



## ALUMNI and FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

[www.stmark-school.org](http://www.stmark-school.org) | 410.744.6560



Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends,

St. Mark School is off to a great start for the school year 2015 – 2016. This is evidenced by our enrollment numbers, innovative programs, and increase in accessibility to technology for all students. Our students, faculty and administrators continue to respect our traditions that we hold near and dear to our heart while focusing on our mission of academic excellence in the catholic school setting.

Through the efforts of our advancement team, we have been able to continue spreading the word in the community about all the educational opportunities offered at St. Mark. This has resulted in a slight increase in enrollment this year. We continue our work on being named an Archdiocesan STEM school. Thank you for the continued support from our alumni and parents which has enabled us to update our technology so that there are IPADS and Chrome books (in addition to our two computer labs) accessible to all students.

God continues to bless us with great teachers, very supportive parents, and outstanding students like each of you were when you attended the school.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mary Destino*  
Principal

### Welcome New Faculty

This year we are happy to welcome the following new faculty to our school family. We are proud to have such wonderful people to work with our students.

#### **Melina Blackwell-Art**

Mrs. Blackwell has a long journey to reach St. Mark from her home in Pennsylvania. However, she fell in love with the beautiful campus of St. Mark and is excited to work with our students. Preparing two high school age children for college while also carving out time to enjoy making her own art, biking, photography and music keep her busy at home. Her previous experience teaching art in the Spring Grove Area School District and summer art camps in Gettysburg have provided her with much creative expression for her new position at St. Mark.

#### **Laura Fitzgerald—Grades 7/8 Math & 7C Homeroom**

Mrs. Fitzgerald takes great pleasure in being in a K-8 school setting. She previously taught middle school in Howard County and she finds joy in seeing the primary age students. She has over 30 years of experience teaching and she has embraced the warm, caring atmosphere of St. Mark and appreciates being part of the school community. A mother to two sons and grandmother of three, she also enjoys playing tennis and her Book Club group.

#### **Barbara McDonald—Middle School PRIDE**

Mrs. McDonald taught in several Archdiocesan schools as well as the Baltimore County Public School System. She joins the faculty of St. Mark with 19 years of experience and so far has discovered that the families she has met are very involved and dedicated to the mission of St. Mark School. She is truly happy and excited to be back in a Catholic school setting. In her free time, she cherishes time with her three children and new grandson, cooking and reading. The PRIDE program has been well received at St. Mark and she looks forward to teaching PRIDE students and continuing the success of the program.

#### **Megan Peluso-Grade 4**

Mrs. Peluso is not actually new to St. Mark. Not too long ago, as student Megan Green, she graduated from St. Mark. Last year, she joined us after the school year began, as a part-time middle school math teacher. A May bride, Mrs. Peluso and new husband, Nick, are thrilled about her return to St. Mark as a teacher. Setting up a classroom of her own was a dream she hoped to fulfill since childhood. It will be a new experience for her to take part in St. Mark traditions in her new role as an educator. She finds St. Mark to be a very welcoming school community. After school hours, she may be involved with her hobbies of photography, painting or reading.

## **Congratulations to the High School Class of 2015**

### **Where our 2011 St. Mark School Graduates are going to college or plans post graduate!**

Paige Hughes Aldave-University of Florida  
Noah Matthew Allen-University of MD Balto Co  
Julia May Armstrong-Salisbury University  
Meagan Marie Bess-Univ. of NC at Greensboro  
Jennifer Lynn Blake-Mt. St. Mary's University  
William E. Bolewski-Radford University  
Alexander Butler-Community College of Balto Co  
Lacy Elizabeth Cole-University of New Hampshire  
Brian L. Cromer-University of MD Balto Co  
Garrett Christopher Doyle-University of MD College Park  
Charles Jerrod Edmunds-Morgan State University  
Carolina Darcy Elias-University of MD College Park  
Madison Schier Fields-Hofstra University  
Riley McAllister Gentner-University of So. Carolina  
Dominic Joseph Goodney-University of MD Balto Co  
Stephen Martin Goralski-University of MD Balto Co  
Randolph O. Gregory III-University of Kentucky  
Rebecca Cecile Hsu-Georgia Technical University  
Colby Ryan Jews-Mt. St. Mary's University  
Jordan Christopher Kirby-Salisbury University  
Christopher James Krabbe-Salisbury University  
David Andrew Luco-University of MD Balto Co  
Caitlyn Breann McElroy-Stevenson University  
Matthew Logan Meekins-York College

Nicholas Michael Nadolny-Community College of Balto Co  
Lindsey Rosemarie Nalley-Howard Community College  
John C. Norton-Wagner College  
S. Patrick O'Ferrall, Jr-Community College of Balto Co  
Clayton J. Pilcher-United States Marine Corps  
Kathleen Jeanie Russell-St. John's University  
Emmy Elise Saathoff-Randolph Macon College  
Jake Kenneth Sabourin-Professional Hockey League  
Amanda Catherine Seidl-Duquesne University  
Matt Sekira-University of MD Balto Co  
Andrew Seneca-Community College of Balto Co  
Emma Smith-Washington College  
Andrew Seneca-Community College of Balto Co  
Julia Frances Stafford-University of MD Balto Co  
Casey Stencil-St. Joseph's University  
William Joseph Stinson-Drexel University  
Paul Gannon Stromberg-DePaul University  
Spyridon Swanson-Towson University  
Bryce D. Thurston-Mt. St. Mary's University  
Nicole Katherine Wilhelm-Salisbury University  
Schulyer J. Williams-University of MD Balto Co  
Brendan Kyle Wrisk-Salisbury University  
Bryce D. Thurston-Mt. St. Mary's University

Best wishes to all the graduates!  
Thank you to all who responded!



### **"Sharing the Light of Faith"**

We have chosen for our school theme for the 2015-2016 school year "Sharing the Light of Faith." In every classroom you will find a lantern lit with an LED tealight candle to help the students visualize how our Catholic faith can be a light and witness for others. During the school year we provide many opportunities for our school community to participate in outreach projects to assist individuals and organizations in need.

Some of the efforts we have already completed this fall include the "Feet for Francis" campaign in conjunction with Pope Francis' visit to the United States. Our school collected 1,200 pairs of shoes to be donated. Another school-wide project that took place in the fall was the Governor's "Day to Serve" campus wide clean up and collection of canned goods for the Catonsville Emergency Food Ministry. An ongoing effort to serve the hungry occurs every month when students bring in an extra brown bag lunch for the

"Double Lunch Ministry" for area emergency shelters. "Tag" days or opportunities to dress out of uniform for the benefit of a chosen charity are always greatly supported as evidenced by the picture on the next page of our Pink Tag Day to benefit the St. Agnes Breast Care Center. The Student Council is spearheading a collection of personal care items for the residents of the Helping Up Mission.

While our students are busy finding ways to share the light of faith by serving others, we are blessed by generous benefactors who also help to provide for the needs of our students with their financial donations. Through the generosity of one of these gifts, we were able to purchase Chromebooks to support the growing technology needs of our school. Laptops for teacher use were also purchased. The students and teachers have greatly benefitted from the use of the new equipment and we sincerely thank our donor for his vision in sharing the light of faith. Are you able to share the light of faith with St. Mark School in some way?





## In Memorium



*Sister Marie Charles Grauer*

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Sr. Marie Charles. Sister went to the Lord on July 20 at Villa Assumpta in Baltimore. She was 96. Her funeral Mass was held at Villa Assumpta on July 28. Sister Marie Charles professed her vows to the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1939. She served as a teacher in several places before she arrived at St. Mark School in 1959. She remained at St. Mark until 1967.

While at St. Mark, she taught Grade 8 and was known as a firm, but caring, disciplinarian to her students. A petite woman, she nevertheless was a "force to be reckoned with" according to those who knew her. She maintained a close relationship with many of her former students throughout the years. She loved to gather with them and they, in turn, loved her.

After leaving St. Mark in 1968, Sr. taught many generations of girls English and business courses at her Alma Mater, Institute of Notre Dame. She "retired" in 2003.

In 2011, she was honored by her first St. Mark Grade 8 class with a special plaque that still hangs outside the classroom today. Another honor was bestowed upon her in 2013 when IND named their freshman academic intervention program, the Sr. Marie Charles Project after her.

She embraced a teaching career that spanned 56 years and touched the lives of many. Gifts to the school in her memory would be a special way to honor her and share with today's students her light of faith.



*St. Mark students gathered on a sunny October afternoon to show their support for the St. Agnes Breast Care Center. This is an annual event at St. Mark as we have family members and close friends of the school whose lives have been affected by breast cancer.*



The playground at St. Mark is well loved by our students, parents and after school programs. Kevin Protzman, grade 8 student and aspiring Eagle Scout, wanted to do something special for the school for his Eagle Scout project. Kevin is one of five Protzman children; his two older sisters and brother are graduates, and he and brother Liam are the last two to complete school at St. Mark.

Kevin chose to install two park benches to complement the one bench already in place. The job was not without its hurdles, but Kevin persevered and led his team of helpers to the finishing line! We are very grateful and proud of Kevin for a job well done!



*Gr 2 is proud of their Picasso Project completed in Spanish class!*



*Feet for Francis  
Shoe  
Donation  
Campaign!*



*Gr 6 working together in a science lab learning about volume.*

### Dates to Remember

Fri., Dec. 4-Barnes & Noble

Night to support St. Mark  
Long Gate Shopping Ctr

Sat. Dec. 12-Pancake Breakfast  
8:00 Fr. Henry Hall

If you have any news of your own to share, please contact Mary Morrison at 410-744-6560 X249 or e-mail [mmorrison1@stmark-school.org](mailto:mmorrison1@stmark-school.org). Thank you for your support of St. Mark School.



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**The newsletter for  
Families, Alumni,  
Grandparents and  
Friends of St. Mark  
School!**



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*Fr. Whatley enjoying recess with the first grade!*



*Kindergarten and preschool 4 get-togethers!*



## **Fall Days at St. Mark!**

**We are blessed with a beautiful campus and well maintained facilities!**

**Thank you to all our benefactors who help make St. Mark a special place to learn!**