



Dear Parents,

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The life of the school has a focus on our Chapel and it has been a privilege to be part of three very special services over the past two weeks. We began with Middle School Carols on Monday, 19 November and completed the cycle of thanksgiving and worship with the JP Service of Thanksgiving on Wednesday morning. Tuesday evening saw us join together for what, to my mind, was the most moving Service of Nine Lessons and Carols that I have had the privilege of being part of in years. We will end the term with the final Eucharist on break-up day, a very special occasion in which we bid farewell to our Grade 7s and retiring teachers. This season of thanksgiving and Christmas has reminded me of how the ebb and flow of life and its seasons is something that we all experience.

Change and new challenges face the boys regularly through their school careers and it is the manner in which they cope with these challenges and, sometimes, disappointments that shape their character. This is where parents play such a vital role. You are the stabilisers who guide your child through the challenges. The key, however, is that you are guides, not modes of transport or road builders. The true development of a boy's character will come as he fails at times and picks himself up to regroup and grow further. You are there to support him in times of disappointment and to celebrate his growth and success in times of joy. In the Senior Prep, the teachers prepare the boys to approach life with grit and resilience using our "Bounce Back" programme. You could do the same at home. The key points to this programme, which was developed by Noble and McGrath, appear below:

The Bounce Back Acronym

Bad times don't last. Things always get better.

Other people can help if you talk to them. Get a reality check.

Unhelpful thinking makes you more upset.

Nobody is perfect - not you and not others.

Concentrate on the positives (no matter how small) and use laughter.

Everybody experiences sadness, hurt, failure, rejection and setbacks sometimes, not just you. They are a normal part of life. Try not to personalise them.

Blame fairly. How much of what happened was due to you, to others and to bad luck or circumstances?

Accept what can't be changed (but try to change what you can first).

Catastrophising exaggerates your worries. Don't believe the worse possible picture.

Keep things in perspective. It's only part of your life.

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Thank you to all for a very successful year and for our partnership in growing every boy's character through our three-legged pot relationship. As we celebrate the achievements of 2018 and look forward to a good rest, we can also look forward to an exciting and growth-filled time when we return for our next season in 2019.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas.

Rob Macaulay



FROM THE JUNIOR PREP

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank each and every one of the Junior Prep staff for the hard work, passion and care they put into every day at St Peter's. Staff of this calibre are hard to find and the effort is so appreciated.

I AM A TEACHER (John W Schlatter)

I was born the first moment that a question leaped from the mouth of a child.

I have been many people in many places.

I am Socrates exciting the youth of Athens to discover new ideas through the use of questions.

I am Anne Sullivan tapping out the secrets of the universe into the outstretched hand of Helen Keller.

I am Aesop and Hans Christian Andersen revealing truth through countless stories.

I am Marva Collins fighting for every child's right to an education.

The names of those who have practiced my profession ring like a hall of fame for humanity... Booker T Washington, Buddha, Confucius, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Leo Buscaglia, Moses and Jesus.

I am also those whose names and faces have long been forgotten but whose lessons and character will always be remembered in the accomplishments of their students.

I have wept for joy at the weddings of former students, laughed with glee at the birth of their children and stood with head bowed in grief and confusion by graves dug too soon for bodies far too young.

Throughout the course of a day I have been called upon to be an actor, friend, nurse and doctor, coach, finder of lost articles, money lender, taxi driver, psychologist, substitute parent, salesman, politician and keeper of the faith.

Despite the maps, charts, formulas, verbs, stories and books, I have really had nothing to teach, for my students really have only themselves to learn, and I know it takes the whole world to tell you who you are.

I am a paradox, I speak loudest when I listen the most.

My greatest gifts are in what I am willing to appreciatively receive from my students.

Material wealth is not one of my goals, but I am a full-time treasure seeker in my quest for new opportunities for my students to use their talents and in my constant search for those talents that sometimes lie buried in self-defeat.

I am the most fortunate of all who labour.

A doctor is allowed to usher life into the world in one magic moment.

I am allowed to see that life is reborn each day with new questions, ideas and friendships.

An architect knows that if he builds with care, his structure may stand for centuries.

A teacher knows that if he builds with love and truth, what he builds lasts forever.

I am a warrior, daily doing battle against peer pressure, negativity, fear, conformity, prejudice, ignorance and apathy:

But I have great allies: Intelligence, Curiosity, Parental Support, Individuality, Creativity, Faith, Love and Laughter all rush to my banner with indomitable support.

And who do I have to thank for this wonderful life I am so fortunate to experience, but you the public, the parents.

For you have done me the great honour to entrust me with your greatest contribution to eternity, your children.

And so I have a past that is rich in memories. I have a present that is challenging, adventurous and fun because I am allowed to spend my days with the future.

I am a teacher....and I thank God for it every day.

FAREWELL

At the end of a year we always need to say some goodbyes:

Staff: As I said last week, Sandra van Wyk will be leaving us to set up both home and a music department in Vanderbijl Park. We wish her much happiness and success in the future and hope she will stay in contact.

Debby Jameson has been a locum in Grade 2 this term. The boys in her care have grown and progressed so much. Debby will be taking up a locum position at the Girls JP School. We hope to have her back on our team at some stage!

Therapists: Carin Litchenstein has been a Speech Therapy locum for Tracey O'Brien who was on maternity leave. Thank you for stepping in to assist us Carin – it is so appreciated.

Interns: Two of our Interns graduate this year and we wish them well. Tebogo Maboe will be taking up a teaching position in Pretoria. Bonolo Molefe, will be teaching Grade 0 at St Peter's. Nash Rahube will be moving to Nova Pioneer as a teaching assistant.

I would like to thank these Interns for always being willing to assist as needed. They have grown as teachers since their first year and gained confidence. I wish them much success in 2019 and challenge them to keep touching lives.

Pupils: It is always sad to say farewell to St Peter's families. This year is no different, as we wish the following boys well:

Grade 0: Matthew Spence, Liam Roy, Harrison Nethersole, Dylan Neil and Reagile Ramodike.

Grade 1: Lathi-Tha Mdedetyana, Matthew Clay and Arinze Charles.

Grade 2: Matthew Rice, Rocco Mtetwa, Giulian Ndisengei and Tristan Clay.

Enjoy your new schools boys, but carry St Peter's in your heart.

We also wish our Grade 2 boys well as they move into the Middle School. These boys have lived by our six values and have the makings of *True Blue St Peter's Boys*.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Grade 2 families of 2017 and 2018 for their gift. Enough money was collected to create a "Games Room" for our boys. Early in 2019 the Grade 3 and 4 boys will be given the opportunity to experience this room.

Thank you to the Leavers Team from both years for the time, effort and energy they have put into this project.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMME

The After School Programme application form has been attached to this newsletter. Please complete and email to Trish Attlee should your son be attending in 2019.

END OF TERM: THURSDAY, 06 DECEMBER

School will close on **Thursday, 06 December** and there will be no After School Programme that day. Reports will be issued in the morning, should your son not be at school these will be left in the Admin Office for collection in 2019. Please take note of closing times:

Grade 0: 10:00

Grade 1: 10:15

Grade 2: 10:30

A supervised waiting class will only be available until **11:00**, after which any remaining boys will be taken to the security guards at the Chapel gate.

School commences on **Wednesday, 16 January 2019 at 7:30**.

GOLDEN MOMENT

Last week when driving into the school carpark one of our Grade 2 boys exclaimed: "Mom, I just love my life!"

I hope every family will just love their life this festive season. I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and I pray 2019 is an awesome year.

God Bless!

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 06 December

Reports go home

End of term:

10:00 Grade 0

10:15 Grade 1

10:30 Grade 2

Wednesday 16 January 2019

7:30 Start of First Term

SCHOOL SHOP

The School Shop will open on the following two days before Term 1 starts:

- Monday, 14 January from 9:00 to 15:00
- Tuesday, 15 January from 9:00 to 15:00

Nadia Thompson – School Shop

