



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

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE #947

DATE: 1 May 2020

Senior Prep

WELCOME
BACK
TO
SCHOOL
WITH A DIFFERENCE ...

FROM THE HEADMASTER

I extend a hearty welcome to our community as we begin our Trinity Term under what can only be described as unusual circumstances. Covid-19 has had a major impact on all sectors of our country, not least of all on education. As I wrote in my newsletter at the end of last term, I can only applaud the agility and reactivity of our boys, their parents and our teachers as we put a successful online learning programme in place to cope with lockdown demands. I believe that we do need to acknowledge our privileged position and, as we have seen from our survey results, we are extremely fortunate that the vast majority of our families were able to work online. This was even more visible in our Upper School, where the BYOD programme allowed the boys to have their own devices on hand, without needing to share parents' access to work-from-home resources.

Thank you to the parents who completed the online learning survey last term. It has given us useful data that we have used to improve our practice as we go forward. In survey terms, the project was well supported with the following number of responses from each class contributing to our data:

Grade 0: 44 responses; **Grade 1:** 60 responses; **Grade 2:** 56 responses; **Grade 3:** 38 responses; **Grade 4:** 41 responses; **Grade 5:** 57 responses; **Grade 6:** 40 responses; **Grade 7:** 41 responses

Each Grade will be sent a copy of their survey findings and the adjustments that have been made to the online programmes to accommodate common requests. Specific programmes will come to you via your Grade online communication platforms. I also remind you that the channels for two-way communication are open and you can feel free to contact the teacher, grade head, phase head or one of the management team should you be experiencing difficulty during the programme.

We will work to ensure that core skills are still covered through the online programme to ensure that academic progress continues throughout the lockdown period. While we would all prefer to be interacting face to face, I believe that there are also valuable life lessons being learned during this time. My assessment of the development in the 21st Century skills that the boys have experienced during lockdown is that we could never have replicated this learning platform artificially. It is technologically rich, interest and needs driven, relevant, self-managed and self-assessed to a large degree. As the period of online learning continues, so the boys, parents and teachers will become more adept and "future learning" will become seamless. We are, however, aware that there are people who are experiencing higher levels of anxiety within their families during these challenging times. Should you or your child wish to speak to our counsellor, Wendy Wentzel or to the Chaplain, Father Richard, you are welcome to contact them:

Wendy Wentzel: 082 892 5889

Father Richard: 082 332 9855

Wendy has written a piece regarding the need for structures and routine during lockdown, which I have attached below:

As we return to school after a holiday like no other before, I thought that I would share a few ideas as we move into the new term. Undoubtedly the old order has changed and we have arrived at a time when we are able to make choices. We can bemoan the loss of all that was familiar or we can view this time as a “rite of passage” enabling us to move into a new phase of our lives. We can continue to feel disempowered and allow ourselves to be the victims of “emotional contagion” or we can embrace what is ahead of us, create our own story or narrative and emerge enriched.

It is very easy to be philosophical in times like these but it is more useful to share practical suggestions as families battle with the “new normal”. Along with some of my colleagues I have tracked a few families during the five weeks of lockdown. Overall I found that families that maintain a regular routine are able to cope more effectively with the challenges of the times. Especially as school returns with on-line learning in place emulating a routine similar to that needed when attending school is most beneficial. It simply boils down to waking up at a regular time, changing out of pyjamas (even into a casual tracksuit), eating a proper breakfast and not opting to delay this for a snack later to set the tone for a productive day. Engaging in a variety of different activities during the day, as would be the case if the child was at school enables the child to remain both mentally and physically alert. Limiting leisure screen time, given the amount of visual input now needed for on-line learning, is essential although perhaps the hardest to implement as many parents grapple with many different roles. So too is maintaining the bedtime we had in place when we anticipated hitting the early morning traffic. It is so easy to fall into the trap of “just a little longer” because we do not feel we are at school but it is important to remember that learning is continuing every day, just the format is different.

There is much that I could write but at this time I would like to wish you strength as we embark on yet another new adventure. I would also like to remind you that I am available to offer tele-consultations to any parent or child who feels they need emotional support. There is no cost for these consultations. My telephone number is 082 892 5889; my email is wwentzel@stpeters.co.za.

The grade specific feedback from our surveys will be incorporated into the pack which you will receive from the various Grade Heads later today.

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE PRE-PREP

Applications for St Peter's Pre-Prep

At the beginning of this year, St Peter's opened up a Pre-Prep catering for Grade 00 and Grade 000 children. For Grade 00 children are 4 turning 5 in the year that they start and for Grade 000, the children are 3 turning 4 in the year that they start.

We are in the process of contacting parents whose children have been accepted for the start of the 2021 year. If you currently have a child in either the Boys or Girls Prep and would like to take up the opportunity for a younger sibling to attend the Pre-Prep, please contact our Admissions Officer, Nonhlanhla Majokane via email: nmajokane@stpeters.co.za

**COMMUNITY SHARING FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

Please note that the google form link is open again. Please complete your details if you HAVE NOT done so before. An updated contact list will be shared Mid May.

The link and original letter explaining the objective can be found on the Communicator under Resources: BOYS/GIRLS: General Information.

Here is the link to the form: <https://forms.gle/j92Bn5mSd4HQSUp67>



SIMPLE STEPS FOR IT SUPPORT

ITHELPDESK@STPETERS.CO.ZA



1 LOG A SUPPORT TICKET

Email: IThelpdesk@stpeters.co.za
Please include a clear description of your problem and your telephone contact details. A Ticket number will be sent to you by return email.



2 YOUR TICKET WILL BE ASSIGNED

Your request will be reviewed and assigned to one of the IT Staff. You will receive this information automatically via return email. Please keep this email.



3 UPDATING YOUR TICKET

All communications need to be done by replying to the automated email. Please, do not change the subject or remove the Ticket Number as these help us.



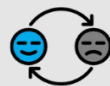
4 IT WILL CONTACT YOU

IT will contact you, either via the Support Desk email or telephonically. Telephonic conversations will be added to the Support Ticket.



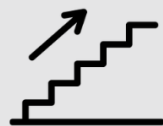
5 CLOSING YOUR TICKET

When your issue is resolved, your Ticket will be closed by the Support Desk and you will be notified via email. If you are unhappy with the solution or if your matter has not been resolved, please respond to this email and your ticket will be re-opened and escalated.



6 ESCALATION

Unresolved and re-opened Tickets will be escalated to a Senior IT person.



7 UNABLE TO LOG A TICKET

Please contact the following IT members, telephonically or via WhatsApp
Dieter Gloss +27 72 625 9163
Connor Fraser +27 72 626 9517



WE ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT ISSUES RELATING TO SLOW OR FAULTY FIBRE/ADSL (INCLUDING MOBILE, 3G/4G/LTE). PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SERVICE PROVIDER DIRECTLY