

PETERSON PARENT PERIODICAL

College Graduates. Community Leaders. Cultural Ambassadors.

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!

Picture Day

Picture day is just around the corner! Please review the handout included with this week's newsletter for more information on ordering photos.

- **Kindergarten through 4th Grade: Wednesday, January 24**
- **5th through 8th Grade: Thursday, January 25**
- **Retakes: Thursday, February 8**

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 our first community member, Ms. Catherine Korda.

"I was born and raised in Springfield, IL. My dad was a refugee from Hungary and knowing what he had to go through has motivated me to make sure immigrants and refugees are treated well.

Along with my dad's history, my experience in college at Carlton had a lasting impact. I took a class called America's Children: From Poverty to Privilege, which brought about a lot of meaningful conversation. I also started tutoring adults that didn't know how to read, which helped me understand the impact reading has on being successful in our society.

We moved into the neighborhood in 2004, and we had heard that Peterson was a good school from local parents. When the addition was put on, we toured the school with our then baby son. I now have two children at Peterson, a 1st and 4th grader, and my husband is a Chicago Public Schools teacher at Westinghouse High School.

I am a social worker by training and I currently teach Introduction to Child Advocacy Studies as well as Women and Gender Studies at Northeastern Illinois University. As well as teaching, I am the President of Friends of Peterson (FoP), which is the non-profit organization that raises funds for the school. I'm also the chair for the Parent Advisory Counsel (PAC) which educates and advocates for parents to be equal partners in their child's education. I also volunteer in my daughter's classroom every week as well as being a first grade parent representative.

Parents can be involved at Peterson in a variety of ways - from fundraising to volunteering in a classroom, to helping in the office, to assisting at lunch. It impresses me how much expertise and experience there is amongst our parents, and sometimes it's just figuring out how to best utilize that.

My proudest moments of what can happen when the community bands together were getting the stop sign on Kimball and Catalpa as well as the "Hate Has No Home Here" campaign. After all of the negative speech had come out last year, the community was trying to find ways to counteract that. A couple of Peterson kids came up with the phrase and we got it translated into a few different languages, with the intention of it just being in the community. It then went "viral" when someone posted it on Pantsuit Nation. It's in almost every state and about ten countries! I'm also really proud of the amount of money FoP has raised, more than a quarter of a million dollars!"



GIVING RISE TO
COLLEGE GRADUATES
COMMUNITY LEADERS
CULTURAL AMBASSADORS

Mark your Calendar

- Parent Tea -- Thursdays, 8:45am, Peterson Cafeteria
- **High School Application Period Ends -- Today**
- **NO SCHOOL Winter Vacation -- December 25th to January 5th**
- Chicago Invention Convention -- January 8th to January 12th
- **afterHours Session 2 Sign Up Forms Sent Home -- January 8th**
- Quarter 2 Progress Report Distribution -- January 8th
- Peterson Local School Council Council Meeting -- January 10th at 6pm
- Sexual Health Education Parent Meeting During Parent Tea -- January 11th
- PTA Family Winter Sing-a-Long -- January 11th, 5pm to 6pm for Kindergarten through 2nd grade students and families only. More details to follow after the break.
- Illinois Youth Survey in 8th Grade Homerooms -- January 12th
- **NO SCHOOL M.L. King Day -- January 15th**
- 4th Grade Field Trip to Museum of Science and Industry -- January 16th
- ACCESS Testing Window Opens -- January 17th

Dance-a-Thon Final Update

Congratulations to the Peterson community! **We raised over \$16,200 through the Dance-a-Thon** to pay for community events and purchase books for classroom and pop-up libraries.

The top five individual winners who raised the most funds each had more than ten different donors and worked hard to raise these funds. Congratulations to first prize winner Luca Colella (\$955), second place winners Julia & Ellis Korda (\$630 each), fourth place winner Zola Bevacqua (\$500), and fifth place winner Caleb Adamji (\$420). Congratulations as well to sixth place winner Amadeo Borrás-Ziems (\$400), seventh place winner Kassie Charters (\$380), eighth place winner Willem Johnston (\$366), ninth place winner Xavier Lassus (\$349.52), and tenth place winners Whitney & Claire Shank (\$340 each). We also have a special award for the individual who had the largest number of individual donors - congratulations to Natalie Alvarez in first grade for having 21 different donors!

For grade-level winners, please note that some of the online totals are somewhat inaccurate because of technical errors. Big congratulations goes to kindergarten for raising the most money overall! **Kindergarten will get to pick Mr. Caban's dance since they raised a very impressive \$3206.02.** In the competition between Pre-K, kindergarten, first and second grades first place goes to Kindergarten who will win a Popsicle Party. Second place goes to First Grade who raised \$2980 and will get Storytime & Snack with Ms. Letempt. Second grade raised \$1365 and Pre-K raised \$165.

In the competition between third and fourth grade, fourth grade was victorious raising \$2554 and winning a Four-Square Tournament. Third grade did a great job as well, bringing in \$2285.50. In the competition between fifth and sixth grade to plan a day of school, fifth grade won, having raised \$1126.57 and getting to plan a day of school. Sixth grade also did a good job, raising \$987. In the competition between seventh and eighth grade, seventh grade was the winner, raising \$1127 compared to \$207. The seventh graders will get to plan a day of school.

All PreK-2nd grade students who raised \$10 or more will get a Paw Pack while all 3rd-8th graders who raised \$10 or more will be invited to a pizza party. Great work everyone! In the competition between fifth and sixth grade to plan a day of school, fifth grade won, having raised \$1126.57 and getting to plan a day of school. Sixth grade also did a good job, raising \$987. In the competition between seventh and eighth grade, seventh grade was the clear winner, raising \$1127 compared to \$207. The seventh graders will get to plan a day of school. All PreK-2nd grade students who raised \$10 or more will get a Paw Pack while all 3rd-8th graders who raised \$10 or more will be invited to a pizza party. Great work everyone!

Important afterHours Updates

Please note the following key dates for afterHours session 2.

- 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!

