the cash prizes! Ray has been championing this rewards program for years. His efforts, over time, are really appreciated. Steve Wallace assisted with the campaign this year and deserves a great deal of credit for thinking through the details! If you have not signed up yet for Ralphs Rewards please do so as it makes a big difference for the school! Get your friends, family and neighbors to do so as well!

TACSC LEADERSHIP DAY IN MARCH

The Association for Catholic Student Councils hosts an annual daylong leadership training programs for 5th-7th grade students and this year we have 22 students scheduled to attend. These students submitted applications to attend and will be participating on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at Chaminade High School. The following students will be participating:

Sonali Chadha
Jackson Chartier
Raina Aagsalud
Zoe Miller
Ava Duchrow
Georgia Purcell
Francesca Murphy
Alyssa Cirelli
Dakota Acuna
Kaili Bodolay
Olivia Zarro
Henry Sullivan
Eliza Peters
Solaris Amini
Polina Guzei
Noah Skoog
Shelby Justrich
Marco Gacina
Emma Phung
Brianna Zucker
Jared Gonzales
Nicholas Silva

UPCOMING DATES:

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| Monday, January 11, 2016 | PAC meeting at 7:30 AM in the school library |
| Tuesday, January 12, 2016 | Admissions Outreach Program |
| Saturday, January 16, 2016 AM | Second year of Communion Preparation Meeting 9-10:30 |
| Monday, January 18, 2016 | No School for MLK holiday |
| Tuesday, January 19, 2016 | Jean's Day |
| Saturday, February 6, 2016 (details are forthcoming-see attached) | Father-Daughter Dance – 5:00-9:00 PM |
| Saturday, March 19, 2016 | SMS Auction!!!!!! |