The Joy of a Catholic School

If you walked the halls of St. Peter School you probably noticed the smiles both inside and outside of the classroom. Kindergarteners reading independently, First Graders learning Math facts, Second Graders preparing for sacraments, Third Graders volunteering at World Food Day, Fourth Graders boarding the bus to Jefferson City, Fifth Graders growing nutritious food in the Tower Garden, Sixth Graders horseback riding at camp, Seventh Graders choosing their charity for Mission Carnival, and Eighth Graders leading their field day families through virtue-based projects. At every turn, these smiles reflected the joy of a Catholic School…the joy of St. Peter School.

One of our most joyful and most loved traditions for our school community is Catholic Schools Week. This year’s festivities kicked off with an all school assembly celebrating Monsignor Jack’s NCEA Lead Learn Proclaim Award. Monsignor Jack was one of only 32 recipients and 4 pastors to receive this award for his passion and commitment to Catholic education. The joy he brings to our school community is just one of the many reasons he was chosen for this award.

Whether it was participating in an all school Mass, stretching their minds to learn new skills, or building friendships that will last a lifetime, St. Peter students experienced the joy of a Catholic school in 2015-2016.
Dear St. Peter Community,

As we embark on our 153rd school year let us give thanks to Our Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed on our school and parish. We give thanks to the unknown lay “principal/teacher” who had the courage to start our school with the support of pastor Fr. Henry Van der Sanden in the middle of the Civil War. We give thanks for our priests, staff, parents, students and parishioners who carry on the tradition of Catholic formation today.

I am pleased to tell you that we are blessed with growing enrollment (470 students) which includes 56 new kindergarten students! Our four year old preschool has a waiting list and we have added a three year old preschool program as well.

We have also experienced academic growth the last few years. Our generally high standardized test scores rose even higher, especially in Math. Our Iowa Assessment Core Composite average student score for our 8th grade class was the 88th percentile! I also want to assure you that we continue to provide the necessary staff and resources to serve our students who find learning challenging. Students of all academic levels are cared for and educated at St. Peter School.

I also believe that our students, parents and staff have been growing spiritually. We know that to truly grow in holiness, we have to be growing spiritually. Intellectual and personal growth is important, but incomplete without Our Lord. Through our active prayer, sacramental and service opportunities we are growing in our Catholic faith and personal love for Jesus. I was particularly moved when our student “family groups” went out into the Kirkwood community one afternoon in May and gave out cards and refreshments to the employees working in various businesses. This was one of our Faith In Action service activities. The group I was with went to the Farmers Market, thanking people for working and passing out Gatorade. We teach the students that we are serving Christ when we serve others. We also prayed for the people we would serve that day. At the end of this past school year we said, “Thank you and see you later” to six of our retiring staff members. Mrs. Nancy Muller, Ms. Sue Rice, Mrs. Mary Laurentius, Mrs. Nancy Allen, Mr. Rich Mankus and Mrs. Patrice Murphy all have served St. Peter students faithfully for many years. We are deeply grateful for their service to the mission of St. Peter School.

I ask that you please continue to pray for all in our school community, including all students, parents and staff back to 1863. I am very grateful for your continued support of our mission of Catholic formation.

In the spirit of St. Peter,

Dr. John Freitag, Principal

UPCOMING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Backpack Blessing</td>
<td>August 14, 2016</td>
<td>9:00am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back to School Sunday</td>
<td>August 14, 2016</td>
<td>10:00am-1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Day of School 1st-8th</td>
<td>August 16, 2016</td>
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<td>Welcome Conferences Noon Dismissals</td>
<td>August 16-17, 2016</td>
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<td>First Day of Kindergarten</td>
<td>August 18, 2016</td>
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<td>First Day of 4 Year Old Preschool</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Day of 3 Year Old Preschool</td>
<td>August 23, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back to School Parent Night</td>
<td>August 22, 2016</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Peter Dash 5K</td>
<td>October 8, 2016</td>
<td>7:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>PreK-K Info Night</td>
<td>November 7, 2016</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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Agents of Hope

As a new school looms on the horizon and summer fades away I just know that our young folks will soon encounter an assignment from their language arts teacher entitled something like, “What was your favorite event of the summer?” I can answer that question easily….

This summer during the 9:00 Sunday morning Mass our worship committee decided to offer family Masses with homilies totally dedicated to children and young people. The first Sunday we did that was June 5, the Sunday following the St. Peterfest and the very beginning of the summer. I was the presider and homilist at that Mass and the theme was to be “agents of hope” and how they are in our presence more than we think. For me it was a memorable Mass moment.

My first challenge was making sure that Steve and Julie Missey and Shana Lifka and Hanna Lifka were going to attend the 9:00 Mass as I intended to have them in my homily. Julie was with their son, James, for a fundraiser at the park for autism that day but Steve attended 9:00 Mass. Steve shared his story about James at Mass.

Steve and Julie’s son, James, is autistic and is Down’s Syndrome and is nine years old. Because of James’ issues Julie and Steve thought that James would never be able to receive his First Communion or First Reconciliation. However, that all changed when they met an unyielding Jan Hartmann from our PSR and a determined Shana Lifka as they opened up a special education class at St. Peter PSR last Fall. The mantra of the patron saint of Catholic Education and founder of the Christian Brothers, St. John Baptiste De La Salle, was realized, “Find a way for that child to learn.” And…indeed they did! A dream was realized last April for the Misseys and also for Chris and Kerry Keller and their special needs son, Liam, when both these boys received the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Jan and Shana began working with James and Liam and others in September. It was remarkable to see what they were able to accomplish with their students in our first special education PSR class. What was even more remarkable was Shana’s daughter, Hanna, who is going into St. Peter seventh grade. Hanna, as it turned out, has an uncanny ability to connect with special education young people. James fell in love with her and would practically jump out of his seat when he saw her in class or in church on Sunday. He called her “Nahn.” She made a difference for these students.

On April 23rd James received his first reconciliation and his First Communion and his family was totally present to witness it. And so did Liam Keller, the son of Kerry and Chris Keller. It was an amazing moment filled with the presence of God. Shana and Hanna were on hand for these special times, too, and shared the moment. They were agents of hope for the Misseys and for the Kellers.

I called Shana and her daughter, Hanna, to be acknowledged at 9:00 Mass that June day. They were such agents of hope. The Mass was a moving testimony of God working with some pretty wonderful educators and a whole community to make great things happen. It truly does “take a village” as they say.

I acknowledged some other folks that day in church who were agents of hope: Colin Wagner, for his uncompromising care of fellow-student, Ben Schaffer, on the 8th Grade Chicago trip; for Ben Shaffer himself, for his undaunted determination and strength in the face of overwhelming odds; for 12 year old Elena Villhard, for her care and concern for the forgotten people, and for seventh grader, Jack Figge, for his innate and amazing awareness of his role as the oldest child in his family, for Gary O’Grady, who is always on hand to drive folks to the doctor’s office or to the store and assist Deacon John Komotos with his Person to Person ministry. These “agents of hope” are all around us so go and identify them, acknowledge them, and imitate them and the world will be better for it.

Monsignor Jack
Thank you to **everyone** for all of your volunteer time, donations, and participation in this year’s PTO events. Your generosity builds a community that instills positive values and memories in our children for a lifetime.

Following are some of the highlights from this year:

- St. Peter Dash was a beautiful fall day with many volunteers and hundreds of participants that raised a lot of money for St. Peter School.
- The new playground was completed in October in time for the annual Trunk Or Treat event.
- Students had the opportunity to shop for their loved ones at the annual Santa’s Workshop.
- Catholic Schools Week was a great success and included ice skating, Magic House night, a bubble bus, trivia and a movie with popcorn.
- The St. Peter Auction was a combined parish/school event that brought in over $90,000 for this great community. Many volunteers from the parish and school worked together to contribute to the event’s success.
- The Donuts with Dad and Morning with Mom traditions continued along with PTO-sponsored Teacher Lunches.
- 4th/5th Grade Science Room was refurnished and a Tower Garden was planted. This summer the Art Room will get renovations.
- Of course, St. Peterfest was a huge success!

**Thank you, St. Peter Family!**

**Welcome to St. Peter!**

We are excited to welcome all of our new students and families in Preschool, Kindergarten and throughout the school. We also welcome our new staff members: **Ms. Renee Chauvin**, Assistant Principal and teacher, **Ms. Katherine Hesse**, 8th grade homeroom, 7th and 8th Literature and 8th grade Language Arts, **Mrs. Chris Lodes**, 5th grade Language Arts and Social Studies, **Ms. Helen Valli**, P.E. and Health teacher, **Mrs. Jonna Caraccio**, Reading Specialist, **Mrs. Maria Lang**, Middle School Spanish, **Mrs. Laurie Jaeger**, Kindergarten, **Mrs. Kim Linhares**, 3 year old Preschool lead teacher, **Mrs. Mary Beth Thompson**, 3 year old Preschool assistant teacher, **Mrs. Pam Messmer**, 3rd grade assistant teacher, **Ms. Jessica Ladd** – 1st grade assistant teacher, **Mrs. Mary Bruno** and **Mrs. Denise Bouquet**, 2nd grade assistant teachers. We are so happy that you chose to join the St. Peter family!
**Growing Our Minds**

The St. Louis Chess Club and Scholastic Center brought four grandmaster chess players to St. Peter School to teach and compete with our club members. Our students were star struck, asking for autographs and waiting patiently to ask questions about chess and careers in the sport. All the St. Peter Chess Club members played the grandmasters in a format called a "simul" or simultaneous match where one grandmaster played multiple games against students at one time. Although no St. Peter Students were victorious in the matches, the experience left all the participants eager to learn more and energized about the opportunities chess offers.

The St. Peter Chess Club runs throughout the school year on Wednesday afternoons. Our 70 participants range from entry level to advanced players: all receiving weekly instruction from the skilled staff at the St. Louis Chess Club and Scholastic Center. Our players participate in CYC sponsored Chess Tournaments running from December through April. This past year, St. Peter teams placed in all ages at these tournaments.

**The Tower Garden Experience**

You may have been walking down Jefferson in the evening during the school year and noticed a strange glow coming from one of the classrooms on the top floor. That was not a visitor from another planet, but the Tower Garden that Mrs. Knight has in her science room. What is the Tower Garden, you ask? It is a tool that teaches the kids at St. Peter how to grow food in places that you normally can’t, such as inside a school building. Using aeroponics and hydroponics, water and nutrients are pumped to the top of the tower and then trickle down over the root system to grow food better and faster than traditional gardening. The students get to see the roots and actually pollinate the flowers for plants such as tomatoes. They can even pick food directly from the tower to eat as it is clean and uses no pesticides.

The Tower Garden is used outdoors but with the grow lights we can utilize it all year round and grow vegetables inside when it is 20 degrees and snowing outside. It truly is the future of growing food and organic food is growing in popularity. The produce from the tower is considered organic with all the nutrients being mined from the soil and are 100% natural. It is great to see kids get excited about growing nutritious food and learning at the same time. Our 5th graders were able to put the tower together, start the seedlings, plant them in the tower and watch them grow. When they had the baby chickens, Mrs. Knight had her own little farm right in St. Peter School. During the school year stop by the science room to check it out.

**Coding is Fun!**

More than 60 St. Peter students learned the new “literacy” of coding after school! These STEM students eagerly created animated stories and developed games in their ABCoder class. They learned popular visual block coding programs such as Code.org’s Blockly and MIT Media Lab’s Scratch, and participated in the largest worldwide computer science student event, Hour of Code. St. Peter ABCoder’s continued to build their coding skills this summer through programs such as College for Kids, Maryville Science and Global Hack.
A New Adventure

Our 8th graders are ready to soar! Congratulations to the St. Peter Class of 2016! We are very proud to have these students represent St. Peter School at these schools across St. Louis. We wish them much success and look forward to hearing of their many achievements during the next four years and beyond. We know that they will always represent St. Peter School in a positive light.

CBC High School
Danny Oexeman
Colin Wagner

DeSmet Jesuit
John Fotouhi
Michael Skoff

Cor Jesu Academy
Mary Kate Charles

St. Joseph’s Academy
Allison Belloli
Ellen Long
Shannon Sullivan
Allison Westphale
Sophie Wieser
Katie Young

CBC High School
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Allison Belloli
Ellen Long
Shannon Sullivan
Allison Westphale
Sophie Wieser
Katie Young

NERINX HALL
Zoe Heinz
Lucy Heller
Abby Kirtian
Maggie Muldoon
Macey O’Connell
Claire Price
Allison Roseman
Emma Zang

KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
Ashley Allison
Melodie Heaps
Elizabeth Mulligan

NERINX HALL
Zoe Heinz
Lucy Heller
Abby Kirtian
Maggie Muldoon
Macey O’Connell
Claire Price
Allison Roseman
Emma Zang

KIRKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
Ashley Allison
Melodie Heaps
Elizabeth Mulligan

DESMET
Matthew Young

KIRKWOOD
Sarah Hennessy, Anna Huisinga, Kellie Koob, Owen Luetkemeyer, Emily Manion, Sarah Morgan, Maggie O’Brien, Kyle Rolfe

KIRKWOOD
Sarah Hennessy, Anna Huisinga, Kellie Koob, Owen Luetkemeyer, Emily Manion, Sarah Morgan, Maggie O’Brien, Kyle Rolfe

ALUMNI HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following St. Peter Alumni who earned academic honors at their respective high schools. We are proud of their hard work and determination!

CBC – Tommy Oexeman

Cor Jesu – Kathleen Anderson, Molly Greenleay, Olivia Moran, Megan Schoelch

DeSmet - Matthew Young

Kirkwood - Sarah Hennessy, Anna Huisinga, Kellie Koob, Owen Luetkemeyer, Emily Manion, Sarah Morgan, Maggie O’Brien, Kyle Rolfe

Lindbergh High School – Maddy Stoecklein, Sammy Stoecklein

NERINX – Maddy Allgeyer, Sophia Mulwa, Nina Monofo, Erin Schrock

St. Joseph’s Academy – Sophia Andreatta, Molly Huggins, Morgan Kane, Kelly McLaughlin

SLUH – Chris Doehring, Jack Heller, Sean Hennessy, Griffin Lester, James Leahy, John Storgion, Sam Lockwood, Steve Lockwood, Mark Enslin, Ian Modde, Nicholas Patritti, Joseph Patritti, Chris Schulze, Charlie Scheibelhut, Matthew Thomas, Alex Sembrot, Patrick Finlay, Eli Saadi, Joe Manion, Timmy Heinlein, Carter Kane, Sean McLaughlin


URSULINE 
Nora Brooks, Grace Eisenbarger, Emma Swingle, Maggie Schlink, Isabelle Trokey

GOLD K Award is given to Kirkwood High School seniors who have received a 3.5 GPA or above every semester over 4 years – Edward Bottom, Grace Fitzgerald, Meghan O’Connell, Lauren Peak

Congratulations to Mary Kate Charles and Nicholas Schulze for being chosen by their peers for the American Legion Award. The award is given to a boy and a girl in the graduating classes of elementary school, junior and senior high school, and college. Those who receive a medal must exemplify six qualities that define character: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.

Alums - Let Us Know What You Are Doing!
We know there are more of you out there earning honors and making our school proud! Let us know what you are doing by sending an email to alums@stpteach.com.
Class of of 2007
Elizabeth Modde, University of Missouri, starting medical school in the fall.

Class of 2009
Catherine Hennessey - Avila University, Dean's list, studying special education, traveled to Rome summer 2016 with her choir to sing at musical federation and performed at St Peter's Basilica.

Ben Modde – St. Louis University, Graduate courses towards PT doctorate.

Class of 2010
Cara Greenley - University of Alabama, Dean’s List

Class of 2011
Maggie Hennessey, St Louis University, Dean's list, Nursing Program

Ashley Powers, University of Florida, Warrington College of Business Dean’s List.

Class of 2012
Nora Brooks – Ursuline Academy, a founding member of UA CEOs, Ursuline's first business club and the National Honor Society, Nora received the CLC Award, the Young Entrepreneur Award, The Spirit of St. Angela and the Business Department medal at her Senior awards. She was named to the all conference basketball team and Missouri basketball Coaches All Academic Team. She will attend Springfield College on an academic and athletic scholarship.

Madeline Ohlms – St. Joseph’s Academy salutatorian, George Washington Carver Award for seniors with GPA’s in the top 10 percent of their class by the Missouri Department of Education; Senior Service Awards, Sister Nancy Folk Science Award, Second Team All-Conference for Tennis, attending UMKC Medical School 6 year program.

Megan Schoelch, Cor Jesu, 4th Ranking Senior, Senior Address at Honors Convocation

Sam Slane, St. Joe, Swimming/Diving Second Team All-Conference.

Rachel Belloli, St. Joe, Lacrosse, First Team All-Conference; Awarded by the St. Louis Post Dispatch and the United Way for artwork selected to be a part of the 100 Neediest Cases campaign.

Tony Cadice, St. John Vianney, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, George W. Carver Award

Jack Eisenbarger, Vianney, National Honor Society, Graduated 3rd in the class, Mu Alpha Theta, Science Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, George W. Carver Award

Will Hebrank, Vianney, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta

James Leahy, SLUH, Latin Open Certamen 1st place, History and Culture 1st place, Myth 2nd place

John Storgion, SLUH, John Philip Souza award for the outstanding jazz musician, District Solo and Ensemble Festival - received a ‘1’ rating of “Exemplary” and qualified to go to the State Festival, Latin Open Certamen 1st place.

Edward Bottom, John Storgion, Patrick Charles, Daniel Schu, Urban Cornett all achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest advancement rank in Scouting fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills.

Class of 2013
Nina Monafo, Nerinx Hall, S.A.C. President for 2016-17. Photography chosen to be displayed at the state capitol in Jefferson City. Another of her photographs was awarded recognition and is currently on display at The St. Louis Art Museum Traveled with her Humanities class Italy, Paris and London.

Mychelle Betlejewski moving to Orlando to join her sister, Brianna Betlejewski, who is interning at Disney World through the Disney College Program.

Chris Doehring, SLUH, Accepted into and attended the Miami University of Ohio Summer Scholars program, Volunteer soccer coach/trainer this summer for the Real Madrid Foundation.

Owen Luetkemeyer – Kirkwood, named MVP varsity lacrosse team.

Anna McAtee - St. Joe, STEM Scholar, Cross Country All District, inducted into Science Honor Society and National Honor Society.

Kelly McLaughlin – St. Joe, Basketball First Team All Conference

Mark Enslin, SLUH, and band Jeske Park completed first EP at Native Recording Studios.

Tom Oexeman, CBC, Bright Flight Scholar

Kellie Koob, Kirkwood High School, was an academic All-American, and made the All-Conference team for soccer.

Thomas Sauer, Vianney, Inducted into National Honor Society, nominated by his teachers and attending Missouri Boys State Leadership Camp.

Class of 2014
Kathleen Anderson, Cor Jesu, was inducted to National Honors Society, won National Spanish language award, student council junior class president

Morgan Kane, St. Joe, earned the 1st Team Tennis All-Conference Award

Sophia Andreotta, St. Joe, inducted into Beta Chi Pi, the Science Honor Society.

Susie Slane – St. Joe, First Team All Conference for Track.

Jack McGrail – SLUH, Father Hagan Award Recipient which recognizes leadership in the freshman and sophomore year, the love of this school, generosity in giving of self, joy in coming to school every day.

Griffin Lester, SLUH, played JV baseball, SLUH Ambassador.

Brendan Charles, Griffin Lester, Sam Lockwood, Nicholas Patritti, Joseph Patritti, Alex Sembrot, inducted into National Honor Society at St. Louis University High School.

James Storgion - SLUH, National Champion in Racquetball Seed #6 National Tournament.

Class of 2015
Jack Rintoul, Kirkwood, Received the Ernest Jones Humanitarian Award which honors those who continually endeavor to foster inclusive relationships among all students.

Brady Luetkemeyer, Kirkwood, Lacrosse Varsity-JV swing, Captain of JV team, MVP of JV team.

Maddy and Sammy Stocklein, Lindbergh, Renaissance Award for grades, Freshman volleyball team won conference

Maddy Allgeyer, Nerinx, voted MVP on the JV soccer team.

Emily McDoniel, Nerinx, played JV soccer.

Trevor Jones, CBC, JV hockey team that won the Mid State championships.
ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL
215 NORTH CLAY
KIRKWOOD, MO  63122

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www.stpeterkirkwood.org