

**School Of Saint Peter Martyr**  
**425 West Fourth Street**  
**Pittsburg, CA 94565**  
[www.stpetermartyrschool.org](http://www.stpetermartyrschool.org)

**Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

Praise be to God for the faithfulness and humility of Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph was chosen by God to be Jesus' foster father. When the Bible describes Saint Joseph, we can see his love and devotion to God come shining through. God blessed St. Joseph with the gift of openness to the angel of the Lord, who came to him in dreams. Joseph protected and raised Jesus as his own child, sharing his knowledge and wisdom. Together with Mary, he made a loving and reverent home for God's son, and Jesus grew in divine and human favor.

Heavenly Father, we rely on the prayers of Saint Joseph as we face the challenges of our lives. May we respond to your voice as St. Joseph did, and may we come to enjoy the splendor of your presence with Mary, Saint Joseph, and all the saints who live with you in unending light. Amen.

**CALENDAR UPDATE**

- March 12<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, there is a Cub Scout meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- March 14<sup>th</sup>, Friday, is our school's Spring Photo Day. All students may wear free dress for these photos. No money is collected in advance for Spring Photos. You will receive the photo packages shortly after photo day and then you may decide if you wish to purchase the photos. Today you are receiving an information sheet describing the photos and if you wish you may choose a pose. If you do not return the form indicating a pose the photographer will choose. There is no make up day or retakes for these photos.
- March 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday, is Eighth Grade Graduation Photo Day. Eighth grade students are reminded to follow the dress code sent home from their teacher. Photos will be taken with and without cap and gowns.
- March 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday, Tuition and Extended Care Payments are due. We thank you for keeping your accounts current.
- March 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, SPM School Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- March 19<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, there will be **no hot lunch**. Students are reminded to bring a lunch to school. Our eighth grade class will be presenting the "Living Stations" at 9:30 a.m. and 10:20 am. in our cafeteria. The performances are approximately twenty minutes each and are the dramatizations of the Stations of the Cross. You are invited to attend either performance.
- March 20<sup>th</sup>, Holy Thursday, this is a minimum day. Students in grades 1-8 will participate in a Seder Meal prayer at 10:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.

**CRITICS' CORNER EASTER RAFFLE**

Our Critic's Corner Clubs are sponsoring an Easter Raffle. There is an assortment of fun prizes. Tickets are 25 cents each or 5 for \$1.00. Tickets are available at the school office. Monies raised help support the club's activities that emphasize reading enrichment and service.

**2008 – 2009 Re-REGISTRATION (PAST DUE) & NEW STUDENT APPLICATIONS**

Re-registration for students currently enrolled in our school and choosing to continue their education at SPM School next year has now ended. **If you have not returned the re-registration forms please do so immediately.** We are in the process of testing and accepting new applicants and your children do not have a place reserved at SPM School for the 2008-2009 school year unless we have received your re-registration form. We do have openings in most of our classes and will continue to accept new applicants. If you know families interested in having their children receive a Catholic School education please encourage them to apply. Please contact the school office if you have any questions. **"Tell A Friend"**: Current St. Peter Martyr School families may earn a tuition credit of \$100.00 for each new family they bring to our school. The new family must list you as the source of the referral on their application to SPM School. The credit will be issued upon the acceptance and payment of the new family's registration fee. If more than one family is listed as a referral the \$100 tuition credit will be shared equally among the names listed.

## **2008 – 2009 FACE GRANT APPLICATIONS/TUITION ASSISTANCE**

FACE (Family Aid – Catholic Education) grant applications for the 2008-2009 school year are available to families whose children are enrolled in our school. To be considered for tuition assistance families will be ranked by a third party processing service, Private School Aid Service (PSAS), according to income criteria provided through the application process. The FACE grant committee will establish grant amounts after a determination of the total amount of scholarship funds available and the final ranking of applicants throughout the Diocese of Oakland have been determined. FACE applications are now available through our school office. If you are in need of financial assistance and your child will attend SPM School next year, you are encouraged to apply. **The deadline to return FACE applications to our school office is March 19, 2008.**

## **THE BASIC FUND**

The BASIC Fund is a privately funded program dedicated to broadening the educational opportunities for children by helping lower-income families afford the cost of tuition at private schools. The BASIC Fund offers scholarships to students entering kindergarten through eighth grades. Grant amounts are based on household size and income. Scholarships are for a maximum of \$1,600 annually per child. FACE recipients may not also receive scholarship from The BASIC Fund. This program is intended as a “Helping Hand.” The BASIC Fund forms a partnership with parents in the education of their children and expects parents to be actively involved with the school and their children. To be eligible for tuition assistance from The BASIC Fund, at least one child in your family must be attending Catholic (private) school for the first time and your family must meet the eligibility guidelines. If your child is currently in Prekindergarten they are also eligible as a “new” student. Applications for The BASIC Fund are available through our school office. You may also visit their website at [www.basicfund.org](http://www.basicfund.org) If you are currently receiving BASIC funds you should be getting information for renewing sent directly to you in April. Tell a friend.

## **ST. PETER MARTYR SCHOOL PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**

Our Pre-Kindergarten program strives to provide each child a safe, caring, and nurturing environment. Our curriculum is individualized to meet the needs and abilities of each child. No comparison of children with other children is made. We stress the importance of using good manners and teach the children to respect and appreciate one another.

Our Pre-Kindergarten program offers a variety of activities designed to enrich children’s experiences, to expand their language abilities, to provide reading readiness, to teach math readiness, and to extend cooperative social behavior. Through our religion program the children learn about God’s world.

Throughout the year the children work on skills such as color and shape recognition, number and letter recognition, counting, and one-to-one correspondence. We help the children to develop their small motor skills by teaching them to color within the lines, to cut well with scissors, to print their name, letters and numbers. We also work on large motor skills – throwing, catching, hopping...

Our Pre-Kindergarten is licensed through the State of California. For safety reasons all children must be signed in and out of Pre-K each day by an authorized adult. Our maximum class size is 24 students. There are two teachers and one teacher’s aide.

The Pre-Kindergarten program is a Kindergarten readiness program. Classes are Monday through Friday, 12:00 noon – 2:45 p.m. Students must be four years old by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students must be fully potty-trained and be able to easily separate from mom and dad.

## **ST. PETER MARTYR SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN**

Our kindergarten program provides variety, flexibility and structure. Play, fantasy, creativity, and individual choices are encouraged. Learning activities and formal lessons are woven into the child’s day. Formal lessons in pre-reading and math are presented to all of the children with an understanding that each child will absorb as much as she/he can. Children’s literature plays an important role in the pre-reading program.

There is a constant awareness of the importance of the child’s self esteem. Praise is given and appreciation is shown for the child’s efforts. It is important that each child feels special and good about the effort that he/she puts in his/her work. The children are taught to appreciate the uniqueness and individuality of their peers and to treat each other with kindness and respect.

The kindergarten curriculum does not fall into neat little boxes. A large portion of our day is spent in centers/stations. Several curriculum items will be going on at the same time as the children work in groups. It is also important to know that things we look at as “play,” is “learning.” A child playing with blocks, for instance, might be laying the foundation for math skills as he/she puts two squares together and discovers a rectangle. Creativity and cooperation are also being developed.

A maximum of thirty students is accepted into the class. There are two teachers and one teacher’s aide in the room at all times. Kindergarten is held Monday-Friday, 8:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. There is before and after school child care for those who need it. Students must be five years old by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.