



**ST PETER'S
BOYS PREP SCHOOL**
**SERVING THE FAITH
FOR 70 YEARS**

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

DATE 11 June 2020

JUNIOR PREP

Dear Parents,

FROM THE HEADMASTER

In my prize giving speech at the end of last year I used the analogy of how a grove of trees, while appearing apart on the surface, were actually completely intertwined and joined through the root system below the ground. This intertwining of roots, not only helps to aerate the soil, but also creates stability for each tree through the underground mutuality of foundation. As we prepare to welcome our children back to school over the next three weeks, I cannot help but reflect on how true this analogy has proven to be during the lockdown.

I begin with the teachers, who have had to change their game significantly to one that required far more time in front of the camera and behind the laptop screen as they taught not only the children but, in many cases, the parents as well. This will only become more demanding as they balance the need to be fully involved with the majority of children who do return to school, with that of maintaining the high level of online teaching that those who choose to remain at home during this time of uncertainty have become accustomed to.

I think of our parents, many of whom have had to run their businesses from home, or have had to adapt to little or no income from traditional streams. They have had to practise entrepreneurial pioneering while, at the same time, supporting their children as they adapted to the online environment. They have had to be beacons of hope and seas of tranquility during a time of stress and uncertainty so that their most precious possessions, their children, could be comforted and nurtured through the storm.

And then, the children themselves. I cannot believe the way in which they have adapted to a completely new and, in some cases, even terrifying world. The commitment that they have shown in the completion and submission of work, together with the positivity shown in contact sessions has been outstanding. Our Grade 7 pupils, who have returned to a very different school environment have adapted and grown enormously over the past two weeks. True St Peter's grit and positive spirit have prevailed.

The roots have held and we have come through the first onslaught with both compassion and strength. I have no doubt that we still have challenges to face, whether they be from new spikes in the virus or from the many trials that await so many in our community with the recovery from both financial and emotional turmoil. It is, however, time for a vote of thanks. While we have trees in our forest that are battered; while we have trees with broken branches and while we are aware of and condemn the injustices and human rights abuses that we hear about in our own country and internationally at this time, the St Peter's community continues to hold firm as a beacon of light. To date, 36% of our parents have offered to donate the tranche of savings that were recently announced to the Covid-19 relief fund which has been set up to help those who have been worst hit by the lockdown. Letters of encouragement and support for our teachers have been coming in thick and fast and, despite being exhausted, the teachers continue to love and nurture the development of every little boy in their care.

Thank you, St Peter's for being the incredible forest of support and encouragement that you are.

Enjoy the long weekend

Rob Macaulay

**FROM THE JUNIOR PREP
YOUTH DAY – WE ARE THE WORLD**

*“We are the world,
We are the children,
We are the ones who make a brighter day.*

*So let’s start giving,
There is a choice we’re making
We’re saving our own lives
It’s true we’ll make a better day.
Just you and me.”*

*Every day is an opportunity to choose....
...Love over Hate...
...Kindness over Hostility...
...Acceptance over Judgment...
...Compassion over Criticism...
...Inclusion over Racism...”*

Children are not born knowing how to discriminate, they learn it. So let’s be very deliberate and conscious in teaching our children supportive values, such as kindness, acceptance, respect, compassion and love.

“Love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite” – Nelson Mandela

In our world filled with uncertainty due to the impact of Covid-19 and the Black Lives Matter Movement, let’s live by the above mantra on **Tuesday, 16 June 2020**, as we celebrate youth day in South Africa.

HAPPY YOUTH DAY



RETURNING TO SCHOOL

After the long weekend, on **Wednesday, 17 June 2020** our Grade 2, 4 and 6 boys will be coming back to school. We have been away from school for thirteen weeks. During ten of these weeks we have been learning at home. Some families

may decide to continue with remote learning, whilst others will be returning to school. I look forward to welcoming the Grade 2 boys back.

Grades 0 and 1 will be returning after the mid-term break on **Monday, 06 July 2020**. The week before each Grade returns we will be posting different videos, and offering activities to assist families with the adjustment of returning to school.

The timeline for Grade 2 boys is as follows:

- **Thursday, 11 June 2020**
 - Morning Video, via Google Class: “Wearing a Mask”
 - Zoom Question and Answer sessions for the parents
 - 18h00 – Grade 2S
 - 18h45 – Grade 2TS
 - 17h30 – Grade 2F
- **Friday, 12 June 2020**
 - Morning Video, via Google Class: “Back to School”
 - 14h00-15h00: Walk through entering the school and visiting the classrooms
- **Saturday, 13 June 2020**
 - Morning video, via Google Class: “Washing your hands”
- **Monday, 15 June 2020**
 - Morning video, via Google Class: “Social Distancing and Greetings”
- **Tuesday, 16 June 2020**
 - Morning video, via Google Class: “Super 3 and the Worry Worm”
- **Wednesday, 17 June 2020**
 - 08h00-12h15: Back to School

FLP WEEK (08-12 JUNE 2020)

WOW! Boys (and parents), you have worked so hard this week. I have loved the work that you have been sharing with me! Thank you for giving your very best and producing work of such a high standard.

Grade 0’s

You have made me want to jump into my car and drive to one of the many wonderful holiday destinations we have here in South Africa.

Grade 1’s

You have been really cool marine biologists and I have seen some amazing posters and dioramas. I cannot wait to hear your speeches.

Grade 2’s

I have seen some investigative authors, producing amazing facts for your non-fiction books. I am looking forward to reading these books next week.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

I would like to thank the JP Boys Parents for completing the Questionnaire so thoroughly; as well as sharing your observations of your son’s work, during the remote learning time, so honestly and willingly. These conversations have given your teachers a chance to connect with the learning that has taken place at home, which in turn will help us to assist your son with transitioning back to school in the next four weeks.

The last couple of months have been filled with uncertainty and change – there is more of this ahead of us, so I hope our families can take some time to relax over this long weekend.

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FOOD DRIVE: FEEDING DIEPSLOOT

A huge **Thank You** to all our families, we have raised just over R30 000 and collected numerous food items.

THE NGO has fed 25 000 families in Diespoot to date, and the focus is changing to soup kitchens and feeding child-headed households, the need in Diespoot is dire and we hope to continue with our assistance, we are helping and making a small difference.



Packing Food Parcels



Soup Kitchen



Waiting for Food

To Help:

- Any non-perishable food item: cans of food and staples, collection point Chapel Car Park
- Cash donations: please deposit into: St Peter's Foundation; Standard Bank; Acc: 422 057 533 (Section A18 tax certificates can be issued).

Please remember any **second hand clothes** welcome too!

Monica Sloane and Father Richard

ENJOY THE LONG WEEKEND

