

## The Real Easter Story

By Joana Armstead

Easter is definitely not a holiday about a bunny or an egg. Did you really think they had anything to do with the resurrection?

The real Easter story is about our Savior, who suffered brutal mistreatment, died on a cross, and rose again so that one day we can reign eternally with Him in heaven! Easter is a much bigger deal than what society makes it seem. Sure, we all like the fun that comes with bunnies and Easter eggs, but that was a tradition started to distract people from the true meaning. Now, there's nothing wrong with rabbits and eggs. They are God's creation, but last time I checked the Bible does not say that rabbits or eggs saved our lives.

The Bible tells us that Jesus died and three days later, rose from the dead. He descended into hell. After Jesus rose, the angel appeared in Jesus's tomb to Mary the mother of James, Mary Magdalene, and Joanna proclaiming that Jesus had risen as he promised (Luke 24:10). When the women returned from the tomb, "the disciples did not believe the women because their words seemed like nonsense to them," even though Jesus told them himself that it would happen (Luke 24:11). A miracle occurred! A boulder sealed to a tomb was miraculously removed while a guard was supposed to be watching it, but our focus is on junk food and bunnies? WELL, IT SHOULDN'T BE! Think about it: the Son of God, did not have to die for us. He did not even have to consider dying, yet he did to pay the price for people who don't appreciate what he has given us. Instead of complaining about what we don't have, how about this Easter we all try a little harder to appreciate his quintessential life, death, and resurrection? Without him, we'd all be doomed to hell and immortal pain. Immortal--forever! Eternity is hard to wrap our heads around. That pain would never stop. We should be more than grateful for Christ's irreplaceable commitment and perseverance. There's no comparison. How do you think it would feel to have your very own creation turn against you? None of us know how that feels, and I highly doubt we want to feel it.

This Easter should be more about appreciation and sacrifice rather than candy and cute bunnies. Let's remember that Jesus gave his life for us and the least bit that we could do is humble ourselves and be grateful.

### Happy Easter!

### Journalism Crew

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Julia Rehm (8th)  
Rashaun Vinson (8th)  
Tevelis Winslow (8th)

Joana Armstead (7th)  
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# The History of St. Marcus Church

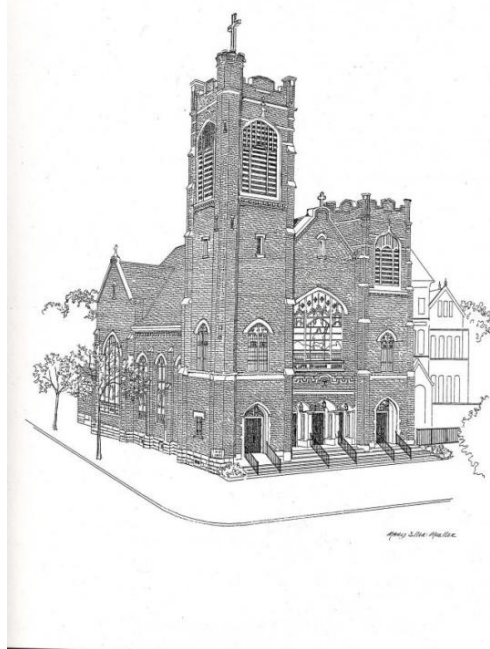
By: Lexy Miles

The story of St. Marcus begins in 1872, when St. John's Lutheran Church and school opened a new location to make more room for their students. They bought a house and a 50-foot lot, where the current church is now, then used the first floor of the house for a one-room school. On June 13, 1875, thirteen families organized a new congregation that they called St. Marcus, which is the German name for St. Mark. It is not really known why they left the congregation, but it is thought that they did it to make transportation easier, since they were mostly poor families who would have to walk. The new congregation bought the house and land, then called Rev. Joseph Westenberger to teach the whole school during the week. He also led worship on the second floor of the school on Sundays.

After six years of growth, the congregation acquired a second lot. They moved the school to the back of the lots, then built a larger space to serve as a church. The congregation continued to grow rapidly, and they again ran out of room! They decided they needed an even bigger space. The next sanctuary that was built is the one that we still have today. Construction began in 1913 and was completed in February, 1914, which means that the building is over 100 years old! The church was renovated quite a few times. The first major renovation was in 1950. The original altar and pulpit were removed, and a lot of blonde woodwork was installed, according to what was stylish at that time. The members thought that the old woodwork was too fancy. In 1998 The current pulpit and altar were added. These two items were originally in the old St. Jacobi church before they tore it down. They also removed the blonde woodworking because it did not match the style of the church. In 2013 new carpeting was installed, as well as new flooring for the chancel, the flooring in front of the altar.

For a long time they stayed in the original school, expanding to the second floor, and added on another building. The school started out with grades 1 through 7, but between 1900 and 1914 they expanded to kindergarten through eighth grade. In 1894 the building was moved and a newer larger campus was built. The original school still exists at 2717 N. Pierce. The school that was originally on our campus was torn down in 2002 and our middle school building was built. You can still see parts of the old building. In the front lobby under the trophy case is the cornerstone with the year it was built. The sign above the Wehr Gym is from the old building, as well as the bell that hangs above the parking lot.

In the new building each class had about 70 students. Not all of the students attended the church and vice versa. The church was mainly German. They spoke German completely up until 1914, when they had one English service a month, and eventually one a week. The school taught English sooner than the church. During the 1950s and 1960s more African American members joined the congregation. In 1960 some of the congregation members wanted to move out to the suburbs due to racial tension, but they voted and decided to stay. Through it all, the congregation has stuck together and grown as a family. St. Marcus has an amazing history and you are a part of it!



# ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

By: Alyssa Dixon

*Jesus did many things to ensure that we could be reunited with him and our heavenly Father one day. Even though he did these things we are still falling short of the Glory of God. It's so simple. So why do we keep falling?*

He stayed in the temple so we could follow,  
not sleep in on Sunday - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

He got tempted but still remained strong so we could do the same,  
not so we could sin - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

He allowed himself to get beat so we could know it's okay to walk away,  
not fight back - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

He allowed himself to be mocked so that we know words don't kill,  
but we still act like they do - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

He cried out God's name so we can know the greatness,  
not misuse it - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

He cried so we know it's ok not to be cold hearted,  
but instead we push those who love away - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

He was forsaken by his father so we would never have to know that feeling,  
not live like there's no God - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

He rose from the dead to know those who believe won't die,  
not so we can doubt - ***BROKEN PEOPLE***

## **Holy Week & Easter Services at St. Marcus**

### **Palm Sunday**

**March 29 at 8:00 am and 10:30 am** *Procession of Palms* with Pastor Mark Jeske

**March 29 at 2:00 pm** *Gospel Worship* with Pastor Paul Steinberg

**March 29 at 5:30 pm** *Footsteps to the Cross* presented by Koiné

### **Maundy Thursday**

**April 2** *Our Lord's Supper* with Pastor Bill Schaefer

### **Good Friday**

**April 3 at Noon** *Father, into your hands* with Pastor Paul Steinberg

**April 3 at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm** *Tenebrae* presented by Koiné

### **Easter Sunday**

**April 5 at 7:00 am** *The Vine and the Branches* presented by Koiné

**April 5 at 9:00 am** *Festival of the Resurrection* with Pastor Mark Jeske

**April 5 at 11:00 am** *Gospel Worship for Easter* with Pastor Paul Steinberg



**We hope you can join us!**





## Mythical Easter

By: Julia Rehm

As Christians we all know that Jesus is the real reason for the Easter season, but wouldn't it be interesting to find out where the Easter Bunny or Easter eggs come from? As a young child in kindergarten and primary grades I remember my parents (aka the Easter bunny) hid Easter eggs and small gifts for me. Your parents might have done the same thing. Why were these traditions started? For that answer we have to go back a few hundred years.

According to sources at [www.History.com](http://www.History.com) the concept of the Easter Bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s when German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania. They brought with them their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this rabbit-like creature could lay its colored eggs. Much like leaving cookies out for Santa, the children would often leave carrots out for the bunny to munch on, to give him energy after all his hopping. They hoped that he would leave them extra special delicious candy. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include other types of candy and gifts. Decorated baskets also soon replaced the German childrens' home made nests.

## Easter Fun Facts

By: Julia Rehm

The largest Easter egg ever made was over 25 feet high and weighed over 8,000 pounds! It was built out of chocolate and marshmallow and had to be supported by an internal steel frame.



Americans spend \$1.9 billion on Easter candy every year. That's the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween! Approximately 70% of the Easter candy that is bought is chocolate!

In the old days pretzels were associated with Easter because the twists of the pretzel looked like hands praying.



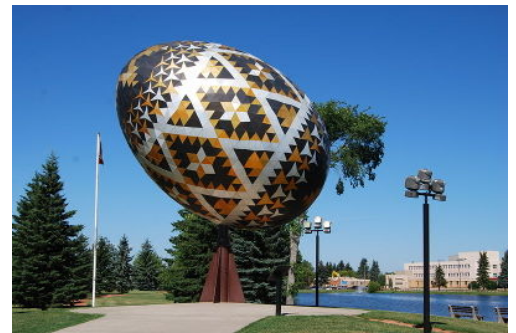
76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be eaten first.

Americans consume over 16 million jellybeans on Easter, enough to circle the globe three times!



In 2007, an egg covered in diamonds sold for \$13,409,055

You can find this Easter Egg in Vegreville, Central Alberta Canada! About a 24 hour drive from Milwaukee!



# Saint Patrick

By: Lauren Goins

Do you know how Saint Patrick's day came to be? Saint Patrick's Day was a Christian feast day, celebrated on March 17th. This day was named after the death of the patron saint name Saint Patrick. A patron saint was a tutelary spirit (a spirit that was a protector or guardian). St. Patrick's day is usually celebrated with parades and festivals and Christians attend church services.

Magonus Sucatus Patricius was a British man who was held captive by Irish raiders when he was 16. While he was captive, he became a devout Christian. He said that God saved him through a vision. He returned to Ireland (which was the same place he was held captive) after he had a dream that a angel was telling him to return to Ireland and become a missionary. He spent 15 years studying religion before he was ordained. He was responsible for converting the Irish to Christianity. He died around 461 AD. Saint Patrick was willing to take a risk for God. He knew that God would get him through. This is why the Irish people and others celebrate him today.



## St. Patrick's Day Fun Facts

### ***Did you know that St. Patrick is not Irish?***

He was born in Britain, kidnapped around 16, and sold into slavery in Ireland. He watched sheep for 10 years before he escaped back to England. He became a priest and then took his teachings back to Ireland!

### ***Do you know that the shamrock was used to teach Christianity?***

According to legend, the shamrock was used as a representation of the Holy Trinity when St. Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland.

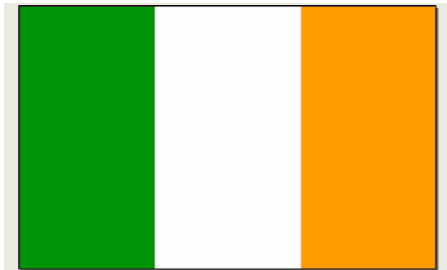


### ***Did you know that corned beef and cabbage is not a traditional Irish meal?***

It is actually an American meal based on the traditional Irish meal that included Irish bacon (similar to Canadian bacon) and potatoes. The cabbage took the place of the potatoes because it was cheaper for the earlier immigrants!

## A Little Irish Trivia for Ya!

1. The Irish people won their independence from England in 1922.
2. 90% of Irish nationals are Catholic, but only 30% regularly attend church.
3. There are over 4.75 million people living in Ireland as of July 2013.
4. Only 9% of the Irish population have naturally red hair.
5. May is the driest month of the year in Ireland. It rains a lot there!
6. The country of Ireland is on an island also named Ireland! However, one-sixth of the island belongs to Northern Ireland, which is actually part of the United Kingdom.
7. A Irish man designed the White House.
8. Ireland has free education - including college for their citizens!
9. The Shamrock is the symbol of Ireland.
10. The colors of the Irish flag are green, white, and orange. Green represents the Roman Catholic. Orange stands for the Protestant group of people. White represents the peace between the Roman Catholic and the Protestant.



Ireland

# Discover America Fundraising

by Pia Moore

We as the middle school student body are expected to do fundraisers each year to help support ourselves and the cost to go on the Discover America school trips. What is fundraising? Fundraising is selling an item and then giving the money to an important cause. You could fundraise anywhere and for a variety of things: trips, expanding a school or program, cancer research, etc. Raising money through fundraisers can help students in many ways. One way is that it can really help grow and show our independence. At St. Marcus, we can also spread the Word through fundraising when we interact with those people who support us and our school.

## Recognition

- Seven middle schoolers have met their whole goal
- Twenty scholars have met their goal
- Mariah Franklin (5th grade Miami) has raised \$1,300!  
Whoa - Way to work Marijah!!!!
- Shout out to Boston College for having the highest percentage in participation!

## Current Fundraisers

- Seroogy's Chocolate and Coffee
- Valentine's Coffee



Rank	College	Amount Raised
8	FSU	\$348
7	University of Virginia	\$581
6	Virginia	\$896
5	Unc	\$1264
4	Duke	\$1270
3	Syracuse	\$1390
2	Boston	\$1707
1	Miami	\$3132

## ***Classroom Feature: DA Letter Writing***

By Dameah Haynes

What have you been doing or learning in class? By now I hope it's clear: St. Marcus Lutheran School is not like ALL schools. We are different how you may ask? We have Lutheran teachers that take time out of their day to help us as students learn more about God and get involved with him. On top of that, they stay even longer to help students with any kind of homework or things that they are simply struggling on. When you walk into a school and go to classrooms you might expect kids, students, people to be playing, giggling, or laughing when they're supposed to be learning. We get straight to work, and we are not here to play! We have GOALS! We understand in order for us to be ANYTHING in the world we have to keep practicing, and when we keep practicing you will get better. Think about it... are you a Scholar?

One opportunity that we have is DA (Discover America), a trip you can have fun, get away from home (if you're tired of it), and learn new things. Now, it's not a given that you're able to go on the trip. You cannot go on DA if you have a reputation of acting up, playing around, not following the pillars, and not getting good grades and putting some GRIT into your work. We fundraise so that the school can provide the trip for the students who earned it so that students can learn how to raise money on their own and how to be responsible people.

Before we go on the DA trip, we have to write letters to let people know about the trips, the destinations we are going to see, and the reason why we go. First, we complete our outline. Then, we type it on a computer to print it. We have our teacher correct it to make sure that everything looks and sounds great. After that, we fix our corrections and print it out again. Finally, we handwrite our letters so that our writing is made with love, and we mail them to our sponsors. It is such an honor to know that we can connect with good people that will invest in our future.







# Looking Forward to Discover America 2015

By: Dejanee Brooks



Each Spring, the middle school classes take a trip known as Discover America. Students are invited to attend when they have a good reputation with teachers and others and when they earn 75 passport points or more, which they get by making good choices and showing GRIT and strong character. Every grade has the opportunity to explore different parts of the United States on their different trips, which go from 5-10 days long. It may seem like a long time away from their family, but it goes quickly because they are busy seeing all of these new places!

The 5th graders have the opportunity to Discover Wisconsin! They travel all around this state we call home and explore different places that I didn't even know about! One place is the EAA Museum in Oshkosh, WI. The 5th graders get a tour of the museum, play games and have other activities including a special Sacred Circle.



The 6th grade students travel to St. Louis, MO and then make their way by bus to South Dakota following the Lewis and Clark trail and learning more about them along the way. I went on this trip last year, and it was awesome! We were able to go to the top of the St. Louis Arch! In order to make it to the top, you have to ride in a very small elevator that can only fit 4-5 people. When you get to the top, it's slanted and you feel as if you're going to fall off! You can also feel it sway in the wind! It feels like you're going to tip over, but it's so cool!

Seventh grade goes to Arizona for their Discover America trip! They are able to experience some warmer weather! One highlight of this trip is to visit the Grand Canyon. I'm going on this trip this year, and I'm excited about going on the airplane.



The 8th grade class goes to the South. They spend time walking the same ground as many historical black civil rights leaders did! It's pretty amazing that they get to walk some of the same ground as people such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks! They walk the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge that MLK walked on Bloody Sunday. I'm looking forward to this trip in the future!

Discover America doesn't exist at other schools, and we really need to be grateful for St. Marcus and the donors who support us because we wouldn't get this opportunity to travel away from our families without them. I'm very excited!

***Please watch for an update about these trips in our next edition of the newsletter!***



# The St. Marcus School Garden

By: Jadi Balentine



Have you heard about the St. Marcus School Garden? Mrs. Shorts is our Activities Coordinator. She helps organize the field trips, yearbooks, school pictures, and fundraising, and she was the person who got the garden started last year. I asked Mrs. Shorts a few questions to learn more about the garden project and how we can get involved.

Why a school garden? Mrs. Shorts wanted to start the project for several reasons. She wanted scholars to learn where foods come from and how plants grow. She also wanted to provide a nice a quiet "green space" on the campus for scholars to go and read, sing, or create art. "School gardens that are located in the city also provide a great place for our pollinators which are butterflies and honeybees and other pollinators," she said. It's important for a school to have a garden because it can help educate scholars and families on how to grow and use healthy foods. Right now, the garden is specifically a "school garden" because we haven't invited neighbors around the garden to use it. "At this point it is just used to teach scholars about where food comes from and how it grows."

What kinds of plants can we hope to see in the garden? Tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, squash, green peppers, carrots, lettuce, radishes, basil, dill, parsley, lavender, and chocolate mints are the veggies and herbs Mrs. Shorts plans to plant. St. Marcus scholars will help make this happen! "Students will begin growing the plants in their classrooms in April," said Mrs. Shorts. "At the end of the school year, classes will plant them in the garden. In the fall when students come back, they will help harvest the vegetables and herbs and learn how to use them." While the plants are growing during the summer, Mrs. Shorts will need help watering and weeding the garden beds. She had about fifteen St. Marcus scholars join her in May of last year "to build and plant the garden beds, along with several other St. Marcus teachers, staff, and some volunteers from Wisconsin Lutheran High School." It will take a team to keep this project going from year to year! Mrs. Shorts said that they need more volunteers, so if you like gardening, email Mrs. Shorts at [jamie.shorts@stmarcus.org](mailto:jamie.shorts@stmarcus.org)!



## Youth Impact: Prevent Cigarette Smoking

By: Kania Norman and Iyonna Bradley



Smoking is a huge problem because a large amount of people start to smoke and become addicted before they're 18. Everyone knows it can be hard to stop smoking. After all, there is something called nicotine that is in cigarettes which makes it a powerfully addictive drug. Millions of people around the world have stopped their smoking habit by following some key steps, like lining up support from friends and planning ahead how they'll respond. It's important to make sure kids understand the dangers of tobacco use. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States. It can cause cancer, heart disease, lung disease, nicotine addiction, oral cancer, gum disease, and heart attacks.

Did you know that, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, each day more than 3,200 people younger than 18 smoke their first cigarette? Most smokers try their first cigarette around the age of 11, and many are addicted by the time they turn 14. Kids usually start smoking at a young age due to peer pressure or because their parents are smokers or have smoked. One thing that might help you if your parents are smokers may be to show them what smoking can do to them. Do your best to help clean carpets, wash clothes, or even clean your car thoroughly so you will not be able to smell the fumes that the smoke left. Talk to an adult or just pray to God because is always there no matter what. You can pray with a pastor or a friend. Just pray for that person who is addicted to cigarettes and God will lead you and your friend down the right path.

It doesn't matter how old you are or how long you've smoked. If you stop smoking you will live a longer and healthier life. If you want to stop smoking (or never start!) you have to get rid of the temptation.



# Teacher Feature: Mrs. Schuessler

By: Carlecia Plummer-Lawrence

Allow me to introduce you to Mrs. Schuessler, one of the best art teachers that I have ever had! I was able to sit down with her for a few minutes and find out more about her and her life before St. Marcus and now!

**Carlecia Plummer- Lawrence: Why did you want to be a teacher?**

Mrs. S: "My high school teachers saw the personality of a teacher in me."

**CPL: Why did you come to St. Marcus?**

Mrs. S: "God led me to St. Marcus through the church."

**CPL: Why did you chose to be an art teacher?**

Mrs. S: "I love seeing all the primary classrooms and getting to know the students, and I love art."

**CPL: Who is or was your favorite artist?**

Mrs. S: "My favorite artist of all time is God."

**CPL: How many years have you been teaching and how many classrooms do you teach a day?**

Mrs. S: "I have been teaching for 11 years and I teach about 6 or 7 classes a day in the art room."

**CPL: Before you were an art teacher what kind of art did you like to do?**

Mrs. S: "I love making pottery and ceramics."

**CPL: What is your favorite piece of art?**

Mrs. S: "My favorite work is out-of-the-box architecture."

**CPL: How many years have you been married and how many kids do you have?**

Mrs. S: "I have been married for 10 years and have 3 kids and a fourth one on the way."

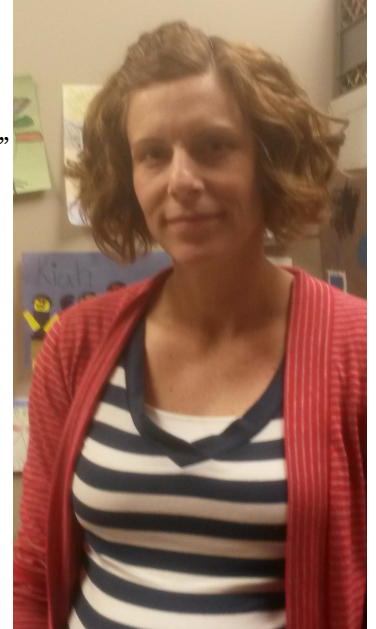
**CPL: What grade do you like teaching the most?**

Mrs. S: "I love teaching every grade I have."

**CPL: What college did you attend?**

Mrs. S: "I received my education at UW-Oshkosh"

In conclusion Mrs. Schuessler is an awesome art teacher and from what she told me, she loves what she does. I wish everyone could have the opportunity to learn from her!



March Madness is the time of the annual NCAA college basketball tournament! There are 68 teams that compete to make it to the Championship Game. Of these 68 teams, 32 are automatically entered by winning their conference championship game. The rest of the teams are picked by a selection committee. This committee also determines what seat each team is ranked, and which region they will play in. The tournament started Tuesday, March 17th and Wednesday, March 18th with 8 teams playing to enter the final 64 team brackets. Then over the course of the next weeks, basketball games are being held in select locations narrowing the remaining teams down to the "Sweet Sixteen", the "Elite Eight", and then the "Final Four." The four teams then play on Saturday, April 4th to determine which two teams that will play in the championship game to be aired on Monday, April 6th!

By: Tevelis Winslow

## Book review: Fruits Basket

By: Rashaun Vinson

In a world of love, hate, and betrayal the Zodiac Banquet is never dead. *Fruits Basket* is the type of book that you will get to know and love. It is an addictive book to read. One of my favorite characters is Kyo-Kun, the cat who left the Zodiac. The book deals with a battle of love, loneliness, fear of being left, and hopelessness, among other things. *Fruits Basket* will make you look at the world with a whole new perspective on life. This book is a romance, which is one of my favorite types of book to read in the anime/manga world. It can either make you love or hate the genre, but it is well worth the read! You can find it on your local anime website.

Author: Natsuki Takaya

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

Number of Pages: 145

Volumes in the series: 23



## St. Marcus Sports

By: Tevelis Winslow

The sports season we are currently in is late winter. The sport that takes place in late winter is wrestling. According to Google, "wrestling is a sport or activity of grappling with an opponent and trying to throw or hold them down on the ground according to the rules." Wrestling has been around for more than 7000 years. People wrestle for various reasons such as the Olympics, hobbies, or to build up strong muscle stamina. Wrestling and all sports require work ethic. "Work ethic transcends sports but is a very basic Biblical principle," said Coach Meyer, Athletic Director at St. Marcus. "If a man shall not work, he shall not eat. Work ethic will determine not only athletic success but success in life as well. Work ethic is the very foundation of a person's life." Wrestling is an opportunity that motivates athletes to develop their work ethic by committing to practices and working hard in matches or games. St. Marcus athletes practice on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4:15 to 5:30 pm in the Krier gym. We are now looking forward to spring sports since wrestling season is almost over.

## DREAMS

By: Monica Brown

My **DREAMS** may not be important to everyone but my dreams can lead the world to a place where only God can judge us and where everyone can live up to their dreams no matter what their obstacles are in life. One day I had a dream and in my dream there was this homeless man who said to me I will sing to you for 15 cent. Then I walked away and come back with nothing but a piece of cardboard that had the words THIS IS OUR BROTHER IN CHRIST.

Then some people gathered around us and I began to say, "How are we able to live the kind of lifestyle we are living if our brother in Christ can't even find a pillow to lay his head on."

Soon this woman stood up and said, "We live these lifestyles and ignore people who don't have what we have because sometimes we all feel like God isn't really there for us and he just leaves us hanging during the hardships and pain."

After that, the homeless man stood up and said, "I feel like God or anybody else isn't there for me all the time, but I know God sees me and everybody, every day of our lives. God knows what we are really going through. During slavery African Americans didn't have everything that the white people had. They were forced to work. If they didn't they got beaten, but they were always there for each other. Now that we all have our freedom, I feel as though we only think about ourselves while God is thinking about every child he put on this earth."

When I looked up I saw a man walking away. So I said, "Why are you walking away? Do you not care for him?" He just ignored me and kept walking. Eventually, he came back with money, clothes, and a Bible. I looked at him and smiled. I thought in my head, "I know that God has a special place in his heart for us and he has a purpose for every living thing. I think our purpose is to spread the word and have faith in him". So **DREAMS** are not meant to be hidden and kept away they were meant to be cared about and kept. I encourage all of you to step up and follow your dreams because God put you here for that purpose.