



*Celebrating the 70th year
of Catholic education
of the whole child:
spiritual, academic,
emotional, intellectual,
physical and social.*

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WILDCAT UPDATE

Volume 8 Issue 3 January 2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

It is truly amazing to me that we are already half way through the school year. It seems like just a second ago I was scared to death worrying about the first day of school and how things were going to go. Now I sit here thinking of putting together a calendar and schedule for next year. I do want to thank everyone for everything they have helped me with and helped me get through. Most of you know this has been a very exciting, strange, and scary past six months for me and my family. I do not think we would have ever been able to handle it without working somewhere where the support was any less than spectacular which is what it has been here at St. Peter.

Several exciting new things have happened recently at our school. We now have an up to date phone system throughout the school and 99% of the locks have been re-keyed. The safety and security throughout the school is much better because of it. Both of these items were able to be completed due to the money that was raised at the Halloween Carnival. Another couple of items that I am hoping to get completed with these funds is to update the wireless internet throughout the buildings and also update the website to a more friendly useable version. I do realize that many of these things do not seem that important if you think of the education of your child, but without these things in place the whole operation of the school is slowed down tremendously.

I know that the second half of the school year will probably go by faster than the first half and before you know it summer will be here, so hold on and enjoy the ride with me.

Sincerely,
Doug McMillan

Around our School

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope your Christmas holiday was filled with all of those balmy weather outdoor activities as it looks like winter has finally arrived in eastern NC.

Registration for the 2016-17 school year began on Jan. 24th. The form went home with the youngest child in each family, so if you haven't seen the application, please check your child's bookbag. All forms are due in the office by Friday, Feb. 5th. If you have a child that will be starting Pre-K or Kindergarten for the first time next fall, please include him/her on this form. Pre-K students must be 4 years old and K students must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2016, as required by NC state law. All registration fees are due by Feb. 26th.

Catholic Schools week is Jan. 31-Feb 5. Thanks to our planning committee, we have come up with some new ideas for a fun week that will focus on service, and will make our school more visible in the community. All classes are involved in a service project during the week. The older students will be volunteering for a few hours at the Food Bank and Homeless Shelter, and the younger students will work on some projects here at school to send out to other local organizations. We invite you to come to our Pastors' Day prayer service on Wed., Feb. 3rd at 9:00 AM and the Volunteers' breakfast afterwards at 10:00. Your minister would enjoy seeing you, as well as your child, at the breakfast. The annual student/faculty basketball game will be played on Friday, Feb. 5th at 1:30. It is always the biggest event of the week, and you are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to all of the Middle School students for doing an exceptional job with their History Day projects in Nov. and extra congratulations to all of the winners. Please see the article in this Wildcat edition for the complete list of winners. The History Bee was held on Dec. 18th. Congratulations to the following students for qualifying for the next level of competition: Ben Skahill, Ian Reiling, Brighton Hou, and William Becker in sixth grade, Phillip Walter and Ryan Moloney in seventh grade, Jack Hastings, Elijah Lapay, and Caroline Van Dyck in eighth grade. The DAR essay contest was also held in the fall. The following students were the winners from SPS: In sixth grade, Connor Gay, 1st place, and Megan Flowers and Carter Lamson tied for 2nd place; in seventh grade, Claire Crane, 1st place and Ryan Moloney, 2nd place; in eighth grade, Ashley Hinson, 1st place, and Tanner Twiddy, Harrison Miller, and Allie Curtis tied for 2nd place. Our district winners were Connor Gay, 1st place, and Claire Crane and Ashley Hinson tied for 2nd place.

As always during the winter, there is much sickness in the school. If your child is sick, please keep him/her at home. Before they can return to school, students must be free of fever or from vomiting for 24 hours. If a student is absent from school (or unexcused tardy), he/she may not attend any school functions, athletic events, etc. later that day or evening. Remember to send a note upon their return to school. We have had lice issues in a few classrooms several times this year. Please be diligent about checking your child's head often, and wash his/her coat, hat, scarf, bookbag, etc.

(cont.)



Please remind them never to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves, etc. Remember that the only acceptable outwear inside the classroom/school is an SPS crewneck sweatshirt or hoodie (MS only). Check to see that your child is properly dressed in the correct school uniform and is in compliance with the uniform policy concerning hair, socks, jewelry, etc. Always refer to the school handbook. PLEASE label your child's coat, sweatshirt, lunchbox, etc. Our Lost and Found is running over with nameless clothing articles.

The Annual Fund continues. If you have not supported this, please consider making a donation now. We would like to see 100% of our families participate. If you have already given, thank you for your support. Thanks to the faculty and staff for reaching that 100% goal!

With the arrival of 2016, we will celebrate our 70th anniversary with some exciting things happening this spring. You will receive more information soon. As always, thank you for your support of Time, Treasure, and Talent. Without you, we would not be the great school that we are. Stay warm and wish for an early arrival of spring!

Page Watson, Assistant Principal



SPCS KINDERGARTNERS SANG CHRISTMAS CAROLS TO THE RESIDENTS OF CYPRESS GLEN IN DECEMBER.

SPS Middle School Mixed Ensemble

The Mixed Ensemble will be very active in the next few weeks. They will sing at St. Peter Catholic Church on Sunday, January 31st at the 10:30am mass. Then on Wednesday, February 3rd they will sing a song during the school's Pastors' Day prayer service. Finally, they will perform at the 3-5 Music Program on Tuesday, February 23rd.

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Parents,

Please mark your calendars for February 23rd, the night of the 3-5 Music Program! It will be a wonderful evening of singing, dancing, recorders, violins, and merriment! We have started program rehearsals and look forward to performing for you! If you are unable to attend this concert, please let Ms. Merrill know as soon as possible. If your child misses for any reason, (s)he will receive a make-up assignment.

The K-2 Music Program on Tuesday, December 15th was a great success! The K-2 classes and Mixed Ensemble sang beautifully! The dances were darling. The strings sounded lovely! What a wonderful showcase of the talent at St. Peter Catholic School! I am so proud of each child! I look forward to watching them grow as musicians!

MATH SUPERSTARS

If it's too cold to send the kids out to play why not work on your Math Stars? Family fun for everyone. Remember, please keep all worksheets at home until the due date in March.



Food Share

Over 22 years ago, Brother Robert Lafave, O.S.F., the Franciscan principal of St. Peter's Catholic School, wanted to help the people of Pitt County who were experiencing hunger and poverty. Brother Robert believed that Jesus walked among us in the poor and marginalized. He needed parent volunteers who were willing to give their time and effort to create such a program. He asked two parents to lead this program, Mrs. Tere Ruff and Mrs. Jean King. At the beginning of this program, families in need were invited to come to St. Peter's School one Saturday a month to receive a large food box with canned food, fresh fruits, vegetables and meats. Many parent volunteers including Mrs. Carol Leatherman, Mrs. Kathy Castillo, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Moore and many of our St. Peter's students prepared and packed the food boxes once a month. Hundreds of families were assisted in this way and served in other ways as they always came with many other needs besides food. With changes in administration, the program also had to change. Today, our students continue to bring canned food to assist our neighbors in need of Pitt County. The cans are taken to St. Vincent de Paul Society and are distributed from St. Peter Catholic Church every other Tuesday to families in need. In addition to the canned items, our middle school Beta Club members provide sandwiches every Thursday for the JOY Soup Kitchen. These sandwiches along with the soup that the 5th Grade teachers and their students prepare is picked up by alumni parent Mrs. Nancy Williams. The soup program has been in existence for 18 years.

SPS Development

The SPS Annual Fund Campaign is cruising along. As of January 6, 2016 we have received slightly over \$20,000.00 in donations. Our family participation level is only 20%, however, and we hope to do much better!

Once again, the faculty and staff participation level has reached 100%.

Please consider giving to the Annual Fund to help your school reach the goals outlined in Mr. McMillan's letter. It is tax deductible and the benefits toward the children are immeasurable!

I recently received the following note from a SPCS parent:

"While I am happy that our school has raised over \$20k so far, it concerns...me that the amount (only 20% participation) is so low. I believe we have over 350 families at SPS. If only 20% have contributed, that would mean approximately 70 families, which probably also includes many staff members and teachers, pledging this \$20,000."

Please know that your contribution, no matter the amount, also counts toward our overall demonstration of family investiture for the awarding of grants as well as accreditation. Annual Fund collections are used as a measure of the confidence our families have in their school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nancy Sturgis at nsturgis@spcsnc.net.

TROOPS ON THE USS ARLINGTON ENJOY COOKIES SENT BY OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.



From the Library Media Center

Thank you for making our Christmas Book Fair at Barnes & Noble successful. It was a wonderful opportunity for our SPS families to Christmas shop while supporting the Library Media Center. We extend a big thanks to The Hoopsters, the featured Art Students, our Strings Program, The Elf on the Shelf, and faculty members who read Christmas stories. The LMC was awarded a Barnes & Noble gift card in the amount of \$736.98 which will be used to add books to our collection. Come by the library to see some of our new books.

Our Elementary Battle of the Books team is working hard in preparation for our March 2 competition at Ravenscroft School in Raleigh. Please encourage these students as they prepare for a challenging and fun day.

We are planning a Spring Scholastic Book Fair the week of March 14 -18. We hope this event will be lots of fun for our St. Peter families. The fair will run each school day during school hours. Our Family Night is planned for March 15 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Your family can have dinner with the 8th graders at the Spaghetti Dinner and shop at the Book Fair! Please remember that our Book Fairs provide the book budget for the LMC.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan 30 - Feb 5 Catholic Schools Week
- Feb 3 - Pastor's Day
- Feb 5 - MS Social
- Feb 10 - Ash Wednesday
Lent Begins
- Feb 12 - 1/2 Day of School
- Feb 15 - No School
- Feb 23 - Intermediate Music Program
- Feb 26 - Registration Fees Due
- Mar 3-6 - EIC Tournament
- Mar 7 - No School



The Kindergarten Classes collected donations for Spay Today, a low-cost spay/neuter clinic located in Greenville, serving Pitt County and Eastern NC. They spay/neuter all animals from the Pitt Co. Animal Shelter, as well as animals from other rescue groups.



All SPS Students K-9
Secure your tuition by Friday, Feb 29th for
A REAL HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE...



EMBALLING WILDCATS NOW!



JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
GREENVILLE, NC
www.jpahighschool.com (252) 245-1224



A note from your School Counselor...

Throughout the month of December, my pre-K through 5th grade classroom visits focused on the concept of Kindness. As a part of their lesson, our 2nd-5th grade students wrote anonymous notes of kindness, encouragement, and support. It was such a pleasure to read each outstanding and heartfelt note.

Our students never cease to amaze me!

The rationale behind this activity was simple. Our younger students learned that even small gestures can make a big difference in the lives of others. Each note was delivered to our middle school students' lockers and staff mailboxes, and were received on our first day back to school following Christmas break.

Our 6th-8th grade students and staff were quite surprised, and everyone truly seemed to appreciate these remarkable messages. Kindness matters here at St. Peter Catholic School. Way to go Wildcats!!!

History Day

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S HISTORY DAY WINNERS! THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WILL BE ADVANCING TO THE REGIONAL COMPETITION.

Individual Website

Brooke Borton
Harrison Ershadi
Ben Skahill
Alt - Jason Napast

Individual Documentary

Ashley van Havere
Ryan Moloney
Phillip Walter
Alt - Hans Guillen

Group Exhibit

Robert Allen, Ethan Ambrose, Harrison Miller,
and Matthew Wacker
Rebecca Chemmanam and Mary Grace Smith
Grant and Carson Worthington
Alt - Parker Eveleth and Greg Kuhn

Historical Paper

Andrew Gallagher
Noah Sampson
Jordan Taylor
Alt - Elaijah Lapay

Individual Exhibit

Jessica Balanay
William Becker
Lauren Hodgson
Ian Reiling
Parker Woodall
Alt- Alex Borton

Group Website

Emory Brooks and Lucy Ogle
Maggie Geiger and Emma Dao
Ben Hurdle and Kyson James
Hayli Modlin and Alayna Damm
Madeline and Alex Smith
Alt - Tony Alexander and Jerry Cox

Individual Performance

Elliana Proctor
Erin Stockwell
Emily Surles
Alt - Carter Lamson

Group Performance

Louisa Burch and Hanley Boardman
Noelle DeVente and Faith Koesters

Group Documentary

Reagan and Reilly Flynn
Brae Heizer, Skyeler Jackson, and AJ Hou



Catholic Schools Week

This year our Catholic Schools Week celebration is embracing the exhortation of our Holy Father Pope Francis to be people of humility and service; taking the Joy of the Gospel message out into our community. Catholic Schools Week begins this weekend! It is being kicked off at all the weekend Masses. All St. Peter Catholic School students and their families, along with the faculty and staff, are invited to attend and participate at our Masses (Saturday 5PM, Sunday 8, 10:30, 12:10, and 5PM) Our school community will serve as greeters, readers, altar servers and gift bearers. The Middle School Ensemble, under the direction of Miss Jessica Merrill, will lend their voices at the 10:30 Mass. Our violinists, under the direction of Mrs. Leigh Sypawka, will play at the 12:10 Mass. Students dressed in their complete school uniform will be given a NUT Day pass for Monday, February 1st. Hope to see as many of our families there as possible. What a great way for St. Peter Catholic Church community to experience the beautiful spirit of our school!

To Begin With –

Throughout the week, the classes will be collecting canned goods for St. Vincent de Paul Society. They will be counted and stacked in the hallway outside the Principal's office. There will be a friendly competition between the grade levels with the winner announced at the closing ceremony on Friday.

Monday is Admin/Office /Staff Day—

This year, not only will our Administration /Office Staff be remembered with lunch, but they, in turn, will be remembering all our many generous sponsors and outside support services. They will be personally delivering homemade sweets provided by our HSA to thank our benefactors for their continuous help and support.

Tuesday is Community Day—

To demonstrate the values and faith we learn here in our Catholic school, our students and faculty will participate in service projects throughout our local community. Our Middle Schoolers and their teachers have plans to spend time at the Community Food Bank and the Homeless Shelter. Third and Fifth grade prayer partners will be making soup for the J.O.Y. Soup Kitchen with special placemats provided by our Kindergarten and 1st grade classes. 4th grade will be writing letters of appreciation and encouragement to the military. And the 2nd grade, in memory of their classmate Georgia Godwin, is partnering with our Children's Hospital.

Wednesday is Pastor's Day and Volunteers' Day-

Our students are writing letters to their pastors inviting them to our special Pastor's Day Prayer Service. It is a great opportunity for our school community and pastors to pray together as one family. It will be held in the church at 9AM. All of our school families are encouraged to attend and show your support for the work of your pastors. Our Middle School Mixed Ensemble and String Program will be performing. We will be serving breakfast in our school cafeteria for our pastors and school volunteers immediately following the service. Please come out and support your pastors.

Cont



Thursday is Faculty/Staff Day—
Lunch will be provided for the faculty and staff.

Friday is Student Day—

Student Day will begin with an All School Mass at 9am. Please join us in giving thanks for our wonderful school community. At lunch, a special treat will be served to all students. And then...after lunch, our annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week will conclude with the much anticipated, always entertaining and hard fought Teachers and Alumni vs. 8th Grade basketball game. Come and cheer for your favorite team!!! And be ready to MAKE SOME NOISE!!!

"Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

Catholic School's week is Sunday, January 30 through Saturday, February 6. During Catholic School's week we are encouraged to go out into our community to serve. Serving our community helps demonstrate the values and faith we learn through our Catholic education in the classroom.

Our Catholic presence in the community will inspire our students to be more aware of Catholic social teachings so that they can continue their service long after they leave our school. On Thursday, February 4 the middle school students will be volunteering in the community. Part of the middle school will be going to the Food Bank to help in the warehouse, and part of the middle school will be going to the homeless shelter to volunteer. Students will only be gone from school during the morning hours. Understanding community needs helps foster empathy and self-efficacy. Community service and volunteerism are an investment in our community and the people who live in it. We hope students realize they can make a difference.

Love Has No Limits by Madeleine Mahar

"We can't be a functioning world or community or group of people without love." - Alannah Napast on the song "Ordinary Love" by U2.

On Friday, January 15th, the middle school students gathered in the Media Center to celebrate the end of midterm exams and to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. and his leadership in fighting for equality for all people. In addition to the Selma DVD provided by Mr. Hughes, we also watched Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, as well as U2's "Ordinary Love" music video commemorating Nelson Mandela, another Civil Rights activist.

After viewing the videos, eighth grader Alannah Napast provided our take-away message, "We can't be a functioning world or community or group of people without love." That statement, along with 1 Corinthians 13, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love," say it all. We are called to love.

During Catholic Schools Week, due to the efforts of Mrs. Curry and countless parents, middle school students will answer the call to love by volunteering at the Pitt County Food Bank and the Greenville Homeless Shelter. There is no limit to love spread through community service.



BETA CLUB NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who donated items for our Tree of Warmth. By the last day of school, the tree was filled and we were able to donate over 80 items to St. Vincent de Paul for our neighbors in need of Pitt County. During the next two months, we will continue to make blankets for Pitt County babies.

Our February St. Valentine candy grams are on sale now. Please participate if you can to help the earthquake disaster victims of Nepal.

We thank our members who continue to make sandwiches for the JOY Soup Kitchen.

Our members who are on the honor roll for 2nd quarter will be going bowling for their rewards trip this month. Please keep up the good work!

Are you a morning person? 4th street drop-off needs your help! We help unload the kids and all their gear from 7:30 - 8:00. Volunteer one morning per week or once every other week. Looking for help Mondays and Wednesdays. Please contact Anne Kennedy at 364-1974 or awerrell@yahoo.com.

Technology Corner



Middle school students participated in the Hour of Code during their computer class. The Hour of Code is a nationwide campaign held during Computer Science Week in December to spark student's interest in coding and careers in Computer Science. This is also a component of Middle School STEM/STREAM education. Coding encourages students to think logically and be creative with technology. Together as a middle school they completed over 4,500 lines of code. Studies show that in 2020 there will be more jobs available in Computer Science fields than students to fill these positions.



WILDCAT ATHLETICS!



THANK YOU!!!
to Tori Alcock and
her family, Noelle
and David Carraway
and also to Hastings
Ford for our new
scoreboard!!!!

**HOOPSTERS
PERFORM
AT THE
GREENVILLE
CHRISTMAS
PARADE.**



WILDCAT ATHLETICS!



OUR VARSITY AND JV BASKETBALL TEAMS ARE WELL INTO THEIR SEASONS. PLEASE CHECK THE ATHLETICS PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE INFORMATION AND COME OUT TO SUPPORT THE WILDCATS!!!

The fifth grade SPS cheerleaders are looking forward to making their debut. Even though they got a late start this season, they have been working hard and are so excited to get this chance to support the 6th, 7th and 8th grade basketball players.

Spring Sports sign-ups coming soon! If anyone is interested in a coaching position please contact the Athletic Office. We offer Golf, Co-ed Soccer, Baseball and Softball!

The Knights of Columbus free throw contest will be on Feb. 2 from 3 until 5pm in the gym.





WILDCAT STUDENT ART

Mr. Bell, Art Teacher



Kindergarten students model their hats on Funny Hat Day (Students used cylinders, cones, and other forms to create wearable art.)
Materials: paper and tape

Maracas by (left to right) Alicia Baumgartner - KT, Garrett Stokes - KT, and Remy O'Donahue - KT
(Students learned to create a cylinder and used it in their art.)
Materials: paper, tape, glue, corn



Maracas by (left to right) Naidy Carreño - KP, Liam Lewis - KP, and Joyner Rhodes - KP
(Students learned to create a cylinder and used it in their art.)
Materials: paper, tape, glue, corn





WILDCAT STUDENT ART

Mr. Bell, Art Teacher



Mouse Head Sculpture by Parker Simo & Ayla Guillen - 1B (Students learned to create a cone and used it in their art.)
Materials: paper, tape, glue, yarn, cotton, and a pom pom.



Fish Sculptures by (top to bottom) Will D'Alonzo - 5S, Carson Hartong - 5S, Emma Schemerhorn - 5S, and Jackson Schreiber - 5A
Materials: styrofoam, paper, tape, glue, glitter glue





WILDCAT STUDENT ART

Mr. Bell, Art Teacher



7th graders working on hand sculptures in art class

Materials: cardboard, wire, tape, paper, glue, tempera paint
This project serves as an engineering component option of a 7th grade science class STEM unit on the anatomy and physiology of the human hand.

3D prints of computer-aided design (CAD) drawings of hands by (left to right): Ryan Moloney, Phillip Walter, Nate Hasselbach, and Justin Overman. This project serves as an engineering component option of a 7th grade science class STEM unit on the anatomy and physiology of the human hand.

