

St. Peter's School

January 26, 2012

Ms. Janet Spallo, Principal

Mrs. Angie Meyer, Vice Principal

School Website: www.stpeterskc.org

Principal's January 26 Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ January 27; 8th Grade Melodrama, 2-2:30 pm & 7-7:30 pm
- ✓ January 29; Catholic Schools Week Kick-off Day; Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast in Garden Room beginning @ 8:30 am and following the 9 am & 11 am Masses; PTA Skating Party @ Skate City in Overland Park, 4-6 pm; Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest in SPS McKay Center; check-in @ 5:45 pm, with contest beginning at 6 pm (ages 10-14)
- ✓ January 29-February 3; Catholic Schools Week (Flyer listing activities went home in Thursday's messenger envelopes); Food Pantry Drive all week; Soles for Souls Shoe Collection
- ✓ February 2; All School Mass @ 8:15 am; Mandatory State of the Parish Meeting in Legacy Chapel @ 7 pm
- ✓ February 3; Randy Nadler Vietnam presentations @ 8:30 (K-4) & 9:45 am (5-8); Science Fair Set up
- ✓ February 4-5; Science Fair Viewing in Garden Rm

Dear Parents,

As I write this newsletter, I am listening to the joyful sounds of outdoor recess. We have been blessed by this mild weather in January! It's hard to believe that yesterday was the 100th day of school! The kindergarteners have been celebrating this milestone all week, and their fourth-grade "Buddies" will have a special celebration with them tomorrow. We look forward to seeing those special shirts full of 100 items on our kindergarteners tomorrow!

February 8 marks the halfway point of this third quarter. Mid-term progress reports will be mailed home Thursday, February 16, unless you will be attending teacher-requested conferences that afternoon. If you are scheduled for a conference, your child's progress report will be given to you at your meeting.

We are hosting two student teachers from Rockhurst University at St. Peter's School this semester. Ms. Jennifer Wagner has been placed in first grade with Mrs. Annette Ruiz. Jennifer, sister of our very own James Wagner, is a Kansas City native and credits her entire educational experience for influencing her to become a teacher. It is a lifestyle that combines her "two great passions of education and children".

When we return from Spring Break in March, Ms. Maggie McGovern will be assigned to Mrs. Kate Morgan's fourth grade. Maggie also hails from Kansas City, graduating from Notre Dame de Sion High School. She is anxious to make a difference in students' lives, just as many of her teachers impacted hers during her elementary and high school years. We look forward to having these young women at St. Peter's and take pride in knowing that they will be learning from the best of the best—your children and our teachers!

As you know, Catholic Schools' Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education and its contribution to communities and the nation. The theme of this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service". During the week, which begins this Sunday, we not only celebrate St. Peter's School, we focus on the important role of all Catholic schools in providing a values-added education for America's young people and making the world a better place for all. The week's activities will heighten community awareness of and involvement in Catholic schools and honor those who contribute their time, talent, and treasure to the success of Catholic schools, including religious, students, families, faculty and staff, and volunteers.

In addition to the week's activities, religion teachers in grades K-8 are teaching stewardship lessons utilizing a curriculum called "Stewardship in the Classroom" which was adopted for use by St. Peter's Parish Stewardship Committee. The lessons are designed to help students recognize acts of stewardship and to think about stewardship in their own lives.

There is a detailed agenda of the week's activities in today's messenger envelope and, as you will see, there are some special events planned for the week. One of the greatest givers of time and talent in this community is Mr. Dennis Ryan. This year Mr. Dennis Ryan will be honored as our Catholic Schools' Week VIP. **(Continues on next page)**

I am sure you are aware that Mr. Ryan is a one-man security team whose nights and weekends revolve around the myriad of activities taking place on the St. Peter's campus. Each night for the past 41 years he has waited patiently until the last meeting or practice is over and locks up after ensuring that all of the campus buildings and the grounds are secure. Mr. Ryan serves as our eyes and ears when Angie and I go home to our families, and we don't know what we would do without him. His dedication to the safety of the school, the church, our entire parish campus, the teachers, and the students is so appreciated and his gift of time so valued. He is one of this community's greatest treasures and we hope you will join us as we honor him in a special way after next Thursday's school liturgy.

I would like to commend this year's Student Council members, both the Executive Board and the Class Representatives, for their leadership in planning our Catholic Schools' Week celebration. They have a great week planned; it was a joy working with them! Thanks to Mr. Bob Jacobsen for coaching the students to be organized and responsible enough to undertake such a project!

I hope you can carve out some time to see the Eighth-Grade Melodrama tomorrow at 2:00 or 7:00 p.m. in the McKay Center! Under Mrs. Bernie Van Arsdale's direction, and with the help of Mrs. Dianna Youngblood, students have been working very hard so I have no doubt it will be highly entertaining.

I know I will see many of you at the Pancake Breakfast Sunday morning and the skating party that evening. It most certainly is a great day to be a Patriot!

Janet Spallo, Principal

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Congratulations to sixth grader Raela Thiemann, who finished eighth in the K-8 division of the Rockhurst High School Chess Tournament last Saturday! Raela has also been a participant in Mr. Bob Jacobsen's Chess Club here at St. Peter's School.

Auction—We need additional volunteers to help during the week of Auction, including set up and clean up the night of the auction. Please contact Carrie Rouchka at rouchka4@kc.surewest.net to volunteer.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest is this Sunday, January 29, in the McKay Center (school gym). Check-in is at 5:45 p.m. The contest starts at 6:00 p.m. The contest is for girls and boys, ages 10-14. Winners in each bracket will receive a certificate for a SCRIP card, as well as advance to the district competition in February. All participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. Entry forms can be downloaded from the St. Peter's athletic website: <http://www.stpeters-athletics.org/> Forms will also be available at the event.

St. Peter's Boys Parochial League Volleyball, Grades 4-8—If interested, please email Mark Kuhls at markkuhls@yahoo.com or call him at 816.651.9335 to let him know your son is interested in playing. Practices would begin the week of March 5. If not enough boys at SPS are interested, we can possibly work on getting your son on another school's team.

Card Classics—Join other Magic and Yu-Gi-Oh! players (ages 10-18) each Friday night, from 5-8 pm at the Plaza Branch Library. For more information, call 816.701.3481.

Save the Date—Moms' & Pops 2012 Basketball Tournament—March 27-31

- Play for your oldest child's grade
- Watch Party—March 31 at The Well Bar, Grill & Rooftop
- Registration coming in February

Diocese Appoints Ombudsman—In June 2011, the Diocese appointed an independent public liaison and ombudsman to field and investigate all reports of inappropriate behavior or sexual misconduct by clergy, employees, or volunteers. To make a confidential report to the ombudsman, please contact Jenifer Valenti at 816.812.2500.