

St. Peter RC School  
Family Memo  
March 2018

Welcome to March and hopefully the beginning of Spring, some warmer weather and much healthier days for all of us...teachers and students alike!

We have entered the solemn season of Lent and each classroom is working on different activities, having different conversations, and making a variety of promises as they prepare themselves for the joyous celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. We encourage each student to think of things they can do in their lives, whether it is giving up something that has meaning to them for the 6 week period of Lent, or trying hard to do something extra that has meaning for someone they know and/or helps to make them a better person. Blessings to all for a heartfelt Lenten season.

**RE-REGISTRATION**

Thank you to all of the families that have sent in their registration forms for 2018-2019 school year. Our primary classes are close to full and waiting lists will be created when numbers exceed our maximum. There are still just a few families who have not yet registered and we ask you to let us know your intentions for returning...which we hope you will...this week. We cannot hold any spots at this time as registration has become open to the public. Thanks for letting us know.

**PLANNING FOR 2018-2019**

After completing a lengthy survey in the hopes of meeting the individual needs of more students at our school moving forward, the teachers and I have met to lay out our plans and recommendations for the coming year.

For those that include a price tag we will submit in March to the St. Peter Parish Finance committee for approval so that we can begin to move forward.

For those other ideas, we will continue to work in or staff and faculty committees; curriculum, playground, professional development, scheduling, etc. to work out the kinks and get all in place for next September. We have many exciting things in the planning and with this year already two thirds over, the staff is very excited to make some of the recommended changes to make our school even better by September.

**ILLNESS**

We are hoping that we are getting close to the end of this terrible flu season. So many teachers and students have been ill, but our attendance rates seem to be climbing back towards normal now and we hope all are back to school or on the mend. We continue to do our best to help everyone stay healthy by using hand sanitizer several times throughout the day, wiping down computers, tables and desks each day, washing hands frequently and covering all coughs and sneezes. Thank you for keeping your children home when they are sick, and for responding to

our calls when your children come to the office when they don't feel well. Thanks for your help and stay well.

Additional information about the 2017-2018 influenza season can be found on the NYSDOH web site.

### **CHILDREN'S BASKET AUCTION**

For those new to SPS, this event is one of the favorites of all our children. Teachers and parents are asked to donate baskets for children valued from \$10-\$15. All in attendance purchase a dinner ticket for \$7.00 which includes 2 pieces of pizza, a drink, a small dessert and 4 basket tickets. They can also buy tickets to take chances on the baskets. It's a great time for family and friends.

### **SECOND TRIMESTER COMES TO AN END**

Can you believe we are quickly approaching the end of the second trimester of school this month? Where has the time gone. The trimester ends on March 9 and report cards will come home with your children on March 16. We will review our second trimester goals and set individual goals for the final semester as soon as we return from Easter and, along with the direct guided reading instruction, we know the children will continue to improve their reading skills. Thanks again for working with us for your children.

### **BRUNCH WITH THE BUNNY**

We will not be hosting the Brunch with the Bunny this year.

### **SHADOW STATIONS**

On Friday March 16, 2018, we will once again portray the Passion and Death of Our Lord for the school community and the Parish community as well. Our students in Grade 8, through the use of shadows, screening and a narrative, will retell the suffering of Jesus as He made His way to Calvary to die on the cross for all of us. If you have never participated in this event, I wholeheartedly encourage you to come and be a witness to this visual, yet subtle story. Shadow Stations will be held in Church on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March at 10:00 a.m. (after the school Mass) and at 7 p.m.. What a tremendous way to share the message of Lent and Easter with your family. I look forward to seeing you there.

### **FIRST PENANCE**

God bless the students of our school and Parish who will be receiving the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Saturday, March 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church. They have all been working hard to prepare for this most special event and we pray for them and their families every day.

### **NO SCHOOL**

Students have no school on Monday, March 12. Teachers have an all-day training at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

### **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE**

Students in Grades 2-8 will receive the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation at 1:00 pm in St. Peter Church as a school community on Tuesday March 20. This is one more way that we are preparing for Holy Week and ultimately for the Resurrection of Our Lord.

### **STREAM ACADEMIES**

As February comes to an end, we are just past the midway point in our second session of STREAM Academies. Each academy is filled with fun activities that encourage students to plan, design, create and discuss while they explore the wonderful world of STREAM. STREAM Academy continues for the first three Tuesdays in March.

### **LITERACY UPDATE**

As we finished administering and analyzing the mid-year literacy benchmark assessments, we couldn't be happier with the results. Students are making tremendous growth with reading fluency and comprehension. All primary grades conduct literacy blocks daily in the classroom to focus on specific literacy skills and strategies. These lessons include whole group, small group and independent instruction and are designed to meet the individual needs of each student. We strongly encourage you to make time to read daily with your child!

### **INFORMATION ON REPORT CARD GRADING**

When finding the average for your child's final grade, the classes vary on a weighting system. The core subjects that meet 5 times a week are weighted as 1, while a class that meets once a week is weighted as .2 . Most specials are weighted at .2 or .4 since they meet once or twice a week. This means that the grades they receive in these classes do not weigh as heavily when calculating the final average. We have attached a copy of an example report card with a few core subjects and one special area class, art. The first report card shows the art class to have a grade of 90 and the second report card to have an art grade of 80. You can see that the overall effect on the final average is slight. This is not to say that the special area classes are not as important, but that each class is weighed on the number of times they meet during the week. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Example report cards can be found in the attachments.

### **GIRLS ON THE RUN**

Last call for any girls in Grades 3,4 and 5 who are interested in joining Miss O'Rourke our PreK 4 teacher, and Mrs. Berrigan, mom of Paden and Reece, as they help our girls prepare for the SPS 5K race and the Girls on the Run event in Buffalo. This is a great program that builds self-esteem as well as building strength and endurance as the girls work out and train together. Please call the school office if you need more information.

### **EASTER CANDY PICKUP**

Easter candy pickup is Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> between 3:00-5:00 pm. Enter through the gym door and allow enough time to review your order before leaving.

## **SPORTS**

At this time all sign-ups for the Spring Sports season should have been completed. Thanks, once again, to Briana Jegier, our SPS Athletic Director, for making so many sporting opportunities available for our students. Please contact Briana directly at [sportsdirector@stpeterrc.org](mailto:sportsdirector@stpeterrc.org) if you have any questions. And...Briana is always looking for volunteer coaches for this year and the upcoming year, so please consider volunteering your time...Briana can give you all the details.

## **MARCH LENTEN EVENTS AT SPS**

- Lenten Mass and Breakfast for families at 7:45 am on March 6, March 13, and March 20. All are welcome.
- Lenten Penance Service Grades 2-8 Tuesday March 20
- Children's Basket Auction March 13
- Shadow Stations Friday March 16 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm
- Classroom service projects will continue
- Dress down days for Catholic Charities March 8 & 13

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. March Calendar
2. March Menu
3. April Calendar
4. Children's Basket Auction Dinner Reservation form
5. Easter Candy Delivery
6. A reminder from the Nurse
7. Example Student Report Cards