



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

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

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

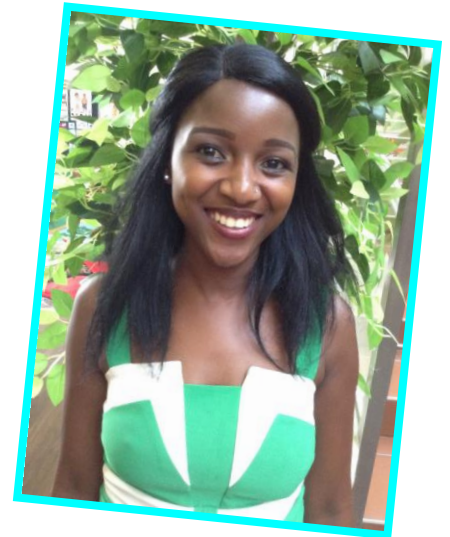
NASH RAHUBE

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

She has no parents, her mom died in 2009, the day after her little brother turned one.

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

FORTHCOMING WEEK

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	02/10/2017	09:00:00	17:00:00	Area Cricket Festival
Saturday	30/09/2017	08:00:00	12:00:00	Hockey vs St David's
Monday	02/10/2017	16:00:00	19:00:00	Chess vs Jan Celliers
Wednesday	04/10/2017	08:00:00	10:00:00	Grade 6 Study Skills Course
Wednesday	04/10/2017	09:00:00	17:00:00	ABRSM Practical Exams (Music)
Wednesday	04/10/2017	12:00:00	13:00:00	Week 27 of Additional Learning Programme
Thursday	05/10/2017	06:00:00	06:00:00	World Teachers' Day
Thursday	05/10/2017	07:30:00	08:00:00	Assembly (Gr 3 - 5)
Thursday	05/10/2017	07:30:00	08:00:00	House Assembly (Gr 6 and 7)
Thursday	05/10/2017	08:00:00	08:00:00	Grade 4MB Sandwich Making
Thursday	05/10/2017	09:00:00	17:00:00	ABRSM Practical Exams (Music)
Thursday	05/10/2017	18:30:00	20:30:00	Council Meeting
Friday	06/10/2017	14:00:00	17:00:00	Water polo: Rick Wilson Water polo Tournament
Saturday	07/10/2017	08:00:00	12:00:00	Hockey vs The Ridge

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