



February 12, 2007

News from the Principal's Lair

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"St. Peter's Catholic School will remain true to its mission of preparing the leaders of tomorrow upon the foundation of Jesus Christ!"



Taken after the end of the Faculty/Student Basketball Game

Dear Parents and Friends of St. Peter's,

When I was in the 4th grade, we had 72 students with one Religious Sister teaching the entire class. It is amazing how everyone learned and how few were the discipline problems. I am sure that based on today's educational standards, there were children with learning style differences and learning disabilities. These were not recognized at that time. But then again it was a different era and a much different culture than the one in which our children are growing up today. So much research has taken place in recent years about how our brain works and how it learns. There are better ways to assess and evaluate children both in terms of behavioral issues and learning abilities. All of this has put a strain on the resources of both public and Catholic education.

I have been so pleased with the work this year of Mrs. Lori Vendemia, our Director of Learning Resources, and Mrs. Marsha Moore, our Reading Remediation specialist. Mrs. Vendemia has been working on making this department more efficient. She brings a vision to this area of the educational process that in the future will have even greater impact on our children and our programs. This is a department of our school that must continue to look forward and be aware of what is developing in science, psychology, and educational theory. It is a daunting task, but one that Mrs. Vendemia readily accepts!

No parent wants to face the issue of behavioral or learning issues. Yet at the same time our school cannot adequately assist a child (even with our limited resources) without good communication and at times proper testing and evaluation. The link between parent, child, teacher, and Learning Resources is a vital link to identifying areas of concern and seeking the best avenues to assist the student. This is why our professional faculty and staff are always at your service! Parents should never fear working with our faculty and staff or outside professionals in helping a child. When differences and disabilities may exist, our school is committed to working with parents to help a child continue successfully in one's academic studies. At times difficult decisions must be made and again our resources are available to help parents in those decisions.

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**Message from the Principal
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St. Peter's Catholic School will remain true to its mission of preparing the leaders of tomorrow upon the foundation of Jesus Christ! We want all of our children to be that well-prepared when they graduate from our wonderful school!

TRAFFIC UPDATE

Starting on Monday, 12 February we will be blocking off Beech Street at the intersection of Fourth Street for morning arrival. This is a highly congested intersection in the morning. The parking in front of the church office and near the cafeteria is a cause for concern. There is a greater need for "sight lines" on Beech Street. I encourage folks to use the two options the school prefers:

1. Coming East on Fourth Street and dropping off in front of the cafeteria;
2. Coming West on Fifth Street and turning up Brother Patrick Drive.

SIMPLE RULE: MORNING ARRIVAL AND AFTERNOON DISMISSAL—NO PARKING ON BEECH STREET BETWEEN FOURTH STREET AND FIFTH STREET.

Folks traveling east on Fifth Street should NOT be making left hand turns into Brother Patrick Drive. It causes unnecessary delays for folks on Fifth St. trying to get to work and school. By all means, never turn left there and block the westbound traffic heading towards the ECU campus.

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY—PRESIDENTS' DAY!

God bless all of you!

John Fencik
Principal

**Music News
Upcoming Events**



Again, as a reminder, for those students participating in the All-County Chorus, this will be an all-day event on Tuesday, February 13.

IOWA National Research Study

2nd & 3rd Grade Parents

Riverside Publishing is conducting a National Research Study for the Iowa Tests. Students from a cross section of our nation's schools are being asked to participate in this study, including students from each geographic region of the country. St. Peters has been invited to participate.

Please mark your calendars. Our 2nd & 3rd graders will be taking the Complete Battery of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills as well as the Survey Battery. Second graders will be taking the Complete Battery during the week of April 23-27 and the Survey Battery during April 30 & May 1-2. Third grade

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students will take the Complete Battery during the week of March 5-9 and the Survey Battery on March 19, 20 & 21.

This will give our 2nd & 3rd graders an opportunity to “practice” taking standardized tests. Testing will take place first thing in the morning. Our school will receive score reports and student labels for each student tested. If you have any questions, please call Denise Owens, School Counselor.

Development Office News

Annual Fund

Our Annual Fund is still going on, and we are currently at Restricted - **\$14,550.00**, Unrestricted - **\$31, 651.61**. Our current balance is **\$46,201.61**. We have received a few requests for misplaced envelopes so we will send home envelopes to our families who have not yet contributed. Please remember there is no contribution too small. We are trying to get our overall giving percentages up, which matters greatly when applying for grants. Please call Micheala Fencik if you have any questions.

Admissions Office News

The re-enrollment contracts will be going home at the end of February. You should receive them by March 1st, 2007. If you have any questions once you get yours please contact the Admissions Office and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding your enrollment contract.

Reminder To Current Kindergarten Families

There will be no classes for our current Kindergarten students on Friday, February 23rd, or on Friday, March 2nd. We will be testing the new incoming Kindergarten Class.

Have a great Week, and as always Thank you for all you do for the students here at St. Peter’s School.

Micheala Fencik



Lunch News

Please note that on Ash Wednesday, February 21st, cheese pizza will be served.

Beta Club News Beta Club Rewards Trip February 7, 2007

The Beta Club members who made the honor roll for the second marking period earned a rewards trip to CiCi’s Pizza. The students had a great time. They enjoyed salad, pizza, pizza, pizza & more pizza and dessert. They even had time to play some video games. The students enjoyed being together and spending time with their friends. Congratulations Beta members for your hard work during the second marking period. Keep up the good work!! Thank you to the parents that helped with this fun trip.

Baby Pictures

As a reminder to all the Middle School students . . . Please remember to bring a baby picture or a picture of you when you were younger for our bulletin board. We would really like to have these by/on Tuesday, February 13th so that the bulletin board can be arranged on Wednesday. Thank you for your help with this!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 13:

All County Chorus

Wednesday, February 14:

NUT Day

St. Valentine's Day

"Wear Red" in honor of St. Valentine

Friday, February 16:

9:00 a.m. Mass (Primary)

Following Week

Monday, February 19:

No School

Wednesday, February 21:

Ash Wednesday

All School Mass 9:00 a.m.

Friday, February 23:

Kindergarten Students Only – No School

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