



SENIOR PREP Keyhole: 904 7 February 2019

ST PETER'S BOYS PREP SCHOOL

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Our broader school community has been shocked by the deaths of two coaches as a result of lightning strikes over the past two weeks. Our hearts go out to the schools concerned and to the families of the deceased. These tragic incidents have highlighted, once again, that despite our frustrations when we have to pull boys off the fields while the sun appears to be shining, we must adhere strictly to our protocols.

When an alert is received, we clear the fields and the boys are taken to the nearest point of safety. They are to remain at these points until either the all clear (a double 5 second siren) is heard or until further instructions are issued over the school PA system. Parents are warned that they are as vulnerable to lightning strikes as their children and are advised to take similar measures. We do, at times, have parents who choose to ignore the warning and who collect their children from the pavilions under their own recognisance. Please be aware, that should you choose to do this, the coaches have been asked to warn you of the danger, but cannot be held responsible should you or your child be injured due to lightning.

An overview of the lightning protocol appears below.

I wish you all a constructively busy and safe week ahead.

Rob Macaulay

LIGHTNING WARNINGS

A reminder to all on the meaning of the sirens:

- ONE LONG BURST – the school is under lightning conditions. Everyone on campus to take cover at the nearest shelter.
- TWO SHORT BURSTS – lightning threat has cleared, normal activity may resume.

Drop off and Pick up

Parents are reminded that if the red strobe light (at both entrance gates) is flashing when you enter the school it means we are under lightning conditions.



Drop off

On these occasions, our recommendation is:

- Keep your child in your car, until you hear the all clear signal or an announcement over our PA system.

The school will obviously take the situation into account as to why your child may be late for class.

Pick up

The procedure in the afternoons is:

- The children are taken from their activity to the closest point of shelter. (Pavilions, Classrooms etc)
- We will try, as far as possible, to get the children to the same point on every occasion, however, this point may vary depending on the location of the activity and the nearest point of shelter.
- Parents may personally collect their child from the teacher/s on duty and take them at their own risk. (Please note: No staff member will send a child unaccompanied to any car park or collection point)

As adults it is of the utmost importance that we also heed the lightning warnings and respect the procedures by getting under cover ourselves!

Sean Porter (Deputy Head: Administration & School Management System)

MORNING BUS SERVICE TO ST PETER'S PREP

A reminder about the convenient bus service in operation. Two routes:

1. **Fourways Gardens** in the Spar parking lot on Uranium. Time: 06:20 to leave at 06:30. The bus will continue to the **Lonehill Fire station**, arrive 06:35 to leave at 06:40.
2. **Kyalami** bus runs from the **Kyalami Downs Shopping Centre**, next to the KFC. Time: 06:25 to leave at 06:30.

Comments from bus user parents:

- *Excellent bus.*
- *Has seat belts.*
- *Very polite, attentive and aware drivers*

If you would like to make use of one of these bus routes, please complete the Bus Consent and Indemnity Form, which can be found on the Communicator and return this to the school.

reception@stpeters.co.za.



SECURITY SYSTEM FOR 2019

As mentioned previously, a new security measure is being implemented for entrance and egress of parents, staff and visitors.

For those who were not at the parent information evenings, or did not know their registration numbers at the time, please follow the link below to complete the relevant detail (If you have more than one child please only complete the form once):

<https://goo.gl/forms/qk0VZnK5SMmJjxO53>

FROM CAMPUS COMPLIANCE

A condition of membership of ISASA is that our school undergoes an IQAA evaluation every 6 years. St Peter's is due for the IQAA School evaluation this year. An IQAA evaluation is a three stage process where the IQAA office, the IQAA-appointed mentor and the school evaluation team, work co-operatively to carry out a successful evaluation.

- Opinion surveys are completed by parents, pupils and staff. The scoring and collation of the surveys are managed by the IQAA office.
- The internal evaluation team completes an internal evaluation which includes focus groups, interviews and discussions and sends a report of preliminary findings to the mentor.
- The mentor spends a day in the school studying various aspects of the life in the school and writes a report ratifying the validity of the school report and also offers insights into the school's strengths and challenges.

We await further details and dates from the IQAA office. We will keep you posted and look forward in anticipation to an exciting experience for the pupils, parents and staff. Your active participation in the opinion surveys and discussions will be greatly appreciated.

Vijay Maharaj (Campus Deputy Head: Compliance)

INTERN APPEAL

I am appealing to anyone who has any unwanted household goods or used clothing, to please donate these to the St Peter's Intern Programme. A number of the interns have had to re-locate in order to be closer to the school and are in desperate need of household items. Any items or used clothing can be delivered to my office in the Napier Quad or an arrangement can be made to collect them, if necessary.

Your generosity and kindness is always appreciated.

June Tromp (Head Mentor: Interns)

DIVERSITY: CHINESE NEW YEAR – THE YEAR OF THE PIG

The Chinese New Year began on 5 February 2019 and is celebrated by a quarter of the world's population. It will be a public holiday in several countries in East Asia. It is popularly recognised as the Spring Festival and celebrations last 15 days. Each year in the Chinese calendar is represented by one of twelve animals in the Chinese Zodiac. 2019 will be the year of the Earth Pig. The Pig is a symbol of diligence, compassion, and generosity in China.

Preparations tend to begin a month prior to the date of the Chinese New Year (similar to a Western Christmas), when people start buying presents, decoration materials, food and clothing. Rituals include cleaning the house, putting up new posters of "door gods" on front doors, fireworks before the family union dinner, which should be at least a 10 course meal with a whole fish entrée symbolizing the abundance of the coming year. It's usual to wear something red as this colour is meant to ward off evil spirits. The family begins the main day with door to door greetings, first to their relatives and then their neighbours. Like the Western saying "let bygones be bygones," at Chinese New Year, grudges are cast aside.

Traditional foods eaten during the Spring festival are fish (the Chinese word for 'fish' sounds like the word for 'surplus,' so the eating of fish is supposed to bring a surplus of money and good luck). The end of the New Year is marked by the Festival of Lanterns, which is a celebration with singing, dancing and lantern shows. St Peter's wishes all our Chinese pupils, parents and friends a happy and prosperous new year. Xin Nian Hao!

Vijay Maharaj (Campus Deputy Head: Compliance)

VALENTINE'S SOCIAL

St Peter's Girls Prep is hosting their annual Valentine's Social on Saturday, 16 February. The Social is for Grade 7 pupils only and pupils from all Jo'burg Prep schools are invited, so please share the love and spread the word.

Avoid the queues on the night and buy your tickets ONLINE now!

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/stp-girls-social-2019>

Grade 7 Girls Flower Fundraiser



R250 per Bunch

Please support by ordering your bunch of beautiful flowers by **Wednesday afternoon** via email nicky@ntce.co.za or **WhatsApp 083 609 1185**

Collection of flowers on Friday from 12:00 at
ALL Receptions where relevant,
I.e.: Girls SP and JP, Boys SP and JP.

Many thanx
Grade 7 Girls Fundraising Committee

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