

NOVEMBER ISSUE



Dear SPA Families,

As we move into this season of thankfulness, sometimes we are so busy with our day to day work that we miss the small things that are happening around us. The simple smile from your child, the sparkle in the eye of a friend, the thank you of a co-worker. We may miss those things if we are always focused on the next item on our daily agenda.

Gratitude helps us to appreciate what is positive in our lives. I encourage each of you to take time this month and in fact each and every day to focus on the positives and be grateful for the small things because the small things are what go together to make the BIG things important.

I would like to personally thank all of you! I am grateful and thankful for the students in our care, the parents and guardians who entrust them to us, and the teachers and staff who make this the best school! Thank you for supporting our teachers and staff. Thank you for getting your child to school each day, even when it is a struggle. Thank you for connecting with your questions, and showing your thanks to all of us. Thank you for making St. Peter Academy the envy of all parents and students.

We appreciate all you do.

Sincerely,
Andrius Dilba



Here at SPA, we are so lucky to have such incredible families and community members that contribute to the success of our classrooms. Amazon Wishlists can be found by clicking the below links. Thank you for your help in keeping our classrooms fun and engaging!



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[Grade 2/3](#)

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ART/STEM & MUSIC Dr. Joseph

November was short and sweet for our students in Music, Art, and STEM. In our Early Ed division, we have had almost every student even in our youngest classroom use their head voice! This voice style is important for students as they continue to grow as singers, and the fact that nearly every student accessed this voice this month has my spirits high as we head into December. Speaking of December, our Breakfast with Santa is just around the corner, and I cannot wait to see how our students perform for you all!

In the Elementary Academy, our students have begun memorizing their songs to sing at our Breakfast with Santa and playing instruments alongside their music as well. In addition to writing new pieces of music, our students have been getting better at reading music, too. In Art, we had the opportunity to visit MFA Boston, where our students were inspired to work on their own paintings. And since we have just begun our painting unit, we are putting our inspiration and our painting skills to the test as we restore some of the artwork that decorates our playground. We are breathing new life into these paintings by past students, and will hopefully have new paintings to show you sometime in December. Meanwhile in STEM, we have been exploring building with different materials to support our understanding of the principles of building.

We can't wait to see you at our upcoming Breakfast with Santa! See you there!



AFTERSCHOOL Ms. Brittney

November has been a month filled with gratitude as the kids created their own thankful trees by tracing their hands to make a tree and writing what they are grateful for on the leaves. In the Afterschool program, they had a blast drawing their favorite foods they like to eat on Thanksgiving and decorating their plates, napkins, utensils. They also had a great time making their own turkeys and using their handprints for the feathers. The students are looking forward to December and are excited about the upcoming holiday show!

TODDLER GREEN

Mrs. Christina, Ms. Breanna, Ms. Paola,
Ms. Elriva, & Ms. Equaria

November was a wonderful month in Toddler Green as we celebrated friends, family, and the beauty of the fall season. Through our unit books and hands-on activities, the children have been learning more about friendship, sharing, and discovering new things about themselves. It has been such a joy to watch them not only share toys, but also ask one another to play. These little moments of kindness have truly warmed our hearts.

We also explored the wonders of fall by looking closely at leaves, acorns, pine cones, and the rich colors of the season, red, orange, yellow, and brown. The children loved noticing the changes around them and connecting with the world outdoors.

In STEM and music, the children have been busy practicing their new song for the Breakfast with Santa event and exploring musical instruments with Dr. Jo. Dr. Jo has helped the children learn the lyrics to their favorite songs, and seeing their faces light up with pride and joy has been such a highlight of our days.

Looking ahead to December, we are excited to begin our "World of Colors" unit and enjoy all the magic and surprises the holiday season will bring as we wrap up 2025.

If you would like to support our classroom, our wishlist is available, and any contributions are warmly appreciated.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and for being part of our Toddler Green family. We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving filled with love and joy.

With warmest blessings,
The Toddler Green Team



TODDLER BLUE

Ms. Rhi, & Ms. Mirleiny

Hi Toddler Blue Families! November went by so fast, and it's hard to believe we're already celebrating Thanksgiving! We have been very busy in Toddler Blue, and the children have shown so much growth this month.

We continued our Owl Unit 1: Family and Friends, focusing on how families and friendships help us learn, love, and support one another. The children explored all of our unit books through group discussions, hands-on activities, and play invitations. One of our absolute favorites this month was The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza. The class loved extending the story by playing and kneading pizza dough, creating "math shape pizzas" using circle, square, triangle and rectangle toppings, acting out scenes from the book during dramatic play, and making pizza art using paint and collage materials. These activities gave the children the chance to practice fine motor skills, storytelling, language expression, and turn-taking with friends.

Throughout the unit, we also focused on what it means to be kind friends: how we include one another, how we share, how we use gentle hands and how we show love. Family connections were a big topic as well, and the children enjoyed talking about the special people who care for them at home. Thanksgiving has also been a huge topic of excitement. The children loved discussing all the yummy foods we eat on Thanksgiving and sharing who they celebrate with. We also introduced the idea of being thankful, and the children had the sweetest responses.

Alongside all the fun from our unit, the children have also been working hard on early academics throughout the month. They have learned letters A-F and numbers 1-6, and we are continuing to practice recognizing them during circle time, learning centers and daily routines. We have also been trying to get outside as much as possible as long as the weather is safe for us, because before we know it, our playground will be filled with snow! The children love the fresh air and open play space, and we are taking advantage of every outdoor day we can.

Music with Dr. Jo continues to be one of the highlights of our week. The children are practicing singing independently and are already working so hard on their Christmas song for our upcoming show. They have been learning to follow cues, keep rhythm and use their singing voices with confidence. We are so proud of how much they've grown.

As we head into Thanksgiving break, we have officially wrapped up Owl Unit 1: Family and Friends. After the break, we will begin Owl Unit 2: The World of Colors, where we will explore colors in nature, art, emotions and everyday life. We are so excited to begin this new learning adventure with your children.

We also want to say a huge thank you to Kira's family for donating to our classroom by grabbing some items off our wishlist. Your kindness and support means so much to us and helps make our classroom an even more wonderful place to learn and play. Wishing you and your families a safe, happy and wonderful Thanksgiving. Thank you for sharing your amazing children with us every day. We are truly thankful for each and every one of them.

Warmly, Ms. Rhi and Ms. Mirleiny



TRANSITION

Ms. Francine & Ms. Cindy

November flew by in a blink of an eye in Transition with the Cool Kids. We continued Owl Unit 1, focusing on family and friends, and explored our letters of the alphabet and numbers of the week. The children learned letters E and F, and numbers 5 and 6. They are doing a wonderful job recognizing them in printed form during our daily circle time, centers, and hands-on activities.

This month, we also explored the meaning of being thankful. Each day, the children shared the people and things that make them feel grateful, helping them understand the importance of kindness and appreciation. We included this theme in our unit by reading the book *The Thankful Letter*, which the children enjoyed so much. They also practiced creating their very own thankful letters and incorporated gratitude into dramatic play, giving them a fun and meaningful way to express their feelings.

We continued to explore the season of Fall, enjoying the changing leaves and the variety of colors we could see outside on our playground whenever the weather was safe for outdoor play.

We have been super busy with all of our Thanksgiving crafts. The children made turkeys and included the people and things they are thankful for on the feathers. They also created their very own Thanksgiving dinner by designing a Thanksgiving menu with all the foods they would like to eat, making this a fun and creative way to celebrate the holiday.

In STEM with Dr. Jo, we explored musical instruments, and Dr. Jo helped us create our very own instrument for our classroom. In Music, we are thriving as we learn all of our songs and build confidence singing in front of our friends. We are also practicing a special song for Breakfast with Santa and are so excited to perform it for you all!

We also celebrated Veterans Day and talked about how thankful we are for the men and women who serve our country. The children got to dress up in red, white, and blue in honor of them for a fun tag day!

We are looking forward to the month of December! Upon our return, we will be starting Owl Unit 2: World of Colors, and we can't wait to enjoy all the fun and surprises the holiday season will bring.

We would also be so appreciative if you would like to send a gift from our classroom wishlist. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated and would make a big difference for our cool kids.

We want to wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are so thankful for all of our cool kids and for each of you, our amazing parents. Happy holiday season! Be kind and remember, smiles are free!

Warmly,

Ms. Francine aka Nana Fran and Ms. Cindy



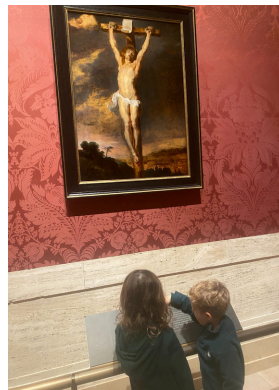
PREK

Ms. Carmen

Pre-K is wrapping up Owl Unit #1, Friends and Family, and getting excited to begin Unit #2, The World of Color. The children will explore primary colors, sort objects by color, and have fun mixing paint. We'll read several stories about colors, including *Mouse Paint*, *The Color Monster*, *Cats' Favorite Color*, and more. In Math, they'll practice one-to-one correspondence by adding objects to a ten frame. In Spanish, we'll learn the names of all the basic colors. The Pre-K class has been hard at work preparing for our annual Breakfast with Santa and Holiday Concert! We can't wait to see everyone there. Happy Holidays!

KI Mrs. Stewart

In Math, KI has been learning about things that are alike and different and AB patterns. In Literacy, we read *Turkey Trouble*. The children made predictions of what would come next in the story, sequencing the parts of the story in chronological order, and they drew an illustration of their favorite part of the book. KI enjoyed having reading buddies with the students in grades K2-5th Grade. Reading buddies allows the KI children to see what it is like to read fluently as it is being demonstrated to them by an older student and it makes reading fun!! In Foundations, the children are continuing to recognize and name letters, learn letter formation, and letter-sound correspondence. In Science, we have been learning about the 4 Seasons, especially Autumn/Fall. The children learned that leaves change color in the Fall because they stop making green pigment called chlorophyll as the days get shorter which reveals other colors underneath like red, yellow, orange etc. In Social Studies, we learned about Veterans Day and we made cards for the Veterans. We have enjoyed learning about Thanksgiving. Some things we are thankful for are our homes, our siblings, the firehouse, turkey, the ability to run fast, our Mom/Dad, and so much more. We had a great time on our Field Trip to the Museum of Fine Arts. The children enjoyed seeing the sculptures, paintings, drawings, and Mummies. The children were surprised to learn that drawings/photography can also be black and white. Thank you to those families who donated food to support the St. Monica Food Pantry. KI alone brought in 153 items. We wish you all a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!!!



K2/I

Mrs. Hesek

Greetings and welcome to K2/I! The month flew by quicker than a turkey running from a Thanksgiving table ;) We started our month memorizing a poem about Thanksgiving. Our journey began with recognizing that the word Thanksgiving is a proper noun and then discovering that it was actually two words put together to make a compound word. We also worked with rhymes as we read through the poem and heard hold, gold and sweet, eat. This led us to talking about our five senses as we visualized what was being described—held apples, seen sunlight and heard a little cricket. We then learned about a Wampanoag named Squanto. It seems that even though he was taken as a slave and escaped, he was kind and generous to help the newly arrived pilgrim settlers. We also read a book written by and illustrated by four Native Americans one being a Wampanoag. We found out that North America is referred to as Turtle Island due to its shape. We thoughtfully looked at a map of North America and found the resemblance. Our month also gave us new knowledge about veterans and their role in our country. We are proud to have family members or know of someone who is a veteran. The trip to the MFA was enlightening for all of us—we especially loved the mummies and their sarcophagus'. We even were lucky to meet some college students who shared their drawings with us for future inspiration.



GRADE 2/3

Ms. Dixon

November was filled with lots of thankfulness and gratitude! Grade 2/3 students kicked off the month with thanking our Veterans by writing letters, thanking them for protecting us, being brave, and allowing us to have freedom.. Next, we practiced more gratitude by creating a thankful wreath with twelve things we are thankful for. We then picked one thing to take a picture of and expand on why we are thankful for this person/thing/place/etc. In Math, Grade 2 students are working with measurement, and Grade 3 students are working with arrays and tape diagrams as an introduction to multiplication and division. In Reading, both grades are working on reading comprehension - Reading short stories and answering questions about the stories. We wrapped up the month by going on a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts. Our favorite location was the Japanese Buddhist temple - We even went there twice! As we eagerly await the Santa/Holiday Breakfast on Sunday December 7th, we hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving! We are so thankful for all of you and everything you do to make S.P.A such an amazing place!



GRADE 4/5

Ms. Welch

The 4th and 5th grade class has been busy! This month, we got into the Thanksgiving spirit by writing a short essay about why we are thankful for St. Peter Academy. The students were given a disposable camera to take pictures of the school, their friends, teachers, and so much more. The pictures will accompany their wonderful writing! In Math, the fourth graders are mainly focused on identifying the place value of whole numbers, comparing values, and writing quantities in standard and expanded form. Similarly, fifth grade is focusing on these processes but with decimals. We ended the month with a fun and educational trip to the Museum of Fine Arts. According to the class, their favorite part was an untitled art piece by Tara Donovan made entirely out of styrofoam cups that hung from the ceiling in the hallway. We look forward to December and all the fun it will bring!

