



December 4, 2007

### Inside This Issue

- 1-2 Message from the Principal
- 3-4 Music News
- 4-5 Development News
- 5 Upcoming Events



### Luke 2

<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space.

<sup>8</sup> In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night.

<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified,

<sup>10</sup> but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.'

<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup> And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words:

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours.

## News from the Principal's Lair

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Peter's,

### ANNUAL FUND

Over the past three years much has been accomplished for our school children due to your generous response to the fund raising efforts of Mrs. Fencik, our Development Director. That generosity has continued this year in your support of Mrs. Hudson's efforts as well.

Your response to our *Annual Fund* appeal is also crucial to further improvements. The State of North Carolina currently states that it costs over \$6,600 to educate a child in the state school system. You already know that we provide a much better overall program, including spiritual and moral development, at a much lower cost. I have attempted to keep the tuition and fees cost as efficient as possible. I have been able to maintain a balanced budget without using your generous gifts to our fundraisers and the *Annual Fund*. It is those gifts that enable us to make necessary improvements without significantly raising the tuition or fee schedule.

The *Annual Fund* provides much needed funds to continue my efforts to improve the facilities and to provide better educational equipment to our faculty and staff. All of your gifts to this appeal directly affect the learning environment for our school children—your sons and daughters. You will be receiving shortly an *Annual Fund* letter from Mrs. Micheala Fencik, the *Annual Fund* Director. I ask you to again be generous to this appeal, so that I may continue to work with the faculty/staff and with you, our parents, to have a school community that continues a tradition of sixty-one years of excellence in education.

### IOWA TEST RESULTS

You will be receiving the parent copy of the *COGAT* and *Iowa Test* results. These standardized tests were taken in the first week of October. Please remember that these

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from Page 1*

scores must always be placed in the context of the student's overall performance. This includes the report card, progress reports, participation, homework, and classroom behavior. The scores you receive help the administration and faculty to review our academic programs. It also helps the Diocese of Raleigh review the standard course of study that it mandates to all of the schools of the Diocese.

The University of Iowa folks who prepare and score these standardized tests occasionally revise the tests and the SCORING NORMS. They realize that after a certain period of time, schools can adjust their teaching curriculum and methods to the types of material that appear on the tests. Thus after a few years the scores for a student and a school may become skewed. The tests are then revised and the SCORING NORMS are changed. In other words, they raise the bar on the questions and the SCORING NORMS.

For many years the Diocese of Raleigh used norms that came from the year 2000. Those norms were adjusted in 2005. The Principals decided to use the newer norms for this year's tests. (The *COGAT* did not change!) In the University of Iowa's review of the differences, there was not any significant change in a student's score when compared with the 2000 norms. In fact, in Middle School it was negligible. In the other grades it may have shown a 1% or 2% difference. When reading your child's scores, please keep that in mind. Please make that mental adjustment when comparing scores from previous years. Our school will review all the scores and use them to make adjustments

#### FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

The local Fire Marshal made his annual announced visit to our school on Monday, 3 December. Apart from a burnt out light in one of the exit signs, our school passed with flying colors. I thank Jim Cooper who oversees this area of school safety. Jim has done an excellent job in working with the Fire Marshal over the years to make necessary improvements to our school to ensure the safety of our children in the event of an emergency. He constantly monitors all areas of fire safety from extinguishers to exit signs, to the fire alarm system. Thanks Jim for a job well done!

#### PRIMARY MUSIC PROGRAM

Remember the Primary Music Program is set for this Thursday evening at 7PM. Come out and hear some great music! Mrs. Burke and the boys and girls have been working hard since August in preparing for their big opening!

God bless you and your families...

John Fencik  
Principal

## Music News

### Primary Music Program

On December 6 the primary students will present a music program for their parents at 7:00 P.M. in the gymnasium. This program is the culmination of their work during this year, and all students are expected to participate. If your child can not take part, please notify the classroom teacher prior to the program (in writing is helpful) so that adjustments can be made. At 6:45 P.M. students will need to meet their classroom teachers in their classroom. Violinists need to report to the music room for tuning at 6:30 P.M. This is a special dress-up event that should last no more than one hour. Please come and enjoy the musical talents of your children! They have worked hard.

Help is needed for setting up and taking down the risers and sound system for rehearsals. Please notify Mrs. Burke via a note in her box in the office or email at this address: ([kburke@stpeterscatholicschool.com](mailto:kburke@stpeterscatholicschool.com)) if you are available for manual labor at any of the following times.

Thursday, November 29 at 3:00-3:35 P.M.

Tuesday, December 4 at 2:45-3:15 P.M.

Wednesday, December 5 at 8:10-9:30 A.M.

Thursday, December 6 after the program

### Pitt County MS All-County Chorus

Pitt County Middle-School All-County Chorus will be held on Tuesday, February 19. The schedule will include rehearsals through the day and the concert at 7:00 P.M.

In order to participate, students must be able to rehearse during January and February one day/week (We will set Tues., Wed., or Thurs. for specific vocal parts) after school so that they know the pitches prior to February 19. The rehearsals will run from 2:55-3:25.

The registration fee is **\$15** and includes the t-shirt worn for the concert. **Checks should be made payable to St. Peter's School and are due by December 3. Promptness in submitting the registration fee is essential. Far more students are interested in participating than the number of students that I am allotted to bring, so students who auditioned for Honors Chorus or sang a solo for Small Ensemble Festival last year have been offered the soprano and alto slots first. Interested boys with changing or changed voices should see Mrs. Burke.**

*Continued on page 4*

*Music News continued from page 3*

### NCMEA Solos or Duets

Any Middle-School students who are interested in singing solos or duets for the regional NCMEA Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Festival should bring the fees by Friday, December 7. NCMEA requires a fee of \$15 per solo and \$12.50 per duet participant. Checks should be made out to St. Peter's School and can be placed in Mrs. Burke's box in the office. Be sure to indicate the student's name and homeroom and that the check is for a solo, duet, etc. SPS students will be judged on the evening of Thursday, February 28 at Immanuel Baptist Church.

The students will choose a song with Mrs. Burke's help. Traditional art, folk, or religious songs are usually best. Duets must include harmony at some point. Initial rehearsals after selection of the music can be done at home with a rehearsal recording.

This is a positive experience for students, and it is great preparation for auditions for Governor's School, Honors Chorus, or scholarship interviews. The judge will be the only person allowed in the room except for the pianist.

## Development Office News

We have the final numbers from **our first two fundraisers!** Thanks to everyone who participated in the programs. Thanks as well to all who helped to organize and make the events run smoothly. We couldn't have done it without you!

The Candy Man (gift wrap)--\$25,120.00    The Halloween Carnival--\$17,131.00

Again, thank you for your contributions. These funds go straight into the school's 'pocket' to be used as necessary for the continued growth and upkeep of your school.

**Grandparents/Special Friends Day** was a HUGE success! The gym was packed and had standing room only! Thank you to the students and teachers for their hard work in preparing their performances. Thank you to Mrs. Getz for organizing the event. And thank you to the moms and dads who brought cookies and goodies for the social afterwards. The grandparents and special friends had a wonderful time!

*Continued on page 5*

*Development Office News continued from page 4*

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the **Barnes and Noble Book Fair**. We had a wonderful showing from the school community. This was such an easy way to earn money for St. Peter's. I will have the final tally next week.

Now its time to move on to the next event! We are in the planning stages for the **Auction** set for January 25, 2008. This year we will offer a fun and exciting evening out for the parents and friends of St. Peter's! Good food, casual atmosphere, and great music! Plan on being here--you won't want to miss it! Once again, if you would like to make a donation for this event or if you know of someone with something great to offer, please contact Kelly Hudson. Please watch for more information to come.

Thanks for your continued support.

## **Upcoming Events and Reminders**

### ***Tuesday, December 4***

Wildcat Basketball Green at Woodington 4:00 p.m.

### ***Wednesday, December 5***

Wildcat Basketball White at Frink 4:00 p.m.

### ***Thursday, December 6***

Progress Reports Distributed

8th Grade NUT Day

Primary Music Program 7:00 p.m. Gym

### ***Friday, December 7***

Mass 9:00 a.m.

**Master Basketball Schedule is posted on the website under  
Athletics - Basketball**

#### **Saint Peter's Catholic School**

2606 East Fifth Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

**Phone:** 252-752-3529

**E-mail:** [office@stpeterscatholicsschool.com](mailto:office@stpeterscatholicsschool.com)