

# PETERSON PARENT PERIODICAL

College Graduates. Community Leaders. Cultural Ambassadors.

## Winter Concert

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual winter concert. The event was a tremendous success! A special thank you goes to Sarah Altshuler and Bjorn Villevik for all of their hard work in preparing for this concert and to Karla Holcomb and Anita Gabor for their piano accompaniment. Thank you to the many people who also volunteered their time to supervise the event including Amy Washington, Blanca Lopez, Barbara Hunt, Kyle Learn, Fanny Maza, Mary Talbot, Gina LeTempt, Jeff LeTempt, David Wetzel, Heather Yutzy, Maria Avila, Nafishabanu Khoda, Iliana R zodkiewicz Mehriban Mammadova, Ann Boyd, Luz Medina, Rehana Patel, and Claribel Perez.

## Attendance Matters!

Just a friendly reminder that Peterson will be closed for Winter Break from December 25, 2017 to January 5, 2018. **School will resume on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 8:45 am.** Please help us to ensure your children get off to a great start to the new year by arriving on time and ready to learn!

## 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.

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 Ms. Catherine Jarvis.

"The oldest of three, I was born and raised in the Albany Park area of Chicago. I went to St. John's Lutheran Elementary School and then on to North Side College Prep High School.

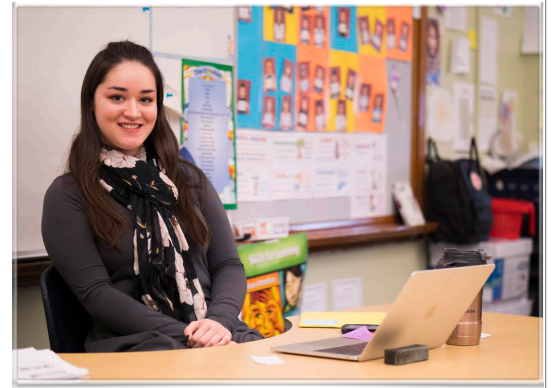
Growing up, I wanted to be a veterinarian. My mom and I have always had a great love for animals—so my siblings and I could basically get any pet we wanted! Having so many pets taught me how to be responsible from an early age. I took great pride in caring for my animals. On the other hand, my long-time dream of becoming a veterinarian vanished as soon as I realized how much I didn't like seeing blood.

In elementary school, my 7th grade English teacher had a significant impact on my life. I remember when she taught *A Murder on the Orient Express* and how excited I got about it. It was the first time we really got into a novel and it drove my passion for reading and writing. She was also a really caring person, and if I ever needed help outside of school, she was always available.

After high school I went to Northeastern not knowing what I wanted to do. I had an advisor that helped me out by suggesting I take a class geared towards teachers. I then found out how much I liked it!

My first teaching job was a maternity leave position at Sauganash Elementary. Once that teacher returned I needed to find a new school. One of my colleagues suggested Peterson, and it was clearly a great choice. I love how much Peterson celebrates diversity every day. We also don't focus too heavily on test scores, but instead on the health and well being of the whole student.

I've learned a lot in the past two years. My favorite part of teaching has been getting to know the students as people—especially in third grade when their personalities are really starting to emerge. My advice for new teachers is to accept that every day is not going to be perfect. Also, enjoy your time with the kids as I'm realizing how much I miss some of my students that I had last year. It's been hard to manage all of the different aspects of teaching, especially all of the planning that goes on behind the scenes—I would certainly advise new teachers to buy a planner! Teaching is exhausting, but it's completely offset by how fulfilling it is. I have friends that work downtown and might get paid very well, but they don't particularly like their jobs very much, while I love mine!



## Mark your Calendar

- Parent Tea -- Thursdays, 8:45am, Peterson Cafeteria
- **AfterHours Session I Ends -- Today**
- Tour of Peterson -- December 15th, 9:00am
- Mather Winter Craft Fair -- December 16, 10am to 1pm
- 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**

## This Saturday's Basketball Games

**Note that all games have been moved to Admunsen High School this weekend.**

- 8th Grade Boys, Court 1, 9:45am
- 6th Grade Boys (Bulls), Court 1, 10:30am
- 6th Grade Boys (Warriors), Court 1, 12:00pm
- 8th Grade Girls, Court 1, 1:30 pm
- 6th Grade Girls, Court 2, 2:30 pm
- 8th Grade Boys (Warriors) Court 2, 3:15 pm

## Dance-a-Thon Donations

**As of today, Dance-a-Thon has raised \$10, 701.52!** 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](http://www.razoo.com/team/Peterson2017) or [www.friendsofpeterson.org](http://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](http://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 ends **today, 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 week of December 18, 2017. Homerooms with 98% attendance or higher by Friday, December 22, 2017, will be invited to a Hot Chocolate and Cookie Party during school hours. Only homerooms with 98% attendance or higher will be invited. We hope to see your child(ren) at the party!

## High School Application Deadline

Attention 8th grade Parents! There is 1 week left before the High School Application Deadline. If your student has not yet applied, needs to schedule a test and/or information session or if you want to make any changes, please remember to complete the application before December 22, 2017. If you have any questions please contact Carina Martino at [clmartino@cps.edu](mailto:clmartino@cps.edu) or Michael Coleman at [mcoleman3@cps.edu](mailto:mcoleman3@cps.edu).