

St. Peter's School

September 2, 2010

Ms. Janet Spallo, Principal

Mrs. Angie Meyer, Vice Principal

School Website: www.stpeterskc.org

Principal's September 2, 2010 Newsletter



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IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ September 6; Labor Day—No School
- ✓ September 9; All School Mass @ 8:15 a.m.; 8th Grade Retreat
- ✓ September 14; 8th Grade Parent Mtg. @ 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room
- ✓ September 15; Staff Development 2:20 p.m. Dismissal
- ✓ September 16; All School Mass @ 8:15
- ✓ September 17; Jeans Day!
- ✓ September 18; Flower Sale Pick Up

Dear Parents,

I was so happy to see so many of you at last night's Back to School Night. Thank you for the support and appreciation your attendance demonstrated to the teachers. Your attendance also showed your children the importance you place on school and the concern you have for their spiritual and academic growth. Ours is a partnership that should be based on mutual trust and the premise that we have the child's best interests at the heart of all of our decisions. Let's strive to work together to keep that relationship between home and school and parent and teacher a strong, positive one!

As promised, I want to let you know of the many summer staff development opportunities our dedicated faculty and staff took advantage of this summer:

Nancy Ellermann, ECLC teacher, attended a two-day Project Construct workshop focusing on math and science skills and developmental markers for preschool through first grade children.

Kindergarten teachers Annie Ngwira, Jan Hile Rea, and Stacey Stanley attended the National "I Teach Kindergarten" conference this summer and gained many learning strategies specific to kindergarten students.

Jennifer Batten, Mary DiGiovanna, Leslie Fitzgerald Alt, Geri Frantze, Carmela Guthrie, Katie Jett, Annette Ruiz, Karen Smith, Margy Sparks, Dianna Youngblood, Angie Meyer, and I attended the National Differentiated Instruction Conference. We were exposed to a wealth of ideas and strategies to utilize when planning instruction to meet the varying needs of learners in our classrooms.

Angie Meyer and I also attended the National Catholic Education's Association Leadership Institute. We networked with Catholic school administrators from all over the country and gained much perspective and some wonderful new ideas as we shared our "best practices" with one another.

All of these opportunities were funded with federal monies and will further our "big picture" staff development goals of working collaboratively to improve student learning in all grades and all subject areas.

I also want to share some exciting opportunities that some of our students had this summer.

Eighth grader Sydney Wimes received Cheerleader of the Year Award from her competitive cheer squad and was elected co-captain of her squad at cheer camp at SMSU. Sydney also traveled to Wisconsin with her dance troupe to participate in a national dance competition and won several first place awards.

Daniel Schulte, eighth grade student, kept busy this summer traveling the national karate circuit. Currently Daniel's world rankings in NASKA black belt boys age 12-13 are: Fourth in Extreme Weapons, Fifth in Extreme Forms, 6th in Musical Forms, 8th in Traditional Forms, and 9th in Traditional Weapons.

Eighth grade students Hank Wiedel and Tommy O'Malley and alum Michael Needham filmed a commercial that aired on PBS over the summer. It can be seen at "Get Smart with the Arts 2" on You Tube.

Carson Bode, yet another eighth grader, trained and qualified for the 800 meter race of the North American Track Meet sponsored by the Hershey Candy Company. Carson won an all-expense paid trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania, and finished second with a personal best time of 2:12:36. **Sweet** (Sorry, I couldn't resist!)

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Sixth grader Gabby Wimes received the Best Hustler Award at the RU Soccer Camp and the MVP Award at the Miege Volleyball Camp. She also traveled to William Woods College to participate in a horseback riding camp.

Fourth grader Grady Schmitz won the Hustle Award at his RU soccer camp for working hard and displaying a positive attitude through much hard work and heat—and being sick to boot!

The Youth Volunteer Corps of Greater Kansas City recognized the following students from SPS for their service in their 2010 Summer Sensation program: Grade 8—Brady Bird (48.5 hrs.); Carson Bode (38.5 hrs.); Grade Audrey Carroll (24 hrs.); Sarah Cigas (24 hrs.); Siena Hutchison (42 hrs.); Gwen Robertson (48hrs.); and Molly Sullivan (17 hrs.)

We are so proud of you, students! Thanks, parents, for making me aware of your child's accomplishments outside of school so that the entire school community can celebrate their successes!

As you heard last night, the *Strategic Plan for Catholic Schools* offers an opportunity for our Diocesan schools to renew our commitment to achieving higher levels of faith and academics and be sustainable for future generations by focusing on three pillars: Distinctly Catholic, Academically Excellent, and Fiscally Stable. You will hear about specific ways SPS will focus on these three pillars as the year progresses and as our long-range plan is developed.

Enclosed in today's Messenger Envelope is the Family Covenant that Father Steve spoke of last night. We are encouraging every family, Catholic or non-Catholic, to sign the Covenant and return it to school to signify your responsibility as first teachers of your children and demonstrate your willingness to join our teachers as partners in the spiritual formation of your children.

I encourage you to learn more about the Diocesan *Strategic Plan* by reading about it on the school's website (www.stpeterskc.org), or attending one of the upcoming information sessions to be held later this month right here at St. Peter's. The tasks it outlines can only be accomplished by working together for the benefit of your children and the future of Catholic education in our Diocese. I look forward to being a part of such an exciting effort! I hope you do as well!

Enjoy the holiday weekend! Thank you for the great start to this new school year! ~Janet Spallo, Principal

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

Dinner for Eight

Make some new friends of your own! The Dinner for Eight committee would like to especially encourage our school parents to join in the monthly Dinner for Eight pot-luck dinners. They are held the third Saturday of most months, and you may attend any month your calendar is free. These dinners are a wonderful way to really get to know people from across the parish, and they are the most fun when we have lots of different people in the mix. If you are not yet on the list to receive our emails, or have questions about Dinner for Eight, contact Karen Conley in the parish office at 816.363.7051, ext. 127 or kconley@stpeterskc.org. Our next night for dinner is September 18, and it's not too late to sign up!

Irish Fest

Be sure to come to Irish Fest this weekend at Crown Center. The whole event is great fun for the whole family. This year, St. Peter's parish is again selling beverages: this time in a great location—next to the Terrace Stage. And we earn money! A portion of sales and ALL tips stay with St. Peter's. Check out our two fun videos at the Boulevard Stage.

Save the Date—8th Graders & Parents

Attention all eighth graders and parents! Celebrate the end of summer and the start of the eighth grade year at St. Peter's with a day at the Miller Lake House at Pomona Lake, Kansas, on **Sunday, September 19**, from Noon until 6:00 p.m. Details and directions will be coming soon! With questions, contact Karen and Sean Miller at 816.523.6550 or karenmil@kc.rr.com.

8th Grade

Youth Volunteer Corps of Greater Kansas City offers many opportunities for students to earn service hours (a graduation requirement). Please check their website <http://yvckc.org/> for details and information.

O'Hara Celtic Grade School Sports Nights at O'Hara Home Games

Get into the game free and enjoy popcorn and a drink on us. There will be competitions, prizes, and more. Show your spirit by wearing your school spirit wear. Don't miss the fun!

- Volleyball, Thursday, September 9, 7 p.m. O'Hara vs. St. Pius X
- Football, Friday, September 10, 7 p.m. O'Hara vs. Warrensburg
- Soccer, Tuesday, October 12, 4:30 p.m. O'Hara Vs. Warrensburg