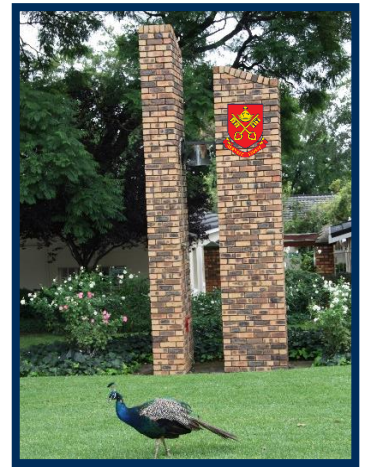




SENIOR PREP      Keyhole: 890      13 September 2018

**ST PETER'S  
BOYS PREP SCHOOL**

**THROUGH THE KEYHOLE**



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School



### FROM THE RECTOR

#### Headship for St Peter's intern

We were delighted to hear earlier this year that one of our early interns was appointed Head of Bishop Bavin Preparatory School.

We continue to be delighted at the success which our graduates achieve. For further information, please see the attached annual report on the intern programme from the St Peter's Foundation.

#### Questions for the Rector:

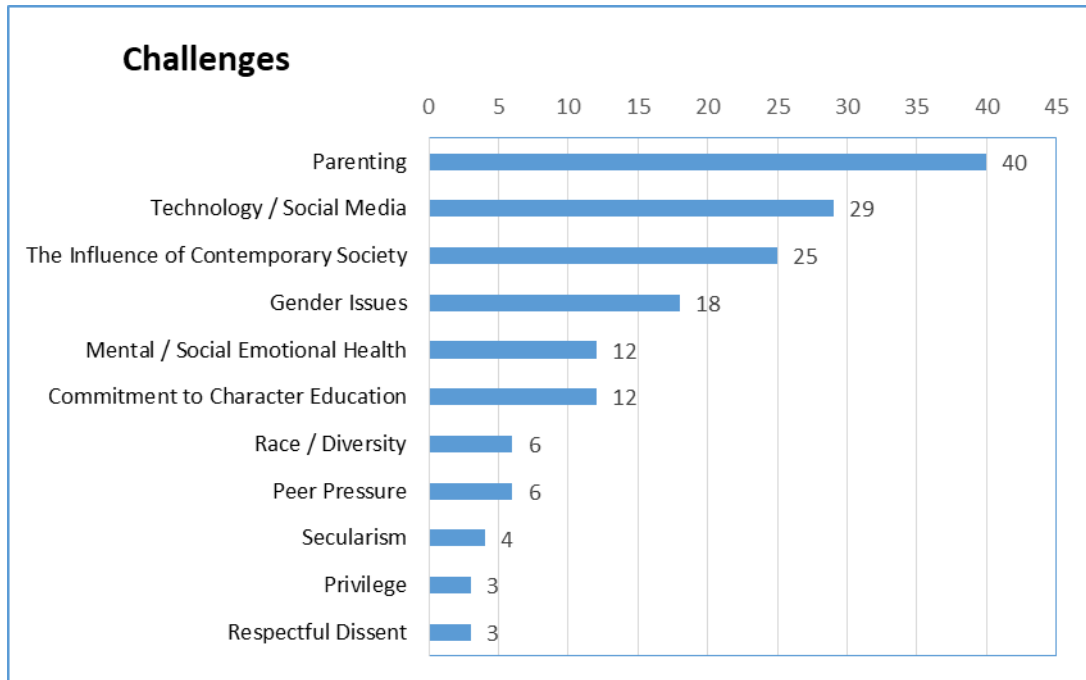
If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at [groyce@stpeters.co.za](mailto:groyce@stpeters.co.za) or [dradloff@stpeters.co.za](mailto:dradloff@stpeters.co.za)

**Greg Royce**

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

Parents of boys who have been with us for over two years may recall that, following our attendance at the International Boys' Schools Coalition Conference in Nashville, David Hala and I joined with a number of schools in the international community to conduct research on character development in Boys Schools. The research was undertaken by an Australian group called "CIRCLE" (Centre for Innovation, Research, Creativity and Leadership in Education). They have released their preliminary findings in a 400-page document and I thought that I would share aspects of these findings with you during the course of the term.

The research cohort included 98 Boys Schools from 9 countries. We were one of two stand-alone prep schools, the other being in the United States, but there were a number of combined colleges involved, including St John's College, St David's and St Benedict's from South Africa. The first aspect of the findings that I thought I would share with you, is a list of challenges to intentional character development programmes. The following graph gives an overview:



I found it most interesting that the challenging task of parenting, both as a stand-alone task and in collaboration with schools, was highlighted. This underlines the complexity of the task that we are faced with as parents in the modern world. Specific issues included the overemphasis on success at an early age and the lack of recognition that failure is an important aspect of learning. A particular focus on “grades” rather than the development of character or on scores rather than on commitment has become a common challenge. While there is also a wish for the development of grit in boys, a variety of pressures have resulted in parents feeling responsible for the protection of their child from any form of pain or suffering. This has led to an avoidance of consequential learning and a form of “protectionism.” The identification of these challenges is not an accusation of poor parenting, but rather highlights how the societal demands that influence decisions have changed. The modern child is encouraged to speak up far more and many boys have become masters in the art of “challenge.” Busy parents are often under pressure to find an easier route out of the challenges by their boys and choose to adopt a conflict-free route. There is a suggestion that the formation of informal parent forum groups together with closer communication between schools and parents regarding the principles underlying what sometimes appear to be petty rules would help in this regard. In essence, the key word in parenting for character is communication. This communication needs to be with the school, with other parents and most importantly with the boy. It is also essential that communication means just that, and that it should not be confused with capitulation. High expectations for commitment and integrity are more likely to produce positive results than what has been referred to as “boosterism” in which boys are rewarded and applauded for simply doing what is expected of them.

When one looks at the other categories that were brought up by the research, it becomes clear that as parents and teachers, we certainly have our work cut out for us in the intentional development of our boys’ characters. Fortunately, we are not alone in our endeavours. Not only are our concerns shared by people in other countries, but we also have each other to consult. Please feel free to contact either myself or one of the Management Team should you wish to explore this vital part of your child’s curriculum further.

Have a great week

**Rob Macaulay**

## MORNING BUSES

Further information with regards to the morning buses that will be operating from Lonehill and Kyalami will be sent out shortly to those parents who expressed an interest in the service.

Should you require more information or would like to be included on the emails, please contact [cduplessis@stpeters.co.za](mailto:cduplessis@stpeters.co.za)



## NEWS FROM THE ST PETER'S KITCHEN

The school's kitchen once again attained fantastic results following the Hygiene Audit, which took place in August. Sincere congratulations to Sharon and her team and in particular to Howard and Tebogo. How wonderful to know that we are so well cared for.

## OLD BOYS NEWS

### Michaelhouse

**Joshua Samuels** set a new record (time: 11.31 seconds) for the U15 100m race.

**Ross Keep** and **Jason McLean-Banks** are members of the unstoppable Michaelhouse Junior Debating Team who won all six rounds and the final of the Midlands Debating League.

**Gomo Mangena** was recently selected to represent the KZN Midlands U19A soccer side.

**Jason Morby-Smith** was chosen for the U15A team and was selected to represent the KZN U15 soccer side.

## PAVER PLAQUES

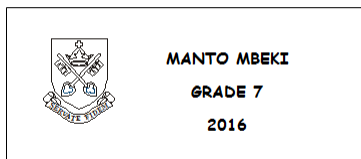
A **PAVER PLAQUE** is a timeless reminder of your son's years at St Peter's Boys Prep School. This brass plaque is engraved with your son's details and is placed in the quad outside the Dodson Hall – The Old Boys Quad.

**Should you wish to order, please click on the link and complete the Google order form.**

<https://goo.gl/forms/eZGieDiKQnfdyzWu2>

Examples of the plaques available to are order:

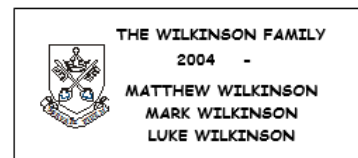
CURRENT PUPIL:



LEAVERS' 2015:



FAMILY PLAQUES:



**Orders for 2018 will close on 30 September 2018**

## MY STORY – MY HERITAGE

In celebration of Heritage Day, join us as we embrace unity in diversity as a St Peter's family. Bring along any item that reflects part of your personal story or heritage - a photo, an article of clothing, memorabilia from a particular event in your life - and come and share that aspect of your story. Exploring our collective history sets us on a path towards building a stronger community.

Date: Thursday, 20 September

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Venue: To be confirmed

(Please note that the Junior Prep Schools will be running a separate event.)

## GOLF DAY



**The St Peter's Prep Golf Day**  
**Friday, 5 October 2018**  
**Kyalami Country Club**



**LIMITED**  
**4 BALLS**  
**still available**

**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
 To book your spot, or for any additional information email  
[golfday@stpeters.co.za](mailto:golfday@stpeters.co.za)

**REMINDER – FRIDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER****CIVVIES DAY**

R10 for charity

**HOT DOG DAY**

R25 for Hot Dog, Crisps and a Cool drink.

**INK CARTIDGE COLLECTION**

There are permanent collection points on campus or hand in at a reception.

**R10****FORTHCOMING WEEK**

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

**PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE FOR NEWS SUBMISSIONS IS 08:00 ON WEDNESDAYS**