

Dear Parents,

FROM THE RECTOR

I have set out a brief overview of the IQAA school evaluation process below, St Peter's third appraisal. We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive results which only encourages us to work even harder to create opportunities for every pupil to develop and flourish. The full results, including all questionnaires and focus groups, as well as the school reports and those of the mentor and CEO of IQAA will be placed on the website after the holidays, when the final scans following the ransomware attack have been completed.

The exercise produced a huge amount of data which we will use to improve. The challenge is to tackle the issues methodically, focusing on the big questions but not neglecting smaller issues raised in the comments. We also intend to spend as much time on strengthening our strengths as we do on improving the weak areas.



IQAA Internal Evaluation results: summary

Total number of responses above the national average

IQAA has monitored evaluations for over 20 years in the 750+ independent schools. Over the years an average has been developed from participating schools to all the survey statements which required a response of *strongly agree* or *agree*; *disagree* or *strongly disagree*.

Total combined number of Boys and Girls school responses above the national average: 97%. This constitutes an exceptionally high approval rating.

Principal areas for attention

IQAA requires that any statement/topic attracting a *disagree* or *strongly disagree* response of 15% or more is treated as a concern.

- When/if my child is given homework it is age appropriate and meaningful: 16% Additional areas selected by the evaluation team:
- Insufficient statements attracted a score of 15% or more and the evaluation team consequently selected additional areas for attention:
 - \circ \quad Homework policies and the need to improve the supervised Prep programme.
 - My child knows where to go at school to discuss personal issues: 11%
 - Staff stress and the feeling by some (13%) that staff are not respected by parents.

Major strengths

There were too many statements that received over 85% *strongly agree/agree* ratings and the team therefore selected the highest rated topics:

- Strong community feeling encouraging interaction between families and school.
- Strong curriculum development guided by objective data.
- Boys are "happy" and enjoy all aspects of the school day.
- Professionalism and nurturing character of the teaching staff.
- Good facilities.
- Anglican ethos linked to community involvement and a focus on values to guide intentional character development.
- Strong sporting and cultural programme promoting all-round participation.

Questions for the Rector:

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at <u>groyce@stpeters.co.za</u> or <u>dradloff@stpeters.co.za</u>. **Greg Royce**

FROM THE HEADMASTER

I am sure that many of you, like myself, have been counting down the days towards the end of the winter term. While there has not been the cold weather that we expected, dark mornings and evenings have been the norm for many of us as we travel to and from school. Despite the darkness of the season, we have been able to enjoy many shining lights of success thanks to the St Peter's community. We are very pleased with the outstanding IQAA evaluation results that the Rector has highlighted in his article. The evaluation points to a school that is both happy and grounded as well as enjoying high standards of academics, sport and culture. To me, the stand-out performance this term has been from the Music and Drama staff and boys who, despite a busy academic and sporting calendar, have found the time to rehearse and put on a choir festival, a school production and the Viva Voce concert, all of which were of an extremely high standard.

You have enough to digest in the IQAA feedback document and so I am going to sign off with a vote of thanks to the entire community for making this term such a happy and successful learning experience for the boys.

Enjoy the holidays. **Rob Macaulay**

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP

SECURITY TIPS

Lance Camphor, Head of Security at St Peter's, put some tips together on how to keep our children safe. With August holidays on the horizon and the fact that these tips align with our LO Programme, I thought I would share them with you:

Safety Tips for Children

- Know your full name(s), your parents' names, your address(es) and phone number(s).
- Tell your parents about things that make you feel scared, uncomfortable or sad.
- Know the difference between a good secret and a bad secret. A good secret is fun to keep, such as a surprise party. A bad secret feels bad to keep and makes you feel scared.
- Strangers: Never tell strangers your name(s) or where you live.
- Buddy system: Use the buddy system and avoid walking or playing alone outside or in public places.
- Scream: "No!" Run and tell. Screaming and running are better safety ideas than trying to hide. If a stranger approaches you, scream "No!" Run to where there are safe adults and tell an adult what happened.
- Safe distance: Keep a safe distance (approximately three arm lengths) from strangers and strangers' cars, even if a stranger seems friendly. Run in the direction opposite to the direction in which the stranger's car is travelling.
- Fight back: It is okay to scream and fight. Do anything to get the stranger to let you go. Screaming is the most important thing you can do, especially screaming: "No!" "Help!" or "Danger!" to get an adult's attention.

- Home safety: Keep all the doors and windows locked when you are at home alone. Go to a neighbour and call 10111 if a window is broken or if the door is open when you get home.
- Doorbell safety: Answer the door by asking "Who is it?" Never say that you are alone and never open the door when you are alone, unless it is someone your parents told you to expect and let him/her/them in.
- Phone safety: Never say that you are alone when a stranger calls. You can say, "Mom/Dad cannot come to the phone now. Can I take a message?"

FAREWELL

At the end of a term we often have to say farewell to members of our school family. I would like to wish the following boys and their families much happiness as they set off on new adventures:

Grade 1: Callum Geerdink and Yashaar Rampersad Grade 2: Adam Law and Joshua Seegers

HERITAGE HARVEST TABLE

The Social Cohesion team hosted a super evening of art, sharing and socialising on Wednesday, 31 July. The Gallery at School was enjoyed by all who attended.

Please diarise 19 September for our second Heritage Harvest Table. Invitations will be sent via WhatsApp before the end of term. I can assure you that we are in for another "Proudly South African" evening.

END OF TERM: 08 AUGUST

8:00-10:00	Grade 0-2 Football Tournament
10:00	Grade 0 home time
10:15	Grade 1 home time
10:30	Grade 2 home time
11:00	Supervised Waiting Class ends
11:00-14:30	Aftercare (JP Boys building). Please note that this service has no charge.
	Boys do, however, need to bring a packed lunch.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

The boys return to school on **Tuesday, 10 September**. We will start the Third Term wearing summer uniform. Boys may wear jerseys or tracksuit tops if it is cold.

SCHOOL SHOP

The School Shop will open on Monday, 09 September from 9:00 to 15:00.

AFTERCARE

The building operations are on track and alterations will be complete by the start of term. It is looking wonderful and the children will be most excited to return to the upgraded, larger facility. However, Aftercare will remain in the JP Boys building at the start of term on **Tuesday**, **10 September** until furniture is moved in. You will be notified when the final move is made.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Grade 0-2 parents are reminded that Parent Consultations will take place on **Wednesday**, **25 September**. Booking sheets will be distributed at the start of the Third Term. These consultations are a time for you to touch base with your son's class teacher. Should you require a more in-depth meeting, please contact your teacher to book a time.

JUNIOR PREP BUILDING – AUGUST 2019

During these school holidays the interior of the school will be painted. Please ensure your son does not leave anything of value at school eg: glasses, sports equipment and school bags. The school cannot be held liable for loss, as many contractors will be in and out of our building.



We're taking action against plastic pollution!

Plastic is poison! Through sun and water exposure, plastic breaks down into environmental toxins. Packing it into an ecobrick secures it from poisoning the biosphere and stops it from ending up in our landfills and oceans.

St Peter's Prep Schools have decided to attempt to assemble **the longest line of completed 2 litre ecobricks in the world**! We will be submitting this to Guinness World Records in an attempt to set a new world record.

In order to be successful, we need everyone to get involved!

We would like to ask all of our families to make as many ecobricks as possible over the next 3 months. We will be attempting the record on **Thursday**, **14 November**, as part of Guinness World Records Day 2019.

What is an ecobrick?

An Ecobrick is a reusable building block created by densely packing non-biodegradable waste into a plastic bottle.

Our ecobricks need to be made from 2 litre cooldrink bottles and must weigh 450 grams or more.

Only use **clean**, **dry plastic** (otherwise microbiological growth can occur and form methane in the bottle). If there is any food, oil or dirt on your plastic, be sure to wash and dry.



More info will follow next term and we will send more comprehensive instructions on how to make an ecobrick home with your children, and post it on the Communicator.

GOLDEN MOMENT

A Grade 0 class were eating their snack and one boy had a Kinder Joy egg. When he cracked it open his friend promptly said: "Congratulations, you have now become a father!"

I hope our families enjoy their August holidays and return safe and rested in September. Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 08 August	
8:00-10:00 Internal Football Tournament	
End of Term closing times:	
Grade 0: 10:00; Grade 1: 10:15, Grade 2: 10:30	
11:00 Waiting Class ends	
11:00-14:30 Aftercare (bring a packed lunch)	
START OF TERM	
Monday 09 September	
Staff training	
School Shop open: 9:00 to 15:00	
Tuesday 10 September	
7:30 Start of Third Term – boys to wear summer uniform	
Wednesday 11 September	
8:00 Chapel (birthdays 01-15 September)	
8:00 Sefikeng – community partnership	
13:00 CHAPS – Dodson Hall	
Thursday 12 September	
Friday 13 September	
Grade 0 & Sefikeng Fun Day	

HOLIDAY CLUB

We are looking forward to having you at ADVENTURE CLUB!

Please remember to pack a snack, sun hat, bicycle and helmet. We can store your son's bicycle in a locked classroom for

the week.

Only St Peter's pupils are allowed to attend from Gr0 to Gr3.

Cost: R200 per day

Times: 08:00 to 12:00 Venue: Boys JP - Nichola Harmuth's class

Dates: 12 – 16 August

Please use the following banking details to make payment to secure your son's place. Please email proof of payment to nharmuth@stpeters.co.za

N Harmuth Nedbank Cheque Account Acc: 1684130603 Branch: 198765





MORE FROM INTERNATIONAL BOYS SCHOOL COALITION (IBC) CONFERENCE



The 2019 IBSC Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada explored the theme of *Boys and the Arts: Great Minds, Big Hearts.* Below are a few more insights and some recommended reading for the holidays.

CRACKING THE BOY CODE

Adam Cox, Clinical psychologist, speaker, educational consultant and author of "Cracking the Boy Code", has explored the emotional and cognitive development of youth for over a decade. At the 2019 IBSC Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada, he spoke of the importance of boys having *agency*, i.e. the ability to act independently and make their own free choices. The St Peter's Flexible Learning Programme (FLP) is a concrete example of how we advocate *agency*. Boys need to have a purpose. A life without work – without organised co-operation and a useful social objective – stunts maturity and contributes to "eternal adolescence". He referenced boys who spend hours browsing the internet with no real purpose. Cox suggested that we, as

Junior Prep

parents and teachers, need to be relevant, truthful, and emotionally generous. We need to ensure that our boys are able to withstand disaffection, boredom, and rejection.

HOW TO RAISE A BOY

Michael C. Reichert, Ph.D. is an applied psychologist who has studied and worked with children in a variety of contexts for over 30 years. At the 2019 IBSC Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada, he spoke about his book, "How to Raise a Boy" where he offers advice on how to build a boyhood that will enable boys to grow into confident, accomplished and kind men. Boys start with the same emotions as girls. Young boys know about relational skills, they are hardwired with the skills to draw people in – to connect. Boys want meaningful connections but society sends messages of what boys are supposed to feel. Boys are told to be stoic and "man like" and this can actually cause them to shut down, leading to anger, isolation, and disrespectful or even destructive behaviours.

We, as parents and teachers, need:

- to listen and observe, without judgment, so that boys know they're being heard.
- to help them develop strong connections with teachers, coaches, and other role models.
- to encourage them to talk about their feelings about the opposite sex and stressing the importance of respecting women.
- to let them know that they don't have to "be a man" or "suck it up," when they are experiencing physical or emotional pain.

If we want boys to hold onto themselves... we need to hold onto them ourselves. Nicole Richardson

BUY A RAFFLE TICKET!

Buy through TIXSA: St Peter's Prep-Raffle-2019





GIRLS PREP – OPEN DAY – 5 OCTOBER

If you have friends, family or neighbours who would be interested in attending this Open Day, please spread the word!

