

Bring Paper, Plant Trees

by Jared Crawford, 5th Grade



Mrs. Randall always says that she is buried in paperwork. How about we really bury her in paper?! In the month of January, we're going to collect as many reams of paper as we can and store them all in Mrs. Randall's office. It would take 1360 cubic feet to fill Mrs. Randall's office. That's 11,826 reams of paper!

Student Council wanted to do something nice for the school, so they decided on collecting paper. For every 20 reams of paper that are donated, Student Council will plant one tree at Peters. One tree can produce between 16 and 22 reams of paper.

By planting trees we will reduce our school's "carbon footprint."

While shopping for paper to fill Mrs. Randall's office, look for the recycle symbol. It takes fewer trees to make recycled paper.

Just because we are collecting paper doesn't mean you should use more. Use both sides of your paper, use marker boards when you can, and use scrap or recycled paper whenever possible.

Santa's Workshop Comes to Peters

by Braxton Tempest, 4th Grade



Did you see what was in the science lab last week? That was the Santa Workshop, where pre-K through fifth grades got to buy presents for their family.

"I wanted to try something new and it was a great fundraiser," said Jean Jones, PTA president. She definitely did. Peters raised over 5,000 dollars and we get to keep over 1,000 dollars.

Santa's Workshop was in the science lab. Students could bring money and shop for their family, friends and themselves. Mrs. Jones said that the most popular things were the tire slime and the roses with the earrings in them. "We will definitely do it again next year," she said.

Peters Holds Health Fair

by Madison Vanscoy, 5th Grade

PTA recently sponsored the Peters Health Fair. There were a lot of stands with people demonstrating healthy products and services. Physical therapists, trainers, and other health experts taught students how to get more active.

At one stand, there was jiggly yellow stuff that represented fat, and strong maroon material that represented muscles. They both weighed the same, but it showed students the difference between fat and muscle.

At every booth the message was the same — eat healthy and live healthy.



Fifth Grade Prepares for JA BizTown

by Nadesh Vaithianathan, 5th Grade

Fifth grade students will go to JA BizTown for a field trip on December 18. BizTown is a place where kids can work like adults at a business.

The past few weeks, classes have been preparing for their trip. Students first filled out applications for the jobs they wanted. Parent volunteers interviewed fifth graders for their chosen jobs. The parents rated the students, then the teachers assigned jobs.

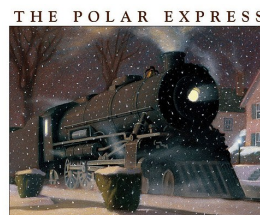
After students got their jobs, teachers put CEOs in charge of each business. Each CEO assigned employees to complete jobs in their areas and checked to be sure that all the employees were doing well and remaining focused on the job to be done. They completed all paperwork and returned it to the teacher.

Fifth grade is looking forward to a fun day at BizTown!

Polar Express Day

by Brayden Parrish, 5th Grade

Polar Express Day will be held at Peters on Friday, December 21. On this day, the school watches



The Polar Express movie and everyone gets to wear their pajamas to school. Some classes will have other activities planned as well. Mrs. Leslie will read The Polar Express by Chris van Allsburg on the morning announcements.

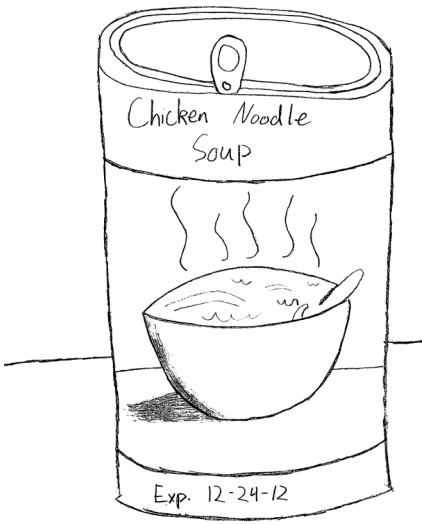
Food Drive a Success

by Meghana Venkatesha, 3rd Grade

Peters held a canned food drive from October 22 to November 26. The food drive was dedicated to families who don't have any food on their plates. Recently student council checked the results of the canned food drive. These are the results:

- Pre-K brought 21 pounds of food.
- Kindergarten brought 55 pounds of food.
- First grade brought 68 pounds of food.
- Second grade brought 42 pounds of food.
- Third grade brought 135 pounds of food.
- Fourth grade brought 55 pounds of food.
- Fifth grade brought 99 pounds of food.

Altogether Peters collected 475 pounds of food. Third grade won the extra recess. Good job third grade!



Jared Crawford

Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A

by Megan Turner, 5th Grade



On December 10, we had an event at school where kids got to perform on stage in front of students, parents, and teachers. They got to dress up as cowboys and cowgirls and sing and dance on stage. Then, at 6:00 p.m. that night they got to do it all over again at Chick-Fil-A. They did a dinnertime entertainment for parents and kids to raise money for Peters.

“It was fun to sing and dance in front of people,” said Rachel Farrell, a fifth grade student.

Gab’s Grammar Patrol

Editorial by Gabi Ponio, 5th Grade

My name is Gabi Ponio. I’m taking over the grammar column for my friend Megan who moved away. Sniff. I’m here to talk to you about when to use doesn’t and don’t. Since don’t is a contraction for do not and doesn’t is a contraction for does not, try replacing those words for the contractions in a sentence and see if it makes sense. For instance, “I does not want to play that game,” or “That piece do not go with that game.”

You don’t want to go around talking like a hillbilly your whole life. I learned MY lesson. So make sure you know how to use those two contractions. Check out my article in next month’s newspaper to learn about double negatives.

Fourth Grade Learns Tulsa History

by Hannah Fuller, 4th Grade

On December 6, two ladies from the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum taught fourth grade about the history of Tulsa. They spoke about the discovery of oil and the day that Oklahoma became the 46th state. The fourth graders got to dress up and act like people who lived in Tulsa around the early 1900s. If you would like to visit the museum, the web site is www.tulsaohistory.org



How to Keep the Flu Bug Away

Guest Editorial by Holli Meyer, 4th Grade



There has been a lot of sickness going around the school, and I’m going to tell you some ways to fix that.

When you go to the restroom, always wash your hands. When you cough, try to cover your mouth. When you go to lunch, try to remember to get some hand sanitizer or soap.

You don’t want to be lonely at school with no friends if they are all sick!

Treasurer’s Report

by Liz Borgelt, Student Council Treasurer

Over the last two months we have been selling newspapers for our school. In October we collected \$57.55, selling 230 newspapers. In November we collected \$41.10, selling 165 newspapers. That is a total of \$98.65. We are \$1.35 away from \$100.00. The money is used to pay for the cost of printing the paper.

Zip and Lock = Weird?

Guest Editorial
by Annelise Huynh, 3rd Grade



I think that zip and lock is kind of weird. I’m kind of confused because we used to do hands behind our backs and bubbles in our mouth. But now we’re doing zip and lock. I think teachers are a little strict about it too. For example, it was about two months ago when we were lining up for lunch, and a girl wasn’t doing zip and lock. So the teacher sent her to the back of the line. This is what I mean!

I agree that we can’t talk in the halls, but why do we have to zip and lock when it’s the same things as hands behind our backs and bubbles in your mouths? I don’t think it’s fair because when we’re lining up, the teacher has to wait until we zip and lock. The front of the line is quiet, but the back of the line isn’t quiet, so we have to wait until the back of the line is quiet.

But it’s the new rule, to be quiet in the halls and we have to follow the rules no matter if it’s confusing or not. We still have to do it right.

A Farewell to Peters

Editorial by Megan Turner, 5th Grade

It’s sad to say this, but I am transferring to Verdigris over Christmas Break. I am going to miss my friends I have made here.

I came to Union from a small school with 15 kids per class. It was a big change when I came to Union, but it was a good fit for me. All the kids here treated me like they’ve known me forever. Moving back to a small school will be weird because I am used to big classes.

I am thinking about writing a column called “A Pen Pal From Verdigris” for the newspaper. My column would be about how my life is going and the differences between the schools. So check next month’s newspaper to see if my column makes the paper.

Editor’s Note: At December’s Student Council meeting, Megan Turner resigned as Student Council Historian, effective December 21. Student Council voted unanimously to approve Trinity McMahon as the new Historian.



Ask The Panther

by Camden Barker, Skylar Davis, and Emma Jackson, 5th Grade

Dear Panther,
My friend never plays with me now. She plays with my other friend. She doesn’t even talk to me. What should I do?
--Sadness

Dear Sadness,
Try to figure out why she doesn’t want to play with you. Maybe they’re just trying to get some alone time or just playing a trick on you. You can always play with other people. Have you tried talking to her alone yet?
--The Panther

Dear Panther,
I am in the fourth grade and it’s harder than I thought it would be. I am in safety patrol, so I have to be at school at 7:20. I just don’t know what to do at the moment. So what do I do?
--Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,
Maybe you should take a break from safety patrol. That will probably take some frustration off of you. You should go to your teacher and maybe she can help you.
--The Panther

Dear Panther,
I want to bring my dog to school but I don’t know if I can bring him.
--Pet Bringer

Dear Pet Bringer,
You can’t bring your dog to school, but you can bring pictures of your dog to school. You can also write about your dog and read it to your class.
--The Panther

Dear Panther,
Texas lost a lot of trees. What should they do?
--Tree Hugger

Dear Tree Hugger,
You can help Texas and the environment anywhere, anytime, by planting trees. When it rains again in Texas more trees will grow.
--The Panther

Dear Panther,
I stopped hanging out with some of my friends. I want to hang out with some other friends, but when I see them I feel guilty. What should I do?
--Guilty

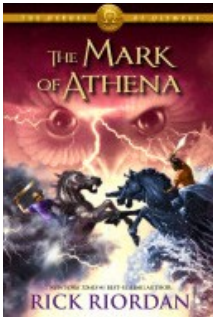
Dear Guilty,
You are probably feeling guilty because you didn’t tell your friends that you were hanging out with the other people. Now you feel bad. Tell them how you feel. Maybe you guys can be friends again.
--The Panther

Need Advice?

Send your questions to Ask the Panther by using the Paw Prints drop-box outside of Mrs. Harding’s door.

The Mark of Athena

Book Review
by Jared Crawford, 5th Grade



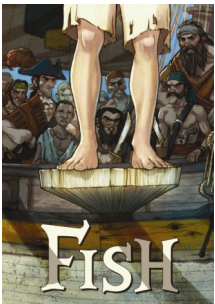
The Mark of Athena by Rick Riordan is a thrilling, action packed book about 7 demigods who go on a journey to defeat Gaea and her giant army. A demigod is a person who is half regular person and half god. Even though each demigod has special powers, they keep running into problems and falling into traps.

I recommend checking out The Mark of Athena from the Peter’s library or the public library. But don’t forget to read the other books in the series, The Lost Hero and Son of Neptune.

Fish

Book Review
by Tyler Wall, 5th Grade

Maurice is in a family that owns a farm. His siblings call him Fish because he is the only one in the family that can swim. One day the family work horse, Shamrock, dies. Fish goes to the city to work for his Uncle Gerry. But one day, Uncle Gerry wants Fish to deliver a special piece of mail, a bag full of coins. Then things take a turn for the worse, as pirates steal them. Fish’s life takes a big change in the direction about the Scurvy Mistress. And the Chain of Chaucer is closer than you think. Don’t know what I’m talking about? Read Fish by Gregory Mone to find out. Get it at the Peter’s library.



Submit Your Writing!



Celebrations

Editor’s Note: Students were asked to write about their holidays and celebrations.

What Christmas Means to Me

by Emily Hedrick, 3rd Grade

Christmas is not about the gifts. It’s about sharing, caring and giving to other people who don’t have very many things like homes, foods, toys and other needs. Jesus put us on Earth to share, care and give. So when you are in a bad mood just remember God loves all people, no matter how good or bad he loves us.

Indian Thanksgiving

by Nadesh Vaithianathan, 5th Grade

In the Indian state of Tamil Nadu there is a thanksgiving at the end of the harvesting time. There is a celebration called Pongal. This festival is held on January 13–17. Pongal is traditionally dedicated to the Sun and Cultivators. It is also celebrated as a festival called Maha Sankranti throughout India.

On this day we make a dish that is called pongal by using a pot. The moment the milk boils over and the bubbles come out of the pot, the traditional way is to shout and say "Pongalo Pongal!", introduce freshly harvested rice grains in the pot and blow the conch. The newly cooked rice is traditionally offered to the Sun and Cultivators at sunrise to demonstrate gratitude for the harvest.

Tamilans decorate their homes with banana and mango leaves and embellish the floor with decorative patterns drawn using colored rice flour. We also thank the farm animals for their help in the agriculture. The elders bless the youngers with gifts, money, clothes, etc. On the 5th day of Pongal people go to the beach or river banks with their family and friends to enjoy the fun.

My Second Favorite Holiday

by Victor Wathen, 3rd Grade

To me, Christmas is my second favorite holiday. I like Christmas because children and adults get presents. People get to put up lights. People also get to be with their friends and family. I like Christmas because Santa hides presents in my house, so when I find the presents, we look for more presents. We also get to have Christmas dinner.

Letters to the Editor

So Mad, So Sad

by Miles Givens, 3rd Grade

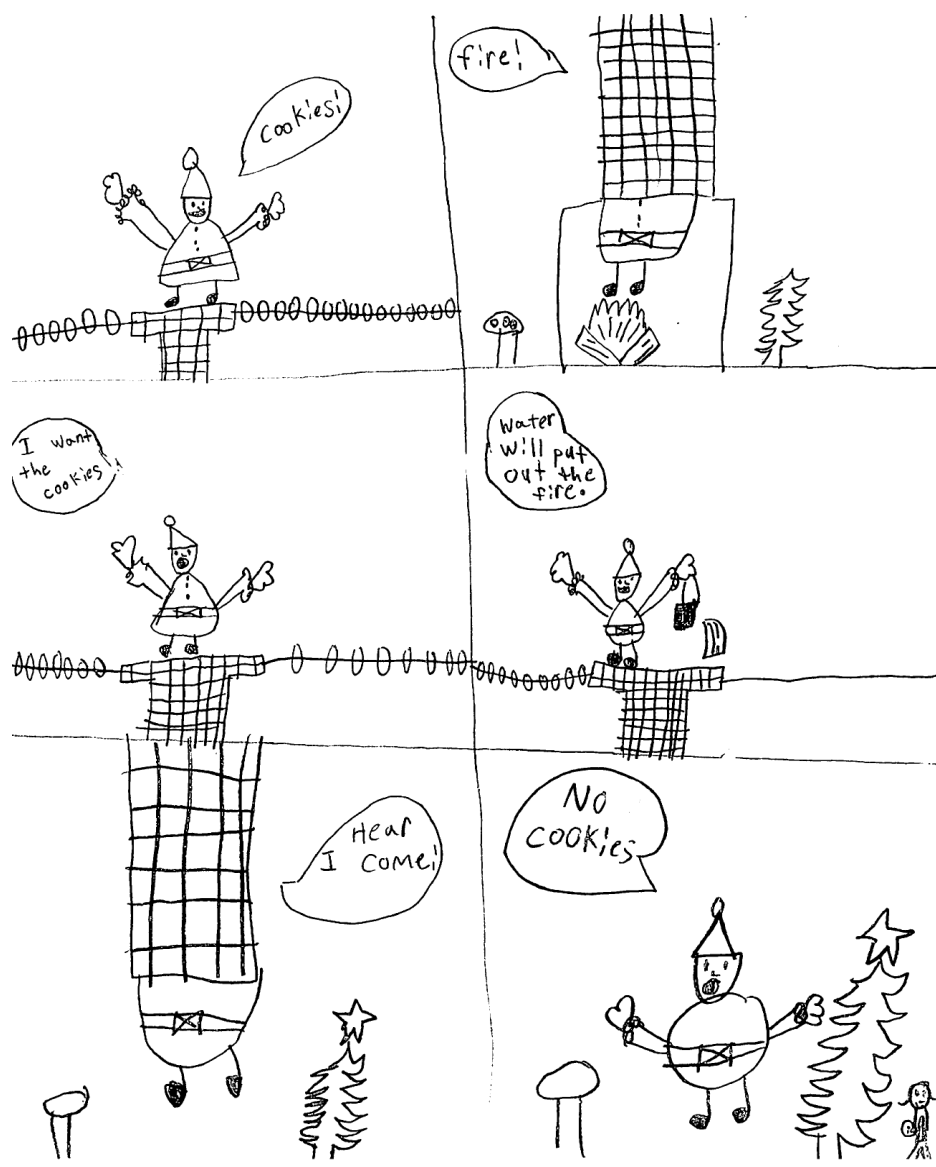
Last year some people broke into our solarium. I was so mad! They killed the fish, put dirt in the water and tied the door so nobody could get in. Ms. Eva, our building engineer, had to find a way to open up the doors. It was so sad to see something so heartbreaking. If you ever want to do something wrong, think about it! How would you feel?

Keep Buses Clean

by Colton Crafton, 5th Grade

I noticed people like to litter on the bus and tear up the seats. I wonder why? Do they have a good reason? I can’t find one. Do they do it for the fun of it, or do they do it because it seems cool? Well, they should quit, because it’s not! The poor bus driver has to deal with it. My opinion is that it’s not right to litter and it needs to stop or the world is going to be a junkyard.

Comic by Sierra Dysinger, 4th Grade



December Citizens of the Month

Caitlin Inman - 4th Grade (Borgelt)
Hannah Fuller - 4th Grade (Dirks)
Ariel Drain - 4th Grade (Lewellen)

Gabi Ponio - 5th Grade (Bowen)
Skylar Davis - 5th Grade (Gold)
Emily Langdon - 5th Grade (Harris)
Hayden Crafton - 5th Grade (Lira)

Chocolate No-Bake Cookies

Recipe by Melody Stanley, 3rd Grade

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 tbsp. cocoa
- 1 stick butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 3 cups uncooked oatmeal

Directions:

Stir together sugar and cocoa in a 2-quart saucepan. Add milk and butter. Bring to a boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat and add vanilla and peanut butter. Stir well, then add oatmeal. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper and allow to cool.

Comic by Hector Ramirez and Evan Mann, 5th Grade

