

# Peru Catholic School

Volume1: December 7, 2018

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“Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better.”

Everyday at PCS we celebrate acts of kindness, reminding ourselves and our students that kindness is not a one time thing, but rather a way of being. Today I was listening to the homily given during the funeral of President George H.W. Bush. The accomplishments of this man were far too many to count, but what stuck out for me is when the Reverend said, “I know that heaven is an amazing place, but I reckon today it got a little kinder.” Here, in all his glory as one of the greatest leaders of our country, what he was being remembered for was his **kindness**.

This week our school pictures were handed out. I want to first thank Ms. Windy for her time and attention to each student's experience. Secondly, I want to address my concerns regarding some of the feedback we received and the way it was given. As parents you are entitled to wanting the best result for what you paid for. Our goal is to deliver on that. However, not everyone will be satisfied even when attention to detail and quality were given. Due to that we offered a time to retake the photos or provide reimbursement.

Over the course of the week some comments were made to me regarding my decision to change the background of the photos as well as my decision of who would be taking them. I want to be clear that I not only stand by my decision, but also the results of this year's photos. Ms. Windy is a part of our teaching staff and PCS family; if you feel the photos did not meet your expectations there is a kind and appropriate way to address this. Demeaning the photos on social media, is unacceptable and hurtful. It simply reflects poorly on our school community, and the good work we are doing.

As it turns out Ms. Windy's edited photos were tainted when being printed, in addition to some of the packages not being

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**PEACE. LOVE. JOY. KINDNESS**

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## Upcoming Events

### December 12

PCS Christmas Program –  
6:30pm

### Donut Day

### December 18

Kitty Cougar Performance –  
Game starts 5:00pm

### December 19

Make an Impact Day  
(formerly Mission Theme Day)  
– Wear your FAVORITE PJ's-

**PHOTO BOOTH DAY - \$1  
donation for each photo**

### December 21

Recognition Ceremony

Classroom Holiday Parties

Noon Dismissal – Christmas  
Break

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properly filled. As a result, the company has offered their sincerest apologies and are sending new photos before the end of the week.

As parents, teachers, and professionals our job is to nurture and guide a child's natural inclination to be kind, so it becomes a lifelong habit. It's important to be a good role model, children learn to be kind from watching us.

I invite you during this month, and everyday to join our students in celebrating **kindness**. I have the great pleasure of seeing these random acts throughout the day but more importantly taking on the responsibility to lead by example.

**KINDESS** – a gift everyone can afford to give.



Happy Holidays from all of us at Peru Catholic School. As their principal, I ask myself everyday, "How did I get so lucky?" This is truly a remarkable, talented, and amazing group of women.  
PCS STRONG

*(Missing from the photo: Kathy Jagiella, and Beth Potthoff)*

Peace & Blessings,

Amy

[aperona@perucatholic.org](mailto:aperona@perucatholic.org)



Maybe Christmas he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps, means a little bit more!

What does Christmas mean to you?

- To celebrate when Jesus was born. (Noah)
- Having fun with family. (Gianna)
- To share and care for others. (Jaxson)
- Having time with family. (Jack C)
- To celebrate Jesus and be with my family. (Tegan)
- Jesus birthday and family. (Caden)
- To be nice. (Beatrice)

**IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE: Help support our school programs.**

The **“Make an Impact”** drive helps support our school initiatives.

### **1. Technology**

Currently we need the following technology equipment. Can you help?

- [https://www.amazon.com/InFocus-IN114xv-Projector-Lumens-Ready/dp/B076FG9CWG/ref=sr\\_1\\_1\\_sspa?ie=UTF8&qid=1544293424&sr=8-1-spons&keywords=in+focus+in114+projector&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/InFocus-IN114xv-Projector-Lumens-Ready/dp/B076FG9CWG/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?ie=UTF8&qid=1544293424&sr=8-1-spons&keywords=in+focus+in114+projector&psc=1)

### **2. Modernization of the Building**

We spend a lot of time on the floor! It's just how we roll here, and the students love to work in every single space of this building we can find. I'm okay with this, and amazed by how many teachers I see joining right in. Our primary concern is health and safety, and the carpet in the elementary hallway needs to replace. Can you help? Do you have a trade or skill you offer to help defray the cost? Can you give back, and support us as we move from #good2great

Estimated Cost: \$8000

### **3. Curriculum**

Although we have budgeted for curriculum for the 2018-19 an excellent teaching tool has come to us, and the teachers LOVE it. We are currently using a trial and having incredible success + the students LOVE IT. Next year I will be able to budget for the costs of IXL and use Title I dollars to fund the program, but this year we could use your help. This supplemental tool is not in the budget. Can you help?

IXL offers personalized skill recommendations, based on what the student has been practicing. IXL is not just about helping kids master fractions or subject verb agreement, it's also about helping them enjoy learning. That means encouraging them to have fun. Unlike traditional workbook activities and exercises IXL offers hours of intrigue for students without distracting them from key concepts. A computer based program we use the Chromebooks for. Just one more #good2great move for PCS.

[IXL Bid](#)

## 4. Tuition Assistance

### EMPOWER ILLINOIS – 75% TAX CREDIT

#### Change A Child's Life Transform K-12 Education in Illinois

A quality education is out of reach for far too many children. Empower Illinois scholarships give children the chance at the quality education they deserve.

**Who are We:** Empower Illinois provides low-income and working class families the opportunity to explore new, quality K-12 education through private school scholarships.

**The Invest in Kids Act:** In 2017, Empower Illinois played a critical role in the passage of the Invest in Kids Act which provides up to \$100,000 in private school K-12 scholarships to children from low-income and working-class families. Scholarships are funded through private donations from individuals and corporations to scholarship granting organizations, like Empower Illinois, which administer the program.

**Proven Results:** Tax credit scholarships give children a change at a quality education.

- In Florida, \$650 million is raised each year to provide scholarships to more than 100,000 low-income students.
- A recent report from the Urban Institute discovered that scholarship students are more likely to attend college than their non-scholarship peers.

**A Tax Credit Opportunity:** Donors to the Empower Illinois Invest in Kids program receive an Illinois income tax credit worth 75% of their gift up to \$1 million.

- The tax credit may be carried over for five years.
- The donation cannot be deducted from federal taxes.
- Marketable securities donations are exempt from federal capital gains taxes.

#### How Can This Help/Benefit Peru Catholic School?

**Selecting a Region:** Empower Illinois allows donors to TARGET THEIR REGION

- Corporate donors may direct their donation to one of five regions in Illinois.
- Individual donors may designate gifts to a specific school or group of schools.

**EMPOWER ILLINOIS is a GREAT way for us to TARGET one of our INITIATIVES: TUITION ASSISTANCE.**

For more information contact: [aperona@perucatholic.org](mailto:aperona@perucatholic.org)  
Click [HERE](#) for more information and downloads.

## KINDNESS TREE



At PCS I value the long tradition of strong academic achievement, Christian values and faith formation. I also value strong character traits, kindness, empathy, and compassion for everyone. One of the ways I've worked to ensure my students know this is through our "good2great" movement, and recognition assemblies. Hugs, smiles, and compliments are an everyday occurrence in this building.

During the month of December PCS students will be provided with KINDNESS cards to give out to classmates, or other students in the building they notice or receive a random act of kindness from. These cards will be signed by the students and placed on our KINDNESS tree in the entry way. We will also leave some cards out for EVERYONE who comes into our building to fill out. Maybe someone shared a smile, hug, or kind word with you? Share that with us as we fill our tree.

### HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

Early this summer our Marketing and Development team met to discuss our fundraising plans and goals. For each event we set a dollar amount we wanted to raise. We've come close at most of the events but fell short at some. As we enter the season of giving and bring 2018 to a close HELP us to meet our goals by **MAKING AN IMPACT!**

Golf Outing	\$10,000	\$7,355	\$2,645	5%
Back to School Carnival	\$3,000	\$2,799	\$201	62%

Rips Night	\$5,000	\$4,320	\$680	66%
Oktoberfest	\$8,000	\$5,150	\$2,850	22%
Trivia Night	\$25,000			
Fish Fry	\$8,000			
Cash Raffle	\$60,000			
Make an Impact	\$31,000	\$1,000	\$30,000	
	Goal	Raised as of 11/13/18	Short of our goal as of 11/13/18	
Goal for 2018-19	\$150,000	\$20,624	\$36,376	39% Avg Attendance

## CHIPOLTE FUNDRAISING EVENT

Muchas Gracias! Our Chipotle fundraising event organized by Mrs. Ross and the help of our PCS community raised \$588.62 – GUAC ON!!!! We want to extend a BIG thank you to everyone who came out and helped support the growth of our Spanish program. An extra special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Saini for their generous donation of \$1000. With the help of each one of you Mrs. Ross will be purchasing the following items for her program. Together we GROW!

- 30 Quire un Perro books
- Quire un Perro teaching packet
- Robo en La Noche Reader + teacher packet
- 10 NEW Realidades Level A books
- Spanish Reading Packet – Level 1



## THANK YOU

Make an Impact Donors (2018-19)

- Mr. and Mrs. Beth Potthoff
- Dr. Louis Lukancic
- Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kenney

- Mr. and Mrs. Anne Norris
- Ms. Camron Windy
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Ring
- D&M Contracting
- Dashiell Natale
- Melanie Hirst
- Mr. and Mrs. Saini



**Make an Impact and GIVE using the VENMO app**



Peru Catholic School Peru Catholi...  
@PeruCatholicSchool



**or Mail your donation**

**2003 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Peru, IL 61354**

**Make Checks Payable to: Peru Catholic School, *Make an Impact***

## IN MEMORY OF KARL SOLIMAN (2006-2018)

### Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light.  
All the pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever, Safely home in Heaven at last.  
Did you wonder why I so calmly Trod the valley of the shade?  
Oh! But Jesus' love illuminated Every dark and fearful glade.  
And He came Himself to meet me In that way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on, Could I have one doubt or dread?  
Then you must not grieve so sorely, For I love you dearly still;  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows, Pray to trust our Father's will.  
There is work still waiting for you, So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth – You shall rest in Jesus' land.  
When that work is all completed, He will gently call you Home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you come!