



St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

500 South Country Road • Bay Shore, New York 11706
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August 2009

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! I am delighted to write to you as the new chaplain at St. Peter's-by-the-Sea Day School and the new curate (assisting clergy) at the parish of St. Peter's. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you over the year, and working together to live out St. Peter's commitment to be a nurturing academic environment that encourages children to develop and grow to their full potential in all areas, whether intellectual, physical, or spiritual.

We have much to look forward to this year. Stay tuned for new and exciting things that we will be trying out, including a "Blessing of the Backpacks" to start off the academic year, themes for each week of chapel that are based on the stories of scripture, and more music wherever we can fit it in! Overall, the vision this year is to seek ways in which to open up more and more ways for students to engage and connect with God and with each other during our community's worship time. I will be working closely with Fr. Sellery, Dr. Caruso, and the rest of the staff to make sure we maintain the best of what we have been doing in the past, while also opening up room for new ideas, experimentation, and feedback from all involved. I hope that we will continue to embody this very Episcopal spirit of bringing together the "old" and "new" as we seek to be a community of "Kind Hearts, Smiling Faces, and Helping Hands" here at St. Peter's.

Of course, what I consider the main part of my work is the ministry of presence to students. I will be maintaining regular office hours during the week, and will be available for spiritual guidance and direction as needed. Besides coordinating chapel, I will be helping to teach the weekly religion classes for the older students, and we will be incorporating structured (and fun) ways of engaging with religion with the younger grades each week too. I look forward to interacting with your children this school year.

I am also available to you the parents. Please feel free to let me know should you have any questions, ideas, or feedback on what the chaplaincy can do to better serve and minister to you and your family. I can be reached at 631-665-0051 or at vlam@stpetersbayshore.org.

I look forward to a fulfilling and productive new year and especially to getting to know you and your child in the coming months.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Vivian Lam
Day School Chaplain & Curate