

OCTOBER ISSUE



Dear Families:

It was so nice to see so many of you at our Halloween Spooktacular. I look forward to more opportunities to welcome everyone to our beautiful school. Later this month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with our SPA Thanksgiving Gathering on November 27. Keep an eye out for more details.

I hope you had a fun Halloween, and that you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and are able to stay healthy and safe during the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for partnering with us as we work together to build a successful St. Peter Academy. As the weather begins to change, it is important that students come to school prepared for outdoor recess. We will continue to do our best to get the students outside for some fresh air, exercise and play. Please help us by ensuring that children have the proper outdoor gear.

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](#)

[Transition](#)

[PreK](#)

[K1](#)

[K2/I](#)

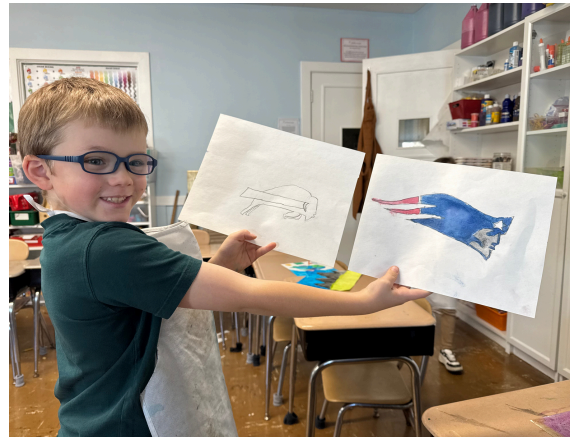
[Grade 2](#)

[After School](#)



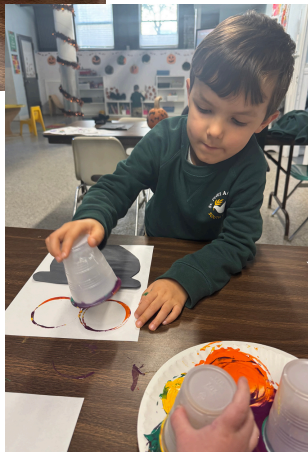
ART/STEM & MUSIC Dr. Joseph

October has been a productive brainstorm in the Art, STEM, and Music classroom. Our toddlers have found their voices! Many of you have told me that your students have begun singing at home which is always such a joy to hear! In music, they will even sing small solos in front of their peers, and we are warming up for our first performance at our Christmas Pancake Breakfast. In STEM, we have been working with play-dough to make pumpkins, monsters, faces, and pizzas all to learn how to use our hands, what makes pumpkins or faces recognizable, and to define words like "flat," "tall," and "wide." In the Elementary Academy, we are close to finishing our first songs of the year which we will perform at the Pancake Breakfast. I hope you can all come to hear them! Our students are pursuing a wide variety of styles, but each class has decided as a group to write a Christmas song, specifically about Santa, his elves, and in one case his Martian counterpart. In art, we have moved into our painting unit and even in the last week, the quality of paintings by students has skyrocketed. In STEM, we have been trouble-shooting given design problems and diving into small-group projects including motion, construction, weaving, and sewing! We are excited for November when we start our collage unit in art and polish up our music to perform for all of you soon!



AFTERSCHOOL Ms. Brittney

What a busy month we had in Afterschool this October! The kids enjoyed decorating the community room for the spooky month of October. During the month we decorated pumpkins, made bubbling cauldrons, spider webs, and lots of other crafts for Halloween. Thank you to all who came to the Spooktacular Halloween Party. On our final day of October we enjoyed a Halloween party in afterschool with fun treats and music while the kids got to celebrate in their awesome costumes. We are so excited to see what the month of November brings for us in Afterschool!



TODDLER GREEN TURTLES Ms. Suzana & Ms. Elvira

This month, we kicked off our new unit on "Family and Friends." Our little ones are exploring the significance of family relationships and friendships through various fun activities. For our math adventures our tiny mathematicians delved into basic counting, shapes, and patterns. It's amazing to see how quickly they grasp these concepts and apply them in their daily lives.

Literacy and Story Time Highlights: We read some fantastic books that captivated the imaginations of our toddlers. From heartwarming tales about friendship to stories that introduce different family structures, our reading sessions have been a great success. It is always fascinating to see how fast kids pick things up.

P.S My dear Parents, I hope this message finds you well. As we continue to create a nurturing and enriching environment for our toddlers, we're reaching out to ask for your kind support. We have created an Amazon wishlist with some classroom supplies that would greatly benefit our little learners. Any contribution, big or small, would mean the world to us and help enhance our educational experience. Thank you for your generosity and support.



TODDLER GREEN PANDAS Ms. Christina & Ms. Shirley

Hello, Panda Families! This month, we've been diving into our Family and Friends curriculum, where the children have been joyfully learning about each other's families. Together, they've practiced saying "Mom," "Dad," "Baby," and "Sister" in both Spanish and American Sign Language! Watching the children build friendships, recognize each other's names, and celebrate their unique families has been truly special. We also created a "Friendship Tree" as a group, where the children worked together to make a visual representation of their growing bonds. And in celebration of our community, we made an "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!" board featuring family photos from each child—what a wonderful way to feel connected to one another!

Emotional Learning: Our focus on emotions has helped the children learn to recognize and express their feelings, like happy, sad, mad, and worried. Using emotion sensory bottles, we explored these feelings together. We've also practiced techniques to help when we're upset: catching a bubble, singing "Happy Birthday," or counting to five and blowing the "candles" out—strategies they've really taken to!

Growing Independence: The children have adjusted well to the new classroom layout and are thriving in their growing independence. They're learning routines like cleaning up, hands washing, managing their lunchboxes and water bottles, and even brushing their hair! We're so proud to see their progress in these little everyday tasks.

STEM Exploration with Dr. Joe: In our STEM classes, Dr. Joe guided us in a hands-on exploration of the inside of a pumpkin, using our senses of sight, touch, and smell. We also made "monsters" with play dough, giving the children an opportunity to use their fine motor skills and creativity. We appreciate each of you for being a part of our journey and for your continued support and feedback. We're excited to make even more fun, educational memories with our Panda kiddos!

Classroom Wishlist: If you'd like to donate to our Pandas classroom, we have a wishlist available, and any contributions are truly appreciated. Thank you all!

TODDLER BLUE Ms. G & Ms. Kay

October has been such a fun month for Toddler Blue! We started our Owl Unit I Family & Friends. The children loved bringing in their family pictures. We spoke about the differences in everyone's families and how everyone can look different! Circle time has been a huge hit too, especially our Months of the Year & Days of the Week songs. Our Rhyme time seems to be their absolute favorite part though! We even took a field trip to the firehouse! The children loved exploring inside the fire trucks and talking to the firemen. They even got a chance to sit in the driver seat. We had an amazing time at our Halloween parade and party as well! Toddler Blue is so excited to see what the month of November brings next!



TRANSITION Ms. Francine & Ms. Gina

As October comes to an end, we welcome Autumn and November. We have been such busy bees here in Toddler Transitions with the coolkids and our back to school-barbecue, apple picking bus trip, our visit to the firehouse, awesome Spooktacular dance, tag days and fun pizza Fridays all while learning our ABC's and 1,2,3's both in English and Spanish. The children are sorting colors, counting bears, painting with apples and leaves & identifying letters in their own names and tracing, enjoying our outside time in dramatic play all while using our manners. Our themes for October have been fall, Pumpkins, leaves, & Halloween! Students are excitedly picking out costumes and enjoying learning new songs with Dr. Joe. They even got to explore the life of a pumpkin. Our social focus has been on following directions and whole body listening. The children are enjoying our Owl Unit #1 Friends & Family and How to be a Friend. New books are My Friends and Family. I love my family and of course the little red hen makes a pizza as well as a letter to Amy. Please continue to follow us for more cool kid adventures 2024-25. Always be kind, smiles are free! Please check out our Amazon classroom wish list. Anything is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



PREK

Ms. Carmen

In October, PreK has been working on Owl Unit#1 Friends and Families. The books we have read Lola Goes to School, My Friend and I and Allie All Along. We had a special visit from the Boston Police. They spoke to the students about stranger danger and how to stay safe during Halloween. We had a coloring contest and treated the students with pizza. During Fire Safety Week PreK learned to stop, drop, and roll, how to call 911 in case of an emergency, and how to exit your home or school during a fire. In stem class with Dr. Joe the students enjoyed exploring play dough. Encouraging them to talk about how the play dough looks, smells, and feels. The students talked about how they are using their hands to change the shape of the play dough (rolling, pinching, squishing, smashing). Pre-K enjoyed ending the month of October with our annual SPA Halloween Parade.



**KI** Mrs. Stewart

What a busy month October was!! In Math, the children are learning to count to 20 and understanding the relationship between numbers and quantities to 10 and connecting to cardinality. In CKLA, the children are learning to recognize the initial letter of one's first name, recognize the written form of one's first name, and with prompting and support, ask and answer who, what, where, why, when, and how questions. We had great weather and thoroughly enjoyed our day at Conor's Farm to conclude our unit on Apples. KI enjoyed their field trip to the D Street Fire House to conclude National Fire Prevention Week. We learned to stop, drop, and roll if our clothes catch fire, to leave the house immediately and to call 911 if we have an emergency, to have a family meet up spot if you need to evacuate the house, and so much more!! We had a visit from the Boston Police Department Station C-6 to talk to the children about Safety especially around Halloween. The children learned who are safe people that can help if they get lost, what number to call if you need help (911), to not take anything from strangers, and to not eat any Halloween candy until after our families have checked it. We ended the month learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin, going on a Halloween Parade, having our annual Spooktacular Party, and celebrating Halloween!!

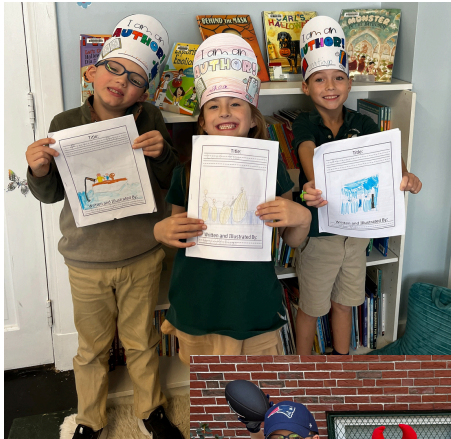
K2/I Mrs. Hesek

October is here in K2/I and we are having a busy and productive time. We began our month with an apple picking trip that included getting a train ride, a corn maze walk and bringing home a pumpkin. We experimented with trying to grow a pumpkin inside a pumpkin by cutting off the top and filling the inside with dirt. Even though our experiment only grew mold, we thought that we could try it a different way in the future. We then visited the firehouse and were able to climb aboard the truck, wear a real fire hat, watch as the firemen slid down the pole, culminating in the optical illusion of a fireman in the sky as he climbed the ladder all the way to the top! We spent our week before Halloween learning about a very interesting nocturnal animal-the bat. We spent our week reading about its habits, its lifecycle and how it differs from birds. We are genuinely a learning community here in K2/I.



GRADE 2

Ms. Dixon



October has been a fun filled month for Grade 2! We started off the month with a field trip to Connors farm - We had so much fun playing in the corn pit, picking apples, and many other fun activities! We also had student council elections this month. Congratulations to all of our student council members! We had another field trip in October to the Boston Fire Museum! Last, we had our Spooktacular Halloween party, as well as the Halloween parade/classroom trick-or-treat on Halloween. Academically, we finished up our personal narrative stories and had a publishing party - Grade K2/1 students visited to listen to our awesome Grade 2 authors read their published work! After this, we began our opinion writing unit - We are writing about our favorite seasons and learning how to support our opinions with details. We also got in the Halloween spirit with some creative writing by coming up with a spooky Halloween story and created/described a creepy haunted house. In Math, we finished up our unit about measurement! Some of our other themes for this month were the life cycle of an apple, fire safety/prevention, Indigenous Peoples' Day, Bats, and, of course, Halloween! What a month of fun and learning!

GRADE 3/4

Mr. Martinko

The Best Grade 3 and Grade 4 Ever is thrilled to report that October has exceeded our expectations for sharing learning and for strengthening our learning with meaningful (and fun) field trips in the best Expeditionary Learning tradition. Community Meeting at 7:40 sharp in the Community Room starts our day by bringing us together as a single community with shared goals and dreams and sends us on our way for each classroom's planned educational, emotional and social pursuits. After Morning Work and i-Ready time, the BG3aG4E crew attends the Room 202 Morning Meeting, which is slowly evolving in response to student input. Our compliment jar was filled yesterday! This means we as a whole crew have been meeting expectations and receiving compliments from Mr. M. and other staff members. Individual crew members are receiving Core Value Passports which can be converted to rewards from the treasure bins on Friday.

Some of the topics covered this month in Reading, Writing, and Math include sequencing, dialogue, and characters' actions in fiction writing, similes and metaphors, nonfiction text structures, persuasion paragraph writing, identifying simple and compound sentences, multiplication and division arrays and other models, commutative and associative properties of multiplication, comparing and ordering multi-digit numbers based upon place value principles, increasing and decreasing multi-digit numbers by 1 hundred thousand, 1 ten thousand, and 1 thousand using place value, and rounding multi-digit numbers to the nearest thousand using vertical number lines. We have had very exciting class discussions and projects involving the science of animation, memory, and magic tricks. We have designed polar dwellings and applied the scientific method to the great Lava Lamp Experiment. We are learning more about being our best selves with the Second Step principles of focussing our attention, listening, and self-talking. In Social Studies we are becoming more comfortable with finding distances and locations on maps.

We and Ms. Dixon's Grade 2 class have been having exciting and invigorating recesses at the "Spiderman" Park. Students have added Sharks and Minnows to our other considerable list of activities. Recently creating and jumping into a giant leaf pile resulted from a lot of teamwork.

The field trip to the Apple Orchard on October 3rd was a great way to combine learning and many fun activities. We learned a lot about safety from the Boston Police Department and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department on October 8th. The Halloween Parade on October 31st was a phenomenal success. We have had fantastic weather for our 2 October visits to the South Boston Public Library! Here comes November!

