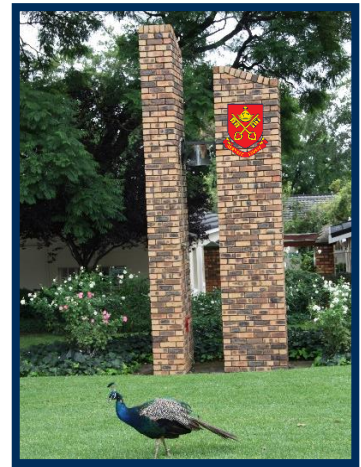




SENIOR PREP Keyhole: 897 8 November 2018



ST PETER'S BOYS PREP SCHOOL

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

I have noticed that the Christmas tree has been put up in the Boys JP and am reminded, once again, how special the upcoming season of celebration is. Over the next four weeks we will have a very busy time, but also one in which we will have the opportunity to meet as a community more regularly than at other times of the year. In addition, the Christmas charity boxes have arrived and the boys will be given the opportunity to pack something special to put under the tree of a child who, without his kindness, may not experience the joy of a Christmas gift.



As the senior boys prepare for end of year assessments and the Middle School go through a period of summative evaluations, it is good to reflect on the growth that the boys have enjoyed during the year. As parents, you have supported your boys in academics, cultural activities and sport and I hope that you have enjoyed watching your son develop in each of these key areas. I recently met with parents whose son will be leaving us to go to high school at the end of the year and we had the opportunity to reflect on the ten years (they have two sons) that they have been part of the St Peter's Community. Interestingly enough, while there were certain milestones along the way, we agreed that a primary school career is about an eight-year journey rather than any specific moment. These were some of the observations we made:

- Progress is not measured by the results, good or bad, of one cycle test, sporting match or performance. We reflected that there is a spiral of events and that, through the support and input of a number of staff and his parents, a boy follows his own journey of discovery and growth as an individual. Children develop different abilities at different ages and this means that the high flyers in Grade 3 may experience their own challenges in Grade 6, with the opposite trend also being possible. Thus, it is not the comparison between peers that should take our energy, but the maintenance of a positive attitude to learning through both good and bad times.
- The three-legged pot analogy holds true throughout the boys' prep school years. It is only through a balanced and co-ordinated effort by parents, child and the school that we can create the perfect stew and allow it to simmer and absorb every spice and flavour that the whole experience can offer. The two big "C's", **communication** and a **co-ordinated effort**, are paramount.
- The relationships that are formed by both boys and their parents form the basis for life-long friendships that go well beyond the prep school years.
- While core skills are non-negotiable, the development of values, character and attitude is the jewel in the crown of a St Peter's education. This is why our boys are so sought after by some of the top high schools in the country.

I hope that you will be able to identify a number of areas in which your son has flourished this year. I also hope that, where there have been challenges, you have been able to see the valuable learning and the development of resilience that have come out of them. Finally, I hope that your son's educational stew is simmering beautifully and that, as the end of the year approaches, there is much to celebrate.

Have a great week.

Rob Macaulay

SOME OF MY FONDEST MEMORIES OF WONDERFUL TIMES SPENT AT ST PETER'S PREP BOYS SCHOOL OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS – PART 3



A trip organised and sponsored by one of our parents, gave me the opportunity of completing a 10-day course at the American Wilderness Leadership School in Wyoming in the USA. This very special experience enriched my knowledge and love of the bush, that in turn benefitted countless boys I taught. Fishing uncharted creeks and streams and rafting the mighty Snake River with its glacial water, inspired me to share adventure travel with anyone brave enough to go on one of "Bench's Tours" – never to be repeated fun that many of our past parents and boys still rank as one of their "most memorable family holidays"!

Thanks to one of our early headmasters, Antony Parnell's philosophy of rotating important tasks between the staff, I had the privilege of co-producing "Sleeping Beauty" and the two-hour musical "The Sound of Music" with Trish Attlee. These musicals, involved both staff and boys, acting and singing alongside each other and were certainly my most cherished memories of the stage. The amazing talent of the staff and the boys resulted in us having to put on five shows of the "The Sound of Music"!

Inter-house drama has given me the opportunity to produce and direct over 30 shorter plays, involving the often latent talent of just about every boy in Bishops House. Seventeen years of coaching the U11A and B cricket sides, allowed me to share my love of the game and sport in general with the teams. Then, along came the opportunity of a lifetime - being asked to manage and coach the basketball teams for the next 12 years and grow it to a stage where it rivals cricket as one of our major sports. A few of our talented and passionate basketball coaches now run sport at other schools or officiate as their MIC of Basketball. Coaching and running chess for well over 17 years also ranks as one of my special memories, especially as we now have chess firmly featured in our Wednesday Cultural Programme and we also have one of the top chess teams in Gauteng.

Preparing and presenting daily class lessons is foremost on my mind and the main reason why I entered the teaching profession. Each day is different and when you are successful in making a difference to even one boy's life, you are re-energised and motivated to try and do it again. This privilege and honour is something I wish to continue doing for as long as my health allows.

St Peter's has given me the forum to research, develop and present the "Bench Study Skills and Life Coaching Programme". Hundreds of boys and girls over the last 14 years have attended the programme. Many of my Study Skills pupils attend a weekly session for a whole year and many have completed the two and three year programmes. My passion for this critically important area of expertise knows no end – I must thank Greg, Nigel, Rob and Catherine for making this opportunity possible. At the last Old Boys function, no fewer than four Study Skills candidates thanked me for the skills and techniques shared with them during the programme. Two of the boys are presently completing their master's degrees in Engineering - so proud of you Ian and Blaine!

I must mention the wonderful and clever humour of many of my colleagues in the staffroom, especially legends like Spud Murphy, Keith Brown, Ray Moodie, Jimmy Benson and John Cade – I never missed a break! Even today when we meet, many of these jokes are retold and one can become quite nostalgic. One of the early Staff Variety shows involved all the

men in a ballet scene. Mike Clackworthy was dressed in his traditional awful green tutu and I was required to toss Mike up in the air in quite a complicated move – well it ended disastrously for both of us, as we collapsed in a heap of laughter, much to the amusement of the audience.

The numerous Housemaster meetings, focusing on boys' progress, that often went on until midnight, were all memorable. Organising the Market Days over a five-year period, also ensured many fond memories were created. The boys raised a lot of money for a range of charities and helped us to erect our own problem-solving and adventure course as well as redesigning the Napier Quad. Organising and guiding two American schools around the Lowveld and KZN, resulted in a whole heap of new memories and many new friendships being made, all of which still continue today. The tour by The Collegiate, one of the oldest and most prestigious schools, in New York and the USA, followed by two trips from the International School in Washington DC, resulted in me returning to the US with a group of our boys and exposing them to teaching styles commonly used in their schools, along with visiting many of their famous national treasures!

Being able to walk to and from work daily and start each day in the Chapel – wow, what a privilege! Teaching with highly talented and exceptionally capable colleagues, whose lives largely revolve around growing the boys of St Peter's, must be a firm favourite of mine – you guys taught me so much and we have had endless fun! Campus dinners, House braais, St Peter's Days, music concerts, Housemaster dinners, attending conferences, SPEET Weeks, Leavers' Camps, Ingwelala team building exercises, Christmas Carols, Leavers' Dinners, Speech Days, Old Boy functions, golf days – in one of which our staff 4-ball came second, thanks to the awesome golfing ability of Murray Reynolds and Di Horn and certainly not mine, add to my list of endless memories. Making lifelong friendships with colleagues and parents is another highlight and something I still cherish, to this day. The innumerable chats, especially on camps and after finishing my boarding house duties, with my wise old friend and colleague, Furber Nothard. Re-enacting the Anglo Boer War battles of Majuba and Spioenkop with the boys, at the actual battle site, will never be forgotten. Those so called minor or insignificant incidents, that happen each day, allowed me to counsel and mentor boys into confident, decent citizens – this is what true teaching is all about!

Teaching styles and techniques have changed hugely over the years. The old chalk and talk, jelly-pads and wax sheets gave way to the inventions of the overhead projector, Gestetner and photocopy machines. Slide rules gave way to the first calculators and simple computers. The iPads and computers and other electronic devices that we take for granted today enrich each lesson and will result in limitless exciting opportunities going forward.

Corporal punishment fortunately died a death and has given rise to sound moral and ethical practices that grow people for all the obvious and right reasons. I've experienced and been part of these revolutionary changes in education and I'm deeply honoured and privileged to have played a part in these changes during my 30 years at St Peter's. Our School is undoubtedly in safe hands going into the future. Management and teachers are always at the forefront of the latest, creative, innovative educational thinking and practices. Parents can be assured that their sons will continue to receive the best possible education at St Peter's, as our foundations are firm, based on years of experience, coupled with the talent and expertise to educate boys for the dynamic and ever-challenging world that awaits them.

Now it's up to our present and aspiring parents and pupils, to continue the sound St Peter's tradition, so wisely spoken by JFK at his inaugural address in 1961. I have changed it to say: "ask not what St Peter's can do for you, ask rather what you can do for St Peter's". If you live by these words, you and your son will continue to reap the rewards of your association with this school. Personalities will come and go, that is written, but each of us has the responsibility to continue building on the 70 years of hard work, sacrifices and dedication of loyal parents, staff and boys. I wish you all well in your quests to help keep St Peter's a truly great school!

Andrew Bench

OLD BOYS NEWS - LEADERSHIP POSITIONS FOR 2019 FROM THE GRADE 7 CLASS OF 2014

Congratulations to the following boys:

St Peter's College

Kosmas Joannou - Head Boy

Mario Joannou – Prefect

Mfumo Baloyi - Prefect

Yuvish Premllal - Prefect

Pretoria Boys High

Justin Cross - Head Boy

St John's College

Luke Sawkins - Head of Hodgson House; Captain of 1st Team Water Polo; Captain of Swimming; Dux Scholar award for Grade 11; Academic Honours

Tad Sithole - Captain of 1st Team Basketball

St Stithians College

Andrew Jackson – Head Boy, Captain of 1st Team Basketball

Tim Basson - Head of Committees

Ben Servant – Head of Projects and Public Relations

Michaelhouse

Gomo Mangena - House Prefect - Founders

Gareth Warburton - House Prefect- East

Hilton College

S'bonelo Phungula - Head of Spirituality

Jeppe

Dylan Fenthum - Cross Country Captain; Prefect for 2019

KES

Ethan Hughes - Head of Sport Robinson House

St Alban's College

Kian Turner - Head of Osche House

Brad Hooker - Captain of 1st Team Water Polo

Rhys Fulford – Prefect; Co Head of Discipline; Co Captain of 1st Team Water Polo

Brad Leonard - Deputy Head of MacRobert House; Head of Academic Support (Boarding)

***Please note that there may be other Leadership positions that have not come through to us yet but St Peter's Boys Prep is sharing the exciting news that we have received so far.**

LIGHTNING CONDITIONS

During lightning weather conditions, a warning siren will sound - to signal lightning strikes within our area radius. When this occurs, pupils have enough time to go into the nearest building.

They are to remain undercover until the 'all clear' siren sounds.

Remember Rabali (Head of Admin & Health and Safety)



2018 MAGAZINE

The 2018 Magazine is being compiled and designed. The price is R180. The Grade 7 parents have been notified that they will be billed this year and will need to collect their copy next year once it has been published. I will notify everyone when it is ready in the first term of 2018. Should the Grade 7 parents decide not to receive the 2018 School Magazine, please let me know on dfraser@stpeters.co.za. The deadline for this notification is Friday, 9 November 2018.

Diane Fraser (Marketer)

PA NEWS

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP IN 2019?

St Peter's is proud to have a thriving Parents Association and parent body who are always willing to assist in organising and participating in the various PA and school events.

Should you wish to volunteer for a school or PA initiative next year please click on the link:
<https://goo.gl/forms/qxKDr35N8hpGNuRp1>

We look forward to hearing from you
St Peter's Prep Schools PA

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAROLS

Middle School Carols in on Monday, 19 November 18:30. It is compulsory for all boys and they must please wear No1s.

Jo Shield (Head: Middle School)

SUNSET CAROLS – SATURDAY, 1 DECEMBER

A TASTE OF SOME OF THE CHRISTMAS MARKET GOODIES THAT WILL BE ON SALE!








Spoil Yourself at the Christmas Market!

Visit the Sunset Carols Market from 3-6pm on Sat 1 December (just before the Carols) for some fantastic shopping!

Some of the stalls you can visit include:
Pesso, Bobums Microfibre Towels, Bena, The Luxury Box & Saffron Rose



Buy Your Presents at the Christmas Market!

Visit the Sunset Carols Market from 3-6pm on Sat 1 December (just before the Carols) for some fantastic gift shopping.

Some of our fantastic stalls include Pool Pillowz, Swirl, Pumm & Sebado and Young at Heart

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