



SENIOR PREP

Edition: 836

9 March 2017

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE RECTOR

STAFF VARIETY SHOW



2015 Staff Variety Show

New parents may not be familiar with the show. It was introduced by Anthony Parnell, the fourth Headmaster of the Boys Prep. If I am not mistaken, the first performance took place in 1982. Anthony's rationale was to have the staff give something back to the school by assisting the PA in fundraising. Beside the entertainment, the occasion shows what good sports the staff are as they willingly put themselves 'on the line' and laugh with the parents at themselves. It provides a platform to reveal the many talents of the staff and an opportunity for parents to view their children's teachers in an entirely different light.

All the proceeds raised on the evening go to the PA who then channel these into the school for the benefit of the pupils.

The show is conceived and produced by staff exclusively and many hours go into rehearsal and preparation. At the same time, teachers are expected to perform optimally in the classroom, and this they do commendably. Some of the skits can be quite risqué and so children have never been permitted to attend.

The PA provides food and refreshments and parents traditionally book tables together with their friends. If you have not been able to be seated at a table with friends, we will do our best to accommodate you.

Questions for the Rector:

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at (dradloff@stpeters.co.za)

Greg Royce

FROM THE HEADMASTER

We live in an age in which we are bombarded with information. Some of the information serves to provide an opportunity for us to interact with the world, but a large amount of it serves to either create joy, concern, or something in-between. Take programmes like Carte Blanche for instance. An exposé on corruption will serve to create a sense of dissonance within us, while a story about the drought could inspire us to act by saving water through conscious action. What is important is to be able to make the distinction between what is in our sphere of influence and what is simply within our sphere of concern.

Stephen Covey, in his book "The 8th Habit" talks about the "Circle of Concern" as being things that concern and interest you and the "Circle of Influence" as containing things over which you have some control (Covey 2004: 132). One of the most important aspects of character development and also well within our circle of influence as a "Thinking School" is to create boys who are proactive. These boys will be able to recognise situations over which they have some influence and choose to act in order to assert that influence to serve either their personal or societies' needs. Similarly, one's state of mental wellbeing is often influenced by matters that are outside our control. These issues can build up and create negativity towards our country, our school, individuals or a challenge that may face us. We should encourage our boys to identify what is outside their circle of influence and to rather concentrate on proactivity within the circle. I believe that we should also model this behaviour in our daily lives, particularly in discussions that may be "overheard" by our children. All too often they hear negativity from adult mouths, whether it be about the state of rugby in the country or a lack of discipline in certain areas of parliament. Should we not rather be focusing on the positive concepts of getting personally fit and playing a sport to the best of our ability; or living within a true spirit of "Ubuntu" during this St Peter's Year of the Woman? It is, after all, within both our circle of influence and our circle of concern to prepare our boys to be positive, proactive citizens of our country and the world.

I remind you that we have an opportunity to worship God in song and prayer as the Chapel Choir lead us in "Morning Prayer" this Sunday. The service begins at 08:00 and lasts approximately 40 minutes. Please join us for this special time of worship. The summer "team sport" season also comes to an end this week and we look forward to starting the athletics season on Monday.

Have a wonderful week.

Rob Macaulay

CHARACTER EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR BOYS

St Peter's Boys Prep School has been appointed as a project school to participate in a world-wide research project approved by the International Boys Schools Coalition. This is a two year project which will investigate effective practices in boys' character education.

Focus will be on "how to navigate change and complexity with a strong moral compass, building character strengths such as perseverance and grit, and understanding one's self and purpose for others which are fundamental for boys' well-being as they make the journey to manhood."

St Peter's involvement in this project will provide a "front row seat" in the research process and gain opportunities to collaborate with like-minded schools around the world. We will receive an individualised report from school data analysis. Participation in this project will serve as a catalyst for introducing new systems for school improvement in the realm of character education.

The first key research exercise is an online survey in the form of a cultural audit. Teachers, Executive Team members, Council members, Old Boys and current parents of Grades 5 to 7 are requested to participate in the survey. A high response rate is critical to the integrity of the data analysis.

It is very exciting to be one of five South African schools involved in a project which will keep us in touch with international trends in character development to improve the lives of our boys.

The link was emailed out on Tuesday and I keenly anticipate your involvement in this project.

Dave Hala (Head: Pastoral Care)

INTER-HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP GALAS - TOMORROW

The Intermediate and Senior Inter-House championship galas will take place on Friday, 10 March.

Boys are to wear: house shirt, blue shorts and slops or white socks and white takkies to school.

Grade 3s and 4s will have a normal academic day until 10:00.

Intermediate Gala (U9's and U10's) 11:00 to 12:30 – boys may then go home.

Grades 5, 6 and 7 will have a normal academic day until 12:30.

Senior Gala (U11's, U12's and Opens) 13:30 to 15:30 – boys may then go home.

Pupils may not leave until the end of the prize giving for their gala.

Pupils are required to wear either a traditional black speedo costume or the school team costume. Please ensure that your son has the correct costume.

Requests for permission to be excused from swimming in and/or attending the gala should have been received by the relevant Housemaster by Friday, 17 February.

Mike Mitchley (MIC Swimming)

REFLECTIONS ON YEAR OF THE WOMAN EVENT



In keeping with the Schools Diversity Theme for 2017 – **Year of the Woman**, a diverse group of women from across the Prep Schools, gathered on Saturday, 4 February 2017. This was an opportunity for women across all divides to meet each other, connect and model what the world is needing more of!

There were opportunities for learning and growth as well as wonderful, meaningful interactions with other women we might never have met; with lots of fun, laughter and a delicious champagne breakfast!

From this rich, connected space we also had the opportunity to explore themes that are important for women. Ideas for further collaboration to enrich the school community were generated.

Further communication around this will be shared later.

Thanks to the PA for sponsoring the event and all the wonderful women who attended, making new friends and sharing their enthusiasm.

Guiomar Holme and Phetsile Dlamini (Facilitators)

ST PETER'S COLLEGE ENROLMENT PROCESS FOR 2018 GRADE 8S

Thank you to the parents who have applied for their son to enrol in Grade 8 at St Peter's College next year. We trust you have enjoyed the process so far - we certainly have appreciated meeting you and your son!

I would like to remind you of the process going forward:

- Kindly indicate your acceptance or decline of place offer by completing and signing the Acceptance of Place Offer form received at your interview and email it to admissions@stpeterscollege.co.za
- Scholarship exams/interviews/auditions are taking place this Saturday, 11 March 2017. Scholarship applicants will have received an email from the College outlining the arrangements for the day. We will notify the successful candidates on 24 March 2017 and will require confirmation of acceptance or decline from parents by 28 March 2017.
- Payment of the deposit (equivalent to one term's tuition fee currently) is due by 5 April 2017. Please forward the proof of payment to admissions@stpeterscollege.co.za.

St Peter's College has received more applications than we have places. Although St Peter's Prep pupils are given priority on places at the College, we cannot guarantee a place to Prep pupils who have not yet applied at the College. Any places still open after deposits are paid on 5 April 2017 will be secured as and when payments are received from whichever school the applicant is from.

The College Open Day takes place this Saturday. Please click here for more details: <http://www.stpeters.co.za/college/content/page/college-open-day>

Please feel free to contact Tanya Oakes or myself should you require any further information

Theresa Monoyoudis (Marketing Manager)

marketing@stpeterscollege.co.za

STAFF VARIETY SHOW

PA AGM – WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH

The Notice of the PA AGM and Proxy Forms have been emailed to all parents. They can also be found on the Communicator St Peter's under Resources/BOYS/GIRLS PA.

Proxy Forms can be deposited in the box specified in the St Peter's Boys Prep School reception areas or in the St Peter's Girls Prep School reception areas, or may be submitted electronically via email to paproxies@stpeters.co.za.

These must be received by the secretary of the PA Committee, **by no later than 08:00 on Wednesday, 15 March 2017**.

The AGM will be held in Mvukuzane Pavilion at 18:30.

CONCUSSION TESTING

Please look on the Communicator St Peter's under Resources/Boys Sport for more information. You can email franklin.jules@gmsil.com for an appointment.

FORTHCOMING WEEK**GRADE 7 BOYS FUND RAISING**

There will be delicious bacon rolls for sale on Saturday during the cricket and basket ball matches. Please support them.

Friday	10/03/2017	10/03/2017	11:00:00	12:30:00	Inter-house Individual Gala for Grade 3 and 4
Friday	10/03/2017	10/03/2017	13:30:00	15:30:00	Inter-house Individual Gala for Grade 5 - 7
Friday	10/03/2017	10/03/2017			St Alban's Experience
Saturday	11/03/2017	11/03/2017	08:30:00		Cricket vs The Ridge
Saturday	11/03/2017	11/03/2017	08:30:00		Basketball Matches vs AISJ
Sunday	12/03/2016	12/03/2016	08:00:00	09:00:00	Morning Prayer (Chapel Choir)
Monday	13/03/2017	13/03/2017	14:00:00		Athletics Season Commences
Monday	13/03/2017	13/03/2017	16:00:00	18:00:00	Chess Matches vs The Ridge
Wednesday	15/03/2017	15/03/2017			Week 8 of Additional Learning Programme
Wednesday	15/03/2017	15/03/2017	18:30:00		PA AGM – Mvukuzane Pavilion
Thursday	16/03/2017	16/03/2017	07:30:00		General Assembly
Thursday	16/03/2017	16/03/2017			Grade 3SC Sandwich Making
Friday	17/03/2017	17/03/2017	13:00:00		Normal Closing Time
Friday	17/03/2017	17/03/2017	14:00:00		KEPS Water polo Festival
Monday	20/03/2017				School Holiday
Tuesday	21/03/2017				Human Rights Day
Wednesday	22/03/2017	22/03/2017			School recommences

**PLEASE REFER TO THE WEEKLY SPORTS NOTICE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION AND NEWS ON SPORTS
FIXTURES AND VENUES**

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS IS WEDNESDAY, 17:00