

# St. Peter's School

January 21, 2010

Ms. Janet Spallo, Principal

Mrs. Angie Meyer, Vice Principal

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



## Principal's January 21, 2010 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As I write this newsletter, I am listening to the sweet sounds of outdoor recess! It is so nice to have a little respite from the bitter weather we have had of late.

We were blessed to have four Rockhurst students fulfilling their senior service requirement at St. Peter's. Cooper Beckett, Sal Belfonte, Jason Cosentino, and Dexter McDonald, Jr. started their service on January 4<sup>th</sup> and were with us until yesterday. They spent their days working directly with students and assisting teachers with special projects. The students really looked up to them (literally and figuratively)! We enjoyed getting to know them and truly appreciated their service to our school.

I hope you noticed the beautiful display in the front hall dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr. Thanks to Mary Beth Schmidt for showcasing Dr. King's life in such a beautiful way. In addition to the national holiday we all enjoyed on Monday, students school-wide spent time in recent days studying, honoring, and celebrating his life. After watching a video of Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, eighth grade students wrote a reflection paper based on a quote of King's. In art, middle school students were challenged to look for ways to help make Dr. King's dream a reality in their lives. Younger students read books and wrote reports about his life. Second graders wrote about how they can be peacemakers at school, and first graders in Ms. Guthrie's room created a timeline of Martin Luther King's life with the help of their 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading buddies in Mr. Tabory's room.

As you know, CSW is the annual celebration of Catholic education and its contribution to communities and the nation. During this week, which is January 31<sup>st</sup> - February 5<sup>th</sup>, we focus on the important role of 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 to the success of Catholic schools, everyone from students, families, faculty and staff, to volunteers and local and national leaders.

We have some special activities planned for the week (please note the flyer regarding CSW in today's messenger envelopes). I would appreciate your family's help with one of the activities. We will be having an Open House on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. In addition to the student work that the teachers will have on display, I would love to have every family compile a "Top 10 Reasons Why I Send My Child/ren to SPS" to display during the Open House and to read over the intercom each day during CSW. Just compile your list on paper (no larger than 8 1/2 x 11, please) and send it to the office by Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, so that we may have time to hang it for Sunday's Open House. Thank you in advance for your participation in this project; I look forward to reading your lists! Letterman's got nothin' on SPS families!

Catholic Schools Week promises to be an exciting one at SPS! Look for a detailed agenda of the week's activities in today's messenger envelope.

Janet Spallo  
Principal

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**We are grateful to our generous students who contributed \$1,200 on last Friday's Jeans Day. Money collected will go to Catholic Relief Services to aid those suffering the effects of the earthquake in Haiti.**

**Eighth graders prepared 70 completed Care Kits for the Haiti relief effort for Heart to Heart International. Thank you to their classmates, Molly and Charlie Pyle and family, for hosting this "Party With a Purpose" last Sunday evening.**

**SPS Special Announcements****Junior High Class Honors—Second Quarter**

*Grade 8:* Emily Cosgrove, Fiona Madden, Austin Meyer, Nathan Mohler, Sam Moore, Mattie O'Boyle, Kennedy Reller, Libby Torres, Matthew Watz

*Grade 7:* Bridgie Auckland, Jack Barry, Anna Bauman, Patrick Bauman, Hope Bentley, Brady Bird, Carson Bode, Liam Bryson, Maria Flores, Sydney Hunter, Maggie Hutchison, Harper Lanning, Emma Lisac, Ellie Shorter, Samantha Smith, Emma Willibey, Grace Wilmot

**St. Peter's Geography Bee**

Congratulations to the following St. Peter's students who represented their classes in the School Geography Bee on Wednesday, January 13: Lauren Lynch (Grade 4), Cameron Reller (Grade 5), Timmy Keens (Grade 6), Jordan Evan, Jacob Jeselnik-Stafford, Grace Sly, and Jack Barry (Grade 7), and Matt Watz, Austin Meyer, and Jack Wirtz (Grade 8). Special congratulations go to winner Grace Sly, and second and third place winners, Matthew Watz and Austin Meyer. Thank you to social studies teachers in grades 4-8 for helping facilitate classroom Bees and to Mrs. Dianna Youngblood, for organizing the event.

**Honors for Students**

Daniel Schulte received his black belt last weekend; it is unusual for someone that young to receive this honor; Daniel has worked five years for this. Congratulations!

Sydney Wimes, a member of Krisit's Academy of Dance Hi-Flight All Stars Competitive cheer Team, competed on Saturday, January 17, at the Champion Spirit Group Nationals Competition. They garnered first place in the All Star Cheer, Youth Level 2. They also took home the Best Tumblers Award. Congratulations, Sydney (Grade 7).

Gabby Wimes, Molly Bird, and Liz Barton, fifth graders, have joined the MAVS competitive volleyball team, along with SPS. They placed second at their first tournament on January 9. Great job, girls!

Lia and Lauren Biritz, grades 4 and 2, took it upon themselves to do some fundraising for Lakeside Nature Center—they had a lemonade stand themed "Lemonade Saves Animals!" They raised a very nice donation, which the Friends of Lakeside Nature Center were most grateful for!

**WordMasters**

We are extremely proud of some recent honors from this year's WordMasters Challenge—a national language arts competition entered by approximately 215,000 students annually, which consists of three separate meets held at intervals during the school year. Fifth grader Thomas Auckland earned a perfect score in the year's first meet, held in December. In the entire country, only 84 fifth graders achieved perfect results. Other St. Peter's students who earned outstanding results in the meet include fifth graders Maddie Winfield and Claire Nelson, sixth grader Adam Palausky, and eighth graders Charlotte Nodarse and Alex Overton. Congratulations, students and coaches Charlotte Jett, Patti Dearth, Kristin Griffin, and Bernie VanArsdale.

**2009-2010 Yearbook Staff**

Congratulations to the 2009-2010 Yearbook Staff: Eighth graders Madeline Best, Emily Cosgrove, Katie Hornbeck, Meredith Latenser, and Bailey Whitehead AND Seventh graders Brady Bird, Sydney Hunter, Harper Lanning, Samantha Smith, Anne Nulton, Mary Sommerhauser, and Grace Wilmot. The staff will be led by three editors: Emily Cosgrove, Meredith Latenser, and Bailey Whitehead. We applaud the willingness of these junior high students to accept such a significant challenge and we wish them all the best in their undertaking. The Yearbook Staff are blessed to be guided by Advisor, Mrs. Mary Beth Schmidt.

**Important Dates**

- ✓ Jan. 24; PTA Skating Party (flyer in Thursday packets)
- ✓ Jan. 27; Early Dismissal @ 2:20 pm for Staff Development
- ✓ Jan. 28; All School Mass @ 8:15 am
- ✓ Jan. 31; Catholic School Week Begins (flyer in Thursday packet)
- ✓ Feb. 3; All School Mass @ 8:15 am (Feast of St. Blaise-Blessing of Throats); Spirit Shop Open
- ✓ Feb. 5; Randy Nadler visits @ 8:30 am & 9:45 am; Science Fair Set-up
- ✓ Feb. 6-7; Science Fair Viewing