



March 13, 2024

Dear Families:

This weekend, many households will be filled with a unique smell. I know when I walk into my in-law's house on Sunday, I'll be greeted with the scent of boiling meat and cabbage. Sounds appetizing, doesn't it?

To be honest, corned beef and cabbage is not my favorite meal, and there's usually some chicken cutlets on the table for me. But I nonetheless look forward to that distinctive aroma. Why? Because it's Saint Patrick's Day tradition!

In just a few weeks, children across the country and across the world will be searching under their beds and scouring their living rooms looking for eggs. Any other day of the year, that would be strange, but on Easter, it's a tradition! Look at Christmas! We chop down trees and bring them into our homes to decorate! Sounds a little strange when you put it that way, but we do it because it's traditional.

Another tradition of Saint Patrick's Day is to remember the "luck of the Irish." It's certainly important to remember all the ways in which we are lucky. But, unlike looking for eggs, decorating trees, or cooking smelly foods, being thankful for our all that makes us "lucky" shouldn't be relegated to one day out of the year.

For me, I consider myself lucky—though perhaps a better word might be blessed—to be part of a vibrant, flourishing school community. I'm grateful for my family, friends, and coworkers for their love, dedication, and support. The list could go on and on.

So, this Saint Patrick's Day—whether you're Irish or not—be sure to remember and be thankful for all that makes you "lucky." It only takes a moment, and you don't have to air out your house afterward!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal



**Policies and Procedures for
Report Card Distribution on Friday, March 22, 2024**

March 13, 2024

Dear Families:

As we get set for Easter and the start of spring, we're also two-thirds of the way through the year. Since we're closing out this marking period, your child will soon receive his or her second report card. Students in kindergarten through grade eight will receive their report card via email on Thursday, March 20th. Students in 3K and Pre-K will get paper report cards sent home with them on Wednesday, March 19th.

The purpose of this letter is to serve as a reminder that report card meetings are not mandatory because you already met with your child's teacher for progress reports back in February. We will still have conferences, but these will be at the teacher's request and discretion. A teacher may require a meeting for a variety of reasons including but not limited to a student's academic progress, conduct, or social-emotional growth. Any request a teacher makes for a meeting is mandatory.

For students in grades five through eight, it has been customary for teachers to meet with just the homeroom teacher for parent-teacher conferences. Since meetings are now at the teachers' discretion, teachers may request meetings with the parents of students *outside* of their homeroom, if they feel it is necessary.

Parents will be notified of a required meeting via email on Tuesday, March 19th. In this email, there will be a link to sign up for a conference with your child's teacher. Conference times will be 1pm through 3pm on Friday, March 22nd. If you cannot participate in a conference at that time, please contact the teacher to arrange one prior to the Easter recess.

If you have any questions about report card conferences procedures, please reach out!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Mrs. Lisa Rizzo
Assistant Principal



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

WHAT IS A CARD PARTY?

March 13, 2024

Dear Families:

In just a few weeks we will host our 27th Annual Card Party! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it's great to see that so many tickets are being sold already!

St. Mark Catholic Academy
27th Annual Card Party
FULL CHANCE AUCTION
Thousands of Dollars in Cash Prizes
Saturday, April 20th
Doors Open 10am | \$35 Entry Fee
718.332.9304 8-3pm
347.574.1828 24 Hrs a Day
Tickets go on Sale March 4th

Since last year was our first card party in a few years, and we now have several new families, we've been getting a few questions about what a card party is.

A card party isn't about playing card games. It's about winning prizes! Thanks to many volunteers and donors, we have hundreds of prizes and gift cards to raffle off!

It's important to note that this is an event for those who are 18-year-old and over. It is not an event for children. Instead, it is an opportunity for adults to socialize, win prizes, and have fun—all while supporting Saint Mark Catholic Academy.

If you'd like to purchase tickets to the card party, please do so soon—seats are filling up quickly. **If you are unable to attend the card party, but would like to make a donation, that would great, too!**

Please let us know if you have any questions about the card party. Thank you, as always, for your support!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal

Continuing the tradition of faith, service, and education.

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

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

THE TIME TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID IS NOW!

Tuition assistance is available for students in kindergarten through grade 8 who meet certain eligibility requirements.

TO APPLY...

- Families must be enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year, including all paperwork and re/registration fee.
- Contact:
 - **Assistant Principal Mrs. Lisa Rizzo**
 - lrizzo@smsonthebay.com
 - **Business Manager Julian Cleland**
 - jcleland@smsonthebay.com
- Have 2023 W2 and 1040 Federal Tax Forms ready.
- There is a \$40 application fee.

DEADLINES... (ONLY A FEW WEEKS LEFT!)

- Application process begins **Tuesday, January 16^h**.
- **March 24, 2024** for families who received an award last year.
- **April 23, 2024** for families applying for the first time.

FREE SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE...

- If you are interested in applying, please contact Mrs. Rizzo or Mr. Cleland. Funding is limited, so we **highly recommend** that families work with Mrs. Rizzo or Mr. Cleland during this process to ensure the best possibility of receiving an award.

SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

YEARBOOK 2024

Our school yearbook is a work in progress. Please consider placing an ad to congratulate your child on their accomplishments: graduation, sacraments, stepping up or just a great school year!

Please submit your yearbook ad, please write out your message carefully and add images as you wish. Please type or print all messages. If you are sending an ad into school, please put in an envelope, clearly labeled "Yearbook 2024."

Photos must fit the size selection you have chosen.

$\frac{1}{4}$ page \$50

$\frac{1}{2}$ page \$70

Full page \$100

Deadline: May 1, 2024

You will receive a complimentary copy of the yearbook with your advertisement purchase.

Please email Mrs. Kane, jkane@smsonthebay.com, with any questions.

Name _____ Student Name & Grade _____

I would like to place an ad in the 2023-2024 Saint Mark Catholic Academy Yearbook.

I have enclosed \$50 _____

\$70 _____

\$100 _____

I have enclosed my ad with this payment _____

I will email the ad to Mrs. Kane _____



Saint Mark's Got Talent!

Do you have a talent you would like to show off to the Saint Mark Community? Then join us for Saint Mark's Got Talent!

Please fill out the form below if you are interested in participating. Tryout date and time will follow.

Name ----- Grade -----

Talent:

Props, Music or Materials you will be using:

I give permission for my child to participate in Saint Mark's Got

Talent:

Parent/ Guardian Signature -----

Thank you!

Mrs Baran, Miss Falco and the Student Council

2 DRESS DOWN DAYS!

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

FREE DRESS GREEN DAY TO CELEBRATE
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY DRESS DOWN TO SUPPORT THE JOSEPH
LEWINGER SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS AT ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

\$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.

BREAD OF LIFE DRESS DOWN DAYS!

WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR BREAD FOR LIFE.

EACH DAY A STUDENT BRINGS IN A
FOOD DONATION, THEY MAY DRESS DOWN.

STUDENTS MAY PARTICIPATE
AS MANY TIMES AS THEY WOULD LIKE...

MARCH 14 TO MARCH 21!



What kinds of food are needed most?

Contributions of canned meats and fish, baby formula and baby cereal, all types of canned soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits and juices, pasta, canned tomato sauce or puree, rice, peanut butter, powdered milk, and other kitchen essentials.

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Easter Sale

March 20th

In the School Gymnasium

"A ONE DAY ONLY SALE"

Gifts will cost \$3 and up

Parents are welcome to shop with children after dismissal



Fish Fry

Friday, March 22nd

At: 6:30pm

Dinner will be in the Saint Mark Catholic Academy Cafeteria



**We will be making Palm Crosses in the
Lion's Den after our Fish Fry Dinner**

Dinner Costs

Adults - \$20.00

Kids - \$10.00 (Ages 16 & under)

***All Fish Dinners will receive French Fries, Salad, and a Beverage**

If you have any further questions, please contact Michael Davis at **347-574-1828**

or the Rectory at **718-891-3100**