



# Family Newsletter

Dear Prince of Peace Families,

We are fast approaching not only the change of seasons but also the end of the first quarter. With changes it is always a good time to reflect on moving forward. Please remember to dress your little ones in layers. It won't be too much longer before we will need the mittens and hats. Children always have a much better playground time when they are comfortably dressed for the weather.

Also with the end of the first quarter, it is a good time to review study and homework habits with your children, especially the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The grade point average is much easier to travel downward than it is to move it in an upwards direction. Beginning in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the grade point average follows the student through four years and can impact one's ability to earn a scholarship or even be accepted into a college of one's choice. Teachers are more than willing to provide academic support for students during Activity Period, before and after school by arrangement. Helping your children build these responsibilities will serve them well long into adult life.

A super thanks to those families who participate in SCRIP and I invite those who don't to strongly consider helping our school by doing so. If you aren't currently participating, I ask that you take a few minutes to brainstorm why you don't and to consider ways to do so. We need every family to support our fundraising efforts that in turn helps our school budget! Thanks in advance for trying SCRIP!

Thanks for your patience as we move to a new website and an electronic newsletter. We are waiting for our internet host, AEA9, to complete some technical transitions in order for us to launch.

Please read the letter below from Mrs. Sharon Roling, our Associate Principal, who has taken a job as principal of St. Joe's Elementary in DeWitt. Mrs. Roling has been a wonderful colleague and tremendous asset to our school. We wish her the best as she moves forward in her next life adventure. I will be sending home some information regarding staff changes in the next week.

In Christ,  
Nancy L. Peart

To My Prince of Peace Family & Friends:

It is with bittersweet emotion that I leave my position at Prince of Peace and move on to a new position at Saint Joseph in De Witt.

You should all be extremely proud of the education that is provided by the dedicated and highly-qualified professionals at Prince of Peace. The faculty and staff have consistently shown me how to bring Christian joy and a sense of fulfillment to a career in education. It has been a special privilege to work with Nancy Peart, who has guided me in my quest to become a visionary instructional leader.

As a parent, I am proud to say that Prince of Peace was the only school my children attended before college. Having the opportunity for them to grow and learn in a Catholic environment was priceless. Luke and Mark were not only taught the Gospel message--they were daily shown how to live it.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your lives. I will miss each and every one of you and will always be thankful for 12 challenging and rewarding years in our parish school. There is a special, permanent place in my heart for the Irish of Prince of Peace. Please keep me always in your prayers as you will remain in mine.

God bless!  
Sharon Roling

## Student Services

This year there is a high interest on the part of college representatives to visit our school. These visits are generally scheduled on Tuesdays and Fridays during Activity Period. Even though a high school student may not be interested in a particular college, attending some of these visits provides helpful information on what questions should be asked when taking a campus visit. Lists of college representative visits are posted in the library and on the hallway bulletin board outside of Mrs. Roling's office. Ask your high school student if he/she has attended a visit and what he/she learned.

## Campus Ministry

**Holy Hour for Vocations:** On Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, students in grades 5-12 will participate in a Holy Hour for Vocations at Prince of Peace Church. Students will be bused to the church. Father Thom Hennen will lead us in this special prayer which will start at 9:30 a.m. All school families and parishioners are invited.

**Living Rosary:** On Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, the entire school will be praying the Living Rosary at 8:30 a.m. Join us as groups of students form "beads" to pray this traditional prayer form. If you can't pray the rosary with us at school, we invite you to pray the rosary at home. We will be praying the Luminous Mysteries.

**Respect Life Month:** In October, Catholics celebrate Respect Life month. This year's theme is "I came

**EXPLORE/Readi-Step/PLAN/PSAT:** On Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> graders, freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be taking standardized tests to help with post-secondary planning. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the EXPLORE, a pre-ACT test. The freshmen will be taking the Read-Step test, developed by SAT. The sophomores will be taking the PLAN test, another pre-ACT test. Juniors will be taking the PSAT test. Results from the PSAT are used to determine National Merit Scholars. Juniors received a booklet to help them prepare for the test. You can also check [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more

that all might have life, and have it to the full!" Go to the US Bishops' website, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org), and check out the Respect Life information.

**Wendy's Night:** The first Wendy's night of the school year will support Campus Ministry projects. Stop by Wendy's between 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ten percent of all walk up and drive through sales will be donated to Campus Ministry. Thank you for your support!

**Pizza Potlucks:** The last pizza potluck will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> for high school families. In order to participate in the jeans day opportunity, high school students must attend with a parent. The evening, held at St. Boniface, will begin at 6:00 and end promptly at 7:00.

from 12-6:00 p.m. in the school commons. This is the same night as parent teacher conferences. Call the school at 242-1663 to schedule an appointment. If a student is 16 years of age or

PSAT testing information.

**Iowa Assessments:** Students will soon begin taking the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and the Iowa Test of Educational Development). Students in grades 6-12 will sit for the tests October 31 and November 2. Kindergarten – fifth grade students will take the tests the week of November 7<sup>th</sup>. Be sure your child is well rested and has breakfast on the testing days.

**Thank You:** Thank you to the senior class who led a prayer service at the Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> International Day of Prayer for Peace at the Canticle. We are most grateful to the Class of 2012 for being prayer leaders and representing our school in such a positive manner.

**Sophomore and Senior Parents:** A representative from Josten's will be at Prince of Peace on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. During this time sophomores will receive information on class rings. Seniors will receive information on formal graduation announcements, apparel, and cap & gown. If you wish to purchase formal announcements, now is the time in which to do this. You cannot go online and purchase them at a later date. Prince of Peace pays for the cap & gown. Orders will be placed on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

older, he/she is eligible to donate blood with a signed parent consent. A scholarship is available to one of our seniors if we meet our blood unit goal. Give the gift of blood.

Don't forget to collect tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Drink tabs, pet food tabs and soup tabs can all be donated to the school office.

Thanks in advance for your donations!

## Development Director News

**Wendy's Night is Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Take the family to Wendy's between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wendy's will donate 10% of all proceeds, whether you eat in or use the drive thru. This month's Wendy's proceeds will benefit our Campus Ministry.

**Jeans Day – October 14<sup>th</sup>.** The October Jeans Day beneficiary was chosen by our senior class. The senior class members have chosen to have a special Jeans Day to support Mrs. Kathy Andrews and her husband. Mrs. Andrews is our high school English/Speech teacher. Her husband has been diagnosed with cancer and will need to have treatments out of town. The senior class would like to help Mrs. Andrews with a Jeans Day to offset travel and food costs to help them get through this trying time.

Students who wish to wear jeans on October 14<sup>th</sup> are asked to bring a family donation for Mrs. Andrews and her husband. Minimum giving is 50 cents for grades K-5 and \$1.00 for grades 6-12. In addition to your giving, please keep Mrs. Andrews and her husband in your prayers.

### Our Website

The website has hit a few bumps that are beyond our control, but should be up and running shortly if it isn't by the time you receive this newsletter. Thank you for your patience. It will continue to be a work in progress as we add to it throughout the year.

The home page will contain daily announcements, upcoming events and recent news. There will also be a link for our new Activities Calendar. After clicking on the link, you can sign-up under "Notify Me" to be notified when the events/activities you are interested in are cancelled or changed. The calendar will include all school events.

### Stewardship Renewal

For our Prince of Peace Parish families, it is important that you complete and return your stewardship commitment card to the parish. To receive the parish tuition discount, you must be an active stewardship family. Please give generously of your time, talent, and treasure to our parish.

### 2012 Irish Auction – 15<sup>th</sup> year!

The Irish Auction has been the largest fundraiser for our school for the past 15 years and this year should be no exception. Committees are organizing now. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please call the school office. This year's auction will take place on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the Wild Rose Casino & Resort. It looks to be another great event with the theme: "We Treasure Aarr Education". It will be a pirate theme. We are looking for possibly a Caribbean/warm weather destination, so if you know anyone with property/time share that would consider donating a week, please contact Karen at the school.

### Annual Bus Trip

Call some friends and plan to spend the day at Fox Valley Mall in Naperville, IL on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The bus trip is our traditional pre-auction fundraiser. You will meet in Clinton Park (across the street from school) at 7:30 a.m. for a continental breakfast. At 8:00 a.m., you will ride in comfort in a motor coach to Fox Valley Mall. At 3:30 p.m. you will board the bus for Portillo's Restaurant or more shopping if you choose. You should be home by 8:00 p.m. There will be a lot of fun on the ride in with our popular raffles and then relax with a movie on the way home. To make your reservation, contact Mary Jo Dopson at Gateway Travel & Cruise – 563-242-1025. Cost is \$30 per person.

**Irish Boosters** - Next Booster Club meeting is October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at St. Boniface. The Irish Booster Club raises funds to provide the sports programs for our students. Plan to attend these meetings and bring your fundraising ideas. All are welcome.

### Win A 51" Plasma Television!

Watch your favorite team play or your favorite show on this beautiful Samsung TV donated by Clover Hills Appliance Center. The Irish Booster Club is selling raffle tickets now through January 31<sup>st</sup>. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20 and are on sale at home basketball games and in the school office. Drawing will take place on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, during half time of the boys' varsity game – the Prince of Peace Irish vs the Preston Trojans.

We need your help with this raffle.

- Please check out some tickets and sell them to your friends, co-workers and family members who may not have the opportunity to purchase them at a home game. To do this, contact Karen Witt in the school office, 242-1663.
- Volunteer to work the Raffle table at a home game. To do this, contact Bob Mulholland at 242-1640.

### Wreath Sales

Order a wreath or swag to dress up your house for the holidays. Ask others if they would like to do the same. Order forms are included in this newsletter.

### SCRIP

SCRIP is our easiest fundraiser and it doesn't cost you anything extra. Just purchase SCRIP (store gift cards) at face value and spend them like cash. The school makes money by purchasing the gift cards at a discount. Here

