



*For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)*

Christmas Greetings to SPS Alumni, Families and Friends.

The SPS Alumni Association is pleased to offer you a piece of school history as a way of wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas.

In this greeting, we share some memories of the Boar's Head Festival because of its special role in the school's history for 25 years. The Festival was an important event on the SPS calendar from the school's founding in 1938 until Father Leeming's retirement in 1963. Many of you reading this will recall participating in the pageant in the dining room of Stabb Hall. Others of you entered the school too late to participate in the celebration. Hopefully, what we are offering here will either rekindle old school memories or provide new information about a significant piece of St. Peter's School history.

Father Leeming wrote about his dedication to the Boar's Head Festival on page 6 of his book, *Twenty-Five Years of Saint Peter's School*:

"Several years prior to the opening of St. Peter's I attended the Boar's Head Dinner and Yule Festival at Hoosac School and was greatly impressed. I decided then that if ever I had a school we would try such a festival.

That first year we began in a very simple way. We taught the boys The Boar's Head Carol and Aunt Harriet and the mother of one of our boys, Alfred Peterson, whipped up some costumes. I planned the meal – roast pork, mashed potatoes, peas, apple sauce and a fabulous dessert of a beautiful mold of ice cream given by the Fleischmanns whose son, Gus, was one of our charter boys.

All went well – the boys sang and the procession finally reached the table. Grace was said and we sat down to the meal. But I had failed to tell Bill Dayton who looked after such things that the big meal was to be at night. I had not been there for lunch and the special meal had been served then. Imagine my feelings when there appeared before us creamed chipped beef! It was an embarrassing moment but the mold of ice cream saved the day.

But for years after that whenever I planned the Festival, Ann reminded me of the first one. The Boar's Head Festival was always a great event at the School. Every boy was involved and the music was provided by the Glee Club. It was a highlight and a wonderful closing event of the Fall term for twenty-five years. Many of the costumes are still those left over from the first year, but every year something new was added. Guests finally had to be limited to the parents of new boys and seniors. There was not room to take care of all who wanted to come."

To hear the music, click the following links . . .

The 1958 SPS Glee Club singing Lo How a Rose:

bit.ly/3gmiagv

The Boar's Head Carol:

bit.ly/3ELt2hG



Tom McCormack ('58) as St. George

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year!

As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us, every one!"



St. Peter's Dragnet

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

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PEEKSKILL, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1959

\$2.00 A YEAR

Boar's Head Dinner and Yule Log Festival Ends Fall Semester

MR. KENYON SUCCEEDS MR. ADKINS

Several years ago, the Student Council organized a constitution which would strengthen the Council and would govern the student body. One amendment to this constitution states that a faculty member should be present at all meetings to act as a liaison between the Student Council and the faculty. It also goes on to say that a faculty liaison must be elected each year and that a member of the faculty may serve no more than two consecutive years.

The faculty advisor aids the Council in making decisions concerning miscellaneous matters and in handing down punishments for those boys who have broken school rules.

This year the Student Council elected as the faculty liaison, Mr. Jack Kenyon to succeed Mr. Leonard Adkins. Mr. Kenyon has much knowledge of Student Council policies since he was a member of the group in 1954.

As the liaison between the Student Council and faculty, it is hoped that this year's advisor will fill his position as ably as did the retiring advisor.

VESTMENTS BLESSED

On Sunday morning, October 18, at the beginning of the service celebrating St. Luke's Day, a new set of beautiful, red, Eucharistic vestments was blessed by Father Leeming. The new vestments were the generous gifts of Mrs. Buchanan Henry who donated them to the school in memory of the late Rev. James Green. Cannon Green was the Dean of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, New York at the time of his death and was an old classmate of Father Leeming.

UNDERFORMERS VOTE FOR CLASS OFFICERS

As is the school policy, class officers for the third, fourth, and fifth forms were elected before Thanksgiving vacation. To leave ample time for the mulling over of candidates who were thought capable of doing a job by their classmates, the elections were held off until the last day before the vacation, Tuesday, November 24.

To be elected a class officer one must win by a majority vote. To accomplish this sometimes two or three re-votes have to be taken. To be elected a class officer is quite an honor since it means that one is respected and looked up to by his fellow classmates. Being an officer is also a position of responsibility considering that the president and vice-president of the fourth, fifth, and sixth forms, and the president of the third form are members of the Student Council. Also, as a class officer, one represents his form to the school, which, if not done right, can detract from one's class.

The procedure for electing class officers is as follows. Each class is taken over by a praefect and its advisor. Nominations are then taken for the office of president. After a sufficient number of nominations are obtained, the voting begins.

Elected this year in the third form were: Robert Burrows, President; Tirrell Johnson, vice-president; and Kean MacDonald, secretary-treasurer. The fourth form this year elected as its class officers: Roger Ludin, president; Charles Bown, vice-president; and Warren Giarraputo, secretary-treasurer. For the fifth form: James Lynch, president; Jack Francis, vice-president; and Joel Randolph, secretary-treasurer.

Elizabethan and Country Dancers, Mummer's Play Entertains Crowd of 200

On Saturday evening, December 19, the annual Boar's Head Festival will be held for the twenty-second consecutive year. The Yule Log Festival and Boar's Head Dinner has become a tradition at St. Peter's. Father Tibbets, the founder and first headmaster of Hoosac School, introduced this old English custom to the schools of this country. We have adopted this festival to our own local conditions, never attempting to copy what they do at Hoosac.

The custom of having such a festival dates back to a legend of the fifteenth century. It states that an Oxford student, while strolling down a country lane studying his Latin, became so engrossed in the subject that he failed to see a wild boar approaching him. Suddenly the boar attacked him, and, there being no way to escape, the student stuffed the Latin book down the boar's throat choking him to death. The truth of this legend may be questioned, but it is a good yarn, accepted by Englishmen and made the basis for the annual celebration of carrying the Boar's head in the procession every Christmas at Oxford. Eventually, this custom spread throughout the schools of England, and finally to some American schools.

The festival this year will begin in the dining hall promptly at 4 o'clock. The dining hall will be in total darkness until the youngest boy in the school enters, bearing the lighted stub of last year's Yule light. Wending his way down the aisle, he presents this to the Senior Praefect, who carries it up to the Dean, who will be on the platform.

The Dean takes this and lights the new Yule candle and hands the extinguished old candle back to the Senior Praefect. This being done, the three involved in this scene leave the auditorium.

Then, accompanied by "*Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly*," the eight beefeaters enter and light their tapers. After all of the candles surrounding the room have been lit, the beefeaters take their stations. The candlelight reveals the Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, and the Christ Child. Shepherds slowly enter and make their way up to the Holy Family and show their reverence. As they take their positions on the stage the music of *Three Kings* is heard and the royal procession enters — torchbearers, moors, star-bearers, kings, and their royal pages. As these approach the manger bed they solemnly offer their gifts and then go up on stage. Suddenly the strains of *Gloria in Excelsis* are heard, and the entire assemblage bursts into song. During the singing the procession retires, the Holy Family leaving last. This brings to a close the religious portion of the festival.

After the final note of the *Boar's Head Carol* has died out, the headmaster will light the Yule Log and the guests will settle back to enjoy the dinner served by the beefeaters. When the dinner is finished the Wassail Bowl is brought in and the beefeaters drink a toast wishing all a Merry Christmas.

After the toast has been offered, a Mummer's Play will be presented by the seniors. The play is built around the adventures of Jack Finney.

PROGRAM: The Boar's Head Dinner and Yule Log Festival

1. THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Candle Bearer _____ James H. Nadal
 Senior Praefect _____ Michael D. Laird
 The Dean _____ Mr. Richard McDowell

2. THE LIGHTING OF THE HALL

Beefeaters _____ Neil A. deVyver
 _____ John H. Finegan
 _____ A. Vail Frost
 _____ Ralph J. Harder
 _____ Howard E. Lundin
 _____ Jonathan S. Netts
 _____ Allan T. Ostergren
 _____ William H. Pearn

3. THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Reader _____ Father Marshall
 Our Lady _____ Mary Louise Leeming
 St. Joseph _____ David J. Geiger

4. VISIT AND ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

Shepherds _____ William M. Bedinger
 _____ Brian C. Bond
 _____ Frederick W. Fletcher
 _____ Peter S. Foster
 _____ Charles F. Fox
 _____ Thomas D. Hines
 _____ Richard K. Relyea
 _____ James E. Schumacher
 _____ Lauren K. Schwartz
 _____ Jerome B. Taft
 _____ Edwin E. Tatham
 _____ Michael L. Bertotti
 _____ Charles Bown
 _____ James C. Brown
 _____ William D. Butz
 _____ Richard H. Cobb
 _____ Laurence A. Cook
 _____ John F. Forbes
 _____ John K. Mulligan
 _____ F. Paul Mulligan
 _____ A. James Stanton
 _____ Henry R. Backes
 _____ Carleton J. Brown
 _____ Frank M. Butler
 _____ W. Scott Ferriss
 _____ Andrew G. Gordon
 _____ F. Eugene Mitchell
 _____ Hewitt R. Rivera
 _____ Craig M. Roberts
 _____ K. Robert Walter
 _____ E. Stevens Wright

Lantern Bearers _____

Shepherd Boys _____

5. THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

Star Bearer _____ Thayer P. Draper
 The Moors _____ Richard W. Hanckel
 _____ J. Frederick Newton
 _____ Robert J. Springer
 _____ Kenneth M. Syer
 _____ Kenneth H. Adams
 _____ Philip O. Deitsch, II
 _____ Peter G. Iliff
 _____ Roger L. Ludin
 _____ R. Stephen Tompkins
 _____ Michael A. Willetts
 _____ Ernest C. Clish
 _____ Peter F. Hines
 _____ Tirrell H. Johnson
 _____ John D. Krueger
 _____ Donald F. Painter
 _____ David J. Stevenson

The Wise Men _____

The Royal Pages _____

Torch Bearers _____

6. GOOD KING WENCESLAS

The King _____ Ronald Perrucci
 The Page _____ Ralph K. Price

7. THE ELIZABETHAN SWORD DANCE

Warren A. Giarraputo
 Robert A. Heber
 Charles C. Hinnen
 Arthur B. Piani
 C. Wesley Reynolds
 Charles R. Sarich
 M. Douglas Terwilliger
 Christopher Vaughan

8. THE BOAR'S HEAD PROCESSION

The Herald _____ Bruce H. Slater
 Cake Bearer _____ James P. Lynch
 Pie Bearer _____ Elliott H. Ward
 Cup Bearer _____ G. Christopher Smith
 Fruit Bearer _____ E. Brown Hannum
 Pudding Bearer _____ John A. Hunt
 Father Christmas _____ Donald L. Patten
 Court Jester _____ Robert M. Sutherland
 Sauceboat Bearer _____ Richard D. Reilly
 Sweets Bearer _____ Peter S. Adler
 Silver Bearer _____ Anthony J. Ian
 Wine Bearer _____ Wilson B. Wadlow
 Pitcher Bearer _____ Glenn Bonard
 Stewards _____ S. David Kogut
 _____ James O. McCue
 _____ Thomas J. Wilberton

Pages, Torch Bearers and Beefeaters _____ As Above

9. THE COUNTRY DANCE

H. James Bedinger
 Paul I. Carlson
 John D. Friend
 Olof W. Hogrelus
 Kean K. McDonald
 John S. Platt
 Louis L. Pulver
 Joel B. Randolph
 Robert M. Sutherland

Court Jester _____

SUPPER IS SERVED

10. THE WASSAIL BOWL

11. THE MUMMERS' PLAY (Class of '60)

Jack Finney _____ Charles H. Robertson
 Turkish Knight _____ Stephen A. Hinkle
 Father Christmas _____ Donald L. Patten
 King of Egypt _____ Donald E. Church
 St. George _____ Michael D. Laird
 The Dragon _____ R. Bruce Grant
 The Giant _____ Richard K. Relyea
 The Doctor _____ Donald H. A. Urquhart

12. CAROL SINGING BY ALL

"RISE UP! O MEN OF GOD"

CHORISTERS: Richard S. Bailey, Philip H. Baldwin, Craig A. Bowes, Thomas A. Brinkerhoff, Robert P. Brown, Robert W. Burrows, David J. Butler, Allan J. Cavey, Robert L. Copeland, David A. Davidson, S. Sherwood Day, Richard L. DeLisser, Thomas W. Ferriman, John J. Francis, E. Edward Franzese, Warren I. Garland, Joseph J. Giarraputo, Warren Giarraputo, James B. Kemp, George P. Lott, C. Gregory Lozier, Roger L. Ludin, Charles R. Lukens, Bruce B. McClintock, Thomas J. Morrissey, Dennis P. Murr, Robert A. Patten, Ronald Perrucci, John S. Platt, Ralph K. Price, Joel B. Randolph, Charles H. Robertson, Lawrence C. Shields, Frank M. Tappen, Michael A. Urquhart, David S. Wason.

ACCOMPANISTS: Grant McK. Smith, J. Reilly Lewis, '63