



# Weekly Words

“Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.” ~Thomas Jefferson

Newsletter Number 24

February 16, 2012

Dear Parents,

It's been a sweet week here at St. Mark's as we celebrated Valentine's Day and prepare for Fat Tuesday next week. Hearts have quickly given way to masks as we jump into Mardi Gras full force. On Tuesday, K-5 will have their annual Mardi Gras Ball and the Krewe of Justinian will be visiting the White House. Also on Tuesday the Christian Education Department is sponsoring our Parade of Hope as we view floats depicting a variety of social service agencies and ministries that students can choose to support in Lent.

On Wednesday, we put Mardi Gras behind us as we begin Lent. Students in grades 1-8 will attend the Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 8 o'clock in the Cathedral. All parents are invited to attend and sit with their children as we start our Lenten journey together. Please note that Middle School will not have divisional Chapel on Tuesday because of the Eucharist on the following day. Family Chapel will occur as usual on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

I want to remind you of a few important policies and procedures and ask your cooperation. First, the State of Louisiana requires that we enforce state attendance policies. Middle and Lower School students (including K-5) are required to attend a set number of days (or the equivalent in minutes) in order to receive credit for the year. St. Mark's students cannot have more than 16 absences in a year. However, **absences excused by a doctor do not count against this number**. In other words, if your child has missed 17 days of school, but ten of those were for illness and we have a note from your doctor, then you actually only have seven absences according to the state. Please understand, I don't make the law, but I am expected to enforce it. If your child is sick and you go to the doctor, just send in a note. Most of us never come near missing 16 days of school, but having the notes helps to keep those numbers down so that if you need to travel we don't run up against the law. Thank you for your understanding.

On another matter, I would like to remind you that our preferred means of communication with teachers is email. Teachers are not supposed to take cell phone calls or texts during their teaching time, so texting is not an appropriate way to communicate during the school day. In addition, many teachers do not have unlimited texting so that using texting as a means of communication can cause them to exceed their plan limits. If you need to pick up a child early from school or change carpool arrangements, please call or email Miss Jenny before 2:30, so that she will have that information for her records, and she will notify the teachers.

Finally, although we received a glowing report from our SAES Visiting Team for accreditation, they were emphatic that we should not be allowing parents ever to talk on cell phones when picking up children. They have told us that we must be stricter about this. Please, conclude your cell phone conversations once the carpool lines begin moving and we begin to load children.

Thank you for your attention to these various matters. Please know how much we value and appreciate our parents. I hope you all enjoy the Winter Break, and I look forward to seeing your children next Tuesday!

Chris Carter  
Head of School

## Focus on . . . Middle School

### *February in Middle School.....*

We started the month celebrating that our school received such wonderful commendations from the SAES Accreditation Team. Mrs. Dulany's class hosted the last middle school bake sale and made \$288.55 for the K9 Unit. The 5<sup>th</sup> will host one Bake Sale to finish the year in March. Student Council held a Valentine's Dance that was very well attended. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents sold pizza and baked goods to raise money for the endowment fund. Thank you to all the parents who chaperoned! Our MathCounts Team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the regional competition and will be going to State on March 23.

Teacher Appreciation Week was amazing. Thank you, parents and students, for the delicious breakfast and luncheon every day! We loved our quarts of soup from La Madeleine and the gift cards to Target. Students also brought flowers and other gifts. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you also for your support of Student Council's Luv Pop Fund Raiser. The Student Council members sold 4096 Luv Pops which totaled \$2,048.00. Expenses will be deducted and we should end with a profit of approximately \$1500.00. Student Council members were able to sort and bag the Luv Pops for each student and faculty member and also sent Luv Pops to the Cathedral staff. Thursday, Friday, and Monday were amazing days! Members worked at Study Hall and gave up their PE time. Names were checked and rechecked to see that every student had Luv Pops. They were so dedicated! These funds support our local SC charity and the State Charity and help pay to send our Student Council Officers to the Summer Workshop and Convention. Last year we purchased a new costume for our mascot, Lionel, too.

This weekend the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will ride on a float in the Highland Parade. Thank you to Jason Waltman and Polly and Bruce Williams for arranging for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to have the Williams' incredible float this year. We hope everyone will come to the parade and look for our float. It is black and white and has our banners on each side. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Throughout this month we have watched the SMCS Lions play some great basketball. Each team has really developed under the leadership of Coach Bush. We will end the month celebrating Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday and attending a performance by Opera Express.

As Ash Wednesday reminds us to reflect on what is important in our lives and where we will direct our energies, I would like to ask our students to stay focused as we move into March, April, and May. All students have standardized testing in March. The dates for MS are March 12, 13, and 14. Then, 8<sup>th</sup> graders have the first day of LEAP testing on March 20. These tests cover the English Language Arts Writing and Math Constructed Response sections. The other two days of LEAP are on April 12 and 13.

Let's make it a great 2012!

Olivia Bradley  
Middle School Director

**THIS WEEK:**

Monday, February 20 – Presidents’ Day – No School/ASM

Tuesday, February 21 – Friday, February 24 –  
**Morning Greeters: Connie Gerald and Jason Lustig**

Tuesday, February 21 –  
**Lunch Volunteer: OPEN**

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday Eucharist Service  
**Lunch Volunteer: OPEN**

Thursday, February 23 –  
**Lunch Volunteer: Cherise Swander**

Friday, February 24 – Opera Express performance for grades 4-8 at  
9:45 AM in the Parish Hall  
**Lunch Volunteer: OPEN**



**Lions’ Basketball**

**Monday, February 20**

8<sup>th</sup> grade boys vs. Southfield at 7 PM at Southfield

**Thursday, February 23**

6<sup>th</sup> grade boys vs. St. John’s at 7 PM at St. John’s

**The deadline for Financial Aid for the 2012-2013 school year is  
MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.**

Apply online at [www.stmarksschool.com](http://www.stmarksschool.com)  
Select **FAST – FINANCIAL AID** under the *Quick Links* Tab.

# Notes and Notices

## **LUNCH HELP NEEDED**

**We really need your help!!!** The sign-up calendar is now open through the end of March! Sign up today! Any questions call or email, Darcey Pavlick-617-3767, [dnpavlick@gmail.com](mailto:dnpavlick@gmail.com)

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



# THANK YOU!

*Thanks to all those that turned in Box Tops. We collected 5,880 box tops to submit. That's equal to \$588 in cash for our school.*

*Keep collecting the box tops for the next submission date. Let's try to raise even more money!*



Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> grader **Abby Koruna**! Abby competed in the LA Cup Gymnastics Meet last week and won a 3<sup>rd</sup> place All-Around trophy. Way to go!

## Alumni News

Congratulations to SMCS graduates Edward Stroud ('09) and Corey Smith ('10) for earning their Eagle Scout Rank. Edward attends Loyola and is a member of Troop 18. Corey also attends Loyola and is a member of Troop 105. We are proud of our newest Eagle Scouts!



### Join our “Parade of Hope!”

The Parade begins next week, Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> and will be displayed through March 7<sup>th</sup>. Come see which Community Outreach Projects our Middle School students are asking us to support this Lent.

### Let the Parade begin...

<p><b>GRAND MARSHALL</b> - Service Leadership Club Officers <b>Episcopal Relief and Development – Nets for Life</b></p>	<p>To raise money to send to ERD for toward the <b>purchase of malaria nets to protect children</b> from the disease. Each net costs \$12.</p>
<p><b>CHAPLAIN’S FLOAT</b> <b>Louisiana Association of the Blind</b></p>	<p>To raise \$150 to buy an <b>Engraved SMCS Brick</b> at their headquarters giving our collective community support for education, vocational training and resources for the blind. Information will be available if anyone wants to sponsor their own family or memorial brick.</p>
<p><b>Volunteers of America</b> <b>Disabled American Veterans</b> Shreveport Homeless Vets</p>	<p>To collect <b>shaving cream and after shave</b> for Disabled American Veterans living in local VOA shelter for 65 disabled men.</p>
<p><b>The Arc of Caddo- Bossier</b> Shreveport Special Kids</p>	<p>To raise <b>money to buy Talking Picture Frames</b> to help visually impaired students at the Goldman School, Shreveport (\$9.99 each) Options: sponsor 1 or donate a \$1</p>
<p><b>The Lion’s Club</b> Louisiana Chapter</p>	<p>To collect <b>old or unused glasses</b> for reuse. The Lions Club accepts prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses and plastic and metal frames.</p>
<p><b>The McDade House</b> Shreveport</p>	<p>To collect <b>laundry detergent, fabric softener, and dryer sheets (no bleach)</b> for a local organization which provides lodging and supportive companionship in a homelike environment for outpatients and out of town relatives of seriously ill patients in a Shreveport-Bossier City hospitals</p>
<p><b>The Hub: Urban Ministries</b> Shreveport</p>	<p>To collect <b>gently used men’s shirts and pants, and gently used blankets</b> for direct distribution in the urban, homeless population.</p>
<p><b>Juvenile Arthritis Foundation</b> Louisiana Chapter</p>	<p>To raise <b>money for research</b> to find a cure for this children’s debilitating and paralyzing disease.</p>
<p><b>World Vision International</b> International</p>	<p>To raise <b>a Dollar a Day</b> to sponsor one young SMCS “<b>Hope Child</b>” made orphaned by HIV/AIDS in a Third World Country for one calendar year. (\$365) \$1 a Day will provide water, food, shelter and medical care for one child whom we will be assigned. If we reach our goal we will learn the child’s name and receive a picture and information about their home.</p>
<p><b>Backpack Program</b> <b>of the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank</b> Shreveport-Bossier</p>	<p><b>To collect gently used backpacks for the NWLFB BACKPACK PROGRAM:</b> Chronically hungry children in Shreveport-Bossier are provided with a backpack of food to take home for the weekend and holidays. Each 7 - 10 pound weekly bag includes items such as granola bars, fruit juice and pop top canned food.</p>

# Notes and Notices



## Mark your calendars for two fun adult socials:

\*Cinco de Mommies Girls' Night Out **Thursday, May 3, 5:30-7:30 pm**, at Stefanie Walker's house

\*Tennis Tournament **Friday, August 31, 6:00 pm**, at Pierremont Oaks Tennis Club

Tickets will be available for purchase when the auction website launches in mid-March. Proceeds will benefit the Parents' Club.

Thank you to Jon Davis, Chris Elberson, Frank Harris, Oliver Jenkins, Tina Rodsuwan, Katie Walker, and Kim Wood for contributing their services to auction! Is your name missing from this list? Do you have a service we could auction? Contact Elizabeth Davis at [eljmdavis@yahoo.com](mailto:eljmdavis@yahoo.com).

**The next planning meeting will be  
Tuesday, February 21, at 9:30 at 594 Oneonta.  
Join us!**

## **Important Dates:**

March 1	Class baskets due
April 1	Online bidding begins
April 10	Online bidding ends
April 14	Fiesta!

# Notes and Notices

## **Nominations for the 2012-2013 Parents' Club Board**

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Parents' Club board please email your nomination to Pam Dethloff [pdethloff@comcast.net](mailto:pdethloff@comcast.net)



### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE NOTICE/INFORMATION:**

St. Joseph's Annual Mardi Gras dance will be held this Friday, February 17 from 7-10 PM. The entrance fee is **\$20** which includes dinner and a souvenir photo. Guests will receive a 5x7 photo in a decorative Mardi Gras frame. Additional photos will be available for \$5 and must be paid for at the dance. The photos will be delivered to the students' school by February 27. Additional concessions and party favors will also be sold!

### **DRESS CODE:**

Boys: Shirt, tie, and slacks are required.

Girls: Dress or dressy blouse and slacks or skirt.

Skirts may not be shorter than 3 inches above the knee. All spaghetti strap dresses and one strap off the shoulder dresses require a sweater or shrug to be worn the entire event. NO strapless, backless, or bare midriff dresses or tops allowed.

**ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS AND T-SHIRTS.**



## “King Cake & Cocoa Social” on Mardi Gras Day



The past few years we have celebrated reaching a new family participation record in the annual fund, and this year we are hoping to continue the new tradition!

As of right now we still have a way to go before breaking the current percentage set last year (63%)! And...time is running out to place our king cake order!!

**\*\*If we can set a new goal of 64% Parent/Family Participation in this year's campaign, we will have a *King Cake and Cocoa Social* on Mardi Gras Day for ALL students!**

The students love this event and we love your support! If you haven't already done so, please make your pledge or gift to the SMCS Annual Fund today!!

You may send payment or contact Sarah Cantwell with your pledge at 318.226.4036 or [scantwell@stmarksschool.com](mailto:scantwell@stmarksschool.com).

**Thank you parents for your dedication and support to our school!**

# Lion Pride



