



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

November 8, 2023

Dear Families:

Pop quiz! Question #1: What holiday is celebrated on November 11th?
Question #2: How do you spell it?

This little quiz includes my two favorite subjects...English and social studies. In fact, I briefly considered becoming a history teacher before ultimately deciding on English. Nonetheless, I still enjoy history, especially United States history. Since Veterans Day is approaching, I did some quick research to find out the history of the holiday.

First and foremost, I think it's important to remember that Veterans Days is meant to honor those who did serve. Armed Forces Day (observed on the third Saturday of May) is to recognize those who are serving, and on Memorial Day (observed on the last Monday of May) we remember those who sacrificed their lives in service to our country. These distinctions are important to the history of the holiday.

Veterans Day was not always Veterans Day. It used to be called Armistice Day, to recognize the end of World War I. November 11 was chosen because the ceasefire occurred at the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month."

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks began recognizing all veterans on Armistice Day. He felt that since the United States already celebrated Memorial Day to remember fallen military members, and World War II had been fought after Armistice Day had been established, the significance of the holiday should be expanded. He petitioned the US government for eight years, and on June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill establishing Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks is known as the "father of Veterans Day."

Now, my little history lesson gave away the answers to the pop quiz, but I think it's the English lesson that sums up the purpose of this holiday the best. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Veterans Day does not include an apostrophe but does include an 's' at the end of 'veterans' because it is not a day that 'belongs' to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans."

One final lesson, and families we need your help with this one...The history of Veterans Day is interesting, and the grammar lesson is unique, but most importantly, please remind your children of the reason we don't have school on Friday. Unfortunately, our veterans often do not get the recognition, accolades, and thanks they deserve. For example, our colleagues in the public school system are in school on Friday. Thankfully, the Diocese of Brooklyn is recognizing this important holiday, and Saint Mark Catholic Academy will continue to teach our students the significance of this day, not just in our history classes or even English classes, but every class! Thank a veteran!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.

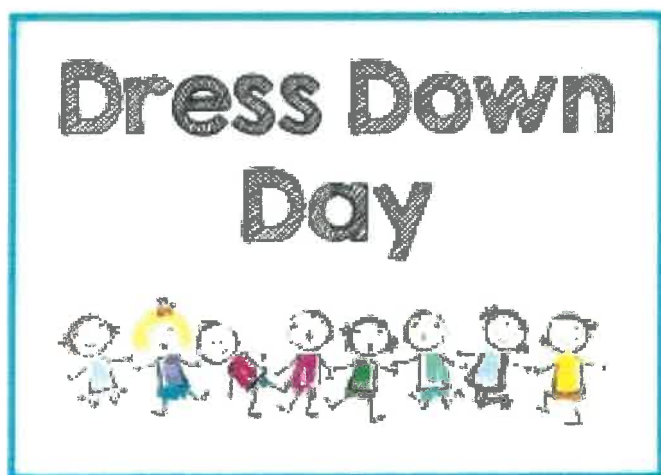
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DRESS DOWN DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE BENEFIT HEARTS OF JOY INTERNATIONAL, AN ORGANIZATION THAT HELPS CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IN LIFE BY GRANTING ACCESS TO OPEN HEART SURGERY.

\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION



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, midriffs, 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 jean

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

SAINT MARK'S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FEAST IS BACK AGAIN!

For many years, it has been tradition at Saint Mark Catholic Academy for the entire school community to gather for a Thanksgiving dinner the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

From 3K all the way through 8th grade, classes sit together in the gym Wednesday morning to share a meal. It truly exemplifies what Thanksgiving is all about!

TAKE A LOOK AT THANKSGIVING DINNER FROM 2016:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6kk2k4pTCw>

As you can imagine, we need a lot of food since we're feeding over 345 students, plus faculty, staff, and family and friends.



That is why we rely on donations from our families to supply the food for our Thanksgiving celebration.

Please visit the link below to donate. Keep in mind that part of your "donation" includes cooking the food and bringing it to school. We appreciate your help and look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving together!



Please complete the survey by **Monday, November 13th**. Families who volunteer to contribute will be contacted separately.

THANK YOU!

DONATION LINK:

<https://forms.gle/KjfgQ78ccVAp2Gvr9>

