

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE #941

**ST PETER'S BOYS PREP SCHOOL SERVING THE FAITH** FOR 70 YEARS

DATE: 20 February 2020 SENIOR PREP

# **FROM THE RECTOR**

The Council approved strategic objectives which Exco set for the school at the beginning of 2019. These are set out below. In addition, the school focused on a number of other issues of a more operational nature including:

- Alleviating traffic flow on campus
- Risk analysis (and development of responses to a wide range of incidents e.g. drop in enrolment numbers, motor • vehicle accident, crime incidents, malware attack on school IT systems, social media attack, amongst others)
- Provision of facilities to cope with growing participation in Basketball •
- Improving Personalised Learning strategies across all classes •

	Title	Action	Result
1. 2.	Long term sustainabilityWhole school enrolment: toensure that the school is fullwith strong waiting lists.Enrolment: Pre-Primary school:establish a self-funding co-edPre-Primary (Grade 00 & 000)	<ul> <li>Improve marketing</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Internal marketing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Completed</li> <li>New Girls Prep Marketer appointed</li> <li>Grade 0s full</li> <li>77 new pupils accepted, Grades 1-7</li> <li>Established</li> <li>Filled in 36 hours with 1 additional class to plan</li> </ul>
3.	Transformation: Building trust in staff and community Seek funding for two additional interns Provide the staff with a voice	<ul> <li>Regular small group meetings between cross sections of all staff departments - twice per year</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Completed</li> <li>Positively and enthusiastically received - Occurred monthly</li> <li>Continuing monthly in 2020</li> <li>Funding for five additional interns confirmed</li> </ul>
4.	IT: School network systems, hardware and software "Fix" existing structures. Once fixed, innovate for better results (seek more efficient hard and software)	<ul> <li>Assess and make necessary staff adjustments to achieve efficiency and to eliminate log-jams</li> <li>Reconfigure reporting lines</li> <li>Seek experts to advise on improved efficiency: record- keeping, information- management and sharing, process automation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>IT Director appointment internally (cost-save)</li> <li>Improvement strategy commenced</li> </ul>
5.	Campus Greening	Implementation of JG Afrika's plan	<ul> <li>New Girls Prep wing designed to accommodate solar and Eskom power and City Water as well as harvested water</li> <li>Two boreholes drilled</li> <li>Waterless urinals installed</li> <li>Aerators fitted to taps</li> <li>Awaiting Eskom permission for solar installation at Boys JP</li> </ul>

#### **Questions for the Rector:**

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at <u>groyce@stpeters.co.za</u> or <u>dradloff@stpeters.co.za</u>.

#### **Greg Royce**

#### **FROM THE HEADMASTER**

I had the privilege of hosting the Class Parents from each grade for morning coffee over the past week. It is always good to touch base and to hear where there are areas for improvement from our side and opportunities for better communication between all members of our community. I would like to thank these dedicated parents for giving up their time and for being a conduit for better communication. I also remind you that we do believe in an open door policy and welcome private discussions with parents as well.

One of the areas in which the parents requested further information was in the field of recognition for excellence, specifically in academics. There was a query around the end of year Prize Giving evening and the selection of those invited to attend and receive prizes. Academic awards, just like other awards, are used to recognise extraordinary progress as well as to reward those boys who have achieved within the top five of each class academically. Prize winners are identified using the marks or achievement levels that have been recorded during continuous assessments throughout the year. It is an objective process and, just as is the case for sport, cultural and choir activities, the aim is to create an opportunity for individuals to be recognised within this pillar of education. Five academic excellence awards are given to the boys who have achieved at the highest level in each class. In addition, two diligence awards for each class recognise those boys who constantly achieve the highest effort symbols, and one progress award recognises the boy who has shown the greatest overall improvement in assessments during the course of the year. In Grade 6 and 7, where the educational phase has changed from Intermediate to Senior, subject prizes are also given.

Academic colours are also awarded at Prize Giving. Grade 6 boys who have achieved an aggregate of over 80% for the year are awarded Academic Colours and Grade 7 boys who achieved an aggregate of over 75% can achieve either a first award or a re-award of Colours. Just as in sport, drama, music, chess or art, colours awards recognise achievement at the highest level and are open to all boys who achieve the set criteria.

What is imperative in the process is that we maintain our focus on intrinsic motivation, but also allow for the recognition of excellence. In all grades the focus is placed on effort, grit and progress towards mastery of a particular skill. This is why the reporting until Grade 5 does not include marks. The most important awards in the Middle School and Grade 5 are based primarily on our School Values and are given out throughout the year. A boy will be identified for a specific activity or attitude that illustrates one or more of our values and parents are invited to termly Award Ceremonies where the boys are recognised for their individual achievement in the stated area. Once again, these awards aim to be specific rather than generalised and nebulous. In line with requests from our IQAA survey last year, we have undertaken to report back on each boy's progress more specifically and in written form in 2020. Once again, these reports will not contain specific marks in the Middle School and Grade 5, but will be objective assessments of where the boy stands nonetheless.

Thus, while we are constantly assessing progress and recording attainment, we do not make the achievement of a particular mark the focus in our daily education. Rather, the development of a growth mind-set that equips the boys to develop the grit and strategies to achieve a trajectory of progress which is self-managed and self-assessed through objective practices is the outcome. Marks are simply the data used to measure the boy's pathway towards mastery of concepts.

Have a great week ahead.

**Rob Macaulay** 

# THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

### **FROM SISTER GAIL**

Thank you to all those who have sent in their medical forms. There are still quite a few outstanding in many of the classes. Please could I ask you to ensure these are sent to school as soon as possible. They are available on the Communicator.

These forms contain vital information for the School Nurses to either medicate your child if needed or contact numbers for yourself or an alternate person to collect your child in case of illness or injury.

If any child has an allergy, please ensure you have notified the school. The medication required to treat that allergy must accompany the allergy emergency form when sent into school. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure this medication is replaced when expired. We have had a number of forms sent in requiring asthma pumps and celestamine and so on, and medication has not been provided.

Please note the School does not stock prescription medication.

Gail Brent (Resident Nursing Sister)

## THANK YOU FROM CHOC

Thank you for setting your 10 toes free for a day and showing your support for childhood cancer. The children who fight cancer truly are the bravest of the brave. However on 14 February these warriors did not stand alone, because they had an army of supporters behind them, willing to walk with them every step of the way. The money raised from St Peter's was **R9515** 

**Denise-Ann Olivier** (Fundraising Coordinator: Gauteng South) **CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation SA** "Keeping more than hope alive"



#### **OLD BOYS NEWS**

CORRECTION TO MATRIC RESULTS: Timothy Basson received 8 Distinctions!

#### Michaelhouse

Joshua Samuels (U17) scores gold medals (1sts) for Inter-House Athletics in the 100m; 200m; Long Jump and Relay.

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# 70<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATIONS



In the early years, prior to the construction of the highway (Johannesburg Ring Road) on the southern boundary of the school, many boys would **cycle** to school from Bryanston through the Pine plantations, the remnants of which can still be seen. At least one boy would ride to school on his **horse** and would tether it outside, where my study is today, while he attended classes.



Greg Royce

# 70<sup>th</sup> EUCHARIST – THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY

All boys (Grade 4 to 7) and staff will be attending the 70<sup>th</sup> Eucharist on Thursday, 27 February 09:00 to 11:00. Parents are welcome to attend. There will be a tea in Dodson Hall following the service. Please note that the Boys JP and Grade 3 boys will be breaking up on Wednesday, 26 February and will not be attending the service.

#### The Collection will go towards the Sefikeng Reading Programme.

# 70<sup>th</sup> SOCKS – ON SALE

Boys will be able to wear the socks on all days with a seven (except 27 February which is the 70<sup>th</sup> Eucharist). They will wear the socks together with their sports kit consisting of red practice shirt, blue shorts and takkies.



# ST PETER'S FOUNDATION - WINE TASTING - SAVE THE DATE - 24 MARCH





GRADE 7 FUNDRAISER - COFFEE AND OTHER DRINKS ON SALE DURING SPORT ON SATURDAY, 22 FEBRUARY



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# **FROM THE CHAPLAIN**

I cannot believe that next week we begin our journey of Lent. These are the forty days before Easter where we prepare ourselves once again to experience the depths of God's love in the cross of Easter. On Wednesday we mark the beginning of this journey with Ash Wednesday and we encourage everyone to give something of themselves for this period in recognition of what God has given us. Some people give up something like chocolate or TV. Others give to someone in need. Some take on something and give up of their time.

Traditionally, people gave up all rising agents such as yeast and baking powder before they started their fast. This meant that the pantry had to be cleared out on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Instead of throwing these items away they were used on the Tuesday to celebrate with a feast and so Pancake Tuesday grew in popularity. This day is known as Shrove Tuesday.

**2 FOR R10** 

#### Fr Richard Wossler (Chaplain)

# SHROVE TUESDAY – PANCAKES ON SALE! TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY



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#### **CUBS AND SCOUTS FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS – FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY**

Robert Baden-Powell was born on 22 February 1857. In 1907, he established the Boy Scout Movement, which still exists today more than 100 years later. Millions of children, both boys and girls, have experienced the joys of Scouting over the last century and have benefited from the life lessons that it teaches.

Each year, Cubs and Scouts from all over the world celebrate the anniversary of Baden-Powell's birthday and the Movement he started, on 22 February. It has also been customary for the children to wear their Cub or Scout uniform to school on the day as part of these celebrations.



#### ALL CUBS AND SCOUTS CAN COME TO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY IN THEIR UNIFORM.



## **CHANGE TO THE EASTER TERM CALENDAR**

The PA AGM will be held on Tuesday, 10 March and not on 18 March as originally communicated. To accommodate this change, My Story will move from Tuesday, 10 March to the following week, 17 March.

# FORTHCOMING WEEK

Please check on the Communicator St Peter's for the 2020 Easter Term Calendar. PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE FOR NEWS SUBMISSIONS IS 08:00 ON WEDNESDAYS