



Dear Parents,

FROM THE RECTOR

Whole School Evaluation

One of the conditions for a school's membership of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA) is that the school conducts regular reviews of its performance by means of surveys of all its stakeholders. This is required every 6 years and our review is scheduled for 2019.

The process involves the completion of online questionnaires by pupils, staff and parents which cover all aspects of the school's operations. Following collation of the responses and identification of areas of strength and weakness, the school may seek to source further information by focus groups comprising the appropriate stakeholders. After this, plans are developed to address shortcomings and to strengthen strengths.

The process is overseen by the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA), established by ISASA to maintain, and improve, standards and quality of education in independent schools. The process further serves to promote accountability and to assure governing bodies/school councils of the quality of their schools.

The St Peter's Prep schools process will be managed by Vijay Maharaj who will shortly provide further details of the process. Please make every effort to complete the questionnaires in order to assist us to improve.

If we have a response in excess of 70%, I promise to attempt a part of Swan Lake or a Gumbboot dance or something similar.

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 or dradloff@stpeters.co.za.

Greg Royce



FROM THE HEADMASTER

I try to meet with the representatives of the PA Communications Committee, or class moms and dads on a termly basis. It is at these meetings that we discuss any issues or developments that are "trending" from either a school management or parent point of view. These meetings are most productive and give us opportunities to try to mutually solve these little niggles that become larger issues if left unchecked. I thought that I would share some of the agenda items from my meeting with the Grade 3 and 4 CC moms last Friday since they are common across the school:

1. With a number of sporting events being called off early due to lightning during the first half of the term and the added challenge of load shedding, the question of notification regarding the return of buses from various events was discussed. While it is impossible to predict exactly what time a bus will arrive, we have asked that the teacher in charge on the bus sends the Head of our CC, Rose Adams, notification as the bus leaves a venue. Rose will then be able to pass the information on to the relevant CC member, who will alert the Whats App group. Obviously, if there is a traffic issue, the bus will take longer than normal to return and, in a case where the bus will be more than 20 minutes beyond the published return time, we have asked that the teacher sends a further notification to Rose. The coaches' numbers are also published on the team sheets should a parent have a specific query. Please don't expect the coach to respond during the event, however, since they will be coaching or officiating.

2. Traffic is always an area of concern. We have been monitoring the traffic this year and there has certainly been an improvement in flow on the property since we have increased the stop and drop capacity in the JP car park. Where problems have occurred, they have been largely due to people not following the rules or parking/stopping inconsiderately or for long periods. The QR code stickers are due to be issued next week and, by having the registration numbers of vehicles, we will be able to follow up individually where this type of issue occurs. While we did publish the news last year, there may be some members of our community who are unaware that we spent a considerable amount of money commissioning a road engineer's survey of the campus last year. The findings of the survey confirmed that, given the constraints on our access and egress points onto Witkoppen Road, we have the most efficient traffic flow system in place at present. It is hoped that, once the K60 is built, Witkoppen Road will become less of an arterial route and we will be able to relook at the positioning and number of our gates, which is where the major traffic jams occur.
3. I remind all parents that the Communicator St Peter's is the vehicle through which we communicate the most up to date news. If you do not have this App on your phone, please contact Di Fraser dfraser@stpeters.co.za for help to set it up.
4. We generally have 26 children in each class, which gives us a total of 78 per Grade in Grades 1-7. Between Grades 1 and 4 we have introduced a concept called the "Middle Room" or "Middle Class" through which children are further divided for core skills teaching into four groups. This allows us to have smaller contact classes for the formal teaching of these concepts and to cater for the personalised learning needs of each child. In addition, we have an Intern or Classroom Assistant in every class from Grade 0 to Grade 2. From Grade 3 to 5 we have an Intern per Grade and in Grades 6 and 7 we move to specialist teaching and "Big Group teaching" where a team of teachers take the Grade as a whole. Every once in a while we find ourselves "carrying" one extra child in a specific class due to issues such as delays in emigration, cancelled transfers etc. We believe that, in line with being a community, we will not refuse to allow the child to come to school as a result of these unforeseen circumstances, but we do undertake not to replace the extra child when they do leave.

Interestingly enough, while reducing class size has been considered to have an impact on learning in the past, more modern research suggests that this is not the case. I have quoted John Hattie in my articles before and include a link to his comprehensive research below.

<https://visible-learning.org/hattie-ranking-influences-effect-sizes-learning-achievement/>

5. We need to concentrate on the boy's greetings again. While we had different points of view from the team on their experience of the greetings, it is imperative that we push this aspect of our 5 G's. Please may I ask parents to help us in this regard. If boys do not greet, please make a point of correcting them and if boys do a good job, please let us know so that we can acknowledge them. From a school point of view, we will run another campaign in this area.

Our class mum's meetings have proved to be most productive over the years and I thank the CC volunteers for the sterling work that they do. Please also feel free to call me should you wish to discuss any aspect of your son's education.

Another initiative from the PA is the upcoming talk by Roy Gluckman on Thursday, 14 March, as part of My Story. Roy spoke to the St Peter's Prep staff at the beginning of this term. It was extremely insightful and thought provoking. I highly recommend for parents to attend (details below).

Have a great week.

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP

CONDOLENCES

I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Charmaine Basel and her family on the passing of her father.

SUNDAY, 10 MARCH – CHAPEL SERVICE

On Sunday St Peter's Boys Prep will be hosting a Morning Prayer Service at 8:00 in our Chapel. Do bring your family and join us for this service as we start our preparations for Easter.



SATURDAY, 16 MARCH:

GRADE 1 & 2 DADS & LADS MINI CRICKET

The Grade 1 and 2 Dads and Lads mini cricket matches will take place on Newlands field. Grade 2 parents will be selling refreshments from Keys Pavilion. A detailed letter to all participants will be sent home, via boy post, on Monday.

CAMP OUT

We will be hosting the annual Camp Out on Feathers and Mvukuzane fields on Saturday evening. Unfortunately, due to school sport commitments no tents may be pitched in the morning. Our boys look forward to this event with great excitement. Their safety is vitally important to us so please follow the traffic and parking regulations closely. The weather prediction is looking positive for Saturday, so I am sure we are in for a super evening.

A few reminders:

- Please keep a close eye on your children to ensure they are safe at all times, particularly when it gets dark and when using the stop and drop designated areas on the fields.
- The boys need torches, although our class parents will be selling glow-in-the-dark wands
- Children are not permitted to play in the Girls JP playground, go up to the Chapel or into the School Buildings.
- Please make every effort to keep a space between tents for walkways. This prevents children (and adults) tripping over guy ropes.
- Please only make fires in the designated braai area to prevent damage to the fields or an unfortunate accident. Fire extinguishers are available in Mvukuzane Pavilion.
- Bad weather: If it is raining on Saturday and expected to rain all day, a communication will be sent out as timeously as possible, cancelling the event. If our lightning siren goes off during the event – it is critical that parents take children off the field to the closest point of cover – either Mvukuzane Pavilion or the Girls JP Classroom block. The **all clear** signal is usually sounded half an hour after the first siren. (This is 2 long signals). When the all-clear is sounded, parents can return to their tents. Please adhere to these expectations, in the safety of your children and yourselves.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Shoes: A number of school shoes belonging to JP boys are being left in various places around the school. Please could parents ensure that the boys wear their shoes to and from school. If our boys leave wearing their shoes we know you will not have to hunt them down. When our boys are out in public we expect them to be correctly dressed and wearing shoes.

Hats: The school has a No Hat, No Play policy, especially in this hot weather. All boys need two hats – one for their locker for school use and one in their bag for Waiting Class, extra cost extra murals and Aftercare.

Lost Property: Thank you to the Lost Property Team who work tirelessly to return marked items to their owner. Please could parents check school clothes and shoes regularly to ensure their son's clothing is correctly marked. Please could you also check your cupboards for items of school clothing that may land up at your home and return these to school. Our boys easily muddle their outfits when changing or packing up.

WET WEATHER & LIGHTNING CONDITIONS

Please see attachment for procedures during the above conditions.

COFFEE MORNING – THURSDAY, 14 MARCH

On Thursday we will be hosting a coffee morning on a new app we have purchased from Learneo, for all Grade 1 and 2 children. This app will enable you to assist your child with the correct pronunciation of IsiZulu words that we are covering in class and will be available for use the following week. We are excited by this programme and I am even hoping to use it to learn some IsiZulu vocabulary.

FRIDAY, 15 MARCH – Hot Dog & Civvies Day

On Friday our boys will come to school dressed in their everyday clothes. The total cost is R35-00, R10-00 of which will be used to support a charity. They will enjoy a Hot Dog, chips and juice too – which seems to be the highlight of each month.

RECYCLE, REUSE AND RENEW

For next week please could our boys bring the following:

- clean ice-cream tubs
- clean yoghurt containers
- clean milk bottles

We are also looking for board books, in good condition, (suitable for children 3 years and younger). These will be used for a reading programme we want to introduce for our service staff's children. The books can be given to Annette Strouthos in the JP Boys Library.

Thank you!!

GOLDEN MOMENT

A Speech Therapist was walking one of the boys to therapy and she asked him where his folder was. His reply: "It's been left at home because my dad doesn't know what a speech folder is!"

We have a very busy but exciting week ahead of us.


Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 10 March
8:00 Morning Service – St Peter's Chapel
Monday 11 March
Tuesday 12 March
Wednesday 13 March
8:00 Chapel Service (birthdays 11-17 March)
8:00 Sefikeng Community Partnership
13:00 Grade 2 choir (Dodson Hall)
18:30 PA AGM – Mvukuzane Pavilion
Thursday 14 March
7:30 Coffee Morning – IsiZulu Learneo App
18:30 My Story – a must attend to hear this dynamic speaker
Friday 15 March
Hot Dog & Civvies Day (R35)
13:00 Grade 2 Mini Cricket matches vs The Ridge
Saturday 16 March
Dads & Lads Mini Cricket
Grade 1: 8:00 Registration, start 8:30-10:00
Grade 2: 10:00 Registration, start 10:30-13:00
16:00 Camp Out

PA NEWS
PA NOTICE OF AGM



**ST PETER'S
PREP SCHOOLS**

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF THE ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will take place on
WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2019
in the Mvukuzane Pavilion
TIME: 18:30 for 19:00

All Parents are encouraged to attend the AGM,
which will be followed by a cocktail function.

The PA AGM Notice and Form of Proxy have been emailed to all parents and can be found on the Communicator St Peter's under RESOURCES/ BOYS/GIRLS /PA.

A MY STORY INVITATION

YOU ARE INVITED



A talk by Roy Cluckman, a
celebrated Diversity & Inclusion
specialist

**TOPIC : The Changing Perspective
of South African Children**

DATE	TIME	VENUE
THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2019	18:30 - 20:00	ST PETER'S GIRLS JUNIOR PREP HALL

brought to you by My Story

CHARITY



Official Sponsor

Calling all Super Dogs!



DOGS UNITE!
For Guide Dogs

The only dog walk of its kind- where your dog is the hero of the hour and every hero will be presented with a cape!

Date: 7 April 2019
Venue: PWC Bike Park
JHB
(1A Libertas Street, off Sloan Street, Bryanston, Sandton, 2191)

Time: 07h30-12h00
Keep a look out on our website
www.guidedog.org.za



GUIDE-DOGS ASSOCIATION
South Africa

Make sure to buy your tickets at our webshop
www.guidedog.org.za