

## ST. PETER'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



January 2016

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### *FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...*

Catholic Schools Week begins with the opening mass at 10am on January 31<sup>st</sup> at St. Peter's Church. This annual celebration highlights the value of Catholic School education provided to our youth and its contributions to our church, the community and the nation. This month I would like to share some thoughts regarding reasons to choose Catholic School for your children. In an article published in an NCEA Newsletter, it was noted that around this time parents begin to decide where to send their children to school.

Will parents choose to send their children to a Catholic School as a new experience, reenroll in the Catholic School or due to economic circumstances decide to eliminate Catholic education as a choice? What can Catholic Schools provide? Catholic Schools like St. Peter's promise a Catholic tradition and academic excellence in a warm, welcoming community grounded in faith, as well as a balanced curriculum including art, music, language and technology.

At St. Peter's School our students are educated to serve others, develop leadership skills and learn with a moral purpose. We provide a disciplined environment while preparing the children for the future as Catholic Christians. Our school is blessed to have a wonderful faculty and priests who work diligently to help students reach their potential, To Teach As Jesus Did. These are just a few reasons parents will choose Catholic Schools even in difficult times. We thank you for your continued support of Catholic School education.

#### **Jesus the Teacher**

He never taught a lesson in a classroom  
He had no tools to work with, no Smartboards, maps or charts  
He used no subject outlines, kept no records, gave no grades, and His only text was ancient and well-worn  
His students were the poor, the deaf, the blind, the outcast  
His method was the same for all who came to hear and learn  
He opened eyes with faith. He opened ears with simple truth, and opened hearts with love, a love born of forgiveness  
a gentle man, a humble man. He asked and won no honors, no gold awards of tribute to His expertise or wisdom  
and yet this quiet Teacher from the hills of Galilee has fed the needs, fulfilled the hopes and changed the lives of many millions  
for what He taught brought heaven to earth and God's heart to all.



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### ***PRESCHOOL - MS. HOFFMANN***



It's hard to believe we have been in school for 4 months this school year. Your child is learning so much every day and having fun doing it.

Next week Sunday, January 31 - Friday, February 5, 2016 is Catholic SchoolsøWeek.

There are special fun events happening all week during school. On Sunday, January 31 we are having an Opening Mass for Catholic Schools Week at 10:00AM in St. Peter's Church. Please try to join us if you can.

On Tuesday, February 2, 2016 there will be a Tag Day - \$1.00 for students. They may wear their own clothes to school.

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 there will be an Open House. Please bring a friend and show them how great St. Peter's School is.

Finally Friday, February 5, 2016 we will close the week with First Friday Mass and a 12:30 dismissal. There is NO AFTER CARE on Friday.

If you have any questions about your child's Progress Report, please see me.

Thank you, for sharing your child with all of us at St. Peter's School.

Ms. Hoffmann



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### ***PRESCHOOL - MS. NOVELLO***



I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with their loved ones!! I would like to thank everyone for the Christmas gifts, Christmas wishes and blessings. I can't believe that January is now coming to an end; the school year is flying by!

In Phonics we have covered the letters Ww, Mm, Jj, and Ss. We are continuing to master recognizing our letters and their sounds. In Math, we are continuing to practice counting to 20 and also identifying numbers when they are out of order. We have also been working on identifying patterns and how to create patterns.

In Social Studies we have talked about the four seasons in a year. We created a chart for the season of winter, and discussed the months in winter, the activities you can do in winter, the clothes you wear for winter, and lastly what type of weather we will see in winter. In Social Studies, we talked about Martin Luther King Jr. and how it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside; what matters is what is on the inside! In Science, we created fake snow; the kids had a blast! In Religion we discussed how we are all friends of God, and to love others. We are beginning to talk about different ways we can care for God's Creation.

Pre K-4 has been doing lots of learning and having fun! The students have been practicing writing their names independently every day!! Thank you for sharing your child with me. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at anytime.



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### ***KINDERGARTEN - MS. Mc MILLAN***



Kindergarten is off to a spectacular New Year! It is amazing to see the class reading and learning to write full sentences. This month in math we are exploring positional words as well as more, few, and equal. Our social studies lessons include discussions on the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In science class we enjoy exploring everything winter especially snow and ice. God loves each and every one of us and we talk about this every day!



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

***GRADE 1 - MRS. TSIKITAS***



### January in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

January was a rough month for us! It has been pretty hard trying to get the students back into a routine since coming back from break. They did not want to focus, which has been pretty challenging.

This month in Religion, we have been discussing our feelings and how we love and help our families. Several students were eager to discuss how sad they were that they had to be in school instead of home sleeping. Thankfully, a couple of them were very happy to be back and learn new things.

In Math, we have been working on tens and ones and the value of digits in given numbers. The students seem to be enjoying this topic!

In Science, we have been working on finishing up our unit on Life Science. We have moved back into Social Studies and are working on communities and neighborhoods.

In Language Arts, we have been working on long vowel sounds, verbs, and building reading stamina. I try to get the students to pick books they enjoy and can read and see how long they can read for. I find that they get bored pretty quickly and begin looking around. Please help with this process by having them read for ten minutes each night. This will also help with comprehension and fluency.

Thank you for all your help! Please remember if there is every anything you need you can always email me or call the school and leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible!



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 2– MR. MORGESE



Can you believe it?? It's 2016 already, and winter seems to have finally arrived. The temperatures have dropped, and the snow is falling. Now is a great time to warm up with a mug of hot cocoa. We are warming up in school by filling our days with second grade work. We are concentrating on many concepts that will prepare us for third grade.

We are chugging along nicely in math. We have wrapped up our chapter in two-digit addition with regrouping. I am thrilled at how quickly the kids picked up this concept. We will be moving on to place value up to 1,000. Soon after that we will be moving on to geometry concepts. The kids love playing with Tenzi Dice. They have to roll the dice, and whatever two numbers come up they must add and subtract the two. This is a great way to have fun and keep our addition and subtraction facts fresh in our minds. Please practice these facts at home as well. Keep playing First in Math. I promised the kids that if they get team of the week again I would bring in cupcakes. KEEP PLAYING because I need an excuse to use my Kitchen Aid mixer!

In English language arts we have been cranking out some interesting writing pieces. We have covered friendly letters, compositions, research reports, and so much more. We will now be working on how to write poetry with rhyming words. In grammar we have covered the verb "Have" in the past and present form. The children have mastered the concepts of present and past tense verbs. Great job on book reports. The children have completed a reading poster, which will be displayed in our school's library. The children love going to the library to listen to Mrs. Pratt, a parishioner here at Saint Peter's, read stories and engage the children in fun activities. Our library is a wonderful place for the children to learn and have fun reading. I will be bringing them up there occasionally to read stories and complete school work. Big kudos to all those who made our library a great place to learn and read.

We have finally completed our Reconciliation books in religion. The children have ALL memorized the Act of Contrition. Each and every one of my little tykes passed the test with flying colors. I am SO proud of them. Keep in mind that First Penance and Reconciliation is Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 11 AM over at the church. I will be there to experience this wonderful sacrament and put any and all fears to rest. They get so nervous, but I always tell them there's nothing to worry about. It's a piece of cake. We will now begin working in our general religion text, Be My Disciples.

Science has been a lot of fun. The children have been learning all about the Earth and how it changes. We have also covered natural resources. We even went up to the science lab to work with different types of gravel, dirt, and sand. The children did a great job completing their science lab worksheet. This prepares them for the upper grades when a science lab report is required. Great job, kids!!! The Mad Scientist, Dr. D, has many more things planned for you in the lab. Bring your goggles and join me!!!

In social studies we have been learning all about how to earn and save money. We will be completing a fun piggy bank project. I want to expose my students to many ways of wanting to save money. We will be wrapping up unit three soon.

With winter in full swing let us remember to pray for those who do not have a warm place to live. Please, keep those in need in your hearts, and remember to continue to bring in money for our class's mite box. The more money we send to the Mission Society, the more of a difference we can make. Thank you for past support, and bless you in advance for the help to come.

Stay warm and get out the crockpot. And, get the snow blower ready. I know mine is.

God Bless!  
Hugs and snowflakes,  
Mister D and Stella the Stubborn Bulldog



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### ***GRADE 3– MS. TIGHE***



Happy New Year! The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are ready to take on the second half of the school year. The students are very excited about Catholic Schoolsø Week and are prepared for the many exciting activities planned.

**Math:** In Math we have completed multiplication and division. Now, we are going to be working with graphs and measurement. The students love working with rulers and creating graphs. This should be a fun time for them in Math!

**Language Arts:** In Language Arts we are learning about narrative poetry, fiction writing and writing dialogue. I feel that the third graders are taking their writing very seriously and peer editing is helping them to understand their strengths and weaknesses. Our goal is to transform our writing and build great writing portfolios for the end of the school year.

The Biography / Memory Bag Book Reports are due in February. I am very impressed with the studentsø book choices. A variety of notable people such as Benjamin Franklin, Queen Elizabeth I, Malala Yousafzai and Rosa Parks will be covered. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been eager to read about these great people. Please pass by the classroom to take a look at them; they will be on display.

**Science:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders love learning about rocks and minerals. We studied the clouds and atmosphere this month. The students did exceptionally well identifying rock groups and different landforms.

To celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders each wrote about the importance of being a Nobel Peace Prize Winner. They each wrote their dream for the world inside a cloud placed on our bulletin board for all to see. They loved disc  
enjoy learning about inspiring people who helped changed the world.

Thank you to all the parents for their continued support.



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 4 - MRS. BARTELS



As the first month in this New Year comes to a close, we reflect on the things we are thankful for - our amazing families and good friends.

**Religion** - We completed Unit 2, "We Believe." We are learning so many new things about ourselves, our responsibilities, and our faith, but the most important lesson of all is that spending time with family and friends is so important. God's love for us and for all people shines through us in so many ways.

We also began working in our **Family Life** books, and the first chapter is all about rules! We don't always like them, but we discussed why rules are important, listed the things we do to show our parents that we are responsible, and have also been talking about our changing moods and feelings. We certainly have some interesting things to say about that!! Growing up can sure be a challenge!

**Social Studies** - Our studies of the regions of the United States has come to a close. We learned about so many things that are important to each area. We are able to complete a puzzle map of the U.S. states with ease, match the states with their capitals, name the major land forms and boundaries, and also enjoyed using an online game on Maps101. As a culminating activity, and to represent the Midwest Region, we made something special to eat - home made chili! Learning about our country can be so much fun, and delicious.

**Reading** - The stories in this unit are about Fairy Tales and Folk Lore. The focus is on finding the main idea of a story, identifying the theme, locating information, decoding unfamiliar words using text clues, and making inferences and drawing conclusions.

In addition to our Literature Units, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes are currently reading classroom novels.

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade is reading *Chocolate Fever*

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade is reading *Number The Stars*

**English** - is all about adjectives. Who knew there were so many different kinds! Descriptive, Proper, Demonstrative, Articles, Complements, Counting, Positive, Comparative, Superlative . . . oh, my! They make our sentences so much more "colorful!"

Finally, we are preparing for all our Catholic Schools Week activities. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools, Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service." There is so much happening and each day of the week will bring something fun to do. I hope to see you all at the Catholic Schools Mass on Sunday. A "surprise" is in store for each 4<sup>th</sup> grader attending!

Let the Penny Wars begin!!



## IE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 5 - MRS. BUBENIK



Happy New Year to all!!



The students have been working hard in all their studies and I couldn't be more proud of them. I look forward to the upcoming projects that will showcase their talents. The students' Projects are fantastic and they should be very proud of themselves. They are proudly displayed outside our classroom.



In math the students are doing great and seem to be having fun learning the different concepts being introduced. We are finishing up our unit in fractions. Remember to practice your facts every night and to go to [firstinmath.com](http://firstinmath.com) every night for at least fifteen minutes. Continuous practice will only benefit your math skills in the long run.



In science we are exploring and learning about many different aspects of Life Science, such as how to classify organisms, cells, human body system, plants, interactions in the ecosystem, and what can cause the ecosystem to change. Keep up the great work!!!



In journal the students are progressing in their writing skills and thinking more outside the box, which are making for some great journal entries-Keep up the great work!



I would like to thank all that have donated items to our S.T.E.M. program. It is greatly appreciated and we look forward to problem solving and building some interesting things.



A few reminders: make sure your child has the needed supplies for school such as pencils, crayons, makers, glue etc. Lastly, assignment pads are to be with students everyday in school and please remember to check the Homework Blog for important updates and messages about what's going on in our fabulous fifth grade class.



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### ***GRADE 6 - MR. SAGARESE***



6<sup>th</sup> grade- The students are working on trying to design an economic structure that would help to end the recession and high rates of unemployment in the United States. The students have been working on their two-page paper to try and solve the economic recession within the United States. The students are also studying the history of Israel, the prophets and important leaders of their kingdom. The students will also be studying the Jewish traditions and their resistance to being ruled by the Romans. The students will be preparing for their upcoming Terra Nova test that will be held in March.

7<sup>th</sup> grade- The students will learn about the impact that the First Industrial Revolution had upon the North's economy. The students will learn about the hardships that northern workers faced while in the factories. They will learn about the new forms of transportation and technology that helped to increase production in the United States. The students will also learn about the South's economy. They will learn about the importance of cotton to the region, the social system of the southern society and the hardships that African American slaves faced in the South.

8<sup>th</sup> grade- The students will be studying the causes and events of World War I. The students will go over primary documents of events and battle accounts in class. They will also view actual footage of World War I. The students will be writing a five page research paper on a topic dealing with World War I. They must analyze and evaluate the topic and decide why it was an important event during the War. The students will learn several research skills to help them with future writing projects.

The St. Peter's School History Club is currently involved in creating presentations for the History and Science Fair to be conducted in April.



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### **GRADE 7 - MS. KENNEDY**



After a wonderful and restful holiday, our students are energized and ready to start the New Year off right. Our scientists are buzzing about the new STEM Pringle challenge we started this month and the beginning of Science Club for all those students who enjoy science experiments and forensics. Each class even had the opportunity to create a miniature garden to observe plant growth and learn a new life skill. The students continue to work hard and uncover new discoveries in the world of science.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the students explored the levels of classification and kingdoms for living organisms. They are now using that knowledge and applying it to learn about the plant kingdom. During Religion, the students discussed the power of grace and created books, speeches, and websites that featured the five signs of grace promoted within the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The students are improving their reading, writing, and vocabulary skills everyday by completing writing prompts, close reads with comprehension questions, and assessments that challenge their spelling of a word. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., students read an article about his accomplishments and wrote about the actions he took to find a peaceful solution for racial equality. This month was especially exciting as the students prepared for the Ring Ceremony by getting sized and choosing their ring styles. We will be hosting bake sales along with other fundraisers during the upcoming months to raise money for the ceremony.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, science class is electric as students learn about the types of matter and how atoms combine together. One of their favorite labs this month was the Hydrogen Flame test that was literally a burst of energy! The students observed how to release hydrogen bubbles from foil submerged in water and used fire to see the physical properties of the gas. We even used modeling clay to create models of atoms representing different elements. The students couldn't believe all the chemistry behind the making of table salt they use every day.

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the students finished their unit on fossils and learned how we use fossil fuels and different types of oil today. For a creative writing assignment, students had to imagine what a day without oil would be like and the challenges they might face. To their surprise, simple everyday items such as sneakers and phones were made out of a condensed oil product. They are now transitioning into learning about landforms and geographically where different types are located in the United States. We will be discussing landforms from the San Andreas fault to Mount Everest. The students completed a Web Quest to research on the two famous climbers who were the first to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. Looking ahead, the eighth graders will be exploring volcanoes and earthquakes and how scientists are taking measures to track a natural disaster's activity.

Just a reminder, with the start of the New Year, it's a great time to reorganize and stock up on supplies. Please make sure to have a designated notebook and folder for Science, lab coat, and plenty of pencils and/or pens. As young scientists, we are learning the importance of responsibility and encouraging each other every day to do better. Keep up the great work!

## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 8—MRS. REESE



It's hard to believe that we have completed half of this year already! The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have recently received their acceptance letters from the Catholic high schools. I know they are excited and just a little nervous about this next part of their lives. However, they still have 5 more months to go and a lot of learning ahead of them.

They completed the Family Life curriculum and are now discussing sacraments in Religion. Geometry is their focus in math, filled with formulas for area and volume. The students are listening to *The Outsiders* and are enjoying the story as well as participating in interesting discussions about relationships and feeling like an outsider. As the 8<sup>th</sup> graders finish verbs in Language Arts, they begin infinitives, gerunds, and participles as well as using our new writing website to write an essay on a Super Hero. So as you can see they are very busy!

Grade 7 Math: The 7th graders are finishing their study of consumer math: taxes, tips, discounts, simple interest to name just a few. The next chapter is inequalities.

Grade 6 Math: The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are well into their study of fractions: comparing, reducing, etc. They will then add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers.

Remember to play First in Math!



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### **AFTERCARE**



#### Daily Schedule

3:00-3:15 - Arrive in Spanish Room

3:15-3:25 - Students may eat snack. We provide Animal Crackers and Apple Juice. Or they may bring their own snack. Please do not send candy, nuts, or soda.

3:25-4:30 - Students in Grade 1-8 have the time to do homework. Please encourage your child to use this time to work on homework . When they complete their homework they can go to the gym to play with balls, table toys, or draw.

3:25 - Students in PreK and Kindergarten go to the gym for play time.

4:30-6:00 - All students in After Care are in the gym. If any student wishes to continue working on homework we have tables in the gym where they can continue to work.

If you need to contact the After Care Program our Cell Phone # is 973-932-2807.

Thank you, for sharing your child with St. Peter's School.

**REMINDER : FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016 IS A 12:30 DISMISSAL DAY. THERE IS NO AFTERCARE.**



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. LAUDATI



A new year to learn and grow.  
•Be active and stay fit.  
•Respect is a good thing to give and receive.



### MUSIC - Mr. Gehman



The Middle School Students have been having a great time learning about non-traditional types of music such as Rap and Reggae and how they relate to each other. The Elementary students have been learning about the basic elements of music and are enjoying exploring rhythm through the use of the classroom percussion instruments.

### ART—Mr. Villamiel

Hello everyone! Into the new year, we continue to learn and work on incorporating several elements and principles of art into our projects. Grades kindergarten to third grade learned to illustrate self portraits along with other elements varying from each grade level. Grades four to six are learning about Pop Art, focusing on the artist Andy Warhol. Grades seven and eight are learning about an abstract piece created by Piet Mondrian.

Again, I encourage you all to take a look and enjoy some of artwork created by our students.

Mr. V



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***

### **SPANISH/COMPUTERS—MS. O'SHEA**



Feliz Año Nuevo to all our students, staff and families! 2016 is off to a great start in the Spanish room!

The Kindergartners are working on their Spanish alphabet. They are now up to letter C (for cepillo ó which means brush) and they painted with brushes! The first graders recently finished their face and body parts vocabulary words.

The second graders are learning how to say different occupations in Spanish. Maybe they will even act out some of these jobs? Third grade made a great video in which they demonstrated their action verbs!

Grade 4 just wrapped up their unit on òtu and yoõ tenses of verbs with a quiz. They also read the section in the chapter on Cuba and learned something interesting ó now it IS possible to travel to Cuba from the United States! Grade 5 is wrapping up an extensive unit on óar verbs.

The sixth graders have been working hard ó both in the classroom and in the computer lab ó on their action phrases, as well as the verb ir (to go.) Grade 7 just finished their unit on home vocabulary and the verb tener (to have) They are all still working in òteamsõ and continue to enjoy the team work/differentiation!

Eighth grade has made significant improvement on their òfin de semanaõ weekend reports (keep it up ó it DOES improve your grades!) They are also working in groups ó one is working on óer/-ir verbs and the other on illness vocabulary!

#### Computers



We are so excited about all of the fun activities we have done recently in Computer class! We celebrated the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and discussed òdreamsõ and illustrated dreams of our own using drawing programs. The Kindergartners and first graders had a great time doing this! The third graders learned a lot about Dr. King through an Internet webquest.

Our second graders continue to improve their word processing skills by using their Spanish vocabulary words to change fonts, sizes and colors.

Our fourth and fifth graders will focus on technology integration this month. They are all doing presentations in Power Point for their Social Studies classes! Grade 6 is also working in Power Point and they are using Spanish vocabulary to create presentations.

The seventh and eighth graders are learning extensively about fair use/copyright rules regarding images on the Internet. Iõve learned a lot about this topic at my monthly technology integrators meetings at the Archdiocesan Center. The students are learning how to cite images that they use for their lab/class work.



## ***AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS***



**SFIC**  
**Online Application**  
**OPEN NOW**  
**January 15 - April 30**



**Click here for details**

Scholarship applications for 2016-2017 school year is now available online at [www.sficnj.org](http://www.sficnj.org).

The application deadline is **April 30, 2016**.

### **Facts About The Scholarship Fund (SFIC)**

- For families with children in grades K-12 attending Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of Newark (Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union Counties).
- Scholarships are based upon financial need and are awarded without regard to religion, race or ethnicity.
- Currently the SFIC General Scholarship Fund awards a \$1,000 tuition assistant grant to elementary and high school students entering grades K through 12. (All Pre-Kindergarten programs are not eligible).
- Scholarship applications for 2016-2017 school year will be available on-line only starting January 15, 2016 at [www.sficnj.org](http://www.sficnj.org).
- Deadline for submitting your on-line application is April 30, 2016.
- Financial documentation is required along with the completed on-line application.
- A \$30 non-refundable application fee payable to FACTS is required (one per family).
- Students in grades K-8 currently receiving tuition assistance from The Children's Scholarship Fund (CSF) program are not eligible to receive a SFIC Scholarship.
- All applicants will be notified by email of our decision on or before June 15, 2016.

**Good Luck!**