

St. Peter's School

October 15, 2009

Ms. Janet Spallo, Principal
Mrs. Angie Meyer, Vice Principal
School Website: www.stpeterskc.org



Principal's October 15 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I can't believe that yesterday marked the end of the first quarter. First Quarter Assessment Reports for students in grades K - 8 will be included in next week's Messenger Envelopes. Assessment Reports for ECLC will be distributed at conferences on the 30th. I know that you will take an opportunity to sit down with your children to review their progress, to celebrate successes, and to set goals for the second quarter. Parent-Teacher Conferences, which are scheduled for October 29th and 30th, provide an excellent opportunity for you to exchange information with the teachers so that you can work cooperatively to boost your children's opportunities for success. Thoughtful preparation for conferences will ensure that the allotted conference time is used productively. I always suggest that you write down specific questions or concerns after review of the progress report and to illicit feedback from teachers beyond academic achievement. Inquire about your child's character, effort, participation, organizational skills, conduct, and socialization at school. Please speak only for yourself and your child; resist the temptation to represent others. The partnership between parents and teachers that our school community advocates implies that teachers recognize parents as the primary educators and that parents view teachers as professionals and aides in the formation of all areas of their child's development. Above all, this partnership implies mutual respect and confidentiality. Be sure to stop by or call the office if you have not yet scheduled your Parent-Teacher Conference. We are hoping for 100% participation!

Thanks to all those SPS parents and students who demonstrated their support for F.I.R.E through their participation in fundraising efforts held last week. I am proud to report that St. Peter's School presented a check at Bonfire for \$2,775.98 to further F.I.R.E.'s efforts to provide support and resources for inclusive Catholic education in our Diocese. In addition to your efforts, Mrs. Meyer raised another \$250 as one of the winners of the cow-milking contest at Bonfire. Who knew she had such talent! I'm sure her Nebraska upbringing gave her an edge on the competition!

Current St. Peter's students Michael Needham and Tommy O'Malley, and SPS alum Brennan Lee, members of the Garage Band at the School of the Arts, "Hank and His Lackeys", will be participating in the Battle of the Bands and Bonfire this Saturday evening, October 17th, at Mission Farms. I am sure they would appreciate seeing some SPS groupies in the audience at this event!

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Upcoming Events

- ✓ Sunday, Oct. 18; 8th Grade Sports Challenge from Noon-3pm
- ✓ Tuesday, Oct. 20; Poinsettia Sale Begins; Second Grade Sacramental Parent Mtg. @ 7 p.m. in the Garden Rm.
- ✓ Wednesday, Oct. 21, EARLY DISMISSAL for Staff Development (2:20 p.m. dismissal); SPS Cultural Bazaar from 5-7 p.m. in the Gym
- ✓ Thursday, Oct. 22; All-School Mass @ 8:15 a.m.; Report Cards Sent Home
- ✓ Friday, Oct. 23; Jr. High Halloween Dance from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Garden Rm.
- ✓ Saturday, Oct. 24; Trivia Night @ 7:00 p.m.

Dads' Social & Knights of Columbus present...

"Monday Night Football with Father Steve"

**Monday, Nov. 9
7:00 p.m.
All dads are invited. Please look for more details in future communications.**

I am also excited to share that Joe Johnson, SPS Class of '98, was honored on October 11th at the Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater in Washington, D.C. as the Grand Prize Winner of the 2009 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Composer's Competition. Joe was recognized for his award-winning composition, "Shepherd Song". The bassist was praised for his "exceptional skill" and awarded \$10,000 and the opportunity to perform 'Shepherd Song' with an all-star band.

You might recall me mentioning Maggie Hutchison's appearance on the radio show, "Right Between the Ears." Maggie's show will broadcast on Kansas Public Radio this Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. It can be heard on KPR's Lawrence affiliate at 91.5 FM or streamed via <http://kansaspublishradio.org/index.php>.

As we begin the second quarter of school, I want to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the policies and procedures that we have established for the smooth operation of our school and for students' safety. All of these are stated in our school handbook but they bear repeating and reviewing.

***Please review the uniform dress code found on pages 15 and 16 as we approach the end of "shorts" season. Remember that students may wear boots to school and during recess, but they must bring shoes to wear in the building. Tights and leggings are to be plain and red, white, or navy in color. Also, please check the length of girls' skirts to make sure they are no shorter than 3" above the knee.**

***Please follow all traffic procedures as stated in the handbook. It is especially important to refrain from parking in the Legacy Center lot for drop-off and pick-up unless you have a child in ECLC.** I know it is convenient, especially if you have a first grader, but it is such a congested parking lot that I truly fear for the safety of the students with all the cars coming and going.

***Please keep a positive balance on your child(ren)'s lunch card to insure that this service is sufficiently funded.** You may be notified today via e-mail if a negative balance will prohibit your child from charging hot lunch. See pages 18 and 19 of the handbook for the specifics of our school lunch program.

I am getting off my soap box now! I look forward to seeing you all at conferences. Perhaps I'll see some of you at the 8th Grade Sports Challenge Sunday (That might be more exciting than the Chiefs game!).

This year has gotten off to a great start, thanks to the support you have given the faculty and staff of St. Peter's as we work together on behalf of one of God's most precious gifts - your children!

Janet Spallo
Principal