



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE RECTOR

A Report from Derek Wilcocks

On Thursday, 8 March 2018, Greg Royce invited a group of parents involved in the information technology industry to join a think tank to review information technology at St Peter's. Six parents kindly volunteered their time and met with the Heads and information technology staff, on both the technology provision and teaching sides, of both the Boys and Girls Prep Schools. The evening kicked off with Dieter Gloss, the IT Manager, giving an overview of the information technology infrastructure in place on the St Peter's campus. The overview covered connectivity, telephony, security, storage and continuity. In each instance issues such as reliability, performance, value for money and ability to meet future needs were addressed. After the review the parents congratulated Dieter and his team on their efforts over the past five years. After the presentation and ensuing discussion, no significant architectural or other changes were proposed.

Thereafter, Scott Hauptfleisch presented the approach to introducing children to devices, programming, robotics and general computer skills. He explained that the goal is to provide our children with platform independent skills, so that they are comfortable entering different high schools with different platform standards. The investment in using tools such as *Scratch* for programming and *Lego Robotics* kits was praised by the assembled parents, who felt that this best prepares our children for a world where the integration between computers and physical processes will deeply affect the career and entrepreneurial choices available to them. Scott also covered the use of robotics to teach other academic skills, such as age-appropriate sequencing and logical reasoning in a fun and highly interactive way. Some discussion ensued about future directions, covering ideas about artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies and how these technologies will affect our curriculum and the children. Scott also spoke about some of the development opportunities that he and other teachers have been exposed to, to ensure they are up to date with the latest thinking on the safe and innovative application of information technology in teaching.

The evening concluded on a very positive note with high praise for all the St Peter's staff involved in information technology. Our school and our children are in good information technology hands. Thank you once again to the parents who volunteered their time and expertise and who continue to assist the school in obtaining the best possible value in procuring technology and providing encouragement and advice to our highly dedicated and motivated Heads, teachers and administrative staff. Ultimately, most thanks is due to the teachers who have taken up the challenge of preparing the children for high schools and ultimately for professional life where technology plays an increasingly foundational role.

Derek Wilcocks (Council Member: IT Portfolio)

Questions for the Rector:

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

Greg Royce (Rector)

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Last week I wrote about the concept of learnt helplessness. This week I would like to share our philosophy regarding success, character and the ethos of a St Peter's boy.

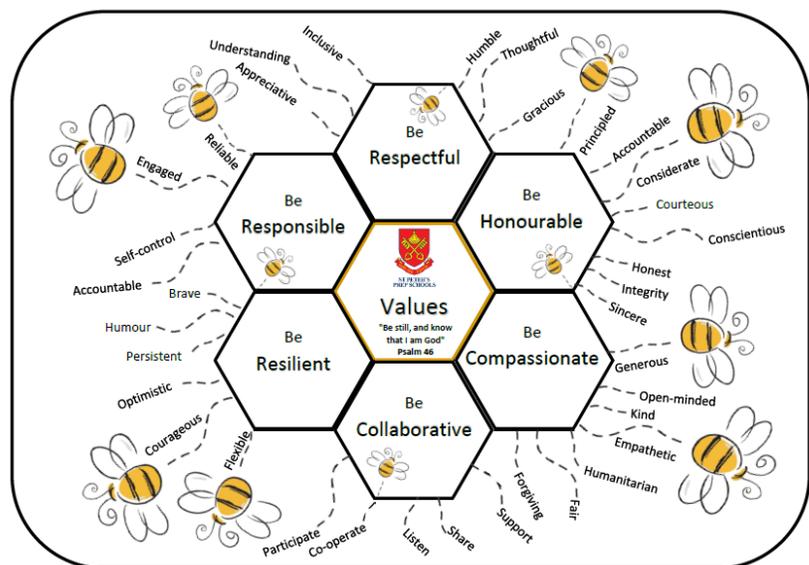
The measure of a St Peter's boy is based on his character and not how well he does in academics or sporting activities. Thus, the achievement of an "A" aggregate or selection for the "A" or "B" sports teams does not make a pupil more important or worthy of praise. Rather, it is through full participation, a growth mind-set and grit that our boys become "true St Peter's boys." This has always been the philosophy of the school and our pupils are sought after by many high schools because of their quiet confidence and competence across the board. Unfortunately, our philosophy is sometimes undermined by the modern drive to be "the best" in everything. This demand has become a part of the broader culture in which the boys are growing up. It is starting to affect the pupils and we are picking up incidences of boys saying things like "You're not in the 'A' team so you can't play soccer with us." This is unacceptable from a St Peter's boy and we will be taking measures to ensure that it does not happen. Please may I ask that parents talk to their sons and reinforce this message?

Prep school sport is aimed at maximum participation, maximum fun and the development of skills that will stand a boy in good stead when he makes choices regarding participation in sport at a high school level. It is used as a channel to enhance the development of positive character traits, as espoused by the *St Peter's Values*. While there are those boys who thrive in an ultra-competitive environment, I have experienced occasions where talented boys have consciously chosen not to be in the 'A' team because of not being able to enjoy their participation as a result of negative pressure put on top teams by over-competitive supporters. This choice is perfectly acceptable. We should never forget that these are little boys who are still developing physically and emotionally. If a boy measures his worth by which team he plays in and his classmates have a growth spurt which he doesn't experience, there is a very real danger that, when he does not make the team he expects to make, his self-worth will be negatively impacted and, consequently, all aspects of his school and family life. Thus, while it is good to applaud success, we must be careful of creating the impression that our positive regard for our sons is based on their team selection. Carol Dweck, who has done significant research into the growth mind-set, advocates that we applaud effort, bounce back and good sportsmanship rather than team selection or results. The quality of participation and growth, therefore, outweighs the result in all cases at prep school level.

As is always the case with boys, they will act on what they observe and internalise long before what they are told. This has implications for us as we look forward to very busy rugby, soccer and hockey seasons in the months to come. Before this, however, we have the excitement of inter-house athletics in two weeks' time. Please join us as we enjoy watching every boy strive for the highest according to his own innate potential and applaud his effort.

Have a great weekend.

Rob Macaulay



THE ST PETERS MUSIC DEPARTMENT IS HOSTING A COFFEE MORNING - TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018

Kindly confirm your attendance by filling out our google form link <https://goo.gl/forms/BS705FAFC3C1uD0t1>

My child has started an instrument, now what?

Coffee Morning

We would love for you to join us to discuss the following:

- ♥ I don't play an instrument, how can I help?
- ♥ What should I expect?
- ♥ Busting the Myths of practicing/practicing explained
- ♥ What does a music exam involve and how can I help my child prepare





Date : Tuesday, 20 March 2018

Time: 07:00 – 07:30

Venue: St Peter's Girls Senior Prep Music Room

REMINDER: TOMORROW IS PYJAMA DAY

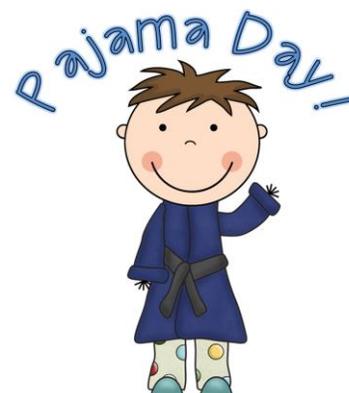
Cancer is an illness that can affect anyone - regardless of age, gender or race. Within our own St Peter's family, we have people who are fighting this disease at present and one of these is a youngster in the Girls Prep. We as a school have therefore chosen CHOC as our charity to support this term to remember all children who are fighting cancer.

We encourage the children and staff to come to school in their PJ's in order to empathise with children who are sick and suffering with cancer.

There is no charge for this day - as this is about us, as a community, becoming aware and pulling together to support one another.

Blessings

Fr Richard (Chaplain)



PA NEWS

SECOND HAND SHOP

The second hand shop is situated just behind the current school shop and opening hours are every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 07:00 to 08:00. School uniforms and sport kit for both girls and boys are available at discounted prices.

All donations are welcome. Kindly deliver clean items to the shop during any of the opening times.

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the shop during one of opening times, kindly contact Carol Sithole on carol.sithole1977@gmail.com or on 072 2268599.

Please contact any of the following ladies to make appointments at other times or for more information:

- Carol 072 2268599
- Heather: 082 654 2755
- Janice 083 325 2464
- Vicky 081 470 9124

All proceeds from the sale of second hand goods are donated to the St Peter's Foundation, to support bursary children at St Peter's Prep Schools.

ST PETER'S WINTER WARMERS 2018 – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Back by popular demand – the Winter Warmers concert will be hosted on Saturday, 14 July 2018. Last held in 2013, this event has a 'Joburg Day' type feel to it, offering musical entertainment for parents, food stalls and vendors, plus the very popular *Inflatable Park* for the kids. Families can bring camper chairs, blankets and their own picnics or buy food on the day and enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment with family and friends.

We are looking for a group of parents who would like to be involved in co-ordinating the day. Please look out for the online link to sign up to volunteer when it will be sent out this Friday, 16 March.

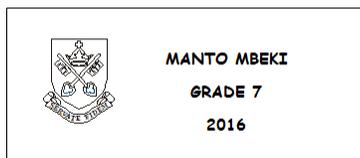
PAVER PLAQUES

A PAVER PLAQUE is a timeless reminder of your son's years at St Peter's Boys Prep School. This brass plaque is engraved with your son's details and is placed in the quad outside the Dodson Hall – The Old Boys Quad.

Should you wish to order, please download the order form from the Communicator under Resources/ GIRLS/BOYS PA information.

Examples of the plaques available to are order:

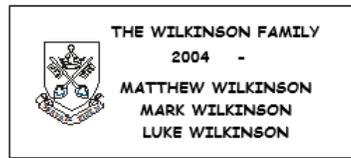
CURRENT PUPIL:



LEAVERS' 2015:



FAMILY PLAQUES:



ST PETER'S COLLEGE OPEN DAY – SATURDAY, 17 MARCH



ST PETER'S COLLEGE
1998-2018 **20** YEARS
RELATIONSHIPS · RESPECT · RESPONSIBILITY · RESILIENCE

OPEN DAY
17 MARCH
2018

Real Education

CLASS OF 2017
EACH ONE TRIUMPHANT

Real Students

OPEN DAY SATURDAY, 17 MARCH 2018

08:30 Arrive and register	Venue St Peter's College, College Lane off Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton	RSVP ESSENTIAL marketing@stpeterscollege.co.za or 011 807 5315
09:00 Headmaster's address, followed by school tour and refreshments		

Real Results

www.stpeters.co.za

APPLY NOW FOR 2019/2020 Download the Enrolment Application form from St Peter's College website

College Lane off Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill (next to Eskom Megawatt Park), Sandton
Telephone 011 807 5315 | www.stpeters.co.za



FORTHCOMING WEEK

Please check Calendar section of Communicator St Peter's for forthcoming week's activities.

ECO NEWS: CELEBRATING WATER WEEK: 19 – 23 MARCH

Water Day is on Wednesday, 21 March and we highlight this day here at school. More than ever, this year, it is our responsibility to educate our children about the importance of water and water conservation. A variety of water related activities have already been done across the grades, and more are to follow for the remainder of this Water Month.



Each boy will be given a 'Water Passport' with seven water saving challenges to do at home. This is to create an awareness of daily water consumption, build 'water-wise' habits in their own environments, as well as creating empathy when they hear about other communities in dire need of water. Please support us by encouraging your son to work through these water saving tips.

CHARITY

Calling all Super Dogs!

DOGS UNITE!
For Guide Dogs

The only dog walk of its kind - where your dog is the hero of the hour and every hero will be presented with a cape!

Date: 25 March 2018
Venue: Delta Park Johannesburg

Time: Registration from 07:00
Walk starts at 08:00

Tickets are available on www.guidedog.org.za
Keep a look out on our website for further information

If you would like to be a hero and get involved in this event, please contact **Juliette Powell:**
JulietteP@guidedog.org.za or 011 705 3512

GUIDE-DOGS ASSOCIATION
South Africa