



Dear Parents,

**FROM THE HEADMASTER**

I recently used a story in Chapel that told how an American pastor had planted a teaspoon full of seeds and harvested the crop, replanting it year after year for a number of years until the crop of wheat was enough to bake over two million loaves of bread. This idea of constantly building on our resources as well as having the patience to wait for the final crop has much to teach us about primary school education.

Each phase in the preparatory school can be likened to a crop, with the exponential growth over time being the ultimate goal rather than immediate gratification. Learning to read and write is a basic foundation for further academic success, learning to hum a tune or play the recorder is the first step towards composing one's own music and learning how to bounce and catch a ball could be in preparation for the NBA or IPL. Each year builds on existing skills and expands or reinforces them in what educationalists call a spiral curriculum.

What we all need to remember, however, is that the first crop no matter how small, is just as significant as the final product. There will also be trials and tribulations, which could be likened to times of drought or pestilence along the way. What we need to do is to keep the end in mind and to see each day as a chance for our boys to grow, not only in ability but also in character. The end product from a preparatory school should be a boy with a sound academic, sporting and cultural foundation, who has the confidence, humility and grit to make best use of everything that a high school has to offer and into later life. We have two lessons to learn from the American pastor; firstly, the final product does not happen overnight and, secondly, that every crop, no matter how small, is a significant step towards creating a well-rounded and confident St Peter's boy.

**St Peter's Year of the Woman**

I would like to congratulate all who were involved in the extremely successful launch of the St Peter's Year of the Woman, which took place last Saturday.



It has been gratifying to note the many positive responses to the morning and I look forward to the further roll out of this initiative in 2017.

Have a pleasant week ahead.

**Rob Macaulay**

**FROM THE JUNIOR PREP  
TIME2READ**

We were delighted by the number of parents who attended the Time2Read presentations yesterday. The positive response and enthusiasm towards this approach to reading and writing was most gratifying. Should you have queries about the homework being sent home, please ask your child to explain. If there is further confusion do not hesitate to discuss this with your class teacher.

### **WET WEATHER PROGRAMME**

Parents are reminded that when the lightning siren has been activated and the red lights are on at the gates, our boys must stay indoors. These measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of your child.

During wet and stormy weather the boys will be placed in one or two classrooms (depending on numbers) until the storm passes. A white board in the foyer will indicate the collection point. The After School programme boys will only be escorted to their facility when it is safe to do so.

### **GRADE 2 CHOIR**

Practices are as follows: Wednesday second break 12:00-12:20 **OR** Wednesday after school 13:00-13:30. We have many Grade 2 boys who would love to sing, but have after school commitments, thus we have given them a choice of when they would like to attend. Reminder: all Grade 2 boys are welcome, there is no application form for this activity.

**Sandra van Wyk: JP Boys Music**

### **TENNIS UPDATE**

From the middle of February we will be offering extra tennis at St Peter's tennis courts for our Grade 0-2 boys. This will take place in a group format with plenty of places available for children to join. These sessions will be run and organised by our resident coach, Werner Knuppe, and his assistant coaches. Werner is a fully qualified national tennis instructor and a top league player with 17 years coaching experience. He was also ranked highly on the national rankings up to 2009 when he decided to concentrate more on coaching. All his coaches have done a play and stay course and are fully qualified to work with young children using the red, orange and green dot balls.

These are the proposed times:

Grade 0:	Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13:15 to 14:00
Grade 1&2:	Mondays 14:00 to 14:45 and Wednesdays 13:15 to 14:00

Please note that the above times are only for a start and should more children join, more times will be made available. Groups will consist of a maximum of 6 children per coach, to ensure they get maximum value whilst on court. More than 6 children can join any specific time slot, in which case more coaches will be made available.

#### **Important details:**

Cost per 45 minute session: R130

Accounts can be settled monthly in advance or per term in advance

Any lesson rained out or missed, with prior notice, will be made up. Options will be given for make-up lessons.

All bookings can be done directly with Werner: **083 746 4633** or [knuppeteninvoice@gmail.com](mailto:knuppeteninvoice@gmail.com) Please feel free to contact him for further details. Flyers will be handed out soon.

**Craig Jooste: HOD JP Sport**

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH – DIEPSLOOT COMBINED SCHOOL**

Very few parents have responded to the call for assistance at Diepsloot Combined School. Please do support this initiative if you can. To the families who have responded – thank you!

The first session at Diepsloot is **Tuesday, 14 February**, departing St Peter's at 8:30, returning by 10:30.

### **GOLDEN MOMENT**

Yesterday during a demo lesson, Marit (from Time2Read) asked the boys a question: "What does your mommy like to drink that starts with a 't'?" Without hesitation a child answered "wine!"

Have a lovely weekend.

Warm regards,

**Kenda Melvill-Smith**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Monday 13 February</b> Hearing Screening
<b>Tuesday 14 February</b> 8:30 DCS lesson: The Face
<b>Wednesday 15 February</b> 8:00 Chapel (birthdays 12-19 February) 12:00-12:20 Grade 2 Choir <b>OR</b> 13:00-13:30 Grade 2 Choir
<b>Thursday 16 February</b>
<b>Friday 17 February</b> 9:00 Tree Production and Workshop Grade 2 Mini Cricket match vs St Benedict's at home

**STAFF VARIETY SHOW TIME!**

Party like there is no **mañana!** It's the greatest show of the year

**MexiKEYn**  
2017 STAFF VARIETY SHOW

24 & 25 MARCH  
31 MARCH & 1 APRIL

The much anticipated *St Peter's Staff Variety Show*, hits the Dodson Hall in March!

This is an evening of great fun and entertainment where the parents get to see the staff in a very light hearted way dancing, singing and performing their hearts out while enjoying a delicious meal!

**Get your table of 10 together**  
**Bookings open soon**

**Dates:** Friday 24 March, Saturday 25 March, Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April