



April 2015

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

April showers bring May flowers and thankfully, Spring! With the onset of this much awaited season, St. Peter's School enters the homestretch of the school year leaving behind the winter weather and its bleak days. Thus begins the month of May and its many marvelous events.

Our seventh graders receive their class rings in our traditional Ring Ceremony on May 1 as they begin their final year at St. Peter's School. The students in various grades will explore new places as they participate in exciting class trips to places such as the Liberty Science Center and FDR's House in New York. A special Dinner Dance for our eighth graders and their parents will be held in May as they complete their last year at St. Peter's.

The Spring Concert will showcase our talented students. One of the most anticipated events of the year is Field Day which promises to be a fun-filled day of activities. A second Pasta Night, following the success of our first dinner, will be held on May 15 and the winner of the school's 50-50 raffle will be announced.

The following lyrics sung by such famous entertainers as Judy Garland and Bing Crosby help us to welcome SPRING!

Though April showers may come your way,  
They bring the flowers that bloom in May.  
So, if it's raining, have no regrets.  
Because it isn't raining rain, you know, it's raining violets.  
And when you see clouds upon the hills,  
You soon will see crowds of daffodils,  
So keep on looking for a blue bird,  
And listening for his song,  
whenever April showers come along.



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

### ***PRESCHOOL - MS. STEEL***



This month the students have been learning all about Spring! They have done special splatter paint flowers, mosaic kites, and paint symmetry butterflies! We have been doing a lot of matching games in math where children have to hunt for pictures that are the same. Students have also been introduced to positional words and are doing well with projects that include them. We are continuing with working on rhyming words and love pointing them out in fun stories we read such as "Hop on Pop". We are always working on phonics and letters and practicing them daily.

In science we saw the changes Jell-O goes through, the students had fun learning about it and even more fun eating it! We also just received our caterpillars and the students are patiently watching them as they grow and change, and soon become butterflies. We will all release them outside as soon as their change is completed!

As the end of the year is quickly approaching the students will be practicing for our Spring concert in May as well as starting to practice for their Stepping Up Ceremony in June!

The students are also very excited for our upcoming field trip to the Science Center! As always please feel free to email me or ask about any of the upcoming events or if you have any questions.

Thanks!!



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



### ***KINDERGARTEN - MRS. TSIKITAS***

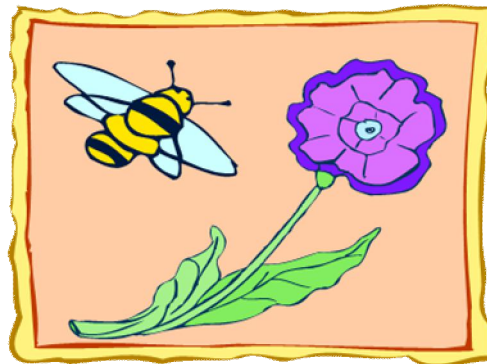
Spring has finally sprung in Kindergarten! We have been enjoying the last few days of warmer weather and have even been able to go outside and enjoy the playground. The students really enjoy playing outside and have even been looking for the different signs of Spring each time we go out.

This month in Math we have finished up working on tens and ones and have begun exploring money. The students have learned different characteristics of a penny, nickel, dime and quarter. They have also learned how much each one is worth and have begun counting money using these coins.

In Reading, we have added more high frequency words to our word wall and continue to practice fluency. We have been reviewing the many sounds we have covered this year and the students are doing a great job with reading in class. Please continue practicing with them at home. We need to work together in order for the students to excel and be where they need to be.

In Science, we have been learning about butterflies. We recently welcomed five new friends into the classroom; caterpillars. We are very excited to come in each morning and see how they are growing. We can't wait to see them in their chrysalis and then become butterflies!

I hope you all have been able to enjoy the beautiful Spring weather that we have been having. Let the children get out and run around.



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

### ***GRADE 1 - MRS. GLEASON***

Coming Down the Home Stretch!



The first graders are continuing to grow in all aspects. They have truly meshed as a community of learners!

Speaking of community, they are learning in Religion about how our various communities support us on our journey. We have studied the Ten Commandments and we are now learning how we need others to help us to continue to grow in our relationship with God. I have equated the Ten Commandments with street signs that help us to know how to drive ~ where and when to turn ~ when to beep our horn and when not to. They understand God gave us the Commandments because He wants to guide us as we ödriveö thru life.

In Math studies, we are continuing to work on subtraction, geometry, and measurement. We spent some time in the Math Lab working in pairs on measurement. The whole group really knows how to work together and I am very proud of that. They did great work! We also continue to work on the fluency of basic facts. It is such a vital component.

In Science, we are studying the weather. Science is an area that the students get very enthused about. Perhaps we have a weatherman or woman in the making!

We have learned about the basic components of Government in Social Studies. They now understand that President Obama does not just sit in the White House and watch basketball games (his favorite sport.) The duties of Congress and the Supreme Court are topics we are currently discussing.

Language Arts is an area we are working overtime on! The students are now beginning to read with some expression which is delightful to listen to! They have been working hard also on grammar and writing skills. We begin a writing lesson by writing a piece together. The enthusiasm as they are sharing their ideas is amazing! We take an idea and build on it. They share different ways to same something and then we finally write it down. It is a very interactive, fun way for them to learn how to formulate and refine their thoughts.

We celebrated Earth day On April 22<sup>nd</sup>. As they completed an Art Project on the Earth, we recalled how we can Reuse, Recycle, and Reduce. We also discussed the fact that God gave us this world and He expects us to take care of it.

Time is going very fast and I am very excited about how all of these beautiful children have grown! They are growing academically but they have also grown as children of God. They are understanding how we need to treat others and that is certainly a team effort. I thank you for continuing to support these children in their academics. They are truly amazing!

Warm Spring wishes,

Mrs. Gleason



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

### ***GRADE 2– MR. MORGESE***

Welcome to the warmer weather!



**SPRING IS HERE! SPRING IS HERE!!!!**

With the warm weather comes a new beginning. A new season of outdoor fun has arrived, and I am so excited to be celebrating the coming of a much-awaited spring! Welcome to fun in the sun. I even got my first sunburn working outside all day.

We are gearing up for our First Holy Communion. The children are all prepared spiritually and scholastically. We will be finishing up our Eucharist books soon. Notices were sent home detailing registration instructions as well as practice dates. I am confident that all notices are being read and understood.

English language arts have been a lot of fun. We have learned how to write a fiction story, and now we are on to writing our first research report. Pronouns and possessive pronouns are on the menu this unit. Good times!!!

In social studies, we will be learning all about how countries are linked by trade and transportation. I will be assigning a Lego project this month. I am so excited about this project!

We are learning all about energy and heat in science. The kids are going to have a science project in May. Keep your eyes peeled for that one. We will be going to the Liberty Science Center for our class trip. I would love to have parents attend. Please look for permission slips; they will be sent home soon. Thanks, in advance, for your help!!!

When it comes to math, my students ROCK OUT to time and money concepts. I am SO proud of how well the kids did. We will be moving on to fractions and probability right after.

I do hope you are getting out and enjoying the much-needed sun.

See you on the beach!



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

### ***GRADE 3– MS. TIGHE***



In this third trimester, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have shown improvement in all areas of study. I am especially happy with their writing skills. They show a great deal of enthusiasm and seem to really enjoy telling a story.

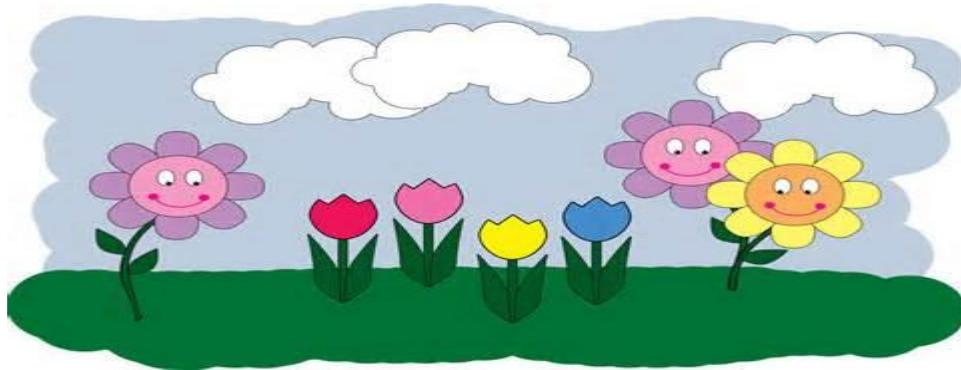
In Math, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have enjoyed beginning, Geometrical Shapes. They have done a phenomenal job telling time and using measurement. Now we are conquering triangles, lines, and polygons. I can tell that this is something that they will appreciate doing every day.

In Language Arts we have mastered adjectives. Next, we move on to adverbs. We have also learned how to do use sensory words in our writing. This has improved our writing a great deal. We are writing poetry and informational essays. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are also taking time to help the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders with the editing process. This is exciting for our group. We continue to practice weekly using the Writing Roadmap program.

Our Science projects for Earth Day were Recycled Robots. We have displayed them outside of the classroom and received so many terrific compliments. I am very proud of the amount of work the children put into this assignment. They are just amazing! In Social Studies we are focused on Economics. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders learned about the history of coins and paper currency. We also made clay replicas with our own designs on each coin. We have learned how to budget money and make important choices with spending.

I am so proud of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade group! I also want to thank the parents for their continued support. Happy Spring!

Ms. Tighe



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 4 - MRS. BARTELS



#### 4th Grade News

What a special time of year April is! The sun is shining, flowers are blooming (and so are the allergies and sniffles), the weather is warming up, and we can finally go outside for recess!

##### Social Studies -

We are learning the history of New Jersey, its settlements, leaders, and European cultures that influenced their way of life. Did you know that, because of cultural differences, New Jersey was once split in half - East Jersey and West Jersey? We are currently learning about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution (ask to hear our song!)

The Revolutionary War is about to begin!

##### Reading -

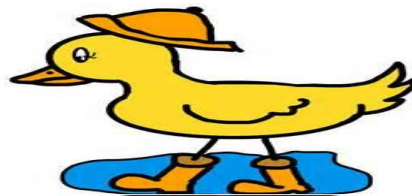
Both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have begun a new unit in reading. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade unit is about works of fiction, fantasy, and fables. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade unit contains several nonfiction selections about our country's heroes, both past and present. The reading strategies in this unit focus on using context clues, making inferences, and drawing conclusions about the author's purpose for writing the selections.

##### Writing -

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades completed their Personal Narrative Essays - my favorite genre! The assignment was to choose an event in their life that had a special meaning. It is always so touching to read about their personal accounts of the day their baby sister or brother was born, a special day spent with a grandparent, their First Holy Communion, their first pet, or the day they made (or lost) a friend. It is wonderful to hear how important the family is to them. Their writing has improved dramatically! I am so proud of them!

##### Religion -

The next several units are about the 7 Sacraments - Communion, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Holy Orders, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick.



## IE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 5 - MRS. BUBENIK



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 Spring Concert is on May 6th @ 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. Next, Field Day is on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Remember to dress appropriately for Field Day and have the proper footwear to avoid getting injured. Don't forget to bring a snack and no glass bottles, please.

The students continue to flourish with their journal writing and their artistic ability. I would like to give a big thumbs up and congratulations to Bianca Diaz for being one of the ten finalists in the St. Patrick's Day Poster Contest.



I would also like to highlight an artistic piece Elena Nunez did in her down time between her studies. She does beautiful work and should be very proud!

Keep up the great work!! Also, displayed in our hallway is the students' creative work in Social Studies where they had to recreate a colonial town or a plantation with pop-up information tabs. Also, on display is the students' Science Pyramid Project. The projects were 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 affect now so remember to dress correctly. Finally, our school as a whole is doing well in First in Math and I want to encourage everyone to keep up the hard work.



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 6 - MR. SAGARESE



6<sup>th</sup> grade- The students will learn about the various historical and cultural achievements that were made during the Roman Empire and Republic. The students will be able to understand the similarities and differences between the American and Roman forms of government. 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.

7<sup>th</sup> grade- The students are studying the American Civil War. They are learning about the new weapons and gear of a Civil War soldier. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is also learning about the important battles of the war that led to huge casualty rates that surpass any war in American history. The students also will be analyzing and evaluating the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg address in class. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade also has completed several maps dealing with the battles and their locations as well. They will be creating a diorama of a battle that occurred during the American Civil War as a project.

8<sup>th</sup> 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 will also be working on an assignment dealing with the major concentration camps that led to the deaths of millions. The eighth grade students are working on a ten page research paper on various topics of World War II.

Wishing U A  
HAPPY SPRING!



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

### ***GRADE 7 - MRS. PINTO***

The number of school days in April were few, but much was accomplished before and after the well deserved and appreciated break.

The seventh graders presented and led the third through eighth grades in a traditional Stations of the Cross which included meditative music. Thanks go out to three sixth graders (Marcela, Angelo, and Brianna) who provided their altar serving expertise on that day. We hope this helped the students to focus on what Jesus did out of LOVE for us.

In Language Arts, we finished listening to an audio version of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and then watched the movie. The students then wrote how the story connected with our Lenten journey in either a parable or by drawing parallels between the two. I think this helped the students make some wonderful and powerful connections between Literature and our Faith. We finished up our study of Verbs and have moved on to Adverbs. Writing Roadmap continues to be a challenge to achieve that allusive "Perfect 6" across the board.

The Science classes worked on a second "Shortcuts" project for the year, but this time around they worked alone, not in groups. The projects adorn the upstairs hallway as well as the walls of my classroom. Congratulations on some truly fabulous work! In a few more weeks we will be reviewing for final exams.

May 1st is quickly approaching and all 14 seventh graders are counting the days to their Ring Ceremony!  
Soon they will be sporting a shiny representation of what the next school year will bring for them.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter Recess. We are now in the home stretch of this school year...so hold on tight...it will be fast and furious and over before we know it!

God Bless the St. Peter School community,  
Mrs. Pinto



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 8—MRS. REESE



It's hard to believe it's almost May. This year has flown by. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are finishing Unit 1 in their second Religion book. They are studying relations and functions in Pre-algebra. In Language Arts the students are finishing their study of the parts of speech and are still writing essays using Writing Roadmap. The children are finishing *The Diary of Anne Frank* in Literature as well as writing a research paper on a World War II topic for both Social Studies and Language Arts. As you can see, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are very busy!

Please remember the following dates: May 6 ó Spring Concert, May 8 ó Field Day, May 12 ó class trip to Chelsea Piers, May 21 ó Dinner Dance, Graduation ó June 5.

Exams for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade begin on May 18. A list of dates and study guides will be given to the students soon.

Grade 7 Math ó These students are studying probability and are having fun rolling dice, spinning wheels and finding the odds in favor and against an event happening.

Grade 6 Math ó The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are beginning their study of integers (positive and negative numbers).



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. LAUDATI



Gymô Physical Education: Learn with Body & Mind together

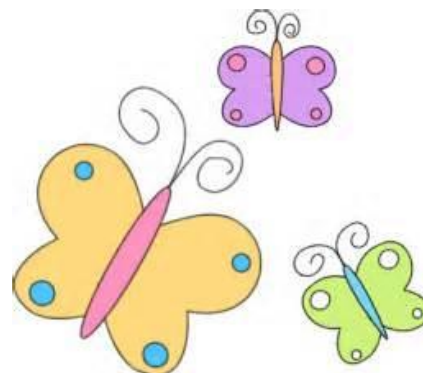
Respect: òGive It, Get Itö  
Grades 3-8

Presidential Fitness Challenge

Some of the activities include Free Throws, Standing Long Jump, and Shuttle Run.

### MUSIC - Mr. Gehman

Music- The students are having a great time preparing songs from different cultures for the spring concert in May. The concert will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at 7pm in the school gym.



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### SPANISH/COMPUTERS—MS. O'SHEA



#### Spanish

April was a quick, but fun-filled month at St. Peter's School! We've learned so much in a short period of time!

In keeping with our Middle States theme (butterflies), the Kindergarten students learned how to say butterfly (mariposa) in Spanish as part of their Spanish alphabet unit! They painted beautiful mariposas to hang up during our special week!

First grade is learning about different animals and how to identify them in Spanish. The second graders learned all about spring (Primavera) and practiced their Spanish reading skills by reciting a prayer about spring.

Third grade has learned many new things including how to make singular nouns plural in Spanish. The fourth grade is still practicing the verb ser. They also read about Peru and watched a movie about that country. If any Grade 4 families would like to bring in items from Peru (or come in and speak to the students) on either Thursday, April 30 or Thursday May 7, please let me know!

Grade 5 has expanded on an at home unit and can now identify items in the home (as well as the rooms in which those items are used!) The sixth grade is learning how to express possession in Spanish and is having lots of fun with the unit!

Grade 7 just finished up a unit on home as well and is moving into a unit on items at school (along with verbs/ infinitives). Our eighth graders recently began their final Spanish project or a group project on Spanish-speaking countries, cultures, etc. They may ask you a few questions about your heritage to include with their research! We're looking forward to seeing their presentations at the end of May!

#### Computers

We're having lots of fun in the Computer Lab! We spent lots of time enhancing our skills while learning and preparing for our Middle States visit.

We thought that since our Middle States theme involved butterflies, we should learn more about butterflies in the Computer Lab! Third grade did an Internet research project on butterflies, while the fifth graders sorted butterflies by color in Microsoft Excel! Our second graders practiced their word processing skills by pasting pictures into a document and writing sentences about them! So much fun! Our first graders listened to an online story about a butterfly and then drew their own interpretation using drawing skills! Our Kindergarteners drew their very own butterfly pictures on the computer and they came out great! Grade 4 wrote original stories in Microsoft Word about the butterfly that came to Belleville and this activity allowed them to practice using spell check!

The upper grade students are working hard as well! Get ready to attend Grade 6's party or they are creating budgets in Microsoft Excel for a party that they are hosting and they only have \$250 to spend! Let's see if they can budget for a great party on that amount! Grade 7 is using Microsoft Publisher to design their own iPhone skins! Our eighth graders are working on two technology-based projects. They are learning about digital photography; how to take pictures, upload them from a camera, edit and insert them into documents. They are also using their technology skills to come up with the best way to present their Spanish cultural projects (some of the ideas include digital images/video, Power Point presentations and Microsoft Publisher booklets.)

## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

*St. Peter School  
It's Time To Purchase Your Tickets.*

*Pasta*



*Family Pasta Night  
Friday, May 15, 2015  
School Cafeteria  
6:00 PM*

*Cost  
\$10.00 per Adult  
\$5.00 per Child*



*Join us for a night of good food and fun  
Complete form below and send to school office no later than  
May 8, 2015*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## *AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS*

# **Attention All Parents**

Help Support Our Last Fundraiser For  
The School Year.



# **St. Peter School 50/50 Cash Raffle**

Contact The School Office To  
Purchaseí .

\$10.00 A Ticket Or

\$50.00 For A Book Of 5

Drawing Will Be Held Friday, May  
15th @ The Family Pasta Night.

School Cafeteria at 6:00 PM

