



Dear Parents,

FROM THE RECTOR

In my first Newsletter article of 2019, I reflected on some positive aspects at the beginning of the year. One of those I listed was the appointment by the Heads of an additional two black teachers. I referred to these as “highly competent”.

I recognise that it would have been unlikely for me to have used a similar descriptor in referring to new white teachers. As such, the words could be viewed as reinforcing the concept that black teachers are unlikely to be of the same quality as white teachers. My remark is therefore likely to have caused offence and for this I apologise unreservedly.

I am deeply grateful to those people who have the courage to point out such blunders to me. It’s the only way to overcome my own unconscious bias.

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

CHANGE TO START DATE FOR TRINITY TERM

Election Day has been set as Wednesday, 8 May 2019.

As a result of this, it has been decided that the **TRINITY TERM WILL BEGIN ON THURSDAY, 9 MAY 2019.**

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP

20 WAYS TO CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY EVERY DAY

While Valentine’s Day is nice for reminding us to do something extra special for our loved ones, I think it is better to let it inspire us to show our love in little ways, every day. Here are twenty little ways to celebrate with your family every day, not just Valentine’s Day. Leave little hearts in places they will find them. Put notes in their lunches (for your kids and spouse). Forgive them when they make a mistake. Make heart-shaped pancakes for family breakfast. Hold hands. Plan a special one-on-one date with each child individually, and a date night with your partner. Comfort them, even when what they’re upset about seems silly to you. Make their favourite snack or dessert heart-shaped. Have family cuddle time. Give them a card for no reason. Draw hearts and notes in steamy shower doors or mirrors for your family to find. Put a surprise under their pillow. Offer hugs and kisses for no reason. Put away all of your devices for one day and give them your undivided attention. Give them extra praise for something they did well or did for you. Be silly together and show them how happy they make you. Cook or take them out for their favourite meal. Ask them, “Do you know how much I love you?” Let the little things go—try not to nag or be negative for an entire day. Tell them you love them. <https://www.momtastic.com/life/390955-little-ways-to-celebrate-valentines-day-with-your-family/#VGUZ4DL06xyfPxTh.03>

CONGRATULATIONS!

I would like to congratulate Tracey Sparks who will be getting married on Saturday afternoon. I know that Gregory and Tracey will create many happy memories together. Tracey will be off next week on honeymoon and return after the Half Term break.

Congratulations are also extended to Tiffany Koch. Ben and Tiff are expecting their first child this year – a true blessing. Tiff will be going on maternity leave at the end of May. Debby Jameson will be stepping into her shoes for the rest of the year.

The Junior Prep is a very happy and exciting place with all the good news we have had to celebrate so far this year.

HEARING SCREENING

The annual hearing screening will take place this week on 19 and 20 February. Please ensure your forms are returned – this screening is optional and is extended to our Grade 0 boys, new boys and others who may benefit from a revised screening.

COFFEE MORNING – BREATH WORKS

I would highly recommend attendance at our next coffee morning. Dr Ela Manga is a health practitioner who focuses on an holistic approach towards wellness. Last year she presented to the St Peter's staff on "Breath Works" and we want to share her expertise with our parents.

This workshop demonstrates the importance of mindful breathing to reduce stress and anxiety and create peace within oneself. It is a technique we have introduced into the classrooms and to assist individual boys when they feel frustrated or anxious.

Topic: Breath Works
Presenter: Dr Ela Manga
Date: Thursday, 28 February
Time: 7:30-8:30
Venue: JP Girls Hall

HALF TERM

The first half of this term has literally flown past. Our boys have settled into the rhythm and routine of their new year. Next week we have our first Half Term break of 2019.

Due to demand we are offering an Aftercare service from 11:00-14:30 on the day. If you would like your child to attend Aftercare at this time please inform Trish Attlee (Aftercare Manager) via email: tattlee@stpeters.co.za

Closing times are staggered on the morning to allow for traffic flow:

Grade 0:10:00
Grade 1:10:15
Grade 2:10:30

There will be a supervised waiting class until **11:00**, after which boys who have not been collected will be taken to Aftercare.

The boys return to school on **Tuesday, 26 February** at **7:30**.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP – SEFIKENG

Please do take the time to read the article on our community partnership. We cannot touch lives without the support of our own parent body. We would appreciate any support your family could offer – financial, time or expertise. St Peter's would like to make a significant difference in the lives of the children who attend Sefikeng School at Leeukop Prison.

SPORT: GRADE 1 & 2 DADS AND LADS CRICKET

The booking link was sent out yesterday. Please RSVP by 01 March. We have placed the link at the end of this newsletter for your convenience.

GOLDEN MOMENT

During a Grade 0 Science lesson with Susan Barkhuizen, the boys were learning about the life cycle of the butterfly. Susan: "Boys, what does a butterfly change into?" One boy's reply: "A pimple" (instead of a pupa)!

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards,
Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 18 February	
Tuesday 19 February	
8:00	Sefikeng Outreach (meet in the Chapel car park) Hearing screening
Wednesday 20 February	
8:00	Chapel (birthdays from 18-24 February) Hearing screening
13:00	Grade 2 Choir (Dodson Hall)
Thursday 21 February	
HALF TERM: 10:00 Grade 0; 10:15 Grade 1; 10:30 Grade 2	
11:00	Waiting class ends → Aftercare
Tuesday 26 February	
7:30	Return to school

CRICKET REPLY LINK

<https://goo.gl/forms/Z4UPB1EmWbrHFBmv2>



VISION: *Growing servant leaders within our St Peter's family to uplift our community for their big futures.*

In order to create a more sustainable and meaningful impact within our community, St Peter's Boys Prep and Girls Prep have chosen Sefikeng Primary as our partner school. We will concentrate all our time, effort and resources on their Foundation Phase. Each St Peter's child and our staff will have an opportunity to make a contribution in some way. We would like to invite you to volunteer too, as we make a difference together!

Recent statistics released show that 8 out of 10 pupils in Grade 4 cannot read at an appropriate level and without this fundamental skill, little learning can take place. St Peter's has developed a partnership with *Read for Africa* and this phonics-based programme has enabled us to effectively teach Literacy Skills. We are also able to make regular assessments to track and measure progress.

The St Peter's interns have become a fundamental support for the programme. We do, however, also rely hugely on parent volunteers to give of their time or money to support the programme. The volunteers assist with small reading groups and create fun lessons. The more volunteers, the smaller the groups and the more effective the learning.

Why should you get involved?

- **Experience the unadulterated joy of assisting a child to move from being almost illiterate to being able to recognise letters and eventually words.**

- **Meet and be a part of a special group of like-minded parents, grandparents and friends trying to make a difference, one child at a time!**

What you need to know...

- **ABSOLUTELY no teaching experience or knowledge is needed! If you can identify your letters, handle a pen and whiteboard you are fully equipped. Training will be provided.**
- **We visit Sefikeng every Wednesday morning 08:30 to 09:30, it takes 15 minutes to get there (traffic dependent) and is 100% safe. 'Car shares' are very easily arranged.**
- **Your commitment is driven solely by you - one session a term, once a month or every week.**

How do you get involved?

- Contact Leigh Lidgley (llidgley@stpeters.co.za) or Jaya Govender (jgovender@stpeters.co.za) to volunteer your time.

If you are unable to volunteer your time, please consider donating R250 towards this very worthy cause.

- EFT - St Peter's Foundation, Standard Bank, Account No: 422 057 533, Reference CP/surname.
- Or follow this link to pay online: <https://www.stpeters.co.za/prep-foundation/donations>

Please help us make a difference in the lives of others!

SEFIKENG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our partner school, Sefikeng Primary, is seeking an IRBA registered auditor to audit their 2018 financial statements. They have not asked for it for free, but have asked for a quote. Please contact me should you be able to help: msloane@stpeters.co.za

Monica Sloane (Foundation Manager)

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING FEEDBACK

We always value open conversation. Please send us an email with any feedback from the Information Evenings on what you felt worked really well or suggestions for any improvements that can be made for next year. Please also indicate which grade you are referring to.

Please email: dfraser@stpeters.co.za

Diane Fraser (Marketer)

REMINDER: SECURITY SYSTEM FOR 2019

If you have not given in your **vehicle registration details** yet, please follow the link below.

If you have more than one child please only complete the form once:

<https://goo.gl/forms/qk0VZnK5SMmJjxO53>

MORNING BUS SERVICE TO ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS

We are all striving to reduce the traffic congestion in and around the school car parks and Witkoppen intersections. The morning bus service is a convenient and safe alternative to getting your children to St Peter's in the morning traffic.

There are two routes:

1. **Fourways Gardens** in the Spar parking lot on Uranium. Time: 06:20 to leave at 06:30. The bus will continue to the **Lonehill Fire station**, arrive 06:35 to leave at 06:40.
2. **Kyalami** bus runs from the **Kyalami Downs Shopping Centre**, next to the KFC. Time: 06:25 to leave at 06:30.



Bus Consent and Indemnity Form can be found on the Communicator. Please send to: reception@stpeters.co.za. For more information please contact Tim at tim@sagolfing.com