



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

**THROUGH THE KEYHOLE**

**DATE 13 February 2020**

**JUNIOR PREP**

Dear Parents,

**FROM THE HEADMASTER**

You may have noticed that the school EXCO group were away last week as we completed our annual strategic planning exercise. This exercise is undertaken in order to ensure that the school is agile in both our reaction to external factors and the predictions of future educational needs. We began the process by completing a PESTLE exercise. PESTLE is an acronym for “political, economic, social, technological, legal and environmental” and the aim of the exercise was to set a timeframe for the planning (in our case we used five years) and to consider how these factors will impact our development as a school during this time. We then used the ‘design thinking’ process and identified scenarios that St Peter’s Prep Schools may face. An exercise such as this is both sobering and empowering and it was gratifying to note that, despite a number of potentially challenging circumstances on the horizon, the school is in a positive place with a good community and sound developmental structures.

It was also interesting to take note of the fast changing environment in which children are developing; one that is both fluid and filled with new content knowledge that is growing at an exponential rate. This requires a number of competencies that are essential for children. These competencies fall, to an ever increasing extent, into the emotional and social quotient sectors. Once again, the word “agility” and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances, while remaining true to oneself comes to the fore. In order to foster growth under these circumstances, we, as a school, need to ensure that we provide a sound and secure foundation for the children’s ethical and social growth, not only over the next five years, but also into the future.

As we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Boys School, we are aware of the foresight of our founders and of subsequent leadership groups. We are also cognisant of the need to continuously adapt and grow the curriculum to accommodate both social and technological advancements. Our aim is to maintain a balance between maintaining foundational values and ethos and still ensuring that we address issues of change in the world of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution.

Have a great week.

**Rob Macaulay**

**FROM THE JUNIOR PREP**

**“DOES YOUR FACE LIGHT UP? FIVE WORDS THAT CHANGED MY TEACHING AND PARENTING**

Posted by **Deborah Farmer Kris** - September 2019

*I read this post on Facebook this week and really wanted to share it with you as we start a new year together.*

Many years ago, I heard an Oprah interview with the novelist Toni Morrison, who passed away in August. Morrison described how, when her children came into the room, she thought she was showing care by fussing over their appearance, “to see if they had buckled their trousers or if their hair was combed or if their socks were up.”

But that was not what they were looking for, she said. Instead, she offered a different measure for care, “Does your face light up when your kid walks in a room? Does your expression say, I’m so glad you are here?” Her words gave me an anchor point during the physically-intensive years of raising small kids. My children are a bit older now, but parenting remains beautifully messy work. We bump up against each other and fiddle with each other’s most vulnerable buttons. The emotions they hold in at school come roaring out at home, and sometimes the emotions I hold in at work do, too.

Morrison's words offer grace. Something simple and sacred that I can do every day. When my kids come down blurry-eyed and cranky in the morning, I can offer them a smile. When they come home from school, my face can be a safe landing place, and when they go to bed at night, I can muster up a final "I love you," even if the evening went awry.

Last year, when I was searching for the **Toni Morrison video clip** to share with a friend, I discovered that I had gotten her quote wrong – by one word. She does not say when "your" kid walks in a room. Rather she says, "When a kid walks in a room - your child or anybody else's child - does your face light up? That's what they're looking for . . . let your face speak what's in your heart. It's just as small as that." *A kid. Anybody else's child.* She wasn't just talking about parenting. She was talking about our holy obligation to see the dignity in every person - a dignity that Mr Rogers offered children every day when he signed off his show with, "You've made this day a special day, by just your being you. There's no person in the whole world like you, and I like you just the way you are."

Children and teens are great anthropologists. As **school counsellor Phyllis Fagell** told me, "Your kids have a PhD in you. They are watching everything you do." My kids are watching my face in the grocery line. They are watching how I greet the woman in a hijab in front of us and the man in a wheelchair behind us. They are watching how I greet their friends on the playground and how I interact with a stranger who stops to ask for directions in halting English. They watch my comfort - or discomfort - in interacting with children with disabilities, visible and invisible. They are looking for clues. Does my face light up, still?

I think about Morrison's words in my work as a middle and high school teacher. In the first 60 seconds of class, what does my face communicate? When a student slips in after the bell, does it say, "You're late again," or does it say, "I'm so glad you are here"?

Harvard psychologist **Dr Susan David** introduced me to the word "sawubona," a Zulu greeting from her native South Africa. It means, "I see you." As she shared, "Every single one of us wants to be seen. For me, 'I see you' means creating a space in your heart and in your home or classroom where (a child) is seen. When children and adolescents are very upset, literally just the presence of a loving person helps to de-escalate and creates the space where calm is invited in."

Most days my daughter takes the bus home, but sometimes my work schedule allows me to pick her up at school. Pick-up is in a cavernous cafetorium, with sign-out sheets and deafening noise and hundreds of kids hunting for their parents. When she enters the room, I watch her scan for me, her eyes darting about and her lips tight, and when she sees me, her face explodes with a relieved smile and she starts to run. She's found her person. I may not get this reaction when she hits adolescence, and that's okay. For now, I soak up that face that says, "We see each other. We belong to each other." It reflects everything I want children to feel about themselves in my presence: that they shine, and that when my face brightens when I see them, it is simply a mirror of their inner light.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Lubanzi Memela is the big brother to a sister born last week. *Ziyana*, which means 'it is raining blessings' is sure to bring many blessings to her family. Congratulations to Siphindile and Mthokozisi on the birth of your precious little girl.

### MEET OUR THERAPISTS

**Samantha Schulz** and **Heather Lancaster**. In the St Peter's setting, Neurodevelopmental (NDT) Physiotherapy, assists children who have difficulty with coordination and planning, lowered muscle tone, ADHD, hyperflexibility (children with very flexible joints) and orthopaedic conditions (sprains, Sever's disease and rehabilitation following a fracture). In the classroom, it addresses difficulties with sitting on the floor or at the desk, poor concentration because of fatigue, poor fine motor skills and slow pace (or children who tend to rush and make careless mistakes). NDT Physiotherapy also addresses difficulties with gross motor skills. Neurodevelopmental Therapy (NDT) Physiotherapy is a hands on, problem solving approach, individualised for each child.

Email: Samantha Schulz [schulzphysiotherapy@gmail.com](mailto:schulzphysiotherapy@gmail.com)

Heather Lancaster [heathsa@gmail.com](mailto:heathsa@gmail.com)

### **GROWING VEGETABLES**

Today our boys attended a workshop on growing vegetables, healthy eating choices and caring for our environment. Hopefully this will motivate some of them to both grow and eat vegetables.

### **FLIP FLOP DAY**

On **Friday, 14 February** the boys may wear flip flops to school, if they have purchased a sticker for R10 from their class teacher. All money raised will go to CHOC. This is optional, but please do not send your child in flip flops without the sticker.

### **TRAFFIC**

From **Monday, 17 February** we will have staff at the Boom, to assist boys and girls to cross between the JP and SP schools, from **7:00-7:30**. The Boom will be closed at **7:30** and will remain closed at pick up time.

Please could I appeal to parents to drive safely on our campus as there are always young children around.

### **ANTI-WASTE**

Once again we are appealing for Anti-Waste material – egg cartons, yoghurt cups, polystyrene trays, toilet rolls, scraps of material and magazines. Please ensure items are clean before sending to school. These anti-waste items can be placed in the area behind the boat. Thank you!

### **INFORMATION AGREEMENT**

We have attached the Consent Form sent out at the end of last year; if you have not yet done so, please complete and return this directly to Jenny van Wyk or Lizelle Nel in our Accounts Department. Email: [jvanwyk@stpeters.co.za](mailto:jvanwyk@stpeters.co.za) or [lnel@stpeters.co.za](mailto:lnel@stpeters.co.za)

### **SPORT**

Grade 2 parents please see the attached letter regarding a Mini Cricket match on Friday, 21 February.

Grade 1 and 2 parents please see the attached letter regarding Dads vs Lads on Saturday, 14 March and open the link to RSVP.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

We do a sweep of our playgrounds after breaks and sport to ensure items of clothing are not left behind. I am aware that a number of marked items have not been returned. When changing for swimming, boys often just take the closest item without checking names etc. Please could all parents check uniforms in cupboards this weekend and return those items that may not belong to your sons. Please also return items loaned to your son from the Sick Bay. Our team of Lost Property moms work hard to return marked clothing to boys. You can assist by ensuring that everything is clearly marked with both your son's name and surname.

### **GOLDEN MOMENT**

A Grade 0 class were discussing what makes a healthy snack eg vegetables, fruit etc. One boy said "my favourite vegetable is a samosa!"

Wishing you a very happy Valentines Day and I hope your face will light up when the ones you love enter a room this weekend.

Warm regards,  
**Kenda Melvill-Smith**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Monday 17 February</b>	
<b>Tuesday 18 February</b>	
<b>Wednesday 19 February</b>	
8:00	Chapel (birthdays 17-23 February)
8:00	Sefikeng community partnership
13:00	Grade 2 CHAPS (Middle Room)
<b>Thursday 20 February</b>	
<b>Friday 21 February</b>	
HOT DOG & CIVVIES DAY R35	
12:30	Grade 2 Mini Cricket vs The Ridge @ St Peter's

**CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION SOUTH AFRICA (CHOC) FLIP FLOP DAY – FRIDAY, 14 FEBRUARY**

A reminder to wear flip flops to school on Friday. Stickers are R10 and boys can get them from their class teachers. Stickers can also be purchased from PNA stores or the regional CHOC office.



## *Golf Day 2020*

The annual St Peter's Prep Schools Golf Day is planned to take place in the Advent Term (3<sup>rd</sup> term), **Friday, 2 October**

To start planning, there will be a kick start meeting:

**Friday, 21 February 2020 at 07:30 in the Mvukuzane Pavilion**

If you would like to be a part of the Organising Committee, please complete the online google volunteer form below by

**Tuesday, 18 February 2020**

<https://forms.gle/1t37WdtXPHwjvUhu5>

Many thanks!

**The St Peter's Prep Schools Parents Association**