

The Biggest and Best

A casual conversation with one of our students at the conclusion of November found me discussing Christmas trees and the excitement surrounding them. I learned that the child's father always insisted on cutting down "the biggest and best" tree each year. It was a goal that everyone looked forward to and quickly became a tradition for the family.

The idea of surpassing traditions of the past is something that really resonates with me today. Now entering its 15th year, St. Peter Academy continues to offer a wonderful Home-School Association that enhances the educational programming and student experience with great opportunities for family engagement and building relationships within our community. If the recent attendance at our Back-to-School BBQ, Spooktacular Event, or Thanksgiving Feast is any indication, the events undoubtedly beat people's expectations, while providing wonderful experiences that turn into great memories during the months that follow.

I am profoundly grateful to the small group of parents who have voluntarily taken on the roles of "unofficial executive officers" within the HSA - or those present at every meeting offering to plan, promote, and execute the many events that are critical to providing a wonderful St. Peter Academy family experience. Although I realize that our lives are increasingly busier, and the evenings present minimal opportunities for contribution, I strongly encourage our families to consider becoming regular members of this special organization. ***The next HSA meeting takes place on Wednesday, December 18th at 6PM in the Community Room.*** I can confidently say that this group is one of the many reasons why our institution continues to provide an exceptional education to children today. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it's because of these individuals, and so many others within our community, that we will truly succeed in making this the "biggest and best" year yet!

Happy December!



Mr. Frank Galligan
Principal



Accreditation of St. Peter Academy

Mr. Galligan is happy to announce that the process to achieve candidacy for St. Peter Academy with the *New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)*, the region's leading school accreditation agency, has begun! The first step of the process, our application, is underway with insight from directors of the NEASC Commission on Independent Schools. (There are four commissions of the agency: Colleges & Universities, Public Schools, International Schools, and Independent Schools; our institution falls within the last category). This application is slated to be submitted in February, with an anticipated meeting between our school administration and directors of the Commission on-site at St. Peter Academy slated for this Spring. Undoubtedly, this is exciting news and another testimony to the fact that *our school is on the move!*

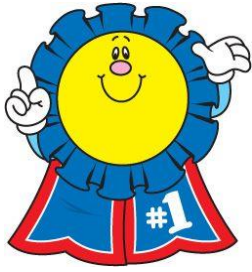
School Enhancements

We are happy to report that *every student* in Grade Kindergarten 2 through Grade 6 has been provided with school-issued iPads or Chromebooks; additionally, every teacher and classroom is now utilizing school-issued laptops to enhance our educational and communication initiatives. Mr. Galligan has also applied for grants to enhance the security and surveillance of our school. Please know that we continue to welcome any insight or suggestions for grant and fundraising programs that members of our community may be aware of to further support the needs of our school community.



Happy December Birthdays!

The happiest of birthdays are wished to *Miss Sharon Male* (December 8th) and *Miss Ashley Crush* (December 24th), both from our Toddler Program, who celebrate this month!



Thank you, Mrs. Itri!

St. Peter Academy is very grateful to *Mrs. Margaret Itri*, our custodian, and the Neighborhood Civic Organization that she represents in securing a \$10,000.00 donation from the developers of the 420 West Broadway Project. We look forward to utilizing these funds to enhance our educational offerings and student experience!! In the coming months, Mr. Galligan and other members of the community will be launching a St. Peter Academy 15th Anniversary Capital Campaign; currently, renovations to our physical plant - inclusive of improvements to our playground, are the goal of this initiative. Stay tuned for further updates!

Winter Weather Closings

Please be advised that St. Peter Academy **does NOT follow** the directives of Boston Public Schools. If, and when, a decision to close or delay opening our Academy is made, **the message will be posted separately** to all major television news outlets (CBS4, 5, WHDH 7, FOX 25, WSBK 38, CW 56, and NECN) separately as **“St Peter Academy”**, in addition to being sent out via an official text and/or email from the school.

***Parents are kindly asked to secure a contingency plan now regarding retrieval or care of their children when weather becomes hazardous before, during, or after school hours; there may be a need to close our Toddler or Extended-Day programs early if conditions warrant it to avoid placing our students and staff in unsafe conditions. Thank you in advance!



Annual Toy Drive

Our annual Toy Drive has begun! All classrooms have been assigned an age grouping. Please consult your weekly “piece of the pie” memo from Mr. Galligan regarding the toys requested. **The Toy Drive will conclude on Friday, December 20, 2019.** Thank you in advance for helping us spread joy to those less fortunate this holiday season!

School Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us as we light the 2019 St. Peter Academy School Christmas Tree on **Monday, December 2, 2019 at 2:30PM** in the Community Room! Students are invited to wear holiday head accessories (Santa or elf hats, reindeer antlers, etc.) today to celebrate the occasion!



“Christmas” Coffee with the Principal!

Parents, grandparents, and community friends are invited to join Mr. Galligan for coffee, conversation, and holiday pastry on **Wednesday, December 4th from 8-9AM** in the Community Room following our morning assembly as we plan for the second half of the school year.

Distribution of Report Cards & Progress Reports

Our First Trimester ends on Monday, December 2, 2019. Report Cards for **Pre-K to Grade 6** are scheduled to be released on **Friday, December 6, 2019**. Parent-teacher conferences may be requested at a mutually convenient time with the classroom teacher from Monday, December 9 through Wednesday, December 11th. **Parents of students in our Toddler Program can expect Fall Progress Reports to be distributed prior to December 20th.**





Feast of St. Nicholas

On **Friday, December 6, 2019**, students in Grade K1 – Grade 6 will learn about how St. Nicholas came to be with a unique, interactive lesson! Kids are asked to bring an extra pair of shoes to school for use in a fun activity later that day!

Teacher Professional Development

Our entire academy, inclusive of the Toddler Program, will close early at 12:30 PM on Friday, December 13th for Faculty/Staff Professional Development. The afternoon for our faculty will entail discussion of models for professional and educational accountability, in addition to vital collaboration and team-building across all grade-levels to enhance our special school community. Please note that there is NO Extended-Day Program offered this afternoon. Regular classes and scheduling will resume on Monday, December 16th at 7:30 AM.



Breakfast with Santa and the St. Peter Academy Christmas Show

On **Sunday, December 15th from 11AM until 2PM**, parents, grandparents, families, and friends are invited to a hot, catered breakfast before our annual school Christmas show at the South Boston Ironworkers Hall! Enjoy musical performances by each classroom (Toddler – Grade 6) under the direction of Music teacher, Miss Taylor Hale. The event concludes with a visit by – and family photos with – Santa Claus! Tickets are \$25 per family and all proceeds benefit the St. Peter Academy Home-School Association.

Jose Matteo Ballet Theater Presents: The Nutcracker

Students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2 will enjoy an age-appropriate, theatrical performance of a beloved Christmas classic with teachers and school friends at the Strand Theater on **Tuesday, December 17, 2019** at 11AM. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.



Merry Christmas Caroling

On **Wednesday, December 18, 2019** from 10:30 – 11:30 AM, students in Grades 1-6 will delight residents of Marion Manor in South Boston with a shortened version of their recent school Christmas show!

Special TAG Days: Friday, December 13th and Friday, December 20th!

Students in our Toddler Program through 6th grade, in addition to all faculty and staff members, are encouraged to dress down (for free) in pajamas as we celebrate ***The Polar Express*** on **Friday, December 13, 2019**. Everyone is welcome to dress down in red, green, white, and other holiday colors (with a toy drive donation over the course of December) on **Friday, December 20, 2019** as we celebrate ***“Festive Friday”*** - the final day before Christmas Recess for grades Pre-K through 6!



Holiday Closures



Please be advised that the ***school is closed and there are no classes for **Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade***** from Monday, December 23, 2019 through Wednesday, January 1, 2020. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2020.

Additionally, our *****Toddler Program***** will be closed on Tuesday, December 24, 2019 through Thursday, December 26, 2019 - along with Tuesday, December 31, 2019 through Wednesday, January 1, 2020. The Academy fully reopens for all students on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 7:30 AM. Our best wishes to every family for a joyous holiday season and a healthy, happy New Year!



ST PETER ACADEMY
 Office of the Principal
 Monthly P.I.E. Memo | “Partners in Education”



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Trimester 1 Ends School Christmas Tree Lighting 2:30 PM	3 	4 “Christmas” Coffee with the Principal 8 – 9AM (Following Morning Assembly)	5	6 Trimester 1 Report Cards Distributed St. Nicholas Day Celebration	7
8	9 Board Meeting 5:30 PM	10	11	12 	13 Academy-Wide Prof. Development Day: Early Release for Toddler thru Grade 6 at 12:30 PM; <u>NO Extended Day Today</u> Polar Express TAG Day (Dress Down in Pajamas!)	14
Parent-Teacher Conferences (Pre-K - Grade 6)						
15 Breakfast with Santa and St. Peter Academy Christmas Show 11AM – 2PM, Ironworkers Hall, South Boston	16 	17 Field Trip: Jose Matteo Presents: The Nutcracker (Grades Pre-K – 2)	18 Christmas Caroling at the Marion Manor (Grades 1-6) Home-School Association Meeting 6PM	19	20 “Festive Friday” TAG Day: Dress Down in Holiday Colors with a Toy Drive Donation! Classroom Parties Toy Drive Ends	21
22	23 Holiday Recess NO SCHOOL	24 Christmas Eve NO SCHOOL Toddler Program <i>CLOSED</i>	25 Christmas Day NO SCHOOL Toddler Program <i>CLOSED</i>	26 Holiday Recess NO SCHOOL Toddler Program <i>CLOSED</i>	27 Holiday Recess NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 Holiday Recess NO SCHOOL	31 New Years Eve NO SCHOOL Toddler Program <i>CLOSED</i>	January 1 New Years Day NO SCHOOL Toddler Program <i>CLOSED</i>	2 Academy Re-Opens At 7:30 AM. Classes resume for all grades. Welcome back!	3	4

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.