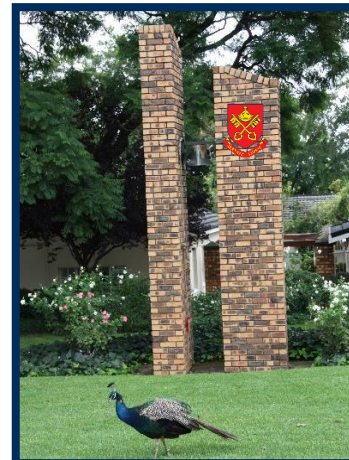




SENIOR PREP

Keyhole: 902

24 January 2019



**ST PETER'S
BOYS PREP SCHOOL**

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE RECTOR

I am feeling a good deal more positive about 2019 than I did last year. I am encouraged by:

- The uncovering of corruption within the government and the private sector. Many people feel that insufficient is being done to bring the guilty to book but there have been many encouraging signs, not least of which are the leadership changes at SARS and the NPA.
- With the exception of the western parts of the country, good rains have fallen, lowering the risks associated with diminished food production.
- As regards the school:
 - the Heads have added 2 highly competent Black teachers to the staff;
 - the Greening programme has commenced with the installation of water and electricity meters, allowing us to monitor the consumption of both elements at different points in the schools. The meters have already assisted us in locating a substantial water leak and pinpointed areas of high electricity consumption which we are now able to reduce with improved management.
 - recruitment drives revealed a higher number than ever of teachers from prestigious schools wanting to teach at St Peter's. We have consequently been able to make good appointments, despite the shortage of competent educators. We especially seek open-minded, committed team-players with a strong affinity to children. These days we often advertise up to three times before we find the right candidate.

Incidents at prominent independent schools over the last 18 months have left the sector with a blemished reputation. As is usually the case with such generalisations, not every one of the other 700 independent schools in the country can be characterised in this way. Nevertheless, we need to learn from these events so that we can be confident that our own attitudes and actual practises reflect our commitment to Christian values.

We live in a wonderful country and are particularly resilient and innovative people. In my view, there are far more similarities we should celebrate between the different cultures, than there are differences. We all want the same for our children, seek the same reassurances about health and retirement and wish to be treated with respect and dignity, no matter our income, culture or employment status.

We work hard at school to inculcate Christian values in the children so that they will become great friends, spouses, parents and citizens in time. Children naturally adopt the views and attitudes of their parents and teachers. These include gender, race and other stereo-typing. Children give undue weight to status reflected in the "dissing" of those not so talented, by the sporting stars.

Please support us by having the difficult conversations with your children. Help them to understand the worthlessness of any type of generalisation be it race, gender, body shape, mental state or sexual orientation. God loves each of us as individuals. Every person has something different and special to offer. We need to teach our children to seek and support the good without looking through a learned lens of bias.

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

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The term has started well and, as is the case at the beginning of any year or season, there have been numerous trials and auditions for the various sports teams, choirs and ensembles. Trials are always accompanied by jubilation if the boys make the “squad” they are hoping to, or disappointment if they feel that they could have done better. On Monday, I spoke to the boys about a growth mind-set approach to this experience.

Perhaps the most important point of departure is that, particularly in prep school, your current sporting performance is based on a number of factors beyond pure talent and practice. Boys mature at very different rates and this means that the boys who have grown bigger and stronger through pure age or gene factors are often able to hit the ball harder, have a shooting advantage in basketball and enjoy an overall higher point of departure as the season begins. It is, however, not only nature that plays a role. Some boys are younger siblings and have spent the holidays playing sport with their older brothers. I am sure that you will agree that the game of football played by a ten-year-old with his thirteen-year-old brother’s friends will be very different to the same game played with his seven-year-old brother’s peers. Thus, the point of departure at the beginning of a year is different. What we value is not where the boys start the year, but is rather the attitude they adopt and growth they show in terms of skill during the season. As a person, one should never be measured according to where you are in life at present, but rather on your plans for growth and your purposeful effort to reach your goals.

I also told the boys that, coming from high school experience, it is common for the stars in prep to be caught up by their peers in Grades 8 and 9 and to become part of the “normal” by the time they reach Grade 11. The wheel turns and the way in which one interacts with others today should be the way you would like to be treated if the tables are turned. Comments like “You can’t play soccer with us at break unless you are in the ‘A’ or ‘B’ team” are therefore both hurtful and unwise.

Sport and music at school, just like academics, are all about growth and a sense of fun and achievement. Please may we ask parents to work with us to instil both humility and a growth mind-set in the boys as the year progresses.

Thank you to the teachers and parents who attended the class briefings. I hope that you found them beneficial and it was great to catch up with holiday news at the cocktail parties after the formalities had ended. We would value feedback regarding your briefing and on ways in which we could improve. Please speak to your teachers and they will be able to feed back to those of us who coordinate the events.

Just a reminder that the school campus is a non-smoking zone. Please refrain from smoking in any of the educational or public areas.

I wish everyone a happy and positive term characterised by all of us growing towards the goals we set for ourselves.

Rob Macaulay

PHOTOGRAPH USAGE

From time to time, we like to use photos that we have taken of the boys on various platforms. They may be published in the newspaper, in a school magazine, on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, on the Communicator St Peter's Gallery or on our website/online.

If you **DO NOT** wish to allow us to use photos of you or your son in the media, please inform Diane Fraser, in writing, at dfraser@gmail.com

Diane Fraser (Marketer)

MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS for 2019

To sign up for individual music instrumental lessons, please click on the JP or SP link:

JP: <https://goo.gl/forms/TPexNb8e3lvsbGmz2>

SP: <https://goo.gl/forms/pWK7DXk36ajzlkE3>

The Music application forms for Boy JP and Boys SP can also be found on the **Communicator St Peter's under Resources/BOYS MUSIC**.

More info on music can be found on the Website:

BOYS JUNIOR PREP: https://www.stpeters.co.za/boys-prep/content/page/boys-jp-cultural?prep_type=jp

BOYS SENIOR PREP: https://www.stpeters.co.za/boys-prep/content/page/boys-sp-cultural?prep_type=sp

ST PETER'S BOYS PREP ASU

The New Year sees the start of the new Academic Support Unit at St Peter's Boys Prep School. While we acknowledge that we have had an excellent support structure in place at St Peter's for many years, we believe that there is always room for improvement. To this end, we continue to retain the services of our therapists but strive to integrate the therapeutic process into the classroom more efficiently.

We have established a Middle Room for Grade 1 and 2 and a Middle Class for Grade 3 and 4. Learning support, informed by the classroom curriculum, will be offered in small groups to boys who are identified by the class teacher as well as to boys who are terminating individual therapy. Boys in Grade 5 and 6 will be monitored at this time and we will decide on the support that needs to be put in place. Grade 7 boys are taught Maths and English in small groups. This should provide the support that is needed in preparation for High School.

The academic team has identified a number of boys who we feel will continue to benefit from individual therapy and those that can transition into Middle Room or Middle Class support. The latter boys will be permitted to access individual therapy during the school morning. School hours for therapy are 07:30 – 13:30. Therapists are permitted to see children privately outside of these times.

Please do contact me if you have any queries.

Wendy Wentzel
Educational Psychologist
Head: Academic Support Unit
wwentzel@stpeters.co.za

HOT LUNCH – HOT LUNCH – HOT LUNCH – SIGN UP!

If your son requires Hot Lunch, please click on, and complete, the following Google Form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/zE1KQrBYxm42mvPO2>

This link is also on Communicator St Peter's, in the HOT LUNCH category, under Resources.

The term, week-by-week Hot Lunch Menu is also in this section of Communicator.

OLD BOYS NEWS

Matthew Basson finished matric at St Stithians Boys College third in his grade attaining 7 distinctions. He then studied B Eng. Computer Engineering at the University Of Pretoria. He finished his third year, second in his faculty and completed his fourth and final year last year, passing with distinction. He has been studying Japanese part time for the past 3 years as it was always his dream to study in Japan. Matt found out late last year that he has been awarded the prestigious MEXT Scholarship to continue his studies and complete his Masters Degree in Computer Engineering at the University of Tokyo. He leaves for Tokyo in April this year.

Michaelhouse

St Peter's Old Boys did really well academically at the end of 2019 with **Alan Buttle** achieving five distinctions and **Andrew Holt** four in the final IEB matric exams.

In the lower grades, **David Ferguson** was placed ninth overall in Grade 9 in the end of year exams.

Justin Prowse has just been selected to represent the U14A waterpolo team.

Jeppe Boys

Dylan Fenthum has been selected by South African Orienteering to represent the country at the Junior World Orienteering Championships in Denmark in February.

THANK YOU TO THE ST PETER'S FAMILY

Thank you so much for the amazing Christmas boxes that you gave to the young children in Diepsloot.

The boxes were distributed to three ECDs (Early Child Development centres) in Diepsloot, including our own Khulani ECD, which operates at the St Mungo's church site.

Your generosity brought Christmas joy to so many children and as always was much appreciated by us all.

**FORTHCOMING WEEK**

Please check on the Communicator St Peter's for the 2019 Easter Term Calendar.
You can save and load everything relevant to your sons into your electronic Calendar.

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