



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

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

DATE 21 May 2020

JUNIOR PREP

Dear Parents,

**FROM THE HEADMASTER**

After eight weeks of lockdown, I thought it would be good to share some news about staff with you.

The first bit of news is both congratulatory and sad! **Scott Hauptfleisch** has been appointed as Headmaster of Uplands Prep School as from January 2021. While we are delighted for Scott, we will be really sad to lose someone of his calibre. Not only has Scott been an outstanding Pastoral Care Director, but he has also been instrumental in developing our IT integration policies which have, I am sure you will agree, been the foundation upon which we have built our online programme. Scott was also the director of the Staff Variety Show and I was tempted to ask him to stay on for an extra term just in case we get to perform again post-lockdown, next year. We congratulate Scott on his appointment, he will leave big shoes to be filled.



**Justin Attlee** has also been a busy man and recently completed his B Ed (Honours) in Education and Professional Development. Justin's focus was on Character Development Programmes. He has contributed to our SPIG Programme using his research and is particularly active in an ongoing counselling role for the Middle School.



**Tyrone Pugh** has joined us as the Sports Department Administrator. Fun Fact about Tyrone: *"I love cooking, but my fiancé sometimes disagrees with my self-proclaimed Master Chef title."*



It is not only in the staff complement that we have gained a new member. **Cooper Morrison** has joined us in Grade 3. While lockdown has meant that we have not been able to introduce Cooper to the whole school, he is actively participating in the online sessions and has become part of the family already. We welcome the Morrison family into the St Peter's community and wish you many happy years with us.

**Returning to School: When, who, how??** On Tuesday, 19 May we heard that our Gr 7s will be allowed back at school on Monday, 1 June. We are still hoping that Government will allow Independent Schools the flexibility to adopt a phased approach for the rest of the school, as required, in the knowledge that we are adhering to all COVID-19 safety protocols and requirements - but at this stage we are still unsure.

In terms of our safety protocols, next week each Grade will be sent a video clip explaining exactly where to be dropped off, how we will be checking every child before they enter a classroom – where to go, what to do etc. The video will show the new classroom setup. It will also show the protocols for breaks and extramurals.

We will also be separating staff into specific grades. This way we will be able to contain any potential infection in one grade and not spread it throughout the school.

We will, more than likely, have parents who still decide to keep their children at home. We will, therefore, continue with our online learning programme for at least the duration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Boys who come to school will benefit from the support and guidance from teachers as well as the structure of a timetabled day. If a lesson is taught at school, it will be recorded for the boys at home to download. This way boys at home will be covering the same work as those who come to school.

**Reports:** It's not possible for any teacher or lecturer to accurately mark work submitted online, in the knowledge that a student could have had access to resource material and/or support and guidance from someone at home.

In the Senior Prep, we will still be sending home an academic report at the end of June, based on the work submitted. When we are back at school, we will conduct baseline assessments on all pupils to ascertain their learning during lockdown and if required put strategies in place to address any gaps in their learning.

In the Junior Prep, our teachers will be setting up meetings with parents to discuss each boy's academic progress. The written report will be a summary of this meeting, divided into the key academic areas.

As we all 'champ at the bit' waiting for schools to be allowed to reopen, we are very conscious of the health implications for all once we do. There is a plethora of information out there, but there does seem to be quite a bit of good news regarding the potential spread of Covid-19 amongst children. This does not, however, mean that we can become complacent in any way and I would urge families to maintain social distancing protocols during this time so that we can ensure that we have a healthy school community when the opportunity to resume campus-based lessons arises. In a recent address by Boris Johnson to the British public, he made it clear that if people become careless and this results in a new spike in "the curve," lockdown measures would be heightened again. I think that our government would follow the same procedures. It would appear that our best way forward would be to be as strict as we can be on a personal level and hope for some respite on the national and provincial fronts. I suppose this goes with the "St Peter's way" of intrinsic rather than extrinsic motivation to stay safe for the benefit of all.

Have a great week.

**Rob Macaulay**

### **FROM THE JUNIOR PREP**

#### **PARENTS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT:**

- Zoom Sessions – If your son is not able to connect to a Zoom Session for any reason, please send a WhatsApp to your class teacher. Should you wish to receive a recording of the session advise her in your message. We are struggling to manage boys who are arriving late for their Zoom session; this disrupts the teaching and learning taking place for the other boys. Unless there is a difficulty and the teacher has been informed we cannot let boys in from the waiting room after 5 minutes. In consultation with the class teacher he could either attend one of the other sessions or receive a recording of the session. We are aware that for a few boys these Zoom sessions are daunting, please discuss alternatives with your son's class teacher, myself or Wendy Wentzel if you need to. We do not want these to cause your child anxiety. Please do ensure your son has watched the Video posted before his session, if he does not do so it impacts on the learning taking place remotely.
- One-on-one Sessions – Class teachers are working on a tight schedule to spend time one-on-one with the boys in their class. Please try not to miss these sessions; if you need to reschedule please let your class teacher know as far as possible before the appointed time. In most cases it will be difficult for a teacher to catch up the session due to her timetable with other boys. It would be appreciated that you then record your son reading in Grade 1 and 2 and send the recording to his teacher.

#### **REPORTS PROCESS**

- Parents will be receiving a questionnaire during the next week or two giving them an opportunity to express their views on the effectiveness of the online programme, in terms of their son and his progress. Parents will

then book a time with the class teacher to discuss their son's progress, difficulties etc online. These teacher/parent meetings will take place during **week 08 – 12 June**. Teachers will send out a roster of times that are available that week.

- During that week, boys will be given an FLP (Flexible Learning Programme) which will comprise of a project covering a variety of aspects of the curriculum. The focus has been on the core subjects, up until now, and this will give them an opportunity to focus on a Unit of Inquiry. More details around these projects will be posted on their Google Classroom.

### READING BOOKS

- Some parents have asked for reading books to be handed out with the work packs. This is quite challenging in terms of Health and Safety regulations as well as providing the appropriate level for each child. We encourage parents to continue with Reading Eggs as this programme provides material at the right level and progresses as your son's reading develops.
- There are online readers available (Vooks is an option) but these books are placed on the level of the UK or USA schooling system and, therefore, are not graded to the levels in South Africa. This could cause increased and unnecessary anxiety in our emergent readers. The issue of reading books will be addressed as soon as it is possible.

### RAISING KIDS POSITIVELY

On Tuesday I attended a webinar by HealthTV. Carol Surya was the Psychologist who presented on helping our children deal emotionally with an uncertain and changing world. I have included her "Lockdown Reminders" below as she emphasised that all of these suggestions will also help as children start to transition from their home cocoons into the different world of school in the near future.

It is self-explanatory but I would like to mention the choice jar which offers a great alternative to our children. This jar is created by your child and is used when he mentions he is bored, lonely or wants to watch TV or play on his iPad for longer. On pieces of paper he writes down alternative activities he enjoys eg – create a marble run, build a fort, ride his bike, bake a cake, complete a scavenger hunt. When required he pulls a piece of paper from the jar and then an activity is suggested for him to complete; if he really does not feel like that specific activity he can choose again.

Carol did say we cannot reassure our children enough as it brings them great comfort and that when parents mention their concerns it "normalises" how their child is feeling. It is important to discuss this Pandemic with our children and point out both the pros and cons of our time in lock down. We also need to discuss how things have changed so that we are kept as safe as possible during this time. Preparing them before going to the shops, visiting friends or returning to school allows them to enter an environment prepared for the changes and decreases their anxiety. She also mentioned that so much of our news focuses on how many cases there are of Covid-19 and the number of deaths - for our children we need to focus on the number of recoveries.

It may be an idea to print the poster and have it available for both you and your son to refer to.

Wishing you a lovely weekend and hopefully we will have news about when our little boys can return to school shortly.

Warm regards,

**Kenda Melvill-Smith**



## LOCKDOWN REMINDERS

### KEEP ROUTINES

- Set up daily plan
- Give household chores
- Keep to 'rules'
- Break up the day
- Reassure and remind
- Give them small goals

### KEEP THEM CALM

- Reassure them alot
- Use music, Apps
- Do breathing together
- Mindfulness activities
- Give factual info
- Listen more

### KEEP THEM HEALTHY

- Eat well (less sugar)
- Make exercise FUN
- Create obstacle courses
- Kids yoga online
- Online fitness classes

### KEEP THEM LEARNING

- Research new things
- Learn new skills/lang
- Read to a pet
- Podcasts
- Puzzles & experiments

### KEEP THEM CREATING

- Learn to draw
- Cook/bake together
- Colouring-in mandalas
- Make a CHOICE jar
- Make a gratitude jar
- Craft making

### KEEP THEM CONNECTING

- Plan daily 'talk time'
- Share meals together
- Name their feelings
- Digital playdates
- Call extended family

### GIVE CHOICES

REASSURE REASSURE REASSURE

**EXCO MEETINGS**

The Exco team have met diligently at 09:30 every weekday morning to discuss the plan forward for the school during the past few weeks of these uncertain Covid-19 times.

**DIVERSITY: HAPPY RAMADAN**

Ramadan (also known as Ramadhan or Ramzan) is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar and commenced on 24 April. It is a time when Muslims around the world focus on prayer, fasting, giving to charity, and religious devotion. The last third of Ramadan is a particularly holy period, as it commemorates when the Koran's (Holy Book) first verses were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

The greetings during this period is "Happy Ramadan" or "Ramadan Mubarak" (which means Happy Ramadan).

The month-long fasting concludes this week with a celebration known as Eid al-Fitr, or the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast on 23/24 May.

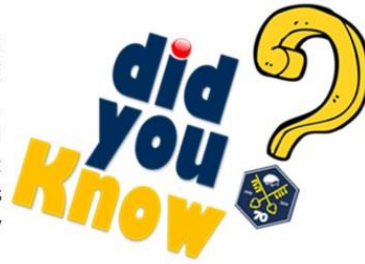
St Peter's wishes all our Muslim pupils, families and friends "Ramadaan Kareem" – have a generous Ramadan and Happy Eid.  
**Vijay Maharaj** (Director Diversity and Campus Compliance)



## 70<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATIONS



From the very inception of the school, the boarders indulged in “fort building”. The school was surrounded by open veld areas and it was here that they constructed their forts. Trenches were dug, covered with discarded bits of corrugated iron or cardboard, each structure becoming more elaborate with time. Who knows what mischief they got to out of sight of their adult minders? This pastime was so beloved by the boys that it passed on to the day boys.



On afternoons when they were not involved in sport, they could be seen in pairs or groups, industriously digging, discussing designs or searching the veld for useful bits of scrap. The last episode of fort building took place in the early 2000s where the cricket nets are now situated and before this area was cut to its current level.

I can't help thinking what a valuable learning experience this was for the boys. They were limited only by their imaginations. They learnt entirely from their mistakes and received instant and visible feedback: walls collapsing, roofs set too low resulting in cut foreheads. They developed an understanding of team work and an appreciation of the talents and contribution of each individual. They experienced the joy of seeing their own creation complete. Modern psychologists would describe their state of mind as being in “flow”, the highest and most desirable, essential for success in life.

*Greg Royce*

## PA NEWS

### PA Levies

In an effort to support our parents, the School and the PA Committee have confirmed that no PA levies will be charged for the Trinity Term 2020.

### Ladies Lunch 🍷

The LL Organising Committee is in the process of reviewing options of postponing versus cancelling the 2020 Ladies Lunch. This will have to be done in accordance with the COVID-19 post lockdown regulations and based on availability in the 2021 school calendar. We will share the details as soon as the decision has been made.

### St Peter's Family Soccer Day and 70th Birthday Celebrations 🎉

The Family Day, scheduled for Saturday, 20 June 2020, has been put on hold for now. Please look out for further updates in the newsletter!

### Golf Day 🏌️

The annual St Peter's Prep Schools Golf Day, which is scheduled for Friday, 2 October 2020, has also been put on hold. The Golf Day Organising Committee, together with the PA and the School, are in discussions regarding:

- \* the ability of the players to participate from a financial point of view;
- \* the likelihood of getting sponsors and prizes for the event, due to the current circumstances; as well as
- \* the laws regarding sports and social gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The outcomes of the above discussions will be communicated towards the end of June.

### MySchool/Makro 🛒

Thank you for swiping at Makro and the MySchool partner stores. With your swipes, we have managed to raise R13 000 during March and R12 000 in April. Our year-to-date income as at 30 April 2020 under this portfolio is R53 000. Thank you all for your continued support! Remember - MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet is actively working with organisations helping vulnerable communities and animals during the national lockdown. Your swipes are helping others during this crisis. You can join MySchool on [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za)

**StaySafe! StayHealthy! StayPositive!**





ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS



# BIGFutures

Community Partnership

*'If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever.'* **Kofi Annan**

Dear St Peter's Family

St Peter's is partnering with an NGO who distributes food parcels to 180 000 people in Diepsloot and the Fourways surrounding informal settlements.

To this end, we are collecting the following items for the remainder of this term:

- 12.5kg mielie meal
- Cans of mixed vegetables
- Cans of bully beef
- Cans of sardines/pilchards
- 2kg sugar
- Cloth face masks

We have set up a **collection point** at St Peter's, in front of the Chapel. If you are coming to school to collect packs or driving past, we would appreciate your support.

It costs R600 to feed a family of four for a month. If you prefer to make a contribution of any amount, please deposit into:

St Peter's Foundation  
Standard Bank  
Acc: 422 057 533  
(Section A18 tax certificates can be issued)

The clothes collection point has been set up too - as per previous week's Newsletter.

Thank you so much for doing your bit to help the less-fortunate.

Fr Richard Wossler  
Monica Sloane  
St Peter's Foundation



**WE ARE PREPARING**

