

**Saint Peter
School News
September, 2023**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting new school year! We look forward to a very hope-filled and enriching school year filled with many successes and opportunities. As a Catholic school family, we strive to create an atmosphere of loving acceptance and welcome to all our school families. We are blessed with incredible teachers who have embraced the mission of our school and wish to do all that is possible so each of their children grow in faith and achieve according to their own potential. In a previous World Youth Day, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, encouraged youth to look for meaning beyond technology and 'apps' and that we can all accompany each other in finding the truest meaning of life in our relationship with God and the beautiful mission of His church: "The Tree of Life shows us how the life that Jesus gives us is a love story, a *life history* that wants to blend with ours and sink roots in the soil of our own lives. That life is not a salvation up "in the cloud" and waiting to be downloaded, a new "app" to be discovered, or a technique of mental self-improvement. Still less is that life a "tutorial" for finding out the latest news. The salvation that God offers us is *an invitation to be part of a love story* interwoven with our personal stories; it is alive and wants to be born in our midst so that we can bear fruit just as we are, wherever we are and with everyone all around us. The Lord comes there to sow and to be sown. He is the first to say "yes" to our lives, he always precedes us. He's the first to say yes to our history, and he wants us to say "yes" along with him. He always precedes us, he's first. That was how he surprised Mary, and asked her to be part of this love story. Obviously, the young woman of Nazareth was not part of the "social networks" of the time. She was not an "influencer", but without wanting or trying to, she became *the most influential woman in history*. So we can say, with the confidence of children: Mary, the "influencer" of God. With just a few words, she was able to say "yes" and to trust in the love and promises of God, who is the only force capable of renewing, of making all things new. And all of us today have something that needs to be renewed within... Saying "yes" to the Lord means preparing to embrace life as it comes, with all its fragility, its simplicity, and often enough too, with its conflicts and annoyances... To embrace life as it comes. It means embracing our country, our families and our friends as they are, with all their weak points and their flaws. Embracing life is also seen in accepting things that are not perfect, pure or "distilled", yet no less worthy of love.. It is always possible to "sprout shoots and grow", it is always possible to start again when there is a community,

a warm home that enables us to take root, that provides the confidence we need and prepares our hearts to discover a new horizon: the horizon of a beloved son or daughter who is sought, found and entrusted with a mission."

Welcome, Mrs. Hernandez and Mrs. Morales

We warmly welcome Mrs. Hernandez as our new 1st grade teacher. Mrs. Hernandez has previously worked here as an aide in Primary for the past 5 years. She is truly gifted and so much looking forward to having her own class. We also welcome Mrs. Morales as our new 6th grade teacher. Mrs. Morales is a prominent figure in our parish: leading events, prayer groups, and as a catechist. We look forward to her sharing her many gifts with her students.

Back to School Night

We invite all our families to come on Thursday, September 7 to meet our teachers and staff. We will begin at 6:30pm in the Church and then we will come to school for you to meet your child's teacher. We wish to see all of you at this meeting so we can all be united in your child's academic and spiritual journey. The class with the best participation will have an ice cream party.

PTO Meeting

Our first meeting for this year will be on Monday, Sept. 11 at 6:30pm in school. We look forward to re-uniting with all our faithful members as well as welcoming new members.

Fall Family Bingo

On Saturday, Sept. 16, we will have our fall family Bingo in the Social Hall. It will be a fun family day with nice prizes and selling of refreshments such as hot dogs, funnel cakes, and other snacks.

Skating Party

Our first Skating Party, a fun-filled family event will be on Thursday, September 21 from 6:30-8:30 at Skate-away on Lancaster Avenue in Shillington.

Confirmation Preparations

There will be a special Rite of Welcome for our Candidates for Confirmation at the 4:00pm mass on Saturday, Sept. 23. They will also take part in a Confirmation Rally at Berks Catholic on Saturday, Sept. 30. More information coming.

Saint Peter School Spirit Night at Wendy's

On Thursday, Sept. 28 our school will participate in a fundraising event which will also be a fun evening. Please join us between 5:00pm - 8:00pm at the Wendy's, 712 Penn Avenue in West Reading. 10% of sales will be donated to Saint Peter School. We look forward to a fun time as a school community with parents and their children.

