

PETERSON PARENT PERIODICAL

College Graduates. Community Leaders. Cultural Ambassadors.

Winter Concert

We are all eagerly anticipating our annual winter concert at Northside College Prep, and we look forward to you joining us! The concert will take place tonight (12/8) in the Northside College Prep auditorium from 7pm to 9pm. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door. **Please note that all students must be accompanied by an adult in order to attend.**

Attendance Matters!

This holiday season, the best gift you can give your child is a good education. And the best way to get that education is by being in school, on time, every day. A missed day is lost instruction that can't be recovered. This month, our Network will present a special prize to the school with the most attendance growth. Let's make the month of December a record-breaking attendance month to keep us on track for our end of year goal of 96%!

Staff Parking Lot

Parents, it is essential you do not use the staff parking lot to drop off or pick up your child.

Unfortunately, we have had several incidents where students have been at risk of being hit by cars. To ensure the safety of all students, please ensure that you are dropping your child off at a designated location.

Twitter: @MGPPPrincipal

Good evening Peterson Parents,

I hope you've all had a great week! This week I'd like to continue our ongoing "People of Peterson" series with Mr. Rob Reynolds.

"I am from the northwest suburbs of Chicago, the second youngest of five. I went to public school up through high school and then went to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, where I studied economics. I thought I would go into business, but eventually changed my mind.



While working as a resident assistant in a residence hall I decided to pursue a degree in Student Personnel and to work at a college on student life. I had made the decision to attend the University of Michigan to pursue my master's degree, until the Peace Corps came on campus when I was a senior and recruited me. I was ecstatic about doing it!

I was accepted by June and was offered a country by July. I was sent to Zaire (currently the Democratic Republic of the Congo) where I taught high school math and physics, in French, as well as physical education and a class of English. After being in Zaire for two years, I decided to stay longer. The Peace Corps offered me a position training new volunteers which I accepted. I decided to learn Lingala so I wouldn't be seen as a French colonialist, and also to immerse myself more into the culture. My favorite phrase is, "Moto no moto abongisa" which means "everyone do their personal best." Our region shut down due to local conflicts, so, after four years, I came back to Chicago.

When I returned, I was hired by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) where I worked with communities on housing rehab, fixing streets, and arranging for daycare and healthcare services.

With help from a contact at the Peace Corps, I went to DePaul University to get my Masters in Teaching while working at HUD. I taught around the district for a few years, but things weren't going well so my wife suggested that I look into Peterson. I was hired right away as a middle school math teacher! After seven years, I left to be a math and science coach for CPS, which I did for the next four years. I still feel that coaching is one of the best ways we can help educators improve their craft. I'm hopeful that CPS will eventually offer coaching positions again.

After my coaching work, I was fortunate that Peterson welcomed me back! While working here I also was able to travel to Finland for 6 months on a Fulbright scholarship, where I spent time observing and interviewing teachers, principals, and students. It was a great experience! After the experience I came back to Peterson and have been teaching 7th grade math ever since. Peterson is truly a top-class neighborhood school, which should really be replicated throughout the District."

Mark your Calendar

- Parent Tea -- Thursdays, 8:45am, Peterson Cafeteria
- Peterson Winter Concert at Northside College Prep -- December 8th, 7pm to 9pm
- CICS Northtown Academy's Winter Extravaganza -- December 8th, 6pm to 8pm *visit cicsnorthtown.org for more information*
- Vision and Hearing Screening at Peterson -- December 11th through December 15th
- PTA Meeting at Peterson -- December 14th, 8:45am
- **AfterHours Session I Ends -- December 15th**
- Tour of Peterson -- December 15th, 9:00am
- Danceathon Pledge Forms and Money Due -- December 19th
- 5th Grade Field Trip to the Shed Aquarium -- December 21st
- After School Professional Development -- December 21st
- High School Application Period Ends -- December 22nd
- **NO SCHOOL Winter Vacation -- December 25th to January 5th**
- Quarter 2 Progress Report Distribution -- January 8th
- Peterson Local School Council Council Meeting -- January 10th at 6pm

Dance-a-Thon Donations

Please note that we will continue to accept Dance-a-Thon donations through Tuesday, December 19th, so please keep sending in your pledge forms. We can accept donations online through www.razoo.com/team/Peterson2017 or www.friendsofpeterson.org (please be sure that donors pick the correct grade level and include your child's name in the comments), or through cash or checks made out to Friends of Peterson. Additional pledge forms are available in the Main Office or at petersondanceathon.yolasite.com.

Any PreK-2nd grade student who raises \$10 or more will get a Paw Pack, and any 3rd-8th grade student who raises \$10 or more will get to attend a Pizza Party. The top ten earners will also win prizes - a field trip to Bryn Mawr Breakfast Club or a bag full of Peterson swag. And there are also grade-level prizes as well!

Important afterHours Updates

Kathleen Hurley and Scott Topel would like to thank everyone for a successful first session of afterHours. Please note the following:

- Session 1 will end on **December 15, 2017**.
- Session 2 will run from **January 22 to March 15, 2018**.
- Session 2 sign-up forms will go home on **January 8, 2018**.
- Session 2 confirmation forms will go home on **January 16, 2018**.

Please note that all **academic programs** including Ready Readers, Do the Math, etc. will continue with the same enrollment for session two. Most **enrichment programs** including Lego Club, Fitness Fun, etc. will re-enroll students with priority given to students who were not enrolled in Session 1 to allow more students access to afterHours. All interested students should complete the sign up form though!

Hot Chocolate and Cookie Party Attendance Challenge

Parents, please continue to help Peterson give rise to college graduates, community leaders, and cultural ambassadors by continuing to ensure your child(ren) are in school and on time during the weeks of December 11, 2017, and December 18, 2017. Homerooms with 98% attendance or higher by Friday of each of these weeks will be invited to a Hot Chocolate and Cookie Party on December 15, 2017, and on December 22, 2017 during school hours. Only homerooms with 98% attendance or higher will be invited. We hope to see your child(ren) at the party!

CPS Cold Weather Guidelines

As the temperature begins to drop, please be aware of the CPS temperature guidelines for indoor/outdoor recess, which Peterson adheres to:

- » Above 32 F with or without wind chill: Recess should be held outdoors.
- » Between 31 F and 15 F with or without wind chill: Principal discretion.
- » Below 15 F with or without wind chill: Recess should be held indoors.