



Weekly Words

“If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.” ~Abigail Van Buren

Newsletter Number 18

January 6, 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had wonderful Christmas holidays and that you have also enjoyed the return to a routine! All the children seemed eager and ready to go on Wednesday as we began the third quarter of the year.

January is when we begin to do all our planning for next year. We have multiple admissions-enrollment events this month, with the All-School Open House on January 13 and special programs for K-4 parents to learn about K-5 (January 12) and for 5th grade parents to learn about Middle School (January 11). See the notices on subsequent pages or check the calendar on the school website for more details about these events. On Monday, we will be mailing out re-enrollment contracts to all our families. Contracts are due to the office by February 24 in order to receive the discount on registration and to guarantee your spot before Open Enrollment begins. Feel free to call the office if you have any questions after you receive this mailing.

Many of you have inquired about next year's calendar. I will begin making the complete calendar this month for the Board of Trustees to approve next month, but I believe that August 15 will be the first day of school next year, with August 14 being the classroom visitation day for Lower and Middle Schools. I would advise returning from vacation and camps by August 13.

In just over two weeks St. Mark's will host a visit from eight educators from other schools which are members of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). This Visiting Team will spend half a week with us and will make a recommendation of the SAES Board as to whether St. Mark's should receive accreditation for the next ten years. Needless to say, this is a very important visit, and the faculty, staff, and board of trustees has been working hard for a year now to prepare for it. We have prepared a comprehensive Self-Study in which we assess the extent to which we uphold the Standards of the Association, and we have completely updated and assessed the strengths and weaknesses of our curriculum. I am very proud of the tremendous amount of work our school has done under the direction of the Steering Committee, whose members were Jennifer Burrus, Judy Kane, Darlene Fair, Olivia Bradley with Jessica Russo as Chair. Miss Jessica has worked particularly hard to insure that we have produced a thorough and accurate Self-Study. I will have more information about this Accreditation Visit next week, but I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank everyone for their hard work!

Have a great weekend!

Chris Carter
Head of School

Focus on . . . Technology

Technology has opened many doors to vast amounts of information, social networks around the world, and new career development opportunities. Parents can help kids be selective in using technology for learning as well as for entertainment purposes by modeling lifelong learning skills and monitoring their kids' use of software and the Internet. In order to do this, parents need to be technology savvy.

Surfing the Net

According to Don Tapscott in an article titled "The Net Generation and the School," (available online at www.milkenexchange.org/feature/tapscott.html) 88% of today's adolescents agree that it is "in" to be online. Surfing through the resources on the Internet provides opportunities for exciting discoveries as well as encounters with the unknown. Teach youngsters to navigate through this global network of information and online groups safely by establishing household "Net Rules" such as:

- Have an action plan for using your time online.
- Remember that homework on the Internet comes before playing games and socializing.
- Respect yourself and others during online chats. Do not engage in discussions with individuals or groups that you do not know.
- Keep your password a secret.
- Do not give your full name, address, telephone number, social security number, or other personal identification information to anyone or any organization online, unless you first have your parent's permission.

Web Sites for Parents

- Visit the [ParentTech](#) Web site to learn more about parenting in the digital age.
- The [National Parent Teacher Association](#) has initiatives in educational technology designed to help parents be involved in their schools' technology activities.
- [Discovery Channel Online](#) is an added resource to the television programming on the Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel, and Animal Planet. The site also has great science and history resources and games.
- The [Public Broadcasting Service](#) Web site includes information on their programming as well as sources for teachers and links to information on the arts, technology, history, and science.
- [Ask Dr. Math](#) is a Math Forum Project that provides homework help. It is maintained by Swarthmore College.
- [Bilingual Books for Kids](#) is a commercial site that distributes materials written with Spanish and English appearing side by side.
- [Think College Early](#) is a Web site sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education that provides young adolescents with online resources for examining their choices in preparing for an occupation.
- 10 Tech Tips for Parents can be found at <http://www.theonlinemom.com/secondary.asp?id=25>
- Links to Several Different Sites Regarding Internet Safety for Kids
http://www.internet4classrooms.com/links_grades_kindergarten_12/parents_internet_safety.htm

THIS WEEK:

Monday, January 9 – Friday, January 13 –
Morning Greeters: Student Council

Monday, January 9–
Morning Greeters: Maddie Tinsley, Ally Peters, Catherine Humphrey
Lunch Volunteer: OPEN

Tuesday, January 10 – Fiesta volunteers' meeting at 12 Noon at Zocolo
Morning Greeters: Kylie Willis, Jeffery Williams, Alden Wallace
Lunch Volunteer: Jennifer Walls

Wednesday, January 11 – 5th Grade Informational Meeting about SMCS Middle School
Morning Greeters: Keaton Russo, Benson Williams, Grace Crooms
Lunch Volunteer: Cherie Sealy

Thursday, January 12 – K5 Information Day for SMCS K4 families 8:00-9:30 AM
- K9 Bake Sale at all lunch shifts
Morning Greeters: Rachel Cline, Sadie Barlow, Morgan Goldsberry
Lunch Volunteer: Cherise Swander

Friday, January 13 – All School Open House 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
- Middle School Geography Bee at 2 PM in the Parish Hall
Lunch Volunteer: OPEN

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

[.http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/lunch469](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/lunch469)

5TH GRADE PARENTS

The Middle School Informational Meeting and Parents Luncheon will be Wednesday, January 11, 2012, from 11-12:30. An invitation to parents has been sent out.

Notes and Notices

K4 PARENTS

On Thursday, January 12th there will be a K-5 Open House from 8:00 – 9:30 AM. Please join us for K-5 Chapel, an information session in the Library, observation time in the classrooms, and a Q&A session. This is a great opportunity for our White House families to learn about our Kindergarten program.

You are invited to attend the **Open House** for



Friday, January 13th
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Please join us for coffee while you tour the school and learn about our programs!

Questions? Call our Admissions Director, Sarah Cantwell ~ 318.226.4036
or email at scantwell@stmarksschool.com

Notes and Notices

8th GRADE HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION DATES:

Byrd High School:

Open House – Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM

Magnet High School: Open House January 22 from 2 PM – 4 PM

Captain Shreve: Open House February 2



**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.*

GIRL SCOUT MEETING! Thursday, January 12, 3:00 - 4:15 PM in the Parish Hall. Don't forget to wear your uniform! Parents will have a mandatory meeting at 3:45 PM to learn about this year's cookie selling. If you cannot attend, please contact Jennifer Beruvides at beruvidesr@bellsouth.net.

Notes and Notices



Volunteer!

Are you looking for something to do now that the kids are back in school? Yeah, me neither, but Fiesta can raise a lot of money for our school, so it is worth my time and yours. Our first committee meeting of 2012 will be **Tuesday, January 10 at noon at Zocolo**. Come get a sneak peek at the new auction website and learn how you can help! If you can't make it but want to contribute, email eljmdavis@yahoo.com.

Thanks to our terrific teachers for donating fun student experiences for the auction. We are lucky to have such a talented and generous faculty!

Elizabeth Davis
2012 Fiesta Chair



Lions' Basketball

Tuesday, January 10

5th grade boys vs. St. John's at 6 PM at St. John's

8th grade boys vs. St. John's at 8 PM at St. John's

Thursday, January 12

6th grade boys vs. First Baptist at 7 PM at First Baptist

CONGRATULATIONS!

Seventh grader **Philip Barbaree** recently won the Allstate Super Bowl Tommy Moore Memorial Junior Gold Championship in New Orleans. He won the boys' 14-18 division. Way to go Philip!



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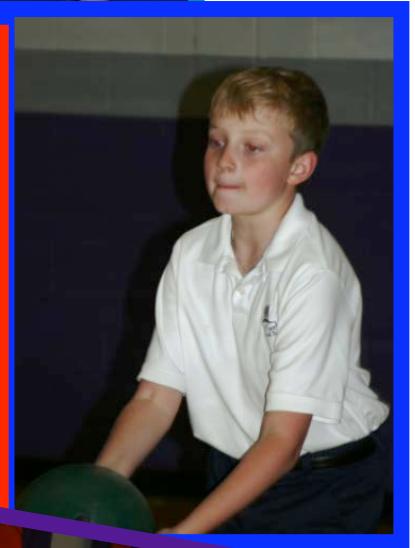
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Percentage of Participation:

SMCS BOARD: 100%

SMCS FACULTY: 96%

SMCS FAMILIES: 49%



Lion Pride