

St. Peter's School—Weekly *Messenger*

August 25, 2017



Kindergarten and First-Grade Students Enjoyed a “Luau” in PE Today!

Dear St. Peter's Families,

The school year is off to a great start, and everyone is adapting very well to our temporary setting. We appreciate your patience as we work through some of the challenges we face (we suggest you bring your cell phone when you need entrance to the building, for instance, as we have had some occasional doorbell difficulties).

A few of you have asked about air conditioning issues, particularly in the junior high wing. We want you to know that we share your concerns for the students' and teachers' comfort and have been diligently pursuing a solution. The KCPS District has had technicians performing repairs this week; we are hopeful that by Monday the air conditioning will be operating in those classrooms. In the meantime, we are using large industrial fans and some window units in the corridor to help cool the area, and that has helped. Unfortunately, the windows in the junior high wing do not open so we cannot use window units in the classrooms. If the rooms cannot be adequately cooled after the repairs are complete, we will work with the school district on an alternate solution.

Regarding the cafeteria, gym, and auditorium—those spaces are not air-conditioned and will not be for the duration of our stay. We are also using large fans to cool the gym and cafeteria, and the auditorium has been reasonably comfortable for the brief time we have used it for Thursday morning Mass. Keeping doors open to the hallway, which is cooled, helps! We have been blessed with moderate temperatures this week and the weather will continue to cool into the fall season. In the coming weeks, we will probably experience some hot days and may have to be flexible in our use of spaces at Southwest. We will provide another update next week. We appreciate your continued support and patience, and we urge you to contact us if you have questions.

Please note that the south entrance of the parking lot is NOT a drop-off zone for students. If you are delivering a child to Before School Care or intend to enter the building with your child(ren) and are parking in the lot or on 66th Terrace, please escort your children all the way into the building. This includes tardy students. As these parking lots serve as faculty/staff parking, it is dangerous for students to navigate the driveway and parking lot alone—please be sure to walk on one side, so that faculty/staff can pull into spaces, and we ask you to be extra mindful of the traffic in the lot. We must remind you again that the alley that runs behind the building is not accessible. No one should be driving through the alley. This is for the safety of our students, faculty, and staff, and we appreciate your cooperation.

This morning city engineer officials contacted us to let us know that the flashing signals and lowered speed limit signs for our school zone on Wornall should be operational by the end of next week. We know that Mr. Randall, our longtime and beloved crossing guard, is being extra vigilant, watching for drivers caught unaware by the crosswalk signal, but please talk to your children who cross, as well. Traffic should be completely stopped before anyone enters the crosswalk. Please observe speed limits in the neighborhood, as well! The reduced speed limit signs will be effective daily from 7-9 am and again from 2-4 pm in the afternoon. Bikers should walk bikes through the crosswalk and should also be cautious near pedestrians when riding up to school on the sidewalks.

We continue to collect **Box Tops for Education**—please turn in any you have been saving, so our counters can get busy! There will be more specific information included in the August 31 Messenger Envelopes, but you can send Box Tops in at any time.

The Diocesan Asbestos Management Program operates their program in accordance with the provisions of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). St. Peter's School and all Diocesan schools are required to provide notification during the school year to parents, staff, and parent/teacher organizing advising of the school's "Asbestos Management Plan." This plan may be examined in the St. Peter's business manager's office (Mr. Warren Blevins, Legacy Center). St. Peter's is in compliance with all asbestos requirements.

Mr. Jim "Stinky Feet" Cosgrove must reschedule the Friday, September 8, assembly, which is on the school calendar. We will keep you informed of the rescheduled date once it has been set!

Yesterday, Fr. Amthor celebrated Mass with us and shared a personal story about getting lost on a large lake and practicing patience (our Christ Skill this month)—he also taught us about Saint Bartholomew, one of the twelve Apostles. After Bartholomew (believed to be called Nathanael in John's Gospel) met Jesus, he followed Him for the rest of his life—he was at first a bit dubious that the promised Messiah could come from a place so seemingly insignificant as Nazareth, but soon found out that the greatest of kings did indeed come from the most humble of places. As Daring Disciples, we hope for the faith to keep our eyes on Him, as well! How lucky we were on Monday to experience God's gift of nature through the Eclipse.

Mrs. Mary Omecene shared some faith connections to the Eclipse with our faculty and staff last weekend, including the following:

The solar eclipse occurs during the year of the 100th anniversary of Fatima. The famous apparitions of Mary ended with one last "Miracle of the Sun" that occurred on October 13, 1917. People describe what they saw that day as the sun "dancing" in the sky; they were able to gaze at the sun without hurting their eyes. It was a miracle witnessed by thousands of people.

In Christian symbolism the moon is often seen as a symbol of the Virgin Mary, since it reflects the light of the sun just as she reflects the light of the Son of God. At the same time, in Revelation she is described as, "clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet" (Revelation 12:1).

All of these events and symbolism can come to mind on August 21 as we enjoy the eclipse, remembering Mary's role in Salvation History. She is the one in whom we find refuge in times of trial and who intercedes on our behalf.

Furthermore, earlier this year Pope Francis highlighted the absence of Mary's presence in the Gospel narratives between Christ's childhood and crucifixion. He said, "the sacred writers suggest this slow eclipsing of her presence, her remaining silent before the mystery of a Son who obeys the Father. However, Mary reappears precisely at the crucial moment: when a large number of friends disperse out of fear. Mothers do not abandon."

This reflection by Pope Francis brings all of this symbolism together and encourages us not to lose hope when the world is floundering in darkness. Mary will be there when we need her and she will never abandon us during our trials in the "vale of tears." She may appear to be silent, but will comfort us in our sorrow and always points our souls to the rising of the Son, giving us hope that all will be renewed in Christ.

Again, we thank you for sharing your children with us. We are privileged to partner with you! On behalf of our administration, faculty, and staff, I wish you a weekend filled with blessings.

Angie Meyer, Co-Principal, St. Peter's School

