



Dear Parents,

FROM THE RECTOR

Traffic pointsmen update "Nought for your comfort"

The school has recently received an explanatory letter from Traffic Freeflow, the agency which has historically provided pointsmen to the City of Johannesburg. The letter notifies us that Traffic Freeflow has withdrawn from the tender process owing to the inability of the city to meet deadlines on several occasions.

We also have a parent involved in the negotiation process who has warned us that there is no solution on the horizon. The recent resignation of the mayor of the city has further exacerbated the matter.

In the meantime, we express our admiration for parents who are showing exemplary patience in a very frustrating situation. For the benefit of new parents, the issue of access and egress at St Peter's campus has been an ongoing problem. We have engaged the services of three traffic engineers to provide solutions at a cost of close to R200 000. The advice has been implemented in addition to our own measures which have served to effect slight improvements. The real problem is the traffic on Witkoppen Road over which we have no control. In time, we hope that the K60 will be built. This will divert all non-school traffic away from Witkoppen and provide relief. Petitions for the building of the K60 are in circulation and we urge you to sign these.

I guess we all have to continue getting up a little earlier in the mornings, unless Rassic Erasmus is able to provide a solution.

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 JUNIOR PREP

Over the past week I have had a number of parents share with me that their children are experiencing 'meltdown' in the afternoons. Like adults, children often show signs of fatigue at this time of year. The heat we have experienced this year has also aggravated the situation as our children's sleep is disrupted. They are often unable to express or even comprehend this feeling. I have included a few strategies to assist when your child feels tired and overwhelmed during the course of November:

10 THINGS TO DO WITH TIRED CHILDREN (By Nicole Avery)

Obviously tired children need more sleep, but there are times in a family's life and stages in the year when this just doesn't quite happen. We are experiencing a bit of this in our schools and homes at the moment. In South Africa, the Christmas season also sees the end of the school year for children. Children are starting to show signs of "end of the year" tiredness, particularly Junior Prep children. So whilst we endeavour to bundle our children off to bed as early as possible each night and encourage them to sleep later, they still seem to be quite tired. Tiredness in young children can often lead to crankiness, whining and fighting, so managing activities in the afternoons, evenings and on the weekends requires some forethought and planning. Below are some activities which could assist your children to cope with end of year tiredness and improve the atmosphere in your home over the last few weeks of school.

1. Cubby House

Helping the child to gather the required materials to build an inside cubby house or tent is a favourite. They will then grab their pillows, soft toys and a blanket and lie inside and play quietly.

2. Read a Story

Thankfully most children love books, so this activity can be either reading on their own or you sitting with them and reading a favourite story.

3. Audio Books

On a Saturday morning let your children stay in their pj's and choose a story CD to put on. They can then lay on the couch listening quietly for up to an hour.

I can highly recommend The Enchanted Wood (Faraway Tree) and The Folk of the Faraway Tree read by Kate Winslet. Winslet reads with great enthusiasm and gives all the characters unique voices.

4. Bath

This trick works particularly well for younger children on days when they are hot and tired and you have been out and about. To help them relax and calm themselves, you can swap your daily routine around and let them bath in the middle of the day. This refreshes them and they will happily play in the bath for over half an hour.

5. Colouring In

All my children find this activity relaxing. Sometimes when they are tired and seem to be just wandering around the house and unable to focus on an activity, grab some pencils and some colouring sheets, sit down and start colouring yourself, before you know it your children will be joining you!

6. Jigsaw Puzzle

This activity also works for all children. Often one child will start working on a large puzzle and the others will then gradually begin to join in, working quietly together.

7. Verbal Games

Let your children lie on the cool floor when they are tired. It can be fun to lie down with them and play verbal games like "I spy", 20 questions or the shopping game.

8. Cloud Games

This activity is obviously dependent upon clouds being available, but sometimes when the kids are tired, it is good for them to hop outside and get some fresh air. Lying on the grass or on the trampoline and looking up at the sky to make shapes out of the clouds, is a relaxing way for them to pass the time.

9. Lego

All children enjoy playing with Lego. They can make their creations as complicated or as simple as they wish, but it is an activity that they do quietly, either by themselves or with their siblings.

10. Pull Back

This is really something for parents to do and that is to realise that children are tired and pull back appropriately on activities, so that they don't reach a complete meltdown stage. This may mean doing nothing at times - things like staying home Saturday mornings to just let the young ones rest or limiting the number of Christmas catch ups and yearend functions we do.

NEW FAMILIES - 2020

Last week we welcomed our new families who will be joining us in 2020. Once again the Evensong and Cocktail Party was enjoyed by all and our choirs performed with enthusiasm.

On Saturday the new boys met their teachers and spent time orientating themselves to their new school.

Both events were warm and welcoming, as a result I received many compliments from parents and I observed many excited little boys.

I would like to thank the staff for their support at both events; as well as the effort they put into creating a nurturing environment. Special thanks must be extended to the CC, Zoe van Onselen and Angela Richardson and their team for the time and effort they put into both events.

GRADE 0 NATIVITY

On Wednesday our Grade 0 boys performed their Nativity – "A South African Christmas" to their special guests. The boys were absolutely delightful and thoroughly enjoyed being able to shine on the stage. Tonight they will be performing for their families and I can assure you that the charm of the Christmas Season will start to grow within your hearts.

GRADE 2 BOYS VISIT TO SUMMERFIELD: 15 November

On **Friday, 15 November** our Grade 2 boys will visit Summerfield Retirement Village. They will be entertaining the residents with songs filled with Christmas cheer. Each boy must please bring a small pot plant to school that morning to give to the elderly. They are working on a message to attach to their gift.

The people of the village so enjoy this visit and talk about it for weeks afterwards.

SWIMMING

Please see detailed letters attached to this newsletter.

Grade 0:

On **Friday, 22 November** each Grade 0 class will demonstrate the skills they have learnt during the course of 2019. Parents are invited to join us at the Boys School swimming pool should you wish to observe a demonstration by the children in your son's class:

8:00 Grade 0F
8:30 Grade 0H
9:00 Grade 0M
9:30 Grade 0S

Grade 1 & 2

The Grade 1 & 2 Gala will take place on **Saturday, 23 November** at the Boys School swimming pool. The gala will commence at 9:30 and should be finished by 11:00. The Grade 2 farewell event will take place after the gala.

AFTERCARE

Due to a new parents event at the Pre-Prep on Wednesday, 27 November, Aftercare will be at the Boys Junior Prep from **Monday, 25 – Wednesday, 27 November**, as the final touches are added to the building and the venue is set up for the function.

There will be **no** Aftercare service on break up day, Thursday, 05 December, as all staff will be attending our Year End Function.

GOLDEN MOMENT

On Monday morning I was taking our hand held school bell back to the staffroom, as we had used it on Saturday. A boy stopped me on the stairs and asked if I take the bell home every weekend to make sure that it keeps ringing in the morning and at break.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Nativity tonight and the swimming events next week.

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 18 November	
Tuesday 19 November	
Wednesday 20 November	
8:00	Chapel (<i>all birthdays from 18 November to 01 December</i>)
8:00	Sefikeng – outreach programme
13:00	Grade 2 CHAPS (Dodson Hall)
Thursday 21 November	
13:00	Grade 1 CHAPS (Middle Room)
Friday 22 November	
8:00-10:00 Grade 0 Swimming Demos	
Saturday 23 November	
9:30	Grade 1 & 2 Gala
11:00	Grade 2 Farewell event

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Christmas is time to celebrate! We remember, however, that it is also a time of giving and it creates the opportunity for us to give to someone who is less fortunate than we are.

In the Christmas boxes that have been sent home, please pack:

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Face Cloth, Soap
- Small toy (Maximum value R60 as the children will open their boxes in front of other children who have received a box and we don't want any disappointment)
- Packet of Sweets
- Crayons and blank book

If there is space, please fill the box up with: Tinned fish, tinned beef, tinned fruit, baked beans, sugar, tea bags, long life milk, jam, biscuits.

Please be so kind as to wrap the box in Christmas wrapping paper or newspaper.

Please help us to build on last year's success by returning your boxes by **Friday, 29 November**.

Collection points for: Senior Prep Girls and Boys: Chapel

Junior Prep Girls and Boys: JP reception areas

Blessings

Father Richard & Mr Kamo Kotsi

SECURITY REPORT: SPEEDING ON CAMPUS

The safety of our pupils, parents, staff and visitors is of paramount importance. To enhance traffic safety, a speed-monitoring camera has been installed on the property. We share the following downloaded statistics:

	Total Vehicles	Percentage motorists exceeding the speed limit	Max Speed Recorded
July	12302	25%	40 km/h
August	3004	24%	40 km/h
September	8008	28%	50 km/h
October	13791	24%	50 km/h

Please note that the schools were closed in August and we had a mid-term break in the month of September.

These statistics indicate that a huge percentage of motorists are not complying with the 20 km/h speed restriction.

Please adhere to the speed limit and exercise greater caution in the interest of the safety of our community.

Thank you for your co-operation

Lance Camphor (Security Manager)

OLD BOYS NEWS**Michaelhouse**

Michael Brown has been announced as a House Prefect in McCormick House for 2020. This is quite an honour with McCormick being one of two new Houses opening their doors in 2020.

AQUAPONICS – HELP NEEDED**St Peter's Boys Prep
Building an Aquaponics system!**

Our planet faces the reality of global warming and the greenhouse effect which are accelerating climate change. This obviously has huge implications for our planet and our very existence! Technology can help us to overcome most hurdles. By building an aquaponics system, the boys will be exposed to one of the technologies that can make a difference – please help us if you can! Click on the link below if you are interested in learning more about Aquaponics and how it works? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3KMLZiWYns>

We need your help in acquiring the necessary equipment. We are looking for:



A compressor, a pump, plastic drums that are big enough to play home to plants and fish. We also need some pvc piping, plants, fish, glues, shade cloth, and about 15 wooden poles to be used in fencing.

Our intention is to build this self-sustaining system and the boys manage and run the project.

Please contact Andrew Bench if you can help: abench@stpeters.co.za

SUNSET CAROLS - TICKETS NOW ON SALE!



Sunset Carols 2019

TICKET SALES ARE OPEN!

Go to our ticket site on Tixsa to purchase yours

Online Prices:

Adult (18+) R150

Child (3-18) R80

Child (under 3) free

Prices @ Door:

Adult R160

Child R90

Tables R250 per ticket (min 8, max 10)

Choir participants free - they will be given their armbands beforehand

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/stpeters-sunset-carols-2019>