

May 2020

Saint Peter's Community Finds Ways to Join Together, While Apart

by Erin Pant

Virtual Spirit Week

Following Easter break, Saint Peter's held a virtual spirit week, providing students a fun, engaging experience as they returned to distance learning. Each day had a theme and students were invited to share photos and videos. The week began with Superhero Day. Students were encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero, while sharing who their real-life superhero was. Many students shared stories of the doctors, nurses, police officers, teachers, parents and relatives who they admire. Additional days included Favorite Book Character Day, Celebrating Earth Day, and Favorite Team Day. The week concluded with Panther Pride Day where students wore their school uniforms and shared what they love most about Saint Peters. "Spirit Week was a great way to get back in gear after Spring Break," said Catherine Caruana. "My kids were excited to plan their outfits each day. They loved seeing all of their friends participating as well. It was a great way to feel connected to the community in these days of physical separation."



Classroom Traditions Continue Online

When classes switched to online learning, many students began to miss some of their daily classroom traditions. Mrs. Bieberich, Saint Peter's third grade teacher, would lead her students in a decade of the rosary each day after lunch, so a group of her students decided to carry on the tradition from home. Each day at 12:30 p.m., the students, along with their siblings and parents, stop what they are doing and join a video call in which everyone prays a decade of the rosary together. Third grade student PJ Wallace said, "it's nice to pray with our friends even if we can't be in school."

Day of Prayer and Giving

Saint Peter's annual gala, the largest school fundraiser of the year, had been set to take place on April 25, 2020. With the event being postponed, the school community decided to find another way to bring people together on that date and hosted a Day of Prayer and Giving. Families signed up for fifteen-

minute slots in which they would lead the community in prayers over a video call. Everyone in the community was invited to drop in and join the video call throughout the day. Faculty, staff, parents and students continuously prayed with each other for the health and well-being of the Saint Peter's School family, the extended parish family, the community, and the country. "The power of prayer is invaluable," said Mrs. Cocozzella, Saint Peter's Principal. "Throughout our eight-hour prayer session, we had countless community members in and out all day, some even stayed the whole eight hours. It was beautiful and uplifting. We also exceeded our goal of raising \$30,000. I'm amazed at the generosity of our families, faculty and staff. These donations will help keep Saint Peter's the wonderful place that it is."

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