



SENIOR PREP

Edition: 838

23 March 2017

## Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

I hope that everyone enjoyed the long weekend and is refreshed and ready for the run down to the end of the first term. Tuesday's celebrations of Human Rights Day around the country included a festival of dance during which people celebrated their individuality and independence. Independence and the right to independence has been the catalyst for many struggles around the world. In addition, we speak about independent thought and independent decision making regularly in our modern world. The term independent is defined in the Collins English Dictionary as, "...not dependent on anything else for function,...not reliant on support." This is certainly a condition to be aspired to, but is independence a right or is it a skill?

I believe that independence is a skill that needs to be developed and that, in its purest form grows into inter-dependence, which means that we can rely on others and, in turn, be relied upon to complete a task in support of those around us. This state begins with being able to do things for ourselves. To this end we should be consciously preparing our boys to take on responsibility for their own learning. I expand on a couple of positive parenting actions that would help with this growth below:

- Preparing his own school and sports bags for the following day. While it may be more time consuming than simply checking the Communicator and packing accordingly, by working with your boy you will not only empower him so that you don't need to pack his bags the following year, but you will prepare him for later life. In addition, if there is a pair of socks missing from his kit he will own the problem rather than defaulting to the standard "...my mother/helper forgot..." Perhaps by facing the consequence of his disorganisation, he will also learn to be more proactive next time.
- Drop him off and let him carry his own bags. I mentioned in the PA AGM that we are noticing more and more parents carrying their children's sports bags, dragging cricket kit and even carting lunch boxes all the way to the classroom while the boy skips along behind. This becomes an expectation for the boy and before you know it he will expect you to make his bed, pick up his dirty washing and even take his dirty dishes to the kitchen. Do some of these "chores" sound familiar? The growth towards an independent and self-disciplined life is scaffolded by many small tasks. While there may be a need for some "difficult conversations" you will be preparing him for a happy and successful high school experience and adulthood.

As an aside, making our boys more independent would also help with our growing carpark challenges. While the number of boys in the school has not increased over the past four years, our carpark woes have. We are conducting a traffic flow study to try to alleviate the problem, but I am fairly confident that part of the solution will be to revert to the days where boys were dropped off at school and not escorted or assisted all the way to the classroom. I suppose that, while this will not facilitate an individual's independence, it may fall under the category of our community inter-dependence, where we all rely on each other to follow the traffic guidelines and drop-off areas to alleviate carpark rage.

By growing our boys' independence we will be preparing them for the challenges they will face in the increasingly more complex society in which we live.

Have a great week.

**Rob Macaulay**



## EARTH HOUR - SATURDAY, 25 MARCH

Earth Hour is the single, largest, symbolic mass participation event in the world. The initiative was born out of a wish to mobilise people to take action against climate change. Earth Hour now inspires a global community of millions of people in 7 001 cities and towns across 152 countries and territories to switch lights off for an hour as a show of concern for the environment. Switching off lights has become the world's fastest growing environmental movement.

If you would like to do your 'bit' on Saturday, a simple idea is to switch off your lights and appliances for an hour from 20:30 to 21:30.

To read more about this initiative, visit [www.earthhour.org.za](http://www.earthhour.org.za). There are some inspiring stories of people going 'beyond the hour'.

How about using this as an educational opportunity to share as a family? We would love feedback about what you and your family did for Earth Hour!

## DIVERSITY

**Ben Eason** (Gr 7) addressed the boys on the Chinese New Year early in February. Best wishes as you celebrate the Year of the Rooster.

**Thabang Simelane** (Gr 7) addressed the boys in chapel on Wednesday on Human Rights Day and Water Week. The events of 21 March 1960 were outlined. His special message was that rights are coupled with responsibility. The current generation have to be cognisant of past events and use that knowledge to build on the future. He cleverly wove in the right to access to water but the need to conserve this valuable resource as responsible citizens.

As an institution, St Peter's promotes fairness and respect for human rights. The community is urged to SAY NO to racism, inequality and disrespect for human dignity.

**Vijay Maharaj** (Director: Diversity)

## WATCHES AT SCHOOL

As you know we have a ban on the use of mobile devices by pupils on the campus for good reasons. It has come to our attention that some students have started wearing "Smart Watches." These are internet enabled devices which can receive text messages, calls and social media notifications. This includes the Apple iWatch and all other Wi-Fi enabled wearable devices. There are a number of features on these phones which can distract pupils, but also provide facilities to connect to the Internet during class. They are expensive items and if brought to school would be treated the same as a mobile phone. Watches have to be taken off during all sports practices so security also becomes an issue. Therefore these fall under the BYOD and cellphone policy and must be stored at reception during the school day.

Of course normal, non-ostentatious watches are allowed at school. With the normal watches please can you make sure that they follow the school policy of silver, black or navy blue in colour and of a normal size.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

**Scott Hauptfleisch** (Director: IT)



## ATHLETICS AND ASTHMA

With the athletics season upon us, if your son has asthma, could you please ensure he has his asthma pump at school, preferably in the sick bay.

Any child, who has a completed emergency medical form, should have a pump in the emergency box. If you have filled in an EMERGENCY form and did not send a pump to school with the form, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you.

**Sister Gail Brent**

## YOGURT AND ICE-CREAM TUBS FOR THE ART ROOM

Please send empty 1L ice-cream and yogurt tubs to school for the ART ROOM.

Thank you

**Louise Twiggs** (Art Teacher)

## 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)

## PALM SUNDAY INVITATION

Palm Sunday is the day on which we commemorate and celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, prior to His crucifixion. Crowds of people welcomed Him by waving palm fronds and laying them on the ground before Him, in His honour. In the Anglican Church, we distribute palm crosses on Palm Sunday, to celebrate the day. We, as St Peter's Prep Schools, will be celebrating Palm Sunday and teaching the children the significance of the palm crosses.

We invite anyone who would like to learn how to make palm crosses, and those who already know how to make them, to help us make them on Friday, 31 March from 11:00.

**Kamohelo Kotsi** (Assistant Chaplain)



## A GOOD LUCK WISH FOR STAFF VARIETY SHOW

Thank you to the du Plooy family for the beautiful and yummy MexiKEYn delights!



## FORTHCOMING WEEK

Friday	24/03/2017	24/03/2017	19:00:00		Staff Variety Show
Saturday	25/03/2017	25/03/2017	08:30:00		Inter school Athletics Meeting
Saturday	25/03/2017	25/03/2017	19:00:00		Staff Variety Show
Tuesday	28/03/2017	28/03/2017			Inter-school General Knowledge Quiz
Wednesday	29/03/2017	29/03/2017			Week 10 of Additional Learning Programme
Wednesday	29/03/2017	29/03/2017	14:00:00		Inter school Athletics Meeting
Thursday	30/03/2017	30/03/2017	07:30:00		Middle School Academic Awards
Thursday	30/03/2017	30/03/2017	07:30:00		House Meetings for Grade 6 and 7
Thursday	30/03/2017	30/03/2017			Grade 3KMS Sandwich Making
Thursday	30/03/2017	30/03/2017	18:00:00		Council Meeting
Friday	31/03/2017	31/03/2017	14:00:00		Inter house Athletics Meeting (Field Events)
Friday	31/03/2017	31/03/2017	19:00:00		Staff Variety Show
Saturday	01/04/2017	01/04/2017	08:00:00	13:00:00	Inter house Athletics Meeting (Track Events)
Saturday	01/04/2017	01/04/2017	19:00:00		Staff Variety Show

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