

St. Peter's School

October 1, 2009

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



Principal's October 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The school community just returned from a Mass celebrating the life of Mitch Brackney, father of Lauren in kindergarten and Jackson in third grade. During the liturgy I could not help but reflect on what a blessing we are to one another. We are fortunate to be part of such a supportive community that celebrates and mourns together. Next week Father Andrew Strobl, a 1996 graduate of St. Peter's School, will celebrate the liturgy in Father Steve's absence. Father Strobl was ordained a priest last May and we look forward to his return to his grade school. As always, parents are invited to attend our school liturgies and are welcome to sit with their children.

Yesterday we welcomed Ms. Sheri Dishong back to St. Peter's for a visit. Ms. Dishong was conducting her annual superintendent's visit and spent several hours yesterday morning visiting classrooms. She enjoyed seeing the students and the staff again and was very complimentary about the classroom instruction she observed and how great the facility looked. She was especially impressed with the Explore time we have built into our schedule this year and saw firsthand how teachers utilize it to provide additional skill instruction, extend concepts, conference with students on their reading and writing, and hold much-needed class meetings. Ms. Dishong also witnessed students working in the food pantry with Mr. Hain, reading independently, reading together, taking AR tests, researching topics of study, and practicing their math facts. I felt much pride for my teachers and my students as I walked through the building with her yesterday!

As you know, next week we are celebrating the commitment St. Peter's has made to inclusive Catholic education with special activities that celebrate, promote, and support F.I.R.E. As I have often said, I am proud to be the principal of a school that not only welcomes students with special needs, but also provides them with a quality education in such an accepting and supportive environment. Thirteen years ago parents, teachers, and the administration at St. Peter's planted the seeds of inclusion. After years of hard work and with much faith and prayer, they have blossomed into the F.I.R.E. program which has not only spread from school to school in our Diocese, but serves as a model for other Dioceses as well. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who support F.I.R.E. with their gifts of time, talent, and resources. Please refer to the list of next week's activities posted on our website. I hope to see you at Bonfire on Saturday, October 10th.

There are many student successes I am happy to share with you this newsletter:

- I would like to congratulate 8th grader Annie Keel who rode 160 miles in last weekend's MS Bike Ride!
- The 8th grade "A" volleyball team received 3rd place in the MOKAN Volleyball Tournament last Saturday!
- The 8th grade boys' football team has yet to be defeated this year!
- Third grader Tommy Cooper participated in an art contest sponsored by Helzberg Diamonds and the Make a Wish Foundation and his design was

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Upcoming Events

- ✓ Friday, Oct. 2; No School
- ✓ Monday, Oct. 5; Blood Drive in the Legacy Center from 3-8 pm
- ✓ Wed., Oct. 7; Walk/Bike to School Day –details in today's messenger envelopes
- ✓ Oct. 9; Jeans Day & 3rd Grade Bike Rodeo
- ✓ Oct. 10; BONFIRE @ O'Hara H.S., 6pm
- ✓ Oct. 13; Pre-Regis Mtg. for 2010-11 ECLC/PK/Kindergarten @ 9am in Garden Rm.
- ✓ Oct. 14; First Quarter Ends
- ✓ Oct. 18; 8th Grade Sports Challenge

*Bonfire
October 10
@
Archbishop
O'Hara H.S.*

was chosen as Helzberg Diamonds corporate Christmas card.

- Seventh grader Maggie Hutchison attended the 2009 Summer Radio Camp taught by the *Right Between the Ears* cast and crew. Maggie will appear on the next live performance of *Right Between the Ears* at Liberty Hall in Lawrence, Kansas, this Saturday at 8:00 PM. The performance will also be broadcast nationwide on XM/SIRIUS satellite radio. For details go to www.Rightbetweentheears.com.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who organized and supported the Parish Fiesta last Saturday night! I especially want to thank math teacher Mrs. Diane Marrin who utilized the Explore period to educate students in all grades about San Francisco de Asis and the history of St. Peter's sister parish relationship. I was so proud of our junior high students who offered their help, as well as teachers Mrs. Kristin Griffin and Mrs. Tina Wendling, decorating and setting up Friday, and working the night of the Fiesta.

I also owe tremendous thanks to chairs James O'Brien, Kevin and Mary Kay Clune, and all the organizers, donors, and golfers involved in Monday's Holey Hooley! It, too, was a very successful fundraiser and such fun. I was amazed by how many former SPS parents were involved in the golf tournament. There was a tremendous amount of positive energy at both events, which was a joy to witness and a testimony to this community's spirit.

Remember that there is no school tomorrow for students. Teachers will be attending a Diocesan staff development opportunity. We are excited about the day which allows teachers to hear a presentation from Dr. Brad Mears on brain-based learning followed by breakout sessions specifically designed to share best practices in math instruction. Teachers of other content areas will be sharing strategies and activities geared toward their specific grade levels and curriculum. I know that staff development days provide an inconvenience for parents, but be assured that the teachers are gaining skills that will positively impact your child's learning at SPS!

Have a great weekend and enjoy this beautiful fall weather! Thanks for all you do to make SPS such a great place to be!

Janet Spallo, Principal

School News and Reminders

BLOOD DRIVE MONDAY, October 5th–Please see the information on the HOME page ENRICHMENT

Please don't forget to check out the fall enrichment courses offered right here at St. Peter's School! A link for course descriptions and the enrollment form can be found on the home page of the school website. We have added YOGA & HOMEWORK CLUB as of October 1.

SAVE THE DATE

For: St. Peter's Mom's Fall Social
When: Thursday, October 29th 7pm
Where: The home of Chrystal Johnson
6120 Morningside

More info to come!

Questions: Contact Mary Beth Andersson 816-361-2315, marybandersson@kc.rr.com
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