

St. Peter's School

October 29, 2009

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



Principal's October 29 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As I write this, we have just returned from an all-school Mass with our SPS Families; it was a beautiful liturgy planned by Sr. Kathleen Marie's 5th grade homeroom students celebrating the saints. I am always touched by our students who minister at our school Masses and give much credit for their enthusiastic involvement to their religion teachers who prepare them so well for that privilege and responsibility. Fr. Steve is also impressed with the students' participation at school liturgies and hopes to capitalize on their willingness and eagerness to serve by inviting the youth of the parish to be cantors and readers at the weekend Masses. You will hear more in the coming weeks about specific opportunities for students to be involved in the weekend liturgies. Please remember the importance of regular weekend Mass attendance, which Fr. Steve has also emphasized at occasions such as "Back to School Night" and the second grade parent meeting last week.

Our 5th and 8th grade students will be taking the ACRE (Assessment of Catechesis and Religious education) test on November 3rd which measures students' knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, practices, and perceptions about the Catholic faith. As this assessment will now be given annually to 5th and 8th graders as mandated by our Diocese, we will be better able to evaluate our religious education program to determine strengths and weaknesses. We will then set school improvement goals for religion instruction, in much the same way we do in other curriculum areas by utilizing the ITBS results and other assessments. I will share an analysis of the results of the ACRE assessment with you and any goals that are determined by those results as soon as the information is received and reviewed by all those who teach religion, as all are responsible for the spiritual growth of students at SPS.

As I mentioned in one of my earlier newsletters, June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010 has been declared *The Year for Priests* by Pope Benedict XVI. Each grade has been assigned a month to pray for religious vocations and specifically for Fr. Steve and Fr. Rocha. Classes are also inviting Fr. Steve to participate in an activity with the students. This month the 5th grade hosted a Q and A with Father at school and found out a lot of interesting tidbits about our new pastor, such as his favorite color and favorite food. As a class they composed the "Top 10 Things We Love and Appreciate About Father Steve" which include that he "gives sermons we can relate to", "explains the Gospel to us", and "opens car doors for us - even in the rain." Check out the display case in the hall by Mrs. Kovac's office for the complete list (especially the number one reason!) and photos of Father's visit to the 5th grade.

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**Project Warmth
Collection begins
November 2nd!**

**Poinsettia Orders
Due
November 4th!**

Upcoming Events

- ✓ Friday, Oct. 30; No School; Conferences from 8am-4pm, Garden Room.
- ✓ Saturday, Oct. 31; Happy Halloween!
- ✓ Sunday, Nov. 1; High School Open Houses
- ✓ Tuesday, Nov. 4; Poinsettia Orders are due!
- ✓ Thursday, Nov. 5; All-School Mass @ 8:15am/2nd Grade Teepee Visit @ SPS
- ✓ Friday, Nov. 6; Noon Dismissal for Staff Development
- ✓ Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7—Holiday Mart @ St. Peter's—see home page of the website for more details!
- ✓ Sunday, Nov. 8-Wednesday, Nov. 11—SPS Book Fair. See home page of the website for more details!

Don't forget!

Per our Uniform Dress Code on pages 15-16 of the SPS Handbook, shorts may be worn through the month of October and then again during the months of March-June. Also, girls' leggings must be ankle-length w/out lace or trim. No boots are to be worn during the school day.

I am proud to report that our art teacher, Mrs. Mary Beth Schmidt, was spotlighted in the Diocesan School Office newsletter this month. In the article in the *School Office News* Mrs. Schmidt discusses the many ways our Catholic faith can be infused into art projects. I was especially proud to read: "The Holy Spirit is at work every day in my classroom, as in all classrooms at St. Peter's. There are so many sacred moments – times when a student grasps an important concept, is able to do more than they thought they could, helps a fellow classmate, discovers the value of perseverance. To teach in a Catholic school is to trust that your full-out best efforts will always be coupled with the power of the Holy Spirit to affect the best educational experience for each of your students." Mrs. Schmidt's "Faces of Hope" photography collage hangs in the School Office this month serving as an illustration of the gifted art teacher we are blessed with at St. Peter's.

Please keep our second grade students in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on November 10th. We congratulate and welcome into the Church second grader Alex Danzo who will be baptized after the 11:00 Mass this Sunday.

After reviewing all St. Peter's students' report cards, I must say I am proud of the academic achievements demonstrated by so many this quarter. In particular, I would like to commend all those seventh and eighth-grade students who earned Honor Roll status this first quarter as indicated on their report cards. I want to recognize by name in my "Principal's News" those students in 7th and 8th grade who achieved a 4.0 average earning the highest honors, Class Honors: Eighth Graders— Maggie Bowen, Emily Cosgrove, Weston Elder, Katie Hornbeck, Austin Meyer, Nate Mohler, Charlotte Nodarse, and Kennedy Reller, and Seventh Graders— Bridgie Auckland, Jack Barry, Anna Bauman, Patrick Bauman, Hope Bentley, Brady Bird, Liam Bryson, Rachel Fosselman, Nicholas Hirner, Sydney Hunter, Maggie Hutchison, Harper Lanning, Greta Smithmier, Emma Willibey, and Grace Wilmot.

I know I will see many of you this evening and tomorrow when you come with your child(ren) for your Parent – Teacher Conference. We were aiming for 100% participation, and I believe we will reach our goal! Many of our teachers have been conferencing with parents before and after school these past two weeks in an effort to accommodate all who wanted a conference but were unable to schedule one this week. Thank you for your active involvement in your child's education. It makes such a positive impact and solidifies the home-school partnership.

Last, but most certainly not least, yesterday the school received a check for \$13,000, which were the proceeds from the Holey Hooley Golf Tournament held on September 28th. Needless to say, we are blown away by the generosity of this donation and promise to be fiscally responsible in utilizing these funds. Fr. Steve and I agree that it is prudent to delay spending the monies until we receive news of the Bishop's decision regarding the funding of our Diocesan schools. As soon as that decision has been made, we can make a more informed decision regarding how to utilize the proceeds from this fundraiser to best serve the needs of the students. I again want to extend my sincerest gratitude to those who organized and sponsored the Holey Hooley and all those who sacrificed a day at work to participate in the tournament. I look forward to next year's event and may even take a few golf lessons between now and then so I can play.

Have a wonderful weekend! Thanks for making SPS such a great place to be!

Janet Spallo
Principal