

PETERSON PARENT PERIODICAL

College Graduates. | Community Leaders. | Cultural Ambassadors.

Staffing Transition

Assistant Principal Scott Topel will be taking a leave of absence and then will be leaving Peterson. Everyone at Peterson is very grateful for all

Mr. Topel has done for Peterson students, families, and staff. If there are any questions please contact Principal Kane at 773-534-5070.

Spring Clean Up

Join the Peterson Green Team, the Hollywood-North Park Community Association & Friends of Peterson to pick up litter on the grounds of Peterson School and in the North Park neighborhood beginning on Saturday, March 31, at 10am. Please meet at the Peterson School Plaza for hot chocolate and coffee, donuts, and supplies! Families are welcome. Please RSVP if you plan to attend to petersonfriends@gmail.com.

LSC Forum

There will be a Local School Council Forum on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, from 5:30pm to 6pm in the Peterson Auditorium. Please come and get to know the candidates running for the Peterson LSC.

Hello Peterson Families,

I would like to introduce you to the Person of Peterson for this week: Ms. Kiran Ionita, the new third grade teacher at Peterson.

"I was born in Pakistan, and my parents brought me and my sister to the United States when I was six months old.

They left Pakistan because they wanted a better life for us. From Pakistan, we moved straight to Glen Ellen. My parents didn't speak any English, but there was a supportive community that helped them get a job at a factory.

I struggled with English, and I remember my ESL teacher pulling out flash cards to help me. I didn't speak English fluently until about 4th grade. I also really struggled to find my identity. I was bullied a lot in school. My mom would make me a curry sandwich for lunch, and the kids around me would make fun of me until I cried. I was embarrassed that my name was Kiran, since it definitely stood out from the crowd. On top of that, we were illegal immigrants, and we came to the country with an alias name. If my father thought there was a possibility of getting found out, we would move right away and go to a different school.

I went to community college and then to Loyola University. I was going to go into finance and realized it wasn't for me. I was sitting in the courtyard at Loyola and remembered a moment with my ESL teacher. She had that sense of caring about me, and she was the first person that held my hand and walked me to class. It was a feeling I hadn't ever had, and I know she was just doing her job, but her job changed my life. This experience led me to seek a degree in education.

Prior to Peterson, I taught in Pilsen. I loved the school and the community, but I noticed I was having trouble speaking my native language of Urdu. I wasn't speaking it at my old school. I made a very hard decision to leave, but it was my opportunity to work with families on another level that I couldn't do previously, and I look forward to it!





Upcoming Dates

3-19 to 3-23: PARCC Testing at Peterson Grades 3 to 8 Only

3-20: 5th to 8th Intramural Basketball Meeting at 4pm

3-21: CIWP Meeting at 4pm

3-21: Local School Council Forum in Peterson Auditorium at 5:30pm

3-21: Local School Council Meeting (Closed Session) for Principal Evaluation at 6pm

3-22: NO afterHours (Only Continued Programs) due to Staff Professional Development

3-22: Peterson Social Emotional Learning Night at 5:15pm (Please enter through cafeteria doors!)

3-23: K Field Trip to Field Museum

3-23: Mr. Caban Dances to Eye of the Tiger!! (Dance-a-Thon Prize)

3-26 to 3-30: NO SCHOOL: Spring Vacation (School Closed)

4-2: Classes resume at 8:45am!

Social Emotional Learning Night at Peterson

Do you have difficulty with your child refusing to come to school? Do you want to learn what might be "red flags" that show your child might benefit from professional help? Do you want to learn about the new Second Step curriculum or what support exists in the middle school at Peterson? Do you want to find out about resources in our community?

Please plan to join us for our first-ever Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Night next Thursday, March 22, 2018, from 5:15pm to 7pm. We will have information about what kids are learning and experiencing at Peterson as well as a number of organizations sharing their expertise. A free dinner and door prizes will begin at 5:15. Please enter through the cafeteria doors. Both Arabic and Spanish interpreters will be available at the event.

Choose from sessions for parents including: Child & Adolescent Mental Health & When to Seek Professional Help (with The Kedzie Center presented in English & Spanish); Art Therapy (with Mosaic Therapy); Positive Discipline (with SEL Chicago); Services for Refugee Families (with Asian Human Services); and Overviews of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) at Peterson. We will also have a resource fair to get more information about community organizations.

Kids who are five and older are welcome to watch *Inside Out* in the Auditorium beginning at 5:30pm. Kids can dress up as their favorite character from *Inside Out*, and the top three costume contest winners will win a prize: a copy of the film, a book, or Joy to bring home. We will also have childcare available for children between ages 1 to 5. Please RSVP for one of the limited spots by contacting the PAC at petersonpaci@gmail.com.



Peterson 6th through 8th grade students participated in a student-led March for Our Lives at Peterson Elementary on Wednesday, March 14. They marched for responsible gun control laws and inclusive, safe schools.