



**St. Peter School
Wednesday Packet
December 14, 2011**

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE
Wednesday, December 14, 2011

"Today is a good day to do great things for the glory of God!"

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK (AND SOUND) A WHOLE LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS:

*Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade, as well as the Fifth Grade students taking Music this semester, and our own "Local Vocals" presented their Christmas Music Concert last Monday. What incredible performances by all involved! Thank you, students, for giving us the Christmas spirit! and don't forget . . .

*Students in our band program will be presenting their **Christmas Band Concert** TOMORROW/ Thursday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. We hope to see you there!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR from ST. PETER'S STUDENT COUNCIL: Thanks to the determination of our Student Council, St. Peter School will be having our first annual Christmas/New Year Nail Polish Week! During the week of January 2nd (following Christmas Break), girls are permitted to wear nail polish to celebrate the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of 2012. Girls may wear red, green, gold, silver or any other Christmas related nail polish to school that week! Be creative! And not to leave out the boys . . . during the week of January 2nd (following Christmas Break), boys are permitted to wear any color sock with any logo! Enjoy these gifts from the Student Council!

RING IN THE 2012 SCHOOL YEAR WITH A DRESS DOWN DOLLAR DAY: Student Council will be sponsoring our next dress down dollar day on **JANUARY 3**. We are supporting St. Boniface Indian Mission in New Mexico. Remember to mark your calendar now since this is our first day back after break. Bring in a dollar for charity and show off your new clothes from Christmas. As always, participation is optional, however, we ask that no other dress down certificates be used this day. Also in January, Student Council will be collecting items for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. As you shop the after-Christmas sales, consider buying baby items to donate to this worthy cause.

BEAT THOSE WINTER BLUES and FEED THE HUNGRY: Comfort Inn and Suites Geneva is working with the St. Peter Food Pantry this holiday season. From now until December 19, St. Peter School families are invited to drop off a bag of groceries at the Comfort Inn and Suites Geneva front desk and receive a coupon for a standard room for \$69.99 plus tax, based on availability. This offer includes a hot breakfast and a dip in the indoor heated pool and whirlpool! The coupon for the free room will expire on March 31, 2012. St. Peter Food Pantry serves 275 families twice a month and the number doubles to 300+ families during the holidays. If you have any questions, please contact Maripat Oliver at 630-208-8811.

WRITE ON! The students of St. Peter School produce a writing book called "The Write Stuff" five times over the course of the year. Mrs. Van collects the submissions made by each of the classroom teachers, creates the book, and binds it for the classrooms. Parents now have access to this book. There is a tab on our home page titled "Write Stuff." Parents can read the book and print it if they would like. Our second installment, Letter Writing, is now available for viewing. We will inform you when the third book is available. Enjoy!

SIX FLAGS READ TO SUCCEED SIX HOUR READING CLUB: The 2011-2012 program is now open! Read to Succeed is a free educational program from Six Flags and Discovery Education that inspires K-6 students to engage in recreational reading. Students who complete six hours of recreational, non-school-related reading are eligible to earn a free admission ticket to a participating Six Flags theme park. Please make sure you keep track of your reading hours on your log sheet and turn them into your teacher. If you have misplaced your student reading log, another copy is available in the office.

MASS ON FRIDAY: Please join us for Mass this Friday, December 16, at 8:45 a.m. One of Mrs. Shine's eighth grade Religion classes will be presenting this liturgy, and our music teachers, Ms. Steele and Mrs. Stasell, will be providing the musical accompaniment.

Merry Christmas!

*See you
(dressed down for charity)
on
January 3, 2012!*

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

One woman, called by God, who listened to Him and practiced extraordinary charity throughout her lifetime.

“By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus. “

- At 18 years old, Gonxha (Mother Teresa) joined the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known as the Sisters of Loreto, in Ireland. She received the name Sister Mary Teresa after St. Therese of Lisieux.
- In December, she departed for India, arriving in Calcutta on 6 January 1929 and was assigned to the Loreto Entally community in Calcutta and taught at St. Mary’s School for girls. She spent 20 years there as a teacher and principal.
- On Sept. 10, 1946 during the train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling for her annual retreat, Mother Teresa received her “call within a call.” In a way she would never explain, Jesus’ thirst for love and for soul took hold of her heart and the desire to satiate His thirst became the driving force of her life. Jesus asked her to establish a religious community, Missionaries of Charity, dedicated to the service of the poorest of the poor.
- In the slums, Mother Teresa visited families, washed the sores of some children, cared for an old man lying sick on the road and nursed a woman dying of hunger and TB. She started each day in communion with Jesus in the Eucharist and then went out, rosary in her hand, to find and serve Him in “the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for.”
- On 7 October 1950 the new congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was officially established in the Archdiocese of Calcutta. By the early 1960s, Mother Teresa began to send her Sisters to other parts of India, soon followed by foundations in Rome and Tanzania and, eventually, on every continent. Starting in 1980 and continuing through the 1990s, Mother Teresa opened houses in almost all of the communist countries, including the former Soviet Union, Albania and Cuba.
- By 1997, Mother Teresa’s Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 members and were established in 610 foundations in 123 countries of the world. In March 1997 she blessed her newly-elected successor as Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity and then met Pope John Paul II for the last time. She returned to Calcutta and spent her final weeks receiving visitors and instructing her Sisters. On Sept. 5, Mother Teresa’s earthly life came to an end. She was given the honor of a state funeral by the Government of India and her body was buried in the Mother House of the Missionaries of Charity. Her tomb quickly became a place of pilgrimage and prayer for people of all faiths, rich and poor alike. Mother Teresa left a testament of unshakable faith, invincible hope and extraordinary charity. Her response to Jesus’ plea, “Come be My light,” made her a Missionary of Charity, a “mother to the poor,” a symbol of compassion to the world, and a living witness to the thirsting love of God.

Mother Teresa Quotes

Keep the joy of loving God in your heart and share this joy with all you meet especially your family. Be holy – let us pray.

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.

There are so many religions and each one has its different ways of following God. I follow Christ: Jesus is my God, Jesus is my Spouse, Jesus is my Life, Jesus is my only Love, Jesus is my All in All; Jesus is my Everything.

You and I, we are the Church, no? We have to share with our people. Suffering today is because people are hoarding, not giving, not sharing. Jesus made it very clear. Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it to me. Give a glass of water, you give it to me. Receive a little child, you receive me.

Everybody today seems to be in such a terrible rush, anxious for greater developments and greater riches and so on, so that children have very little time for their parents. Parents have very little time for each other, and in the home begins the disruption of peace of the world.

If we really want to love we must learn how to forgive.

There is a terrible hunger for love. We all experience that in our lives - the pain, the loneliness. We must have the courage to recognize it. The poor you may have right in your own family. Find them. Love them.

Before you speak, it is necessary for you to listen, for God speaks in the silence of the heart. Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness.

Little things are indeed little, but to be faithful in little things is a great thing.

A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, must empty ourselves. The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace.

**The Parent Education Committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**

***SPS STUDENT
GREETING CARDS
GOING FAST.....***

There is still time to purchase unique holiday cards created by SPS students.

This is an "all school" project that benefits the Guardian Angel Fund.

Please stop by the office to view wonderful works of art.

Cards will also be sold the evening of our Christmas concerts.

We thank you for your generosity and we thank our students for a job well done!

Accelerated Reader News

Why is reading important? It is how we discover new things. Books, magazines and even the Internet are great learning tools which require the ability to read and understand what is read. A person who knows how to read can educate themselves in any area of life they are interested in. We live in an age where we overflow with information, but reading is the main way to take advantage of it.

Reading develops the imagination. TV and computer games have their place, but they are more like amusement. Amusement comes from two words "a" [non] and "muse" [think]. Amusement is non-thinking activities. With reading, a person can go anywhere in the world...or even out of it! They can be a king, or an adventurer, or a princess, or... The possibilities are endless. Non-readers never experience these joys to the same extent.

Reading is important because it develops the mind. The mind is a muscle. It needs exercise. Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability.

AR Point Clubs

Our AR Clubs for this year once again recognize the total number of points students have earned since enrolling at St. Peter School.

Currently the AR Club has 243 student members with students Grade 1 through Grade 8.

250 Point Club

Thomas Hein 7, Andrew Klaus 8, Madeleine Paschoud 5, Elizabeth Ruscitti 8, Sean Walz 5,

100 Point Club

Grace Byker 5, Nina Cosentino 8, Dominic Cosentino 8, Abigail Gustely 4, Maggie Hendrian 5, Ian Kane 4, Danielle Kass 5, Gavin Washington 6, and Alessandra West 8

50 Point Club

Joshua Bamrick 5, Stella Feldhaus 1, Kathleen Hood 5, Erika Martin 4, Joseph Mullaghy 5, Thomas Schroeder 5, Ryan Thumm 2,

25 Point Club

Brandon Cowhey 1, Ryan Green 4, Francesca Herlehy 3, Grace Jaeger 2, Sean Marren 5, Alessandra Mella 4 and Anthony Pupura 6



SPS Sports News

Uniform Return

It's time to return your Girls Volleyball and Cross Country uniforms!

Collection bins are located in the School Workroom.
Uniforms are due by Friday, December 16th.

Concussion Information Sheet

All athletes participating in boys and girls basketball must sign and return the Concussion Information Sheet by Friday, December 16th.

Student-athletes will not be permitted to participate in practices or games after December 16, 2011 without having this form on file. Extra copies are available in the school office.

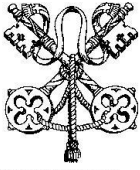
Thank you for your prompt attention to this very important matter.

The St. Peter Athletic Board



1st Place
5th Grade White Team
Congratulations to all the players!
Veronica Augustyn, Eileen Drew, Holly Honningford, Olivia Lampiasi,
Meg Panizzi, Kelly Perozek, Maddie Sanders, Emma Spitzig & Shaylin Takesue
Coaches: Siobhan Drew, Carol Sanders & Michelle Takesue





SAINT PETER CHURCH
1891 Kaneville Road • Geneva, Illinois 60134-1898

Phone (630) 232-0124
Fax (630) 232-9262

December 12, 2011

Dear Parents,

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, requires parishes and schools to provide formation to children in the areas of safety and the integrity of their person. To assist our families with this important task, our diocese has developed the "Diocese of Rockford Formation in Christian Chastity and Safe Environment Program". This program that the Diocese of Rockford offers is based in large measure on programs developed by the Diocese of Harrisburg and the Diocese of Peoria. Both of these programs used as a principal source *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The benefits of this new program are twofold:

- First, the program places a strong emphasis on the Church's recognition that parents are the primary educators of their children, particularly in the areas of human intimacy. Throughout the Diocese of Rockford Formation in Christian Chastity and Safe Environment Program, parents are given a wealth of ideas and tools designed to assist them in fulfilling their task as primary educators of their children in these areas. Under this program the classroom will serve as reinforcement of the concepts taught in the home, always sensitive to the primary role to be played by parents.
- Secondly, the program in its Chastity Formation portion more concretely answers the Bishops' call "to provide formation to children in the area(s) of . . . the integrity of their person." Put quite simply, when we faithfully instill in our children the Catholic faith, we are protecting them against abuse and teaching them how to respond should they be victimized.


The Diocese of Rockford Formation in Christian Chastity and Safe Environment Program will be taught in grades 1 through 8. The materials are comprehensive, thorough and meaningful, and are being used by educators in many other dioceses with great success. For more information on this program, you may visit the Diocese's Education Office website at www.ceorockford.org under the Child Safety Page. The program is mandatory for all Parish Religious Education programs and Catholic primary schools in the Diocese of Rockford.

Prior to teaching the safe environment curriculum, the Parish and School must offer a meeting for parents. Nicole Billapando (CRE), Roseann Feldmann (Principal) and I will be conducting this meeting on Tuesday evening, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. This session will address the following:

- General guidelines to assist parents in protecting their children from abuse
- Appropriate boundaries for adults working with children
- How parents can discuss personal safety issues with their children, including touching safety and Internet safety, and a review of the content of the school's safe environment curriculum for children.

We offer this program as part of our ongoing commitment to create and maintain a safe environment for our children, to protect them from sexual abuse, and to instruct them in the integrity of their persons and bodies. Although attendance by parents at this parent session is optional, we hope that you will be able to join us.

Yours in Christ,


Rev. Martin C. Emer, J.C.L.
Pastor

a community of faith, celebration and compassion

Youth Choir for 4:00 Christmas Eve Mass

Students in Grades 3-8 are invited to sing for the 4:00 Christmas Eve Mass in church, Saturday, Dec. 24th.

There will be ONE Rehearsal in church:

THURSDAY, Dec. 22—3:45—5:00 PM

Directed/Accompanied by Amy Steele and Sherri Stasell.

LAST Ice Cream Treat Day

The LAST day of Ice Cream Treat is THIS FRIDAY DECEMBER 16th. Please send your child with a dollar. We have made \$915 and I am so amazed!! But, please help me to exceed my goal of \$1000. That's only \$85 more. Thank You so much for the money you have given so far and please don't forget to bring THIS FRIDAY. I know this family will really appreciate the money you have given. Thank You and God Bless. Alice Bettag 8V

Help Needed



Please help collect hats, and gloves for the less fortunate at Hessed House.



Thank you for your donations! I will be collecting them in Mrs. Shine's room through Friday! Jon Young