



Dear Parents,

#### **FROM THE RECTOR**

I am feeling a good deal more positive about 2019 than I did last year. I am encouraged by:

- The uncovering of corruption within the government and the private sector. Many people feel that insufficient is being done to bring the guilty to book but there have been many encouraging signs, not least of which are the leadership changes at SARS and the NPA.
- With the exception of the western parts of the country, good rains have fallen, lowering the risks associated with diminished food production.
- As regards the school:
  - the Heads have added 2 highly competent Black teachers to the staff;
  - the Greening programme has commenced with the installation of water and electricity meters, allowing us to monitor the consumption of both elements at different points in the schools. The meters have already assisted us in locating a substantial water leak and pinpointed areas of high electricity consumption which we are now able to reduce with improved management.
  - recruitment drives revealed a higher number than ever of teachers from prestigious schools wanting to teach at St Peter's. We have consequently been able to make good appointments, despite the shortage of competent educators. We especially seek open-minded, committed team-players with a strong affinity to children. These days we often advertise up to three times before we find the right candidate.

Incidents at prominent independent schools over the last 18 months have left the sector with a blemished reputation. As is usually the case with such generalisations, not every one of the other 700 independent schools in the country can be characterised in this way. Nevertheless, we need to learn from these events so that we can be confident that our own attitudes and actual practises reflect our commitment to Christian values.

We live in a wonderful country and are particularly resilient and innovative people. In my view, there are far more similarities we should celebrate between the different cultures, than there are differences. We all want the same for our children, seek the same reassurances about health and retirement and wish to be treated with respect and dignity, no matter our income, culture or employment status.

We work hard at school to inculcate Christian values in the children so that they will become great friends, spouses, parents and citizens in time. Children naturally adopt the views and attitudes of their parents and teachers. These include gender, race and other stereo-typing. Children give undue weight to status reflected in the "dissing" of those not so talented, by the sporting stars.

Please support us by having the difficult conversations with your children. Help them to understand the worthlessness of any type of generalisation be it race, gender, body shape, mental state or sexual orientation. God loves each of us as individuals. Every person has something different and special to offer. We need to teach our children to seek and support the good without looking through a learned lens of 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](mailto:groyce@stpeters.co.za) or [dradloff@stpeters.co.za](mailto:dradloff@stpeters.co.za)

**Greg Royce**

#### **FROM THE JUNIOR PREP**

#### **HOW TO MAKE YOUR FAMILY A SAFE HAVEN FROM THE WORLD**

When parents embody the following ideals they are sure to create an environment where their child feels cherished,

supported and respected:

**1. Show unconditional love**

Our children, more than anyone, need grace, understanding and unconditional love throughout the bumps and bruises of their development.

**2. Be a steadfast leader**

Children need the security and comfort of boundaries and limits set confidently and respectfully by all their caregivers.

**3. Be a great listener**

The simple but powerful act of listening to your child gives him space to problem-solve around his own challenges and process through overwhelming emotions.

**4. Accept your children for who they are**

When we are able to separate our own agenda and emotions from our child, we free him to flourish in his individuality.

**5. Treat them with respect**

When our child can count on us to interact with him in a respectful way, he learns to trust that we are in his corner, opening him up to our influence and a close emotional connection.

[www.parentswithconfidence.com](http://www.parentswithconfidence.com)

### **INFORMATION EVENINGS**

Thank you to the parents who attended our Information Evenings and for the positive feedback on these events. As requested, my PowerPoint presentation on 'Positive Parenting' has been loaded onto the D6 Communicator. Please feel free to re-visit this should you wish for further references.

### **MORNING AND AFTERNOON SCHEDULES**

Throughout the first six weeks of our school year our teachers work hard to establish a routine. We find that this sets the tone for the rest of the year and establishes a sense of nurturing and security for our boys. Please could I ask that parents do not hang around the school early morning – it is best to say a short goodbye and then leave. This builds confidence in your son as he realises you trust the environment he is in.

Similarly at the end of the school day please collect your child from the Waiting Class area on Somerset Field. Children find it most distracting when a parent is waiting outside the classroom during pack up time, especially if the school day has not ended. Often important information is missed as the child is anxious to go to his mother.

The extra cost coaches know to collect children attending their session from the Waiting Class.

### **JUNIOR PREP PICNIC**

You will have received your invitation to the JP Picnic via WhatsApp. This event is used to develop our St Peter's community and provides an ideal opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new friends. So please do join us on Friday evening!

Instead of having areas for individual classes, we will have posters for each Grade. You are welcome to sit with your Grade or in friendship groups.

### **ST PETER'S BOYS PREP ASU**

The New Year sees the start of the new Academic Support Unit at St Peter's Boys Prep School. While we acknowledge that we have had an excellent support structure at St Peter's for many years, we believe that there is always room for improvement. To this end, we continue to retain the services of our therapists but strive to integrate the therapeutic process into the classroom more efficiently.

We have established a Middle Room for Grade 1 and 2 and a Middle Class for Grade 3 and 4. Learning support, informed by the classroom curriculum, will be offered in small groups to boys who are identified by the class teacher as well as to boys who are terminating individual therapy. Boys in Grade 5 and 6 will be monitored at this time and we will decide on the support that needs to be put in place. Grade 7 boys are taught Maths and English in small groups. This should provide the support that is needed in preparation for High School.

The academic team has identified a number of boys who we feel will continue to benefit from individual therapy and those that can transition into Middle Room or Middle Class support. The latter boys will be permitted to access individual therapy during the school morning. School hours for therapy are 07:30 – 13:30. Therapists are permitted to see children privately outside of these times.

Please do contact me if you have any queries.

**Wendy Wentzel**

Educational Psychologist  
Head: Academic Support Unit  
[wwentzel@stpeters.co.za](mailto:wwentzel@stpeters.co.za)

**SEFIKENG - OUTREACH**

From 2019 St Peter's has identified Sefikeng Primary School, on the Leeuwkop Prison grounds, as our outreach school. We would like families from Grade 0-7 in both Boys and Girls schools, to become involved in this project. In line with Mandela's quote: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world...." We would like to make a significant difference in the lives of the children who attend Sefikeng. Please do join us on **Thursday, 31 January** from **7:30-8:30** to learn more (see invitation attached to this newsletter).

**HOT DOG DAY – Friday, 01 February**

Our boys look forward to Hot Dog Day and enjoy the change from packed school lunches. For R25-00 they will enjoy a hot dog, packet of crisps and small fruit juice. We request that parents send the correct amount to school on the day in your child's clearly marked school purse. Please let your class teacher know if your child will require either a chicken or vegetarian hot dog via email by Tuesday at the latest. We also ask that old ink cartridges are sent to school on hot dog days for recycling. The boxes are placed in the entrance foyer.

**MEDICATION CONSENT FORMS**

Please return the Medication Consent forms as soon as possible. The Emergency Medical form should only be completed if your child suffers from a serious allergy or potentially dangerous medical condition.

**GOLDEN MOMENT**

A child placed in the Middle Room this term told Tracy Backman that he felt very special: "This classroom is like being home schooled but you still get to see all your friends."

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Picnic on Friday evening.

Warm regards,  
**Kenda Melvill-Smith**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Monday 28 January</b>	
<b>Tuesday 29 January</b>	
<b>Wednesday 30 January</b>	
8:00	Chapel (birthdays from 27 January to 3 February)
13:00	Grade 2 Choir (Dodson Hall)
<b>Thursday 31 January</b>	
7:30	Sefikeng Coffee Morning (JP Girls Hall)
18:30	PA Meeting (Mvukuzane Pavilion)
<b>Friday 01 February</b>	
HOT DOG DAY – R25-00	

**PHOTOGRAPH USAGE**

From time to time, we like to use photos that we have taken of the boys on various platforms. They may be published in the newspaper, in a school magazine, on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, on the Communicator St Peter's Gallery or on our website/online. If you **DO NOT** wish to allow us to use photos of you or your son in the media, please inform Diane Fraser, in writing, at [dfrazer@gmail.com](mailto:dfrazer@gmail.com)

**Diane Fraser** (Marketer)

**MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS for 2019**

To sign up for individual music instrumental lessons, please click on the JP or SP link:

JP: <https://goo.gl/forms/TPexNb8e3lvsbGmz2>

SP: <https://goo.gl/forms/pWK7DXk36ajzlkE3>

The Music application forms for Boy JP and Boys SP can also be found on the **Communicator St Peter's under Resources/ BOYS MUSIC**.

**More info on music can be found on the Website:**

**BOYS JUNIOR PREP:** [https://www.stpeters.co.za/boys-prep/content/page/boys-jp-cultural?prep\\_type=jp](https://www.stpeters.co.za/boys-prep/content/page/boys-jp-cultural?prep_type=jp)

**BOYS SENIOR PREP:** [https://www.stpeters.co.za/boys-prep/content/page/boys-sp-cultural?prep\\_type=sp](https://www.stpeters.co.za/boys-prep/content/page/boys-sp-cultural?prep_type=sp)

**OLD BOYS NEWS**

**Matthew Basson** finished matric at St Stithians Boys College third in his grade attaining 7 distinctions. He then studied B Eng. Computer Engineering at the University Of Pretoria. He finished his third year, second in his faculty and completed his fourth and final year last year, passing with distinction. He has been studying Japanese part time for the past 3 years as it was always his dream to study in Japan. Matt found out late last year that he has been awarded the prestigious MEXT Scholarship to continue his studies and complete his Masters Degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Tokyo. He leaves for Tokyo in April this year.

**Michaelhouse**

St Peter's Old Boys did really well academically at the end of 2019 with **Alan Buttle** achieving five distinctions and **Andrew Holt** four in the final IEB matric exams.

In the lower grades, **David Ferguson** was placed ninth overall in Grade 9 in the end of year exams.

**Justin Prowse** has just been selected to represent the U14A water polo team.

**Jepe Boys**

**Dylan Fenthum** has been selected by South African Orienteering to represent the country at the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Denmark in February.

**THANK YOU TO THE ST PETER'S FAMILY**

Thank you so much for the amazing Christmas boxes that you gave to the young children in Diepsloot.

The boxes were distributed to three ECDs (Early Child Development centres) in Diepsloot, including our own Khulani ECD, which operates at the St Mungo's church site.

Your generosity brought Christmas joy to so many children and as always was much appreciated by us all.

