

EPIC

Educator Parent Improvement Council

EPIC Newsletter, Volume 7
Summer 2016

THE DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES...

Quite often, holidays, yearly events, and seasons, call us to reflect on the passage of time. And summer is no exception to that rule. We say: "Remember? Just last year, she was terrified of the diving board!" "I can't believe it was only last summer that he was learning to ride that bike!"

"Was it just last year that he wasn't quite tall enough to ride the Beast?"

As I write this newsletter, I find myself doing the very same thing with our school. "Was it just last summer that we created EPIC?" And yes, indeed, it was. Just last year, we were painting the bathrooms, making a list of priorities, and beginning the research to improve our campus. Just last summer, the Education Commission met for the first time—teachers, parents, and administrators, coming together to take action to move our school forward. Only one year ago we were asking for help, pulling together as a community in a new way, making changes that would make our school even stronger. And here we are, one year later. A year behind us full of positive change, and a year ahead of us full of possibility! We celebrate how far we have come, and look forward to the many ways we will continue to grow! And we thank you for supporting our efforts along the way!

ONE COMMITTEE'S YEAR IN REVIEW...



Education Commission

The first year of SPS Education Commission proved to be a productive one! The Commission worked with SPS staff and EPIC to install wireless internet for the school campus. Both school buildings now have wifi with an access point in each classroom to support a full class set of devices in every classroom. Working with James Craft, St. Pete's now has three classroom sets of Dell Chrome books leased for the next three years. As a team, we saw the importance of getting as many devices as possible in our students' hands. They are also in the beginning stages of using Google Apps for

Education, with older students even having their own Google account. The teachers have already begun to implement these into their instruction and the plans continue to grow! The SPS staff will start the 2016-2017 school year with further training on how to incorporate technology into their classroom!

This year we also worked to help support the junior high math program, explored the possibility of a new science lab, and touched upon data review with the school's accreditation process. We look forward to continuing with this work next school year and adding in additional goals.

Thank you so much to all the Education Commission members and guests – Janie Acra, Laura Warner, Lynn Baird, Sara Wissman, Rick Arnold, Terry Jacobs, Linda Reimer, and James Craft - who have helped to make these projects possible! Also, thank you so much to EPIC and all SPS families, SPS teachers and staff, community sponsors, fundraising coordinators, and everyone else who helps to support our amazing students at SPS. We appreciate your support and commitment to giving our children the best education possible at St. Peter in Chains!

God Bless, Angie Bucheit and Aileen Ernst

AND JUST A BIT ABOUT WHAT IS COMING UP NEXT...

Events

Bring in your school supplies, meet your teacher, greet your friends, and grab a treat at **Get the Scoop** on Thursday, August 25th, 2016! Stop by any time from 6-8 p.m. to see your classroom and find out everything you need to know before the first day! We are looking forward to seeing our students back in the building again!

Lace up your walking shoes and get ready for one of the best events of the year! Join us for **The Walk A Thon** on Friday, October 7th, 2016! We will need plenty of volunteers to make this event a success, so mark your calendars now! More information (including the labels to be returned the first week of school) to come in the Back-to-School Packet that you will receive at Get the Scoop!

Fundraising

Don't forget to collect your **Box Tops, Tyson Project A+ Labels, and Labels for Education!** Send to school to Michael Griesser, via Trenton Griesser, grade 7. And please link your Kroger Plus card to St. Peter's School for **Kroger Rewards**. Contact Michelle Luebbe at michelleluebbe@gmail.com with any questions!

This year, we will have three EPIC Community Nights, along with an End of the Year Picnic in the spring. Community Nights will be in September, November, and February, and will again consist of a meeting, a short program, and social time. Our meetings were a great success last year—the more people who attended, the better the spirit of the night! And we look forward to our gatherings this year that will continue to grow and strengthen our school community!

EPIC Community Nights

MORE COMMITTEES UPDATES COMING SOON...

As our school continues to gain momentum, we look forward to seeing that same momentum carry over into the parish of St. Peter's. If you are interested in building community and strengthening the spirit of St. Peter's Parish, please contact Dave Strano at davidrstrano@outlook.com to find out more about our Pastoral Council!

Thank you for being a part of St. Peter's! Thank you for every little thing you have done over the past year, for every time you have volunteered, responded to an e-mail, stepped up to the plate, offered a word of praise, come to an EPIC Community Night, given needed advice, or said "Thank you." I feel lucky to be a part of this place, knowing that not every school has a community such as ours. I have no doubt that more good things lie ahead, and that next summer, we will be looking back in amazement at all the ways we have grown over the year that now lies ahead.

Please be on the lookout in your Back-to-School Packets for an EPIC volunteer interest sheet! May God follow you, your students, our teachers, and our administrators, bringing every blessing on the school year that lies ahead!

Megan Halverson, President