



# SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

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October 12, 2022

Dear Families:

About a week or so ago, my daughter received a back-to-school gift from her godmother, a book entitled, *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins. It's a cute story about a dinosaur, more specifically a tyrannosaurus rex, who's starting her first day of school.

My favorite part of the book is when the narrator describes Penelope's new backpack: "Penelope's mom bought her a new backpack with ponies on it. Ponies were Penelope's favorite. Ponies are delicious."

Since all of the other kids in her class are human, and she's the only dinosaur, Penelope Rex has some difficulty making friends. It probably doesn't help that she tries to swallow a few of them as a snack! Of course, her teacher makes Penelope spit out her classmates, but even after the rough start, Penelope still has trouble fitting in.

Through the use of humor and satire, the book does a great job of showing how difficult it can be to be the new kid and what a challenge it can be, at times, to fit in—and when the class goldfish attempts to take a bite out of her, she learns that's it's not so nice to eat people, and it's probably best to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Although we don't have any dinosaurs enrolled at Saint Mark Catholic Academy, we do have several new students and some new teachers and staff members, too. What I always share with anyone who asks about SMCA is our welcoming environment. Just today, one of the staff members of the Office of the Superintendent visited, and she remarked how "warm and welcoming" our school is.

When I started here in 2013 as the middle school ELA teacher, and the eighth graders walked into my classroom for the first time—many of them towering over me like dinosaurs—I was afraid that they were going to eat me alive, so to speak, just like Penelope might have done. It was, in fact, quite the opposite; those students welcomed me into their school, even though I was the new guy, and many of them had been together since they were four or five years old. I truly appreciated that, and that's why it's been so important to me to maintain Saint Mark's warm, welcoming, and friendly atmosphere.

As Penelope's dad reminds her, "Children are the same as us on the inside, just tastier."

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson  
Principal

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**Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.**

2602 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11235 | (718) 332-9304 | [smcaonthebay.org](http://smcaonthebay.org)

# **EARLY DISMISSAL**

**on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

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- Please continue to use your usual entrance/exit.
- The after-school program will continue to be available for all students.
- **NO MORNING OR AFTERNOON BUS SERVICE.**

## **DISMISSAL TIMES FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st**

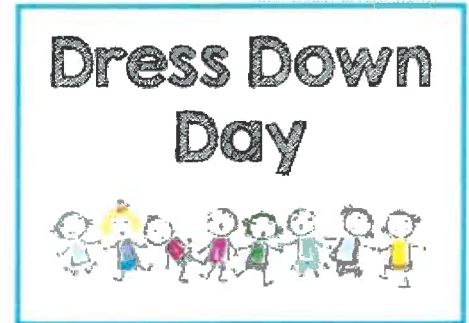
- 3K-A and 3K-B will dismiss at 11:30am.
- PreK-A, PreK-B, and PreK-C will dismiss at 11:40am.
- Kindergarten A and Kindergarten B will dismiss at 11:50am.
- Grades 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4 will dismiss at 12pm.
- Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 will also dismiss at 12pm.

# PIZZA & DRESS DOWN DAY!

Thursday, October 20th

\$5

for one slice of pizza and dress down



- All money must be paid in advance by Tuesday, October 18th.  
**Late payments WILL NOT be accepted.**
- No pizza may be purchased on Thursday, October 20th.
- The Free Lunch Program **WILL NOT** be available Thursday, October 20th, so students not participating **MUST** bring lunch from home.
- Students participating should bring in a drink from home. (No soda.)  
**No drinks will be available.**
- There is **no fee** for 3K and PreK students, but donations are accepted. Thank you!

Although it is a dress down day, students are reminded to dress with modesty. Students should adhere to the following attire as described in the Parent-Student Handbook:

- Appropriate length skirt, shorts or dress - no shorter than 3" above the knees
- No torn or tight jeans or pants
- No spaghetti strap tanks, midriiffs, tube tops, etc.
- No logo type T-shirts
- No hats (unless specifically designated)
- No loose/baggy pants or shorts
- No make-up or nail polish (including gels/French manicures)
- No hoop earrings or excessive jewelry
- No jeggings, leggings, or skinny jeans

Parents will be called to bring a change of clothes for students who do not adhere to these regulations.

## PIZZA DAY ORDER FORM

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to order any additional slices of pizza, one additional slice is \$3.**

One slice of pizza and dress down: \$5  
Additional slices: \_\_\_ @ \$3 each: + \$\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$\_\_\_

# HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PATCH

at Saint Mark Catholic Academy

Tuesday, October 18

## OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Participating students will get...

- A PUMPKIN
- A DRESS DOWN
- COTTON CANDY
- CANDY APPLE
- CHOCOLATE COVERED MARSHMALLOW

Cost: \$12 per child

To pay, visit:

<https://payit.nelnet.net/form/QglEGjHm>





# Celebrate Italian Heritage Month

**October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**  
**In Saint Mark School Cafeteria/ Lion's Den**  
**Please Enter through the Main Door in the School Yard**

*"All are Welcomed"*



*No Advance Tickets  
Necessary*

*Columbus Day*

**\$15 - Adults**  
**\$10 - Children 14/under**

Come and celebrate a piece of Italian heritage "Christopher Columbus Day." Together we will feast on a spectacular menu of Italian Cuisine filled with Sausage & Peppers, Meatballs, Pasta, Cannoli, and Coffee. We will also gather to watch the movie "Moonstruck."

For more information, please contact Michael Davis at **347-574-1828** or the Church Rectory at **718-891-3100**

