

Weekly Message from the Principal,

Mary Ann McQueen

April 24, 2015

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1. 1. Did you know that nearly half of all St. Mark School field trips this year have included the use of public transit? The 3rd, 5th, 7th and 8th grades will all have had field trips this year using only public transportation including city buses, light rail and subway transit lines. We have a school set of 50 TAP cards and students are learning how to use public transit and how to safely navigate across the city.***

- 1. 2. Did you know that 7th grade student, Ava Purcell, is a published author? Follow the link below to read her recently published story! Congratulations, Ava! Thanks to Mrs. Fitz for encouraging Ava to pursue publication of her award-winning story!***

www.kalwriters.com/KidsWWWrite

- 1. 3. Did you know that the after school instrumental program will host their first St. Mark School concert this Tuesday, April 28, 2015 after school at 4:00 PM. All are invited to attend! We are so excited and proud of this burgeoning program.***

- 1. 4. Did you know that three St. Mark School families have been serving an orphanage in Mexico and that they have made multiple trips during school holidays to do this? Angela Capp, together with the Derenese/Arnoult and White families has undertaken a project to support and serve the orphanage, Door of Faith, in La Mision, Mexico. The Capps have made several trips to this orphanage and recently introduced the project to other St. Mark school***

families. While at the orphanage students and their parents have played soccer with the kids, swam, and shared meals. Charlie Capp says that “the favorite part of the trip for him was riding a school bus to Easter services with the teenagers.” The orphanage has 110 orphans. Expenses to run the home are in excess of \$1500.00 per day. We are happy to help in any way we can!

If you are interested in participating in a planned trip for this August 14-19, 2015 check out the following link and contact Angela Capp.

<http://angelaeren.wix.com/dooroffaithmission>

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

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|----------------|--|
| April 28 | 3 rd Grade field trip to the Science Center |
| April 28
PM | Recital for the instrumental music students in the parish hall at 4:00 |
| April 30 | New Parent Orientation @6:30 PM |
| May 1 | Full Dress Uniform, 5th leads Mass |
| May 3 | 2nd Grade First Holy Communion @ 9:00 AM |
| May 5 | 1st & 2nd Grade Mass & Potluck @ 6:00 PM |
| May 5 | Nomination forms for PAC Executive Board and Board positions are due May 5th. |
| May 7 | TK and K field trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach |
| May 8 | Full Dress Uniform, May Procession, 2nd & 8th leads Mass

(an email will be sent with appropriate dress for 8 th grade students.) |
| May 12 | 7 th Grade field trip to the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit and the IMAX |

Jerusalem movie

May 20 Spring Performance 5/20 6-9pm

PAC NOMINATIONS:

We are looking for you! We want YOU to nominate yourself and others for PAC positions. Please see the attached forms. Nomination forms are due on **Tuesday, May 5, 2015**. You can send them with your child or drop them by the school office. The PAC has done an amazing job this year under the leadership of Jennifer Agens and Veronica Ruvalcaba and we look forward to forming next year's PAC Board to similarly lead with style and finesse! Nominate yourself and others and join in on the great success and fun! The room parents and PAC volunteers have contributed greatly to so many school events and endeavors this year. Simply amazing! The forms are attached!

TK and K APRIL 21 LITURGY AND POTLUCK:

Took place on Tuesday, April 21, 2015! It was a huge success because of the careful planning of the parents volunteers and the teachers. Special thanks to Tara Walden, Heidi Hampshire, Mel Walter and Trina Wilson for the great job that they did organizing the potluck! It was beautiful and the food was delicious! Many parent volunteers assisted with all aspects of the potluck. The TK and K teachers – Miss Espinoza, Miss McNally, Mrs. Deutsche and Mrs. Debevec, together with Ms. Cummings and Mrs. Villaluz did an amazing job of preparing the students. Thanks to Father Paul for his lively participation in the liturgy and potluck!

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION-APRIL 30

We are inviting ALL families who have a new student attending St. Mark School next fall. That means that current families with a new student entering St. Mark are included. We want you to meet and share time with families new to St. Mark!

GRADELINK:

The office has sent out emails requesting that returning families log onto Gradelink to re-enroll and update your student and family information. Once you log onto Gradelink review all the profile data and click on continue to complete

the process by pushing the submit button. It's that simple! If you do not know your Gradelink information please email Mrs. Donaldson at mdonaldson@stmarkschool.com and she will be happy to send it to you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

We are so proud of our 2nd grade students who are preparing for their First Holy Communion which will take place on Saturday, May 3 at 9:00 AM. We know that this is an important day and occasion. We do want to remind parents that the focus of this day is on the receiving of the sacrament of Eucharist. That the students dress in a special way for this occasion is important too but we would like the focus and emphasis, as much as possible, to be on the Sacramental experience. Thanks so much!

1ST and 2ND GRADE MAY 5TH,

LITURGY AND POTLUCK:

Save the date and look for specific information from your room parents! Dress for the liturgy and potlucks is "church" attire. No flip-flops, shorts or tank tops should be worn. For boys: collared shirts, slacks and appropriate shoes and for girls: skirts, dresses and/or dress pants. Flat shoes "ballet flats" are preferred vs. heels of any kind. Please plan to arrive a few minutes before 6:00 PM and if you need to drop off your food item plan to do that by 5:30 PM.

MAY PROCESSION, MAY 8TH:

Please join us on Friday, May 8 at 8:00 AM for mass and Mary May crowing. This is a special event that focuses on our second grade students who will have recently received their First Holy Communion and 8th grade students involved in leading the May Mary crowning.

IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR PLANNING SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016:

Parent Orientation: August 24, 2015 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

First Day of School: August 26, 2015 (three half days that week)

Thanksgiving Break: November 25-29

Christmas Break: December 19-January 3

Note:

If you reply to this email please confirm that it is directed to Maria Donaldson, mdonaldson@stmarkschool.com. Your reply cannot be delivered if you use our bulk email address (schoolmail@gradelink.com).



Make a Difference: Join the St. Mark PAC

Successful education requires a strong partnership between school, the home, the staff and members of the community.

The purposes of the St. Mark PAC are to:

- Promote education and welfare of children and youth in the home, the school and the community.
- Develop an environment where St. Mark and the community will work together to ensure that St. Mark students enjoy the best in physical, social and academic educational opportunities.
- Provide support to St. Mark School as it relates to providing enrichment and building community amongst its members and students.

How and when to get involved:

- You can nominate yourself (see self-nomination form) or someone else (see Candidate Nomination form) for all board positions.
- The Nomination Committee will meet April to nominate candidates for the position of President and Vice President and appointments will be announced in mid-May.
- All other board positions will be appointed by the President, Vice President and Principal and announced in mid-May.

Nominated Board Positions are:

Executive Committee

President
Vice President/Parliamentarian
Secretary
Treasurer
Hospitality
Social Chair/Outreach
2 Head Room Parents (lower and upper grade)

Officers – Committee Chairs

Lion Olympics
Halloween Parade
Environment and Beautification
Open House/Catholic School Week
Safety/Traffic
Used Uniforms
Grandparent's Mass
Book Fair
Teacher Appreciation Lunch
Auction
Alumnae Relations
After School Enrichment Programs

***Attendance Requirements:** Please note that attendance at PAC meetings is required by all members of the executive committee and during planning/execution periods for Committee Chairs.

Our mission is to promote respect for self, others and the environment in a safe and supportive Catholic learning community that fosters discovery and the development of each student's unique spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual potential.