



Dear Parents,

FROM THE HEADMASTER

You will recall from our last Keyhole that the academic leadership teams from both the Boys and Girls Prep Schools, accompanied by the Rector, attended the International Confederation of Principals' annual conference in Cape Town over the long weekend. As is the case with the International Boys School Coalition, the aim of the ICP is to bring colleagues from around the world together to discuss the latest research and trends in education. The difference between this conference and most of the others that we send staff to is that this coalition includes both Independent and State schools.

It was noteworthy that research, being carried out by the ICP, identified a number of the same themes that I had enjoyed at the IBSC, including future trends in education, the need for deliberate character development programmes for children in a world of uncertainty and the fact that the **teaching** practices of the past are swiftly being overtaken by a strong focus on promoting more wide reaching, creative and intrinsically motivated **learning** by our pupils. Of particular interest to me was the research that has been carried out by the Canadian Curriculum Services Unit entitled "Unleashing the Power of Students to own their Learning." This research has demonstrated how a number of age old beliefs, regarding assessment and grading, are being challenged.

Based on a number of international studies, Anita Sherwin-Hamer was able to demonstrate that the old practice of "grading" a piece of work has very little educational value and may even be detrimental to the creation of the intrinsically motivated lifelong learners that are needed in today's world and into the future. Current research shows that the focus should be on creating carefully worded learning goals and success criteria in collaboration with the pupils before embarking on a unit of enquiry. Feedback, which should be given by the teacher, peers and through self-reflection, must be ongoing and should be used to steer the process and enhance collaboration. Thus, the competition for high marks and being the "top individual" is replaced by shared problem solving and the creation of learning that is far more than the sum of its parts. This can only be achieved through verbal interaction and focussed reflection on the criteria for successful learning that have been set. It is important to note that this is not a *laissez-faire* form of assessment, but is actually more clinical than the simple award of a mark based on a teacher's perception of what constitutes excellence. In order to achieve this form of assessment, the children must have the freedom to work at their own pace and in collaboration with those around them. This research strengthens the call for an end to the Victorian classroom of desks in rows and all children working in silence to complete identical teacher-set exercises. It also creates a dissonance for those of us who may have "judged" our child's progress and innate intelligence by the number of "A" aggregates they achieved. Discussions around the dinner table must shift from "...how well our boy has done..." to "...how interesting his learning has been and how we are learning too..."

Obviously this requires a shift in our adult expectations, and our perception (based on our school experience) of what a "good" education is. It also requires a higher level of involvement and trust in the education system of our choice. Initiatives such as our *Thinking Skills Morning* last week and the *Flexible Learning Programme* aim to not only give parents greater insight into what we are doing to address these new demands, but also creates the environment for focussed and in-depth assessment of learning to take place.

The children are ready for it. Are we?

Have a great week.

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP

MARBLE SEASON

The boys will have Marble Season from 27 September until 18 October. Please take note of the discussion had with the

boys on Wednesday, which I will reinforce on Monday at Prayers:

- Marble season is a time of fun and learning new games.
- Marbles must come to school in a clearly marked **plastic** container with a lid eg: an ice-cream tub.
- The boys may play with marbles before and after school and during break.
- When it is class time the marbles must be in their school bag in the locker.
- Rules of the game need to be established before it commences and may not change during the course of the game.
- Boys must negotiate with each other, without adult intervention.
- Good sportsmanship and respect needs to be demonstrated.
- Marbles can be confiscated by a teacher should the rules not be applied correctly at all times.

There are so many life skills our boys can learn from these games, they may need our support at times but the aim is to allow these skills to develop with very little adult intervention.

GRADE 2 HOUSE PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday our Grade 2 boys who will be joining Sage House in 2018 were awarded their yellow house t-shirts. They were introduced to Justin Attlee, their House Master, and the Grade 6 boys who will be their mentors next year. These boys wore their house t-shirts with pride and enjoyed being part of a traditional war cry!

COFFEE MORNING – THE BIRDS AND BEES

Please do join us for the Term 3 Coffee Morning:

Title: Birds and Bees – what your young child needs to know

Presenter: Wendy Wentzel

Date: Thursday, 05 October Time: 07:30 Venue: Girls Junior Prep Hall

DIEPSLOOT COMBINED SCHOOL

Due to the Government school holidays we will not be going to Diepsloot Combined School next week. As always our number of volunteers dwindle in the last term; if you are able to assist please consider joining us one Tuesday morning before the end of term, from 8:30 to 10:30.

GOLDEN MOMENT

On Wednesday a Grade 2 class were discussing their Heritage weekend news with their teacher. One of the boys had gone to a wedding and he excitedly told his teacher: "I was the ring barrier!"

Enjoy the weekend.

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 02 October 13:30-14:00 Grade 1 Choir
Tuesday 03 October 8:30 No DCS this week
Wednesday 04 October 8:00 Chapel in JP Hall (birthday cards 02-08 October) 12:00-12:20 Grade 2 Choir OR 13:00-13:30 Grade 2 Choir
Thursday 05 October World Teachers Day 7:30 Coffee Morning: Birds & Bees (Girls JP Hall) 8:00 Grade 2 DODSON House presentation
Friday 06 October

DIVERSITY: ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, was celebrated from 20 to 22 September – a period of prayer and a time to ask the Almighty to grant a year of peace, prosperity and blessing.

Yom Kippur (30 September) is the holiest day of the year. *Yom Kippur* means “Day of Atonement,” as the verse states, “For on this day He will forgive you, purify you, so that you are cleansed from all your sins before God.”

St Peter’s wishes our Jewish friends, pupils and parents well over this holy period. Shanah Tovah! May you have a sweet new year.

Vijay Maharaj (Director: Diversity)

**GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER****NASH RAHUBE**

Nash Rahube is 24 years old. She was born in Soweto. Nash matriculated from McAuley House.

Nash has a 3 year old daughter and says, “She is the reason I wanted to better myself and create a better future for her.”

“I love teaching and I am very grateful that I was chosen to be a part of the St Peter’s *Isematholeni* Intern Programme so that I can pursue my dreams. I want to be a role model, that I never had, to my daughter and all the children that I am going to teach. Life may get a little tough, but I always smile knowing that I am on the road to success!”

**SAVE THE DATE: MY STORY – REFLECTIONS ON TRANSFORMATION AT ST PETER’S**

Given recent events at schools around the country and following Greg Royce's message to St Peter's parents at the end of last term, we will end this year's My Story series by reflecting on the Transformation journey at St Peter's. We will look back at all that has been achieved and look to the road ahead, identifying current challenges and discussing concrete initiatives for 2018. We would welcome your input and hope that you will be able to join us:

Date: Tuesday, 10 October

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Venue: Girls Junior Prep Hall