



Dear Parents,  
**FROM THE RECTOR**  
**2020 Dates**

Term 1		
<b>Start</b>	Wed, 15 January	
<b>Close</b>	Thurs, 9 April	
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Close</b>	Thurs, 27 February
	<b>Return</b>	Tues, 3 March
<b>Public Holiday</b>	Sat, 21 March (Human Rights Day)	

Term 2		
<b>Start</b>	Tues, 5 May	
<b>Close</b>	Fri, 31 July	
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Close</b>	Fri, 26 June
	<b>Return</b>	Mon, 6 July
<b>School Holiday</b>	Mon, 15 June	
<b>Public Holiday</b>	Tues, 16 June (Youth Day)	

Term 3		
<b>Start</b>	Tues, 1 September	
<b>Close</b>	Thurs, 3 December	
<b>Half Term</b>	<b>Close</b>	Thurs, 15 October
	<b>Return</b>	Tues, 20 October
<b>Public Holiday</b>	Thurs, 24 September (Heritage Day) <i>We anticipate the Bishop awarding his customary holiday. If so, this will fall on <b>Friday, 25 September.</b></i>	
<b>School Holiday</b>		

**Traffic Update**

Thanks to the good offices of a parent, I met on Tuesday with the Deputy Director of Operations, JMPD. The JMPD is sympathetic and willing to help, but our region does not have the capacity (sufficient officers) to deploy them at St Peter's Prep schools.

It is pointless demanding such a service with the huge number of bottle-necks in the city. That being said, they will help from time to time as has been the case in the last day or two.

The good news is that the JMPD has been tasked with reinstating the contract with Traffic FreeFlow, our original service providers. The deadline to reinstate the contract is April. Hopefully, we therefore only have to endure for this term.

I will keep you posted should I hear anything more.

**Questions for the Rector:**

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at [groyce@stpeters.co.za](mailto:groyce@stpeters.co.za) or [dradloff@stpeters.co.za](mailto:dradloff@stpeters.co.za).

**Greg Royce**

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

I begin this week's message with a vote of thanks to the parents who have been so patient as we try to solve the traffic issues. These have been exacerbated by the lack of pointsmen which allowed for a greater flow of traffic off the campus. While I have had the opportunity to speak to many parents at the Parent Information Evenings, I thought that I would share some of the challenges that we are facing and a few potential solutions that are being considered.

- The increased volume of "parking" traffic during the first week of school, while boys and parents find their feet, is expected to ease off as the "drop and go" practices, that worked well at the end of last year, resume.
- Afternoon activities have started this week and this will stagger the outflow of pupils after school as well as dilute the drop-off demands as boys take on early morning activities.
- Greg Royce is in dialogue with JMPD regarding the deployment of pointsmen at peak times.
- It is interesting to note that, without the traffic lights being out at various places in our area this morning, the Chapel Car Park was clear by 07:50. Hopefully this is indicative of a trend that will create ease of egress by 08:00 on most days. Mvukuzane Pavilion has both WiFi and a coffee machine. You are invited to "chill" there in the mornings, until traffic eases.

Notwithstanding the above, we are also keen to trial a park and ride system. We envisage a school bus that would collect children from either the property across the road from the school or from another suitable venue. This would simply be a shuttle service with our school driver making two trips, one at 06:45 and another at 07:10. While we do not envisage teaching staff being on the bus, this service would be appropriate for Middle and Upper School children. It could also run after school on a Friday. We are working on the logistics and, depending on the need once the normal school programme is in place, the service could be offered in the very near future. The proposed route is from the cul-de-sac off Estelle Rd, next to Lavender Lane, Paulshof to St Peter's Prep, through the Grieff Rd entrance. A google form to gauge interest for this proposed service will be sent out on Monday morning.

I am aware that there may be a number of "new" parents to the school who have not witnessed the easing of traffic flow as the year continues, as seen in the past. I ask that you bear with us during the first three weeks. Seasoned campaigners will be able to reassure you that things do get better and we will also be implementing further strategies for the Junior Prep until this transpires. Please feel free to contact me should you have any suggestions that may help us in our endeavours to make your drop off experience more comfortable.

Have a good week ahead.

**Rob Macaulay**

### FROM THE JUNIOR PREP CONDOLENCES

Please keep Lindiwe Radebe (Mama R) in your thoughts and prayers, as her mother passed away on Tuesday. This a sad time for Lindiwe and her family.

### TRAFFIC

To add to Rob's article on managing traffic flow on campus, please take note of three additional practises specifically for the Junior Prep boys:

- From **Monday, 27 January**, Somerset Field will **no** longer be available for parking. The ring road set up along the edge of Somerset will allow for either drop and go or cars to park along the fence at the JP building for a short period of time. Boys who are ready (particularly Grade 2) can use the drop and go facility at either the Somerset entrance or the main entrance to the school.
- To alleviate parents having to drive to both the Girls and Boys Schools in the morning, there will be a drop off point at the two booms. One opposite the Girls Junior Prep near the zebra crossing and one at the lower Boys School car park. Interns will be on duty to take the boys/girls to their respective schools from **7:00 to 7:30**.
- Supervised Waiting Class will be available for Junior Prep boys until **14:15** on Somerset Field (weather permitting).

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

- No Hat/No Play – in this climate we need to ensure our boys are protected from the sun. Every boy in the Junior Prep needs two hats – one remains in his locker for use during the school morning and the other in his school bag for Waiting Class, Aftercare and afternoon activities. Please do not forget to use sunscreen in the morning; this is also provided to our boys before break and sport.
- Shoes – little boys find shoes uncomfortable and many take them off as soon as they can. At the Junior Prep this is encouraged as barefoot is very good to assist with sensory input which in turn has a positive impact on learning in the younger child. Boys must wear shoes when arriving or leaving school, to Chapel and in public. We have noticed many boys arriving at school wearing incorrect shoes. **Grooming** is one of our **5Gs** and, in order to achieve this, we need parent support. Boys wear strops with the summer uniform and white socks and takkies with the PE kit. Although this is **not** encouraged in the Junior Prep, should you wish your son may wear long grey socks and black shoes (the School Shop does not stock this for the younger child). Please purchase these to wear with the summer uniform as white takkies cannot be worn with this outfit.
- Hair – all boys must have hair cuts that are neat and off the back of their necks and ears.
- Naming – please ensure every item of clothing is very clearly marked with your child's name and surname. Lost Property cupboards are located downstairs, to the left, opposite Grade 2TS, should you need to find any missing items. The Lost Property team also returns all marked items to boys on a regular basis.

### SWIMMING

A number of parents have expressed concern regarding swimming, after the unfortunate events at schools in and around Johannesburg. I would like to reassure you that your child's safety is our priority. When attending swimming lessons boys do so in their individual classes and there are always three staff members at the swimming pool during these times. All staff members are trained in basic first aid; with Callan Cronin trained at Level 2. Dylan Tollet, who assists with JP swimming, is a specialist swimming coach who also works with the SP boys and Water Polo.

Grade 0 boys only swim in the shallow end of the swimming pool, which is roped off and Callan is in the pool with these boys until he feels they are comfortable and confident in the water. Dylan and Kabelo are outside the pool monitoring boys throughout the lesson.

### HOT LUNCH

Boys who signed up for Hot Lunch are enjoying this offering and teething problems are being resolved. Should you want your son to have Hot Lunch, **Friday, 31 January** is cut off day. Please be aware that if your son attends Aftercare, Hot Lunch is no longer offered at this facility. If he attends Aftercare on an ad hoc basis and you have not chosen the Hot Lunch option, please send a packed lunch.

### MEDICAL FORMS

Thank you to parents who have returned medical forms. Please take note that the Emergency Medical form only needs to be completed if your child suffers from a **serious allergy or potentially dangerous medical condition**; in which case his prescribed medication, must be given to Ros Edmed in the school office by **Monday, 27 January**. It is best to place the medication in a clearly marked zip lock bag. (It is the parents' responsibility to renew this medication ahead of expiry dates).

### INFORMATION EVENINGS

Thank you to the many parents who attended the Information Evenings. Parents have asked for the presentations, which are attached per Grade. Please do remember that the first six weeks of school is a time of transition for our boys. Each class works on creating a sense of safety and connection by establishing expectations, routines and goals for the year. Once these are established and the boys are comfortable, productive learning can take place. By Half Term the rhythm and environment has been well established for the year.

### JP PICNIC – FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY

We look forward to seeing you at the JP 'Back to School Picnic' tomorrow. We will monitor the weather and let you know if plans change (at approximately 16:00). There are areas on Newlands Field that have been allocated to each Grade.

Should the lightning siren sound during the picnic, boys are aware and taught to 'find cover', please can we ask parents to do the same? The areas are:

- Keys Pavilion
- Girls School – above the field
- The Chapel will be opened

As evening sets in it gets dark on the field, so particularly for Grade 0 children, please write your boy's name and cell number on his arm! Head lights and torches are always a good idea for running around and solar or camping lights for 'lighting' your picnic spot.

### **EVENING TALK AT BELLAVISTA – ADHD: IS A CURE POSSIBLE?**

Prof André Venter has valuable advice for parents of children who have suspected or diagnosed ADHD. To avoid disappointment please book early, as his talks are extremely popular.

evening talk



## **ADHD: Is a Cure Possible?**

**Professor André Venter**

*HPCSA Awards 1.5 CEUs (Level 1)*

This presentation will explore the role of both pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions in the management of ADHD. It aims to address the optimal time for intervention and the outcomes that one can realistically expect from these interventions, as well as the burden of ADHD in adulthood, particularly if it is not treated in childhood. The role of genetic influences and co-morbidity will also be addressed.

Professor André Venter is the recently retired Academic Head of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of the Free State. His special area of interest is child development, having obtained his Doctorate in 1991 in this field from the University of Alberta, Canada. He is particularly interested in Cerebral Palsy, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity, Autism and learning difficulties. He is the founder and immediate past National Chairman of PANDA-SA (Paediatric Neurology and Development Association of Southern Africa). Professor Venter is a member of the Advisory Board for Sensory Integration, was an executive member of the International Child Neurology Association and first president of the African Child Neurology Association since 2010.

**Place:** Bellavista School, 35 Wingfield Ave, Birdhaven, JHB  
**Date:** Wednesday 12 February 2020  
**Time:** 18h30-20h00 (Registration at 18h00)  
**Cost:** R200.00 per person  
**To book go to:** [www.bellavistashare.org.za/book](http://www.bellavistashare.org.za/book)



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[http://](http://www.bellavistashare.org.za) For more information or to see what other events are coming up visit our website [www.bellavistashare.org.za](http://www.bellavistashare.org.za)

Bellavista retains the right to cancel this event if there is insufficient interest

### **GOLDEN MOMENT**

A Grade 0 boy fell fast asleep at Waiting Class this week. Many of the teachers wished they could join him..... our days are busy and packed full of fun!

Looking forward to seeing you at the picnic tomorrow!

Warm regards,

**Kenda Melvill-Smith**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Monday 27 January</b>
<b>Tuesday 28 January</b>
<b>Wednesday 29 January</b> 8:00 Chapel (birthdays 27 January – 02 February) 13:00 Grade 2 CHAPS (Middle Room)
<b>Thursday 30 January</b> 18:30 PA meeting
<b>Friday 31 January</b> <b>HOT DOG DAY: R25-00</b>

**MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS - APPLICATION FORM 2020**

Please follow the link for both Boys JP and SP to sign up for instrumental lessons:

<https://forms.gle/1dzfGw9K85KAgUmn8>

**LADIES LUNCH****OLD BOYS NEWS****Michaelhouse**

**David Ferguson** placed eighth overall in Grade 10 for the 2019 academic year.

**Ben Lister** and **Jason Morby-Smith** are representing the first Waterpolo team in 2020.

**Dylan Hewlett** - U14A Cricket

**Ethan de Kock** and **Maanda Ramabulana** - U14A Basketball

**Greg Goldby** - U14A Waterpolo squad

**OLD BOYS CAPS FOR SALE**

Old Boys can now buy the popular Old Boys Caps from the School Shop. They are R300.

**BOYS PHOTOGRAPHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

From time to time your son may appear on St Peter's social media platforms for marketing purposes. Should you not want him to appear on these platforms please email Diane Fraser [dfraser@stpeters.co.za](mailto:dfraser@stpeters.co.za) with your name and your son's name, grade and class.

### THANK YOU TO THE ST PETER'S COMMUNITY

Hope you had a blessed Christmas and that 2020 is wonderful year for you all.

On behalf of the children in Diepsloot a HUGE THANK YOU for the awesome Christmas boxes.

The generosity of the St Peters family never fails to amaze me as each year so many boxes are donated packed full of wonderful goodies.

Thank you for adding some much needed joy this Christmas for each of these children.

Your generosity certainly embodies the true spirit and message of Christmas time.

Kind regards  
Heather Garrett  
Head of ECD

