

December 7, 2015

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Mark's,

The commencement of this year's Annual Fund drive provides me with an opportunity to reflect on the generous contributions of families and friends to St. Mark's during my 26 year association with the School. The impact of the generosity of people like you can best be described by looking at where the School was then and where it is now.

In the summer of 1989, when I arrived as a parent of two young children, St. Mark's looked very different than it does today. It was a small church day school with a campus that consisted of three classroom buildings, the church, and a church office building that housed a school library and two PK classrooms. Students brought their lunches to school every day and ate on round, wooden picnic tables under pine trees on the back playground. Although the look was different, the environment was warm and welcoming, and parents were involved just as they are today.

In those days, parents volunteered and participated in fundraising as they do today. The Annual Fund, known then as Annual Giving, began early in the life of the School. Thanks to an annual fundraising drive that raised \$40,000, lunch moved from under the trees to a screened pavilion in the early 90's. Over the years, proceeds from the Annual Fund have been used to purchase enhancements to the School's programs. In fact, the first school bus was obtained through a donor's matching funds in an early Annual Giving campaign. Playground equipment, band instruments, and technology have all been financed through Annual Fund campaigns.

Today, we look at our beautiful new campus with great pride: a LEED certified gymnasium and youth center, a state of the art fine arts facility, a full-service kitchen, and a middle school science lab. The current renovation of the church building and the expansion that will house the sacristy, as well as Sunday school and extended care rooms, will complete our capital improvements. In years to come, enhancements to the academic, fine arts, and sports programs in these new facilities will be funded through donations to the Annual Fund by families and friends like you. This year, we would like to allocate a portion of the funds to install sand-based, artificial turf on the back playground.

Be part of our legacy with your Annual Fund gift, and join me in celebrating St. Mark's — what it has been in the past, what it is today, and what it promises to be in the future.

Warm regards and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season,



Donna M. Bradley  
Head of School