



Dear Parents,

FROM THE RECTOR
STAFF VARIETY SHOW



2015 Staff Variety Show

New parents may not be familiar with the show. It was introduced by Anthony Parnell, the fourth Headmaster of the Boys Prep. If I am not mistaken, the first performance took place in 1982. Anthony's rationale was to have the staff give something back to the school by assisting the PA in fundraising. Beside the entertainment, the occasion shows what good sports the staff are as they willingly put themselves 'on the line' and laugh with the parents at themselves. It provides a platform to reveal the many talents of the staff and an opportunity for parents to view their children's teachers in an entirely different light.

All the proceeds raised on the evening go to the PA who then channel these into the school for the benefit of the pupils.

The show is conceived and produced by staff exclusively and many hours go into rehearsal and preparation. At the same time, teachers are expected to perform optimally in the classroom, and this they do commendably. Some of the skits can be quite risqué and so children have never been permitted to attend.

The PA provides food and refreshments and parents traditionally book tables together with their friends. If you have not been able to be seated at a table with friends, we will do our best to accommodate you.

Questions for the Rector:

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at dradloff@stpeters.co.za

Greg Royce

FROM THE HEADMASTER

We live in an age in which we are bombarded with information. Some of the information serves to provide an opportunity for us to interact with the world, but a large amount of it serves to either create joy, concern, or something in-between. Take programmes like Carte Blanche for instance. An exposé on corruption will serve to create a sense of dissonance within us, while a story about the drought could inspire us to act by saving water through conscious action. What is important is to be able to make the distinction between what is in our sphere of influence and what is simply within our sphere of concern.

Stephen Covey, in his book "The 8th Habit" talks about the "Circle of Concern" as being things that concern and interest you and the "Circle of Influence" as containing things over which you have some control (Covey 2004: 132). One of the most important aspects of character development and also well within our circle of influence as a "Thinking School" is to

create boys who are proactive. These boys will be able to recognise situations over which they have some influence and choose to act in order to assert that influence to serve either their personal or societies' needs. Similarly, one's state of mental wellbeing is often influenced by matters that are outside our control. These issues can build up and create negativity towards our country, our school, individuals or a challenge that may face us. We should encourage our boys to identify what is outside their circle of influence and to rather concentrate on proactivity within the circle. I believe that we should also model this behaviour in our daily lives, particularly in discussions that may be "overheard" by our children. All too often they hear negativity from adult mouths, whether it be about the state of rugby in the country or a lack of discipline in certain areas of parliament. Should we not rather be focusing on the positive concepts of getting personally fit and playing a sport to the best of our ability; or living within a true spirit of "Ubuntu" during this St Peter's Year of the Woman? It is, after all, within both our circle of influence and our circle of concern to prepare our boys to be positive, proactive citizens of our country and the world.

I remind you that we have an opportunity to worship God in song and prayer as the Chapel Choir lead us in "Morning Prayer" this Sunday. The service begins at 08:00 and lasts approximately 40 minutes. Please join us for this special time of worship. The summer "team sport" season also comes to an end this week and we look forward to starting the athletics season on Monday.

Have a wonderful week.

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP THE IMPORTANCE OF IMAGINATION!

Parents and teachers can do a great deal to enable their children to rediscover their imaginations. Extracts from an article written for Childtime Learning Centres give us some sound advice:

The Importance of Imagination

Do children today use their imaginations as much as we did when we were kids? Do you see your children spinning incredible tales and stories in their fantasy play like we used to when we played "cops and robbers" or "house"? Or does your child's fantasy play seem to consist only of repetitive movements like karate chops or ballerina spins that have no story to them?

In the world of child development you may hear us use phrases like "critical thinking skills" and "creative problem-solving abilities" when referring to our goals for your child's cognitive development. What we are really talking about is... imagination. The way to create human beings with imagination is to provide them with opportunities to develop it for themselves when they are very young. These opportunities are found in one place and one place only... play. Playing with paints, playing with play dough, with costumes, with glue and with crayons. Making a mess. Exploring the woods. Splashing in a puddle. Wondering at a caterpillar you notice inching by you. Pretending to be a bird, gliding through the sky.

Are you providing your children enough opportunities for this type of play? If they are spending hours sitting at a computer, watching television or playing video games, they are passive participants being fed someone else's stories instead of having the time and space to dream up their own. If they are enrolled in soccer, ballet, karate and gymnastics all in the same week, they are receiving wonderful opportunities to develop their skills. But they have little to no opportunity to use their creativity and imagination to decide how to use their free time, what fantasy to explore or what part of their world they'd like to discover more about at their own pace, in their own way.

Often parents today think that if they give their children too much free time they are wasting opportunities for learning and preparing children for their futures. But these types of parental choices, though done with love and the best of intentions, are not a gift to children, according to current child development theory and research. Children today desperately need time and space to develop their creative imaginations free from adult agendas. Even if your children complain, "I'm bored! There's nothing to do!" please, please, please trust that if you force them to figure out for themselves how to fill their time, their innate creativity will kick in and their imaginations will soar!

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate the Leenstra family on the birth of their little girl, Ruby Mae. James will be an awesome big brother.

GRADE 2 MINI CRICKET

Our Grade 2 mini cricket matches come to an end today, with the last matches being played at The Ridge. Once again I am sure our boys will show courtesy, skill and sportsmanship on the field.

LONG WEEKEND – SCHOOL HOLIDAY & HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 make up a long weekend. However, school will close at the normal time on Friday, 17 March.

DIEPSLOOT COMBINED SCHOOL

We are desperately in need of more volunteers to assist at Diepsloot on Tuesdays. Please do consider participating in this outreach programme as the personal reward is so valuable.

This week we will be completing an Easter theme with the children as they prepare for their holidays.

I would also like to thank parents who have donated old shoes thus far. These are making a difference in the lives of many children, particularly with winter approaching.

ST PETER'S ISEMATHOLENI INTERN PROGRAMME

A number of our interns have had to re-locate in order to be closer to the school. If you have any household items that you no longer have any use for, please would you donate these to the interns. This could include furniture, bedding, crockery, cutlery, glassware, lamps, fans, etc. These items can be left with Ros at the Boys Junior Prep reception or Kelly at the Girls Junior Prep.

Many thanks to all those who have already donated household items, they are much appreciated.

June Tromp (Head Mentor) jtromp@stpeters.co.za

PROF ANDRÉ VENTER TALK - ADHD & ANXIETY IN CHILDREN: Mixed Doubles Anyone?

Date: 22 March Time: 18:30-20:00

Cost: R120-00 per person

Venue: Bellavista School, 35 Wingfield Avenue, Birdhaven.

For enquiries contact Cindy Ebersey on 011 788 5454 or share@bellavistaschool.co.za

GOLDEN MOMENT

After singing the National Anthem in Chapel this week, a little Grade 0 boy said to his teacher: "I don't know why, but that song always makes me cry."

Enjoy the weekend.

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 12 March
8:00 Family Morning Prayer Service (Chapel)
Monday 13 March
Visual screening Grade 0 and new boys
Tuesday 14 March
8:30 DCS Outreach Programme - Easter
Wednesday 15 March
8:00 Chapel (birthday cards 13-19 March)
12:00-12:20 Grade 2 Choir OR
13:00-13:30 Grade 2 Choir
18:30 PA AGM (Mvukuzane Pavilion)
Thursday 16 March
Friday 17 March
Monday 20 March School Holiday
Tuesday 21 March Public Holiday: Human Rights Day

STAFF VARIETY SHOW**PA AGM – WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH**

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

Proxy Forms can be deposited in the box specified in the St Peter's Boys Prep School reception areas or in the St Peter's Girls Prep School reception areas, or may be submitted electronically via email to paproxies@stpeters.co.za.

These must be received by the secretary of the PA Committee, **by no later than 08:00 on Wednesday, 15 March 2017**.

The AGM will be held in Mvukuzane Pavilion at 18:30.

REFLECTIONS ON YEAR OF THE WOMAN EVENT

In keeping with the Schools Diversity Theme for 2017 – **Year of the Woman**, a diverse group of women from across the Prep Schools, gathered on Saturday, 4 February 2017. This was an opportunity for women across all divides to meet each other, connect and model what the world is needing more of!

There were opportunities for learning and growth as well as wonderful, meaningful interactions with other women we might never have met; with lots of fun, laughter and a delicious champagne breakfast!

From this rich, connected space we also had the opportunity to explore themes that are important for women. Ideas for further collaboration to enrich the school community were generated.

Further communication around this will be shared later.

Thanks to the PA for sponsoring the event and all the wonderful women who attended, making new friends and sharing their enthusiasm.

Guomar Holme and Phetsile Dlamini (Facilitators)