

**SAINT PETER RC SCHOOL  
FAMILY MEMO  
NOVEMBER 2017**

Welcome to November and a very busy month here at Saint Peter School. Please be sure to post the attached November calendar in a prominent spot, along with the information we have been sending your way, to make sure you do not miss any deadlines/events/activities that are happening at school. As I put this note and the calendar together for November, it seems like there isn't a day in this month that does not have a note attached....so...thanks for being attentive to all that we are doing.

Please read through the notes...you never know what you don't know, and as always, we are here for you and yours and to answer any questions you might have.

**HAPPY NOVEMBER**

**THANK YOU AND WELCOME**

As we end the month of October, we bid farewell to Mr. James Abbondanza, who has worked tirelessly to help keep our technology department and our ever-increasing technology needs rolling. There has been much to do with all of the new construction and wiring, the set-up of the new lab and the ongoing needs of the teachers (and the Principal) as we add more technology to our daily lives. James has helped us get through some tough times and we appreciate his time and patience for all he has done. James will not be a stranger as he works to transition our new Director of Technology and to maintain his role as an SPS parent of Oren and Gideon. God bless you James for all you have done and will continue to do to help us all moving forward.

We welcome Mr. Mark Gaynor, who will serve SPS as our new Technology Director. Mark comes to us with a lengthy portfolio of skills and experiences, and is well versed in all aspects of schools and their ever-changing technology needs. We are happy to have him join our SPS family and to help us grow in our knowledge and delivery of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

### **HALLOWEEN**

As we close out the month of October, we do so with the traditional Halloween parade and parties. The parade begins at 1:45 pm and students will parade around our block, entering and exiting from the lower parking lot door. Teachers have sent notes regarding specific class plans for treats and gatherings...please connect with your teacher if you have any questions. See Halloween reminder note as an attachment.

### **FAMILY DIRECTORY**

Please check the back pack this week of your youngest child and you will find our family directory. This was created so that parents can connect with each other as they need, either via email or phone.

Thanks Miss Joyce, for putting this together for all.

If you notice an error...please call the office immediately. If a name is omitted, it is because we were asked to refrain from including that information in our directory.

### **MARKETING ASSISTANCE NEEDED...(repeat)**

Ongoing thanks and appreciation are sent to Laura Balcom, Rob Pacillo and Jen Jourdain as they work to rebuild our website and keep our face book page updated. At this time Laura is asking for an additional person or two to assist with certain aspects of the marketing/media work. If you have some talents and a few minutes, and you are looking for a way to get involved and help...all from your own home, this may be the job for you. Please contact Laura at [lelia85@hotmail.com](mailto:lelia85@hotmail.com).

## **CALENDAR RAFFLE**

We have sent home to families the balance of the calendar raffle tickets that were not picked up, and we ask that you sell them and return your \$600 to school, with the stubs as soon as possible. Any stubs not returned by the due date of December 1, 2017 will not be able to be included in the daily drawings, and will still be assessed the mandate cost of \$600.00, unless you were a buy-out family. Just selling or buying all 30 calendars at \$20.00 per calendar equals your mandate paid in full.

Come in any day between 8AM-4PM to pick up extra calendars, if you choose, or call and we can send them home with your child. Please help...we cannot meet the HSA financial obligation to the Parish without the support of everyone. Please purchase/sell your calendars and help to make this fundraiser the huge success we need it to be. Thanks so much!

## **DROP OFF AND PICK UP...AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Safety continues to be our number one concern and we thank all who have been so patient as we once again use our drop-off and pick-up loop for entry and dismissal of students.

Just a few reminders for all:

- Please have students in the cars ready to disembark and have your last minute conversations in the car while waiting. Many folks need to get to work, or other appointments, etc., and we do not want to hold them up. We, the teachers, will also limit conversations to keep the flow moving... ☺
- We are continuing to ask that no parents park their cars on the side of the school or across the street and then walk over and wait to get their children to avoid the loop. Please...this can lead to unsafe crossing between buses and traffic being directed based on the bus arrival/departure and cars leaving the loop. You may

end up waiting for the last car in the loop to be loaded. Most families have learned the time that works best for them to arrive...PLEASE if you have a place to be...please know that so does everyone else.

- On Tuesdays we will use the same process for dismissal from STREAM academies and Future City
- On Wednesday we will use the loop for dismissal for Chorus and St. Vincent DePaul
- On Thursdays we will use the loop for dismissal after Drama Club. Please line up in the loop and we will dismiss all after school students in the order that your cars arrive.
- SO...the only parents that need to come into the building after school are those that are picking up their children from latchkey/after school care. All other parents will use the loop and we do appreciate your help in making this work. We get better each time and we do appreciate your patience. Of course, if you are coming to the school at any time to pick up your child for an appointment, or because you have a meeting or anything else, just ring the bell and we will buzz you right up to the office to sign in.

## **DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING**

There are no words to express the gratitude we share at Saint Peter RC School, for all that has been done to create a beautiful, newly updated learning environment for the children in our care. The Mass and dedication ceremony were truly the culmination and the fruition of the dreams, drawings and decisions made over the past two years for our kids and our parish.

The faculty and staff, along with the children and their families, as well as myself, are ***forever indebted*** to our benefactors and supporters for making all of these additions and improvements a reality.

## **STREAM**

It's hard to believe that we are already six weeks into our first session of STREAM Academy! Students and teachers have been working hard and having fun while participating in the various clubs offered. This year will mark the first time that St. Peter RC School will attend the X-Stream Games and Expo at St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our top inventors from Invention Convention will have the opportunity to compete in the Shark Tank event. Students from You're the Balm club will also be able to attend the X-Stream Games to sell the lip balm product that they created from start to finish. Students will also be making STREAM connections to the community through field trips and presentations in the classrooms. At the end of the month, there will be an oral health presentation, zoo mobile visit and a trip to the Herschell Carrousel Museum for designated grades. We are very excited for these fun and educational experiences that will prepare our students to be innovative thinkers!

## **LITERACY...GUIDED READING INSTRUCTION**

We are very excited about the first month of implementation of our Literacy Block and Guided Reading Instruction. We feel very confident as we observe in each classroom and see small groups of students receiving instruction at their personal instructional level, while others are working at centers, independently, working with partners, or completing instructional tasks related to their classroom learning. We are updating our testing as needed and moving students from level to level as they are ready. We are continuously purchasing leveled books and materials to better provide for the needs of each group, and teachers are in ongoing training to be sure they are giving their best to each and every student. Even the students are now aware of their levels and can better choose books for themselves from the school and classroom libraries as well as off the shelves at Barnes and Noble, Target or wherever books are sold.

Please be sure to stay in touch with the classroom teacher if you have any questions. We are in this education of YOUR child(ren) together ...so...let's keep the communication rolling.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS/PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Hopefully you have all read the letter that was sent home with your children last week and that you realize the need to share in the education of your children. Teaching and Learning is a full time proposition shared by all of us...as a team...working to help each child be the very best they can be. Moving forward...

- If your child received a “progress report,” please be sure you take some minutes to talk to your child about what was said and about how you can all work to keep things going in a positive direction, where to go for assistance if needed, and how to turn around some grades and behaviors that need to be improved. As I told all of the children...progress reports are sent as a warning of how things are at this moment...and they are all given a chance to make changes before the actual report cards come out in December.
- Parent teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday November 21, 2017 between the hours of 1-4 and 5-8 pm. Please complete the attached PT conference request form and return to school indicating the time that works best for you. Appointments are assigned on a first come first served basis. Appointments will be for 10 minutes in order to allow all families to meet with the teachers. The middle school teachers will meet as a team: Wardwell, DiNardo, Say and Flynt.

### **FIELD TRIPS/ACTIVITIES**

Watch the calendars and check with your children about some upcoming field trips/activities/events for our students. Individual permission slips have been/will be sent home and we ask that you

respond to the classroom teachers as requested to be sure we are all set to go on field trip day.

## **SPORTS**

As the new month approaches, we are ramping up our very full winter sports events. We thank Mrs. Briana Jegier, who continues to serve as our Athletic Director, and remind you of three very important pieces of information related to winter sports:

- If your child has not been signed up on line...for any sport...please do so immediately
- If you do not go on line to register for a sport by Tuesday, October 31 you cannot play that sport. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- If the required number of players do not sign up for a sport on line, and there are not enough players to form a team...that team will not be formed...late comers will be responsible for no team if you miss the deadline.
- (SEE SECOND SENDING OF THE SPORTS MEMO ATTACHED)

We want to hold all sports for all children at all ages, but you must help us out in this way...if you have any questions, please contact Briana at [briana@jampus.com](mailto:briana@jampus.com)

## **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (repeat)**

In addition to our very full sports calendar, we offer several other after school activity options at this time:

- Chorus meets from 3:15-4:00 with Mrs. Baumler and Mrs. Gaudy every Wednesday. Please line up in the loop for pick up from Chorus as we do at dismissal. Please do not enter the building, but wait for Mrs. Gaudy to bring the children to you. We continue to thank God for the gift of Mrs. Baumler and her music ministry.
- STREAM Academies began this month with close to 70 students participating in a variety of activities offered for all age groups.

Once again...we will dismiss students using the loop at 4:15...please do not ring to enter the building to get your child.

- Future City is also underway on Tuesdays as a part of the STREAM block 3:15-4:15 on Tuesdays
- Drama practice for this year's musical, Disney's, The Lion King Jr., will be held on Thursdays, from 3:15-4:15. Schedule changes will come directly from Mrs. Gaudy, as we approach the actual event.
- The Junior St. Vincent De Paul Club will meet with Mr. Allen on Wednesdays and students will be dismissed at 4:00 pm along with the chorus students.

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA & WREATH SALE**

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes are sponsoring a Christmas poinsettia and wreath sale from November 1-13, 2017 to benefit their class trip to Boston in 2019. Attached is an order form. I am sure the students would appreciate your support.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS...AND THERE ARE LOTS**

Be sure to post and review the attached November calendar to see all of the SPS events that are happening this month. This certainly is a busy place! Feel free to call the office if you have any questions if you need information about:

- ❖ PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
- ❖ THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET
- ❖ SUPPER WITH SANTA (DECEMBER)
- ❖ ANGEL TREE (DECEMBER)
- ❖ SCRIP ORDERS
- ❖ MANDATE INFORMATION
- ❖ CALENDAR RAFFLE
- ❖ ETC.

**WE COME TO LEARN...WE LEAVE TO SERVE...Service Projects**

Each of our classes and all of our teachers have been busy researching and planning to put this year's theme into action...we recognize how much we have been given and we are reaching out to a host of people, agencies and organizations to share and serve others. We will certainly share much more of what we are doing as the year goes on, but at this time, these are the projects/connections our classes have made:

- PreK 3 and PreK 4: Niagara Hospice
- Kindergarten (Calandrelli): Infirmiry Sisters of Stella Niagara
- Kindergarten (Sansano): Veteran's Assistance
- Grade One: Habitat for Humanity
- Grade Two: Make A Wish Foundation
- Grade Three: St. Gianna Molla Outreach Center
- Grade Four: St. Mary's Hospital
- Grade Five: Harvest House
- Grade Six: St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
- Grade Seven: Ronald McDonald House
- Grade Eight: Children of Roswell
- Faculty/Staff: Haven House

**BUS BEHAVIOR (REPEAT)**

Riding any school bus from any school district to Saint Peter RC School is a privilege, not a right. Please remind your children of bus safety behaviors, and the importance of following all rules to ensure the safety of all, and to make sure the driver can do their job without distraction. Thanks.

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NOVEMBER is a month of giving. As we send things to school...food, clothes, dollars, gifts...let us be sure that we remind our children that it is our responsibility to take care of all of God's children in whatever way we can...and that is why we do what we do and why we bring what we bring to school. Thanks to all families who donated clothing to the

families of Puerto Rico. As they move to the area as their homes are being rebuilt, it is a good thing to know that we helped to make them feel warm and welcome.

God bless us all as we continue to teach, to learn, to share and to grow in God's love.

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**Attachments:**

November Calendar

November Menu

Halloween Reminders

Sports Reminders

Thanksgiving Basket Donations

Parent Teacher Conference Letter & Sign-Up Sheets

Christmas Poinsettia & Wreath Order Form