

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER ISSUE



Greetings to all SPA Families;

What a quick December! It was a pleasure to see so many families at our Santa Breakfast! It was a wonderful time, and a great performance by all the students. I want to again thank everyone who made the event possible: Iron Worker Local 7, Amhreins Restaurant, Olga's Kafe, and Blasi's Kitchen & Bar. While I am thanking people, I would like to give a shout out to Mr. Larry Mammoli, who has been decorating our St. Peter Academy school-yard since 2004! THANK YOU!!

The bustling holiday season is upon us. I want to thank all the families that donated Christmas Gifts to State Representative David Biele and Toys for Tots. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The cold weather hasn't been here yet, but it will be here by January! Please be sure that your children come to school prepared to go outside for their recess. Students WILL be going outside as often as possible, so please have coats, hats, mittens, ski pants and boots ready!!

On behalf of the St. Peter Academy family, I wish all of our families a safe and peaceful holiday season. Cherish the time with family and friends as you create new and precious memories.

Sincerely,
Andrius Dilba
Chief Educational Officer



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!



[Toddler Green Turtles](#)

[Toddler Green Pandas](#)

[Toddler Blue](#)

[Transition](#)

[PreK](#)

[K1](#)

[K2/1](#)

[Grade 2](#)

[After School](#)

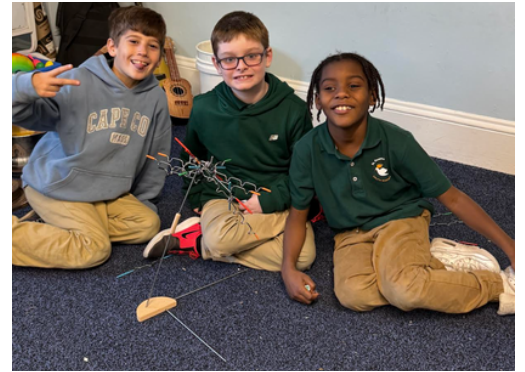


ART/STEM & MUSIC Dr. Joseph

November and December came and went so fast in the Art, STEM, and Music classroom. Our toddlers did such an excellent job preparing for and performing at Breakfast with Santa! They worked incredibly hard learning how to use microphones, how to sing clearly, and how to be in front of a crowd. Even compared to last year, our students did so well being on stage. We still had a few tears, but many of our students are much more comfortable conquering their fears being in front of an audience. In STEM, we have been working with playdough, mixing colors, and even making soup! As such, our students have been using all of their senses in new and different ways.

In the Elementary Academy, our students' original songs went so well, making all of the hours of hard work that the students put in well worth it. I am incredibly proud to say that some of the songs our students have written will be songs that I know at least I will be singing for everyone at St. Peter Academy next year. Let me know if you need a video of any class, because we got them all! In Art, we have been exploring our drawing, painting, and collage stations and getting quite creative with the way we use our materials. Likewise, in STEM, we have been exploring lots of different stations like chain reactions, using different building materials, and making boats. I hope that you receive a gift for the upcoming holiday season that your child has made in the STEM classroom!

We are looking forward to the new year where hopefully our second grade and older students will begin working on instruments and everyone throughout the school begins writing new songs!



AFTERSCHOOL Ms. Brittney

We had a very fun filled last two months full of holiday cheer and lots of crafts. In November, the kids created their own turkeys using paint, plates, and googly eyes. Then we kicked off December by getting our community room ready for Christmas by decorating the tree and hanging Christmas decorations. The children also enjoyed making their own popsicle stick Christmas truck ornament and taking it home to hang on their Christmas tree. We also had a special guest our friend Elfie from the North Pole come to visit us again this year. The kids were excited to see what fun things he had planned for us each day. Can't wait to see what the new year brings. Happy Holidays!



TODDLER GREEN TURTLES

Ms. Suzana, Ms. Elvira,
& Ms. Katusica

What a month November has been for our little ones! We've had an exciting and eventful month, filled with creativity, learning, and a few challenges. Here's a peek into our classroom adventures this past month:

Thanksgiving Celebrations: Our Thanksgiving festivities were a hit! The children had a fantastic time making turkey crafts, which showcased their creativity and fine motor skills. The classroom was filled with colorful turkeys, each one unique and adorable.

Seasonal Sickness: While November brought some seasonal sickness that affected many of our little ones, we are grateful for your understanding and support during this time. We are happy to share that everyone is now back, healthy, and ready to learn. It's wonderful to have our classroom family together again.

Unit: World of Color: This month, we dove into our "World of Color" unit. The children explored various colors through fun activities and experiments. We've been painting, mixing colors, and discovering the beauty of the world around us through a colorful lens. The excitement and curiosity in their eyes have been truly heartwarming.

Looking Ahead: Christmas and Beyond: As we step into December, we are eagerly awaiting the joys of the holiday season. Our classroom will be filled with Christmas-themed activities, stories, and crafts. We'll continue to learn and grow together, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. We look forward to a wonderful December filled with joy, learning, and festive cheer.

As we gear up for an exciting new month filled with learning and creativity, we are reaching out to you for support in enriching our classroom environment. We have created a wishlist on Amazon for items that would greatly benefit our little learners and enhance their educational experience.



TODDLER GREEN PANDAS

Ms. Shirley & Ms. Christina

Dear Panda Families,

Happy December! This month, our theme was "Colors." The children had a wonderful time exploring different colors through painting, creating sensory bottles, and reading a variety of books about colors. We also practiced our color recognition in both English and Spanish. The kids were especially excited to showcase their creativity with vibrant artwork projects.

In addition to our color exploration, we discussed the important theme of friendship. We are bittersweetly saying farewell to our friend Sawyer, who will be moving up to Toddler Blue next month. Sawyer has been an amazing presence in our classroom—acting as a helpful teacher assistant, guiding his friends with their colors and numbers. He is a role model for his classmates, and his kindness and leadership will surely be missed. However, this is not goodbye—it's simply "see you soon."

As we approach the holiday season, we want to wish all of our Panda families a joyful and restful holiday, filled with quality time and love. We also want to thank you, as always, for your continued support in making this a wonderful year of learning and growth for our little ones.

Lastly, if you would like to support our classroom, we have a wishlist available for donations. Your contributions are always greatly appreciated!

Wishing you all a happy New Year, and thank you for being such a supportive part of our Panda family!

TODDLER BLUE Ms. G & Ms. Kay

Happy December Toddler Blue families! We are so excited to be in December and all that December brings! We started our new unit world of colors which we have been loving. We have done so many different activities learning all about our different colors. One of our favorite activities was reading the book *The Day the Crayons Quit*. After we read the book, we got to pick out our favorite colors and even make our own crayons. This month even brought the Christmas show and it was a hit. The kids loved singing Jingle bells with their friends and did a fantastic job performing it at the Christmas show. We can't wait to see what the rest of the winter will bring! We hope everyone has a happy holiday! I also wanted to take time and say thank you to our Toddler Blue families that got us our wishlist supplies. It is so deeply appreciated!



TRANSITION Ms. Rhi & Ms. Gina

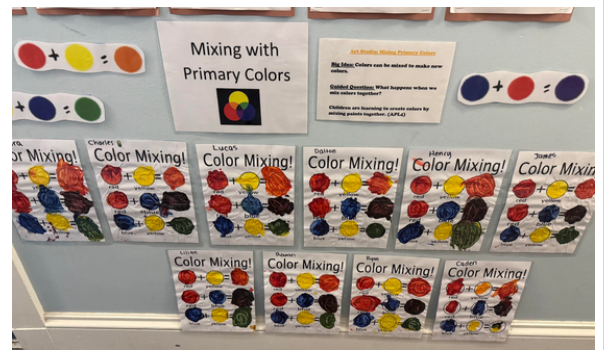
The holiday season in transition has been wonderful with our kiddos! We have had a couple of changes within our classroom. Ms. Rhi has stepped in while Ms. Francine recovers at home! We have driven right into our Unit 2 World Of Colors! The children have loved every minute of it! We have explored so many colors, made art projects with all of our colors, talked about our favorite colors and more! The unit books have been wonderful. Our favorites thus far have been "Soup Day", "Dog's Colorful Day" and Festival Of Colors. With Soup Day the children made soup with Dr. Jo. Then, they made an art project with Ms. Rhi containing all the soup's ingredients, what shape and color they were in the story! We also celebrated Thanksgiving with the kiddos. We talked about all of the things and people in our life that we are thankful for! We did this by making our very own Thankful Turkeys! Of course we can not forget how wonderful breakfast with Santa went. It was a great time hanging with all of the families and hearing our transition group sing "Frosty The Snowman." They did amazing! Looking forward to continuing Unit 2 World Of Color and making some holiday activities with our friends! Can not wait to see what the New Year brings us! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



PREK

Ms. Carmen

Pre-K is enjoying Owl Unit 2 The World of Color. The children are learning to identify primary colors, sorting objects by colors, and experimenting with mixing paint colors. We read multiple stories about colors: Mouse Paint, The Color Monster, and Cats Favorite Color. In Math, children demonstrate one to one correspondences by adding objects to a ten frame. In Spanish, we finished our unit on colors and have begun our unit in five senses. Pre-K would like to thank everyone who came to our annual breakfast with Santa. It was an amazing show! Happy Holidays!





KI Mrs. Stewart

In Eureka Math, we are learning to identify, describe, sort, and compare 2D and 3D shapes. In CKLA, we are continuing to recognize and produce rhyming words, read sight words, recognize color words, and learn about community helpers. They have been working to not only recognize sight words but to also sound out the words so that they can begin to write sight words on their own. In Foundations, we continue to learn the sounds of each letter in the alphabet and how to form our letters properly on the line. In Science, we learned about animals that hibernate. We learned that hibernate means you sleep all winter. Some animals that hibernate are hedgehogs, bears, groundhogs, snakes, and bats. Some KI friends thought it would be pretty cool if we could sleep through the Winter!! We took a walk up West Broadway and hung the Christmas Ornaments the children made with Dr. Jo in Art Class on the Christmas Tree. Thank you to everyone who came to our Santa Breakfast. It was a great way to kick off the holiday season. I am so proud of KI for writing and performing their own song. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Year!

K2/I Mrs. Hesek

We have had a month welcoming in December and the joyous season of loving and giving, or Christmas as we call it. We began our journey with the completion of our Noun Town mural. We filled our little town with nouns that represent all our categories: person, place, thing or animal. We started our first directed drawing of a gingerbread house. Carefully following step by step, we can bring to life a plain piece of paper and convert it to a gingerbread house drawing. We continue to work on our rhyming through our Santa Rhyme Time and word families. As we continue to make friends with math, each morning we count by 10, 5 and 2 to 100 or more. We chart the weather, make patterns as we fill in the calendar, expand numbers and count on. In K2 we can match quantities in a picture to the number through puzzles and games. In 1st we are recognizing that the pairing of equal statements can be made using different number expressions. $4+5=3+6$ The calendar year may be ending, but our Academics are blooming!



GRADE 2

Ms. Dixon



November and December have been filled with holiday cheer! In November, we finished up our opinion writing unit, wrote friendly letters to veterans, and wrote about people we are thankful for and why. In December, we got the chance to do some creative writing - Having a pet reindeer and living in a gingerbread house were just two of our choices. We also researched different holidays around the world! We learned about the traditions in Sweden, Italy, Spain, India, Brazil, and Germany - In each country there are some traditions that are similar to the ones we know, but there are many interesting new ones, as well! In Eureka Math we finished up our unit on counting/place value and different forms of numbers. In Reading, we continue to work on sight words, reading comprehension, and parts of speech such as nouns, verbs and, adjectives. We are loving reading holiday themed books, as well! In Science/History, last month we learned about different branches of the military, as well as the history of Thanksgiving. In December we learned about the difference between continents, countries, states, and cities. We have also taken virtual trips to different parts of the world such as Ukraine, Mexico, and Iceland. Last, on theme for December, we had a candy cane investigation, and investigated the question: Can you build a real house out of cookies and candy? Thank you so much to everyone who came to the Breakfast with Santa - It was a blast and the performances were amazing! Happy Holidays to all & enjoy the vacation!

GRADE 3/4

Mr. Martinko

The Best Grade 3 and Grade 4 Ever keeps being amazed by all the learning we are sharing and how many events we are able to participate in. Since the last school wide newsletter was sent out in November, our crew is becoming more cooperative in working toward our journey destinations Grade 4 and Grade 5. We reported last time that we had just filled our Compliment Jar; we rewarded ourselves with a Technology Afternoon with treats provided by Mr. M., Robert's Gigi, and Celia's mom. Everyone had a wonderful time; we are definitely motivated to fill our Compliment Jar again. We are about half way there. In addition, individual crew members have received Passports because they have consistently demonstrated one of our classroom core values (Kindness, Safety, Respect, Honesty, Leadership, or Sharing). Students may use Passports to take rewards from our treasure bins or they save them to be able to acquire items from bins that require many Passports. We have been mastering challenging and rigorous curriculum skills across the content areas. Grade 4 has been working on a Place Value Unit, comparing, ordering, increasing and decreasing by 1000, 10,000, and 100,000, and rounding to any place within 1,000,000. Grade 3 has been working on a Multiplication and Division Unit, identifying division unknowns (number of rows or number of units in a row using arrays and skip counting, and modeling the commutative property and identifying the distributive property with arrays. In Reading, we are learning to closely read text and we are using text features to increase our understanding of text. Finding the topic, main idea, and key details further increases our text understanding and provides us with summarization tools. We had two successful Publication Parties one for our Opinion Paragraph and another for our Multi-paragraph Composition. In Social Studies we are identifying and describing New England colonies, New England States, and the Northeast Region. We are practicing using affirmative talk and making learning plans for our own progress in Second Step. Native American Heritage Month was embedded in many lessons across the core subjects. We took the i-Ready Diagnostic Tests in Reading and Math, the results of which have been sent home for review with the First Trimester Report Cards on December 6th. We will continue to monitor our growth and progress in these crucial content areas. The crew did a terrific rendition of their original song, "An Uncle Baby Christmas" at the Breakfast With Santa/Holiday Show on December 8th. Thank you, Dr. Joseph, for inspiring us to be our best performance artists. Despite the more wintry weather, we continue to have robust recesses in the SPA playground and up at Spiderman. Thanks for making sure crew members wear coats, hats, and gloves everyday. We look forward to our biweekly visits to the library; sometimes we ride the bus, and crew members exhibit appropriate behavior. Here comes 2025! Wishing everyone wonderful holidays and a Happy New Year!

