



FROM THE HEADMASTER

This will be the final newsletter of the Easter term and what a term it has been! I am sure that with the COVID-19 lockdown, many of the highlights of the term have been forgotten already. The summer sport season was extended in 2020 and this has worked in our favour with the Inter-House Gala being completed and a very successful summer sport season, filled by basketball, cricket, swimming and water polo almost reaching completion. Highlights of the season included an incredibly successful open basketball campaign, with three tournaments being won in great and exciting fashion, and a number of our boys being selected for regional cricket sides as well. Let us not forget the spiritual and cultural side of the term and I would like to formally record my thanks and congratulations to everyone who was involved in the beautiful Eucharist Service that kicked off our 70th Jubilee celebrations. I believe that the music department excelled and to have pieces especially composed and arranged by our teachers for the celebration just added the cherry on the top.

While this lockdown has forced us to move into online learning for the final three weeks of the term, the educational gains during this time have far outweighed the frustrations of not being able to work at school. Included in these have been:

1. The exponential learning curve regarding the use of IT platforms for communication by all. No formal lesson can replicate this real-time learning.
2. Comprehension skills. As the time has gone by, the boys have become far more adept at reading instructions and carrying them out correctly. Once again, this has been out of necessity, but it is interesting that some three years ago, poor Matric results across the country were attributed to a large degree on the pupils being unable to read for meaning and to identify the key aspect of tasks set. Reading for comprehension is a vital skill in all walks of life.
3. Grit and self-managed learning. Necessity may have been the mother of invention but, as boys and their parents have had to create their own schedules to share data and bandwidth constraints, collaborative planning and acknowledgement of the needs of others have been the winners in the end.
4. Creativity. While this has been apparent in the boys' work, I applaud the teachers for their ever-changing and creative approaches to the online learning world. No formal professional development session could do justice to the growth that we have witnessed in educational delivery.

And so, as we approach the last week of the Easter term, I will be posting my contributions to two community events that we had planned for this weekend. In the first place, you will see that we have changed the Friday Hotdog Day into a "sarmie day." We are encouraging the boys to create their own special sandwiches and to share their recipes and photos on Friday. Also, the camp-out has had to become a camp-in! Sean Creamer's poster and challenge can be found in this edition of the Keyhole; I'll take it up and will send photo's. I hope many of you will do the same.

The Easter Term has not been without its challenges, but on review, it has been filled with many successes and outstanding learning opportunities. Thank you to the whole community for this and may your Easter celebrations be particularly special in whichever way best suits your families in this lockdown time.

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE HEAD OF THE JP

Along with World Wars and the Spanish Flu, this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic will be written in history books and as parents we will need to answer to how we responded during lockdown. I understand the concerns, balancing acts and fear you are feeling at this time of uncertainty, but at the end of the day we have also been given a gift. A gift of time to spend with our children and create memories that they will hold onto for the rest of their lives. My hope is that every family is using some of this forced downtime to connect with each other, grow family traditions and start new ways of interacting with one another. As parents we need to role model the behaviour we would like our boys to display in the face of adversity as this will allow them to grow into resilient adults who can manage an ever changing, unknown world. I believe that the St Peter's Values need to be followed by our community right now and that the boys can learn so much about life during this time by placing these values at the forefront of managing this period of lockdown.

I will be respectful – while spending time in close contact with those nearest and dearest let us show respect. It is the little things that count right now – greeting each other every morning, please and thank you, help through frustrations and giving each other space.

I will be responsible – many families are managing household chores and even the youngest member of your family should be given responsibilities. These chores make our children feel like they belong to the household because they can take part in the smooth running of a home. Your boys should be expected to make their beds, feed animals and help in the house and garden as required. They will enjoy the sense of responsibility and feel they have accomplished much.

I will be resilient – the most difficult at this time is to show grit and grow resilience, yet it is the most required of the values. It will be hard for the young boys not to be interacting with their family members and friends, let them think of ways they can speak to those they love and miss. We can be so grateful to technology for the many advances in this field. Allow the family to find the positives in their particular situation and share what makes them feel gratitude for the life they are living. (Keep a 2020 gratitude jar and fill it to use for special occasions later in life such as a 21st birthday speech).

I will be compassionate – during this pandemic we need to keep those less fortunate than ourselves in our prayers. We need to be aware of what we say and how we say it, as this difficult time could make or break our South African community. We need to show the boys how we grow compassion in our actions, words and thoughts.

I will be collaborative – blood is thicker than water and a family unit is stronger than friendship or business partners, but living together day in and day out is difficult! We need to ignore the irritations and look for individual traits that we admire in one another. Use this time to share with your children from your own childhoods; look at photographs together, chat about memories, play card and board games and maybe create a family art piece. Just make memories!

I will be honourable – I cannot but help feel proud of President Ramaphosa; he has shown he is an honourable man and is leading from the front. Even he has admitted that we will make mistakes during this pandemic but we will work together for the best outcome for the people of South Africa. We need to encourage our fellow countrymen to follow the requests made and assure them that lockdown must be taken seriously as it is the only way we can protect ourselves. We need to hold our president as an honourable man throughout this pandemic and keep him and all world leaders in our prayers.

Thank you to the teachers who have worked so hard during the lockdown to ensure our JP Boys education continues. A special thanks to parents we understand just how difficult it is for the boys to work independently at this age so your input is valued. Then a huge thank you to the boys for the hard work you are doing at home – I just know I am going to run out of "Special Efforts" when you come back to school. Please keep emailing me photos of yourselves I so enjoy looking at them and touching base with you; because I miss you all so much!

We are part of world history; the outcome is in our hands as are the stories our children will tell their children about the worldwide pandemic of 2020. I am sending every one of you a virtual hug and know you are all in my prayers – stay safe and have fun!

Enjoy your Camp Out in your Garden this weekend.

Kenda Melvill-Smith

ANDRA TUTTO BENE – EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE



The JP boys were challenged to post rainbows in response to the worldwide request to reassure children everything will be fine ... Andra Tutto Benne. This movement was started by the children of Italy and children everywhere are responding.



ST PETER'S HOTDOG OR SARMIE DAY – FRIDAY, 3 APRIL



ST PETER'S
PREP SCHOOLS



It's Hotdog or Sarmie Day on Friday, 3 April

We all know we are missing each other and wish we could be at school with our friends. So, just for fun, this Friday, prepare a hotdog or sarmie, take a photo and post on Facebook tagging either

@StPetersBoysPrep, @StPetersGirlsPrep or @StPetersPre-Prep



ST PETER'S CAMP-IN – SATURDAY, 4 APRIL

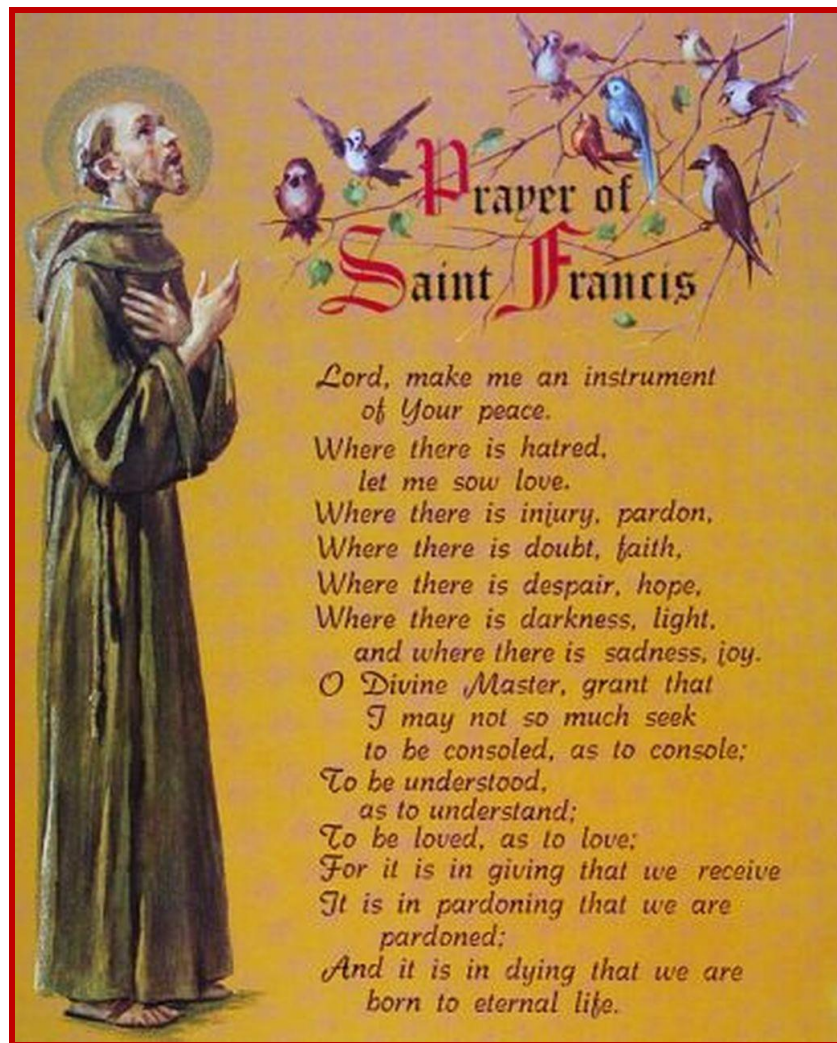
ST PETER'S
PREP SCHOOLS

Stay at home with us on 4 April
for the

St Peter's Camp-In

Please send any pictures or videos from the evening to the Marketers -
Girls Prep: [nnhlapo@stpeters.co.za](mailto:nhlapo@stpeters.co.za)
Boys Prep: dfraser@stpeters.co.za

PEACE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS



*Lord, make me an instrument
of Your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that
I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood,
as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive
It is in pardoning that we are
pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are
born to eternal life.*

AMEN

KEEP SAFE ST PETER'S FAMILY



REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: ST PETER'S BOYS PREP SCHOOL