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Clayer's Chronicle

St. Peter Claver
PRESCHOOL &
KINDERGARTEN

April Abounds!

Our biggest fundraising event of the year will be taking place on Saturday, April 27th at 6:00 pm. Please join us for dinner and cocktails as well as a live and silent auction!

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for the week of April 15-19. Kindergarten will be dismissed at 12:30 during that entire week. Please take this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and learn about your child's progress and goals for learning! The teachers will be providing you with information soon.

On Monday, April 15th at 9:30 am we will have an inhouse field trip — Mad Science! All students are welcome to attend.

Our April restaurant fundraiser will be on Tuesday, April 16th at Chick-fil-A. Come and enjoy a great meal and help support our school!

Looking ahead, we will have our customary Spring Open House on Wednesday, May 15th from 6 - 7 pm. More information will be provided as the date approaches.



Summer School

Summer school sign ups continue in the office. Please let us know if you would like your child to participate in this six-week program from June 24th - August 2nd! We are offering two, three and five day a week program from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm or 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. We offer early care from 7:30-8:30 am as well. There are limited spaces available due to licensing restrictions and they're filling quickly! Your child will need to bring a snack and lunch from home to eat here at the school. School uniforms will not be required, please send your child to school in comfortable clothing with closed - toe shoes for play. Each week will have a fun theme with activities planned accruing to the theme. More details to come. Please stop by the office to sign up and if you have any questions.

Accreditation News!

A huge thank you to our teachers who worked tirelessly to prepare their classroom portfolios and welcome our assessor! Many of our areas scored 100%, with a few others in the 90's! We feel validated that we are doing a good job and recognize that we will always need to seek ways to continue to improve our school and community!

We have received official notification that we have successfully renewed our accreditation status for another five years!



National Association for the
Education of Young Children

Volunteer Hours

Remember! Everyone is obligated to do 20 Service Hours. At this point you should have completed 16 hours. Keep in mind, too, that service to our parish also counts!

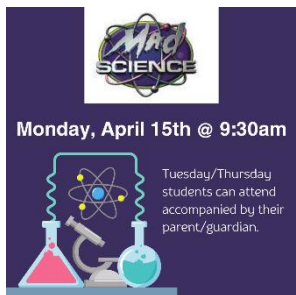
Bingo Night



Every Thursday evening. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Paul Hopkins at (805) 390-7781 for Bingo.

Mad Science!

We will have our Mad Science inhouse field trip on Monday, April 15th at 9:30 am. All students are invited to attend - even if they do not normally attend on Mondays. A parent or guardian must accompany them during this event.



Early Dismissal

Please remember, there is an early 12:30 pm Kindergarten dismissal this month on April 12th. Followed by a 1:00 pm staff meeting. Extended Care is available until 5pm.

Dad's Basketball Game



St.Rose of Lima Dads take on the St.Peter Claver Dads.

It is an opportunity to join together as Catholic families, celebrate and root for our dads & most of all - have some fun! For those dads interested in playing, please register by sending email to Don Knips @ strosebasketballministry@gmail.com (Please indicate which team you will be playing for).



Please come and join Mrs. Meyer in the staff room to discuss Principal matters or just stop by for a cup of coffee! You don't have to be physically present. You could also join online through Zoom if you are unable to attend in person from 10:15 to 11:00 am on April 10th & 18th.

Food Fundraiser!

This month's food fundraising event will take place at Chick-fil-A on Tuesday, April 16th. Please mention "Spirit Day" for in person orders or use code SCHOOL with mobile orders. Our school will benefit from a portion of the sales. Enjoy a great meal with no cooking or cleanup!



Happy Birthday!!

Mrs. Rosa. April 22nd.



Parent-teacher conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held the week of April 15 through 19. Kindergarten students will be dismissed every day that week at 12:30. As a reminder, Extended Care is available until 5 pm.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress, strengths and areas needing more attention. These conferences are by appointment only. Your teacher will send out an email with more information about available times and how to schedule an appointment.

We believe that parent-teacher conferences are a vital tool in the success of your children. Collaborative efforts between school and family have been shown to dramatically improve student success in school. We strongly encourage all families to schedule and attend this conference so that progress can be reviewed and goals set for future learning.



Our Spring Auction Event



Our biggest fundraising event of the year will be taking place on Friday, April 27th at 6:00 pm. Please join us for dinner and cocktails, as well as a live and silent auction! This is an adults-only event—a chance for Mom and Dad to have an evening out and spend time with St. Peter Claver School friends. Look for a Sign-Up Genius soon to help with setting up and cleaning up. (It’s also a great way to work off those 20 hours!)

Are you in need of service hours? You may donate a \$50 gift certificate from Costco to receive a service hour.

Dates to Remember

4/8	School resumes after Easter Break.	4/15	Mad Science at 9:30 am.
4/8 & 9	Ask Ms. Rawd 8:10 am to 8:40 am	4/16	Food Fundraiser.
4/10 & 18	Coffee with the principal 10:15–11:00 am.	4/20	Daddy Basketball Game.
4/12	12:30 pm KG dismissal, 1:00 pm Staff meeting	4/22	Happy Birthday! Mrs. Rosa.
		4/26	Set up for spring auction event.
4/15 -19	Parent-Teacher conferences. 12:30 pm KG dismissal all week.	4/27	Spring Auction Event 6:00 pm.

Earth Day.....

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics." 2025 will be the 55th anniversary of Earth Day.

Earth Day, April 22nd In 1969, a bipartisan effort, alarmed at an oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara and other threats to our environment, led by Senator Gaylord Nelson D- Wisconsin) and Rep. Pete McCloskey (R - CA), collaborated and with the help of a young activist, Denis Hayes, organized college campus “teach-ins.” The date of April 22 was chosen (to fall between Spring break and final exams) and thus, the first Earth Day was born in 1970.

Here at St. Peter Claver Preschool, we tend to our earth in our Kindergarten Garden, recycle our bottles, cans, paper waste, batteries, printer cartridges, used up markers and more. At the end of the first chapter of Genesis after God had created day and night and sky and land and seas and sun and stars and all manner of plant life and land and sea creatures and finally humans, “God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.” On this Earth Day, how can we honor God’s gift of creation?

From PBS Kids: 15 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day With Kids

by Kayla Craig

Every spring, my neighbors gather in a local park for a community clean-up day. It's a gentle nudge to emerge from our winter hibernation, breathe fresh air and connect with each other. Together, young and old alike pick up litter, plant flowers, and rake the remaining fall leaves so there's plenty of room to get outside and play in the park's green spaces. At the end of the workday, we're all a little dirty, a lot tired, and the park is ready to provide endless amounts of memories. While this annual clean-up tradition is fun, it also acts as a reminder for all of us (the youngest among us included!) to take care of the environment every day.

When it comes to kids, a commitment to caring for our Earth (and all the living things on it!) is often caught, not taught. I can tell my kids all the time that it's important to reduce, reuse, and recycle, but I have to model it in our everyday life together, too.

Young children have a lot to teach us grown-ups about caring for our planet. As I watch my four kids grow, I marvel at their innate curiosity and genuine care for living things. When my son reminds me to turn off the running sink or asks if we can plant wildflowers for the bees in our neighborhood, I'm reminded conservation is not just for adults. Kids are never too young to appreciate nature and care for their communities by tending to the environment. What better way to help your children foster an empathetic relationship with our planet — than by celebrating Earth Day together with some fun activities?

From playing nature bingo to planting a DIY terrarium, these fun (and simple) activities will help point kids back to the wonder of the great outdoors and help you foster conversation about why it's important for us all to take care of our planet long after Earth Day is over!

Whether you opt to embark on a nature walk or get crafty with an eco-activity at home, we've rounded up some kid-approved games, crafts, and activities to help your family learn how to be responsible, empathetic neighbors who take care of the earth.

15 Fun ways to celebrate Earth Day together:

Craft a cloth bag. You and your family can help cut down on using single-use plastic that can be harmful to nature! Invite your child to make a reusable cloth bag out of an old t-shirt for your next shopping trip — or to collect treasures on your next nature adventure.

Plant a terrarium. Bring the great outdoors inside! You and your child can create a self-sufficient terrarium in your home. A terrarium is a micro-environment: moisture evaporates, then condensates and falls back down (just like rain) in an enclosed glass container.

Feed the birds. With common household items, you can help your child create a bird feeder that birds will be chirping about! While you're crafting, ask your child to describe different birds that they've seen in your neighborhood. What color are the birds? What sorts of chirping sounds they make.

Get composting! What happens to a pile of old leaves outside when you add a dash of time, maybe some worms, and a healthy splash of moisture? Celebrate Earth Day by making soil perfect for a garden.

Create a nature journal. Observing wildlife is a wonderful way for children to practice patience and develop skills in noticing details. An animal observation journal is a great way to keep a record of the amazing animals you observe where you live and for sharing those observations with others.

Make your own paper. It's surprisingly easy to give "trash" a new life! Making homemade paper provides a hands-on example of how we can help save the environment, one tree at a time.

Ready, set, grow. Learn about the basics of botany and plant growth by growing a simple herb garden with your child. Then, browse through these seed-filled reads and explore the outdoors through books.

Print a field guide. Help your child identify an insect by asking three simple questions. A “yes” answer to all three questions tells you it is an insect. Identify insects in your neighborhood and then create a field guide with this activity *from Elinor Wonders Why*.

Visit National Parks from home. National Parks are one way to preserve and protect the country’s wonders, both natural and man-made. And the best news? You don’t have to leave your living room to explore the National Parks! Read about how the Everglades were formed, meet a young woman who survived the Alamo, and visit with a mail carrier who takes mail and more to his village in the Grand Canyon.

Try your hand at nature bingo! Encourage your child to embrace their curiosity by creating a nature bingo game to take outside to practice observing and exploring together.

Take a closer look. You can make a DIY magnifying glass with a plastic bottle! Help your budding scientist get a closer look at the world around them with this fun activity.

Embark on an adventure. Here are seven simple tricks that turn a family nature walk into an enjoyable adventure for everyone.

Play with puzzles. Complete a puzzle to explore parts of plants. Get their gears turning by asking questions like, what parts does a plant have? What parts does a tree have?

Throw an eco-friendly party. Why not throw an environmentally-conscious party for Earth Day? Here's the dirt: Kids' parties generate a lot of trash. By making more environmentally friendly choices, you can keep the earth green — and save a little green in your wallet, too!

Learn about ecosystems by planting a seed. You don’t need a big yard (or a yard at all) to learn about the basics of gardening. Seeds simply need three things to grow: light, food and water. In a small pot or plastic cup, help your child plant a few grass, bean, or flower seeds. What will you learn together.

Author: Kayla Craig is a writer, podcaster, and author of *To Light Their Way: A Collection of Prayers & Liturgies for Parents*. She's also a mom to four curious and messy young kids. She loves deep mugs of coffee, deeper belly laughs, and even deeper questions. She spends too much time on Instagram.

St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum centered in faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We endeavor to deepen a child’s awareness and love of God and nurture their natural love of learning.

We, the members of St. Peter Claver Catholic community, acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each child. In partnership with parents, we provide developmentally appropriate Catholic instruction in an environment which supports each child’s sense of self and nurtures a love of learning. Our curriculum incorporates a variety of learning activities designed to enhance a child’s love of God, and promotes problem solving, creativity, self-expression, and social skills. We seek to stimulate children’s learning in all developmental areas, while at the same time, allow for individual differences in learning styles. St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten affirms the worth and dignity of each child and fosters an understanding and sensitivity to all people by encouraging reverence and respect for each person.



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