

**Saint Peter
School News
September, 2020**

Dear Parents,

We welcome you back to a very different school year, but one that is also filled with hope, presence, and growth. In the communications you have received, we have presented our new safety measures to ensure healthy growth and learning for everyone. We will continue to re-adjust and make the necessary accommodations to serve your children as best as possible. In this backdrop of pandemic fears, we also find ourselves in the midst of civil unrest and political divisions. Pope Francis spoke so beautifully about unity in the Holy Spirit in his homily for the feast of Pentecost. Our Holy Father inspires by saying: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Cor 12:4), as the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians. He continues: "There are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone" (vv. 5-6). Diversity and unity: Saint Paul puts together two words that seem contradictory. He wants to tell us that the Holy Spirit is the *one* who brings together the *many*; and that the Church was born this way: we are all different, yet united by the same Holy Spirit... Let us now focus on ourselves, the Church of today. We can ask ourselves: "What is it that unites us, what is the basis of our unity?". We too have our differences, for example: of opinions, choices, sensibilities... Let us begin anew from here; let us look at the Church with the eyes of the Spirit and not as the world does. The world sees us only as on the right or left, with one ideology or the other; the Spirit sees us as sons and daughters of the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus. The world sees conservatives and progressives; the Spirit sees children of God... Here we come to understand what the secret of unity is, the secret of the Spirit. The secret of unity in the Church, the secret of the Spirit is *gift*. For the Spirit himself *is* gift: he lives by giving himself and in this way he keeps us together, making us sharers in the same gift. It is important to believe that God is gift, that he acts not by taking away, but by giving. Why is this important? Because our way of being believers depends on how we understand God. If we have in mind a God who takes away and who imposes himself, we too will want to take away and impose ourselves: occupying spaces, demanding recognition, seeking power. But if we have in our hearts a God who is gift, everything changes. If we realize that what we are is his gift, free and unmerited, then we too will want to make our lives a gift. By loving humbly, serving freely and joyfully, we will offer to the world the true image of God. The Spirit, *the living memory of the*

Church, reminds us that we are born from a gift and that we grow by giving: not by holding on but by giving of ourselves... Come, Holy Spirit: you are harmony; make us builders of unity. You always give yourself; grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, in order to become one family. Amen."

New Safety Protocols and Procedures

Please take the time to carefully read the summary of the safety protocols that we are implementing to keep us all safe and healthy.

Welcome Back to Mrs. Doney

We warmly welcome back Mrs. Doney who will teach Art Class to 4th through 8th Grade.

Celebration of First Communion

We look forward to celebrating the sacrament of First Communion which we were supposed to have celebrated in May. We will do this in 2 shifts--September 12 and September 19 at 10:00am in Saint Peter Church.

Confirmation Parent Meeting

There will be a meeting for the parents' of our Confirmation candidates on Monday, Sept. 21 at 6:30pm in the Church. We so much look forward to your child receiving this special sacrament.

Some Cancelled September Events

As we strive to maintain safety, for this year, the September events such as Fall Bingo, Restaurant School Spirit Night, and Skating Party have been cancelled. We will resume events once we are all safe to do so.

Meet the Teacher Night via ZOOM

Since we cannot have our large gathering of parents, we still want to offer the opportunity to Meet the Teacher so you can know your child's teacher and also hear from our principal. We will share with you the progress of our safety measures and get to know you better as you get to know us. We had an in-person meeting in church for all Kinder and new parents. Here is the schedule for the meetings. All meetings will be at 6:30pm. You will be sent the link in an email:

- Grade 1--September 9
- Grade 2--September 10
- Grade 3--September 14
- Grade 4--September 15
- Grade 5--September 16
- Grade 6--September 17
- Grade 7--September 22
- Grade 8--September 23

