

# St. Peter's School

December 3, 2009

Ms. Janet Spallo, Principal  
Mrs. Angie Meyer, Vice Principal  
School Website: [www.stpeterskc.org](http://www.stpeterskc.org)



## Principal's December 3 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and were able to get your fill of all the good things in life - family, friends, and, of course, food! As I celebrated the holiday and reflected on my blessings, please know that this community was among those that I thanked God for!

During this season of Advent, we will gather in the gym each Monday for an all-school prayer service and lighting of our Advent wreath. Next Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup>, we will gather during Explore as we did this week. On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>, we will gather at 8:00 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend all services, but I would especially encourage you to attend the 8:00 prayer services, as they are probably more conducive to your schedules. Students who arrive before 8:00 a.m. will report to homeroom first and then proceed to the gym with their teacher and their class.

Although there will not be a school reconciliation service for students during Advent, all students are encouraged to attend the communal parish reconciliation service with their family on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Father Steve will hear the individual confession of each of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during Advent and there will be a reconciliation service at school for grades 2 - 8 during the season of Lent.

As I'm sure you know by now, each homeroom has adopted a needy family from Seton Center and is collecting or earning money to purchase Christmas gifts for them. Please know that we are very much aware that things are tight right now financially for many of us and our expectations are that you contribute as you are able. I am sure that whatever we collect will be greatly appreciated and more than adequate! Your child should know when money is to be turned into his/her teacher.

Next Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. As school will be closed for the day (per Bishop Finn), students will need to attend one of the parish Masses with their family. Masses are at 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. December 8 in the main church.

During the month of November St. Peter's families shared their blessings with others in support of several worthwhile causes. On November 4<sup>th</sup> we sent a large donation of diapers and baby items from October's collection, organized by the Parish Respect Life Committee, to Birthright of Kansas City. Before Thanksgiving, sixth graders in Mrs. Hall's homeroom organized a "Save El Salvador" drive and raised \$850 to help provide relief from the recent floods and mudslides. During our Book Fair, over 1500 books were collected for Reach Out and Read Kansas City. These books will be dispersed to the waiting rooms at Children's Mercy and KU Med Center and to children ages birth through five years by doctors at 43 clinic sites.

As basketball season begins, I want to take this opportunity to remind players and parents of players of two important guiding principles as stated in the *St. Peter's Athletics Policies and Code of Conduct*: "the athletic program is an integral part of the education mission of the school" and "the athletics program is a community effort." Whether you are a parent, a player, a coach or a spectator, I would ask you to abide by the following tenets: that first and foremost, the values of our Faith are to be exhibited in all our actions, that the best interest of children be at the heart of all our decisions, and that all involved in our athletic programs are role models for each other and the larger community.

(Continues on next page...)

### Contents

Principal's Newsletter	1-2
Important Dates	2
Snowflake Dance	2

Students in PK-Grade 3 will be treated to a book reading by the author of *Mo's Nose*, Margaret Hyde, next Friday, Dec. 11, during Explore time (10-10:30 a.m.) in the gym. All are invited to join author Margaret Hyde and Chef Celina Tio at Julian Restaurant in Brookside for a FREE cooking class and reading of *Mo Smells the Holidays* on Saturday, Dec. 12. A special menu will be served (\$8 for children; \$15 for adults).

Information is posted on the home page of the school website!

## Important Dates

- ✓ Dec. 4; PTA Christmas Coffee/SCRIP Sales from 7:45-9 a.m. in the lobby
- ✓ Dec. 6; Santa @ St. Peters Noon-2 p.m./Browne's Market St. Peter's Day (2-5 p.m.)
- ✓ Dec. 7; School Advent Prayer Service at 10 a.m. in the gym
- ✓ Dec. 8; Feast of the Immaculate Conception—NO SCHOOL; Mass at 8:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; McGonigle Night—Celebrating a Legacy of Peace and Justice in the Main Room of the Church following the 6 p.m. Mass
- ✓ Dec. 9; Christmas Basket Collection Ends
- ✓ Dec. 9 & 10; PTA Christmas Gift Wrapping in Church Basement (flyer in Dec. 3 Messenger Envelope)
- ✓ Dec. 14; School Advent Prayer Service at 8:05 a.m. in the gym
- ✓ Dec. 15; Christmas Program at 1:30 & 7 p.m. in the church
- ✓ Dec. 18; Jeans Day; Jr. High Christmas Dance, 7-9:30 p.m. in the Garden Room
- ✓ Dec. 20; St. Peter's Parish Penance Service at 6 p.m.
- ✓ Dec. 22; Second Quarter Ends; Noon Dismissal for Christmas Break
- ✓ Jan. 4, 2010; School Resumes

If you haven't done so already, please familiarize yourself with the *Athletic Committee's Code of Conduct* as it outlines very specifically the roles and responsibilities of the Athletic Committee, coaches, parents, and "student-athletes." Please reinforce the positive impression of the scholar-athlete. Although the Diocesan Ineligibility Policy is enforced by the school, support from home only strengthens the message that academics come before sports.

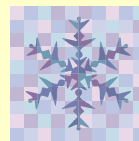
Along similar lines, please remember that students must be under adult supervision at all times. If your child has an after-school or evening practice, please be sure he/she is with a coach. Likewise, please be timely about picking your children up from practices. Emphasizing appropriate and responsible behavior are musts, not only at St. Peter's but also when visiting other schools. Expectations for behavior in the lobby are the same as during the school day. For instance, students should not be bouncing balls in the lobby, climbing in the window spaces (along the Garden Room stairwell), playing with the Christmas decorations, etc. Speaking of Christmas decorations...

I want to thank Lisa Weis, Sally Sommerhauser, and Susan Raimo for bringing Christmas to the SPS lobby! These ladies spent the day today decorating, and I am sure students, teachers, and parents will all enjoy the festive décor these next few weeks.

Speaking of holiday cheer, I hope to see many of you tonight at the Brookside Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:00 PM at the corner of 63<sup>rd</sup> and Brookside Plaza. Mrs. Buhmeister's Enrichment Choirs will be singing and sleigh rides benefiting the St. Peter's Emergency Assistance Fund will be available.

All we need is some snow, don't you think?

Janet Spallo  
Principal



### Snowflake Dance

*Volunteers are needed to donate food for the Snowflake Dance (January 15). Needed are veggie and fruit kabob trays, cookie trays, cheese and crackers, specific punch items, and brownies. Those wishing to donate may contact Mariana Gallo at [maricubs@hotmail.com](mailto:maricubs@hotmail.com) or at 816.926.0770.*