

Mary, Queen of Peace

December 21, 2017

MQP Families:

Happy Advent! Today, we recognized the feast day of Saint Peter Canisius. Peter was a priest during the Protestant Reformation. In 1565, the Vatican asked today's saint to serve as a secret agent. His assignment was to carry decrees of the Council of Trent to all the European bishops. The task was difficult because Peter had to cross through hostile Protestant territories and thieves made several attempts to steal the important documents. Peter, along with his companions, was also asked to write a catechism to defend the Catholic faith for the benefit of his students. The young scholars were being persuaded by the flashy speeches and the well-written arguments of the Protestant. Today, as we celebrate a more loving and peaceful relationship with our Protestant friends, let us remember Peter's example by holding true to the principles of our Faith.

It is fitting that on our first day back from Christmas break we come together for Mass to celebrate the Epiphany. Please join the school community as Mrs. Sue Oberkirsch's fifth graders serve as ministers at the celebration of the Liturgy on Wednesday, January 3rd at 9:15 am.

January 3rd also marks the beginning of the third quarter. Second quarter report cards will be available, through FastDirect, on the afternoon on Friday, January 12th.

To keep the spirit of Christmas alive, the children may wear their Christmas pajamas on Friday, January 5th. Students may choose to wear appropriate out of uniform apparel instead of pajamas.

Please keep the seventh graders in your prayers as they prepare for their REAP Retreat on Friday, January 12. To prepare our future eighth graders for next year, the theme will focus on the sacrament of confirmation. Lunch will be provided for the seventh graders during their daylong retreat.

Our sixth – eighth grade Open House is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 30th at 7:00 pm. This event will not be limited to Mary, Queen of Peace families. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us as we present the curriculum and traditions of our middle school. Visitors will have an opportunity to meet parents, teachers and Linc.

We are very grateful for those of you who purchased SHOP Scrip cards as you prepared for the Holidays. Remember their usage goes far beyond Holiday shopping. They can be used for everyday needs like grocery

shopping or purchasing new tires for your car. Please consider stopping by the school office where Annie Finke and Jo Wingbermuehle will be happy to assist you.

The faculty and I are very grateful for the School Board, Home and School Committee and parents who volunteered their time, treasure, and talent to arrange a festive faculty Christmas party. Everyone had a great time and walked away with fond memories. We are also touched by the generosity of all those who made a contribution to the staff gift fund. Hopefully, the teachers will use the monetary gift to treat themselves to something special.

We are also thankful for Mrs. Angie Boger and the fourth graders who led us in prayers and songs during the Advent program. They did a wonderful job in carrying on one of Mary, Queen of Peace's inspiring traditions. At Wednesday's Mass, our hearts were touched by the talents of Henry Dowd-Nieto, Luke Fesler and Maddie Brown. The boys played their violins while Maddie led us in song.

As we prepare to light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, let's remember its symbolism of peace. As Advent ends, may our ears be open to hearing "the voice, which announces His glory" and our hearts be open to "receive the Spirit who prepared us for His coming".

May this season of Advent bring light, hope, love and peace to you and yours.

Mr. Michael Nieman
Mary, Queen of Peace – Principal

"God, You endowed Your Priest, Saint Peter Canisius, with holiness and learning for the defense of the Church. Through his intercession, grant that those who seek the truth may joyfully find You and that the people of believers may ever persevere in bearing witness to You. Amen."