
VOLUME 16
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Clayer's Chronicle

St. Peter Claver
PRESCHOOL &
KINDERGARTEN



Happy October, Happy Fall

Can you believe we are already one month into our school year?! We hope you all are settling in and enjoying watching your children grow by leaps and bounds every day. We certainly are!

Fall is finally here and so is the cooler weather! Thank goodness we survived the heat of summer and made it to 'sweater weather'. We are quickly coming to the most festive time of the year with Halloween and Thanksgiving and then the beginning of the Christmas season! Take a look at what we have in store for the weeks ahead.

October will be a busy month filled with fun and important activities. The children are all so excited for Halloween to arrive. We have Halloween Carnival scheduled for October 31st so that all the children may participate.

There are two fundraisers this month—both are fun for your family and easy ways to raise money for our school.

Kindergarten will be a busy class with a Pumpkin Patch field trip this month and an early dismissal day.



Move -A-Thon

Every month we conduct fire drills. Our September drill was very successful. Now and then, a child will be put off by the noise (our alarm, by design, is very loud) or the commotion. Be assured we will support your child and explain in an age-appropriate manner so that your child understands and learns how important preparedness is.

Thank you, one and all, for your participation at our restaurant fundraiser and our Popsicle Social. It is great to mingle and get to know one another. We are looking forward to the myriad of social gatherings planned throughout the year!

We continue to be grateful for the opportunity to be your child's early education experience.

Questions?

Do you have questions about our school? Curriculum? Office procedures? Making payments and navigating Smart Care? Upcoming events? How you can volunteer?

There are two opportunities to get your questions answered:

On October 3rd and 4th you can "Ask Ms. Rawd." From 8:10 to 8:40am you can come to the office.

And in October 11th and 12th, you will be able to have "Coffee with the Principal" in our staff room from 10:15 to 11:00am.



Blessing of the Pets October 5



In honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have a blessing of the animals on Thursday, October 5th at 9:00 am. All of our students are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animal for a blessing. No live animals, please.

St. Francis of Assisi was born in Italy in 1181. He was born into wealth but gave it up and lived a life of poverty. He founded the Franciscan order and the order of St. Clare. He is the patron saint of animals and the environment. He created the first nativity set. He died in 1226 and his feast day is October 4th.



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of
your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow
love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as
to console, to be understood, as to
understand, to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is
in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
Eternal Life.

Amen

No School - Staff Development Day October 13



Please make sure to mark on your calendars that there will be NO SCHOOL on Friday, October 13th. This is a Staff Development Day, and a very important one!

Every year these beautiful ladies take an all-day retreat to an off-site location where they can reflect and work together as a team. It helps them refresh their minds and spirits as we go into a bright new year!

KG Field Trip to Underwood Family Farms



Field Trips are very beneficial to a child's learning. Some of these benefits include connecting the student to the real world, giving children a broader global view and supporting the development of cognitive skills.

This month the kindergarten class will be taking its second field trip of the year to the Underwood Pumpkin Patch on Thursday, October 19th at 8:30am. We will need chaperones and drivers. If you can help, please make sure that you are fingerprinted and Virtus trained.

Happy Birthday!!

Ms. Esther- October 23



Halloween Parade & Carnival October 31st

I don't know about you, but I cannot wait to see your little adorable kiddos parading around in their Halloween costumes!

For those parents attending the parade, please line up on the kindergarten playground and have your cameras ready!

Starting at 9:00, children will visit the parish office for trick-or-treating there and then parade around the kindergarten playground. While everyone is welcome at the parade, only those volunteers (who are Virtus trained and fingerprinted) who have signed up to help will be able to attend the carnival inside the Youth Center.

We will need many volunteers, so please see your teacher or the office for more details.

Please remember that there are a few rules regarding the costumes: no hand-held items, no face makeup or masks, no hair coloring, and no reference to violence (ie: blood, guns). Please also remember that school shoes must be worn (no high heels, army boots, etc.)



Parish Trunk or Treat!

St. Peter Claver Parish will be holding their annual Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, sponsored by our Middle School and Youth Ministry, on Sunday, October 29th, in the church parking lot. (Time will be determined later).

Come and park, decorate your vehicle and have your bags and buckets ready to visit those trunks for some treats, all without the tricks!





Move A- Thon Fundraiser

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21 and join your school family for our 3rd annual St. Peter Claver Preschool & Kindergarten Move-A-Thon! Your child can roll, scoot, pedal, run, walk or skip their way to having fun staying healthy and raising money for the school we all love.

Donations can still be made through Cheddar Up.



MOVE-A-THON
ST. PETER CLAVER PRESCHOOL &
KINDERGARTEN

Saturday, October 21st
School Parking Lot
8:00 to 8:30- TK & Kindergarten
8:45 to 9:15- Room 2
9:30 to 10:00- Room 1
Ride / Roll / Walk / Bike / Run / Skate
All students will receive an event T-shirt.
Event donations are welcomed and encouraged!



Restaurant Fundraiser



Don't cook the night of Tuesday, October 10th! We will be having our monthly restaurant fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen in the Simi Valley Town Center.

Please present the flyer with your order or mention our school, and we will receive a 20% percent of the sales that day!

This is a great excuse not to cook dinner and to enjoy the company of other great families. Bring your friends and neighbors! Spread the word!

Watch for fliers coming home soon.

Parent Informational Seminar

With Dr. Shiro Torquato.

Dr. Torquato, a licensed clinical psychologist, is a long time St. Peter Claver parishioner who has served in a variety of ministries.


On October 17th at 7:00 pm in the youth center, she will discuss the basics of child development and then will have a question-and-answer period.

We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about how your child grows and develops thereby helping your own growth to be the best parent you can be.

So that we can best prepare our space, please RSVP.

**Parent
Informational Seminar**

Tuesday, October
17th @ 7:00pm in
the Youth Center



Get important
information about
parenting.

With Dr. Shiro Perera Torquato

Dates to Remember:

- 10/3 & 4

Ask Ms. Rawd 8:10-8:40am
- 10/5

Blessing of the pets
- 10/6

12:30pm KG dismissal, 1:00 Staff Meeting
- 10/10

Restaurant Fundraising at California Pizza Kitchen
- 10/11 & 12

Coffee with the Principal 10:15 - 11:00 am
- 10/13

No School- Staff Development Day
- 10/17

Parent Informational Seminar with Dr. Torquato 7:00pm
- 10/19

KG Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
- 10/21

Move-A-Thon - beginning at 8:00 am
- 10/23

Happy Birthday Ms. Esther!
- 10/31

Halloween Carnival - beginning at 9:00 am

Virtus & Fingerprinting

From the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Communications: “The Archdiocese of Los Angeles (ADLA) is committed to providing a safe environment for young people in our school, parishes and other ministries.” And from the ADLA Administrative Handbook, the archdiocese requires “All persons, whether paid or volunteer, who have regular contact with minors or vulnerable adults are fingerprinted” and “mandates all staff, whether paid or volunteer, and all volunteers who work in any capacity with or around children, the elderly, or people with special needs are required to complete the initial three-hour Virtus Protecting God’s Children for Adults program.”

For dates, times and further information please go to our school website and click on the links which will take you to the Archdiocese website. You may also contact Kyle, in our Faith Formation office for assistance and information about opportunities for Virtus training and Fingerprinting at (805) 526-0680.



Looking Ahead

Holiday Boutique

It’s that time of the year again for our fabulous St. Peter Claver Holiday Boutique! Get started on your holiday shopping and don’t miss out on all the delicious treats they have to offer! Come to the Parish Hall on Saturday November 4 from 9am-5pm and Sunday November 5 from 9am-3pm to shop and eat!



All Saints Day

Nov 1st at 9:00 am Prayer Service in the church.

Volunteer Hours

Remember! Everyone is obligated to do 20 Service Hours. At this point you should have completed 2 hours.

If you are a working parent who is only available to do your service hours in the evenings and on weekends, we have an opportunity available. The parish has the Holiday Boutique on Nov 4th & 5th, and Bingo every Thursday evening. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please call the parish office at (805) 526- 6499 for the holiday boutique, and contact Paul Hopkins at (805) 390- 7781 for Bingo.

Developmentally Appropriate Practice



There's no prize for finishing childhood first!

We are holding our son back from kindergarten. Actually, we already did hold him back—this is the year he should be in kindergarten. But we knew from birth that he wouldn't be. My son is a great kid. He's bright, he's social, and he was (by all standard metrics) "ready" for kindergarten. He was the toddler who had the ABC's memorized at 20 months, could count to 100 at 2.5 and by 4, could read numbers into the thousands. He thinks deeply, questions thoughtfully, and creatively searches for answers to problems. He makes friends easily, plays well with others, and leads groups in activities. His is a kind of well-rounded smart. Whatever "it" is academically, he has "it." So perhaps people will be shocked that we chose to hold this child back. This child who appears so ready for kindergarten. There are TWO reasons why we held our son back: his present and his future.

Here in the present, Kindergarten has changed. We all know that. It's well documented that Kindergarten is the new first grade but let's stop and quantify what that actually means. Kindergarten used to be a time of exploration, to learn the ABCs, and to grow in social/life skills. I'm sure that's how you remember your kindergarten experience. But our children face a Kindergarten where there is limited time for exploration and social/life skill development. Where tests and standards have put undo pressure on our children (and those who lovingly teaching them).

Here's exactly what I mean by "changed." When I taught Kindergarten in 2007, my state's standard for rote counting was to 31 by June. In today's Common Core State Standards, it's now expected that children count to 100 in Kindergarten. With curriculum focusing that instruction to November. November to count to 100 vs. June to count to 31. Our children didn't change. But the standards changed and our kids are being forced to adhere.

They also face other Common Core Standards above their developmental levels, including the standard to "read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding."

This just isn't appropriate for a lot of kids. Reading is a big developmental skill and requiring all 5-year-olds to be fluently reading by the end of kindergarten would be like requiring all babies to fluently walk by 12 months. Some will, and some won't, but it's just not appropriate to expect it of all children. We Know kids walk on their own time, they run when they are ready, they learn to ride bikes as their bodies naturally grow and we don't rush the motor skill development. Then I ask of you: Why is their brain development not treated with the same respect? One of the greatest gifts we can give our kids is to remember that academic skills are just like motor skills: they'll develop when the child is ready. So, we're holding him back... but Kindergarten isn't the only reason and it's actually a small part of the reason.

This is the gift we gave our Present Son. As a new 5-year-old, he didn't need to rush off to kindergarten and begin an overly academic life faced with rigid boundaries. He was able to continue to grow his divergent thinking and his creativity before being asked to "sit and work" for six-plus hours a day. He's had one more year of developmentally appropriate learning and play, which is exactly what his growing mind needs.

But that's not the full reason we chose to delay Kindergarten. I'm holding him back for his Future Self. I'm holding him back for the middle schooler who has to navigate social media, something I didn't have to do when I was 12. I'm holding him back for the high schooler who will be making life changing decisions.

We're doing this for the Present AND the Future. We call it the "Gift of Time" because that's exactly what we're giving our son—time now and time later.

Right now, we're in early childhood and I'm so thankful he didn't have to rush his way through it. The world rushes enough these days, why are we encouraging young children to grow up faster?

There's no prize for finishing childhood first. The world is a whole lot different now... I want my son to be just that much more mature for all the big life events heading his way. He will be 18 when he selects a college and makes the first in a series of impactful decisions. He will be 19 when he begins college and is asked to choose a future career path. He will have the chance to be a kid one more year rather than rushing away and leaving childhood behind.

There's no prize for finishing childhood first. We held our son back to give him the "Gift of Time." To recognize that education and childhood are NOT what they were 30 years ago and loudly say, "We value childhood. We value YOUR childhood." We are the generation that grew up with Ferris Bueller reminding us that "Life moves pretty fast..." Ferris, you have no idea what it looks like now for these kids. What will my son think of this? My husband was held back. My brother was held back. They'll tell him there is nothing in life that made a bigger, more positive impact than this decision their parents made for them too. And I will tell him every day that there is no prize for finishing childhood first. There just isn't.

A FEW QUICK ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED:

Nothing is one size fits all: this is my opinion and what we are doing for my family. Please do and choose what's right for yours/your child. Am I worried my son will be bored in school? Bored is a word parents use. Kids don't. Especially not bright kids. They can always find something to do or dream up and forever see the chances to learn. He'll be no more bored than any other child sitting in a desk all day dreaming of recess.

The fact is: only boring people get bored. Harsh, but true.

Would I do this for a girl? Absolutely, and maybe even more so. The social media nightmares of middle and high school are real. I'd want her to have some extra maturity for that. For going to college, I'd rather send a 19-year-old to pledge a sorority or navigate campus life, than a just-turned-18-year-old.

Are you allowed to do this? States (and countries) all have different policies on delaying kindergarten registration so make sure to know the "rules" in your area.

From: www.busytoddler.com "Why I Chose to Delay Kindergarten"

"Here in the present, Kindergarten has changed. This just isn't appropriate for a lot of kids."

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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