



December 2015

Page 1

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...



The holiday season at St. Peter's School is filled with so many wonderful activities. Our students celebrated St. Nicholas Day. Every student received a candy cane, symbolizing the bishop's staff in remembrance of St. Nicholas, believed to be the first bishop and a special friend of children. Our eighth grade opened the Santa Shop enabling all our students to purchase Christmas gifts for members of their families. St. Peter's School held a holiday movie night with a showing of "The Polar Express" complete with special treats. Our Breakfast with Santa is always a very popular event with a visit from the man in the red suit. Our basketball program is up and running with many of our students and parents participating in it.

December is a month filled with many momentous moments at St. Peter's School. One of the highlights of the season is the annual Christmas Concert held in St. Peter's Church. Our students' voices ushered in this holy season in the church with lovely renditions of Christmas carols. It culminated with the re-enactment of the Nativity and the all-school chorus singing "Do you hear what I hear?"

Thank you to Mr. Gehman, our musical director and our faculty for all their hard work in preparing our students for this special night of music. Congratulations to our children for singing so beautifully. We are so privileged at St. Peter's that our students are able to learn about and celebrate Christmas in our Catholic school.

As we watched our students perform, their presence reminded us of another child, born in a stable so many, many years ago whose birth so changed the world.

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is well pleased.'" Luke 2:10-2:14

May you celebrate a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year with family and friends filled with joy, hope and peace.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL - MS. HOFFMANN



Happy Birthday Baby Jesus !!!!

I would like to wish all of my Pre-K students and their families a "Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year!ö Congratulations to all the students on a super job well done for our school Christmas Concert.

December has been a busy month in Pre-K - 3. We have had lots of learning and lots of fun.

In Religion we have been reading the story of Jesus being born. We have enjoyed moving the figures around in our classroom Nativity Scene. We also got to go to Church twice this month with our 6th Grade Prayer Partners.

In Phonics we have covered the letters "Gg" and "Cc".

We learned that the letter "Gg" has two sounds hard and soft. For example in the words gelatin, giraffe, and gingerbread man we hear the soft G sound, and in the words gallon, garden, and glue we hear the hard G sound.

We learned that the letter "Cc" has two sounds hard and soft. For example in the words car, candle, and cow we hear the hard C sound, and in the words circle, circus, and city we hear the soft C sound.

In Social Studies we learned how a letter is delivered to our house by the mail carrier. We even decorated a letter "Merry Christmas to my family!" and took them to the school office, put them in the mail basket, and waited for them to come to our house. I hope you all got your letter. If you did not please check that the school has your correct address.

In Science we have begun to learn about animals that hibernate for the winter. We also learned about a few animals that do not hibernate during the winter. We look forward to learning more about animals hibernating.

Thank you, for sharing your child with St. Peter's School. It is my pleasure to have each child in my class. They are all very special to me. Once again, please have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love,
Ms. Hoffmann



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL - MS. NOVELLO



Can you believe 2016 is right around the corner?!?! Pre K-4 has been busy everyday learning and having fun. We are continuing to master our days of the week and months of the year. The students had tons of fun making gingerbread houses, paper plate ornaments, and finger painting this month!

In English Language Arts (ELA) we have covered the letters Dd, Gg, Cc, and Rr. The students are continuing to recognize the letters and their sounds. Pre-K 4 has Phonics twice a week, also reading and handwriting once a week. We start everyday by reviewing the alphabet with flashcards, singing the ABCs and the letter of the week song. You can find these songs if you search "Have Fun With Learning Alphabet Song" and "Have Fun With Learning Letter" on www.youtube.com. Every Monday we create a chart using pictures that start with the letter of the week as a class.

In Math, we are continuing to practice counting to 20 and also identifying numbers when they are out of order. We have also been continuing learning how to roll a die, count the numbers on the dice, and then identify that number.

In Social Studies we have talked about how different countries celebrate Christmas and the different types of traditions each country has. The countries we covered are the United States, Germany, Australia, and Mexico.

In Religion we have been focusing on why we celebrate Christmas, and how we prepare for Christmas. We have been using an Advent calendar, and we count the days till Christmas. We also had a birthday party for Jesus during one of our snack times.

Thank you for sharing your child with me each day. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at anytime. I wish everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

KINDERGARTEN - MS. MC MILLAN



It's been a great month! This month in math, kindergarten has been working on making patterns. We continue to read everyday and learn new sight words while we enjoy reading our sight word books. During Religion classes we have been learning about Advent and what each candle represents on our Advent wreath. We love talking about the birth of Jesus. In Social Studies we travel around the world to England, the Netherlands, Germany, Australia, Mexico, and Sweden learning how each country celebrates Christmas. We are looking forward to seeing what Miss McMillan has planned for January. Hope you and your family have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 1 - MRS. TSIKITAS



Merry Christmas from 1st Grade

I honestly cannot believe how quickly Christmas and the New Year have come upon us! In the four short months we have been together, the students have learned and accomplished so much.

This month in Math, we have been working on subtraction and fact families. The students are strengthening their math skills each day and seem to be enjoying working on them. Please continue to make sure your children are completing First in Math daily. This program helps with the skills the children need to solve math problems and it is fun for them.

In Reading, we continue to explore different genres as well as work on our fluency. Allowing your child to read to you for 10-15 minutes per night will help with their fluency. I know we all have busy lives, but please set aside this short period of time to help with your child's reading skills.

In Religion, we have been learning about the birth of Jesus and the true reason for Christmas. We have also been learning about the seven sacraments and the Holy Spirit and how these bring us closer to God.

We have been keeping very busy and learning many skills. We will continue this in the new year as well. There is so much I have planned for the students to learn and I am looking forward to success over the next several months. Please continue to help your children succeed, it takes a village and without your help it will not happen!

I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please set aside some time to celebrate and acknowledge the reason for the season! Please try to bring the students to Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

See you all in 2016!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 2– MR. MORGESE



All things must come to an end, a happy end. This year has been full of wonderful blessings that will last a lifetime. Please keep those in need in your prayers and thoughts as you celebrate this festive time of year. For the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ is upon us. Let us rejoice and sing his praises.

In math we have moved on from data and graphing to addition and subtraction of two and three-digit numbers. We will be concentrating heavily on these topics in the coming weeks. I will also be introducing geometry, measurement, and place value to 1000. We will also be working out of a standardized test preparation book. We need to begin preparing for Terra Nova exams.

In English language arts the children have learned all about nouns, verb, and adjectives. We have written product advertisements, friendly letters, research reports, and book reports. I am VERY pleased with book report projects. Keep up the good work. After the Christmas break we will be reading out of our Junie B. Jones books. I will have comprehension worksheets for the kids to work with as well as comprehension tests.

Science is all about how animals grow and change. We will be learning about force and motion soon after.

We are moving along nicely in social studies. We have moved on to Working Together in unit 3. We will learn all about how factories make items and how stores sell those items. It will be a fun and adventurous unit. The kids will also get a taste of economics by learning how to create a budget. After all, I do have a bachelor's degree in business. I think I can put some of that knowledge to use in second grade.

I am still preparing the kids for their First Reconciliation. Remember, First Penance is Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 11 AM in the church. If you have not yet confirmed with the rectory you must do so soon.

I am so happy with my class. They are so well behaved, smart, funny, and caring. Just knowing that they enjoy their time in my class makes me a happy human being. I am so grateful to all the parents who work so hard to make sure their children can attend St. Peter's School. I know it is a sacrifice, but I meet you half way when I say that educating your children is a welcomed labor of love. I hope your Christmas is warm, blessed, and happy!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hugs and Jingle Bells,
Mister D and Stella the Bulldog!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 3– MS. TIGHE



Happy Holidays! As we begin the holiday season, we look forward to the new year ahead.

Math:

The 3rd graders are happy to begin division. Their enthusiasm is great. I am frequently asked what we will be doing next. Measurement and distance is ahead this 2nd trimester. Please encourage your students to play First in Math, daily. Our top three players are Tobi Kolawole, Brian Garcia and Nelly Quinones.

Reading:

Independent reading and Biography Book Reports will be much of the focus, this trimester. The 3rd graders have done exceptionally well with their essay writing. They continue to use critical thinking, and have been working on peer editing with their writing.

Science:

The 3rd graders loved learning about the Water Cycle. They seemed to have a lot of fun with it. We also studied Symmetry and created our own symmetrical Christmas trees with snowflakes. Next, we will focus on weather and climate.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we enter the holiday season, we will concentrate on being thankful and sharing our blessings.

Thank You to all the parents for their continued support.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 4 - MRS. BARTELS



'Twas the week before Christmas and all through St. Peter' s
School

. the students have been busy singing, decorating, learning, and reading about this special holiday and its true meaning.

December is such a magical month with the anticipation of the Christmas holiday and all the excitement it brings. Our Christmas show was a HUGE success with music and singing filling the church. Watching the students re-enact the Nativity scene is always touching and gives us something to think about and to be thankful for.

In addition to all the fun, we still managed to get in some learning.

Religion -

We read about the story of the birth of Jesus: Mary and Joseph's journey into Bethlehem, the Wise Men, the Angel of the Lord, and the Shepherds. No matter how many times we hear and read this story, we always seem to learn something new. Our classroom novel - *'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'* is a humorous but touching account of a family of misfits that somehow manage to get involved with the annual Christmas Show. We also watched the movie version of the novel which brings the story to life! (*and always makes me cry at the end.*)

Social Studies -

We are continuing our studies of the regions of the United States, learning about the state names, capitals, locations, land forms, rivers, gulfs, and oceans. We are also learning how to read a map by identifying the boundaries, countries, continents, waters, mountain ranges, and places.

English -

The 4th and 5th grade's unit this month was on Pronouns - and there is a long list of them! Demonstrative, Intensive, Reflexive, Subject, Object, Possessive, Contractions, First Person, Second Person, Third Person, and more!

Writing -

The 4th and 5th grades continue to work on the Criterion Writing Program. Their writing has improved so much - and their scores prove it!

This month the 4th graders will showcase their essays by reading their fictional genre, *'If I Were a Dog'*

***Please be sure that you replenish your child's supplies over the holiday so that when we return in 2015 everyone will have a pencil, eraser, and a pencil sharpener!!!

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night !



Mrs. Bartels

GRADE 5 - MRS. BUBENIK



I would like to wish my students and their families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. When we return from Christmas break students will be continuing their hard work on fractions in math. As we progress forward students will be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions by the end of the unit. I encourage the students to continuously practice their facts and work on firstinmath.com each night. Remember it is required by the students to practice firstinmath.com every night. Students' progress and participation is monitored on a daily basis. In social studies students did an amazing job on their five regions project. The students' creativity shined in their projects. Keep up the great work! Science class has been very busy for the students. The students are enjoying the new program of S.T.E.M. that has been incorporated into our science curriculum.

The students' journal writing is coming along fantastically. Each week the students are expanding on the different journal prompts and coming up with some amazing entries.

I would like to express what a beautiful performance the students did at the Christmas Concert. You all did an amazing job and should be very proud of yourselves as I am of you.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations for our S.T.E.M. program. It is greatly appreciated. Also, to our class mother who has done a wonderful job so far this school year with taking care of our holiday parties and other necessities needed to run our fine tuned classroom.

Before we leave 2015 I have some housekeeping to remind the students of; replenish your supplies over winter break which includes pencils, markers, colored pencils, and a quiet sharpener. Also, remember to have a chapter book with you each day in school and the book is to be one hundred and fifty pages or better (no comic books/ magazines or gaming books).

Finally, I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and thank you for an amazing first half of the year; I look forward to the second half of the school year and all the fun we will have.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 6 - MR. SAGARESE



6th grade S.S.- The students will be studying Ancient Chinese culture, geography and historical events that helped to shape the world we live in. The students will be working on a new PBL that will teach them about basic economic theories. They will be challenged to solve the current economic crisis that exists within the United States today. Will they be able to create a solution to the current unemployment issue within our country? The 6th grade students are also reading *The Red Badge of Courage* and will be writing a book report on the story.

7th grade S.S.-The students are studying the Jefferson Era. They will analyze and evaluate President Jefferson's policies through the creation of Political Cartoons. The students participate in a political cartoon contest that will give the winner a homework pass for an assignment. The students also will study the causes of the War of 1812. They will finish a map of battles that took place during the War of 1812.

8th grade S.S.-The students are studying the Age of Imperialism. During this era, countries took over other territories for political and economic power. The students will be working on maps dealing with the battles and territories during the Spanish American War. The students will be creating political cartoons dealing with policies of the American presidents with the Latin American nations. The students will be discussing the importance of the Panama Canal and its impact upon trade.

I would like to thank all of the parents and students for donating items for the Candy-Cane fundraiser.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 7 - MS. KENNEDY



It's the most wonderful time of the year for our young scientists who are working hard to uncover the mysteries of our scientific world. This month our classes met with great success with projects, labs and in-class activities. One of the most exciting moments was working on our STEM ship project that challenged students to think like engineers. After spending a few weeks designing and building their ships, the students were put to the test to observe if the ship could float and hold a certain amount of weight. We were thrilled to learn that every ship was able to float in water and more than half the groups were able to hold medium to heavy weights. Way to go scientists!

The 7th grade class is making a list and checking it twice to make sure they did their work right. In science, we are continuing our discussion of heredity and genetics. The students are now experts at solving Punnett Squares that show possible gene combinations in offspring. We even explored the idea of genetic engineering and how farmers use controlled breeding and mass selection to produce organisms with desirable traits. Additionally, in reading and writing class we are learning how to write a narrative and add dialogue to our stories so that the characters come to life! Lastly, in religion students are developing their knowledge of saints by creating a Book of Saints that highlights a particular saint each week. The students are inspired by these religious leaders and are learning how to practice acts of kindness and forgiveness during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The 6th grade science class has been integrating history with our science lessons. During the unit on elements and atoms, students identified halogens and noble gases on the Periodic Table. After learning how gases are used in our everyday lives, we took a look back in history to when gases were used for transportation purposes. The students researched and discussed the Hindenburg disaster of 1937 in order to further understand why we use helium in blimps today as opposed to hydrogen. These young historians were enthusiastic about relating ideas between science and history.

The 8th graders were rocking around the Christmas tree learning about rocks and minerals. Now, they are exploring fossils and why scientists study them as a link to our past. As a class project, the students were asked to research a historic landscape or monument that was made of rocks we had learned about in class. Then, they utilized an online tool called Prezito to organize their research in the form of a slideshow presentation. Each student shared their rock report to the class and offered information about famous landscapes such as the Grand Canyon and Mount Everest. We will continue to practice giving more oral presentations throughout the year.

This month has been filled with Christmas cheer, which in science class means making Peppermint Oobleck by mixing different substances and extracting DNA from a strawberry. More importantly, it means spending time with loved ones and recognizing the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. On behalf of the 7th grade, we want to wish all the families of Saint Peter's a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 8—MRS. REESE



First of all, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The 8th graders are very excited about Christmas. We enjoyed the Christmas concert in the church and helping younger students in the Santa Shop. Thanks to all for supporting our fundraiser.

We have been working in our Family Life book in Religion class. We have also explored geometry in Math, verbs in Language Arts and writing short essays in Literature. We are all looking forward to the Christmas break!

Grade 7 Math News: The 7th graders have been working with ratios and proportions ó all kinds of proportions: direct, indirect, partitive, and inverse. What fun!

Grade 6 Math News: The 6th graders have been solving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division algebraic equations! They are doing well and love solving them on the Smartboard!

Please remember that all my students must play First in Math every week ó at least 50 stickers, if not more! The 6th graders have been Team of the Week many, many times. Keep up the good work!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

Music– Henry Gehman

Congratulations...The children did a great job with the Christmas Concert. I was very happy with all their hard work. Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. LAUDATI

Presidential Fitness Challengeö still going on. Have you child be prepared in Body & Mind. Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday.



ART—MR. VILLAMIEL

Hello everyone! Just like October, and November, this month has been quite productive for all of our students. We are consistently learning, working and being creative as we continue to learn the Elements and Principles of Art.

Slowly, but surely, the school's main entrance and stairwell is being decorated with artwork. I encourage you all to walk around the school to enjoy and appreciate all the creative efforts and visuals the students have put together.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

SPANISH/COMPUTERS—MS. O'SHEA



We are having so much fun in our Spanish classes as we prepare to celebrate Christmas (and Christmas break!)

The Kindergarteners are learning lots of Spanish Christmas vocabulary words and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Papa Noel! First grade is learning parts of the vocabulary and made elves that have *pelo loco!*

It was wonderful sharing my two favorite Spanish holiday classic stories with the second and third graders! The second graders made *flores de nochebuena* after listening to the story *The Legend of the Poinsettia!* *The Night of Las Posadas* led the third graders on a procession through the halls of the school looking for *posada.* They found shelter in the Spanish room and celebrated with special treats, as did Maria y Jose in the story!

Grade 4 just finished a unit on time/number vocabulary. They also read about the country of Panama at the end of this unit and we welcomed Kristian and Julian Olaverri to class as special presenters on their native country!

Grade 5 is working on verbs ending in *ar* and we did a fun Christmas project, where they had to create a picture using the correct tenses of the verbs!

Grade 6 and 7 are still working in their teams on different levels of verbs and vocabulary. We had a winner take all challenge for the month of December and the teams with the most points will be the monthly winner! The students will find out which team won when we return in January!

Grade 8 is also working in groups using two different textbooks! Please encourage them to complete their weekly homework assignments *o* it really does help bring up their grades!

Please visit my blog for any information on quizzes and homework assignments! *Feliz Navidad a todos!*

Computers

Students in Grades 3 and up participated in the nation-wide *Hour of Code Week* in December. The focus of this event is to encourage students to complete one hour of computer programming. The students have had so much fun with this that many have asked to take their log-in information home to practice! Remember, as President Obama says, *Don't just play with your phone, program it!*

Our younger students continue to enhance their computer skills (keyboarding, drawing, mouse skills) and also integrate those skills with their classroom learning. Check out some of our technology/Spanish integration projects, which are displayed outside the Spanish room!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our special families, students and staff members!

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

After Care



St. Peter's After Care is available most school days from 3:00-6:00pm.

The daily schedule is as follows:

3:00-3:10 - Students arrive in the Spanish Room.

3:10-3:25 - Students may have a snack provided by school of Animal Crackers and Apple Juice, or students may bring their own snack. Please do not send candy or soda.

3:25-6:00 - Pre-K and Kindergarten students go to the gym with Mr. Laudati. They can play with balls, floor toys, or draw.

3:25-6:00 - Students in grades 1st-8th have time to do their homework in the Spanish Room with Ms. Hoffmann. When they are finished they may go the gym with Mr. Laudati. When all students are done with homework Ms. Hoffmann will join them in the gym.

All children must be picked up by an adult and signed out each day.

If you need to reach the After Care Program our cell phone number is 973-932-2807. Mr. Laudati and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!!!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS



DISTINGUISHED

Seun Kolawole
Zyrus Hernandez
Jarvin Mendoza
David Betancur
Christopher Cajuste
Andrew Cuenca
Marcela Toledo

FIRST HONORS

Jonathan Brijlall
Jonluka Munoz
Abigail Vasquez
Joseph Nguyen
Andrea Toledo
Sophia Zuniga
Brianna Garcia



SECOND HONORS

Xavier Cajuste
Alejandro Gomez
Pablo Hernandez
Gianna Sanchez
Cinthia Martinez
Katherin Narvaez
Jericho Perez
Joseph Bico
Christopher Duron
Rommel Hernandez
Jose Rodriguez-La Llave
Adrian Vasquez
Cyan Villar
Mawutor Stephen Fiavey
Christopher Melendez
Johnny Vu
Deianeira Bey



Alumni of St. Peter School Paramus Catholic

President's List

Kimberly Martinez Gr. 10

First Honors

Taylor Elliott-Dolor Gr. 12
Joel Melendez Gr. 09
Mathew Munoz Gr. 09
Dylan Vasquez Gr. 10
Kevin Zavala Gr. 09

Second Honors

Natalie Feliciano Gr. 10
Jelson Mendoza Gr. 12
Osmalyn Urena Gr. 10
Andy Villamarin Gr. 09

CONGRATULATIONS