

# St. Peter's School

February 4, 2010

Ms. Janet Spallo, Principal

Mrs. Angie Meyer, Vice Principal

School Website: [www.stpeterskc.org](http://www.stpeterskc.org)



## Principal's February 4, 2010 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy Catholic Schools Week! This annual celebration of Catholic education calls to mind the long-standing tradition and commitment we all share in passing our most treasured gift – our religious faith – along to our children. According to sociological studies, the success of Catholic schools rests primarily in the fact that we are “functional communities”, where entire parishes embrace the importance of education that is rooted in worship and faith that shapes knowledge, and is willing to make sacrifices for the next generation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the sacrifices you make for your children and ask for your continued support of the ministry of Catholic education at St. Peter's.

I hope you were able to attend our Open House Sunday and enjoy the pancake breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus. It was a great way to kick off the week. I would like to thank Maureen Elder, who prepped our tour guides, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who gave up some of their weekend to show off their school. I am grateful to Julia Hammond, Makima Watts, Bailey Whitehead, M'Kayla Hall, Michael Imperiale, Nicholas Bustamante, Weston Elder, Joe Hague, Matt Caffey, Matt Watz, Charlotte Nodarse, Nia Sanford, Madeline Best, Jake Costanzo, and Annie McCalla for representing SPS so well. I can't tell you how many people complimented these students on their manners and their enthusiasm!

One of this week's highlights was the all-school prayer service and assembly held on Monday at which we honored two SPS alums with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Eileen Hair and Mark Fitzpatrick were this year's recipients. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hair was not able to be at our assembly but her grandson, 7<sup>th</sup> grader Luke Hair, accepted the award in her honor. Both honorees not only attended SPS, but are active parishioners who sent their children to school here as well. In addition, Mrs. Hair dedicated many years to teaching at St. Peter's. The testimony each gave to the impact of Catholic education on their lives touched us all. For your enjoyment, the complete text of their remarks can be viewed on our website (please see the “School News” tab on the “Newsletters” link). At yesterday's all-school Mass students' throats were blessed. It was the feast of St. Blaise, the patron saint of people who suffer from illnesses of the throat. It is a custom to pray for good health with a blessing of throats on this day. Today, we formed a human chain to pass this month's donations to the St. Peter's Food Pantry. The students really enjoyed this twist to our monthly collection. It was quite a sight; it resembled a schoolwide Chinese Fire Drill! Look for coverage in *The Catholic Key*, *the Kansas City Star*, and on Channel 41 news tonight at 6:00 PM.

I hope you have noticed the beautiful display case that was installed in the main lobby last week. It was a gift from Boy Scout Troop 118 and will be used to showcase the many academic and athletic talents of our students. I would like to personally thank Dan Thorman for bringing this project to fruition and for his donation of labor and materials.

As some of you may know, last week Bishop Finn accepted the resignation of our Superintendent of Schools, Marlon De La Torre. Until a search process is completed, Bishop Finn has appointed Vice Chancellor Claude Sasso to serve as Interim Superintendent of Schools. Further information regarding Dr. Sasso's background and experience can be found on the Diocesan website, [www.diocese-kcsj.org](http://www.diocese-kcsj.org). Of course, I will pass along any information I receive as the search progresses to you.

We have much to be proud of and celebrate at St. Peter's School, not only during Catholic Schools Week, but every day. As you know, your annual contribution to St. Peter's Parish directly impacts the quality of education and the services we can offer to students. As the Annual Giving Campaign kicks off this Sunday, please prayerfully consider all God has given you and tithe accordingly. The faculty and staff of St. Peter's pledge to do all we can to insure a great return on your investment!

Janet Spallo, Principal  
(a.k.a. “Grace”)

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**St. Peter's students' generosity continues; fifth graders sponsored a Bake Sale last Friday and raised an additional \$644 (our previous jeans day contribution to Catholic Relief Services amounted to \$1,200). What terrific support!**

**Last Sunday evening, sixth graders gathered at the Eyerman home to put together approximately 75 kits; with some additional items purchased with school contributions, another 50 will be assembled and shipped! Awesome!**

## S P S Special Announcements

## DATE CHANGE!

**Bloozapalooza, originally on the school calendar for February 6, has been rescheduled for April 24 at the Legacy Center.**

## Track

Track season is just around the corner. Boys and girls in grades 4-8 will find track registration forms in their messenger envelopes today. Please fill out and submit to the school office with the \$40 registration fee. Also, there are coaching positions available. If you are interested in coaching track, please visit the [spsac.org](http://spsac.org) website to obtain a coaching application.

## SPS Auction

Many AUCTION volunteers are needed! It takes hundreds of helping hands to pull off our school's biggest fundraiser. This is a great way to get involved, and offers eighth graders and high school students the opportunity to earn those required service hours! We still need help with planning, set-up, and tear-down the week of the Auction. **To volunteer, contact Kim Coxe at [kim.coxe@att.net](mailto:kim.coxe@att.net) or 816.333.9679.**

We hope everyone is having great success with their raffle ticket sales. **To reach our goal of \$10,000, we need 100% participation from all school families (if each family sells a minimum of 25 tickets, we will reach our goal)!** Of course, we would love to exceed our goal this year, so reorders of tickets can be obtained from the school office by sending in your yellow envelope that was included in your messenger envelopes—simply indicate the number of additional tickets you would like, or email Amy Faulkner at [amyefaulkner@gmail.com](mailto:amyefaulkner@gmail.com) or [emilyzwilson@gmail.com](mailto:emilyzwilson@gmail.com) for additional tickets. Good luck and keep selling!

## Honors for Students

Eighth grader Kennedy Reller earned first place in her level and age division in bars at a recent gymnastics meet in Dallas. Congratulations, Kennedy!

You may have noticed a photo of some fifth grade book club members in the Catholic Charities newsletter *Hope Matters* last week. We are very proud of organizer Megan Ennis, as well as attendees Caterina DeRousse, Emma Gustavson, Isabel Mason, Skyler Spear, Caitlyn Swope, and Maddie Winfield, who held a baby shower for pregnant women receiving services from Catholic Charities.

Emily Bird, Frances Buren, Alex Emory, Kelly Gude, Jaime Latenser, and Sarah Whittaker, all graduates of St. Peter's School, were on the Honor Roll at Notre Dame de Sion High School for the second quarter. We are proud of their accomplishments.

## FREE Self-Defense Night at Christ the King

In response to the recent crimes against women in Waldo, Christ the King Parish is hosting a one-night, self-defense course on February 9, in their gymnasium (85<sup>th</sup> & Wornall Road). The program begins at 7:00 p.m. and will feature demonstrations and presentations by the Kansas City Police Department. This event is open to the public, free, and all friends are welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a bottled water. Let's take our community back! Contact Angie Maschler at 816.941.4042 or Aimee Gromowsky at 816.804.8841 for more information.

We have also learned that a self-defense class will be held at University Academy (6801 Holmes Road) on Thursday, February 11, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This class will be sponsored by the TAKE Foundation (a local organization started in memory of Ali Kemp). Anyone interested should register online through the TAKE Foundations website, <http://www.takedefense.org/>

## Important Dates

- ✓ Feb. 5; Randy Nadler visits @ 8:30 am & 9:45 am; Science Fair Set-up
- ✓ Feb. 6-7; Science Fair Viewing
- ✓ Feb 10; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocation Day
- ✓ Feb. 11; All School Mass @ 8:15 am; NOON DISMISSAL for Teacher Requested Conferences (1-4 pm); Junior High Valentine Dance (info in today's messenger envelopes)
- ✓ Feb. 12; NO SCHOOL; Diocesan Staff Development Day
- ✓ Feb. 14; Happy Valentine's Day!
- ✓ Feb. 15; NO SCHOOL/President's Day
- ✓ Feb. 16; Shrove Tuesday PTA Pancake LUNCH
- ✓ Feb. 17; 8:15 am Ash Wednesday Mass; Fish Fry from 5-7 pm
- ✓ Feb. 18; 2010-2011 Registration Forms Distributed (No All-School Mass)
- ✓ Feb. 19; Jeans Day; Fish Fry from 5-7 pm

There are YMCA flyers in the messenger center right outside the gym entrance doors, which offer many opportunities for Swim Lessons, for anyone interested.