



Dear Parents,

FROM THE RECTOR

A Report from Derek Wilcocks

On Thursday, 8 March 2018, Greg Royce invited a group of parents involved in the information technology industry to join a think tank to review information technology at St Peter's. Six parents kindly volunteered their time and met with the Heads and information technology staff, on both the technology provision and teaching sides, of both the Boys and Girls Prep Schools. The evening kicked off with Dieter Gloss, the IT Manager, giving an overview of the information technology infrastructure in place on the St Peter's campus. The overview covered connectivity, telephony, security, storage and continuity. In each instance issues such as reliability, performance, value for money and ability to meet future needs were addressed. After the review the parents congratulated Dieter and his team on their efforts over the past five years. After the presentation and ensuing discussion, no significant architectural or other changes were proposed.

Thereafter, Scott Hauptfleisch presented the approach to introducing children to devices, programming, robotics and general computer skills. He explained that the goal is to provide our children with platform independent skills, so that they are comfortable entering different high schools with different platform standards. The investment in using tools such as *Scratch* for programming and *Lego Robotics* kits was praised by the assembled parents, who felt that this best prepares our children for a world where the integration between computers and physical processes will deeply affect the career and entrepreneurial choices available to them. Scott also covered the use of robotics to teach other academic skills, such as age-appropriate sequencing and logical reasoning in a fun and highly interactive way. Some discussion ensued about future directions, covering ideas about artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies and how these technologies will affect our curriculum and the children. Scott also spoke about some of the development opportunities that he and other teachers have been exposed to, to ensure they are up to date with the latest thinking on the safe and innovative application of information technology in teaching.

The evening concluded on a very positive note with high praise for all the St Peter's staff involved in information technology. Our school and our children are in good information technology hands. Thank you once again to the parents who volunteered their time and expertise and who continue to assist the school in obtaining the best possible value in procuring technology and providing encouragement and advice to our highly dedicated and motivated Heads, teachers and administrative staff. Ultimately, most thanks is due to the teachers who have taken up the challenge of preparing the children for high schools and ultimately for professional life where technology plays an increasingly foundational role.

Derek Wilcocks (Council Member: IT Portfolio)

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 (Rector)

**FROM THE JUNIOR PREP
COLLABORATION**

In today's world the value of working collaboratively with each other cannot be ignored. Instead of an article this week I have included three short animated You Tube clips about collaboration. All three clips allow for discussion as a family and I would encourage you to watch a clip an evening and discuss collaboration as demonstrated in each one through critical questions and attention to the message being conveyed in each. Enjoy the collaborative family time.

The Olive branch –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8RoTy3Mat0&list=PL825752BB394776DE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cF24ZhVdHqw&index=2&list=PL825752BB394776DE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tuvIU1kY_U&list=PL825752BB394776DE&index=3

DADS & LADS CRICKET – Grade 1 and 2

On Saturday morning our Grade 1 and 2 boys will be playing mini-cricket with their dads. This day is one of the highlights of the sporting calendar for our boys.

Boys need to register from 8:15 onwards, the first match will commence at 8:45. Should the weather be inclement parents will be advised of decisions via the class WhatsApp group. Parking will be available at both the Chapel and JP Boys car parks.

The Grade 2 parents will be providing delicious refreshments on the morning, please do support them. I know that a fun morning will be had by all.



CAMP OUT

Excitement is building around the annual *Camp Out* on Feathers and Mvukuzane fields this Saturday. Please remember that this event is designed for you to spend quality time with your son. Siblings up to Grade 4 are welcome. (Older children tend to get up to mischief.)

A few reminders:

- Please keep a close eye on your children to ensure they are safe at all times, particularly when it gets dark and when using the stop and drop designated areas on the fields.
- The boys need torches although our class parents will be selling glow-in-the-dark wands.
- Children are not permitted to play in the Girls JP playground, go up to the Chapel or into the School Buildings.
- Please make every effort to keep a space between tents for walkways. This prevents children (and adults) tripping over guy ropes.
- Please only make fires in the designated braai area to prevent damage to the fields or an unfortunate accident. Fire extinguishers are available in Mvukuzane Pavilion.
- Bad weather: If it is raining on Saturday and expected to rain all day, a communication will be sent out as timeously as possible, cancelling the event. If our lightning siren goes off during the event - it is critical that parents take children off the field to the closest point of cover – either Mvukuzane Pavilion or the Girls JP Classroom block. The *all clear* signal is usually sounded half an hour after the first siren. (This is 2 long signals.) When the all-clear is sounded, parents can return to their tents. Please adhere to these expectations, in the safety of your children and yourselves.

I am looking forward to a perfect and fun-filled evening! Please see what food will be available below.



Joburg's Hottest Fire Engine Food Truck Experience

ENGINE67 is a Vintage 1950's Bedford Fire Engine Food truck serving only the highest quality food.

At Engine 67 It's all about the Taco's!!.. Only the Finest Quality Beef Rump & Chicken will do - Tender and Soft, melt in your mouth kinda can I have another feeling.

Our handcrafted burgers are Handmade, Seasoned, and Grilled to Perfection using fresh, never frozen Certified Grass Fed Beef and Chicken. And to top that our artisan buns and organic fresh produce with flavourful sauces and cheeses are designed to deliver a great tasting, juicy burger you can taste in every bite!

DAY OF EXPLORATION – IT'S NOT A BOX

On **Thursday, 22 March**, our boys will be creating a solution to set problem using “boxes.” The aim of the day is to encourage creative thinking and the use of skill sets to develop a workable product.

HOT DOG DAY

The school is aware of the many concerns with regard to Listeriosis. The PA are investigating different options for Hot Dog Day on Friday, 23 March. Once we know what is on sale we will inform you.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The number of volunteers for Diepsloot Combined School has increased slightly. I would like to thank all parties involved for their on-going support of this valuable and very worthwhile cause.

GOLDEN MOMENT

A Grade 0 boy told his teacher that when he was at nursery school last year his girlfriend wanted to marry him. He told her we had better make it soon, I don't have much time, as I am going to St Peter's.

Unfortunately I will not be at the Dads & Lads cricket this year as my daughter, Natasha, is getting married on Friday morning. I do, however, look forward to seeing many families at Camp Out in the evening.

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 16 March
Pyjama Day – boys wear their PJs to school to create awareness around Cancer as part of our CHOC collection
Saturday 17 March
8:00 Grade 1 and 2 Dads & Lads Mini Cricket
16:00 Camp Out
Monday 19 March
12:00 Grade 2 Choir practise during break
Tuesday 20 March
7:00-7:30 Music Coffee Morning (Girls SP Music Room)
8:30 DCS
9:00 Grade 0 Mobile Incubator
Wednesday 21 March – Public Holiday: Human Rights Day
Thursday 22 March
Day of Exploration – It's Not a Box
Friday 23 March
Hot Dog Day & Cartridge collection (R25)
9:15 Grade 2 Palm Sunday Chapel Service

THE ST PETERS MUSIC DEPARTMENT IS HOSTING A COFFEE MORNING - TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018

Kindly confirm your attendance by filling out our google form link <https://goo.gl/forms/BS705FAFC3C1uD0t1>

My child has started an instrument, now what?

Coffee Morning

We would love for you to join us to discuss the following:

- ♥ I don't play an instrument, how can I help?
- ♥ What should I expect?
- ♥ Busting the Myths of practicing/practicing explained
- ♥ What does a music exam involve and how can I help my child prepare



Date : Tuesday, 20 March 2018

Time: 07:00 – 07:30

Venue: St Peter's Girls Senior Prep Music Room


PA NEWS**SECOND HAND SHOP**

The second hand shop is situated just behind the current school shop and opening hours are every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 07:00 to 08:00. School uniforms and sport kit for both girls and boys are available at discounted prices.

All donations are welcome. Kindly deliver clean items to the shop during any of the opening times.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the shop during one of opening times, kindly contact Carol Sithole on carol.sithole1977@gmail.com or on 072 2268599.

Please contact any of the following ladies to make appointments at other times or for more information:

- Carol 072 2268599
- Heather: 082 654 2755
- Janice 083 325 2464
- Vicky 081 470 9124

All proceeds from the sale of second hand goods are donated to the St Peter's Foundation, to support bursary children at St Peter's Prep Schools.

ST PETER'S WINTER WARMERS 2018 – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Back by popular demand – the Winter Warmers concert will be hosted on Saturday, 14 July 2018. Last held in 2013, this event has a 'Joburg Day' type feel to it, offering musical entertainment for parents, food stalls and vendors, plus the very popular *Inflatable Park* for the kids. Families can bring camper chairs, blankets and their own picnics or buy food on the day and enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment with family and friends.

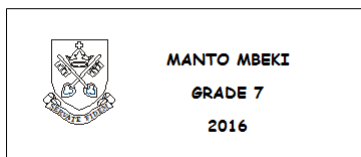
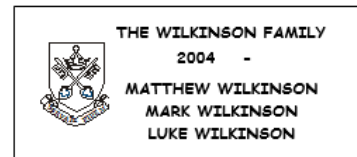
We are looking for a group of parents who would like to be involved in co-ordinating the day. Please look out for the online link to sign up to volunteer when it will be sent out this Friday, 16 March.

PAVER PLAQUES

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

Should you wish to order, please download the order form from the Communicator under Resources/ GIRLS/BOYS PA information.

Examples of the plaques available to are order:

CURRENT PUPIL:**LEAVERS' 2015:****FAMILY PLAQUES:**

REMINDER: TOMORROW IS PYJAMA DAY

Cancer is an illness that can affect anyone - regardless of age, gender or race. Within our own St Peter's family, we have people who are fighting this disease at present and one of these is a youngster in the Girls Prep. We as a school have therefore chosen CHOC as our charity to support this term to remember all children who are fighting cancer.

We encourage the children and staff to come to school in their PJ's in order to empathise with children who are sick and suffering with cancer.

There is no charge for this day - as this is about us, as a community, becoming aware and pulling together to support one another.

Blessings

Fr Richard (Chaplain)

**ECO NEWS: CELEBRATING WATER WEEK: 19 – 23 MARCH**

Water Day is on Wednesday, 21 March and we highlight this day here at school. More than ever, this year, it is our responsibility to educate our children about the importance of water and water conservation. A variety of water related activities have already been done across the grades, and more are to follow for the remainder of this Water Month.



Each boy will be given a 'Water Passport' with seven water saving challenges to do at home. This is to create an awareness of daily water consumption, build 'water-wise' habits in their own environments, as well as creating empathy when they hear about other communities in dire need of water. Please support us by encouraging your son to work through these water saving tips.