

St. Peter's School

Special Update

— OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS —

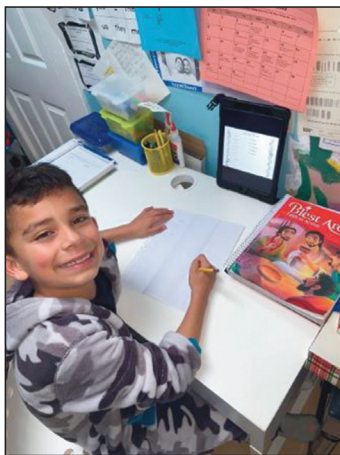
SPRING 2020

Dear Alumni and Friends,

During these unusual and challenging times, I hope that all of you are healthy and safe.

As you can imagine, the week leading up to the Archdiocesan mandated temporary closure of St. Peter's School was extraordinary! That was the week of our 3-day Western Catholic Education Association/Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WCEA/WASC) Accreditation Visit, which had been on the calendar for over a year. On Tuesday, March 10, we received the instructions to close the school and by Wednesday, March 11, faculty and staff were getting ready to launch Distance Learning for all grades--K-8. Students were sent home with materials and technology, and the commitment to log into their devices to begin Distance Learning on Thursday, March 12.

WCEA/WASC accreditation happens every six years. The Administrators at St. Peter's have served on visiting committees for other schools in the past. Our Visiting Committee was made up of six members - one principal and five teachers--all from different California schools. On their last day they gave us very positive reviews, and also offered input on areas where we can grow and improve. Official results will not be available for a few more months, but I will keep you updated once we hear the news!



Distance Learning: How it works.

This first experience at Distance Learning at St. Peter's--education online--with 225 students in grades K-8, is uncharted territory for us, but we're learning and growing.

A computer or tablet, as well as access to wi-fi, are essential for distance learning. If a family did not have a computing device at home, parents could sign out the School's Chromebooks just for distance learning. COMCAST and Sonic stepped up to the challenge and offered two months free to new Internet Essentials customers if parents chose to sign up for the program.

Just as they would if we were on-site, teachers email me their weekly lesson plans. Each evening, teachers post the next day's class assignments to Class Dojo--our online information hub that our parents have been using for close to two years. Student online attendance is logged daily.

Two weeks into Distance Learning, we surveyed parents about their Distance Learning experience, and teachers made adjustments based on their feedback. Teachers are working remotely-- answering students' and parents' questions, posting instructional videos, and hosting lessons and class meetings on Zoom. I send out my Morning Assembly Messages by video and regularly share school news and helpful resources through Class Dojo. As a faculty, we also prepared a Stations of the Cross prayer service so students and parents could pray with us during Holy Week. As best as we can, we are maintaining our school community and spirit, even while the school building is closed.

Gratitude & Request for prayers

St. Peter's would not have been able to implement distance learning without your support. In particular, I want to express my deepest appreciation to donors to the Memorial Fund--Mary O'Rourke '48--and other donors who have helped us acquire the necessary technology to meet this challenge. Many thanks to Mr. Tom Haggin and Mr. Minh Nguyen who established technology systems at St. Peter's, and to the Archdiocese Department of Catholic Schools who helped us ramp up our use of technology in the classroom.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Additionally, I share my deepest appreciation to the family of Nancy and Joseph Corbin whose bequest--prepared close to 20 years ago--is helping St. Peter's today.

Finally, a tremendous THANK YOU to all of you who send your donations--big and small--to St. Peter's School. With your consistent help, the school can meet its financial obligations to teachers and staff so when our doors reopen, everyone will be ready to greet our students and families.

It would be wonderful if you could make a donation today. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

There is no doubt that the current Shelter-in-Place mandates

have hit our families economically and emotionally; please keep them in your prayers. And please know that you and your loved ones are in our prayers.

Stay well and remember--Grow, Accomplish, Love, Serve, Unite!

St. Peter's has the KEYS to OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS!

Sandra Jimenez, Principal



St. Peter's 3rd graders practiced reading aloud during their visit to a local nursing home!



Fifth graders enjoyed their annual school day at California Academy of Sciences.

Grandparents Day brought Mary Lynn Colgan, mother of parent April Reyes, and Silvia Carvajal, mother of Angel Carvajal '94 to school for their grandsons.



Vice Principal Ryan Suarez and two St. Peter's 8th graders accepted a \$5000 grant from KNBR's Step up to the Plate for Education Campaign, Ina Murray EVP, Region Bank President, Wells Fargo, and SF Giants shortstop, Brandon Crawford. Special thanks to Silvia Montero Zamudio, St. Peter's Class of '78 of Wells Fargo, who encouraged us to apply. The grant will support a special Middle School Elective starting this fall. More news to come!



Maria Almendares, mother of Kathy Almendares '05 and St. Peter's parent Alma Castellanos, with her granddaughters and family friends from the Rodriguez and Medal families. Maria coached at SP in the 90-00's and returned three years ago to help Kathy coach volleyball and basketball.

ANNOUNCING THE JOSEPH “JOE” CORBIN LEGACY GIFT

St. Peter’s is so grateful to have received a bequest from the estate of Nancy and Joseph Corbin. A third-generation native San Franciscan, Joe graduated from St. Peter’s High School in 1946. He met his wife Nancy later in life and they made their home in Montara, California. A long-time employee of the City and County of San Francisco, Joe was honored when he retired after 50 years of service as a parking meter repair supervisor. He enjoyed his retirement as an avid skier, biker and hiker, and the loving caretaker of his ‘67 Ford Mustang convertible



Today, you have the opportunity to be part of St. Peter’s legacy by making St. Peter’s School a beneficiary of your will or retirement plans. It’s simple to do and speaks of your commitment to education and to the values you hold dear. It would be a gift to those you love to share your values, and to put your decisions in writing.

For more information about including St. Peter’s in your will or retirement plans, please contact Janice Vela at 415-647-8662

To Young Parents

While making a legacy commitment to St. Peter’s School may seem a long way off for you, it is very important to have a will in place to protect your children if something were to happen to you. We may assume that our relatives would make decisions about guardianship easily, but what a gift for you to take the initiative to talk it through ahead of time and to put it in writing.

Joe joins a wonderful legacy of St. Peter’s alumni and friends who have chosen to remember St. Peter’s School in this way, including Warren Jenkins, Patricia Murphy, Thomas Murphy, Florence Rial, Hilda Velado, Anne Wright, the daughter of Jane DeLury Evans, and Josephine Zarate

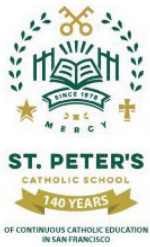
MESSAGES OF THANKS FROM OUR PARENTS

“In spite of these incredibly difficult times, our St. Peter’s teachers and staff have created a space for our students to feel a sense of normalcy. We have navigated TOGETHER through technical issues, trial and error of creative ways to instruct from afar, ways of staying connected, morning assembly through Class Dojo, emailed assignments, Zoom.”

“El esfuerzo de todos por mantenernos seguros, en contacto y ante todo la educación de nuestros hijos para que no pierdan de estudiar. Gracias a todos.”
(We appreciate) everyone’s effort to keep us safe, in touch and above all, continue the education of our children so that they do not stop learning. Thank you all.



Faculty staying focus on what matter’s most – the St. Peter’s School mission.



ST. PETER'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
1266 Florida St.
San Francisco, CA

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Mission Statement

Open Hearts, Open Minds

St. Peter's Catholic School community nurtures the whole child to develop a lifelong passion for learning and to live out the Works of Mercy.



Please save Sunday, October 25, 2020, for the annual Alumni and Memorial Mass, when we will honor Sr. Marian Rose Power RSM. This tribute is long overdue for our dear Sr. Marian Rose, who has committed 40+ years of her life to St. Peter's and continues to serve as our mentor and a member of our School Advisory Board. Her energy has enabled the school to stay true to its mission over the years.

We are just now in the planning stages and would appreciate your help in organizing this tribute. Just go to www.stpeterssf.org/volunteer and check "Helping strengthen our alumni network." A member of our staff will be in touch.

Help St. Peter's Go Green: Please go to <http://www.stpeterssf.org/update-your-info> to receive your newsletter and invitations via email. Also follow us on Facebook St. Peter's Catholic School and Instagram @stpetersf.