



Dear Parents,

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The Trinity Term is one in which we enjoy many diverse events and, as the holidays draw closer, it is valuable to reflect on how much the community has done together. We have enjoyed soccer days, Winter Warmers and Choir performances together. In addition, the rugby and soccer seasons tend to encourage greater parent involvement than some of the other sports. Community is integral to our St Peter's ethos and through your participation in fun events, as well as "giving back," through the "Books, Balls and Biscuits" initiative I hope that you have felt as blessed to be part of the St Peter's family as I have.

Notwithstanding the above, the winter term is also one in which the darker mornings, colder days and increased evening functions do require that the boys (not to mention the staff and parents) need to show particular resilience. This resilience builds character. I would like to share the following story, which I have used in Chapel, with you:

Those of us who have walked along a pier in the harbour will have noted the thick sisal ropes that are used to moor ships to the dock. Sisal is a particularly tough fibre that comes from a fleshy plant grown in arid regions. The story goes, that a group of agriculturalists performed an experiment in which they grew sisal in what they thought would be optimal conditions. Instead of hard, rocky soil they planted the plants in well fertilised topsoil and ensured that they were amply watered. The microclimate where the experiment took place was far more temperate than the sisal's natural environment. Just as they had hypothesised, the experimental plants grew bigger and fleshier than those in the natural environment. However, when they opened the leaves to extract the actual sisal fibres, these were totally absent. While everything looked better on the outside, the actual substance and strength for which the crop had been cultivated, had not developed. By making the plant's life too easy, they had foregone the struggle that actually created the fibre for which the plant was grown.

This certainly holds a message for us. As parents and teachers, there is always room to celebrate some hardship, failure, picking up, dusting off and striving through adversity for the boys. I celebrate the pupils who have been prepared to spend hours at play practice, choir rehearsals, chess matches, quizzes and sporting fixtures, while never losing sight of their academic expectations. These boys have maintained a positive attitude and have every reason to celebrate their growth in character. Thank you, also, to the parents and teachers who have supported throughout. I think we have a fine batch of sisal this term.

Enjoy the weekend

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP

BOOKS, BALLS & BISCUITS

"There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return." - Nelson Mandela.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the St Peter's JP Boys community for supporting our Mandela Day initiative: Books, Balls & Biscuits for DCS. We collected enough packs to give to every child from Grade 0 to Grade 3 at Diepsloot Combined School; which means over 600 pupils benefitted from your generosity.

On Tuesday small groups of children were given the gift of time by many of our parents and their sons. They so enjoyed the intimacy of the interaction as they had a story read to them and a chance to play ball. I certainly know my heart was warmed by their delight and joy throughout the morning.

I would be remiss not to thank our Community Partnership Team and particularly, Belinda Gilbert. They worked tirelessly to sell packs, sort packs and ensure the morning was well organised.



GRADE 0 DEMO MORNING

It was wonderful to have so many Grade 0 parents spend the morning with us on Monday watching their sons participate in Music, Sport, IsiZulu, Afrikaans and Perceptual Rotations. Thank you for the positive feedback we received, it is so appreciated.

The Grade 1 Demo Morning is on **Monday, 30 July – 7:30 to 9:00** and Grade 2 on **Tuesday, 31 July – 8:00 to 9:30**. You will have received a detailed letter outlining the timetable for your son's class. Please do join us if you can.

GRADE 2 FOOTBALL

I was most impressed by our Grade 2 boys on Friday, when they played against The Ridge. The JP Head even telephoned me to complement our boys on their manners, behaviour and sportsmanship. Well done!

This Friday our Grade 2 boys will be participating in an internal tournament on both Feathers and Mvukuzane Fields. Refreshments will be on sale so please do support our Grade 2 committee.

ART WEEK

Our boys will be learning about a particular artist and his/her work next week. On Friday the classes will take some time to share what they have learnt with each other.

END OF TERM – FRIDAY, 03 AUGUST

School will close early on **Friday, 03 August**, with a Waiting Class available until **11:00**. There will be no Aftercare that afternoon.

Closing times:

Grade 0 – 10:00

Grade 1 – 10:15

Grade 2 – 10:30

Term 3 commences on **Tuesday, 04 September**, boys must return in their summer uniform.

TERM 3 (ADVENT TERM)

The Third Term is always a very busy one. The calendar is enclosed with this newsletter, please do take time to diarise important dates.

GOLDEN MOMENT

At our Mandela Day service on Wednesday, 18 July a boy asked Mr Royce if Mandela was buried under our Mandela tree or rock!

Enjoy the weekend.

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| Monday 30 July Art Week 7:30-9:00 Grade 1 Demo morning |
| Tuesday 31 July Art Week 8:00-9:30 Grade 2 Demo morning |
| Wednesday 01 August Art Week 8:00 Chapel (August birthdays) |
| Thursday 02 August Art Week |
| Friday 03 August End of Term closing times: Grade 0: 10:00; Grade 1: 10:15; Grade 2: 10:30 |

THE SCHOOL SHOP

The School Shop will open the day before school starts for Advent Term on **Monday, 3 September 09:00 to 15:00**. However, it is recommended that you come in to update the summer uniform before we break up next week.

Nadia Thompson (School Shop Assistant)

DIVERSITY – Mandela Day

St Peter's celebrated Mandela Day on 18 July 2018. The day underlined the two month theme of *"service above self"*. It is a day to be charitable and selfless. The school, parents and pupils embarked on a book drive for our community partnership schools and local communities. The Junior Prep have extended the idea by spending a day reading, playing and sharing experiences with the "Books, Balls & Biscuits Day" at Diepsloot Combined School.

Luke Hancock and **Kwande Bam** addressed the boys on the chapel lawn in front of the Mandela Tree and here follows some excerpts from their talk:

Nelson Mandela is one of the most globally respected individuals. He earned such great respect because he was a servant leader who fought against apartheid at great sacrifice. He is a person we can all learn from and we should all try to be a bit like him every day by helping our peers, parents and teachers and not only thinking of ourselves. He was a humble man and the freedom he afforded us is more than money can buy. We should mould our lives on his qualities and values: integrity, humility, perseverance, determination and love.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." - Nelson Mandela

Vijay Maharaj (Director: Diversity)

AUGUST HOLIDAY CLUBS

There are a few Holiday Clubs in the August holidays including the JP Adventure Club. **PLEASE NOTE:** Look under Communicator St Peter's/Resources/Holiday Clubs for all the information on the various clubs on offer.

REMINDER: CHARITY EVENT

