

SENIOR PREP

Keyhole: 925

12 September 2019

**ST PETER'S  
BOYS PREP SCHOOL**

**THROUGH THE KEYHOLE**

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School



### FROM THE RECTOR

When I was at school (the Dead Sea was only critical at that stage), it was customary for teachers to assign an essay entitled "My Holiday" at the start of term. So here is mine.

We spent the first week at a well-known timeshare resort on the North Coast of Kwa-Zulu. During this time, which we spent with children and grandchildren, the following occurred at home:

- The Great Dane ingested the fibre stuffing from its bed and had to have an emergency bowel operation from which, the Vet warned us, it was unlikely to recover.
- I contracted a severe tummy bug, the anti-biotic for which prevented any exercise.
- Pam was summoned to the CCMA.
- A geyser burst in the house.

We returned to campus for the final 3 weeks. Bliss. The Great Dane recovered. Four of the school chickens hatched clutches totalling over 30 chicks. Rob Macaulay became a grandpa.

All was heavenly until the last week. The events in the country left us feeling resentful, disheartened, depressed, angry and fearful for our own and our children's futures. There is such an obvious lack of accountability, morality and leadership in so many spaces.

When news is overwhelmingly bad as is this, it's very easy to lose sight of the good. Moreover, when we hear it, we tend to minimise it.

The fact is, that in the "Republic of No Consequences" there has been a great deal of good progress. Those of you who read the address of the State President to the World Economic Forum while the nation listened to his pre-recorded briefing on measures to protect women and children, will have noted his determination to eradicate

corruption and to have the perpetrators serve jail time. In ridding our institutions of those whose motives are self-enrichment and indifference to the poor, much good has been quietly achieved at SARS by the dogged Edward Kieswetter, by the Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, Shamila Batohi (experience in the International Court) at the National Prosecuting Authority and the highly competent and determined Advocate Andy Mothibi at the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Those of you who receive newsletters from the Nedbank Private Wealth Investment Research will have read JP Landman's wonderfully comprehensive overview of the many steps that have been taken to clean up government institutions. (Please try to access this article before you pack for Perth or Paternoster).

So, while counting school chickens (after they had hatched), I pondered what lessons the school could learn from the horrific events of the past week.

We need to teach our pupils that we are all God's children, equally precious in his/her eyes; equally valued, regardless of race, ability, origin, gender, age (I put that in for me) or any other defining factor. When we demean (or worse) any other human being, we are demeaning ourselves.

The notion that women should obey their husbands and partners emanates from an era when survival depended on physical strength. We have to disabuse our children of the notion that women are subject to the whims of men. The "Thinking Skills" programme at St Peter's assumes an even more important status when related to last week. South Africa needs decision-makers who think broadly about each problem: the positive, the negative, interesting, the long-term as well as short-term consequences, **all** people affected by the decision, the emotive and objective aspects. Too many decisions are made by people on the basis of what they think they know and not what they actually know. Children need to learn the art of broad, comprehensive and deliberate consideration of problems.

The chasm of inequality has to be addressed deliberately and effectively. As such, St Peter's will make every effort to expand our Teacher Intern Programme. Great teachers are the most effective way to tackle these challenges. We currently host 24 intern teachers and will do everything we can to double this number.

I spent the last weekend of the holiday between Bombela (Nelspruit) and White River. A prominent Lowveld school had asked me to facilitate the Leadership Development Programme which we have developed at St Peter's. The hostelry where I was billeted is frequented by travelling tradesmen, professionals and service providers. Each evening, I took the opportunity to speak to Telkom and Transnet employees, former prison warders and waiters.

The experience was a stark reminder of how many decent, intelligent people exist in our country. Nobody had pulled the wool over their eyes. They were scathing about the corruption and horrified at the misguided violence. They reinforced my faith in the country's people.

On Monday, the staff returned to school. We gathered to share a moving Eucharist service.

Thereafter, the entire staff met: teachers, caterers, cleaners and administrators. We committed to continue offering a world-class education to our children.

Catherine Steenhoff told me to get my hair cut.

Thankfully, some things don't change.

#### **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**

Welcome back as we begin the Advent Term. The four-week holiday provided an excellent opportunity to rest and reflect and, as we begin the final term of this year, I hope that you are all well rested, well-grounded and determined to remain positive, focussed and reflective.

Our Staff Eucharist this term was presided over by our Arch-Deacon, Ven. Shona Fleming, who also preached. Shona reminded us of the story of the man who collected water daily from the river using two pots. One pot was perfect but the other had a crack in it. As the man walked back to his home with the pots of water, the cracked one leaked a constant trickle of water along the path. By the time the man got home, the pot was only half full. Eventually the pot asked the man why he bothered to continue to use it – it was, after all, imperfect. The man was surprised and said that he knew that there was a constant leakage of water along the path, but had planted seeds on the side of the path. These had grown into the most beautiful garden that gave joy to all who walked on the path daily. “Who,” he asked, “do you think waters the garden?”

While we know that we are imperfect in many ways, we should also be aware that God uses our complete selves to create joy and beauty in the world. It takes every person in a family to make the family. It takes every person in a community to make the community; and it takes every person in a country to make the country.

As we set out on this term’s journey, let’s commit to looking at how every person we meet contributes to our community and to pay less attention to how they may not fit exactly into our personal perception of perfection.

I wish you all a positive and community enriched term.

**Rob Macaulay**

**ABSENCE OF POINTSMEN**

The absence of pointsmen at the St Peter’s Prep entrances is a consequence of the failure of the City of Johannesburg to adjudicate tenders timeously and/or to renew its service agreement with Traffic Freeflow. As a consequence, intersections all over Johannesburg have been affected.

We have been unsuccessful in locating temporary replacement pointsmen.

Replacement of the pointsmen is complicated by issues such as accreditation and insurance. It’s not simply a matter of finding individuals who can do the job.

The community would be grateful for any assistance or contacts parents might be able to furnish to help deal with this issue.

Any queries or suggestions regarding this matter, please contact Campus Deputy Head: Compliance, Mr Vijay Maharaj [vmaharaj@stpeters.co.za](mailto:vmaharaj@stpeters.co.za)

**Greg Royce**  
(Rector)

**WELCOME TO THE ST PETER'S FAMILY**

We welcome the following boys and their families who joined the St Peter's Family this week:

**Grade 5**

**Druv Gajjar**

**Grade 6**

**Liam Moodley**

**Dylan Viljoen**

**OLD BOYS NEWS**

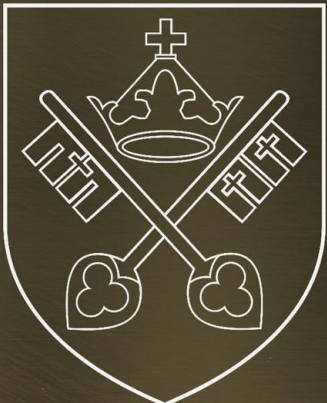
**Michaelhouse**

**Glen Chiimba** was recently selected to represent the Midlands U14A soccer side.

**PA NEWS**

**PAVER PLAQUE ORDERS** - <https://goo.gl/forms/eZGieDiKQnfdyzWu2>

**Paver Plaques**



*"May you never forget what  
is worth remembering."*

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

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

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



**HERITAGE HARVEST TABLE – 19 SEPTEMBER**

Following on from last year's Heritage Harvest Table, the Social Cohesion will be hosting another similar event on **Thursday, 19 September**. You would all have received your invitation so please do not forget to RSVP by Tuesday, 17 September. Entrance is a plate of goodies to share, that uses a uniquely South African product – think Marmite, Bovril, Biltong, Oma Rusks, Mrs Balls Chutney etc. We look forward to meeting many parents at this event.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8p4zuaQzluZ6eXycYbbriXpTclEtKetNXtfg5pw-YMICjPw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8p4zuaQzluZ6eXycYbbriXpTclEtKetNXtfg5pw-YMICjPw/viewform?usp=sf_link)




The poster is a vertical rectangle with a white central area containing text, surrounded by a border of various South African product images. At the top center is the school crest, which features a shield with a cross and the motto 'SERVATE FIDEM'. To the right of the crest is a red circle with the text 'You're invited' in white. The main title 'HERITAGE HARVEST TABLE' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title is a paragraph of text inviting parents to share South African flavors. The event details, including the date, time, location, and RSVP information, are listed below the paragraph. At the bottom, there are instructions about the dress code, entrance, and drinks. The border of the poster is decorated with images of various South African products such as Marmite, Bovril, Ouma, Freshpak, Cadbury's Milk, Flake, Milo, and Lucky Star.

**HERITAGE  
HARVEST TABLE**

We're coming together to share our unique South African flavours with classics that add warmth and spice to our special moments. We'd love you to join us and bring along your culinary creation that features a proudly South African ingredient.

Thursday 19 September 2019  
18:30 for 19:00  
Dodson Hall  
REGRET NO KIDS  
RSVP via Google form

Dress: South African flavour  
- think Lucky Star, Chappies or Ouma  
Entrance: Your ultimate Saffer plate of goodies  
Drinks will be supplied

**GIRLS PREP OPEN DAY – SATURDAY, 5 OCTOBER**

**ST PETER'S  
GIRLS PREP SCHOOL**  
105 Witkoppen Road | Paulshof

**OPEN DAY\***

**We are expanding and have  
spaces in Grade 0 and 1 for 2020!**  
(turning 6 or 7 years old)

- > **Saturday, 5 October 2019**
- > **09:00 to 12:00**
- > **Venue St Peter's Girls Junior Prep  
105 Witkoppen Road  
(Opposite Porsche)**

**\* Register for OPEN DAY  
girlsopenday@stpeters.co.za**

[www.stpeters.co.za](http://www.stpeters.co.za)

**FORTHCOMING WEEK**

Please check on the Communicator St Peter's for the 2019 Advent Term Calendar.  
PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE FOR NEWS SUBMISSIONS IS 08:00 ON WEDNESDAYS