



Dear Parents,

**FROM THE RECTOR**

Late last year when Simon Henderson, a former gap student at St Peter's, was appointed to Eton, reputedly the youngest headmaster in the famous school's 574 year history, *The Telegraph* led with an article entitled, "What does it take to be a Superhead?"

Penned by Susan Hamlyn, Director of the Good Schools Guide and consequently an authority on such matters, the piece bemoaned the waning popularity of qualities associated traditionally with school Heads. These included *gravitas*, humanity and vision. "We recall a recent head of one of our 'top' schools – an excellent, thoughtful and compassionate man and a true educationalist – being excoriated by parents because he was rarely seen on the touch-line cheering on the school teams".

The article went on to say that parents today want 'visible' heads, who meet them at the door, who are aware of all the achievements of their children, who know every parent and child by name, irrespective of the size of the school, and know when their child's budgie died.

Parents of independent schools in SA are no different in their expectations. The job of a Head in SA, I would argue, is probably a good deal more difficult than that of our colleagues in similar schools in the UK, Europe and the US. With the economy as it is, budgets are tighter and finding good staff is immensely aggravated by the teacher shortage and the fact that the majority of talented candidates opt for far more lucrative careers in commerce. Labour legislation is acknowledged to be amongst the most complex in the world requiring an exhaustive focus on HR processes before an appointment can be made.

For a school to run effectively, the Head must meet weekly with the school executive, the academic council and the many individuals managing departments, including the chaplain, finance, operations, HR, marketing, IT, section heads of the school, sport and community partnership. One needs also to keep an eye on transformation initiatives, skills development and health & safety. These meetings can easily occupy full working days. Concerned parents and individual staff need to be accommodated, as do performance management discussions, legal issues and functions of the school council, including campus development, remuneration and finance committees.

Good Heads perfect the art of responding to emails, while examining small, injured birds brought in by distraught children!

But, what happens when more responsibilities are added to the role? Keeping abreast of developments in education means attending Conferences. Some Heads are elected to office within the Independent Schools Association requiring attendance at meetings, others are involved in curriculum development groups, sit on advisory bodies or are invited to speak to different forums or are involved in quality control evaluation of independent schools.

The primary focus of any school is the development of each individual child. Having a Rector at St Peter's to deal with the complex compliance, legal and other issues, allows the Heads to do just this.

**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](mailto:groyce@stpeters.co.za) or [dradloff@stpeters.co.za](mailto:dradloff@stpeters.co.za))

**Greg Royce**

**FROM THE HEADMASTER**

It is with mixed feelings that I announce that **David Hala** will be leaving St Peter's Boys Prep at the end of the year to take

up the position of Headmaster at Kyalami Prep in 2018. David and his team of Housemasters have developed a pastoral care programme that is proving to be extremely effective in ensuring that the boys in the school feel loved and cared for on a daily basis. His termly bullying survey has provided the data necessary to allow us to focus on areas of concern and the incidences of bullying in the school have been effectively reduced to a very low level as a result. The team's philosophy includes the purposeful teaching of coping behaviours to both perpetrators and victims in such a way as to equip them for future life, particularly in high school. Thus, while I am pleased to congratulate Dave on his appointment and to acknowledge the work that he has done in setting up our programme, I will be sad to lose his caring and professional input into our school.

It was an absolute privilege to be part of a capacity audience for the production "My Father's Coat" on Tuesday evening. I cannot recommend the talk highly enough and encourage all who missed it to make a point of booking for this highly moving story if possible. The point that I have taken away is that, just as our CoRT thinking tool "OPV" (Other People's View) suggests, it is essential that we either "wear the coat" or "walk in the shoes of" others before we presume to pass judgement on them. The opportunity to do this in the case of the divergent group of South African leaders who feature in the story, not only opened my eyes to their humanity, but also made me proud that our South African nation has been able to show the resilience, to still be surging forward positively, despite all the challenges that face us. I will certainly try to adopt a far greater sense of OPV in my dealing with others, both professionally and in my private capacity, into the future. Thank you to Monica Sloane and the Parents Association for arranging such a stimulating evening.

Have a wonderful week.

**Rob Macaulay**

### ***FROM THE JUNIOR PREP SPORTS DAY***

Thank you to all our staff, families and boys for their enthusiasm and participation in our annual Sports Day last weekend. The morning was great fun, every boy gave of his best and all went home tired but happy. A special thanks to Craig Jooste and his team for the organisation, time and effort they put into the day. Thanks, too, to the Grade 2 parents for providing us with refreshments.

The Sports Day and Gala are both part of our school programme. Attendance at these events is expected. If your son is not able to participate, please send a letter of excuse to both his class teacher and Mr Jooste.

### ***GRADE 1 CHOIR***

On Monday the Grade 1 boys joined the choir with great enthusiasm. Each week at the end of practise they will go to the waiting class area on Somerset Field. Parents can collect them from there, or they will join the Aftercare team or be sent to an extra cost extramural from this central point at 14:00. The boys will be sent out a few minutes before 14:00 to ensure they go to the correct place for collection.

### ***THINKING SKILLS MORNING – Wednesday, 20 September***

This morning will take place on **Wednesday, 20 September** in the Junior Prep building. We will start with coffee at 7:00 followed by an overview of the Thinking Skills Programme at 7:30, venue JP Hall. From 8:00 to 9:00 our boys, from Grade 0-7, will demonstrate their skills. Grade 0-2 in their classrooms; Grade 3-7 in the JP Hall. Please do join us for the morning.

### ***ANXIETY IN CHILDREN – Thursday, 21 September***

Due to popular demand the workshop "Anxiety in Children" presented by In the Know, will take place on **Thursday, 21 September** at 18:30 in the Boys JP Hall. The presentation, which is two hours in length, is most beneficial.

### ***HOT DOG & CIVVIES DAY – Friday, 22 September***

On Friday our boys will have their Civvies Day as well as Hot Dog Day. Parents are reminded that the cost is R35-00. Please remember to bring your used ink cartridges.

**GOLDEN MOMENT**

The boys were talking about what their parents do. One boy proudly announced that his mom’s work is lost property, but his dad is only an engineer!

Warm regards,  
**Kenda Melvill-Smith**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Monday 18 September</b> 13:30-14:00 Grade 1 Choir
<b>Tuesday 19 September</b> 8:30 DCS – Outreach
<b>Wednesday 20 September</b> 7:30-9:00 Thinking Skills Morning 8:00 <b>NO CHAPEL</b> (next Wednesday 27 – birthdays cards from 18 September to 1 October) 12:00-12:20 Grade 2 Choir <b>OR</b> 13:00-13:30 Grade 2 Choir
<b>Thursday 21 September</b> 18:30 Anxiety in Children – In the Know (Boys JP Hall)
<b>Friday 22 September</b> HOT DOG & CIVVIES DAY
<b>Saturday 23 – Tuesday 26 September</b> Heritage weekend NB Boys return to school on Wednesday, 27 September

**GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER**

**LUNGILE KHANYILE**

I’m 25 years old and was born and raised in Johannesburg by my parents who worked as domestics. I attended Bryandale Primary, but the fees were too much so I was forced to leave. I was privileged to go to one of the best high schools, **Fourways High School**, on a Sports Scholarship, which is part of the reason why teaching became my passion. The opportunity to join the St Peter’s *Isematholeni* Intern Programme has been a blessing and has changed my life, giving me the chance to study and fulfil my passion for teaching and children. My vision is, that one day, I too, will help change lives. I want to instil the same hope, wisdom and hard work in others as St Peter’s is doing for me.



Thank you to all those donors and the St Peter’s community who are making this a reality!

**PA NEWS**

**The St Peter’s Golf Day**  
**29 September 2017**  
 Kyalami Country Club

**The Essentials...**

- 12:00 shotgun start
- Gin bar on arrival
- Prize giving and casual dinner in the bar
- Draw for the raffle valued at R40 000 (no fundraising auction this year)

**Bookings open 20 July 2017**  
 email [golfday@stpeters.co.za](mailto:golfday@stpeters.co.za) for further info and to request a booking form

**ONLY 5  
FOURBALLS LEFT!**

*The Rugby Sevens event in Cape Town is a SELL OUT so buy your raffle ticket now!!!!*

**RAFFLE** St Peter's Golf Day **RAFFLE**  
**HSBC CAPE TOWN RUGBY SEVENS 2017**



**THE PRIZE**  
Tickets to both days of the Cape Town Rugby Sevens 2017, return flights and 3 nights accommodation at the 5\* Radisson Blu Hotel from 8 - 10 December for FOUR people

**TICKET PRICE R200**  
Limited to 500 tickets only  
Email [goltraffle@stpeters.co.za](mailto:goltraffle@stpeters.co.za) to purchase tickets

WORLD RUGBY™  
**HSBC SEVENS SERIES**

The raffle draw will take place at the Golf Day Prize Giving function on the evening of 29 September 2017.  
*The prize winner does not have to be present at the raffle draw in order to win the prize.*



ST PETER'S  
PREP SCHOOLS