



September 2013

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The school year is now in full swing. Our annual Back to School Night was a great opportunity for you, our parents, to meet your children's teachers and learn about the expectations in the new school year. Our new eighth grade animated our first First Friday mass starting the new school year off in a special and faith-filled way. The eighth grade students are already preparing to take the COOP exam in preparation for entrance into the Catholic High Schools.

We welcomed more than thirty new students to our school as well as several new teachers. Mrs. Tsikitas is our new Kindergarten teacher and Ms. Lindsey Steel will be teaching our littlest angels, the preschoolers. Ms. Tighe, who has been teaching computers here for the past two years, is now our third grade teacher. Ms. O'Shea, our Spanish teacher, will also be teaching computer classes. We are happy to have all our new students, their families and our new teachers join the St. Peter's School family.

Our Home and School Association is hard at work preparing for our annual Tricky Tray which will be held on November 21, 2013 at The Chandelier in Belleville. Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered to help. However, we are still in need of more volunteers and donations. This is an important event for the school and we need participation from all our families. It is always a fun night. I hope to see you there!

When I began teaching, one of my mentors introduced me to a poem which I always return to to read and use again as it beautifully illustrates the relationship between home and school.

### Unity

I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher-the tools that were used  
Were books, music, and art.  
The other, a parent, worked with a guiding hand  
And a gentle, loving heart.  
Day after day, the teacher toiled with touch  
That was deft and sure.  
While the parent labored close nearby  
And polished and smoothed it over,  
And when their task was done,  
They were proud of what they had wrought  
For the things they had molded into a child  
Could neither be sold or bought.  
And each agree they would have failed  
If each had worked alone  
For behind the parents stood the school  
And behind the teacher stood the home.



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



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

September was a month of welcoming our friends and learning all about each other! We are getting into our morning routine of circle time fun where we discuss the calendar and dress our special frog for the weather.

Our friends are learning new songs about the days of the week and silly songs about dinosaurs that we can dance to. We are learning how to follow directions and a daily routine each day. We have incorporated religion and God into our daily lessons and are focusing on how to be a good friend to each other.

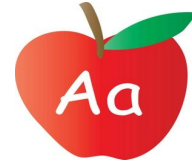
The children have enjoyed center time where different toys and puzzle options are given to them to choose from each day. In October we are looking forward to going to church on Friday the 4th! This month we will be focusing on learning all about the season of Fall!

Please don't forget to check your children's folders daily for important papers and information, Thanks! :)



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

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



September has been such an amazing month in our class. We are all getting to know each other and become familiar with our new routines and new classroom. Everyone seems to love coming to school, and that makes me very excited! I was truly blessed with an amazing class this year! I couldn't have asked for a better group of students or parents to spend this year with! I am looking forward to a fun-filled, successful year!

We are off to a great start with exploring all the subjects we will be covering this year! The students have been exposed to so much already and have been very eager about it. We have been working on several letters and their sounds as well as a few new sight words. We have also worked on sorting skills in Math. Students have been learning how to sort by color, size and shape. In Science, we have been working on living and non-living things, and the kids love it! I am looking forward to introducing many more important skills and working with my students to achieve them.

Please be sure to send in all of the supplies from the list as soon as possible. I am still waiting for several students to bring in the plastic pencil boxes to keep all of their supplies in. Some students still need to bring in their scissors as well.

Please remember to send in two healthy snacks each day for your child! I have noticed that several students are not eating much at lunch time, so they are depending on their snacks to carry them through the day.

Thank you all so much for an amazing month! Please remember I am only an email or phone call away! Please feel free to reach out to me for anything at all.



## AROUND THE SCHOOL NEWS

### GRADE 1 - MISS BRUZZI



*Today I hurry off to school  
To work and learn and play  
I'm in a brand new grade this year.  
What a happy day !*

*Welcome back to a new school year! Your child will be learning and developing the skills necessary for development at this age. Concepts of addition, subtraction, reading, writing sentences and improving our vocabulary will be opening a new world for your child.*

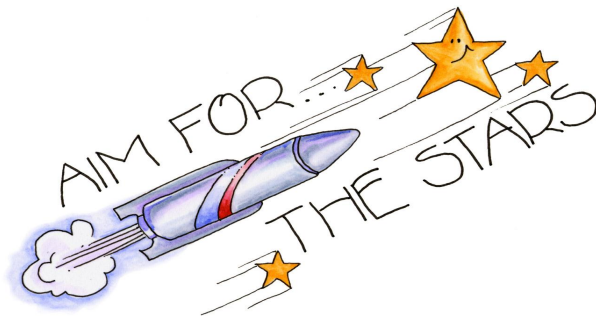
*Be sure that your child's name is on all parts of his/her gym uniform as well as their school uniform. Snack time is once a day, so please send a small healthy snack each day with your child. No soda is allowed. Remember to send a bottle of water with your child each day along with the red folder for communication.*

*Each week your child's spelling words will be placed on our school blog as well as in their homework pad/spelling packet.*

*The school year will be packed with exciting activities and we are all looking forward to working hard, developing our skills, and forming closer bonds within our new classroom. If you need to speak with me, please make an appointment with the office.*

*Remember to be in the gym no later than 8:00 a.m. each day. Any child coming to class after that will be marked late.*

*Once again "Welcome Back to School".*



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

### ***GRADE 2– MR. MORGESE***

Welcome to the second grade!

I am so happy to have your child in my class. This year we will be working very hard on many different topics. Aside from that, I will be teaching children structure as well as discipline, all the while having fun, of course.

I want to say that it will be my honor and privilege to prepare your child for his or her First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. I will be working with Mrs. Melillo to try and ensure that our class has theirs on the same day. If you have any questions please see me. I will be preparing them on the scholastic side while Mrs. Melillo will be preparing them for church.

Terra Novas are a big part of our year. With that said, I will be preparing your child for these exams.

Please remember to work on homework for, at least, 30 to 40 minutes per night.

We will have a book report every month. I will assign a variety of projects outside of typical writing assignments. More to come soon.

Remember to check the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade blog daily for homework, spelling lists, and all things second grade!

Welcome to the mix,

Mr. D



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

### ***GRADE 3– MS. TIGHE***

Welcome Back! I feel both honored and blessed to be the new third grade teacher at St Peter's School. We started the school year presenting our summer book reports. The students created posters, personal book covers, dioramas and memory bags. They did an amazing job!

We start off this school year learning about world communities and our own special community here in Belleville for Social Studies. This week, we research the four stages of metamorphosis in the life cycle of a butterfly during Science class. In Language Arts/Reading we have already explored legends and oral tradition. The third grade is also doing exceptionally well with their place value in Math. They are counting to the hundred thousands place value and soon to millions.

I'd like to encourage all third graders to continue to practice First In Math at home. Every morning we check to see who worked really hard and made the player of the day! Keep up the great work third grade.

We wish everyone a great school year!



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

### ***GRADE 8—MRS. REESE***

Welcome back to all families! I am so glad to be back this year.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been very busy. They have been answering practice questions for the COOP Test, the high school entrance test for Catholic high schools, which they will take on Nov. 8. They have also been getting information on the Catholic high schools in the area so that they can decide which high school they would like to attend next year.

The students have also been working very hard in all academic areas. They have begun a study of Church History in Religion and have been reviewing computing rational numbers in Algebra. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have finished a review of nouns in Language Arts and are beginning to read *Flowers for Algernon* in Literature. So as you can see, we are off to a good start!

Seventh grade students have begun computing integers and are learning new Properties in Pre-Algebra. Also, the students have begun to plot points on a coordinate grid.

Place value, exponents, and adding and subtracting decimals have been the topics in Grade 6 Math.

Please remember all students must play First in Math every weekend and as often as possible during the week. Grade 7 was the first Team of the Week this year and Grade 8 followed the next week. Keep up the good work!



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

### ***GRADE 4 - MRS. BARTELS***

We are off and running, energized and ready for a fresh start in 4<sup>th</sup> grade! We have been adjusting to our new routine, learning our classroom rules, and having fun getting to know each other this month. We made puzzle pieces about all our favorite things, and we even created "Cookie Recipes" about ourselves! The most exciting thing about 4<sup>th</sup> grade is that we get to change classrooms (and teachers) for math and science. Although we are discovering that it is not easy to stay organized and remember all the books and supplies needed for the switch, we are almost there!

We had an exciting visit from the Belleville Fire House and the Fire Safety Trailer. While visiting and crawling through a miniature version of a home, we learned all about fire prevention techniques. There was even a "mock fire" and we got to climb down the escape ladder from the upstairs balcony! Cyan went missing, and because of our keen sense of observation, she made it out alive!

In Religion we are learning how to use the Bible, locating passages, and reading our favorite bible stories. We can name the authors of the gospels, list stories one might find in the New or Old Testament, and recite several parables. Our project this week is to choose one of the passages and illustrate it, write a short summary, and write the passage numbers where it can be found.

Social Studies is taking us on a tour around the world. We are able to locate information on simple maps, find and read the symbols on a map key, and use a compass rose. We created Venn Diagrams comparing Maps and Globes, and are currently learning the names and locations of the 7 continents, the oceans, the Prime Meridian, and the equator. Ask us to sing our song about the continents!

In Language Arts, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders are separating sentences into the complete subject and predicate parts, finding the simple or compound subject and predicate, and identifying the 4 kinds of sentences - acting out each type with hand signals and expressions to help us remember the names. We are using our five senses and writing our first descriptive essay comparing us to a dog. We are also learning to use text clues in reading in order to make inferences, predict outcomes, and state the author's purpose.

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders quickly reviewed complete sentences, subjects, and predicates, and are currently locating nouns in sentences and identifying them as common or proper. We are also reviewing all the rules of changing singular nouns into plurals. In reading the students are identifying characters, setting, plot, and theme of a story, making inferences in order to better understand the plot development, and identifying similes and metaphors in the author's writing.

Please remember to sign and return all contact information, student handbook, and student contract forms, \$ 10.00 for classroom parties, and \$ 10.00 for Tricky Tray. A special thank you to Zyrus' mom for volunteering to be our class mom this year. It was wonderful meeting all of you at "Back To School Night".

I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!



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

### ***GRADE 5 - MRS. BUBENIK***

#### **School Poem**

Author Unknown

**T**oday I hurry off to school,  
To work and learn and play  
I'm in a brand new grade this year.  
What a happy day!!!!!!



Welcome Back!!! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and are excited to be back in the swing of school. I look forward to teaching and learning with your children as we grow together throughout the school year. Fifth grade is a big year and I want to remind students to make sure they come to school prepared and with a positive attitude. It is important that the students remember their homework planners and copy their homework down each day. The homework is also available on our school website each night; please check the site every night for a lot of important information is posted about upcoming tests, quizzes, projects, and events etc. If you have done so already please return all notices that require a signature as soon as possible. Also, we are collecting ten dollars for our class parties for the 2012-2013 school year and ten dollars for the Tricky Tray Basket that our class will be making to donate. Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school.

The students have started Math on a high note with their enthusiastic approach and participation in First In Math. The students are doing great and I am very proud of them; keep up the great work! In social studies the students are studying the ancient empires and will be creating their first project for the school year, which will be due towards the end of October. I look forward to seeing everyone's project and remember it will not be accepted after the due date. In science we are learning about photosynthesis and the importance of plant life on Earth. The students are working hard in each subject and I am very proud of them, keep up the great work !

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

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

6<sup>th</sup> grade- The students have been working on creating their own short story for a Literature assignment. They have learned about the important elements that make up a short story. The students also have created cave drawings of the early humans that described their way of life thousands of years ago. They have also begun to work on a PBL dealing with the Arab Spring Revolution. The students will research information on the Ancient Civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. They will then take that information and understand past governmental structures that led to the problems of the countries in the Middle East today. They will try and find a way to solve the turbulent times within that region.

7<sup>th</sup> grade- The students are learning about the thirteen colonies and theories of the enlightenment philosophers. They will also focus on the importance of the American Revolution and the rights that we gained from the conflict. The students will eventually write an essay on what our country would be like without winning the American Revolution. They will also learn about the causes of the American Revolution, the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the major battles that helped us win the war.

8<sup>th</sup> grade- The students have learned about the different plans of Reconstruction to help reunite the country after the American Civil War. They have created slogans and political cartoons dealing with the various topics that plagued this era of American History. The students are also working on a Lincoln Assassination webquest that deals with various conspiracy theories over one of America's greatest presidents. They will have to give an oral presentation on which conspiracy they believe to be the more realistic plot to kill Abraham Lincoln.

I would like to congratulate Chiarize Bulusan, Joel Melendez, Lyonnell Eugene and Zion Hughes on their election as officers to the St. Peter's Student Council for the year of 2013-2014.



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

### ***GRADE 7 - MRS. VARRICCHIO***

Welcome to the new school year here at Saint Peter's. A year that I hope will be both fun and profitable to all my Science classes (sixth, seventh and eighth grade) as well as in Reading, Religion and Grammar for my seventh graders. I wish to extend a special welcome to all the new parents, and students to the seventh grade, and outline briefly what will be happening this upcoming year. Many interesting things will be going on this year. We will be dissecting a heart and an eye in both seventh and eighth grade Science lab.

The seventh and eighth grades are enthusiastically anticipating the dissection of the pig heart and sheep eyes later on this marking period.

Sixth graders, on the other hand, will be enjoying later on this academic year amusement park physics (by assembling their own carnival rides and race cars, while learning the laws of motion) and writing and performing their own murder mystery.

Right now, seventh grade is preparing the readings for First Friday Mass. And later on this month the students will be reading the classical novel *Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving. This class will also spearhead the Thanksgiving Food Drive to fill the food pantry for the needy families of our Parish in November, and prepare the Thanksgiving Liturgy before leaving for vacation. We will finish off our seventh grade year with our Ring Ceremony (more information to follow). Save the date (The first Friday in May) for this meaningful event.

The sixth graders have already started the year with a great deal of enthusiasm and have done a wonderful job of growing their own bacterial cultures. We will do more research with bacteria and cell formation in the next few weeks.

As always the eighth graders are looking forward to all the new Science we will be learning this year. At the moment we are studying earthquakes and their causes. They have all become amateur architects in these past few days; having researched how to build structurally sound buildings that will not collapse during an earthquake. I am looking forward to their design models. Please feel free to come to me at any time with any questions or concerns that may come up during our school year. My door is always open, and I am always available to address your concerns.

Thank You,

Mrs. Mary Varricchio



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

### ***ART AND MEDIA - MISS HOFFMANN***



Students began Art Classes the week of September 16-20, 2013. The students' creativity can be seen in their projects.

The students in Kindergarten - 2nd Grade created Fall Trees. First the students traced their hands and arms, to create the tree trunk and branches. Then they tore red, orange and yellow paper into small squares to create a mosaic effect for the leaves. The Fall Trees are hanging in the cafeteria for everyone in the school to see.

The students in 3rd - 5th grade are creating Fall Leaf Color Resist Projects. First the students have to fill their paper by tracing different leaf shapes. Next they will outline the leaves in black crayon and color the leaves bright Fall colors. The last step is to then paint over the paper with water color paint, which will resist sticking to the crayon and create a beautiful effect.

The students in 6th - 8th grade are creating a Portfolio for their work this year. Each student is writing their name in bubble letters and then creating a mirror image of the writing underneath. Then the students will fill in the entire paper with color and designs.

This year St. Peter's School will be using the online art web site <http://www.artsonia.com/>. You the parent will be receiving a permission slip for your child's work to be displayed on the Artsonia Student Gallery.

Watch your child's creativity develop this school year.

Thank you,  
Miss Hoffmann



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

### **SPANISH—MS. O'SHEA**



We've only just begun working in Spanish class, but this year is already shaping up to be a great one!! I'm so happy to be back at St. Peter's for my second year!

The Kindergartners learned simple greetings in Spanish and can tell you how to say, "My name is" First grade learned the meaning of the phrase "Buenos dias!" and made pretty suns to wish us all a "Good morning!" Second grade will be learning numbers 1-20 in Spanish and so far it's been as easy as "uno-dos-tres!"

The third graders drew pictures of themselves and wrote "Yo soy" (I am) Fourth grade started working on their Spanish book reports using our Spanish easy readers. Can't wait to see their presentations!

Fifth grade also learned conversational words and made great posters with their new phrases. They also began learning sports vocabulary and will be preparing for our dia de deportes! Our sixth graders are working on classroom commands in Spanish. Seventh grade is reviewing our "verbo de la semana" (verb of the week), ser, and are learning about descriptions in Spanish. Our eighth graders will be presenting their first "fin de semana" (weekend) reports this week using past tense verbs and vocabulary!

The students are doing a great job so far and I am excited to be working with them again this year!

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION—MR. LAUDATI**

"Presidential Fitness Challenge"

Coming Soon

Be prepared in your Body & Mind



## SAINT PETER'S SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWS



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALUMNI STUDENTS



#### Seton Hall Preparatory Year End Honor Roll

|                 |               |         |
|-----------------|---------------|---------|
| Bernard Barillo | Second Honors | Grade 9 |
|-----------------|---------------|---------|

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALUMNI STUDENTS AT Paramus Catholic

|                  |                      |          |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| President's List | Jelson Mendoza       | Grade 9  |
| First Honors     | Taylor Elliott-Dolor | Grade 9  |
| Second Honors    | Elizabeth Egoavil    | Grade 12 |

#### Queen Of Peace First Honors

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Christopher Robertson | Grade 9  |
| Victor Garay          | Grade 9  |
| Julio Neira           | Grade 9  |
| Joshua Talban         | Grade 9  |
| Clara Talban          | Grade 10 |
| Jazmine Binag         | Grade 11 |
| Joseph Gotto          | Grade 12 |

#### Second Honors

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Luis Barreiros | Grade 9  |
| Michael Castro | Grade 10 |
| Devina Khan    | Grade 10 |
| Matthew Moran  | Grade 10 |
| Babatunde Ojo  | Grade 11 |
| Aisha Perez    | Grade 12 |
| Lorrenis Regal | Grade 12 |