

# Welcome to Kindergarten



My name is Cheryl Kimm and I LOVE teaching kindergarten; this will be my 27th year here at St. Peter's. I hold a BA Degree and am certified by the state of Maryland in Early Childhood Education. There are so many wonderful things for your child to experience here in kindergarten, most importantly developing a close relationship with their friend, Jesus. WE will develop reading skills, learn to make patterns, spend time in nature, make new friends, do science experiments, learn about our state and faraway places, play, explore and so much more! I am very excited to begin a new school year and getting to know my kindergartners.

My name is Sandi Hankinson and I am excited to be joining Kindergarten as an aide this year! I was previously a volunteer librarian and substitute teacher with St. Peter's. My three wonderful children attend school here. I have a degree from the College of Southern MD.



Kimberly Farley is one of the Kindergarten aides at St. Peter's Catholic School. She began working there in 2004 with the daycare program. In 2009 she joined Mrs. Kimm in the Kindergarten classroom. She studied Early Childhood Education at the College of Southern MD. Mrs. Farley currently resides here in Waldorf.

# Springtime in Kindergarten

There are many exciting things happening in kindergarten this spring. We have just begun the second half of our reading program called the Superkids Club. So many of our kindergarten friends are doing really well sounding out words and are well on their way to becoming confident readers. In math we are becoming experts at adding, number recognition, shapes, patterns and so much more. In science we have been learning about the habitats of animals that can be found in our area. In social studies we just learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, the children did a guided drawing of Dr. King and then dictated a fact about his life.

We are reading Anasi the Spider an African Folktale and will then create our own spiders. In religion we are learning about Lent and will try to do good deeds during this season. Before Easter we will act out the Last Supper with unleavened bread (matzo crackers) and wine (grape juice). We will learn to tell the Easter story with our resurrection eggs.

We look forward to our Mother's Day Tea at the beginning of May. It is a special day to share with our mommies, for entertainment kindergarten puts on a skit!

## A Look Back at our First Semester

We had so much fun at Shlagel Farm for our kindergarten field trip. We got to go on a hay ride and learn how Farmer Russ grows all of his vegetables and strawberries. Our favorite thing was running through the maze and picking out a pumpkin to bring home.

In early November we had our Lantern Walk which is a really special event where we share the Light of God's Love with our family and friends. We prepared for



several days learning our lantern songs and making lanterns. We got to come to school at night and walk through a path lit by 100 luminaries. We roasted marshmallows and then ended the night with hot chocolate and cookies. It was a great time.



Right before Thanksgiving we celebrated Grandparent's Day, we sang a special song for our grandparents and then made a wreath listing all of the things that we are thankful for.



When we came back to school after Christmas break we celebrated the Epiphany. We learned the story of the journey taken by the Magi; we got to hold real gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jacob was the lucky one that found a bean in his slice of cake so he got to be King for the day and was given a special crown.



We also learned about King Winter in a great story called Ollie's Ski Trip by Elsa Beskow. Some of the kindergartners even dressed up like King Winter and his walruses.





We had a great time during Catholic Schools Week with a whole lot of special activities. Pajama day, crazy hat and hair day, dress as your favorite book character. For our service project the whole school adopted one of Charles



County's first responders and made gift baskets for them. Kindergarten adopted the State Police and made two awesome baskets of goodies and a book about what kindergarten thinks police officers do all day.



To celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school kindergarten decided to dress as someone who is 100 years old! We did a lot of other fun activities making necklaces with 100 pieces of cereal, making unique pictures out of the number 100 and each child brought in a collection of 100 items that they found at home.



Since the weather has been unusually warm we took advantage of the nice weather and took a walk in the woods. We had a wonderful time building fairy houses, climbing trees, making forts, and having adventures.



My super creative kindergartners built a really cool treehouse by balancing large sticks into the branches of a cedar tree. There was an impressive amount of teamwork and cooperation going on and a whole lot of creativity.



There is much more fun and learning to be had here in kindergarten!





# Autumn in Kindergarten

Our first few weeks of school have gone by so quickly. We have been busy making new friends and learning school procedures. We had our first rainy day recess; we had such a good time trying out our new rain boots and rain suits. It was so much fun discovering different ways to explore puddles, mud, and worms!



Dressing up is a favorite kindergarten pastime whether it is as brave knights, community helpers or princesses – kindergarten loves it all!



We learned about two saints this past week, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Francis of Assisi. Each child took an oath to be brave and kind. We are trying hard to battle our dragon (grumpy, mean) feelings and let our kindness show. We also are trying to be like St. Francis and care for **all of God's creatures**. Each student adopted a **stuffed animal** for the day. We then took a walk in the woods and built a cozy habitat for our animals.





We had a lot of fun creating art with objects found in nature. Kindergarten loves to use their imagination especially when we are outside.



We did a really awesome experiment last Friday, we dissected owl pellets!! At first we were not sure that we wanted to touch the owl pellet but soon we were engrossed in finding a large amount of bones.

The children then matched the bones to a chart to figure out which animal the owl had eaten. It was pretty amazing!

The children really enjoy being scientists; another favorite activity is sifting through sand and finding sharks teeth, small shells, and coral.





Warming up for the Race for Education

It has been a great first few weeks of school I am really proud of how well all of my kindergartners are doing. There are other fun events coming up including our Pumpkin farm field trip, and more visits to the woods.

In November we look forward to the Veteran's Day presentation, our annual St. Martin of Tours lantern walk, learning all about turkeys, pilgrims, and Native Americans, and of course celebrating with our special friends on Grandparent's Day.