



Dear Parents,

FROM THE RECTOR

It's customary at this time of the year as we await the anniversary of Christ's birthday, to share heart-warming stories in the Christmas spirit.

I do have a story as we contemplate the upcoming holidays. It is heart-warming (I hope to most), but is not quite in the Christmas theme.

As an Anglican school, the concept of restorative justice is close to our hearts. In developing children, we understand that they will make mistakes. This is the most effective way of learning. Understanding the consequences of one's mistakes and rectifying them is a critical step in the path to adulthood and the mark of a great human being.

Mapule Ramashala was born in Boksburg in 1937. She was educated at state schools but demonstrated such impressive intellectual ability that she received a series of scholarships, graduating with an MA from Wits (1964) as the first Black Psychologist in the country.

She was denied further study in South Africa and moved to the USA where she obtained her PhD.

Following a distinguished 30-year career in the US, she returned to South Africa in 1995 where she was Group Executive for Research Capacity Development at the Medical Research Council. She was appointed as a Commissioner on the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and served as Vice-Chancellor of the universities of Durban Westville and the Medical University of South Africa.

While on a visit to Rwanda with the TRC, she was notified that her house had been burnt down. She decided to continue with her mission in Rwanda. Before returning home, police discovered that 60 White youths had entered her home. They had first trashed the house before setting it alight. At the time, she was a resident in a predominantly White suburb.

On her return to South Africa, Dr Ramashala declined to press charges against the 12 boys responsible. The police, many people and her own family disagreed with her decision.

She arranged a meeting with the boys and their parents. She informed them that they were still to take responsibility for their destruction of her house. She expected them to rebuild the house and to be responsible for collecting the necessary money. In addition, she requested that they help the elderly and the poor members in the community.

Over time, the boys rebuilt her house and she formed relationships with them, earning the respect of the community.

When I heard this I couldn't help reflecting on the impact of jail time or a lifelong criminal record against the opportunity of righting a wrong and the effect on all those in the community.

Pam and I wish you all special time with family, the happiest of Christmases and a New Year filled with hope, love and dark chocolate.

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

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Today is the traditional day of "Thanksgiving" in the United States and Canada. On this special day, individuals and families reflect on the blessings that they enjoy and what they are to each other. Families sit down to a meal, that traditionally includes a turkey and, in a very poignant mini-ceremony, they go around the table, stating what they are thankful for and giving thanks to God and each other for the love they share.

Emotional Quotient (EQ) and its close cousin, Social Quotient (SQ) have recently been joined by another, equally important educational goal, Cultural Quotient (CQ). In all our teaching, we try to instil in the boys an ability to reflect, to see other people's points of view and to acknowledge our privilege, not in a guilty way, but rather as an opportunity to give back. Recently, a piece of Grade 7 writing crossed my desk that spoke to me about all these intelligences. I have published it with the permission of Nick Fearnhead whose "poetry in prose" spoke volumes about the insight of a thirteen-year-old. I hope you enjoy reading it.

The Elephant Assassin

The horror filled my head, my wife and my children starving. We lived a life we shouldn't. I heard my children's cry, the cry of hunger and thirst, the cry of hardship and the cry of cruelty. This was the only way.

I strolled through the wilderness and looked for my target, looked for my enemy. The tall dry grass bit at my leg as it swayed in the wind. The wind talked to me, but I didn't know what it was saying. Clouds filled the sky draining all light from the world. My shirt was torn and my pants were ripped. The thoughts of my two boys filled my veins with determination. The AK-47 was held tight in my hand, ready for the victim. I came to the opening filled with bright green grass and the sight of flowing water and tall trees filled my eyes. In all of this, there she was, the great infamous African beast.

My gun pointed up to the elephant. It walked slowly from tree to tree. My index finger tightened on the trigger, but as I looked through the scope, my thoughts stumbled, she's innocent. This great animal shouldn't pay for my life. As I started to lower my gun, my heart fought back, creating the pictures and screams of my family. It was heart against brain like light against darkness. I had to. I muttered the words, "I'm sorry" to the elephant as I pulled the trigger.

A great trumpet broke the silence along with the crack of the bullet. Regret and guilt kicked in right away as I had realized what I had done. The harmless creature fell to the ground. Tears filled my eyes. Adrenaline rushed through my veins, as men shouted and dogs barked. I bolted, dropping my gun and headed back for the tall grass. Shots were being fired, flying past my head and just missing my feet. Suddenly a pain like nothing I have ever felt before, far worse than a bite of a snake or a sting of a scorpion. My chest was drenched with pain. Blood rushed out of me like water from a waterfall. I fell over into the grass, hidden from the game rangers. I held my stomach with pain, trying not to give in.

Sometime later the dogs had stopped barking. The men were nowhere to be found. I got up and stumbled my way to the helpless elephant. I sat down and lay down next to her. Her eyes were barely open. I noticed her long majestic eyelashes going up and down as the eyes slowly blinked. Our eyes met with sorrow. I could hear her deep breaths. I saw the bullet wound on the edge of her neck and it created a perfect red circle. My eyes started to fade. The sun left the sky and the moon took its place. I thought about my children and my wife, and only wished the best for them. I knew what was coming. I chose this fate. I crunched up closer to the elephant who was still fighting for her life. As my eyes started to close and my heart stopped beating, I whispered to the elephant, "I really am sorry".

With insightful young minds such as this, I am thankful that our future will be in the hands of emotionally, socially and culturally mature individuals. I give thanks for hope ...

Thank you to the entire community for the love, laughter and learning that we have enjoyed together this year. Thank you, also, for the collegiality we have shared, whether the occasions shared were celebrations of success or acknowledgement of where we still need to grow. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday. Here's looking forward to 2020.



Best wishes

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP 2019 #STRONGER TOGETHER

At our Thanksgiving Service yesterday, we used the movement #Stronger Together as our theme as we looked back on the successes and celebrations from 2019 with gratitude. Unity in strength is an old proverb that holds true today – we are stronger if we stay united.

One of the famous stories explaining this proverb is that of a farmer and his sons. *The farmer was very hard working. He toiled day and night to serve his family. He had four sons who always quarrelled with each other. The farmer was worried that if they continued to stand against each other people would easily take advantage of the situation.*

In order to make them understand the importance of staying united, the farmer asked them to get one stick each. He asked them to break their stick into two. His sons broke their respective sticks effortlessly. He then asked them to make a bundle of four sticks and try to break it. Each one of them tried to break the bundle one by one, but failed. The farmer then explained how we are stronger when we stand united. Nobody can break us when we are together. On the other hand, if we fight and do not support each other, it is easier for the others to break us emotionally, physically as well as mentally. His sons understood the lesson and pledged to stay united thereafter.

TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

At our Thanksgiving Service yesterday we said farewell to a number of boys and staff members.

I would like to wish the following boys and their families many exciting adventures and hope they will always hold St Peter's close to their hearts:

Luke Fox (Grade 0M)
Liam Faircliff (Grade 1B)
Gregory Harmuth (Grade 1B)
Nicholas Norton (Grade 1B)
Max Brown (Grade 2S)
John-Daniël Du Preez (Grade 2S)

James Leenstra (Grade 2S)
Daniel Pharoah (Grade 2S)
Keegan Shipp (Grade 2G)
Alec van der Merwe (Grade 2G)
Jonathan Thomson (Grade 2P)

We also say a fond goodbye to:

- **Nichola Harmuth**, who will be taking up a teaching position in Australia. Nichola has taught at St Peter's for the past 11 years. Her sense of fun and special relationship with her boys will be sorely missed.
- **Tracey Yates** will be moving to George at the end of the year and I hope she enjoys the quieter lifestyle. Tracey is both a creative and nurturing teacher who will be sorely missed by the boys and her colleagues.
- **Tiffany Koch** has decided to take some time to be a mom to little, Max. Tiff's kindness and caring for each boy in her class was highly thought of. I am delighted that she has the opportunity to offer Max the same.

GRADE 0 DEMO, GRADE 1 & 2 GALA

Wow, I was so impressed by our little boys – swimming is a difficult skill to master. A large pool is often a very daunting prospect; as is performing in front of a crowd. They all managed extremely well and can feel proud of their development and progress.

Thank you to Callan Cronin, the coaches and the staff for their input and organisation. I am sure you will agree it was a well-run event and a good introduction to our boys for future galas.

SPEET WEEK

Our boys are enjoying a fun but educational end to their year. The dinosaur show today presented by Experi-Buddy is definitely a highlight of the week! SPEET – stands for St Peter’s extra-curricular extension timetable and that is what we hope to provide for our boys as 2019 draws to an end. Tomorrow the boys will be attending a Christmas puppet show.

GRADE 2 LEAVERS GIFT

Our Grade 2 parents have worked tirelessly through the year to raise funds for the gift they will leave in the Junior Prep. This year’s gift will be seating for the new, refurbished Gunn Field.

Gunn Field is being rehabilitated in 2020 and the new seating will be enjoyed by many in the years to come.

The time these boys spend in the Junior Prep seems to fly past and I cannot believe they are moving into Grade 3. I am so proud of each individual and wish every boy success and happiness as they continue on their educational journey.

SEFIKENG - 2019

I would like to thank all those who donated their time, money and expertise to Sefikeng in 2019. The Boys School undertook to join forces with the Girls School this year and the impact this has had on both the children (Grade 0-3) and the teachers is tangible. Parents, interns and teachers have touched lives in this environment.

The Mandela Day Project demonstrated the true willingness to work together to improve our community – thank you!

VOLUNTEERS – 2019

I would like to thank our parents for their support over the year.

Special thanks must be extended to our CC – Zoë van Onselen and Angela Richardson. Their time, understanding and organisational skills is greatly appreciated. Due to the numbers I cannot thank each volunteer individually, but I would like to extend our gratitude to the following teams:

- Grade 2 fundraisers who kept us satisfied at our various events and our boys happy as they could buy treats.
- The Lost Property team who spend endless hours sorting through clothes, shoes, sports equipment and lunch boxes, returning the marked items and trying to follow up on the unmarked.
- Hot Dog Day is a highlight for our boys. Thanks to the team and many volunteers for their time – please know that you made your son’s day once a month.
- Our Social Cohesion team was there to guide us through events and situations within the school. The JP Boys team gave us fun filled and relationship building opportunities with “Our Art Gallery” and “Heritage Harvest Table” events. Thanks team!
- Last, but not least, a great big thanks must be extended to our incredible Class Parent team. To each and every one of you, thank you for taking on this role in 2019. Your ongoing support of the class teacher, parents in your class and St Peter’s is so appreciated.

YEAR END REQUESTS:

- **Library** – please could all library books be returned to school by **Tuesday, 03 December**. At the end of each year we need to complete a stock take in the library.
- **School Equipment** – it would be appreciated if parents could take a look in their son’s rooms and return any readers, school apparatus or other children’s clothes that may have found its way into your cupboards.
- **Christmas Boxes** – please could these be returned and placed under our JP Christmas tree? The spirit of Christmas is represented in these boxes as we assist those less fortunate by showing gratitude for all we have.

YEAR END – THURSDAY, 05 DECEMBER

2019 is coming to an end and our last day of school is **Thursday, 05 December**. The boys will receive their reports, via boy post, on Thursday. Please take note of the following closing times:

Grade 0 – 10:30

Grade 1 & 2 – 10:45

Waiting Class – 11:15

*There will be **no** Aftercare as the staff will be attending our Year End function.*

GOLDEN MOMENT

Two Grade 0 boys were sitting at Waiting Class when one noticed the other's name on his bag. "Are you from Zulu?" he asked. "No" came the reply, "I'm Irish!"

I look forward to seeing many of you at our wonderful, amazing Carols evening on Saturday.

Warm regards,
Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 30 November	
15:00	Christmas Market
18:00	Sunset Carols
Monday 02 December	
	Craft/Baking Day
13:00	School closes
Tuesday 03 December	
	Grade 0 & 1 boys to meet their 2020 teachers
	Grade 2 Owl Workshop
13:00	School closes
Wednesday 04 December	
8:00	Chapel (birthdays 02-31 December)
	Grade 2 boys to meet their Grade 3 teachers
	Movie & Popcorn Day
13:00	No CHAPS practise
Thursday 05 December	
End of Term closing times:	
Grade 0:	10:30
Grade 1 & 2:	10:45
Waiting Class:	11:15
No Aftercare	

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC INSTRUMENT APPLICATION 2020

Boys who are interested in doing individual music lessons must apply now for 2020. Please use the link below:

<https://forms.gle/1dzfGw9K85KAgUmn8>

CHRISTMAS BOXES – REMINDER – DEADLINE TOMORROW – FRIDAY, 29 NOVEMBER

Last chance to pack a Christmas box:

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Face Cloth, Soap
- Small toy (maximum value R60 as the children will open their boxes in front of other children who have received a box and we don't want any disappointment)
- Packet of sweets
- Crayons and blank book

If there is space, please fill the box up with: Tinned fish, tinned beef, tinned fruit, baked beans, sugar, tea bags, long life milk, jam, biscuits.

Please be so kind as to wrap the box in Christmas wrapping paper or newspaper.

Collection points for Senior Prep Girls and Boys: Chapel

Junior Prep Girls and Boys: JP reception areas

Blessings

Fr Richard and Mr Kamo Kotsi

HOLIDAY CLUB



FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT CLINIC
 Activities to look forward to:

- SWIMMING (WITH A TWIST)
- SOCCER
- TENNIS
- CRICKET
- BASKETBALL
- BIKE RIDING (BRING YOUR OWN)

ALL GRADE 0-2 ST PETER'S BOYS ARE WELCOME.
 COST: R200 PER CHILD PER DAY
 DATES: 9- 13 DECEMBER
 TIMES: 08:00 - 12:00 EVERY DAY
 The clinic will be run by Callan & Charne Cronin.
 Please confirm your spots by emailing us at croninc@stpeters.co.za

Banking details :
 FNB
 Account nr: 62630219162
 Branch : 250655
 Use child's name and surname as reference

PLEASE REMEMBER HATS, SUNBLOCK, PACKED LUNCHES, COSTUMES, TOWELS & BIKES.

INTERN ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

A few of the interns are desperately looking for accommodation nearer the school. Please consider this request if you have a room/cottage/flatlet, available to rent. Occupation would be from January 2020. Please contact June Tromp - Head Mentor (Interns) at jtromp@stpeters.co.za or 082 573 1030.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE CHRISTMAS MARKET AND SUNSET CAROLS ON SATURDAY!



Details for the Day have been sent with this Newsletter

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/stpeters-sunset-carols-2019>

Here is a little video link to whet your appetite:

<https://youtu.be/a6Va6y1wknI>