

## Welcome to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



*“The mind of a child is fascination, for it looks on old things with new eyes.” ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald*

**Hello, my name is Diana Durkin and this is the start of my 18th year teaching at St. Peter’s School. I have a BS degree in Nutrition & Dietetics from Marywood University in Scranton, PA and a MA degree in Leadership in Teaching from Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore. I also have an Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate from the state of Maryland. In 2013, I was recognized and honored by the Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus in receiving their 2012-2013 Catholic Teacher of the Year award.**



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**December, January, & February!**

**We've celebrated a lot so far...**

**Thanks to all our wonderful St. Peter's families and friends who helped make the "Race for Education" such a huge success.**

**We also celebrated St. Peter's becoming a National Blue Ribbon School and our own 4<sup>th</sup> Grade academic accomplishments!**

**We celebrated our awesome grandparents!**

**We showcased our fantastic musical talents at the "Beginner Band" Concert and at our beautiful school Christmas program.**

**Our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas community service project was a huge success! Thanks to the wonderful kindness and generosity of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, parents, and friends we were able to provide Christmas candy bags, some winter caps and gloves, and especially socks to Safe Nights, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and even the Angel Watch Women's Shelter.**

**And, finally, we sang wonderful Christmas carols with our great Kindergarten prayer partners before Christmas break.**



**So let's continue our hard work and good effort in the New Year!! Go Storm!**

### **Science News:**

**3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades will continue their investigations into living things – cells, plants, and animals but on different levels. In STEM 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is finishing their work with magnets, 4<sup>th</sup> grade is testing their Lego catapults, and both will be moving on to 3-D “Modeling”. 5<sup>th</sup> grade has also been challenged to design and build a working catapult,**

**from scratch, that uses most simple machines as well as one that uses the fewest simple machines.**

## **Social Studies News:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – students continue to learn about “communities” - their celebrations, their environments, where they started, and how technology changes them.**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade – students will learn about life in Colonial Maryland, the Revolutionary War, as well as the state government and economy of Maryland today.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade – students will learn about European explorers, their accomplishments, and how exploration led to the early settlements of North America. We will also learn about life in the 13 colonies.**

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Catholic Schools Week, January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Please join us for the festivities!**





*September, October, November 2017*



*The students are off to a great start in 4<sup>th</sup> grade! They have done a very nice job adjusting to their new routines and procedures as well as to all their new teachers.*

*We also want to give a great big SPS welcome to our three new students - Itzel, Jordan, and Myles. In addition, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. Samantha Katz will be our new 4<sup>th</sup> grade Instructional Aide. Mrs. Katz comes to St. Peter's with an extensive academic background and work experience in the field of science. Her two children also attend St. Peter's School.*



*Welcome to All in 4<sup>th</sup> grade!*

## **SCIENCE NEWS:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade – students will be learning about changes in weather, living things – how they grow and change, plus force and motion while working with simple machines in STEM.**

**4<sup>th</sup> grade – students will learn about weather and climate, living things – plants, plus force and motion by designing and building catapults in STEM.**

**5<sup>th</sup> grade – students will learn about weather patterns and the characteristics of living things.**

## **SOCIAL STUDIES:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade – students will be learning about communities here in the United States as well as in other countries.**

**4<sup>th</sup> grade – students will be learning about “Natural Maryland”, its physical features and regions. They will also learn about Maryland’s “First People” and become familiar with all the Maryland state symbols.**

**5<sup>th</sup> grade – Initially, students will be working on an “Overview” which highlights the American people, government, land, and resources. They will then study some past cultures to help them better understand the world today.**

### ***Upcoming Events:***

***Race for Education, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> - Please join us!***