



ST PETER ACADEMY

Office of the Principal
Monthly P.I.E. Memo | "Partners in Education"



A Shared Commitment

A colleague and trusted mentor recently forwarded the following poem; its words resonate with me given our school's continuous quest to be "Partners in Education" with parents and families:



I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a child's mind and they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher who used tools of books, music, and art,
The other was a parent who worked with a guiding hand and gentle, loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled - with touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent labored by her side and polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done - they were proud of what they had molded,
And each agreed that if sculpting alone, they certainly would have folded.
For behind the teacher stood the school, and behind the parent - the home.
-- *Anonymous*

It is through a dedicated, collaborative effort that the education of our children is nourished, and their talents or gifts are strengthened. As the calendar turns and leaf colors begin to change, our Academy's commitment to excellence remains strong. May the upcoming month and its many exciting events bring forth a renewed sense of community and strong relationships at St. Peter Academy.

Happy October!

Mr. Galligan
Mr. Frank Galligan
Principal



Morning Drop-off Reminders

The academic day in Grades Pre-K-6 begins promptly at 7:45AM; students who arrive beyond that time are marked "tardy". Parents and families are kindly asked to ensure that children are present by the start of our day to avoid disruptions to the learning environment for their friends and teachers.

Keeping our Children Safe

The safety of our children and the people around us is our biggest priority. Guardians who must enter the building are kindly asked to provide themselves with enough time to park legally and safely; please do not double-park at any time.

When ***approaching our school by vehicle***, please enter from the direction of E Street going up West 4th Street. The flow of traffic should continue on toward F Street. Please be sure to relay this to relatives or family friends who have the authority to pick up or drop-off your child(ren). We hope that families can appreciate and support our efforts to keep everyone safe. Thank you in advance!





Happy October Birthdays!

The happiest of birthdays are wished to *Mrs. Shannon Maloney (Grade K1)* who celebrates on October 23rd and *Mrs. Mary Suprey (School Nurse)* who celebrates on October 28th! A very special thank you to these wonderful, dedicated educators who love and support our students every day!

Blessing of the Animals – Friday, October 4th

Families, friends, and community members of all faiths and backgrounds are invited to join us on *Friday, October 4th, with their family pet, at 2:40PM* (at the end of the school day, immediately before afternoon dismissal) in the school yard for a special ceremony and blessing with a Catholic priest. Families are asked to use discretion regarding whether the pet is friendly around people or other animals. **If a family pet is unable to be with us, children are invited to bring a photograph of their animal friends to be shared and blessed as part of this special event!**



Professional Development Day – Friday, October 11th

Please remember that there will be **NO SCHOOL** for Toddlers through Grade 6 on Friday, October 11th. This all-day professional development session for our academy features a seminar and training offered by Paratus Security. Faculty and Staff will gain valuable insight and undertake vital lockdown and evacuation training that will enhance the safety and security of our children. The day will also include important team-building and professional collaboration across all grade levels, two features that have been largely absent in the past and are critical in moving our institution forward.

School Safety Drills

The school has already conducted two *fire drills* over the course of September and October; these drills will continue un-announced by the Principal on a monthly basis. Parents are advised that, in accord with state mandates and best practice, our school will also be running a *Containment (Lockdown) Drill* during the month of October. These drills will be conducted under state requirements in a sensitive, age-appropriate manner *following* the adult training received during our Professional Development Day on October 11th. There is no phone communication or parent notification of any drill in progress; families will be notified in the event of an actual emergency.



Fire Safety Month & National Fire Prevention Week

Our school *recently upgraded all of our fire extinguishers* to smaller, more modernized options that are easier to utilize, while installing newer signage for quick location and easy retrieval. This initiative comes as our Toddler through Grade 1 students prepare to visit the the local Fire House for a *field trip* on Wednesday, October 9th, whereas students in grades 2-6 will be visiting the Fire House Museum on Thursday, October 10th. Additionally, the *Boston Fire Department* will be visiting our students on Tuesday, October 22nd for a special presentation at 10AM. These are all wonderful opportunities that should encourage proactive discussion and steps to be taken after school that can protect your family from a potential fire emergency at home.

Columbus Day – Monday, October 14th

Parents are reminded that St. Peter Academy, inclusive of our Toddler Program, will be **CLOSED** on Monday, October 14th for Columbus Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, October 15th. *Enjoy the long weekend!*



Home-School Association

Parents and guardians are invited to join us for conversation and planning at our second meeting of the year, on **Wednesday, October 16th at 6PM** in the Community Room. All of our students directly benefit from your participation and collaborative impact; please consider attending and helping to improve your child's school through beneficial social events and fundraisers that are spearheaded by our families!

TAG Day Benefit – Breast Cancer Awareness

Students are invited to dress in Pink clothes on **Friday, October 18th** for our second TAG day of the year! Families are kindly asked to contribute a \$3.00 donation per child to help support Breast Cancer research and treatment initiatives.



NEASC Accreditation

Mr. Galligan has been asked by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the region's leading education accrediting agency, to accredit a private, independent school in Connecticut later this month with four other area administrators. *This visit will take him away from St. Peter Academy on Sunday, October 27 through Wednesday, October 30th.* During this time, he will be conducting a thorough investigation of the respective school. While away, the Division Directors, Mrs. Heseck, Mrs. Blasi, and our administrative Assistant,

Mrs. Brown, will assist in the day-to-day operations of the school; Mr. Galligan will be communicating regularly with each of them throughout each day.

After being asked to serve on this committee, Mr. Galligan requested that the process begin for St. Peter Academy. NEASC was very receptive to this inquiry and we are thrilled to be moving forward with paperwork to get St. Peter Academy accredited by NEASC within the next 3 years! The process is extensive and requires a lengthy self-study report, with help from students, faculty, staff, and parents that must be completed over the course of two years; the final year features a visit from administrators in other states. It will be a community effort that undoubtedly will bring positive results!

Thank you, Mr. Mammoli!

St. Peter Academy extends its gratitude to **Mr. Larry Mammoli**, former parent and husband of our current Executive Board member, Carol Mammoli, who acts as our volunteer "*Decorating Elf*" for the school and property each year. We arrived at the start of October to find our school yard and front property festively prepared with fun autumn and Halloween decorations. Thank you to Mr. Mammoli and everyone like him in the school community that help to make St. Peter's the wonderful place that it is for our kids and families!



Looking ahead...

October 21 – 25: Growth Assessments Snapshot Week

October 22: Food Drive Begins

October 25: Spooktacular Event

October 31: Halloween – Costume Parade and Classroom Parties

November 1: Field Trip – State House (Grades 3-6)

November 3: Daylight Saving Time Ends (Turn Clocks Back 1 Hr.)



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September 29	30	October 1 Progress Reports Distributed / Student-Teacher Conferences K1-Gr. 6 Coffee with the Principal (8-9AM)	2	3 	4 Student Council Elections Blessing of the Animals (2:40 PM)	5
6	7 Executive Board Meeting (5:30PM)	8 	9 Field Trip: Fire House Toddler – Grade 1	10 Field Trip: Fire House Museum Grades 2-6	11 Academy-Wide Professional Day NO SCHOOL Toddler Program <i>CLOSED</i>	12
National Fire Prevention Week						
13	14 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL Toddler Program <i>CLOSED</i>	15	16 Home-School Association Meeting (6PM)	17 	18 TAG Day Benefit: Breast Cancer Awareness – Dress in Pink Today! (\$3.00)	19
20	21 School Board Meeting (5:30PM)	22 Food Drive Begins	23	24	25 HSA Spooktacular Event	26
Growth Assessments Snapshot Week						
27	28	29 	30	31 Happy Halloween! 11AM Parade and Classroom Parties	November 1 Field Trip: State House Grades 3-6	2

Any and all calendar events are subject to change at the discretion of the Principal. Parents and families will be notified through email or newsletters of any changes as necessary.