

PETERSON PARENT PERIODICAL

College Graduates. Community Leaders. Cultural Ambassadors.

Perceptions v. Reality: What to Consider when Choosing a CPS High School

Join Generation All & Raise Your Hand for an honest discussion on what matters beyond test scores and reputation when choosing a high school.

Elaine Allensworth of the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research will present findings from two recent studies on outcomes at CPS high schools for low-income students. A panel moderated by WBEZ's Linda Lutton will follow, featuring Wells Community Academy Principal Rita Raichoudhuri and CPS high school parents and students. The event will be held on Wednesday March 29th from 6:30-8:30 pm at Wells Community Academy, 936 N Ashland Ave.

Science Fair Judges Needed!

Science Fair is scheduled to take place Friday, May 5th 2017. It is an all day event for students participating, but judges are just needed for the morning from 8:15 AM to 12:00 PM.

If you, or someone you know, has any interest in serving as a judge and supporting our students please contact Wendy MacWilliams, Science Fair Coordinator at wpmacwilliams@cps.edu.

Good Evening Peterson Parents,

For this week's newsletter I'd like to continue with our "People of Peterson" series with Mr. Thomas Ruby

"Born and raised in West Rogers Park, Chicago I was a product of Boone Elementary and Mather High School—which was still a new school when I went! Growing up, I didn't know what I wanted to be, which lead to a number of twists and turns in my life including dropping out of North Park University; I just wasn't sure where I was going.

I then found a job working for a book distributor, where I had one of my most important life experiences. I was facing some difficult questions during a presentation and was angry at my mentor for not stepping in and helping me. His response, 'if you're ever going to make it you have to speak up for yourself,' became a pivotal life lesson for me. I then realized that if I was going to be successful in life I would need to be determined and learn to speak up—a lesson I try to pass on to my students so they can learn to be risk takers.

I got married fairly young and had two kids, which helped give me purpose. It took me awhile to go back to school, a good 15 years, but my kids were my motivation in that I wanted to finish school before they did.

After graduating I worked at East Prairie in Skokie, teaching a second grade class where I quickly learned that if the students said they need to go to the bathroom, they really mean it!

In 1996, after obtaining my masters degree in special education, I was hired at Peterson to work in a resource environment; however, once the school shifted to a focus on inclusion I started to teach literature and social studies to those students who were now in the inclusive classroom.

I really enjoy the work I do here at Peterson and the people that I work with. As an educator, I don't get too overblown about what happens with someone who is only a 7th or 8th grade student, but I do want to see students pick up habits they can build on later in life. Since I struggled with my own sense of direction in life, I enjoy the 'aha moment' of helping them find a possible path of success for themselves."



Mark your Calendar

- Student and Teacher Window for My Voice My School Survey Closes Today
- **PARCC Testing Continues at Peterson -- 3/28-3/31**
- FoP Meeting -- March 27th, 11:45 am
- Raven Theater Teaching in Rooms 111, 114, 115, & 122 -- March 27th
- Girls on the Run Practice -- March 27th & 28th, 4pm-5:30 pm
- Perceptions vs. Reality: What to Consider When Choosing a CPS High School -- March 29th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Wells Community Academy, 936 N Ashland Ave.
- First Grade Field Trip to Lincoln Park Zoo -- March 31st
- Peterson Basketball Banquet -- March 31st, 4pm
- **Parent Window for My Voice My School Opens -- April 1st**
- Options for Knowledge Letters Released -- April 3rd
- Rooms 111 & 122 Walking to Nature Center -- April 3rd
- Rooms 114 & 115 Walking to NEIU Children's Theater -- April 3rd
- Girls on the Run Practice -- April 3rd & 4th, 4pm-5:30 pm
- PAC Meeting -- April 4th, 8:45 am
- Rooms 114 & 115 Walking to Nature Center -- April 5th
- Rooms 111 & 122 Walking to NEIU Children's Theater -- April 5th April 3rd

Online Preschool Application for SY17-18 Launching in April/Early May

The preschool application for the City of Chicago is set to launch in May 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year! Parents will be able to apply to over 600 different schools and community-based City administered programs from chicagoearlylearning.org.

Our state and federal funders require us to prioritize children most at-risk for academic failure. Therefore, there are eligibility requirements for preschool—which we are working to account for in the revised application system this year. As such, while we highly encourage you to begin recruiting parents through your traditional mechanisms, please keep in mind that not all families will be eligible for all programs.

Families in Chicago should be encouraged to use the application if their child will be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2017, with the exception of those children who:

are already enrolled in a preschool program and will continue at that program next year (returning preschool students do not have to re-apply)

wish to attend a tuition-based or private-pay preschool

wish to attend one of the four schools offered via the Options for Knowledge program (Suder, Drummond, Mayer, and Inter-American)

Access FAQs about the upcoming Early Learning application and enrollment process. More information can be found at the Early Childhood Knowledge Center or by emailing earlylearninghelp@cityofchicago.org.

Health Day at NEIU

Join the fun on Wednesday March 29th from 10:30 am - 5:00 pm as NEIU celebrates its annual Health Day! The event will feature free resources from Heartland Health Centers; services for blood pressure check-up; classes on yoga, dance meditation and more!

PARCC Testing Schedule for Next Week

Tuesday, March 28th	Wednesday, March 29th
3rd - 5th Math 2 (60 min) 6th - 8th Math 2 (80 min)	3rd - 5th Math 3 (60 min) 6th - 8th Math 3 (80 min)
Thursday, March 30th	Friday, March 31st
3rd - 5th Math 4 (60 min)	3rd & 4th ELA 3 (90 min)