

# PETERSON PARENT PERIODICAL

College Graduates. Community Leaders. Cultural Ambassadors.

## Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you to all parents, staff, and community members for helping us to successfully launch our new afternoon traffic pick-up plan. **Please continue to help ensure the safety of all of our kids by not stopping or parking within the coned areas on Catalpa Ave. and Christiana Ave.** Consider walking to school, using public transportation, parking a few blocks away from the school and/or enrolling your child in J at School after-school care.

## Fall & Winter Sports Banquet Tonight

Come celebrate the efforts of our Fall and Winter athletes and coaches tonight in the cafeteria from 4pm to 5pm. Families and parents of Winter and Fall Athletes are invited to attend.

## Preschool Applications

Applications for the 2018-2019 school year will open this spring for children who will be 3 or 4 on September 1, 2018. Review the flyer included with this newsletter or visit [chicagoearlylearning.org/connect](http://chicagoearlylearning.org/connect) for more information.

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 first grade teacher Ms. Maria Carmen Mazin."

"I was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and lived there until I was thirteen. My mom had just passed away and my dad, as well as some of my siblings, were living in Chicago trying to support us from there. The brothers that were still with me in Mexico acted as father figures for the time being, and I can't be more thankful to them. After my mom's passing, we all reunited in Chicago to do our best to establish a better life and pursue the American dream.



It was hard coming to Chicago, and not knowing the English language was very difficult. I only knew how to write, read, and speak Spanish. I started going to Foreman High School where it was very much a "sink or swim" environment. Thankfully, I had an awesome teacher, Ms. Hernandez, who was my ESL teacher. She was encouraging and patient with all of the ESL students, and she definitely inspired me to become a teacher later in life. I knew the only way to open doors for my future was to get good grades, so I did everything I needed to in order to focus on my academics. I ended up getting straight A's and learned English in the process.

Before college, I worked on getting my citizenship. It was a great feeling to finally be a citizen. Citizenship meant that I was able to start a new life without being afraid. I could control my future without fear. My goal was to get a higher education and become somebody.

I wanted to become a doctor, so I went to Northeastern University and graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Biology and Chemistry. I realized soon after that becoming a doctor wasn't my calling. I wasn't as strong as I believed I was when it came to having someone's life in my hands, and I also wasn't fond of blood! I then went to Colombia College and got a Masters Degree in Education. I do believe that becoming a teacher was a natural transition for me. We have these kids lives in our hands and they'll only be in first grade one time, so I know I need to do a great job for them.

My first teaching job was at Travis Elementary in the Back of the Yards. I taught there for four years and have been teaching at Peterson for twelve years. Peterson is awesome since you get to hear all of the different languages and see people from all over the world interact with one another.

I see students facing the same struggles that I did in school, so I do my best to encourage them and reiterate that everything is going to be okay. With the right approach to each of the students, I know that they will make it. Soon enough they'll be changing the lives of others!

The most rewarding part of my day is getting hugs from my students. They're showing how much they care about you and love you. Even after they graduate my class, I sometimes get hugs from middle-school students that remember me. It's so rewarding to me knowing that I was able to make a difference in their lives!"

GIVING RISE TO  
COLLEGE GRADUATES  
COMMUNITY LEADERS  
CULTURAL AMBASSADORS

## Mark your Calendar

- Parent Tea -- Thursdays, 8:45am, Peterson Cafeteria
- Fall and Winter Sports Banquet -- Tonight 4pm to 5pm, Peterson Cafeteria
- Girls on the Run -- March 6th, 4:00pm to 5:30pm
- Green Team Meeting -- Wednesday, March 7th, 8:00 am to 8:30 am Room 106
- PTA Meeting -- March 8th, 8:45 am to 9:45 am
- Third Grade Field Trip to see "Aesop's Fables" -- March 8th
- Quarter 3 Progress Report Distribution Day -- March 9th
- LSC Nominations Due at Schools -- March 9th
- Boys Basketball Regional Tournament Peterson vs. Ogden at Clemente High School -- March 10th
- Daylight Savings Time Begins -- March 11th
- Deadline to Register all Students for Spring Season of CPS Score -- March 12th
- PARCC Testing at Peterson -- March 13th to March 23rd--*please see the letter included with this newsletter for more information*
- Peterson Local School Council Meeting -- March 14th, 6pm to 7pm
- AfterHours Session 2 Ends -- March 15th

## Unity Through the Arts and Sciences

Thanks to all student and adult volunteers who participated to make Unity a success! A special thank you also goes to event organizers Megan Trinter, Emily Berman, Sandy DeVarenne, Katreena Dyrek, Gina LeTempt, and Carmen Karnuth. A special thanks also goes to music teachers Sarah Altshuler and Bjorn Villevik and the following students for sharing their musical talents with us that night: Aileen Alvarado, Drew Bramley, Lai Hermina, Camila Luna, Amina Mafhoum, Katie Mitchell, Yuleni Navarro, Yasmin Navarro, Sanne Nordlund, Karla Romero, Whitney Shank, Kevin Tang, Christina Tescon, and Aimee Tran.

## Congratulations Panthers!

Congratulations to our Network 1 Conference Champion 5th and 6th grade girls and 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams! The boys team will move on to the Regional Basketball Tournament at Clemente High School on Saturday, March 10th at 11:00 am. Should the boys win they will play in round 2 at 2pm and round 3 at 4pm. Good luck Panthers!

## Intramural Basketball

Any 5th through 8th grade students interested in playing coed intramural basketball, please see Ms. Flores in Room 112. Teams will be coached and officiated by 8th grade students. All games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 4-5pm.



### STUDENTS & STEM FAIR

Peterson's PTA and Science teachers would like to present a series of workshops for 5th-7th grade families to learn more about Science Fair and work on their projects in upcoming work nights

### UPCOMING STEM FAIR WORK NIGHTS

Thursday, April 5  
&  
Thursday, April 12

4-5pm  
Cafeteria

**\*\*Permission Slip Required\*\***



### LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF STEM FAIR:

- What can families do to support student projects?
- Good experimental design tips
- Benefits of STEM Fair for your student

*STEM Fair was formerly known as Science Fair*

## LSC Nominations and Elections

Are you interested in joining Peterson's Local School Council? LSC members play a vital role in decision-making at the local school level, thereby ensuring a quality education for all of the school's students. All parents, community members and school staff members who want to strengthen their local schools and have a positive impact on student achievement are encouraged to run. No experience or formal education is required. **The 2018 local school council elections will take place on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.** The term is for two years starting on July 1, 2018. **Please note that the LSC nomination deadline has been extended to March 9, 2018 at 3:00pm.**