

Saint Peter School News

November 2023

Dear Parents,

May God continue to bless each of you during this season of Thanksgiving and time of remembering the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Hopefully, the time of parent meetings with your child's teacher was a grace-filled encounter where all could celebrate their child's success and enable them to keep up their effort as the year continues. Pope Francis shared a very inspiring message to youth this past summer at World Youth Day in Lisbon in encouraging them to always keep up hope: "Joy is not to be found in a locked library, even though study is necessary! Joy lies somewhere else. It is not kept under lock and key, but must be sought, must be discovered. It has to be found in dialogue with others, where we share these roots of joy that we have received. And this, at times, is tiring. Let me ask you a question: do you sometimes get tired? Think about what happens when we become tired: we have no wish to do anything; we throw in the towel because we have no desire to carry on and we give up, stop walking and fall. Do you believe that those who fall in life, who have experienced failure, who even commit serious or grave mistakes, that their lives are over? No! So what are they to do? They are to get back up! Now there is something very profound that I would like you to take away with you and remember: those who come from the Alps, who like to climb mountains, have a very beautiful song that goes like this: "In the art of climbing the mountain, what matters isn't *not* to fall, but not to *remain* fallen". This is beautiful! Those who remain fallen have already withdrawn from life, have shut down, closed off from hope and desire, and remain on the ground. And when we see any friends of ours who have fallen, what are we to do? *Lift them up*. When we need to lift someone up, or help them, do you notice *how* we are to do it? We look down on them. That is the only time, *the only time* that we are allowed to look down upon others, when we are offering to help them up. Yet, we often see people looking down on us, or over our shoulder, from above! How sad. Instead, the only way, the only situation in which it is permissible to look down on others is... well, you tell me, out loud: *to help them up*. That, then, is something like how life's journey proceeds, how we are to keep moving forwards. In life, in order to accomplish things, we have to train ourselves to journey on. Sometimes, we do not feel like carrying on, we do not feel like making the effort; we copy in exams because we do not feel like studying or we did not get the results we wanted. I am not sure if any of you like football... I do! Think of how much training is needed in order to score a goal; how much effort is required to achieve a certain result. In life, too, we cannot always do what we want, but we must do what leads us to respond to the vocation we sense deep within us – and everyone has their own vocation. Keep on walking. And if we fall, we get back up, or someone will help us get back up; let us not remain fallen; and let us train ourselves, train in order keep moving forward. All this is possible, not because we take a course on walking – there are no courses that can teach us how to journey in life – instead we learn, we learn from our parents, our grandparents, we learn from friends, giving each other a helping hand. We learn about life, and that trains us in how to journey onwards."

Confirmation

We rejoice with our 8th grade students who will receive this special sacrament from Bishop Schlert this month:

Karina Andrade	Yarissel Peralta
Gabriela Caloca-Ortiz	Zamazarie Ramirez
Alessandra Castañeda	Tiffany Rodriguez
Juan Diego Castañeda	Erica Rodriguez-Rosa
Erika Espinal	Gabriela Rosas
Robert Filpo	Anabel Salvador
Mariana Jeronimo	Javier Sandoval-Cruz
Francheska Kranwinkel	Milagros Solis
Yazmin Luna	Edgar Solorio
Daysy Moreno	Josander Tavarez
Santiel Payano	Jasmine Vargas
	Jovanna Zabala

Student Council

We congratulate our newly elected leadership team and class representatives for 2023-2024:

President: Milagros Solis
 Vice President: Tiffany Rodriguez
 Secretary: Jovanna Zabala
 Treasurer: Francheska Kranwinkel
 Grade 8 Representative: Mariana Jeronimo
 Gr. 7 Reps: Janellys Abreu & Dulcemaria Ramirez
 Grade 6 Representative: Amir Juarez
 Grade 5 Representative: Xitlali Uribe
 Grade 4 Representative: Alyvia Barreto
 We are most grateful to Mrs. Searfoss and Mrs. Cronan who will oversee the Student Council Activities.



Mission Representatives

In addition to installing our Student Council, we also installed our Mission Reps at that same mass. These representatives, under the leadership of Sister Margaret, will help promote awareness and response to local and global missionary needs. We were proud to install these representatives:

4th Grade: Kayleeh Avila
 5th Grade: Dario Carmona
 6th Grade: Emily Frias
 7th Grade: Armany Julbe
 8th Grade: Gabriela Rosas

The formal installation took place on Friday, October 13th at the 8:30 mass.



SPS Chess Club

We are so happy to announce that we have a group of students who are learning the art of playing Chess with an instructor from the Reading Public Library:

Olivia Benn (3)	Malachi Brooks (5)
Elijah Castillo (3)	Alejandro Cruz (5)
Ashley Polanco (3)	Danilyn Muñoz (5)
Michael Rodriguez (3)	Jorge Rodriguez (5)
Zion Cooper (4)	Angelo Rubio (5)
Jaryleen Lantigua (4)	Alan Sandoval (5)
Angelo Rubio (4)	Rocky Taveras (5)
Felix Sheetz (4)	Jotxiel Caraballo (6)
Elijah Vergeon (4)	Tristan Santiago (6)



Berks County Spelling Bee

Nine of our students competed in the Berks County Spelling Bee at Saint Catharine's. We are so proud of them and their coach, Mrs. Jackson:

Milagros Solis (8)	Armany Julbe (7)
Josander Tavarez (8)	Dulcemaria Ramirez (7)
Jasmine Vargas (8)	Ashley Duran-Bautista (6)
Nelson Carmona (7)	Amir Juarez (6)
Angel Vargas (6)	



Father/Daughter Dance

This 9th Annual event will take place on Friday, November 10. It is a fun and memorable evening of dancing and games for fathers and daughters.

