



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



April 29, 2013

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From the Principal's Desk

Although we are nearing the end of the school year, our students are as busy as ever!

Our students celebrated Earth day on April 22. All classes, together with their prayer partners, raked leaves, picked up debris and planted flowers helping to improve the grounds around St. Peter's School. Our students learned the importance of keeping our environment healthy and the need to respect all life. Thank you to the faculty for their help in making this year's Earth Day a great learning experience for the children.

Several of our students traveled to Yonkers, New York to participate in the National History Bee. Congratulations to Chiarize Bulusan, Chiarize Bulusan, Jose Estrella and Jefferson Pereira for their efforts, hard work and enthusiasm. We are very proud of them. Thank you to Mr. Sagarese, junior high social studies teacher, for preparing them for this event.

The spring season presents a wonderful opportunity for the children to leave St. Peter's and venture outside of Belleville to explore other places. Our junior high students traveled to West Point in April. The trip proved to be a wonderful educational journey as the children, teachers and parents toured the grounds learning many interesting facts about the academy as well as the history of our country. Meanwhile our younger students are preparing for their trip to Liberty Science Center which will take place in May.

We looking forward to many events in the next few weeks including , St. Peter's first National Elementary Honor Society Induction Ceremony, the seventh grade Ring Ceremony, Field Day, the Scholastic Book Fair, the Spring Concert, Memorial Day Veterans Mass, the Catholic Challenge, First Holy Communions, Confirmation ,the eighth grade Dinner Dance and all our graduation ceremonies.

On Wednesday, April 24, Administrative Professionals Day, the school recognized our administrative assistants, Aida Gonzalez and Mary Nocciolo. They are the first people that you meet as you enter St. Peter's School. At times they act as nurse. receptionist. secretary. parent

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AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS



SPANISH— Ms. O'Shea



Since returning from Easter break, the students have been hard at work refining their language skills in Spanish class!

The Kindergarteners are learning their "days of the week" in Spanish. They are singing lots of songs and even writing the words! They are also learning to read in Spanish and have been reading the story "Counting Ovejas" on their own!

In first grade, we just finished a unit on town vocabulary and will begin learning food vocabulary - yummy!

The second and third graders are learning different parts of grammar. Second grade is learning the difference between greeting someone "formal" and someone "casual." Third grade is learning which words are capitalized and which aren't in Spanish.

Our fourth graders are treated to something special at the end of each unit in their textbook. Each unit ends with a study of a different Spanish-speaking country. We recently read about Spain and learned about the artist, Pablo Picasso. We even made Picasso-inspired art! We also read about Ecuador and Colombia and will soon read about Peru. If any students have anything home from any of these countries they'd like to share with the class, please feel free to send it in!

The fifth graders are learning about -ar verbs and how to properly conjugate them and are having a great time playing verb games! In sixth grade, we have learned about possession (how to properly say that something belongs to someone!)

Grade 7 is continuing their group work and are working on stem-changing verbs. The 8th graders are working on preterite verbs and are continuing to learn travel vocabulary as well! They also enjoy sharing their weekly "fin de semana" reports (which also used past-tense vocabulary!)

Feliz Primavera! (Happy Spring!)



COMPUTER—Ms. Tighe

Hello from St Peter's Computer Lab! As we approach the end of the school year, grade levels K through 5 will complete their typing skills mastery. The upper grades will expand their knowledge of cyber terms/definitions and cyber bullying.

On Earth Day all of St Peter's students calculated their carbon footprint and connected their own life experiences with interactive environmental games and exercises.

Next month we will begin working on our Literary Magazine including works from grades K through 8. I am very proud of the students and all that they accomplished this year.



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PRESCHOOL - MS. DAUSER

The whole month of April has been dedicated to different aspects of our Earth and keeping it clean. We participated in a school wide initiative to clean up outside and learned all about the three R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! We even read a wonderful book that gave us lots of ideas on how to do all three! We also made adorable environmental print people to show how we can reuse our snack time trash.

In addition to learning about Earth Day, we have learned about the Venus Fly Trap and how to take care of them and other plants. We have been observing our lima beans and apple seeds; we are curious to see what will happen! We are also in the process of learning about baby animals and their parents. At the end of the month, we will look into weather observations in more detail and learn about the water cycle and how weather is predicted.

Some of our last topics for the school year include: I fly, what am I?, Who takes care of me?, Creepy Sea Creatures, and Do lizards wear sunscreen? These topics will take us through May and the start of June! All the topics will continue to review and build the skills your child will need for Pre-k 4 or kindergarten.

**Please note: Friday May 3rd will be a 12:30 Dismissal for First Friday Mass which includes the 7th Grade Ring Ceremony.

Also, please remember to adhere to all the Early Childhood Handbook and Saint Peter's Handbook rules and regulations.





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KINDERGARTEN - MS. Hoffmann

Religion: We are learning to follow in Jesusø footsteps, by being kind, caring, and sharing with others in our classroom.

Reading: We have met all the Superkids in our Reading Books. This week we are in the book "Superkids - Us!". We are learning about the vowel "u" and the /u/ sound it makes.

Writing: We are practicing writing our letters Aa-Zz and using proper line spacing. Please have your child practice at home writing their first and last name.

Math: We have begun the chapter on Addition. We will be learning our basic facts and using hands-on-manipulatives to understand Addition facts.

Science: We are learning to take care of the Earth. On Earth Day, April 22, we went outside with our 4th grade prayer partners and picked up leaves and sticks on the fenced in playground. Then we made a special Earth Day snack, of Pudding Dirt Cups with Worms.

Social Studies: We are beginning to learn about the world we live in. Different places, different kinds of homes, and how we move from place to place.

Reminder: The \$30.00 Graduation fee is due. Our Kindergarten Graduation is Monday, June 10, 2013 in the gym. Children must be in the classroom at 10:30. Graduation begins at 11:00, followed by light refreshments. This is the last day of school for your child.

If you have any questions, about Kindergarten please ask.

**Thank you,
Miss Hoffmann**





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GRADE 1 - MISS BRUZZI



BUTTERFLY

She opens her eyes and stretches her wings.
She flies underneath the golden sun
Wings in a pattern of purple and blue.
Peacefully fluttering just about the yellow dandelions,
Her and her beautiful wings.

First grade is working on their spring concert songs. We will be doing it our way by following the leader. Just a little hint as to what is in store for the night. Both girls and boys will be wearing white long sleeve button shirts and black for the concert. I will be providing black top hats and bow ties.

More details about the concert will follow!

We are now working on adding numbers and place value to the hundreds. Our spelling words, as you have seen, are made up of compound words which we have begun to study in Grammar. Please keep practicing making sentences as the class is doing so well in this area and I want them continue in their success.

Now that the weather is changing please send a bottle of water and a sweater with your child daily.

Be sure to check the classroom blog and give some time to play First in Math when ever possible.



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GRADE 2 - Mr. Morgese

So much is going on here in the second grade. We are getting ready for our First Holy Communion. I am SO excited. Please remember that First Holy Communion is May 4th. Communion practice is Thursday, May 2nd.

Also, our spring concert is Wednesday, May 15th. Please be present as this will count as a music grade for your child.

Our class trip is Tuesday, May 7th. We are going to the Liberty Science Center with grades 1, 3, 4, and 5.

We have begun Unit 5 in language arts. We will be learning all about pronouns, expository text, how-tos, and lots of other fun things. Our theme for this unit is plants and outdoor life.

We are still cranking out fractions and will begin probability soon thereafter. Please remember to continue working on basic skills at home.

Science is all about the universe and our solar system. The children are so excited. I will be assigning a science project this month. The students will have to make a replica of our solar system. As usual, they will get to use their imaginations! This ought to be fun!!!

We have finished our unit on Our Country In The Past. We are forging ahead into our unit on how our government works.

Also remember to complete ALL homework. Whether it be math, social studies, language arts, or religion, all homework is important. Any homework or assignment not handed in will result in a zero, no exceptions.

Let's make this a wonderful end of the year!!! I will miss these kids!!!

May God bless you!

Mr. D





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GRADE 3 - MRS. PANEK

I am very proud of the third graders' accomplishments in First in Math. They have been the team of the week ten times so far, five times they came in second, and four times in third.

In Math we've built on students' understanding of fractions in order to develop the concept of decimals. Developing fraction and decimal concepts is a gradual process and not an easy one either. Therefore we have used models, drew number lines and pictures that helped students relate fractions to decimals. The third graders learned how to place decimals in decimal place-value charts. We've compared and ordered decimals. We've added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided decimals as well. Now we are working on long division. The third graders are grasping the steps of long division and can't wait to do more and more division problems.

In Religion our focus is on family life. The students are developing the skills and knowledge they need to live a healthy and holy life within family. Recently we were discussing the positive attitudes that are important for a healthy family. We were talking about loyalty and forgiveness and their role in strengthening the family. Also we were exploring God's gift of feelings. Some of the topics of our discussions were how to properly act on our feelings, how to identify and use feelings that warn of danger, and how to make good choices when using senses.

The third graders were very excited about their Social Studies project. Its topic was My Ancestors' Culture. The posters came out fantastic and oral presentations were even better. The students brought some musical instruments and used them during their presentations. There was music, dancing, singing, and sampling of delicious food (thank you moms)! The Earth Day was memorable, too. Together with the help of the seventh graders we cleaned out the lawn in front of our school and then planted flowers. Now we'll be watching them grow.

There is more excitement among the third graders. They cannot wait to participate in an upcoming annual Spring Concert and, of course, they anxiously wait for our class trip to the Liberty Science Center. And let's not forget about the Field Day!





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Grade 4 Mrs. Bartels

We had so much fun during our Earth Day celebration! We worked with our Kindergarten buddies and cleaned up the playground, made (and ate) a cup of dirt-complete with worms, and read stories about recycling and ways to make our world cleaner. We each planted our New Jersey state flower, the purple violet.

Religion - We are currently learning about the Liturgical Year. Some of our upcoming projects will be creating a Liturgical Year Walking Stick and making (and playing) a Liturgical Year Spinning game.

Each student has also been in charge of a weekly prayer service. They choose passages and prayers to read, light candles, and are responsible for decorating our classroom prayer table.

English is all about adverbs - Time, Place, and Manner, Positive, Comparative, and Superlative, conjunctions, and prepositions.

Writing - Both the 4th and 5th grades have completed their How-To essays, including the much anticipated oral presentations, on our chosen topics. This involved teaching our classmates how to create our How-To choices. We learned how to create an origami jumping frog, draw a flag, play Tag and Hide-Go-Seek, and even made homemade soda! We learned how to play Bop-It, make a free throw and wash a dog. We also enjoyed making (and eating) chocolate covered strawberries, smoothies, ice cream sundaes, brownies, pancakes, chocolate chip cookies, and more! *Well, there goes my diet. . . . again!*

Our Social Studies lessons continue to revolve around New Jersey, and we are just beginning our studies of the Lenni Lenape people. We made posters describing the three tribes: the Munsee, Unami, and Unalactigo tribes, and their symbols. We will be creating yarn dolls, longhouses (with the sticks picked up from the playground on Earth Day) and watching an authentic Indian Tribal celebration called the Doll Dance - which was, and still is today, a special ceremony held each year to ask for good health.

Reading - In addition to our Literature Units, the 4th and 5th grade classes are currently reading classroom novels.

The 4th grade is reading *The Westing Game*

The 5th grade is reading *The Egypt Game*

Can you believe the year is almost over??



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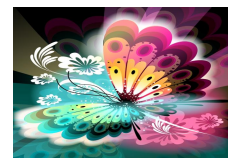
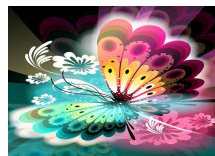
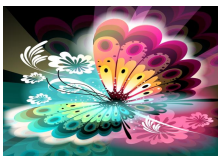
I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter holiday and had a relaxing spring break. Now that we are rested, the remainder of the school year will be smooth sailing. We have many things coming up in the near future. The Scholastic Book Fair will be on April 29th -May 2nd. I encourage the students to select at least two chapter books to enjoy over the summer and one for class. Students should have a chapter book with them each day in class still. Remember for the Book Fair- It is cash only! No checks or credit cards will be accepted. Next, May 7th is our Field Trip to the Liberty Science Museum. The students and I would like to thank our chaperones in advance for coming along. Field Day is on May 10th. Remember to dress appropriately for Field Day and have the footwear to avoid getting injured. The Spring Concert is on May 15 @7:00 pm and the students are very excited. They have been working very hard each week on their songs and look forward to showcasing their hard work.

The students continue to flourish with their journal writing. Each day as they write in their journal book I can see their progression shine through in their passages. I would like to share an example of one of student's work, which is fitting for upcoming Mother's Day in May. The journal prompt was: Describe what you think is a typical mother.

A typical mother for me is one that takes good care of me. She provides everything that I need and like, such as food, clothing, shelter, and LOVE. She helps me with my homework even when she is very tired from a day at work. My mom loves me no matter what and I always get hugs and kisses from her.

Keep up the great work!! Also, displayed in our hallway is the student's creative work in social studies where they had to recreate a colonial town or a plantation with pop-up information tabs. The projects came out fantastic!!! Good Work!!

Remember to have a bottle of WATER for class especially now that the weather is getting warmer. Also, keep your supplies up for we are still working hard on various tasks in the classroom. Spring uniforms are in effect now so remember to dress correctly. Finally, our school as a whole is doing fantastic in First in Math and I want to encourage everyone to keep up the hard work. Have a great May!!





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GRADE 6 - MR. SAGARESE

6th grade- The students will learn about the various historical and cultural achievements that were made during the Roman Empire. The students will be able to understand the similarities and differences between the American and Roman republics. They will study the important figures of Roman history that helped the nation to become a superpower in the ancient world. The students will have to build and explain important Roman architecture that improved daily life for the Romans. The students are also learning about different types of poetry and the techniques on how to better understand poetry. The students will eventually write their own poem on a topic of their own choosing.

7th grade- The students are learning about the expansions of western territories for the United States during the 1840s. The students will learn about the importance of mountain men and their impact of passing on important trail knowledge for settlers leaving for the west. They will work on maps and primary source documents discussing the hardships and adventures of some of the early pioneer families. They also will learn about the impact of the California Gold Rush, Texas Revolution and the Mexican War had upon our country's history. The students will also realize the impact that these events had upon the American Civil War.

8th grade- The students are learning about various topics that affected millions of people during World War II. The students have learned about the beliefs and Fascism and the rise of the dictators in Europe and Asia. They have learned information that caused America's entrance into the war on the side of the Allied powers. The students will complete maps and read primary source documents of soldiers, Holocaust survivors and leaders of this time period. The eighth grade students are working on a ten page research paper on various topics of World War II.





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GRADE 7 - MRS. VARRICCHIO

Dear Seventh Grade Parents and Guardians,

The seventh grade wishes to thank all the teachers, students and parents who supported our Ring Ceremony bake sale and bought our cupcakes, brownies, and cookies during this past week. We wish to extend a very special thank you to Miss Hoffman, Mrs. Reese, Mrs. Bubenik, Miss Bruzzi and every other faculty member for not only baking but also purchasing the cupcakes and cookies they baked.

We are also very grateful to all the parents and guardians who supplied baked goods for our Ring Ceremony. We, the seventh grade, appreciate all your efforts to make our celebration one that we will remember fondly.

Let us not forget our hard working secretaries who contributed and put up with all our interruptions that disrupted their schedule because of our continuous efforts to sell our goods to the whole school.

Thank you, thank you to every teacher who also withstood the constant interruptions this past week and to every student from Pre-K to eighth grade who purchased our baked goods.

The seventh grade is practicing daily for their Ring Ceremony to be held on Friday, May 3, 2013 at the 9:00 AM Mass in Saint Peter's Church.

The sixth grade is working on completing their study of Newton's laws of motion and will soon be preparing for their final Science exam.

The eighth grade is currently winding down their Science study with the Four Eras of Earth. They, too, will soon begin to review for their final Science exam.

Thank you again, my dear parents and guardians, for all of your cooperation during this time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Varricchio





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GRADE 8 - MRS. REESE

Time is surely going by very quickly. The month of May, which is a very busy month, will also fly by. Before you know it graduation will be upon us. The 8th graders are finishing their studies for this year and will soon begin reviewing for final exams. They begin on May 20.

Please remember the 8th grade Dinner Dance is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, from 6:00-9:30. All parents are invited to come. It is a wonderful night to celebrate the end of your child's elementary school years with good food and dancing.

As we prepare to end this year, the students are finishing their research papers and reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*. We are doing some geometry in math class and are finishing participles, gerunds and infinitives in Grammar. As you can see, we still have much to do!

Finally, please support our last fundraiser. We are once again selling chocolate roses for Mother's Day. They are \$1.25 each or a bouquet of 6 for \$7.00. That's a savings of \$.50. We have them in milk chocolate, white chocolate and red chocolate. Thank you.

The 7th graders are finishing their study of consumer math and will soon begin the chapter on data and different types of graphs. If we have time, we will also do some geometry.

The students in grade 6 are very excited to be working with integers. We will learn all the integer rules and will add, subtract, multiply and divide integers. This will prepare them for Pre-Algebra next year.





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After Care

Students in 1st-8th grade have a chance to work on homework daily in After Care. Please encourage your child to use the time wisely. Keeping up with homework helps students to do better in the classroom. Please have your child bring pencils and paper with them to complete their work.

Miss Hoffmann



The After care daily schedule is as follows:

3:00-3:15 Arrival in Cafeteria

3:15-3:40 Outside or Gym (please be sure your child has a jacket or sweater as the weather cools off).

3:40-3:50 Snack is provided daily or your child may bring their own if they wish.

- Mondayô Crackers and Juice
- Tuesdayô Cookies and Juice
- Wednesdayô Pretzels and Juice
- Thursdayô Cheese Sandwich Crackers and Juice
- Fridayô Pretzels and Juice

3:50-5:00 Grades 3-8 Homework in the Music Room

Grades 1-2 Homework with Miss Hoffmann

Kindergarten - Pre-Kô Table Toys

5:00-6:00 Table Toys and Board Games



Please be advised the rates for After Care are as follows;\$3.50 per hour or part of an hour for children registered in the After Care Program. The fee is \$5.00 per hour or part of an hour for children not registered for After Care. Don Thee, the school accountant, will be sending bills out about once a month. If you have questions about your bill, please contact Don Thee at the Rectory.

All children must be picked up by 6:00PM.If a child is picked up late the fee is \$1.00 per minute. This is added to your monthly bill from Don Thee (Accountant). Any child picked up 4 times late during the year will not be allowed to attend the After Care Program. If you need to contact the After Care Program for any reason our cell phone number is 973-932-2807.