



SENIOR PREP

Keyhole: 935

28 November 2019

ST PETER'S BOYS PREP SCHOOL

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

The Last Newsletter of the Year



FROM THE RECTOR

It's customary at this time of the year as we await the anniversary of Christ's birthday, to share heart-warming stories in the Christmas spirit.

I do have a story as we contemplate the upcoming holidays. It is heart-warming (I hope to most), but is not quite in the Christmas theme.

As an Anglican school, the concept of restorative justice is close to our hearts. In developing children, we understand that they will make mistakes. This is the most effective way of learning. Understanding the consequences of one's mistakes and rectifying them is a critical step in the path to adulthood and the mark of a great human being.

Mapule Ramashala was born in Boksburg in 1937. She was educated at state schools but demonstrated such impressive intellectual ability that she received a series of scholarships, graduating with an MA from Wits (1964) as the first Black Psychologist in the country.

She was denied further study in South Africa and moved to the USA where she obtained her PhD.

Following a distinguished 30-year career in the US, she returned to South Africa in 1995 where she was Group Executive for Research Capacity Development at the Medical Research Council. She was appointed as a Commissioner on the Truth

& Reconciliation Commission and served as Vice-Chancellor of the universities of Durban Westville and the Medical University of South Africa.

While on a visit to Rwanda with the TRC, she was notified that her house had been burnt down. She decided to continue with her mission in Rwanda. Before returning home, police discovered that 60 White youths had entered her home. They had first trashed the house before setting it alight. At the time, she was a resident in a predominantly White suburb.

On her return to South Africa, Dr Ramashala declined to press charges against the 12 boys responsible. The police, many people and her own family disagreed with her decision.

She arranged a meeting with the boys and their parents. She informed them that they were still to take responsibility for their destruction of her house. She expected them to rebuild the house and to be responsible for collecting the necessary money. In addition, she requested that they help the elderly and the poor members in the community.

Over time, the boys rebuilt her house and she formed relationships with them, earning the respect of the community.

When I heard this I couldn't help reflecting on the impact of jail time or a lifelong criminal record against the opportunity of righting a wrong and the effect on all those in the community.

Pam and I wish you all special time with family, the happiest of Christmases and a New Year filled with hope, love and dark chocolate.

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

Today is the traditional day of "Thanksgiving" in the United States and Canada. On this special day, individuals and families reflect on the blessings that they enjoy and that they are to each other. Families sit down to a meal, that traditionally includes a turkey and, in a very poignant mini-ceremony, they go around the table, stating what they are thankful for and giving thanks to God and each other for the love they share.

Emotional Quotient (EQ) and its close cousin, Social Quotient (SQ) have recently been joined by another, equally important educational goal, Cultural Quotient (CQ). In all our teaching, we try to instil in the boys an ability to reflect, to see other people's points of view and to acknowledge our privilege, not in a guilty way, but rather as an opportunity to give back. Recently, a piece of Grade 7 writing crossed my desk that spoke to me about all these intelligences. I have published it with the permission of Nick Fearnhead whose "poetry in prose" spoke volumes about the insight of a thirteen-year-old. I hope you enjoy reading it.

The Elephant Assassin

The horror filled my head, my wife and my children starving. We lived a life we shouldn't. I heard my children's cry, the cry of hunger and thirst, the cry of hardship and the cry of cruelty. This was the only way.

I strolled through the wilderness and looked for my target, looked for my enemy. The tall dry grass bit at my leg as it swayed in the wind. The wind talked to me, but I didn't know what it was saying. Clouds filled the sky draining all light from the world. My shirt was torn and my pants were ripped. The thoughts of my two boys filled my veins with determination. The AK-47 was held tight in my hand, ready for the victim. I came

to the opening filled with bright green grass and the sight of flowing water and tall trees filled my eyes. In all of this, there she was, the great infamous African beast.

My gun pointed up to the elephant. It walked slowly from tree to tree. My index finger tightened on the trigger, but as I looked through the scope, my thoughts stumbled, she's innocent. This great animal shouldn't pay for my life. As I started to lower my gun, my heart fought back, creating the pictures and screams of my family. It was heart against brain like light against darkness. I had to. I muttered the words, "I'm sorry" to the elephant as I pulled the trigger.

A great trumpet broke the silence along with the crack of the bullet. Regret and guilt kicked in right away as I had realized what I had done. The harmless creature fell to the ground. Tears filled my eyes. Adrenaline rushed through my veins, as men shouted and dogs barked. I bolted, dropping my gun and headed back for the tall grass. Shots were being fired, flying past my head and just missing my feet. Suddenly a pain like nothing I have ever felt before, far worse than a bite of a snake or a sting of a scorpion. My chest was drenched with pain. Blood rushed out of me like water from a waterfall. I fell over into the grass, hidden from the game rangers. I held my stomach with pain, trying not to give in.

Sometime later the dogs had stopped barking. The men were nowhere to be found. I got up and stumbled my way to the helpless elephant. I sat down and lay down next to her. Her eyes were barely open. I noticed her long majestic eyelashes going up and down as the eyes slowly blinked. Our eyes met with sorrow. I could hear her deep breaths. I saw the bullet wound on the edge of her neck and it created a perfect red circle. My eyes started to fade. The sun left the sky and the moon took its place. I thought about my children and my wife, and only wished the best for them. I knew what was coming. I chose this fate. I crunched up closer to the elephant who was still fighting for her life. As my eyes started to close and my heart stopped beating, I whispered to the elephant, "I really am sorry".

With insightful young minds such as this, I am thankful that our future will be in the hands of emotionally, socially and culturally mature individuals. I give thanks for hope ...

Thank you to the entire community for the love, laughter and learning that we have enjoyed together this year. Thank you, also, for the collegiality we have shared, whether the occasions shared were celebrations of success or acknowledgement of where we still need to grow. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Here's looking forward to 2020.

Best wishes

Rob Macaulay



INTERN ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

A few of the interns are desperately looking for accommodation nearer the school. Please consider this request if you have a room/cottage/flatlet, available to rent. Occupation would be from January 2020.

Please contact June Tromp - Head Mentor (Interns) at jtromp@stpeters.co.za or 082 573 1030.

CHRISTMAS BOXES – REMINDER – DEADLINE TOMORROW – FRIDAY, 29 NOVEMBER

Last chance to pack a Christmas box:

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Face Cloth, Soap
- Small toy (maximum value R60 as the children will open their boxes in front of other children who have received a box and we don't want any disappointment)
- Packet of sweets
- Crayons and blank book

If there is space, please fill the box up with: Tinned fish, tinned beef, tinned fruit, baked beans, sugar, tea bags, long life milk, jam, biscuits.

Please be so kind as to wrap the box in Christmas wrapping paper or newspaper.

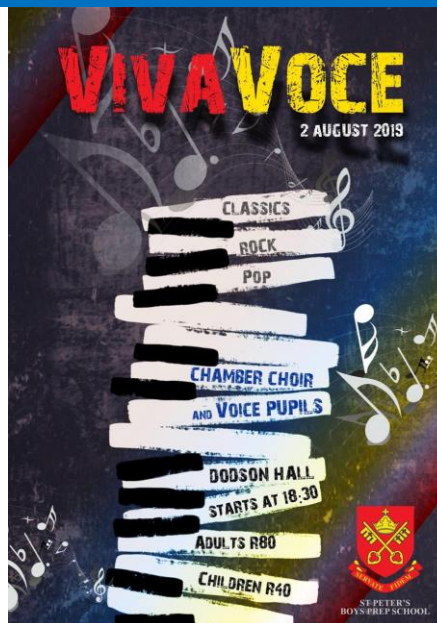
Collection points for Senior Prep Girls and Boys: Chapel
Junior Prep Girls and Boys: JP reception areas

Blessings

Fr Richard and Mr Kamo Kotsi



DVD ORDERS FOR MADAGASCAR, VIVA VOCE AND RAGAZZI INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT 2019



Ragazzi Instrumental Concert

1 October 2019

Dodson Hall

18:30



ST PETER'S
BOYS' PREP SCHOOL

Please order by clicking on the link. More information at the top of the Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/sBtqzzmEjHxhqNR9>

MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS - APPLICATION FORM 2020

Please follow the link for both Boys JP and SP to sign up for instrumental lessons:

<https://forms.gle/1dzfGw9K85KAgUmn8>

SEFIKENG - HOOKS

'It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another'
(Nelson Mandela)

Continuing from an incredibly successful #MandelaDay2019, the Gr7 boys were tasked with transforming what began as 'tagged for the rubbish pile' desks into awesome pieces of functional art! Our team of 'worker bees' recognised the value of the remnants of a number of old, broken, but very beautiful desks and chairs on the day, and with pure determination, sweat and eventually the right tools, we had 29 pieces of raw wood that told of an age old story of learning and growth.

Mr Sean Creamer accepted the challenge and the transformation began... our Grade 7 boys worked solidly over 3 weeks - sanding, painting, measuring, drilling, screwing and testing.

These 'pieces of junk' that have literally stood the test of time and hours of hard use by hundreds of children, have become beautiful coat hooks that we hope will be loved by many of our St Peter's family, as much as we love them. Should anyone be interested in purchasing one for R900, please message Colleen (082 391 0554). They will be sold on a first come first served basis. 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Foundation for a future Sefikeng project.



OLD BOYS NEWS

Michaelhouse

Ross Keep was awarded Full School Colours for Debating.

Jason Morby-Smith received his Full Colours for Waterpolo.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE CHRISTMAS MARKET AND SUNSET CAROLS ON SATURDAY!



Details for the Day have been sent with this Newsletter

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/stpeters-sunset-carols-2019>

Here is a little video to whet your appetite:

<https://youtu.be/a6Va6y1wknI>