



# *Weekly Words*

“To celebrate the heart of Christmas is to forget ourselves in the service of others.”~ Henry C. Link

Newsletter Number 16

December 9, 2011

Dear Parents,

Later on this afternoon it will be snowing on the playground! Thanks in advance to Pam Dethloff and the Parents' Club for providing this wonderful all school family fun opportunity. I know everyone will have a great time this afternoon.

As you may know, Admissions Director Sarah Cantwell is currently out on maternity leave, so the rest of the administrative team has been covering for her, and we have been remarkably busy! It is always a treat for me to give a tour of our school and show off the terrific work of our teachers and students, but I have particularly enjoyed hearing the families this past week express how impressed they are with our students' work. Your children have been complimented for their penmanship, the quality of their writing, and their artwork as I have taken families around the school. And the touring families have noted both the rigor of the assignments and the ability with which the students complete them. You should all be very proud.

Our littlest lions did us all very proud yesterday in the White House Christmas Sing! They sang like the little angels they are and put all of us in the audience completely in the Christmas spirit. Thanks to Mr. Parsons, Miss Jessica, and all the White House teachers for their efforts on this very special event.

On Wednesday we had our annual Science and Social Studies Fair for the Middle School. The judges were very pleased by the quality of our students' work. You will see a list on subsequent pages of those who placed or earned honorable mention. Those who placed will represent the school at the regional science and social studies fairs in March, and those with honorable mention will serve as alternates in case anyone can't attend. Congratulations to all!

Don't forget that next week Middle School has semester exams and early dismissal on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Dismissal is only from Thornhill (back carpool) for those students. Lower School and White House follow regular hours on those days. On Friday we will all dismiss at 11:30. Family Chapel next Friday will be our Lessons and Carols service; afterwards we will go to the Parish Hall for the Christmas Sing. And yes, as always we will end with "The Twelve Days of Christmas"; the golden rings are ready for the fifth grade! From the solemn to the silly, we will have a wonderful Christmas time, and I hope you will plan on joining us for the morning.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend amidst all the holiday hubbub!

Chris Carter  
Head of School

# Focus on . . . Christian Faith



## The Gift

*By Chaplain Kane*

As I prepared my Christmas giving list this year, I wondered if my daughters remembered the gift I gave to them last year. Since they were in Kindergarten I have been adding to their Christmas crèche as a keepsake for when they make their own hearth and home. Now that they are in their twenties they have quite a lovely collection. I began with a star and a promise.

As I was reflecting on these thoughts I was interrupted by words from a television commercial in the background with someone saying, “It is better to receive than to give!” I was startled. Did I hear that correctly? Sadly, I did. “Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 10:35. And our heavenly Father gave this example to us by giving us the Son “that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 The fact that a gift is always a reflection of the giver reminds me of something significant about Who it is that reaches out to us in love and gathers us lambs in His heavenly stable.

I thought back to the gifts I received which were especially meaningful. Recently I received a gift of “a flock of ducks” given in my honor to a needy family in a Third World country via the Heifer International giving program. I was moved to tears. This is a gift of compassion and one that I will remember forever. Jesus said, “Be merciful as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36 I don’t think my friend knew that in our family we have a tradition of making a charitable donation in the honor of our loved ones for all holidays, birthdays, and special days. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 10:35.

So, what was the gift I gave to my daughters last year? It was the Baby Jesus, of course. And, they remembered. As each of us looks over our Christmas list this year let us all remember “the wondrous gift is given” as the carol sings of an amazing event in Bethlehem so many years ago. May your hearts, hearths, and homes be blessed with every good gift as you celebrate together the joy that is ours in The Gift.

**THIS WEEK:**

Monday, December 12– Friday, December 16

**Morning Greeters: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Monday, December 12– Boy Scout meeting at 6 PM in the Parish Hall

**Morning Greeters: Julia Aiello, Emme Cehajic, Charles Hardtner**

**Lunch Volunteer:**

Tuesday, December 13 – Middle School Exams (Grades 6-8 dismiss at 11:30 AM)

**Morning Greeters: Stephani Gartrell, Mary McCullough Humphrey, Beckett Soignier**

**Lunch Volunteer:**

Wednesday, December 14 – Middle School Exams (Grades 6-8 dismiss at 11:30 AM)

- K5 trip to Live Oak Retirement Center 9:00 – 10:30 AM

**Morning Greeters: Geoffrey Westmoreland, Eliza Drummond, Olivia Walker**

**Lunch Volunteer: Elizabeth Peterson**

Thursday, December 15 – Middle School Exams (Grades 6-8 dismiss at 11:30 AM)

**Morning Greeters: Andrew Atkins, Parker Evans, Emma Michael**

**Lunch Volunteer:**

Friday, December 16 – Lessons and Carols at 8 AM

- Christmas Sing in the Parish Hall following Lessons and Carols

- Christmas Parties at 10:30 AM

- Dismissal for the holidays at 11:30 AM

- NO ASM

**Morning Greeters: Mallory Kelley, Campbell Siskron, Eliza Drummond**

## **LUNCH HELP NEEDED**

**We really need your help!!!** Details can be found on the web site sign up. Any questions call or email, Darcey Pavlick-617-3767, [dnpavlick@gmail.com](mailto:dnpavlick@gmail.com)

<http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/lunch469>

# Notes and Notices

## **8th GRADE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION DATES:**

### Byrd High School:

Open House – Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM

Magnet High School: Information meeting - January 5 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Open House January 22 from 2 PM – 4 PM

### Loyola College Prep:

Entrance Exams –December 10

Call the Admissions Office for more information 221-2675

Captain Shreve: Open House February 2

## Parents' Club News

*During the holiday season we would like to give the opportunity to all our St. Mark's families to participate in giving to our teachers and faculty. This year the Parents' Club will be giving gift cards to all our faculty and staff. If you would like to participate please send your check written to SMCS and in the memo area "Teacher/Faculty Christmas". The check can be turned into a homeroom teacher or Jenny in the office by **December 9th**. Thank you in advance for the love and support you show all our teachers and faculty.*

*Pam Dethloff*

*Parents' Club President*

# Notes and Notices

Congratulations to all of our middle school students for their hard work and participation in this year's Science and Social Studies Fair. The Fair was held on Wednesday, December 7. The following is a list of those students who received recognition for their projects:

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES:**

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Missy Barro	"Shoes For Tomorrow"
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Rose Majors	"The Great Depression"
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Savannah Meeks	"Irena Sendler: Mother of 2,500 Children"
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Ally Peters	"Magnificent Wonders"

### Honorable Mention:

Cassidy Cason	"Titanic Disaster"
Maddie Tinsley	"One Man's Dream"
Philip Barbaree	"More Than Just A Village"

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE:**

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Courtney Myers	"Can Activated Carbon Take the color out of Coke?"
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Grace Crooms	"What is the Best Antioxidant?"
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Sarah Stough	"Does it Make a Difference to go to Bed without Brushing Your Teeth?"
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Peyton Gamble	"Which Brand of Plastic Sandwich Bag is the Strongest?"
5 <sup>th</sup> place	Adriana Beruvides	"Do Plants Grow Larger in Natural Sunlight or Grow Lights?"

### Honorable Mention:

Mary Claire Walker	"Are Reusable Water Bottles Really Safe?"
Gabe Miciotto	"Which Paper Towel is the Most Absorbent?"
Frances Byrd	"What Kind of Water is Cleaner: Salt or Chlorine?"
Isabella Miciotto	"Do Special Block-out Curtains Really Work?"
Margaret Stroud	"What Type of Treat Do Dogs Prefer?"

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE:**

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Jeffrey Williams	"Juice or Sports Drink: Which Is The Best?"
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Rachel Cline	"Can pH Affect Oral Bacterial Growth?"
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Mariana Russo	"Color My Memory?"
4 <sup>th</sup> place	Markus Koeniger	"Cavities in a Can?"
5 <sup>th</sup> place	Cameron Wallace	"Tension or Compression: Does It Matter?"

### Honorable Mention:

Kylee Willis	"Enjoy It Now . . . Or Enjoy It Later?"
Ethan Courtman	"How Does the Spacing Magnets Affect a Gauss Gun?"
Robinson Humphrey	"Does Verbal Encouragement During Exercise Increase An Individuals Ability to Perform?"
Meredith Waltman	"Stay Dry! Is Sportswear Keeping Us Cooler?"
Madeleine Moore	"How Much Electromagnetic Exposure Are We Getting From Cell Phones?"

# Notes and Notices



## 2012 Geography Bee Finalists

Congratulations to the finalists of the 2011-2012 St. Mark's Geography Bee! The final competition will be held on January 6, 2012 at 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. It will consist of a Final Round and Championship Round. Final Round questions will reduce the number of contestants to two. These two finalists will then compete in the Championship Round. The winner will then take the 2012 Qualifying Test that will be sent to the National Geographic Society for scoring. In March, notification is sent to the schools of the top 100 students in the state and they are invited to the State Geography Bee which will be held on Friday, March 30, 2012. The first-place winners from each state will advance to the national level in Washington, D.C. on May 22-24, 2012. St. Mark's ten finalists are:

Andrew Barlow  
Ethan Courtman  
Markus Koeniger  
Stephen Koruna  
Ellen Patterson  
Malinee Rodsuwan  
Keaton Russo  
Maddie Tinsley  
Jeffery Williams  
Shayan Yerrapragada

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Semester Exam Schedules  
December 13, 14, 15, 2011**

Dismissal on Thornhill only at 11:30 a.m. each day

Exams: 1<sup>st</sup> testing session is 8:10-9:40 & 2<sup>nd</sup> session is 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Students will report to the 2<sup>nd</sup> exam room for the break.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Tuesday = 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish exam; 2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish students take Science exam  
1<sup>st</sup> French students take Science exam; 2<sup>nd</sup> French exam  
Wednesday = 1<sup>st</sup> Soc. St. exam (Caffery HR.); 2<sup>nd</sup> Soc. St. exam (Dulany HR)  
1<sup>st</sup> SH Dulany in 209; 2<sup>nd</sup> SH Caffery in 203.  
Thursday = 1<sup>st</sup> English exam (Caffery HR); 2<sup>nd</sup> English exam (Dulany HR)  
1<sup>st</sup> Math exam (Dulany HR); 2<sup>nd</sup> Math exam (Caffery HR)

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Tuesday = 1<sup>st</sup> PA Intro exam; 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Algebra exam  
1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Alg. SH in Sci. Lab; 2<sup>nd</sup> PA Intro SH in 207  
Wednesday = 1<sup>st</sup> English exam (Triplett HR); 2<sup>nd</sup> English exam (Rimmer HR)  
1<sup>st</sup> Soc. St. exam (Rimmer HR); 2<sup>nd</sup> Soc. St. exam (Triplett HR)  
Thursday = 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish (HR Rimmer); 2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish/French (Triplett HR)  
1<sup>st</sup> Science exam (Triplett HR); 2<sup>nd</sup> Science exam (Rimmer HR)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Tuesday = 1<sup>st</sup> English exam (Gustavson HR); 2<sup>nd</sup> English exam (Taylor HR)  
1<sup>st</sup> Soc. St. exam (Taylor HR); 2<sup>nd</sup> Soc. St. exam (Gustavson HR)  
Wednesday = 1<sup>st</sup> Science (all 25); 2<sup>nd</sup> French or Spanish  
Thursday = 1<sup>st</sup> Alg. I Intro exam; 2<sup>nd</sup> Alg. I exam;  
1<sup>st</sup> Alg. I SH in 205; 2<sup>nd</sup> Alg. I Intro SH/Make Up in 210



### **Calling all Cooks and Non-Cooks!**

Yes, this means you! The St. Mark's Cathedral Cooking Crew is cooking 500 Thanksgiving meals for the Community Renewal Friendship Houses and Project YES. These are organizations that assist lower income kids after school and on the weekends with hot meals they would otherwise not have. This is a wonderful ministry to help those in need, especially during this season when we celebrate Christ's birth. Some of these families would normally not be able to celebrate with a special meal.

This is a wonderful group of ladies and men cooking together. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, hang out with friends, and serve those around us. If you would like to join us (no strings attached!) contact Jennifer Beruvides 972-998-0369 or [jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net](mailto:jennifer@stmarkscathedral.net)

Monday, December 12, 8:30-12

Tuesday, December 13, 8:30-12

Wednesday, December 14, 8:30-12 and 3-4:30

Thursday, December 15, 11-12:30

You can come multiple days or even just a portion of a day. All help is welcome!

Remember: **No cooking skills are needed!**

# Thank You!

Thank you so much to the following parents for helping with Teacher Treats this month...Kelly Wheat, Leann Baker, Ashley Turner, Christy Roemer, Anne Marie Schoonover, Stephanie Perdue, Brandi Daigle, Amy Donald, Melissa Reading and Kim Stroud.

# Notes and Notices



This Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Norwela Council is having its second annual 5K/10K race at 8 a.m. in Betty Virginia Park. The race will begin in Betty Virginia Park and wind through South Highlands and back to the park. There will also be a 1-mile kid's fun run through the park. Last year many St Mark's families participated and several were winners in their respective category. You can register online at <http://www.sportspectrumusa.com/events/boy-scouts-5k-10k/>, at SportSpectrum's store or on the day of the race onsite. The weather Saturday is predicted to be perfect running weather—sunny, clear and crisp. Hopefully, St Mark's can have another good presence this year!!!!



**Alpine Camp for Boys  
Slideshow Presentation  
Thursday, January 19th  
7:00 pm**



**Home of  
Greg and Karin Barro  
4290 Richmond Avenue  
Shreveport**

Come meet with Alpine leaders and see old and new friends!  
Refreshments will be served. Siblings and friends welcome.

*No experience affords youth a greater opportunity to come to know and love our Creator than **living in His great creation** under the leadership of strong Christians.*

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**Percentage of Participation:**

**SMCS BOARD: 100%**

**SMCS FACULTY: 93%**

**SMCS FAMILIES: 47%**



Lion Pride