



# T H E A E R I E

## S T . P E T E R ' S L U T H E R A N S C H O O L

*"St. Peter's Lutheran School exists to glorify God through Christian Nurture, Mission Outreach, Quality Academic and Religious Education."* — Mission Statement

### Notes from the Principal...

Each year in January, I must write an annual report to the Congregation of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Each year I wonder what to say. How to give them a picture of their major mission, the school. And how to thank them for their continued vision and support. Here is this years report.

"I am the light of world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12 is the school theme for the 2011-2012 school year.

In April of 2011 we had our accreditation visit Four educators from other ACSI schools spent three days on our campus. They visited with staff, parents, students, church members, and school board members. During this visit they asked questions, listened to answers, observed situations, and read a lot of school information which was in our self study. At the conclusion their report was sent to the accreditation committee and we were again granted a six year accreditation.

Throughout the visit and in their report, the committee commended the church "for its commitment to the school as a primary ministry as exhibited by their financial support of the school, resulting in the ability of the school to balance budgets, maintain affordable tuition, and to ensure more equitable pay for teachers." We started this year with 224 students and an annual budget of \$1,165,554. They continued to mention that it was rare to find a church-school relationship that was as positive and productive as what they found at St. Peter's.

From this accreditation process came some of our goals for the next few years, which include strengthening and implementing programs to meet the needs of all learners, reviewing staff pay scales and benefits, developing a plan for our technology use and resources, and developing communication strategies with alumni and the community.

We are fortunate to have a well trained staff that is committed to the mission and vision of St. Peter's. Our staff this year includes: Carol Adams, Virginia Baldwin, Caroline Caudle\*, Peg Bunting\*, Robin Burnette, Jazzie Burns, Charlene Caudle, Gabriella Chavarria, Ann Cunningham\*, Doris Dahle, Francia Davis, Christy Hellem\*, Ebony Irving, Naomi Kennicutt, Domenick Lucca, Eric Luke\*, Dan Martin, Phyllis McGuire\*, Mary Mitchell, Celia Nicolos, Bruce Oliver, Johnny Olson\*, Kristin Puccinelli, Kim Rowland, Theresa Rowley, Jordan Sauvain, Jeff Shultz, Lynn Stender, Molly Stewart, Dawn Storm, Estelle Tom, Traci Wacker\*, Bonnie Walters, Nan Yaw, Mike Yount\* and Maria Yearwood.

It is with the continued support and vision of the Pastors, church staff and the congregation that St. Peter's Lutheran School can and will continue its mission to "Glorify God through Christian Nurture, Mission Outreach and Quality Academic and Religious Education" for the children of this church and the greater community.

— Grace and Peace,  
Ann L. Cunningham, Principal

\* Member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church

#### STAFF

Ann Cunningham  
**Principal**  
Kristin Puccinelli  
**ECC Administrator  
and Bookkeeper**  
Bonnie Walters  
Christine Hellem  
**Secretaries**

Maria Yearwood  
Francia Davis  
Phyllis McGuire  
Kim Rowland  
Nan Yaw  
**Preschool Teachers**  
Dawn Storm  
Robin Burnette  
**Kindergarten**

Charlene Caudle  
Virginia Baldwin  
**First Grade**  
Traci Wacker  
Estelle Tom  
**Second Grade**  
Mary Mitchell  
Celia Nicolos  
**Third Grade**  
Doris Dahle  
**Fourth Grade**

Naomi Kennicutt  
**Fifth Grade**  
Michael Yount  
**Sixth Grade**  
Molly Stewart  
**Seventh Grade**  
Carol Adams  
**Eighth Grade**  
Lynn Stender  
**Librarian**

Peggy Bunting  
**P.E. / Day Care  
Athletic Director**  
Bruce Oliver  
**Mathematics**  
Theresa Rowley  
**Elementary Science**  
Dominick Lucca  
**Computer Teacher**

Ebony Irving  
**Physical Education**  
Jazzie Burns  
Caroline Caudle  
Gabriella Chavarria  
Jordan Sauvain  
**Day Care**  
Eric Luke  
Dan Martin  
John Olson  
**Custodians**

## Early Childhood Center News

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Our Preschool and Kindergarten classes are busy learning about the world around them.

In Kindergarten, the children have been working with math projects, reading and creating books, enjoying physical activity in P.E., and having fun with their friends. It's fun to watch their eyes light up when they figure out something new.

The Kindergarten class visited the new **Sacramento Children's Museum** and explored many different activities. Thank you to all the parents who attended and helped supervise our children. The museum is a great place to take your family for an afternoon trip.

The Ducks have been learning upper and lower case letters, writing, reading, telling stories, counting, jumping, and playing with their friends. We learned about molecules that dance when they are warm and slow down when they are cool and they shared a wacky, tacky penguin day with their buddies and learned about penguin habitats.

The Teddy Bear class has been busy learning about shapes, colors, the alphabet, and singing songs. It is

exciting to listen to them play and share with each other. Their conversations are hysterical.

The Ducks and the Teddy Bears were surprised by Snow Day. When they entered the room, it had been transformed into a winter wonderland. Furniture was moved, pillow fluff covered the floor, and icicles were hanging from the ceiling. The children skated with their socks on our plastic ice rink; they read winter stories in our lodge, complete with a lighted fireplace and a moose that changed colors; they played with artificial snow; and we even had a snow machine that blew bubbly snow on them.

I asked the children to describe the artificial snow as they put their hands in it. Here are some of the responses: "It's cold", "soft", "gushy", "like jelly", "smooch", "squishy", "warm like a blanket", "comfy", and "It felt like cheese on a pizza!"

It is a blessing to come to work and have fun with your children.

– In His service,  
Kristin Puccinelli

## A Teacher's Perspective

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I was recently talking to a buddy about fond memories that we have from elementary school. He was shocked to learn that students at public schools can no longer bring class treats on their birthdays. He lamented this fact because he enjoyed getting snacks on others birthdays, and the special feeling he received from passing out snacks on his birthday. I told him how thankful I am that this is not the case at St. Peter's because usually there is a little something left over for me, the teacher.

Lately I have been having lots of reminders of how thankful I am for St. Peter's. As part of my continued growth as a teacher, I have been attending meetings with other newer teachers, all of whom work for public schools, to compare notes and give advice as a veteran teacher. These poor, stressed out, sleep deprived up-and-comers all set out to make a difference and change the world, but are now coming to grips with some of the realities of public education. Many of

their students have discipline problems, parents are either fed up or don't care, and for the most part they are left to their own devices with no other teachers to help them. The other teachers won't even let them help themselves because they have to arrive and leave exactly at the bell because of the union's "Work to Rule" policy. Lastly, they all live in fear of whether they will even have a job next year.

St. Peter's on the other hand has a wonderful community of students with a solid Christ centered core. My parents are continuously blown away by how thoughtful and considerate the St. Peter's staff is. Just last week they threw me a surprise party for my birthday. I have truly never felt more appreciated. My co-workers have been an amazing support network of advice, ideas, and wisdom that has helped me elevate to a new level as a teacher. Yes I am truly thankful for St. Peter's, and to all the parents, students, and staff that make it such a wonderful place.

– Mike Yount



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## *Greetings from the First Grade Class*

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Our school theme this year is "Jesus is the Light of the World."  
We asked our students how they would shine their light for Jesus this year. Here are their responses:

**Joshua Carter:** "Pray to God."

**Sloane Creighton:** "I can praise Him, and do nice stuff for Him."

**Hannah Dunn:** "I can enjoy His world."

**Josiah Dyer:** "Do what is right and good."

**Adam Erias:** "Pray to God."

**Andrew Faust:** "Be nice."

**Nicolas Fedor:** "With a candle."

**Noah Hamm:** "Pray for God."

**Preston Hanford IV:** "By loving Him and shining my light on Him, He will love me."

**Alyssa Kalber:** "Love Him."

**Haylee McConnell:** "Tell Him that you love Him."

**Josh Nguyen:** "Protect my brother."

**Kealani Nitta:** "Praise Him."

**Emily Ontiveros:** "Love Him and don't be mean to my parents."

**Gloria Pak:** "Pray."

**Kaylee Phelps:** "Share my toys with my brother."

**Mateo Reynaga:** "Not fight with my brother."

**Ben Riggins:** "To learn about Him and tell about Him."

**Katie Ruecker:** "Be nice to God."

**Atticus Stewart-Gast:** "Don't do anything bad."

**James Tolson:** "Tell His Word."

**Ashlee West:** "Share my toys with Kaylee."

**Lizzie Williams:** "Telling people and God He's the Best!"



*Have a wonderful 2012. May you shine for Him in all you say and do.*

*Mrs. Caudle, Mrs. Baldwin, and Class*

## News Bytes

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The school staff has been using a school management and student information system since August. It is called **Sycamore Education** and some of the main features that this system offers St. Peter's Lutheran

School are that it stores, organizes, and tracks student information – such as class schedules, health records, grades, and more – in one centralized area. It enables us to manage our classrooms with control and freedom over class homepages, grade books, lesson plans, assignments, on-line tests, and seating charts. Another added bonus is that we can easily access all of this information from our home computers.

The system provides a school calendar to keep parents, students, and staff informed about events and holidays. It creates school news articles that can be marked 'internal' so only staff members can see them, or mark them as 'external' to keep our public school web page up to date. Also, we can even get feedback from news articles by allowing viewers to comment on them. Sycamore education also allows us to store all types of documents online such as newsletters, permission slips, rubrics, and assignments. If students or parents want to download them to their local computers they can.

In addition, **Sycamore Education** enables us to quickly take attendance at the beginning of each class with just a click of the mouse. It helps us to record absences and tardies, make them excused and unexcused, and include notes for special instances. **Sycamore Education** allows us to generate customizable report cards with definable grades - letter grades, attributes, percentages, weighted averages, etc. We can choose different formats such as academic grades, attributes, narrative evaluation grade cards and more.

The system offers St. Peter's the ability to track service or volunteer hours on a per family basis, and allows parents to enter their own time/hours online. It has the potential to help St. Peter's manage tuition, childcare, hot lunches, and even pay online.

Some of the features of the **Sycamore Education** system became accessible to parents and students in January. I had the opportunity to help educate dozens of parents who attended our Sycamore training sessions. I met many parents for the first time and enjoyed my interaction with them during these sessions. I anticipate more features of the **Sycamore Education** management and informational system becoming active in the months ahead. The system is a work in progress that will take some time to learn and master.

- Domenick Lucca



## New Year's Library News

*To the Book Fair and Beyond! Reading is Out of This World! Blast Off!* These were all statements resounding the week after Thanksgiving vacation in our school library.



Our **Mission Control Center**, otherwise known as our annual **Scholastic Book Fair**, was **Out of this World!** We took students beyond their imaginations, into a reading world of space and exploration. We enjoyed **Blast Off Sundaes** at our special **Family Event** and had a surprise visit from *Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2*, and our favorite big red dog *Clifford*.

With all your wonderful support and generous purchases, we were able to earn close to \$2000

in free **Accelerated Reader** books for our classrooms and library! It could not have been done without you! A special *thank you* goes to everyone who gave of their time to help keep our **Mission Control Center** up and running. Your help was so valuable! Thanks goes to those who helped support our book fair with refreshments and purchases, we appreciate you so much!!

We also appreciate those of you who have become part of our first ever **St. Peter's Birthday Book Club**. More than thirty-two students have had books donated in their name. New birthdays are being celebrated every week, it's not too late to join them. Simply fill out the *Birthday Book Club* form found in the school office and the celebrating (and reading) can begin!

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!**

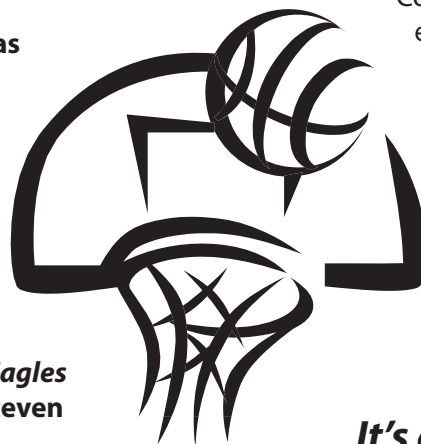
– Your Librarian, Lynn Stender

## Sports Corner

We kicked off our **"A" Basketball Season** with a pre-season tournament on Saturday, January 14th. Our teams played very well!

Coaching our **Girl's Team** are **Coach Erias** and **Coach Nicolos**. Playing for the **Eagles Girl's Team** this season are the following athletes: **Katie Andrews, Mackenzie Stender, Darwyn Bennett, Melina Cesarini, Emily Hicks, Madison Neola, Ayana Watkins, and Marlee Nicolos.**

Our **Boy's Team** coaches are **Coach Lucca** and **Coach Gavia**. Playing on the **Eagles Boy's Team** this season are **Chris Fong, Steven Hellem, Jonathan Hicks, Ben Lucca, Chad Morrison, Jared Morrow, Mason Welge, and Geoff Kranhold.**



You can find our home games listed on the calendar on our school web page at [splseagles.org](http://splseagles.org).

Come on out and support the teams and enjoy an awesome snack bar!

Looking forward in sports: **"C" Basketball** is next. This is for Third and Fourth Grade athletes and it's a great introduction to team sports. We host a one day tournament on Saturday, April 21st. This is an all day event and always a great time. Look for more information in March.

***It's always great to be an Eagle!***

– Peg Bunting

# February Calendar



# March Calendar

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“ I am the light of the world,  
he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness,  
but shall have the light of life. ”

*John 8:12*

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ST PETER'S  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL



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