



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The SAHISA (Southern African Heads of Independent Schools Association) and ICP (International Coalition of Principles) Conferences, which take place back-to-back in Cape Town this weekend, will afford the school management team the opportunity to discuss and compare trends and practice with school leaders from around South Africa and internationally. The Boys Prep School MANCO will attend the ICP as a group so that we can spread out and cover as many of the presentations and seminar groups as possible. This is an important part of our strategic imperative of continuous improvement and we look forward to lively debate and the calibration of our own practices as a result of what we learn.

There has been significant research into homework in the preparatory school environment and hence our stance below:

WHY HOMEWORK SHOULD BE BALANCED?

At St Peter's we believe that learning should be engaging and meaningful and, in the school environment, we aim to use the methodologies based on the *Visible Learning* research of John Hattie, who ranked, in order of effectiveness, 139 influences and how they relate to learning outcomes and student progress. Research indicates that at the prep school level, homework is not as beneficial as at high school.

Feedback from high schools suggests that we prepare students particularly well, as our students are equipped with strategies and thinking approaches which promote independent learning.

Some of the misconceptions around homework are:

1. *Practice makes perfect*

This is true when an expert coach is involved. The concern being that practice makes permanent and we don't want permanent incorrect neural pathways to be established. Practice is beneficial when practising timetables and activities with known answers or when pupils reteach or revise what they learnt on a particular day to reinforce the neural pathways.

2. *It is an essential preparation for high school*

A healthy work ethic and self-belief are the two essentials for high school. Hours of homework in prep school does not promote a healthy work ethic as it achieves the opposite in the form of burn out. Innovation and creativity are also diminished when there is extensive homework.

3. *Homework positively improves academic performance*

Ongoing research shows that reading has more impact on academic performance than the completion of endless worksheets.

4. *Homework provides parents with an awareness of the school curriculum:*

Today's learning is dynamic and flexible and requires collaboration and skills.

Parents wanting an awareness of what is being taught at school are encouraged to ask their son or daughter what they learnt at school on a particular day.

St Peter's approach to homework involves:

- a scaffolding of approaches - age appropriate work in the various grades
- core skills including - bonds, phonics and spelling practice
- the expectation of every child to read, or be read to, for at least 20 minutes a day
- no homework be assigned during the holiday period, but reading is always encouraged
- homework or learning, which is authentic, engaging and meaningful, in the upper grades

This term we will begin to trial a number of different approaches to homework and ways to facilitate appropriate opportunities to reinforce learning at school and at home. In the senior prep, this means no formal homework exercises will be set.

Rob Macaulay

DIVERSITY: HERITAGE DAY

The first Heritage Day was instituted in 1995, after the first free elections that spelled the beginning of a new, non-racially based democracy.

The roots of Heritage Day, however, precede 1995. 24 September was originally a Zulu holiday celebrated in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. It was in remembrance of Shaka, the great chief who united the Zulu tribes into a unified nation. When establishing South Africa's official public holidays, the significance was broadened to include the celebration of the heritage of all South Africans.



The official government definition of the heritage in "Heritage Day" refers to all that the people inherit: culture, history, wildlife, monuments, artwork, literature, music, folklore, languages, culinary traditions and more. In 1996, president Nelson Mandela declared that Heritage Day should help South Africans use their "rich and varied cultural heritage" to "build our new nation."

Many South Africans "braai" on Heritage day. Braai is the Afrikaans word for "grill or barbecue." "Braaivleis" means "grilled or barbecued meat." Family and friends gather to grill meat, such as boerewors, kebabs, lamb chops, pork, chicken, steak, and ribs. You will also find fish and rock lobster ("kreef") in coastal towns and pap (cornmeal porridge) in almost every town.

St Peter's wishes you well as you celebrate Heritage Day and appreciate the beauty and diverse culture of South Africa.

Vijay Maharaj (Director: Diversity)



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

ITUMELENG KUMALO

Itumeleng Kumalo, or Tumi as she is affectionately known, was born in Johannesburg and matriculated at Bryanston High School. Sadly, her father died in 2007. Her mother, is a receptionist, and the family was therefore, able to cope financially. Her family was fortunate too in that the extended family helped in supporting them – her uncle in particular.

Tumi says that *The Isematholeni Intern Programme* has provided her with a wonderful opportunity:

"I chose teaching because I am passionate and my dream is to change someone's life and ensure that this world becomes a better place. I live by the motto, 'If you think you can, you can and if you think you can't, you can't – you are always right!'" Everyone is so helpful here at St Peter's and I am gaining invaluable knowledge all the time. It has enabled me to start understanding myself more and to realise my love for teaching. I am very grateful."



FORTHCOMING WEEK

TOMORROW: CIVVIES DAY (R10), CARTRIDGE COLLECTION AND HOT DOG DAY (R25)

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.



R25 + R10 = R35

Thank you for your continuing support this year!

Monica Sloane (Community Partnership and Foundation Manager)

Friday	22/09/2017	10:00:00	10:00:00	HOT DOG AND CIVVIES DAY (R35)
Friday	22/09/2017	14:00:00	17:00:00	Water polo
Saturday	23/09/2017	12:00:00	16:00:00	1st St Benedict's Tennis Festival
Sunday	24/09/2017	00:00:00	23:00:00	HERITAGE DAY
Sunday	24/09/2017	08:00:00	12:00:00	1st St Benedict's Tennis Festival
Monday	25/09/2017	00:00:00	23:00:00	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday	26/09/2017	00:00:00	23:00:00	BISHOP'S HOLIDAY
Wednesday	27/09/2017	07:30:00	07:30:00	BACK to SCHOOL
Wednesday	27/09/2017	12:00:00	13:00:00	Week 26 of Additional Learning Programme
Thursday	28/09/2017	07:30:00	08:00:00	Headmaster Assembly (Gr 6 and 7)
Thursday	28/09/2017	07:30:00	08:00:00	House Assembly (Gr 3 - 5)
Thursday	28/09/2017	08:00:00	08:00:00	Grade 3SCAS Sandwich Making
Friday	29/09/2017	12:00:00	21:00:00	Golf Day
Friday	29/09/2017	14:00:00	17:00:00	Water polo
Friday	29/09/2017	09:00:00	17:00:00	Area Cricket Festival
Saturday	30/09/2017	08:00:00	12:00:00	Hockey vs St David's

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

PA NEWS

The St Peter's Golf Day
29 September 2017
 Kyalami Country Club

**ONLY 2
 FOURBALLS LEFT!**

The Essentials...

- 12:00 shotgun start
- Gin bar on arrival
- Prize giving and casual dinner in the bar
- Draw for the raffle valued at R40 000 (no fundraising auction this year)

Bookings open 20 July 2017
 email golfday@stpeters.co.za for further info and to request a booking form



The Rugby Sevens event in Cape Town is a SELL OUT so buy your raffle ticket now!!!!

RAFFLE St Peter's Golf Day **RAFFLE**
HSBC CAPE TOWN RUGBY SEVENS 2017

THE PRIZE
 Tickets to both days of the Cape Town Rugby Sevens 2017, return flights and 3 nights accommodation at the 5* Radisson Blu Hotel from 8 - 10 December for FOUR people

TICKET PRICE R200
 Limited to 500 tickets only
 Email golaffle@stpeters.co.za to purchase tickets

WORLD RUGBY™
HSBC SEVENS SERIES

The raffle draw will take place at the Golf Day Prize Giving function on the evening of 29 September 2017. The prize winner does not have to be present at the raffle draw in order to win the prize.

