



Dear Parents,

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The SAHISA (Southern African Heads of Independent Schools Association) and ICP (International Coalition of Principles) Conferences, which take place back-to-back in Cape Town this weekend, will afford the school management team the opportunity to discuss and compare trends and practice with school leaders from around South Africa and internationally. The Boys Prep School MANCO will attend the ICP as a group so that we can spread out and cover as many of the presentations and seminar groups as possible. This is an important part of our strategic imperative of continuous improvement and we look forward to lively debate and the calibration of our own practices as a result of what we learn.

There has been significant research into homework in the preparatory school environment and hence our stance below:

WHY HOMEWORK SHOULD BE BALANCED?

At St Peter's we believe that learning should be engaging and meaningful and, in the school environment, we aim to use the methodologies based on the *Visible Learning* research of John Hattie, who ranked, in order of effectiveness, 139 influences and how they relate to learning outcomes and student progress. Research indicates that at the prep school level, homework is not as beneficial as at high school.

Feedback from high schools suggests that we prepare students particularly well, as our students are equipped with strategies and thinking approaches which promote independent learning.

Some of the misconceptions around homework are:

1. *Practice makes perfect*
This is true when an expert coach is involved. The concern being that practice makes permanent and we don't want permanent incorrect neural pathways to be established. Practice is beneficial when practising timetables and activities with known answers or when pupils reteach or revise what they learnt on a particular day to reinforce the neural pathways.
2. *It is an essential preparation for high school*
A healthy work ethic and self-belief are the two essentials for high school. Hours of homework in prep school does not promote a healthy work ethic as it achieves the opposite in the form of burn out. Innovation and creativity are also diminished when there is extensive homework.
3. *Homework positively improves academic performance*
Ongoing research shows that reading has more impact on academic performance than the completion of endless worksheets.
4. *Homework provides parents with an awareness of the school curriculum:*
Today's learning is dynamic and flexible and requires collaboration and skills. Parents wanting an awareness of what is being taught at school are encouraged to ask their son or daughter what they learnt at school on a particular day.

St Peter's approach to homework involves:

- a scaffolding of approaches - age appropriate work in the various grades
- core skills including - bonds, phonics and spelling practice
- the expectation of every child to read, or be read to, for at least 20 minutes a day
- no homework be assigned during the holiday period, but reading is always encouraged

- homework or learning, which is authentic, engaging and meaningful, in the upper grades

This term we will begin to trial a number of different approaches to homework and ways to facilitate appropriate opportunities to reinforce learning at school and at home. In the senior prep, this means no formal homework exercises will be set.

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP CONGRATULATIONS

I would like to congratulate the Langton family on the birth of their baby girl, Adeline. Tyler is a proud big brother. We wish Katherine and Craig lots of love and joy in the years to come.

HERITAGE DAY

Our Interns and Assistants shared their culture, traditions and games with the boys today. We used a "My Story" format, traditional food was tasted and games were taught. I would like to thank our team for the time and effort they put into this morning – it was both enjoyable and educational. The boys learnt so much about our different South African cultures.

GRADE 2 HOUSE PRESENTATIONS

This week our Grade 2 boys were handed their "green house t-shirts." They were formally welcomed to Bishops House and know they will be under the watchful eye of Mr Andrew Bench from 2018 onwards. The boys learnt that once a "greenie" always a "greenie!"

On Thursday, 28 September Sage house (yellow) boys will be receiving their t-shirts. Due to the 8:00 start, tea and coffee will be available to these parents, behind the boat, from 7:30.

BISHOP'S HOLIDAY – 26 September

Parents are reminded that due to the number of scholarships our Grade 7 pupils achieved, **Tuesday, 26 September** is a school holiday. There will be no DCS lessons next week.

Chapel will be in our Junior Prep Hall at 8:00 on **Wednesday, 27 September**. Birthday cards for 18-30 September and 1 October, will be handed out.

GOLF DAY – 29 September

Parents are reminded of the annual Golf Day, hosted by our PA, at Kyalami Country Club. The raffle for the Rugby Sevens 2017 in Cape Town will be drawn at this event. If you do not have a ticket yet – your last chance to buy one is this Wednesday, 27 September at 13:00 at Somerset Field waiting class.

JUNIOR PREP OFFICE & SICK ROOM

We have no problem with objects being left in the JP office for collection. Often, however, these items left by parents are not collected for months on end. Please follow up on items left.

Much consideration is taken before sending a child home when ill. Please could we ask that if Ros or a teacher telephones you to collect your child you do so promptly. Thank you.

SEAT BELTS

It has been brought to my attention that some of our boys are travelling to and from school without being strapped in. In the traffic this week, a young JP boy was observed in the front seat of a car without a belt. When the school goes on an outing one of the things we insist on is a seat belt on the bus for every child. Please could parents who make use of transport companies ensure these companies are aware of the law and ensure every child is safely strapped in at all times.

This really is a case of better safe than sorry.

MARBLE SEASON

The much awaited annual marble season commences on **Wednesday, 27 September** until Mid-term, on **18 October**. After discussion in prayers on Thursday, 28 September, the boys will be given specific rules to abide by, All marbles are

to be sent to school in a clearly marked box eg: an ice-cream tub. The rules, drawn up by our boys, will be sent home in the next newsletter. Please be aware that marble season is voluntary and there is no expectation for a boy to participate.

MEDICAL DATABASE

As a school, we are setting up a medical database with Destination Medicine - our School contracted medics. This site will contain all the medical details of the children and staff. It will contain a basic medical history, medical aid details and the relevant contact details of parents.

This site is being set up to enable St Peter's to have quick access to medical assistance telephonically, as well as immediate ambulance dispatch if necessary, at school, on outings and while away on Camps. If hospitalisation or medical care is needed when on Camps - Destination Medicine will telephonically inform us of the closest facility to use as well as organise pre-admission for us. Teachers on Camps can also call the centre - for medical advice, if necessary.

Parents are requested to please log on and register - as per the attached documents. This information is required from you to enable us to get a database up and running as soon as possible. This will then enable us to provide the best medical cover for the children.

Gail Brent: Resident Nursing Sister

It was lovely to meet parents at the Thinking Skills morning and Anxiety Workshop this week.
Enjoy the long weekend!

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 24 September HERITAGE DAY
Monday 25 September Public Holiday
Tuesday 26 September Bishop's Holiday
Wednesday 27 September Marble Season commences 7:30 Return to school 8:00 Chapel in JP Hall (birthday cards 18-30 September & 1 October) 12:00-12:20 Grade 2 Choir OR 13:00-13:30 Grade 2 Choir 13:00 Raffle ticket sales
Thursday 28 September 8:00 Grade 2 SAGE House presentation
Friday 29 September PA GOLF DAY

DIVERSITY: HERITAGE DAY

The first Heritage Day was instituted in 1995, after the first free elections that spelled the beginning of a new, non-racially based democracy.

The roots of Heritage Day, however, precede 1995. 24 September was originally a Zulu holiday celebrated in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. It was in remembrance of Shaka, the great chief who united the Zulu tribes into a unified nation. When establishing South Africa's official public holidays, the significance was broadened to include the celebration of the heritage of all South Africans.

The official government definition of the heritage in "Heritage Day" refers to all that the people inherit: culture, history, wildlife, monuments, artwork, literature, music, folklore, languages, culinary traditions and more. In 1996, president Nelson Mandela declared that Heritage Day should help South Africans use their "rich and varied cultural heritage" to "build our new nation."



Many South Africans “braai” on Heritage day. Braai is the Afrikaans word for “grill or barbecue.” “Braaivleis” means “grilled or barbecued meat.” Family and friends gather to grill meat, such as boerewors, kebabs, lamb chops, pork, chicken, steak, and ribs. You will also find fish and rock lobster (“kreef”) in coastal towns and pap (cornmeal porridge) in almost every town.

St Peter’s wishes you well as you celebrate Heritage Day and appreciate the beauty and diverse culture of South Africa.

Vijay Maharaj (Director: Diversity)



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

ITUMELENG KUMALO

Itumeleng Kumalo, or Tumi as she is affectionately known, was born in Johannesburg and matriculated at Bryanston High School. Sadly, her father died in 2007. Her mother, is a receptionist, and the family was therefore, able to cope financially. Her family was fortunate too in that the extended family helped in supporting them – her uncle in particular.

Tumi says that *The Isematholeni Intern Programme* has provided her with a wonderful opportunity:

“I chose teaching because I am passionate and my dream is to change someone’s life and ensure that this world becomes a better place. I live by the motto, ‘if you think you can, you can and if you think you can’t, you can’t – you are always right!’ Everyone is so helpful here at St Peter’s and I am gaining invaluable knowledge all the time. It has enabled me to start understanding myself more and to realise my love for teaching. I am very grateful.”



PA NEWS

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

ONLY 2 FOURBALLS LEFT!

The Essentials...

- 1200 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 for further info and to request a booking form

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

St Peter’s Golf Day
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 R450
 Limited to 500 tickets only
 Email golfraffle@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.