



Dear Parents,

FROM THE HEADMASTER

One of the greatest strengths of the St Peter's model is that families are able to enjoy the benefits of a monastic education within the convenience of a co-educational campus. Thus, while children are on the same school campus, the particular educational needs of the boys can be addressed. By taking these strengths and developmental differences into account, we are able to adapt the curriculum to accommodate the term "Boys Best Practice." I am sure that many in our community have heard this term without really knowing what it means. This article aims to shed some light on the subject.

The points below have been lifted from various studies and, while generalised, we believe that they can be attributed to primary school boys:

1. Cognitive maturity develops at a slower rate during the early primary years and then accelerates during the upper school phase.
2. Young boys have more acute vision for distance and moving objects than do their female siblings. This means that active and very busy collaboration within groups is a favourite learning environment for the majority.
3. While boundaries are seen as something to be challenged, boys actually thrive in a clearly structured and demarcated environment.
4. Challenge and competition play an important role in motivation, both in the classroom and on the sports field.
5. Boys are "pack animals" and much of their behaviour occurs within this context.
6. Monastic education offers a safe place for boys to take risks, express their emotions and explore subjects such as art, drama, music and D&T.
7. The internalisation of concepts, particularly when emotional components are at play, tends to be slower in prep school boys. They need a longer period to get a good grasp of these concepts, but are then able to expand on them with alacrity.
8. A boys-only environment can be adapted to accommodate the different rate of verbal development that boys experience.

Enjoy the week.

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE JUNIOR PREP

STOP UNDERMINING YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS

Wherever I go at the moment, I hear about instances of parents undermining their child's teacher – often, in front of them. This does nothing to foster respect between learner and teacher, and will ultimately get in the way of a child's learning experience in the classroom.

While we don't always agree with our children's teachers, those disagreements must be dealt with in private and not within earshot of our children. We are doing our children a disservice, risking raising children who are egocentric, who give up too quickly when things get a little hard and who are quick to blame others for their lack of happiness or success.

In Blair King's article in the Huffington Post, from 14 March 2016, he shares four very solid pieces of advice for parents (in bold below) that I go on to explain because I agree with them.

Parents, you are not your child's best friend, you are their parent. This is such a common trap parents fall into today in an effort to keep everyone smiling and happy. Be your child's best friend at your peril – soon they will be pulling all the strings and calling the shots – with you and everyone else. When you have got them to adulthood then you can be best friends.

Parents, learned helplessness is your fault, not your child's. When we are constantly clearing and smoothing the path for our children they are at risk of becoming helpless and lacking in resourcefulness. They also know that if they tell a parent they can't do something or that it is too difficult, then their parent is likely to step in and complete the task for them. This leaves children incapable, ill-equipped and unwilling to try and figure out how to accomplish tasks for themselves.

Parents, you must advocate for your kids but you must also support your child's teacher. We are not in the classroom with our child, and they can behave quite differently in class than they do at home. Blair, who is married to a teacher with 15 years' experience, says

that parents often forget that teachers are trained professionals and don't treat them with the respect they deserve.

"If you question your child's teacher in front of your child, you are telling your child that the teacher's authority is not to be respected. When a teacher tells you something, don't turn to your child and ask if what their teacher is saying is true. You may think you are involving your child in the discussion, but what you have actually done is to question that teacher's reliability to their face. Think of it from the teacher's perspective. You have essentially told them that you won't believe what they just told you until your child confirms it."

Parents, your child's teacher cannot replace your role in your child's education. As parents are paying more for their children's education and spending more time at work, they are expecting teachers to pick up the slack and fill in for them, instilling manners, good behaviour and values, for example. This is our job as parents, and teachers just don't have enough hours in the day to take this on. Of course, they will supplement what we teach our children at home and build on our foundations, but *we must take responsibility for building those foundations.*

School cannot prepare your child for the future alone, and neither can you. It is going to take a strong partnership between home, school, teacher and learner, and this needs to be based on mutual respect.

NIKKI BUSH

Creative parenting expert, inspirational speaker and co-author of *Tech-Savvy Parenting* (Bookstorm, 2014), *Future-proof Your Child* (Penguin, 2008), and *Easy Answers to Awkward Questions* (Metz Press, 2009).

nikki@nikkibush.com www.nikkibush.com

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BOOK WEEK 3-7 APRIL

You will have received the letter regarding Book Week, via email this week. Book Week is always great fun and the boys learn a great deal over and above the curriculum. The theme this year is ***The Wizard of Oz***; which ties in extremely well with our Year of the Woman theme. If you have not already done so, please do take a look at Colin Stokes' TED Talk "How movies teach manhood" <https://youtu.be/yeOqYebVhtc>

The focus will be on the role of women as leaders and the positive characteristics displayed by Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion.

CHAPEL – APRIL BIRTHDAYS

The Chapel service on **Wednesday, 5 April** will be the last Junior Prep service for this term. All April birthday cards will be handed out at this service.

HOT DOG DAY

Friday, 7 April is the last Hot Dog day for the First Term. Cost: R25-00 for a hot dog, crisps and juice. Please do send the correct amount of change.

SATURDAY, 8 APRIL

DADS AND LADS MINI CRICKET

Thank you to the families who have signed up for this exciting event! Once Craig Jooste has drawn up teams and the schedule of matches, a final letter will be sent home to participants. Registration is at **8:00** and the day will finish at approximately **11:00**. Grade 2 parents will be selling delicious refreshments during the course of the morning. Please do support them.

CAMP OUT

The annual Camp Out takes place on **Saturday, 8 April**. This is the highlight of our Junior Prep boys' year. If you are attending and have not sent your R30-00 please do so by Wednesday, 5 April. Fires will be provided for families who wish to braai. No cars are allowed onto the fields after 15:00, but golf carts will assist with transporting camping equipment.

The EC is looking for marshals to assist during set up between 15:00 and 17:00. If you are able to give of your time, please send an email to jboysec@gmail.com

Final details will be distributed next week.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS – 11 APRIL

The First Term Parent Consultations will take place on Tuesday, 11 April from 13:00-18:00. Booking sheets will be available outside your child's class from Monday, 3 April. Please book your slot to review your son's work. Should you require a longer, more in-depth interview, please make a separate booking with your class teacher.

AFTERSCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

A full day holiday programme will be offered to children from Grade 0 – 4 (or older siblings on request) during the April holiday. Various activities will be organised during the day e.g. art and craft activities, games, swimming, videos etc. This programme will only go ahead if there are a minimum of 10 children per day.

DATES: 18 – 26 April 2017

TIME: 08:00 (Supervision from 07:30) – 16:00

COST: R250 per day or R125 for half day (four hours or less). A register will be kept and the school will send out accounts at the end of the month

SNACKS: Children will be provided with juice, biscuits and fruit but will need to bring their own picnic lunch

Application forms will be handed out to the children on Monday, 3 April. Forms to be returned to Reception by Friday, 7 April.

GOLDEN MOMENT

A young boy came running up to me as I was walking through the Library. He was holding a book and was most excited. "I have found a real live book to take home to read" he exclaimed!

I look forward to seeing you at the Staff Variety Show this weekend!

Warm regards,

Kenda Melvill-Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 31 March 19:00 Staff Variety Show: Dodson Hall
Saturday 01 April 19:00 Staff Variety Show: Dodson Hall
Monday 03 April PJ Day and R5-00 for popcorn
Tuesday 04 April 7:30 DCS Prep Session (behind the boat) 9:30 Grade 0 Mobile Incubator arrives 18:30 My Story – JP Girls Hall
Wednesday 05 April 8:00 Chapel (all April birthday cards) 12:00-12:20 Grade 2 Choir OR 13:00-13:30 Grade 2 Choir
Thursday 06 April
Friday 07 April Wizard of Oz/Rainbow Dress Up Day HOT DOG DAY R25-00 (please remember to bring empty ink cartridges) Reports go home
Saturday 08 April 8:00-11:00 Grade 1 & 2 Mini Cricket – Dads and Lads 16:00 Junior Prep Camp Out

SCHOOL SHOP**Winter Uniform**

Please start thinking of coming in to buy the winter uniform as there are very few shop days left before the end of term.

SALE:

Navy fleece inners (limited sizes left) selling at cost.

Tracksuits (old material only) selling at a 10% discount.

Lanyards:

We now stock school branded lanyards for your locker keys – R20 each

Nadia Thompson (School Shop Assistant)

AWSUM ARTICLE

The latest edition of AWSUM is out and we can be found on page 5:

https://issuu.com/tiemedialdocs/johannesburg_march_primary_high

Diane Fraser (Marketer)

CARTRIDGE COLLECTION ON HOT DOG DAY - R25**FRIDAY, 7 APRIL**

Please remember to bring in your ink cartridges. There will be a collection point (big green and white cardboard boxes) in the Chapel car park throughout the day for empty ink cartridges. There are permanent collection points at both the Girls Senior and Junior Prep, and Boys Junior Prep reception areas.

Thank you for your continuing support this year!

Monica Sloane (Community Partnership and Foundation Manager)

**MY STORY AND YEAR OF THE WOMAN**

In recognition of St Peter's "Year of the Woman", our next "My Story" will focus on women's experiences and stories. Please join us as we expand on many of the themes that were highlighted at the "Year of the Woman" launch event in February:

- The roles we play – mother, wife, partner, daughter, career woman...
- The example we role model for our daughters and sons
- The unintended messages we send our daughters and other women

Please join us as we continue the St Peter's Year of the Woman journey:

Tuesday, 4 April

18:30 to 20:30

Girls JP Hall

Dads are most welcome to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Phetsile Dlamini (Year of the Woman Committee)

Susan Wolfenden (Transformation Committee)

STAFF VARIETY SHOW 2017

Two down, two to go! What a fabulous weekend of fun was had by all - and a big thank you from the PA not only to the staff for putting on a fabulous show, and the kitchen crew for the awesome food, but to all our FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS who turned up on Friday and Saturday to help with the decor, setting up and serving food and drinks each night. As you can see - they did an amazing job and had loads of fun doing it!



If you have not already put your name down to help out this weekend, we would love to have you. Please email svs@stpeters.co.za and let us know which night works for you.

ST PETER'S
AUTUMN *Carnival* 27 May 2017

RUN A STALL...

Here's what you need to know

- ❖ Stalls are on a ticket system, so no need to handle the cash
- ❖ Prizes will be collected centrally, so you won't be responsible for sourcing your own prizes
- ❖ If your stall incurs any costs, these can be claimed back from Carnival expenses, not your own pockets
- ❖ Carnival bunting and tablecloths will be provided
- ❖ Call on your friends to help with setting up and running the stall!

<p>Booked Stalls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tombola Nail 'Salon' Cupcake Decorating Potty Toss Nerf Gun Shooting Lawn Darts High Striker Strongman Hammer Guess the Weight of the cake and of course... the ever popular Inflatable Rockets, Rides and Slides 	<p>Ideas for Stalls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pin The Donkey Wet Sponge Throwing Toss The Hoop Face Painting Go Fishing Boat Races Shoot the Hoop Sandpit Treasure Dig Get those creative ideas flowing!! 	<p>Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date: Sat, 27 May Setup: 10:00 – 12:00 Carnival Time: 12:00 – 17:00 Cleanup: 17:00 – 18:00 <p>Provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tables and chairs Some décor
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WORK AT A STALL...

We will need plenty of hands on deck to help on the day. Offer to help at a stall on a shift basis of an hour or more. Or gather some friends together and work the shift as a group of 2-4 people. It will be great fun, and your kids will love it!

HELP OUT WITH PRIZES...

- ❖ Have a look around your home for something new to donate ... small or large
- ❖ Chat to your employer to see if they have any corporate goodies to donate
- ❖ Ask companies to sponsor a prize

<p>Sponsored Prizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dinner voucher Salon voucher Electronics Weekend Away Bounce Voucher Laser Tag Voucher 	<p>Corporate Prizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company cap Branded stationery Branded t-shirts Branded mug 	<p>Something Small</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweets Mini Plastic animals Marbles/Lego pieces Hair clips & scrunchies Cookie Ingredients and recipe Slime/ Playdough Stationery/Stickers Temporary tattoo
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If you would like to join in on the carnival fun,
please email the committee on
stpeterscarnival@webmail.co.za