

We see
the good in
YOU!



St. Peter Claver Catholic School
1060 West Central Ave., Saint Paul 55104 • 2017 Fall Update



We see the good!

Dear Friends,

Blessings are all around us at St. Peter Claver Catholic School! You only need to look at the faces of our scholars to see that. In this, Ascension Catholic Academy's second year, we are growing and learning. And we are seeing the fruits of our labor.

- St. Peter Claver's enrollment continues to grow. We have 83 scholars, up 22% over last year.
- Many of our scholars attended the Summer Language and Math Program (SLAM) at Ascension. It was the first summer enrichment program for a large number of them.
- We are focusing our staff professional development efforts on literacy this year. We are helping our K-4 teachers sharpen their instructional skills in reading fundamentals. In grades 5-8, teachers are learning how to incorporate reading basics with comprehension.

We see the good in YOU; you make all of this possible with your generous gifts and prayers. Thank you!

Erich Rutten

Fr. Erich Rutten
Pastor

Patty Stroman

Patricia Stroman
Academy President

Dale Korogi

Fr. Dale Korogi
Academy Executive
Director

The poem that inspired
our SLAM theme,
"I see the good in you!"

**I KNOW SOMETHING
GOOD ABOUT YOU**

by Louis C. Shemon

Wouldn't this old
world be better
If the folks we meet
would say -
"I know something
good about you!"
And treat us just
that way?

Wouldn't it be fine
and dandy
If each handclasp,
fond and true,
Carried with it this
assurance -
"I know something
good about you!"

Wouldn't life be
lots more happy
If the good that's
in us all
Were the only thing
about us
That folks bothered
to recall?

Wouldn't life be
lots more happy
If we praised the
good we see?
For there's such
a lot of goodness
In the worst
of you and me!

Wouldn't it be
nice to practice
That fine way
of thinking, too?

You know something
good about me;
I know something
good about you.

Apart
from me
you can do
nothing.

GOD

Our dedicated teaching staff **MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

For Teklay Hashel and Fortuna Zere, the decision to send their first child, Sean, to St. Peter Claver was a simple one: It was their parish school. In the nine years since then, Sean graduated and three other children were enrolled.

What keeps them loyal to St. Peter Claver School is the supportive and caring staff. "The teachers support all the children in their reading and math," Teklay said. "They do not let the student go."

Teachers continue to ask about Sean and how he is progressing at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, he said.

Teklay, who immigrated from Eretria, also appreciates that our school honors the culture of African immigrants. This makes it easy for children of immigrants to make friends and get to know each other, he said. "I am blessed that the school is still here."

Sean Hashel graduated from St. Peter Claver last spring. His sisters are current scholars: Senhit is in 5th grade, Yenidi is in 1st grade, and Ream is in 7th.

"My kids know how to pray. The school taught them."

— Teklay Hashel, father of four scholars



The Pink Group checked the results of a science experiment.

The goal of SLAM: To close the summer learning gap by providing a safe and nurturing environment for all scholars that combines academic classes, community building opportunities and experiential learning.



Scholars rewarded for exemplary behavior.



Friends learning together.



Minneapolis Police mounted officers happened to come by one day and stopped to chat.



Director Pat Exner shared a snack from the Farmers Market.

SLAM is a HIT!

Growth for our Summer Language and Math program meant serving 200 scholars, an increase from 110 in 2016. For the first time, scholars from all three Ascension Catholic Academy schools attended; that is 38% of our 529 scholars! Teachers came from all three schools so all scholars would see familiar faces.

“For many of the scholars, this was their first Summer Enrichment Program experience,” SLAM Director Pat Exner said. This was true even for many of the middle schoolers. Parents were grateful for this safe, productive option for their children.

Individual Learning Plans — tied to those made during the regular school year — were incorporated for each scholar.

Grouping scholars by ability rather than grade targeted individual needs and gave students a multi-age classroom experience. There also were groups of scholars who got advanced STEM instruction.

We are already planning for next summer, with ideas for expanding even further.

Working hard on **IMPROVING OUTCOMES** for all scholars

We are putting a special focus on literacy at St. Peter Claver School and throughout Ascension Catholic Academy this year.

All teacher professional development is focused on teaching reading fundamentals for the early grades and on how to teach reading in older grades, where the curriculum stresses comprehension.

- A literacy coach is meeting with teams of our teachers three times a year.
- Teachers of grades K-4 are learning how to incorporate leveled reading groups into their curriculum.
- Tutors are helping with small groups, especially in 3rd and 4th grades.
- Last year, we put an assessment plan in place; our scholars are tested multiple times each year. This allows us to make sure each child is moving toward proficiency.

2017 MCA results all 8th grade

MATH	READING
15.4% proficient	33.3% proficient

If you would like to tour our school, please contact Laura Wagner, Chief Advancement Officer, at 612 474-6206 or lwagner@ascensionmpls.org



Learning to live **ABOVE THE LINE** with Top 20 training

Trampolines and submarines. Above the line and below the line. Seeing things in a new frame. These are part of the vocabulary of St. Peter Claver's new Top 20 program.

Top 20 gives scholars — and our staff members — tools for social-emotional health. It reinforces positive mental habits such as gratitude, persistence and curiosity and works to curb worry, complaining and boredom.

Healthy people live above the line. They have:

- A positive view on life and are focused on what is important.
- Energetic moods and emotions.
- Power to control their lives.

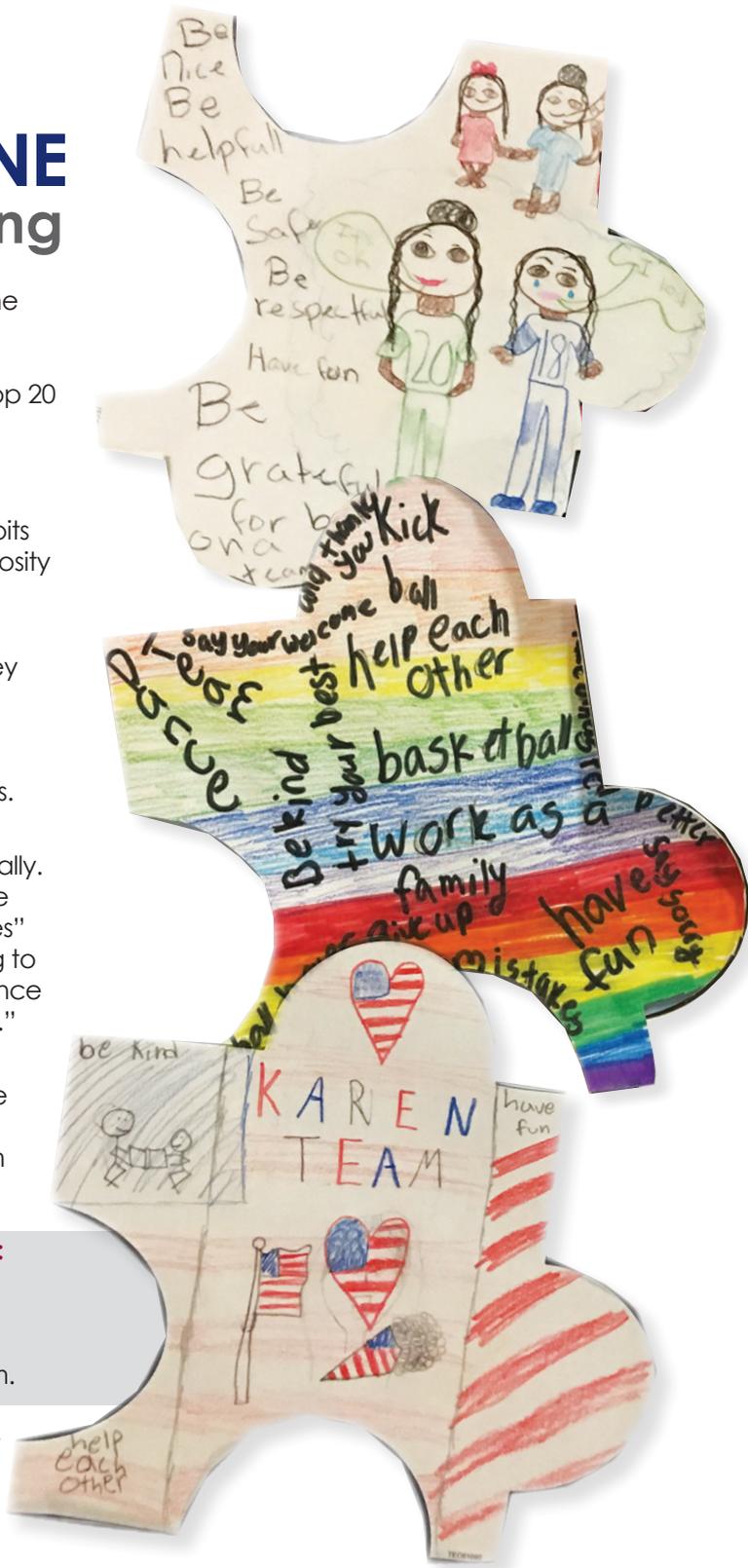
Everyone dips below the line occasionally. We lose focus, feel powerless and have a negative view of life, but “trampolines” — such as talking with a friend, listening to music or exercising — can help us bounce back if we have been in a “submarine.”

Top 20 learning is part of St. Peter Claver's commitment to educating the whole child. The positive mental habits scholars are developing will serve them throughout life.

THE FOUR CORNERSTONES OF TOP 20:

- Help others succeed.
- Communicate “you matter.”
- Honor the absent.
- See the problem/own the problem.

St. Peter Claver's 3rd and 4th graders know what they need to do to be part of the team and help others succeed. ►



QUICK UPDATES

ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY IS IN ITS SECOND YEAR

- Our second year started strong, with enrollment increases at all three of our schools! We serve a total of 529 scholars, an overall increase of 9%.
- Our focus this year is on strengthening individualized learning plans, fostering

social-emotional learning for scholars, giving principals the tools they need to accelerate student achievement, and emphasizing literacy through staff support and coaching. Our community of schools includes Ascension, St. Peter Claver and St. John Paul II.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT TEACHES LIFE SKILLS

Financial literacy. College and career readiness. Entrepreneurship. These are the lessons taught by the Junior Achievement, and they are vital to success for today's youth.

JA connects students with role models to help them succeed in school and beyond. The program inspires scholars through interactive activities and real world experiences.

We are eager to start the JA curriculum at St. Peter Claver. We need adults willing to visit classrooms 5-6 times during the school year in all grades, kindergarten through 8th.

No experience is needed; training is provided. Contact Margaret Conroy at 612.760.3928 if you can help.



Scholars often form life-long friendships at St. Peter Claver.

AFTER ST. PETER CLAVER ...

Thirteen scholars graduated from St. Peter Claver last spring. Of those, four are attending Cretin-Derham Hall High School. Others are attending Cristo Rey, DeLaSalle, East Ridge, and St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists.

VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS

Volunteers make a big difference in the lives of scholars at St. Peter Claver! Volunteers are needed to provide homework help with math and reading in the after school program; to chaperone field trips; to help with reading groups; and to monitor recess and the lunchroom.

If you can help, please contact Ascension Catholic Academy Volunteer Manager Margaret Conroy at 612.760.3928 or mconroy@ascensionmpls.org.

2017-18 ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY BOARD MEMBERS

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**WHO DOES
ST. PETER CLAVER
SCHOOL SERVE?**

97 PERCENT
ARE
CHILDREN
OF COLOR

8 PERCENT
ARE
ENGLISH
LEARNERS

75 PERCENT
RECEIVE FREE
OR REDUCED
PRICE LUNCH

A family of four qualifies
for free meals if its annual
income is less than
\$31,980.

31 PERCENT
ARE
CATHOLIC

83 NUMBER
OF SCHOLARS
IN GRADES
K-8

**ST. PETER CLAVER
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

1060 West Central Ave.,
Saint Paul, MN 55104