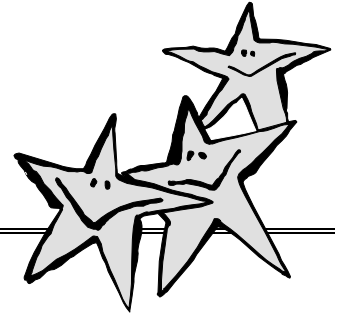


PETERS NEWS



***** The Future Begins in Today's Schools *****

February, 2012

Paul Rearden, Principal



Dear Parent,

During February we will read the book *The Rainbow Fish*. Children who are observed doing kind things for others will be given a paper fish to decorate and put in an "aquarium". Each week five fish will be chosen from the "aquarium" and those students will get to appear on closed-circuit TV and tell what they were doing to be kind.

We hope that this experience will help students think about how they treat others and how their actions can influence the way others behave. If we get 1,500 fish in the "aquarium," the entire school will earn a special reward. The "aquarium" will be in the main hall so students will be able to watch it fill.

So, if your child comes home and tells you that, "I put a fish in the aquarium," or "I was a TV star today," you'll know what they are referring to!

Sincerely,

Paul Rearden



Students at Peters Elementary School will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart to help fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. Peters Elementary School's fourth annual Jump Rope for Heart event is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 10. Last year, Peters and Slatington Elementary Schools raised over \$2,000 for the American Heart Association.

Students will participate in a variety of heart healthy activities to raise funds for the American Heart Association, which aides in cardiovascular disease research and public and professional education programs.

Jump Rope for Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. (Continued on page 2)



Important reminder: Schools are open on Friday, February 17, for a weather make-up day. Any additional snow days will be added to the end of the school year.

Schools are closed on Monday, February 20 - Presidents' Holiday.

(Continued from page 1)

The average heart beats 100,000 times each day. One of the best ways to take care of your heart is to make exercise a regular part of your everyday life. Jump Rope for Heart teaches students how exercise benefits the heart and shows students that volunteering can be fun and beneficial to the whole community. They learn how they can make a difference by providing important community service and having a great time at this fun-filled event.

Money raised by the event will go to fund potentially lifesaving research and educational and community programs. Please help our students help others. When a student asks you to be a sponsor, support Jump Rope for Heart with whatever you can afford to give. It is not essential for students to fundraise in order to participate in Jump Rope for Heart; **ALL** students will participate. For more information about this event, go to the American Heart Association's website www.americanheart.org/jump.



The 100th Day of School

On Monday, February 6, we will celebrate the 100th day of school. Please ask your child to share with you the activities of the day.

Help Your Children Become Readers

If you want your children to have a good shake at succeeding in life, the best thing to do is to encourage them to read. Reading is one skill that's essential in all areas of achievement. Here are a few tips from the U.S. Department of Education website:

- Read aloud to your children often. Start reading to your children when they are babies, and keep reading as they grow up. Talk with your children about what you

read. Encourage them to ask questions and to predict what will come next.

- Encourage your children to read on their own. Children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun develop the skills to be better readers at school.
- Set aside quiet time for family reading. Some families even enjoy reading aloud to each other, with each family member choosing a book, story, poem, or article to read to the others. Helping children become—and remain—readers is the single most important thing that parents and families can do to help their children succeed in school and in life.
- Visit the library often. Begin making weekly trips to the library when your children are very young. See that they get their own library cards as soon as possible.
- Buy a children's dictionary and start the "let's look it up" habit.
- Make writing materials, such as crayons, pencils, and paper, available.
- Ask family members and friends to consider giving your children books and magazine subscriptions as gifts for birthdays or other special occasions. Set aside a special place for your children to keep their own library of books.

—Adapted from the U.S. Department of Education website.

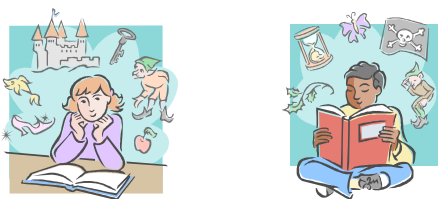


Kindergarten Registration

Northern Lehigh School District will hold kindergarten registration by appointment in January. Parents may register their child at Peters Elementary School on Monday, April 16, Tuesday, April 17, or Wednesday, April 18. Please call Peters Elementary at 610-767-9827 between 9:30 AM and 2:30 PM to schedule an appointment for registration.

In order to enter kindergarten in September, a child must be five years old as of September 1, 2012.

At the time of registration, parents must provide the child's birth certificate, a record of the child's immunizations, parent photo identification, and proof of residency. Children entering kindergarten should be brought along for a brief academic assessment. You may visit the Northern Lehigh School District's web site at www.nlsd.org for more information regarding required documentation.



Get Kids to School Safely

With the severe weather season upon us, it's a good idea to review some basic transportation safety. Whether your child takes the bus, walks, rides a bike, or travels in a car, you'll want to make sure that he or she is as safe as possible.

Transportation by school bus is safe, and buses are generally safer than cars. However, there are risks. Most often, if a child is injured or killed, it is not the result of a crash, but instead caused as students enter and exit buses. Here are some safety tips to keep kids safe:

- Wait for the bus in a safe place. That means away from traffic and at a distance from the street.
- Don't move into the path of a bus. Stay back until the bus comes to a complete stop and you see the driver signal you to enter.
- When getting off the bus, immediately take ten giant steps away from the bus.
- Use the handrails on the bus.
- Stay aware of the street traffic around you.

- Remember that there are laws for drivers to follow, but not everyone follows them. Make sure you always protect yourself by remaining vigilant.

Young pedestrians and bikers have to make a lot of important decisions. Here are a few guidelines:

- Follow traffic signals and crossing-guard directions. Never cross against a light--even if you look and don't see anything coming.
- Always walk your bike through intersections.
- Never walk alone.
- Always wear reflective material so you are more visible to drivers.

If your child is going to be transported to school via car, here's the best safety tip available: **Make sure your child always wears his or her safety belt.** It can lower the risk of injury by 45 percent. Remember, your child is four times more likely to be injured or killed if he or she is ejected from a vehicle. So make sure he or she buckles up.

--Adapted from the National Safety Council's Website

Spelling Winners



Congratulations to second grade's fantastic spelling bee winners! The top three finishers are shown above; left to right: Second Place, First Place, and Third Place.

Absences/Excuses

When your child is absent from school, state law requires a written excuse stating the reason for a pupil's absence from school. The excuse must be sent in **within five days** of the absence. If no excuse is received, the absence may be deemed illegal. After three illegal absences, the district magistrate will be notified and fines may be levied.

When your child is absent, please call the health room at 610-767-9855 to inform Mrs. Williams that your child will not attend and the reason for his/her absence.



Lost, Found, and Forgotten

Has your child lost jewelry or anything valuable at school? If so, please stop by the office and the lost and found table to see if it might be there.



Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education

Please continue to **clip** and send in the Box Tops for Education proof of purchase found on most General Mills and Kimberly Clark products. Each box top proof is worth ten cents, and your box tops make a difference -- since 1996 Peters Elementary School has earned more than \$12,000!

We also collect Campbell's Labels for Education. Please **clip** and send in the UPC code from qualifying products.

In order to find what products carry the qualifying proofs, please visit www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com. Let's have fun and help raise money for our school!

Student Success Starts in the Home

You probably know that a student's academic success is affected by many factors. When it comes to achievement, activities outside the classroom, especially at home, can be just as influential as what happens inside the classroom.

Following are five important areas to emphasize to ensure the success of your children:

- Establish a daily routine by providing a quiet time and place for your children to study. Be firm about bedtimes so the child is well-rested and alert in the classroom. Having dinner together as a family is also important because it gives you an opportunity to talk about your children's daily school activities, projects, and expectations. Encourage communications through conversation and questioning.
- Monitor your children's extracurricular activities closely. Whenever possible, arrange specific after-school activities or supervised care, always monitor television watching, and install computer software to block inappropriate websites. Also be mindful of video game content. If you can't be home right after school, call or email frequently to check in with your children, or have a trusted neighbor, relative, or friend stop by. Search out after-school programs and association activities that could serve as alternatives for children going home alone after school.
- Reading books, magazines, and newspapers and talking about what is learned from them is another important aspect to pursue at home. Discussing current events and/or the day's activities is a good habit to develop. Tell stories, share problems, and write letters, notes, and messages to one another. These types of communication bring families closer together, especially today, when everyone is busy with his or

her own individual activities and commitments.

- Stay in touch with teachers and school staff, and express sincere interest in your children's progress at school. Work together with your children's teachers to set age-appropriate goals and standards, and to recognize and promote special talents. Compliment your children and share school success stories with family and friends.
- Be a positive role model. Demonstrate ways that achievement relates to hard work and dedication. Discuss the value of a good education to possible career options and explore ways your children can turn their true interests into satisfying career possibilities.



Market Day

The next Market Day pick up is Tuesday, February 28, at the Middle School. If you are available to volunteer to help with distribution, please contact Tammy at 610-760-9535.

Practice Consistency to Get Results

A study has found that adults can dramatically increase the compliance of preschool children who don't obey by following a three-step compliance program.

David Wilder, the lead researcher of the study and psychology professor at the Florida Institute of Technology, says that when the regimen is followed consistently, children are much more likely to follow adults' commands.

Even though the procedure may sound simple, Wilder says, it won't work if it is not applied with consistency.

In the study preschool-age children were given simple commands such as, "Give me the snack item," "Put the toy away," and "Come here." If

the child responded on the first request, the instructor responded with brief praise. If the child did not comply, the instructor made eye contact with the child and said his or her name and briefly and gently touched the child's chin.

The instructor then went on to repeat the command and model the behavior he or she desired from the child. If the child complied, he or she was rewarded with brief praise. If the child did not comply, the request was made again while being guided by the instructor to perform the activity.

Instructors were assigned to perform at 100 percent consistency, 50 percent consistency, and zero percent consistency for the study.

Wilder's study found that when the instructors were 100 percent consistent, compliance improved dramatically; at 50 percent, compliance improved somewhat; and at zero percent, compliance did not improve and sometimes decreased.

Do You Know What Discipline Should Teach?

According to many experts, discipline should teach your child good behavior and the ability to be "competent, caring, and in control." To encourage these qualities:

- **Set age-appropriate limits**, but give your child freedom within them. Let him try new things, make choices, and take on responsibilities.
- **Do kind things** and talk about why this is important. How does it make other people feel? How does it make you feel? Spend time being grateful each day.
- **Be a role model** for your child. In addition to telling him what to do, show him how to behave. When you're angry, for example, stay calm. Point out other role models, too.
- **Compliment your child's successes**. Speak up when he does something right. Be specific. "You put your books in the bookcase. How grown up!"