

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



November 2015

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Thanksgiving is a holiday, distinctly American, born out of the hardships endured by a courageous group of colonists seeking religious freedom in the New World. This hardy band of pioneers decided to celebrate the harvest by sharing with the Native Americans and giving thanks to God. In a similar way our Catholic faith teaches us to respect, share and help others. Our classes are putting faith into action by participating in a school-wide food drive to benefit those in need. Many thanks to the students and their families for their generosity and for caring.

Our student body will be participating in a Thanksgiving prayer service on Wednesday, November 25. St. Peter's school community recognizes the importance of helping others and giving thanks and praise to the Lord for His many gifts.

At this time of the year I would like to express my thanks to all those who helped to make this year's Tricky Tray a success. As you know, this is the school's biggest fundraiser and it helps to defray a few of the many costs of operating our school which tuition and fees do not fund. I thank the school staff and their families, the parents and students of St. Joseph High School, Montvale and the St. Peter's parents who helped with the mailing, picked up gifts, donated, wrapped, helped with the delivery and setup of the more than two hundred and forty gifts and worked the night of the Tricky Tray selling tickets, calling, and acting as runners. Thank you to the organizations and businesses who donated so generously. Thank you to the parishioners. Thank you Father Ivan and Father Wojciech, two of our staunchest supporters.

The Tricky Tray takes many, many months of planning and hard work. I strongly encourage more of the St. Peter School community to join us in events such as this and to share your time and talent. Ultimately the students of St. Peter School reap the benefits. Isn't that what our Catholic School is all about-the children? May St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, bless you during this holiday season. Wishing all a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

öLet us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.ö Theodore Roosevelt



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL - Ms. Hoffmann



It's hard to believe the First Trimester of 2015-2016 has come to a close. The students in PreK-3 have adjusted beautifully to the school setting. It's great to see them arrive in the gym each morning ready for another day of "Lots of learning, lots of fun". Thank you, parents for sharing your child with me each day.

Phonics: During the First Trimester we have covered the following letters (Aa, Tt, Nn, Pp, Ff, Hh, Vv). In PreK-3 we are beginning to learn the names of the letters and the sound each letter makes. We are also beginning to learn how to trace each letter. We have colored pictures of many objects beginning with each letter.

Math: During the First Trimester we have worked on sorting by color and size. We have also begun to count 1-10 objects in a group. Next we will be starting to put the number, with the number word, and counting the number of objects. Example (5 - five - #####).

Social Studies: During the First Trimester we have begun learning about the Community we live in and Community Workers. We have also begun learning about the American traditions of Thanksgiving.

Science: During the First Trimester we have been learning about the Fall season. We have had fun exploring leaves, acorns, and pumpkins.

A gentle reminder; please put your child's name on everything. Also your child needs to wear their uniform sweatshirt each day. Also, your child must wear sneakers everyday to school.

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



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PRESCHOOL - Ms. Novello



Wow! Three months of being in school has really flown by!! The children are eager to learn, explore, and have fun everyday!

In English Language Arts (ELA) we have covered the letters Xx, Vv, Nn, and Tt. The students are beginning to recognize the letters and their sounds. Pre-K 4 has Phonics twice a week. They also do reading and handwriting throughout the week. We start everyday by singing our 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 master our shapes and colors. We practice our counting, numbers 1-20, and identifying them in Morning Meeting. We have also been using dice to practice counting and identifying the numbers.

In Social Studies we have talked about Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. For Veteran's Day we had a special guest come to our classroom, former Lt. Col. Novello. He talked to us about what it means to be a Veteran, what his job was in the military, and he even showed us his tool belt and the jacket he wore in Iraq. We have also learned about the first Thanksgiving. We talked about the Pilgrims and how they arrived on the Mayflower. As a class we also discussed who the Native Indians were, and how they helped the Pilgrims grow food.

In Religion we have been focusing on the Six Days of Creation, and how God made everything good. We are learning about the days one at a time and appreciating everything God gave us.

Just a reminder, each day we read stories in Pre K-4. If possible please read to your child at home whenever you have time. If you would like to borrow a book from school to read we can arrange it. Thank you for sharing your child with me each day. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at anytime.

-Ms. Novello

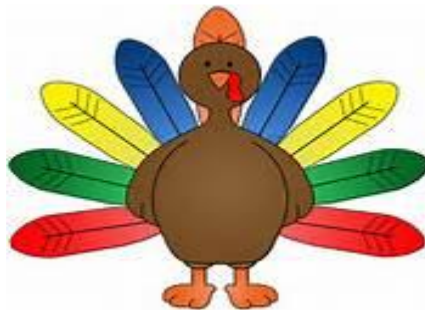


AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

KINDERGARTEN - Ms. McMillan



Can you believe we have completed over fifty days of school? This month in math kindergarten has been working with 3-D shapes and how they roll, slide, and stack. Soon we will be learning about patterns. In reading we continue to learn new sight words and enjoy reading sight word books. Religion and Social Studies have allowed us to explore families and how they are alike and different. Also in Religion, kindergarteners have been learning about how they can show their love for God and others. We are looking forward to seeing what Miss McMillan has planned for December. Hope you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 1 - Mrs. Tsikitas



Happy Thanksgiving from 1st Grade!

This month has been one in which we took a lot of time thinking about all of the things we have to be thankful for. We all got to share why we are thankful for what we have as well as to reflect on the traditions we share with our loving families on Thanksgiving. I am so thankful to be a part of the St. Peter family, and am most thankful for being part of your children's lives!

In Math, we have finished up addition and have begun subtraction. The students seem to be enjoying it so far and have not had any problems transitioning to it. Math seems to be one of the more favorite subjects in class. Please remember to have your children complete First in Math daily as it helps strengthen these basic skills.

In Science we have been learning about habitats and all of the things plants and animals get from their habitats in order to survive. We also learned about living and nonliving things. The students absolutely love Science and are really enjoying it!

In Religion we have been learning about how God gave his only Son for us. We have also been talking about the importance of the Holy Spirit as well as the Holy Trinity. Our conversations have been very interesting and engaging for all.

In Language Arts, we have been learning about different types of sentences, nouns, plural nouns, capitalization and punctuation. We have also been working on blends and short vowels. The students have also been learning about plot, characters, main idea and details and setting in stories. They also know that stories must have a beginning, middle and end to make sense.

November has definitely been busy! We will continue working on all of these skills and topics as well as learning new topics in the coming weeks. I have no doubt your children will be able to tackle whatever we come across.

As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at kerrysclass@aol.com.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you find time to reflect on what you have to be thankful for as well as time to spend with those close to you.

AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 2– Mr. Morgese



Well, November is finally upon us! And, you know what that means?!?! Giving thanks, cooking turkey, and getting ready for the snow! At this time of the year, let us keep in mind those in need. Thanks to your help, and the help of the entire school, we raised \$158 for the Mission Society. Please, keep sending in your spare change. Let's double that amount this month. With that said

In math, we are moving on to place value. The kids rocked out in addition and subtraction, and we will be memorizing our addition and subtraction facts. Keep drilling at home, too. If you need another fact sheet I can send home another.

In ELA, we will be learning how to write a story complete with fictional characters and settings. We will be learning all about different kinds of nouns. I will also be starting a Terra Nova preparation workbook with the kids. I will make copies of worksheets, which will be kept in a folder the kids can take home.

I am IN LOVE with the social studies projects the kids did. Bravo! They did such a good job! In unit two, we will be learning all about our Earth. This is a fun unit!

I will be bringing the kids up to the science lab to learn about how yeast is a living organism. We will be using my bread machine as well. The kids LOVE an experiment they can eat! LOL

In Religion, we are learning all about Jesus and how he was born. Also, we will be beginning our next book, preparing us for first Penance and Reconciliation. I will require that the children learn and memorize the Act of Contrition. Please practice at home. If you have not yet registered for Communion, please call the rectory. First Penance is Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 11 AM at the church. First Holy Communion is Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 11 AM at the church. **You must still contact the rectory to confirm your place.**

Well, welcome to fall. The snow will soon fall, and we will be ready for a nice, long winter. I am very happy with the kids. They are well adjusted and polite! And, of course, they are getting to know the second grade mascot, STELLA!!! She always has a way of working her way into my classroom's curriculum.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Hugs,
Mister D and Stella the Bulldog!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 3– Ms. Tighe



Happy Thanksgiving! We have reached the end of the first trimester and are looking forward to the challenging work ahead.

Math: The 3rd graders did an excellent job with regrouping and problem solving using addition and subtraction. They seem very excited about First in Math. This has improved their competitive skills and challenged their mathematical skills as well. Please encourage them to play daily. Our number one player for the past three months has been, Tobi Kolawole.

Reading: This trimester we have read Historical Fiction, Legend, Biography, Fantasy and Fiction writing. The 3rd graders have written narrative, persuasive, and expository essays. They are using critical thinking, and are developing great writing and editing skills as a result.

Social Studies: The students were asked to complete **%Big City Projects+.** They thoroughly enjoyed this project and loved sharing the information with their classmates.

Science: The 3rd grade did exceptionally well creating food chain diagrams. They seemed to have fun and learned a lot about animals and animal environments. They also learned about healthy food choices and counted their calorie intake. We were very happy with the results.

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.

Ms Tighe



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 4 - Mrs. Bartels



What an amazing class trip we had to Picatinny Arsenal!!

Thank you so much to Mr. Olaverri, Kristian's dad, for being our special tour guide.

We learned so much about how science, math, and technology work to help defend our country. I think we all agreed that this was the best trip ever!

Religion - The students are continuing to read passages in the Bible and learning about the various sections. This month many of our readings came from the Book of Genesis. We read all about Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden, and the Original Sin.

As the Christmas season quickly approaches, our studies will revolve around the birth of Jesus and his last days on Earth.

Reading - Grade 4

We just completed Unit 2 of our literature series. This unit concentrated on the author's purpose (to inform, to entertain, to persuade), stating the main idea and supporting it with story details, comparing and contrasting characters, and cause and effect.

We also finished reading our classroom novel, *Frindle*.

Reading - Grade 5

The students have been working in Unit 2 of our Literature series in reading groups. They are setting their own pace while working cooperatively within their small group. This unit contains stories about robots, hurricanes, microscopic creatures, and hot air balloons.

In addition to their regular Literature books, we have been reading (and have almost completed) the classroom novel, *The Egypt Game*. The novel touches on the themes of friendship, family, and abandonment.

Essay

The 5th grade students have been in the computer lab using the new i-Criterion writing program. They are given a prompt and then type their essay directly onto the computer. When they are finished, they click on the i-score link and it *immediately* grades their essay! The program also lists their strengths and weaknesses and gives them tips on ways to improve their writing. They can then go back to their essay for editing and put those helpful hints to use - this is such an important writing skill to acquire.

Next week the 4th grade students will begin their work on i-Criterion!

Social Studies

The students have been learning about our country, the United States of America. We are learning about the climate, agriculture, land forms, tourist attractions, and special features of the 5 U.S. regions. The names and capitals of all 50 states are quite a challenge!

Happy Thanksgiving !



IE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 5 - Mrs. Bubenik



It has been an exciting and busy few weeks between Halloween, studying and the students creating their projects. I would like to give a big thumbs up to everyone for their support to their children with their school work and maintaining they stay on task.

The students did an amazing job on their social studies projects; The Tree of Peace. It is always wonderful to see the students' creative outlook on something. Keep up the good work! In math, the students are working with fractions. Please have your child practice on First In Math each night and practice their multiplication facts for it is imperative that they have a solid grasp on them especially because we are working with fractions. Utilizing the different suggested math tools will only help your student excel in math. Overall the students are working hard and making great strides each day.

In journal writing the students are starting to come out of their shell in their writing being able to express their thoughts and feelings more clearly. I would like to share an excerpt from one of the fifth grade students' journal.

Do you accept yourself as you are or would you like to be someone different?

I accept myself because that is how God made me. He wanted me to be who I am and I love me. I love how I look because I am beautiful just how I am. I love being me and don't care you if you don't like me because I love me.

Keep up the great journal writing, I thoroughly enjoy reading your thoughts and feelings about various topics. Overall, the students are working hard and doing a great job in class.

We would like to thank our class mothers for a great Halloween party! Also, thank you everyone for your support whether buying a ticket or donating a basket for the Tricky Tray. We are very appreciative of your support towards the school. As we close out November I would like to wish my students and their families a wonderful Thanksgiving. Enjoy your time with loved ones and have a blessed holiday with one another.

Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter
of the night, For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 6 - MR. SAGARESE



6th grade S.S.- The students are studying the current troubles being caused by Isis. The students researched information on the groups spread into Iraq and Syria. The students will come up with ways our country would be able to stop the spread of ISIS. The students will be studying the cultural and historical aspects of Ancient India in upcoming weeks. They will be conducting a debate between Pakistan and India over the region of Kashmir. They will represent one of the countries involved in the conflict and conduct research in order to successfully explain their reasoning on keeping the region of Kashmir.

7th grade S.S.- The students are studying information on the creation of the American Constitution. The students have learned about the issues caused by the Articles of Confederation. They paired up with their classmates and created propaganda posters in order to improve the deficiencies of the Articles of Confederation. The students also have been assigned to groups and will teach their classmates the powers of the government under the American Constitution. They also will be creating and conducting speeches as a member of the first political parties that existed in the United States.

8th grade S.S.-The students will be studying the pull and push factors of Immigration to the United States. They will learn about the process of Immigration through Ellis Island, the struggle that Immigrants faced living in tenement buildings, and the new culture that was created by Immigrants living within our nation. The students will create political cartoons dealing with the harsh conditions that Immigrants had to face upon arrival to America.



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 7 - Ms. Kennedy



The days are soaring by while our students work hard towards achieving new academic goals and utilizing creativity. This past month, our scientists participated in an activity that gave them the opportunity to share their insights about what is going on in the world of science today. After gathering their research and creating informational brochures, students met in our classroom to discuss their topics with their peers. The room was buzzing with news such as finding water on Mars to the creation of robotic dogs. Great job scientists!

The students have also been working on their in-class science project. We recently learned about the measure of density and Archimedes' principle of displacement. The students were instructed to design and build a ship that would not only float in water but also be able to hold a certain amount of cargo. Additionally, each group of students utilized their writing skills to generate a story about their voyage on the ship. The laboratory has turned into our design room and the students worked diligently each week to see their designs come to life.

7th grade science is currently focusing on heredity. We have already explored our DNA cheek cells under a microscope, but now students further understand the role of DNA and how we inherit different traits. Our favorite *Scholastic Study Jams* videos explained in detail about eye color and the difference between dominant and recessive traits. In reading class, we read a personal essay about an African American man who traced back his family's history to the years of slavery. The students were then asked to become journalists and interview their own relatives to learn more about their family's past.

In 6th grade science, the students are exploring the Periodic Table and becoming familiar with element names. Students can now identify parts of an atom and explain how atomic numbers help us to classify elements. One of their favorite labs this month was making Elephant's Toothpaste! This lab allowed the students to see a chemical reaction occur from mixing different elements.

In 8th grade, the students are rocking and rolling while exploring the formation and classification of rocks and minerals. Students learned how igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks are formed. During one of our labs, we created crystal gardens from everyday minerals. Students dissolved the minerals in water and let the water evaporate over a week. As a result, they saw the crystals form and used a microscope to see them up close.

This month our 7th grade class has been talking a lot about kindness, appreciation, and giving thanks to others. We organized a Thank You Gram sale to help raise money for the Ring Ceremony. Students were able to purchase a Thank You Gram that included a thank you note and small treat. It was so great to see students from every grade level take the time to write a note thanking someone who has helped or inspired them. We want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you enjoy the time off with family and friends!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

GRADE 8—MRS. REESE



Happy Thanksgiving to all! May God bless you and your family.

First of all, the 8th graders are very glad the COOP test is over! Now we just need to wait for the results.

The students have been very busy learning about prayer in Religion. The boys and girls are also studying ACRE words for a Religion evaluation later this year. They have been solving multistep equations in Algebra, even changing a repeating decimal into an approximate fraction. What fun! Pronouns have been their course of study in Grammar and the 8th graders are showing their creativity by writing a poem. Odes, haikus, elegies, sonnets and concrete poems fill the air in 8th grade.

GRADE 7: The students in grade 7 are also solving equations in Math class. They are reviewing the properties of addition and multiplication and are learning new ones: the Properties of Equality.

GRADE 6: The 6th graders are finishing their study of division and are learning about algebraic expressions as well. I am also very happy that they have been the Team of the Week 7 times so far this year. Keep up the good work!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. LAUDATI

Gymô Physical Education learn with Body & Mind together

Respect: õGive It, Get Itö

Presidential Fitness Challenge
Begins Now Grades 3-8

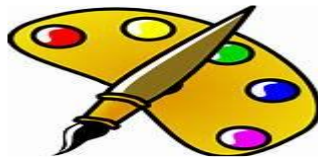


MUSIC - Mr. Gehman



The Middle School students have been enjoying learning about opera and musical theater. The younger students are currently learning about notes, rhythms, and the basic elements of music. We are looking forward to the Christmas concert on Dec. 9.

ART—Mr. Villamiel



Hello everyone! Just like September and October, 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 Safe and Happy Thanksgiving with your loved ones!
Mr. V

***Happy
Thanksgiving***



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

SPANISH/COMPUTERS—MS. O'SHEA



We are preparing to say *¡Gracias!* for all of the amazing things that are happening in our Spanish classes! Our Kindergartners are learning their color vocabulary and colored their *pavos* (turkeys) to perfection!

Grade 1 is learning how to say the words for our classroom items in Spanish. Check out their cut-out/matching activity (posted outside the Spanish room.) The second graders learned place setting vocabulary in Spanish through the use of the SMART board and special *place settings* that they created! They are more than ready to set those Thanksgiving dinner tables!

Third grade is now learning simple action verbs in Spanish and will record a video of themselves acting out their verbs in December!

Our fourth graders used the Computer Lab during Spanish class recently to learn to translate the different times of the day in Spanish (to go along with their textbook unit!) They had a great time doing this lesson!

Grade 5 finished their unit on family vocabulary by creating beautiful *family trees* in Spanish. We can't wait to display them for you to see!

Our middle school students are still working on a new approach to group work! Students in each class (Grades 6-7) are working in teams to see which *team* scores the most points (answers the most questions correctly.) Congrats to the Grade 6 winners (Shadow Bolts and DaBoss) and the Grade 7 winner (Warriors!) Can't wait to see who wins for December! Our eighth graders are working in groups as well and are doing a great job on classwork, as well as their weekly homework assignments!

As always, check the blog for updates on quizzes and homework!

Computers

Students are having a great time sharpening their computer skills while using those skills to enhance their classroom learning!

The Kindergartners practiced beginning typing skills on abcya.com's *Cup Stack Typing* game and the first graders practiced using Microsoft Word to type their Spanish classroom vocabulary words!

Our students in Grades 2-4 are thankful for *Microsoft Word* as well! The second graders typed friendly letters of thanks. The third graders created acrostic poems about Thanksgiving in Word. Grade 4 learned how to *drop cap* in Word during a Thanksgiving story starter activity.

The fifth graders used their Spanish family vocabulary to create slide shows depicting different famous families!

Grades 6 and 7 have been experimenting with using a different type of technology. They are working with Spheros, which are robotic balls controlled by an iPad app. Through this app, you can direct the Sphero to move different directions. They will soon be writing their own formulas and using some STEM skills to integrate these objects into their Science and Math curriculums!

Our eighth graders recently created some amazing web pages using Microsoft Word. They will continue to enhance their pages using hyperlinks, bookmarks and animated images and we are preparing to use a rubric to *self-assess* our work! Is your webpage one that we would go to, or would we hit the back button right away? Can't wait to see the results!



AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

AFTERCARE



St. Peter's School offers After Care most days from 3:00-6:00pm.
The daily schedule is as follows:

3:00-3:10 ó Students arrive in the Spanish Classroom.

3:10-3:25 ó Students can have a snack of Animal Crackers and Apple Juice supplied by the school. Or they may bring their own snack. There is **NO SODA or Candy allowed.**

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

3:25-6:00 ó 1st grade ó 8th grade does homework in the Spanish Room with Ms. Hoffmann. As the students finish their homework they move to the Gym with Mr. Laudati. After students have completed homework Ms. Hoffmann joins Mr. Laudati and the other students in the Gym.

All children must be picked up by 6:00. All children must be signed out by an adult.

All students in 1st - 8th are encouraged to do their homework in After Care. All students may have a school snack of Animal Crackers and Capri Sun Apple Juice, or they may bring their own snack. If your child is bringing snack please remember we are a peanut free school. Also no candy or soda is allowed. Please remind your child to take care of their belongings, After Care can not be responsible for lost or misplaced items. Also no student may use their cell phone in After Care. If you need to call the After Care Program our cell phone number is 973-932-2807.

