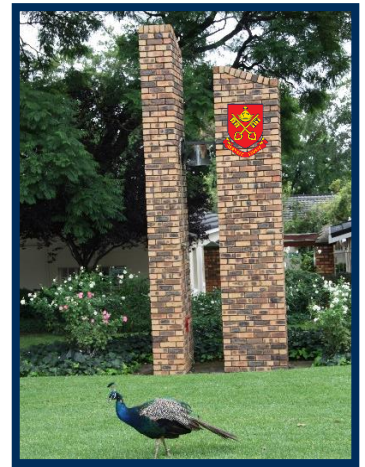




SENIOR PREP

Keyhole: 888

2 August 2018



**ST PETER'S  
BOYS PREP SCHOOL**

**THROUGH THE KEYHOLE**

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

**FROM THE HEADMASTER**

As the term draws to a close and we complete our pupil-led conferences, I thought I would share some thoughts about expectations, both positive and negative, that influence our behaviour and social interactions.

I am sure that you share my experience that, quite often, we go into a meeting or event emotionally charged due to what we expect will happen. In a positive sense, this enables us to recognise opportunities and feel confident that we can meet the challenges that may arise. On the negative front, however, we may go into the interaction with an expectation of conflict or of failure. These expectations are sometimes rational, but can also be based on irrational categorisation of those whom we will meet. This expectation can be as a result of our own unconscious bias. If there was one area of the apartheid system in which the government of the day achieved, it was to divide people so effectively that our various South African cultures grew up without ever encountering each other in a meaningful way. This led to stereotyping and, for many of us, the categorisation of people in this negative sense. The system was so indoctrinating that we are completely unaware of our tendency to do this. Thus, while we believe that we have no racial bias on a conscious level, we have expectations of how people will behave that burst through on a regular basis. As you would know, these expectations focus our senses and we suddenly become aware of numerous examples in our environment that further concretise our misperceptions. Our unconscious bias is validated and gains a greater hold over us as a result.

Fortunately, we are rational beings and, if we consciously enforce a more powerful concept, such as our School Values, the same process as above occurs with positive outcomes. By consciously seeking opportunities to act positively and to look for others doing the same around us, we concretise our own beliefs and those of our community. In addition, through an awareness of our negative expectations and a conscious effort to monitor not only what we say, but also what we expect, we are able to build an internalised warning system that warns us as soon as unconscious bias comes onto the radar. We can then use our cognitive abilities to override this bias. At St Peter's, we are constantly trying to build these positive practices in order to prepare the boys to be positive and confident citizens of our country and of the world. As you share time with your sons during the holidays, please try to look for at least two positives for every negative in every situation you encounter. I can guarantee that, if you do, you will enjoy a well-deserved and happy break.

Best wishes

**Rob Macaulay**

**THE SCHOOL SHOP**

The School Shop will open the day before school starts for the Advent Term on Monday, 3 September 09:00 to 15:00.

However, it is recommended that you come in to update the summer uniform before we close on Friday.

**Nadia Thompson** (School Shop Assistant)

**THANK YOU**

# TOMORROW TRUST

St Peters Prep School  
105 Witkoppen Road  
Paulshof  
Johannesburg

27 July 2018

Dear Monica Sloane and the school

On behalf of the Tomorrow Trust, we would like to sincerely thank you for the generous donation of reading books towards the Tomorrow Trust. A donation in this nature is invaluable. Many of our learners do not have libraries or access to readers. A gift like this will be highly appreciated.

The Tomorrow Trust provides academic and psychosocial support to 1070 Orphaned and vulnerable children from Grade R to university. The holistic support given ensures children become self-empowered, self-sustainable and self-responsible contributing individuals to the South African economy, breaking the cycle of poverty.

We are so fortunate to have people and companies such as yours that open your heart to this wealthy cause, and once again thank you for making this donation possible for our orphaned and vulnerable children.



Yours sincerely  
Taryn Coutinho  
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Trustees: Kim Feinberg (Founder/CEO), Jack Phalane, Jonathan Cook, Roy Midlane, Samuel Mensah,  
Lerato Pelo, Philile Maphumulo

**FORTHCOMING WEEK AND BEYOND ...  
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!**

Please check Calendar section of Communicator St Peter's for the Advent Term events. The pdf version is also attached to the email sent with this week's Keyhole and can also be found on the Communicator St Peter's under Resources/Boys Calendar.

