



Dear Parents,



FROM THE RECTOR

When I was at school (the Dead Sea was only critical at that stage), it was customary for teachers to assign an essay entitled "My Holiday" at the start of term. So here is mine.

We spent the first week at a well-known timeshare resort on the North Coast of Kwa-Zulu. During this time, which we spent with children and grandchildren, the following occurred at home:

- The Great Dane ingested the fibre stuffing from its bed and had to have an emergency bowel operation from which, the Vet warned us, it was unlikely to recover.
- I contracted a severe tummy bug, the anti-biotic for which prevented any exercise.
- Pam was summoned to the CCMA.
- A geyser burst in the house.

We returned to campus for the final 3 weeks. Bliss. The Great Dane recovered. Four of the school chickens hatched clutches totalling over 30 chicks. Rob Macaulay became a grandpa.

All was heavenly until the last week. The events in the country left us feeling resentful, disheartened, depressed, angry and fearful for our own and our children's futures. There is such an obvious lack of accountability, morality and leadership in so many spaces.

When news is overwhelmingly bad as is this, it's very easy to lose sight of the good. Moreover, when we hear it, we tend to minimise it.

The fact is, that in the "Republic of No Consequences" there has been a great deal of good progress. Those of you who read the address of the State President to the World Economic Forum while the nation listened to his pre-recorded briefing on measures to protect women and children, will have noted his determination to eradicate corruption and to have the perpetrators serve jail time. In ridding our institutions of those whose motives are self-enrichment and indifference to the poor, much good has been quietly achieved at SARS by the dogged Edward Kieswetter, by the Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, Shamila Batohi (experience in the International Court) at the National Prosecuting Authority and the highly competent and determined Advocate Andy Mothibi at the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Those of you who receive newsletters from the Nedbank Private Wealth Investment Research will have read JP Landman's wonderfully comprehensive overview of the many steps that have been taken to clean up government institutions. (Please try to access this article before you pack for Perth or Paternoster).

So, while counting school chickens (after they had hatched), I pondered what lessons the school could learn from the horrific events of the past week.

We need to teach our pupils that we are all God's children, equally precious in his/her eyes; equally valued, regardless of

race, ability, origin, gender, age (I put that in for me) or any other defining factor. When we demean (or worse) any other human being, we are demeaning ourselves.

The notion that women should obey their husbands and partners emanates from an era when survival depended on physical strength. We have to disabuse our children of the notion that women are subject to the whims of men.

The "Thinking Skills" programme at St Peter's assumes an even more important status when related to last week. South Africa needs decision-makers who think broadly about each problem: the positive, the negative, interesting, the long-term as well as short-term consequences, **all** people affected by the decision, the emotive and objective aspects. Too many decisions are made by people on the basis of what they think they know and not what they actually know. Children need to learn the art of broad, comprehensive and deliberate consideration of problems.

The chasm of inequality has to be addressed deliberately and effectively. As such, St Peter's will make every effort to expand our Teacher Intern Programme. Great teachers are the most effective way to tackle these challenges. We currently host 24 intern teachers and will do everything we can to double this number.

I spent the last weekend of the holiday between Bombela (Nelspruit) and White River. A prominent Lowveld school had asked me to facilitate the Leadership Development Programme which we have developed at St Peter's. The hostelry where I was billeted is frequented by travelling tradesmen, professionals and service providers. Each evening, I took the opportunity to speak to Telkom and Transnet employees, former prison warders and waiters.

The experience was a stark reminder of how many decent, intelligent people exist in our country. Nobody had pulled the wool over their eyes. They were scathing about the corruption and horrified at the misguided violence. They reinforced my faith in the country's people.

On Monday, the staff returned to school. We gathered to share a moving Eucharist service.

Thereafter, the entire staff met: teachers, caterers, cleaners and administrators. We committed to continue offering a world-class education to our children.

Catherine Steenhoff told me to get my hair cut.

Thankfully, some things don't change.

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

ABSENCE OF POINTSMEN

The absence of pointsmen at the St Peter's Prep entrances is a consequence of the failure of the City of Johannesburg to adjudicate tenders timeously and/or to renew its service agreement with Traffic Freeflow. As a consequence, intersections all over Johannesburg have been affected.

We have been unsuccessful in locating temporary replacement pointsmen.

Replacement of the pointsmen is complicated by issues such as accreditation and insurance. It's not simply a matter of finding individuals who can do the job.

The community would be grateful for any assistance or contacts parents might be able to furnish to help deal with this issue.

Any queries or suggestions regarding this matter, please contact Campus Deputy Head: Compliance, Mr Vijay Maharaj vmaharaj@stpeters.co.za

Greg Royce
(Rector)

THE CRACKED POT

At our Staff Eucharist on Monday the story of the cracked pot was shared. It is such a good story to tell as we enter the final term of the year. We live in a world that demands perfection, yet none of us is perfect. It is our cracks that define us and create the person we are to become. The same can be said for our children – let's celebrate them for who they are this term, not for who we want them to be.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years, this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you". The bearer asked, "Why? What are you ashamed of?" The Pot replied, "For these past two years I am able to deliver only half of my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you don't get full value for your efforts".

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion, he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." As they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it somewhat. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. In this world, nothing goes to waste. You may think like the cracked pot that you are inefficient or useless in certain areas of your life, but somehow these flaws can turn out to be a blessing in disguise."

WELCOME

I would like to welcome our boys and their families back to the most exciting term of the year. I hope you all had a relaxing, happy holiday and are ready for all this term has in store for us.

I want to extend a special welcome to the following boys and their families:

Jude Saville (Grade 0M); Oliver Sanders (Grade 1K) and Rhys Abraham (Grade 2P). I hope you will soon feel that you are members of the St Peter's family and your time with us is both happy and successful.

CONGRATULATIONS

Christopher Grota (Grade 2P) came first in the Junior Africa Golf Challenge held in Durban over the holidays. We are extremely proud of his achievement.

MAGIC SHOW – GRADE 0 & SEFIKENG

Tomorrow (Friday, 13 September) the Grade 0 boys will be hosting the Sefikeng Grade 0 children at St Peter's. They will watch a magic show, share lunches and enjoy play time together. Grade 0 parents are reminded to please pack an extra lunch for this exciting event.

HERITAGE HARVEST TABLE – 19 SEPTEMBER

Following on from last year's Heritage Harvest Table, the Social Cohesion will be hosting another similar event on

Thursday, 19 September. You would all have received your invitation so please do not forget to RSVP by Tuesday, 17 September (see link below). Entrance is a plate of goodies to share, that uses a uniquely South African product – think Marmite, Bovril, Biltong, Oma Rusks, Mrs Balls Chutney etc. I look forward to meeting many parents at this event.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8p4zuaQzluZ6eXycYbbriXpTclEtKetNXtfg5pw-YMICjPw/viewform?usp=sf_link



HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Friday, 20 September our boys have Hot Dog and Civvies Day. Please could I ask boys to wear an item of clothes that day that reflects their families' heritage? Our Interns will once again share their heritage with their class on the day.

LONG WEEKEND – HERITAGE DAY

School will close at the regular time on Friday, 20 September and Aftercare will be available. Monday, 23 September is a school holiday and Tuesday, 24 September is Heritage Day. Boys will return to school on **Wednesday, 25 September**.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS – 25 SEPTEMBER

Booking sheets for Parent Consultations on Wednesday, 25 September, will be distributed on Monday, 16 September. Please do book a time for a brief meeting with your child's teacher. Should you require a longer meeting time or are unavailable on the day, please arrange an alternative time to meet the teacher.

HEADS UP – 26 SEPTEMBER

Please diarise the parent talk by 'In the Know' on Screen Time on **Thursday, 26 September** from **18:30-20:30** in the JP Hall. This dynamic team has valuable information to share with parents on the impact of screen time.

AFTERCARE – JP BOYS BUILDING

The alterations to the Aftercare facility are nearing completion. Aftercare children will remain in the JP Boys building until Friday, 20 September. After the long weekend from Wednesday, 25 September, they will be back in their "house."

GRADE 1 CHOIR

In the Third Term our Grade 1 boys may join the choir (CHAPS), as preparations for Grade 2 performances commence. Should your son wish to be part of this initiative, please take note they will practise from 13:00-13:00 on a Thursday in the JP Hall.

GOLDEN MOMENT

Last term Ms Fouché was helping the Senior Prep boys with their dance movements for the school play. Several Grade 1 boys were watching and they wanted to know why she was helping them to cheat!

I am away on conference on Thursday and Friday this week, but look forward to catching up with many of you in the near future.

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

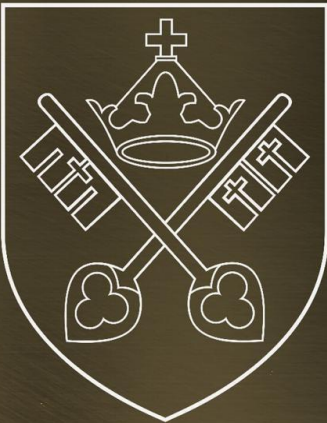
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 13 September	
Grade 0 & Sefikeng – Magic Show	
Monday 16 September	
Tuesday 17 September	
Wednesday 18 September	
8:00	Chapel (birthdays 16-22 September)
8:00	Sefikeng – community partnership
13:00	CHAPS – Dodson Hall
Thursday 19 September	
13:00	Grade 1 Choir – JP Hall
18:30	Heritage Harvest Table – Dodson Hall
Friday 20 September	
HOT DOG & CIVVIES DAY – Heritage Dress Up	

PA NEWS

PAVER PLAQUE ORDERS - <https://goo.gl/forms/eZGieDiKQnfdyzWu2>

Paver Plaques



"May you never forget what is worth remembering."

This is a timeless reminder of your son's years at St Peter's Boys Prep. A brass plaque is engraved with your son's details and is placed in the Old Boys Quad outside Dodson Hall.

Should you wish to order, and see the various options, please click on the link and complete the Google order form.

<https://goo.gl/forms/eZGieDiKQnfdyzWu2>

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!



**ST PETER'S
GIRLS PREP SCHOOL**
105 Witkoppen Road | Paulshof

*** OPENDAY ***

**We are expanding and have
spaces in Grade 0 and 1 for 2020!**
(turning 6 or 7 years old)

- > Saturday, 5 October 2019
- > 09:00 to 12:00
- > Venue St Peter's Girls Junior Prep
105 Witkoppen Road
(Opposite Porsche)

*** Register for OPEN DAY
girlsopenday@stpeters.co.za**

www.stpeters.co.za