



FROM THE HEADMASTER

With the possibility of schools opening in the near future looking more promising, we are excited about the prospect of welcoming the children back to school. Our Ops Team, under the leadership of Mr Maharaj and Mrs Neto are drawing up the protocols and site plans for access and egress to and from the various teaching and learning areas. These procedures will include a number of required Covid-19 safety measures such as screening and sanitation. As we gain further clarity on how we will be allowed to proceed from the DBE, these plans will be tested and then adopted. Mr Porter is drawing a classroom plan that will allow us to accommodate the children while ensuring that the strictest social distancing requirements are adhered to. The Sports Department are doing research into how we can facilitate physical and team activities within the Health Department and Education Department requirements. All in all, a very excited and active management team are enjoying the opportunity to prepare our campus and curriculum for a return to school.

Notwithstanding the above, it has been great to see communication from so many parents listing the positive effects of the slower lockdown mentality. The later start to the day and the ability to take time to share meals, with the resultant conversations as a family, have been amongst the most positive observations. We have also noted small improvements on the school front, such as better handwriting in the junior classes and more time being spent on creative activities higher up. This makes one wonder about the balance between quantity and quality in our pre-lockdown lives. Could it be that we were so busy rushing to fit everything in that we never made use of the opportunity to enjoy the actual activities and to produce quality products? Was our motivation to cram every possible opportunity into a day at the expense of really using the opportunities that were on offer? These communications have certainly got us thinking. It would be great to get feedback from the broader community regarding these thoughts. There may be a call for a change in the structure of our school day; not one that is Covid-compliance driven, but one that is more informed by best educational practice. It is important to note here that I am not predicting a complete change in structures, but am rather trying to stimulate thought and debate that will inform our strategic imperative of continuous improvement in the months and years to come.

As we ponder the hoped for return to school and economic activities, let's consider some lessons learnt during lockdown. In addition to saving many lives, there may be a possibility that it has provided a window into a better future for all of us.

Have a great week.

Rob Macaulay

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 18 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>

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

We pray for
Father Richard
who lost his
father this past
week. Give him
strength as he
gives to so many
of us.

We are sorry for
your loss Father.
Sending love,
The St Peter's
Family

**FROM THE ST PETER'S FOUNDATION**

Good luck to our dear interns who start their UNISA exams on Monday. Despite the various challenges they have faced during lockdown, and there have been many, we have all the confidence that they will do their best.



GOOD LUCK!



70th CELEBRATIONS



We have been told by an international Bell Ringing Association that St Peter's is one of only two stand-alone prep schools in the world with its own *ring of bells*. This is the name given to a set of bells hung for English full circle ringing. Bells have always been a feature of St Peter's life, with the Letty Bell signaling the change in teaching periods, the boarders' bell summoning the latter to dinner or showers, the dining room bell preceding grace and the small bells in the Chapel rung during the Eucharistic Prayer.

There was never an intention to install the big bells in the Chapel. A new Director of Music, Vaughan van Zyl, formerly from the Drakensberg Choir School, arrived in 2006. Vaughan is an instinctive musician. He shared the Rector's passion to place an organ in the Chapel. He began a fund with choir parents and set about seeking an instrument. Vaughan ultimately located the current organ in a church in Port Elizabeth which was to be demolished.

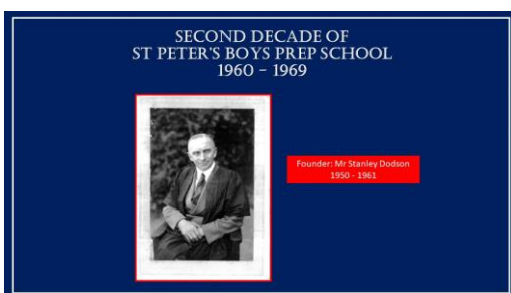


The transaction was conducted, and the organ installed. What it did need was a sound box in which the organ pipes could be located. We were faced with a problem of positioning an ugly square concrete structure the size of a garage, jutting out from somewhere in the Chapel. When the optimum position was located, the idea to transform the box into a Bell Tower emerged.

Quotes were arranged and Council shuddered at the cost. They would reluctantly build a Bell Tower but there would be no money available for the bells.

Everyone was captivated by the completed Bell Tower and at one Council meeting, Lindsay Clur, an outstandingly loyal parent and governor, announced his intention to donate R25 000 and challenged the other governors to do likewise, or better this. In a matter of minutes, the cost of more than one bell was covered. The word spread and further donations of money, as well as a whole bell, were made. All but two bells remained outstanding and one was donated by the Keltek Trust in the UK with whom we had had no contact but who had heard of our venture and wished to support it. The final and largest bell was cast in a foundry in Whitechapel, London, which has been in operation since the time of Charles Dickens.

Greg Royce



THE DECADES OF ST PETER'S IN ACTION

Here is the second of seven videos that will be released throughout the year in celebration of 70 years of St Peter's Boys Prep School.

Here are the 60s:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLCUZehKtaU>

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