



March 2014

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

The sports programs at St. Peter's School offer our students the opportunity to participate in athletics in a variety of ways and at different levels. The children learn to work as a team; there is no one star. To achieve a goal collaboration and plain old hard work is key to success. Success is not always equated with winning. Winning is great but it is even a greater accomplishment when our students learn a sense of fair play and a respect for others.

At this time of the year our basketball teams have ended their season. During last weekend our players were honored with a dinner and were also awarded trophies for their efforts. It was a wonderful celebration. We are looking forward to more athletic activities as our younger children participate in tennis and our girls prepare for softball season. What wonderful learning experiences for the children!

I offer my heartfelt thanks to all those families who give of their time, talent and treasure to help make the sports programs so successful. Catholic schools are about community. Let us continue to collaborate in all school events and activities. When we all work together-faculty, parents, and students, everyone wins.

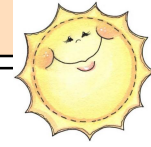
St. Peter's School is in the midst of observing Lent. Having received ashes to begin the observance, the children are being reminded of the teachings of Jesus and the significance of these teachings in their lives. Forgiveness, kindness, sharing and loving are important concepts of our faith. We welcome spring and await the new life Jesus brings to us in the Resurrection.

May God continue to bless you during the Paschal season.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS



PRESCHOOL - MS. STEEL

Pre K has been having so much fun this month. All the students were counting down the days until Spring arrived, and we are finally there!

We enjoyed learning all about Ash Wednesday and St. Patrick's Day and students are eager to learn all about what Easter is about and how we celebrate Jesus.

We have been learning more about graphs in math and practicing our letter sounds to identify rhyming words! The students are doing really well with the new concepts being introduced. We will be doing a lot of art and science projects for Spring including watching the change a carnation makes when placed in food coloring!

The students are eagerly looking forward to the weather getting warmer so that they can go out to the playground and enjoy their time playing outside again. We will be sending permission slips for the trip home with the children; please make sure to return them back to school as soon as possible. Also, please continue to assist your children with their homework and check their folders daily!

Thanks!



-Miss Steel

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

KINDERGARTEN - MRS. TSIKITAS



I cannot believe that we have less than three months left of the school year! It saddens me that my time with your children has passed by so quickly. This has been such an amazing year, one I will always cherish!

This month was another busy one in Kindergarten! We have finally learned subtraction and the students enjoyed every minute of it. I was amazed at how quickly they understood this concept and was even more amazed that they didn't confuse it with addition at all. Subtraction can be a very difficult concept for many, but my Kindergarteners took it on like champs!

We have still been working on building fluency in Reading as well. The students are getting much better with it, and many have been surprising me with sounding out their words. We continue to add high frequency words to our list each week, which is making it easier when reading. Please continue reading with your children at home as well. They come home with at least one reader each week which they can continue practicing on. We need to continue to work together to keep your children where they need to be!

Graduation is quickly approaching so keep an eye out for important information that will be sent home soon. Also keep an eye out for trip information. Money will be due in the next couple of weeks. Remember, in order to be considered a chaperone, you **MUST** have completed the Protecting God's Children workshop and all paperwork for a background check. The class is not the only step you need to complete!

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 1 - MISS BRUZZI

Spring Colors, by Mildred Hoffman



See the yellow sun up in the sky
See the bluebird flying by.
See the green grass under my feet
See the red flowers that smell so sweet.
See the brown tree grow straight and tall,
See the pink blossoms just starting to fall.
See the orange caterpillar, so to be
A white butterfly for the spring world to see!

Dear Parents,

I am very excited to be working with your child this year in First Grade, while Miss Bruzzi is recovering from her surgery. Our thoughts and prayers are with her for a speedy recovery. That said, Miss Bruzzi has left plans for everything we need in class and then some. We are following the same daily schedule the children have been having with Miss Bruzzi. Nothing has changed, and everyone is working and learning nicely.

In Reading we are learning about Folk Tales and retelling of a story. We are carrying that concept over to Religion, in learning and retelling the stories of Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, The Washing of the Feet, and The Crucifixion

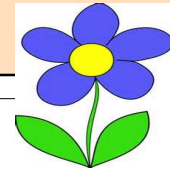
In Math the children have been learning about money, and the value of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. They have been learning to count coins in many different visual problems and word problems.

In Science we have just covered "The Life Cycle of a Butterfly". Now we will start to learn about "The Life Cycle of a Sunflower" and even try planting some in the classroom. Spring is in the air and we have taken walks at recess around the playground looking for signs of spring. such as new buds on bushes, things turning green and snow melting. We even brought some items we found outside in to the classroom (sticks, acorns, leaves, and pebbles) and looked at them with magnifying glasses.

If you have any questions, please let me know, so I can help you. I am in regular contact with Miss Bruzzi if I need her help with any classroom matters.

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

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS



GRADE 2– MR. MORGESE

Congrats to the children for working so hard on Terra Nova. We are happy to move on and prepare for the ending of our school year.

I will be announcing our class trip very soon. Stay tuned!

I am SO impressed at how well the kids have taken to multiplication and fractions. We are moving forward into geometry very soon. I will be continuing our refresher courses on money and time. Please continue encouraging your child to play First In Math. We are racking up many points!!!

In language arts we are learning all about irregular verbs, titles, and writing compositions. We have read some really cool stories as well. Keep reading, guys. We will have a book report very soon.

We have begun our unit on The Eucharist in religion. If you have not yet confirmed your Communion date please do so ASAP! Our class date is May 31. If you cannot make this date please let Mrs. Melillo know as soon as you can.

Science is all about the human body, simple machines, and states of matter. We will have a science project soon. I am trying to fit in a SS project as well.

Social studies is all about our country's past. We will be learning about the first colonists and Native Americans.

I am so happy that spring is finally here. Let the warm weather bring us cheer!!!

God bless!

Mr. D



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 3– MS. TIGHE



Welcome to Spring!

RELIGION: This season of Lent, the third graders will study and create their own stations of the cross. We will display it in our classroom in preparation for Easter. The students have recently studied miracles and will also develop a project on the subject.

WRITING: Writing Roadmap has been a great tool for students to critique and assess their own writing. The 3rd graders have worked on both narrative and descriptive essays. This has helped them develop better sentence structure, brainstorm ideas and advance their spelling skills. During the next phase of Writing Roadmap, the students will be given some assignments to work on at home.

MATH:

In Math, the 3rd graders have mastered Units of Measurement and Introduction to Fractions. We used fractions in Science to determine what portions of fresh and salt water exist on earth in various locations. I am very proud of their hard work and achievement in Math. Next, we are going to study time, temperature and multiplying with regrouping.

GRAMMAR:

In Grammar, the focus has been on synonyms, antonyms, suffixes and prefixes.

FIRST IN MATH:

Jouvana Bruno has come in 3rd place in St. Peter's School. Congratulations to her! Keep up the great work and dedication.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS



GRADE 4 - MRS. BARTELS

March promises to come in like a lion and it did. Let's hope it goes out like a lamb, too. We are ready for Spring!

With the Easter Season coming to a close, I'd like to tell you about some of the special assignments the students have been working on.

*Lenten Roadmap - Each day of the week (Monday through Saturday) the students have been filling in one step on their roads making a promise to do one nice thing for themselves or others or by making some kind of little sacrifice. We have said a prayer for someone in our family, our new Pope, and even for ourselves. We've promised to say thank you to someone, given a compliment, and even promised to try to be more helpful at home.

*We are also writing 'Pretzel Prayers' and sharing our prayers with each other while munching on one of our favorite snacks, pretzels! Did you know that the shape of a pretzel was made to resemble the crossed arms of a person praying?

English - March is all about verbs : action verbs, being verbs, linking verbs, helping verbs, verb phrases, regular verbs, irregular verbs, and all the tenses that go along with it. There are also games to play - The Action Verb Game, and What Can You Do With A , there are songs to sing like 'The Being Verb Song', and so much more!

Essay - The students wrote essays about Lent defining the most important parts, the sacrifices they are *trying* to make, and the little ways they can *give back* to others.

*Operation Smiley Face is in full swing. This is our challenge for the remaining days of Lent. The goal is to bestow a compliment in order to make someone smile at least once a day. This is one little way we can give back to others. Sometimes we choose a person together, and sometimes it is our own choice. It is really satisfying to see someone smile because of our words.

*It costs nothing, but creates so much.
It happens in a flash, but its memory lasts forever.
It creates happiness in the home, and is the sign of friendship.
It is of no earthly good to anybody, until it is given away.
SMILE - and pass it on!*

Anonymous :)

I wish everyone a blessed Easter. Thank you for your wonderful children!

Mrs. Bartels



IE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 5 - MRS. BUBENIK



Happy St. Patrick's Day, we hope the month has brought you luck. March has been a busy month for us here in fifth grade with testing, projects, and class work. The students conquered their TerraNova testing and worked so hard that week. I want to share how proud I am of all of you! Good Job! Not only have the students been working hard in class they have been working hard outside of class with their projects. The latest was the Jamestown project where the students had to create a flyer to draw people to their colony. Coming soon are the students pop up tab colonial towns/plantations project; make sure you stop by and see them around the second week of April.

The students' journal work has come a long way! Below is an example of one of the students' journal entry:

If I could be a color in the rainbow, I would be.....



If I could be a color in the rainbow I would be blue, but there would be a little problem. People would think I was an Avatar. So, I thought changing my color to yellow, but at school my friends would call me SpongeBob instead of my real name. Then I thought the color green would work, but then they would say I look like Shrek. So, I decided not to be a color in the rainbow and just be my normal color.

I found a gold coin under my pillow and



I found a gold coin under my pillow and a note with it. When I looked up, I saw a person leave the room. I took my coin and went out the door. When I saw the person's hair, I knew who it was. It was Marcela! She said the gold coin was a birthday present!!



Keep up the great journal work! Overall the students are doing an amazing job with their studies, homework, projects, and being positive role models for their fellow brothers and sisters. Before I part ways in the month of March a few housekeeping reminders: have a bottle of water with you each day for the weather is getting warmer and you need to stay hydrated. A supply of pencils is a must and make sure you check your supply crate to see if you need markers or crayons replenished. Also, a chapter book is a must everyday in class (150 pages or better, no sports). I would like to thank all my parents for their continued support to our class; it is greatly appreciated. Remember as the days draw closer to our final days of school always face the sun with a smile and put your best foot forward.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 6 - MR. SAGARESE



6th grade- The student are studying the rise of Alexander the Great and his impact on the world after his creation of his empire. The students will create maps, timelines and presentations on Alexander the Great's Empire that he created. The students will also take part in a Greek Mythology tournament that will determine the champion for the year of that topic. The 6th grade also is reading the story of *The Iliad*. They have been writing summaries on each chapter and discussing the main plot of the story. They will be writing a book report in class on *The Iliad*.

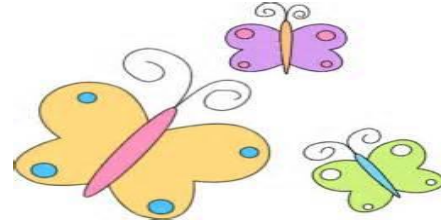
7th grade- The students are learning about the causes of the American Civil War. The students have created various propaganda posters and political cartoons on the topics. The 7th graders have read about the Compromise of 1850, Bleeding Kansas, the Dred Scott case and many other topics that led to the American Civil War. The students have also conducted speeches based on the Lincoln-Douglas debates that helped to make Abraham Lincoln a known politician. I would like to wish Andy Villamarin, Natalia Coba, Kevin Zavala and Amanda Klein the best of luck on the upcoming National History Bee contest on April 17th.

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.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 7 - MRS. VARRICCHIO



We have returned to a calmer, more even paced study of Science, Language Arts and Reading instead of the frantic pace of the Terra Nova testing. We are continuing our 7th grade Science class with the study of the Nervous System which includes the brain and the Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems, and soon we will be dissecting the sheep eye, so we will have a better understanding of how our own eye works. In Language Arts we are studying participles, gerunds and infinitives. In Reading we are learning to write our own poems.

In 6th grade we are again enjoying the study of Amusement Park Physics. The 6th graders will create their own carnival rides while learning the physics behind each one of them, including Newton's Laws of Motion. We are now engaged in practicing our own CSI script, which we will perform later this year.

The 8th graders are studying Meteorology. We will be making our own tornadoes in a bottle and figuring out what causes lightning, hurricanes and blizzards.

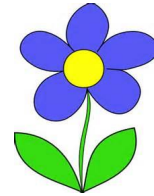
The 7th grade wishes to thank all the teachers, students and parents who supported our Ring Ceremony bake sale and bought our cupcakes, brownies, and cookies. We are also very grateful to all the parents and guardians who supplied the baked goods for our Ring sale. We, the seventh grade, appreciate all your efforts to make our celebration one that we will remember fondly. It will not be long that we will begin practicing. Our rings should be arriving soon and everyone is very excited for the upcoming ring ceremony.

Thank you in advance for your help.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 8—MRS. REESE



S - Sunshine
P ó Pretty flowers
R ó Rain
I ó Inspiring
N ó Newness
G ó Glorious

Yeah to Spring! I thought it would never come. The 8th graders and I have spring fever. However, there is still so much to do.

We have begun our last book in Religion and have already learned the Beatitudes. In Algebra we worked on transformations: reflections, translations, rotations and dilations. The students had fun graphing and moving them on a coordinate grid. Infinitives have been the topic in Language Arts.

The 8th graders will soon begin to write a 10 page research paper on World War II. They will locate many sources and take notes on index cards. Soon they will write a thesis statement and give their paper a title. The next step will be to write an outline for their paper before they begin their first draft. This activity will certainly prepare them for the many papers they will write in high school and college.

The 7th graders have finished work on proportions and will begin consumer math: percents, tax, commission, etc. Students in the 6th grade have begun ratios and proportions.

Hopefully, this will be a successful final trimester of the 2013-2014 school year!

Mrs. Reese



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

ART AND MEDIA - MISS HOFFMANN

Media



Art

St. Patrick's Day was in the air in many Art projects. Some classes created their own leprechauns, some created group rainbows and puffy clouds, and some created snakes.

The students will be working on spring crafts in the weeks to come.

Please take a look at the web site <http://www.artsonia.com/> , click on the word parent, on the left side there is a book that says FIND SCHOOL, enter St. Peter's, Belleville, NJ 07109 and click on our school to view Art Projects done this year by each grade. More will be added as we complete future projects.

After Care -

We have changed the daily schedule in After Care; here is the new schedule;

3:00-3:15 . All students meet in the Spanish Room

3:15 . 3:45 . PreK . 2nd Grade in Miss Bruzzi's Room for stories

3rd . 8th Grade in Gym

3:45 . 4:00 . All students have snack

4:00 . 4:30 . PreK . 2nd Grade Homework and Table Toys

4:00 . 5:00 - 3rd . 8th Grade Homework

4:30-6:00 . PreK . 2nd in gym and Floor Toys

5:00 -6:00 . 3rd . 8th return to gym as they finish homework.

Thank you, to all parents for picking their child/children up on time. If you need to contact the After Care Program our Cell # is 973-932-2807.

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. LAUDATI

Presidential Fitness Challenge is coming to the end. Have you child be prepared in Body & Mind.



MUSIC - Mr. Gehman

The students are starting to work on songs for the Spring concert which will be on May 14th at 7pm. We are looking forward to having another successful spring concert.

-Mr. Gehman



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

SPANISH/COMPUTERS—MS. O'SHEA

When is the warm weather going to arrive? Hopefully soon! But while we wait, the Kindergarten students took a òtripö to òLa Isla Bonitaö while they reviewed their Spanish alphabet sounds! They had a great time singing and dancing to the song and writing their vocabulary words in Spanish!

The first graders are learning how to say the òdays of the weekö in Spanish. Second grade is learning about different jobs and how to say òI am ö (òyo soyö) in Spanish.

Third grade is finishing a unit on illness vocabulary and recorded a video during which they acted out the conversation from our Muzzy DVD series!

Grade 4 is learning about our òBFFsö, tu and yo. Yo always answers tuø questions! They are also learning about Cuba and watched an awesome video online about that country!

Grade 5 is constantly challenging themselves with their verbs! They have played many games to help them practice the tenses of AR verbs and many of them have become pros!

The sixth graders are practicing their town vocabulary and their verbs ó both during Spanish class and in the Computer Lab! We canø wait to show you our òciudadö diagrams! Grade 7 is working on singular and plural tenses of various verbs while Grade 8 is learning travel vocabulary and present progressive verbs.

Computers

When the entire school community celebrated òRead Across Americaö week, we celebrated right along with them! òRead (Online) Across Americaö featured several projects that merged reading proficiency with technology skills!

The Kindergarten and first grade students chose characters from their favorite Dr. Seuss stories to illustrate using drawing software. Grades 2 and 3 read stories from the website www.magickeys.com and drew images based on what they read. Grades 4 and 5 also read stories online, but they used their word processing skills to create book reviews of their stories!

Getting back to computer application skills, Grade 6 is creating Power Point slide shows based on their Spanish òtownö vocabulary. Grade 7 created 3 tier movie reviews in Microsoft Publisher. Our eighth graders are continuing to work on their digital photography projects and are using the Paint.net application to edit their images!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL
PRESENTS ITS



ANNUAL


SPRING

FASHION SHOW

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2014

1:00 P.M.

AT THE

BETHWOOD,
TOTOWA, NJ

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW !!!

ONLY 1 WEEK LEFT...

TICKET COST: \$40.00

(PRICE INCLUDES LUNCH)

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE, RECTORY
AND AT CHURCH.

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS



THE FIRST 100 FAMILIES THAT SEND IN THEIR REGISTRATION, YOUR NAMES WILL GO INTO A DRAWING AND ONE LUCKY WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$1000.00 SCHOLARSHIP TOWARDS THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR TUITION.

YOUR REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETE WHICH REQUIRES YOUR (\$250.00 REGISTRATION FEE AND \$300.00 FUNDRAISING FEE) AND MUST BE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY APRIL 30TH TO BE ELIGIBLE. CREDIT CARDS ARE NOW ACCEPTED AT THE RECTORY FOR PAYMENTS AND REGISTRATION.

