



SENIOR PREP

Keyhole: 908

7 March 2019



# ST PETER'S BOYS PREP SCHOOL

# THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

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

### FROM THE RECTOR

#### Whole School Evaluation

One of the conditions for a school's membership of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA) is that the school conducts regular reviews of its performance by means of surveys of all its stakeholders. This is required every 6 years and our review is scheduled for 2019.

The process involves the completion of online questionnaires by pupils, staff and parents which cover all aspects of the school's operations. Following collation of the responses and identification of areas of strength and weakness, the school may seek to source further information by focus groups comprising the appropriate stakeholders. After this, plans are developed to address shortcomings and to strengthen strengths.

The process is overseen by the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA), established by ISASA to maintain, and improve, standards and quality of education in independent schools. The process further serves to promote accountability and to assure governing bodies/school councils of the quality of their schools.

The St Peter's Prep schools process will be managed by Vijay Maharaj who will shortly provide further details of the process. Please make every effort to complete the questionnaires in order to assist us to improve.

If we have a response in excess of 70%, I promise to attempt a part of Swan Lake or a Gumbboot dance or something similar.

#### 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



### WELCOME

We welcome **Sage Maddock** and his family to the St Peter's Family! Sage started on Monday in Grade 7.



**FROM THE HEADMASTER**

I try to meet with the representatives of the PA Communications Committee, or class moms and dads on a termly basis. It is at these meetings that we discuss any issues or developments that are “trending” from either a school management or parent point of view. These meetings are most productive and give us opportunities to try to mutually solve these little niggles that become larger issues if left unchecked. I thought that I would share some of the agenda items from my meeting with the Grade 3 and 4 CC moms last Friday since they are common across the school:

1. With a number of sporting events being called off early due to lightning during the first half of the term and the added challenge of load shedding, the question of notification regarding the return of buses from various events was discussed. While it is impossible to predict exactly what time a bus will arrive, we have asked that the teacher in charge on the bus sends the Head of our CC, Rose Adams, notification as the bus leaves a venue. Rose will then be able to pass the information on to the relevant CC member, who will alert the Whats App group. Obviously, if there is a traffic issue, the bus will take longer than normal to return and, in a case where the bus will be more than 20 minutes beyond the published return time, we have asked that the teacher sends a further notification to Rose. The coaches’ numbers are also published on the team sheets should a parent have a specific query. Please don’t expect the coach to respond during the event, however, since they will be coaching or officiating.
2. Traffic is always an area of concern. We have been monitoring the traffic this year and there has certainly been an improvement in flow on the property since we have increased the stop and drop capacity in the JP car park. Where problems have occurred, they have been largely due to people not following the rules or parking/stopping inconsiderately or for long periods. The QR code stickers are due to be issued next week and, by having the registration numbers of vehicles, we will be able to follow up individually where this type of issue occurs. While we did publish the news last year, there may be some members of our community who are unaware that we spent a considerable amount of money commissioning a road engineer’s survey of the campus last year. The findings of the survey confirmed that, given the constraints on our access and egress points onto Witkoppen Road, we have the most efficient traffic flow system in place at present. It is hoped that, once the K60 is built, Witkoppen Road will become less of an arterial route and we will be able to relook at the positioning and number of our gates, which is where the major traffic jams occur.
3. I remind all parents that the Communicator St Peter’s is the vehicle through which we communicate the most up to date news. If you do not have this App on your phone, please contact Di Fraser [dfraser@stpeters.co.za](mailto:dfraser@stpeters.co.za) for help to set it up.
4. We generally have 26 children in each class, which gives us a total of 78 per Grade in Grades 1-7. Between Grades 1 and 4 we have introduced a concept called the “Middle Room” or “Middle Class” through which children are further divided for core skills teaching into four groups. This allows us to have smaller contact classes for the formal teaching of these concepts and to cater for the personalised learning needs of each child. In addition, we have an Intern or Classroom Assistant in every class from Grade 0 to Grade 2. From Grade 3 to 5 we have an Intern per Grade and in Grades 6 and 7 we move to specialist teaching and “Big Group teaching” where a team of teachers take the Grade as a whole. Every once in a while we find ourselves “carrying” one extra child in a specific class due to issues such as delays in emigration, cancelled transfers etc. We believe that, in line with being a community, we will not refuse to allow the child to come to school as a result of these unforeseen circumstances, but we do undertake not to replace the extra child when they do leave.

Interestingly enough, while reducing class size has been considered to have an impact on learning in the past, more modern research suggests that this is not the case. I have quoted John Hattie in my articles before and include a link to his comprehensive research below.

<https://visible-learning.org/hattie-ranking-influences-effect-sizes-learning-achievement/>

5. We need to concentrate on the boy’s greetings again. While we had different points of view from the team on their experience of the greetings, it is imperative that we push this aspect of our 5 G’s. Please may I ask parents

to help us in this regard. If boys do not greet, please make a point of correcting them and if boys do a good job, please let us know so that we can acknowledge them. From a school point of view, we will run another campaign in this area.

Our class mum's meetings have proved to be most productive over the years and I thank the CC volunteers for the sterling work that they do. Please also feel free to call me should you wish to discuss any aspect of your son's education.

Another initiative from the PA is the upcoming talk by Roy Gluckman on Thursday, 14 March, as part of My Story. Roy spoke to the St Peter's Prep staff at the beginning of this term. It was extremely insightful and thought provoking. I highly recommend for parents to attend (details below).

Have a great week.

**Rob Macaulay**

## PA NEWS

### A MY STORY INVITATION

YOU ARE INVITED



A talk by Roy Gluckman, a  
celebrated Diversity & Inclusion  
specialist

TOPIC : The Changing Perspective  
of South African Children

DATE	TIME	VENUE
THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2019	18:30 - 20:00	ST PETER'S GIRLS JUNIOR PREP HALL

brought to you by My Story

**PA NOTICE OF AGM**


**ST PETER'S  
PREP SCHOOLS**

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

NOTICE OF THE ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS  
**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM will take place on  
**WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2019**  
in the Mvukuzane Pavilion  
TIME: 18:30 for 19:00

All Parents are encouraged to attend the AGM,  
which will be followed by a cocktail function.

The PA AGM Notice and Form of Proxy have been emailed to all parents and can be found on the Communicator St Peter's under RESOURCES/ BOYS/GIRLS /PA.

**ST PETER'S COLLEGE GOLF DAY – 20 MARCH**


**ST PETER'S COLLEGE**  
**PA Annual Golf Day**  
**Wednesday, 20 March 2019**  
**Bryanston Country Club**

- Book your four-ball @ R3 600
- (or book Individually @ R900)
- Sponsor a hole @ R4 000
- Sponsor prizes, goodie bag items etc.

Contact Simone Hope  
[pa@stpeterscollege.co.za](mailto:pa@stpeterscollege.co.za)  
082 582 7080

**Dinner included. Lots of prizes to be won!**



CHARITY



**Calling all Super Dogs!**



**DOGS UNITE!**  
For Guide Dogs

The only dog walk of its kind- where your dog is the hero of the hour and every hero will be presented with a cape!

**Date: 7 April 2019**

**Venue: PWC Bike Park JHB**  
(1A Libertas Street, off Sloan Street, Bryanston, Sandton, 2191)

**Time: 07h30-12h00**

Keep a look out on our website  
[www.guidedog.org.za](http://www.guidedog.org.za)



**GUIDE-DOGS ASSOCIATION**  
South Africa

Make sure to buy your tickets at our webshop  
[www.guidedog.org.za](http://www.guidedog.org.za)



**SELFIES, SEXTS & SMARTPHONES: PARENTING THE SCREENAGER**

A public talk by leading social media lawyer, speaker and author, Emma Sadleir

Monday, 11th MARCH 2019 at 18h00  
CRAWFORD COLLEGE, LONEHILL

**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**