From the Desk of Ms. Miller:

Please pray for our 8th Graders tonight as they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Rhoades at 7pm.

You may have noticed that we have changed our dismissal routine. Rather than exiting through the gathering space, we are exiting through the main school entrance. There are a few things that I would like to remind you:

1. It will be important for you to watch your clock. If it is 3:00, DO NOT pull behind the cars and attempt to go to your row. The students will be walking behind the cars to go to their rows. Pull to the right next to Father’s lawn.

2. The late line will pull up to the school entrance after rows 1 through 5 have left the parking lot.

3. All people and animals should remain in their cars during dismissal.

Remember that we will not be in school on Monday, April 22nd. Our waiver has been approved for our snow day, so we do not need to use this day as a make-up.

Next week we will not have school on Friday in observance of Good Friday.

That being said, next week is Holy Week. Here is the schedule:
Thursday April 18th
8:15am Lauds (morning prayer) School will be participating - regular school uniform acceptable
7:00pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper
8:00pm Confession/Adoration
10:00pm Night Prayer (Compline)

Friday, April 19th
9:00am Morning Prayer (Lauds)
2:00pm Lord’s Passion
3:30pm Adoration/Confession
7:00pm Tenebrae

Holy Saturday, April 20th
9:00am Morning Prayer (Lauds)
9:00pm Great Easter Vigil
SCRIP

Don’t forget to purchase SCRIP for your Easter shopping (Martin’s, Meijer and Wal Mart just to name a few).

Also, spring sports are starting soon and we have a limited number of $100 SCRIP cards for Dick’s Sporting Goods available at the Parish Office.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid applications are being accepted for the 2019-2020 school year. All are encouraged to apply for assistance. All applications should be made through the FACTS Grant and Aid program. The link for this application can be found under the school tuition tab of our website www.queenofpeace.cc. There is no cost to apply. All applications require a copy of your 2018 tax return. Don’t delay, apply today! Deadline is April 30, 2019. Please contact the business office at 574-255-9674 or via email at businessoffice@queenofpeace.cc if any assistance is needed.

HASA

Great news families! Now that Spring Break is over we are in the home stretch of the 2018/2019 school year. In one way, it’s already time to look towards and plan next for next year. HASA has 2 board positions available for next year, we have open invitations for a Volunteer Coordinator and a Vice-President. Please email us at HASA@queenofpeace.cc if you’re interested in lending your talents or know someone who should. Don’t worry, we have many fun things left before the school year ends. The first of those events is our annual Mother and Son event. We will be giving Queen of Peace moms and sons the chance to spend some quality time together right before Mother’s day on April 28th. Please see the flyer in your communication envelope for more details.

LUNCH ORDER’S

Please remember to order your children’s lunches for May & June at www.BOONLI.com.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER!

Please make sure to check notifications on Calendar and Boonli for Field Trips for students not needing lunches on those days.

Join us for Our Spring Eggstravaganza

Free Activities for the Community
April 13, 2019
At Queen of Peace Parish

Mass 9:00 AM
Pancake Breakfast 10:00AM
Crafts & Games 10:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 AM

Sign up to volunteer on our website: www.queenofpeace.cc
On a roll with reading

Reading for pleasure on a regular basis will boost your tween’s vocabulary and general knowledge, and it may improve his test scores, too. Get him on board with these strategies.

Find a good fit
Falling in love with reading may simply be a matter of finding the right books. Suggest that your middle grader try the first book in a popular series—if he enjoys it, he may be eager to read the next one. Also, he can get lists of books similar to those he likes by googling the title plus the term “read-alikes.”

Read with friends
Offer to drive your child to meet friends at the library. They might browse the shelves for fiction or nonfiction based on their own interests, then find a spot to settle in and read side by side. Or perhaps they’ll all get copies of the same book to read at home. When they finish, they could meet up to discuss their thoughts about the book.

Family story hour
If you think your tween has outgrown listening to you read to him, think again! In fact, children of all ages benefit from being read to. Offer to read the first chapter or two of a book out loud. Then, leave the book where he’ll find it. He just may get hooked and read the rest on his own.

Raise an appreciative child
Tweens don’t always realize how much their parents and others do for them. Help your child feel and express appreciation, and ward off a sense of entitlement, with these ideas:
- Teach your tween to be grateful for things she might consider no big deal. Maybe you wait in the car every week during her music lesson, or a friend’s mom drives her to a birthday party. Encourage her to think about the effort involved (“It was nice of Mrs. Lake to go out of her way to pick you up”) and to say thank you.
- Explain that you provide for your middle grader’s needs, but set an expectation that she’ll save or work for wants, like a skateboard or video game. Suggest that she do odd jobs, such as babysitting or washing cars, to earn money.
Conflict resolution: Find your path

When your child has a disagreement with a friend or sibling, she can actually use the experience to improve her relationship. How? By handling the situation the right way. Suggest these steps.

1. Ask your tween to think about how she normally reacts to a conflict. Is she a “hippo” who charges into an argument, a “turtle” who withdraws from clashes, or a “deer” who freezes when a squabble puts her in the spotlight?

2. Once your middle grader knows her usual response, she can adjust as needed. A hippo may need to walk away to calm down or to remind herself to listen quietly. A turtle might think about how good it feels when problems are solved, then make an effort to discuss the situation. A deer could admit, “I don’t know what to say,” and agree to talk after she thinks things over.

3. Encourage your child to practice new responses until they feel natural. Discuss how conflicts work out when she responds one way vs. another—what seems to get the best results?

Design a logo

Ask your child to imagine he’s starting his own company. What logo would send the right message to his audience? By designing one, he’ll practice creative thinking and build communication skills. Here’s how.

First, encourage him to think critically about logos on websites, food packaging, and clothing. For instance, why does the Amazon logo have an arrow that goes from A to Z?

Then, have your middle grader research what people associate with certain colors, shapes, and fonts. For example, yellow is often considered cheerful, and squares are thought to hint at trust and stability. Different fonts can convey everything from fun to elegance.

Now your tween could use what he learned to design his logo. For a tech support company, he might choose yellow, a square, and a futuristic-looking font to suggest that he’s cheerful and that customers can trust him to solve their technology problems.

Mental health ed

Q. My son’s school started putting mental health lessons into health class. Why is this necessary?

A. The school wants to keep students safe and healthy—physically and mentally. That’s why they’re trying to help children recognize and deal with mental health problems like depression and suicidal thoughts.

Ask your son what he’s studying in health class, just as you would with any subject. For example, he may be learning about symptoms of depression or how to ask for help if he has suicidal thoughts. Let him know he can come to you if he feels down or thinks about harming himself.

If you’d like to find out more, talk to your son’s health teacher, school counselor, or administrator about the curriculum they use and how you can support him at home.

Parent to Parent

Learning about heritage

I recently started researching my family’s genealogy. When I mentioned this to my daughter, Evelyn, she wanted to help out. It turned out to be an interesting history and geography lesson for her—and for me.

I knew about our Spanish heritage, but after talking to my parents and digging a little deeper online, Evelyn and I discovered that we also had ancestors from England and France. On one genealogy site, she searched for old census records that traced some relatives all the way back to the mid-1700s. Then we looked at maps to see where they lived.

Evelyn has decided to make a family tree for an upcoming social studies project. She needs to know where the other half of her family came from, so she’s going to do genealogy research on her mom’s side of the family next.
Being responsible

Megan keeps up with her homework and is always ready for soccer practice on time. The reason? She has learned about responsibility from a young age. Consider these hands-on ways to help your youngster be responsible, too.

Part of the team
Show your child that everyone’s responsibilities matter. Have her cut bookmark-sized strips of paper and write a family activity on one (e.g., eating dinner). On the others, she should write jobs that make it happen (plan the meal, buy groceries, cook, set the table). Now let her link the strips to make a chain. She’ll see that dinner relies on everyone doing their job!

Around the clock
Help your youngster get in the habit of handling her responsibilities on time. Let her draw a clock on paper or poster board and add sticky notes labeled with daily tasks. She might put “Homework” at 4 p.m. and “Walk the dog” at 7 p.m. Have her post the clock in a visible spot as a reminder.

Caught in the act
“Catch” your child being responsible, and tell her you noticed. (“That was responsible of you to throw away your trash.”) You could even snap photos of her responsible behavior (say, making her bed) and hang them on the refrigerator. Seeing the photos will inspire her to continue being responsible.

Review report cards
When your child’s next report card arrives, use it to encourage him to finish the school year strong. Try these strategies for discussing it:

1. Give your youngster and his report card your full attention. For example, find a quiet spot, put away your phone, and turn off the TV.
2. Find reasons to high-five your child. Maybe he brought up his writing grade or the teacher commented on how well he gets along with classmates.
3. Talk about ways he could improve. If his math grade dropped, he might double-check work for careless errors. Or if he needs to be more organized, share strategies you use, like keeping office supplies in different-sized containers.
Build a rich vocabulary

Where will your child hear the word stethoscope? What synonym could he use for hilarious? Hearing and saying words in context is a good way for your youngster to learn and remember them. Consider these ideas to improve his vocabulary.

**Match places with words.** Ask your child to name a place in your community (bakery, swimming pool). Take turns saying a word you might hear or say there. When you run out of familiar words (doughnut, swim), try to come up with less common ones (aroma, chlorine). The last person who thinks of a word picks the next location.

**Use synonyms.** Hold a conversation full of synonyms—words with similar meanings. Your youngster might say, “The funnest thing happened in the cafeteria today.” Then, go back and forth, replacing as many words as possible with synonyms. Examples: “What hilarious incident occurred in the lunchroom?” or “I love it when comical events transpire in the canten!” Tip: Keep a thesaurus or dictionary handy to find new synonyms.

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**Activity Corner**

**Fraction flowers**

Spring is in bloom—and so are these “flowers” that let your youngster explore fractions.

1. Have your child color three paper plates, each a different color.
2. She can use a ruler and marker to draw lines dividing the plates into fractions—one into halves, another into fourths, and the other into eighths.
3. Ask her to label each “petal” with its fraction ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$) and cut the plates apart on the lines.
4. Now let your youngster see which fractions are equivalent—or represent the same parts of a whole—by creating flowers with different color petals. For example, if she glues a purple half and two orange fourths onto a new plate, that’s a whole flower ($\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$).

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**Parent to Parent**

**Teachable moments**

During a recent game of disc golf at a local park, our family had some fun conversations—and I think my daughter Esme learned a lot, too.

It started when Esme said she was going to “toss the Frisbee.” I pointed out that the disc wasn’t actually a Frisbee! I explained that Frisbee is a brand name that people use generically. Soon we were naming all sorts of products like that, such as inline skates (Rollerblades) and ice pops (Popsicles).

Then, as we played, Esme asked why there were three different types of discs in the game. That led us to a conversation about engineering, as we examined the discs and talked about how their designs affect how fast, far or straight they fly.

All this made me realize that simple family outings can be learning opportunities!

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**Q & A**

**Q:** My son has been complaining a lot lately, even about little things. For example, he’ll gripe if we’re out of his favorite cereal or his sister moves his backpack. How can I handle this?

**A:** Try acknowledging your son’s feelings in a calm, upbeat voice. Then, encourage him to find a solution. You might say, “I know you’re disappointed about your cereal. What could you eat instead?”

Resist the urge to say, “That’s nothing to complain about,” which can discourage him from expressing his feelings. Instead, brainstorm ways to “flip” his thinking. For instance, he could say, “I have cereal every day, so it might be nice to eat something different.”

With practice, he’ll get out of the habit of complaining—and make life more pleasant for everyone!
Mother/Son Fun Day
April 28th 1 - 5pm

Ninja Golf!

27 holes of miniature golf, a Lazer Maze, and more await you. Mark your calendars and plan for this event. Ticket & RSVP information will be coming home next week.
Date: July 22-26
Time: 9am -12pm
Cost: $20/camper (no more than $50/family)
PS-Grade 5 VBS: students entering 4/5 PS through Gr 4 this Fall
(5th Gr will be Jr Crew Leaders)
Middle School VBS: students entering grades 6-8 this Fall

Welcome to our 15th annual VBS, Roar 2019! VBS is Monday – Friday, 9am-12pm. Registration for all campers begins daily at 8:45 am in the church gathering space. Please keep this page for details on our VBS programs. Remember to go to the parish website to register the entire family for a week of VBS fun and fellowship by July 6th!

PS-Grade 5 VBS: must be 4yrs old by June 1st and potty trained to attend the PS VBS. Students entering grades K-4 will be placed in crews while those entering grade 5 will be Junior Crew Leaders, assisting the crews of younger campers. All campers receive a t-shirt, daily snack and craft that they will bring home at the end of the week. VBS takes place in the gym. Parent volunteers are needed and welcome.

Middle School VBS: open to all students entering grades 6-8 in the fall. Those wishing to volunteer in the PS-5 VBS may be chosen to do so on an as-needed basis throughout the morning then returned to the MS VBS for the end of the day wrap-up. All campers receive a tshirt and daily snack. Parent volunteers are needed and welcome.

The registration form for VBS is online at the Queen of Peace website. Please be sure to register by July 6th (after July 6th there will be a $15 late fee per family). As always, our VBS is open to all students regardless of school or parish affiliation. Please consider volunteering for a morning or two to help our program run smoothly. We are so looking forward to another great VBS program! For more information, please contact Lisa Portolese at VBS@queenofpeace.cc.