



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

**THROUGH THE KEYHOLE #952**

**DATE: 4 June 2020**

**SENIOR PREP**

**Most loving God, and Lord of all, we thank you for your spirit that sustains us during these uncertain times of COVID-19. For we are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people of despair but people of comfort. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety. We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity, for we are people together in this community. We thank you for our St Peter's family and the generosity which is always given. We also thank you for our humility, for not being too proud to ask, but to live in true fellowship. We are your people Lord God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs, we are committed to being people who live in the spirit of Ubuntu.**

**So continue to guide us most gracious Saviour as we find peace in the faces of those around us, now and forever.  
Amen**



### **FROM THE HEADMASTER**

As we negotiate the swamp of school reopening, I cannot help but chuckle at the Rector's nickname for me – Swampy. I can only applaud the resilience and adaptability of our community in these uncertain times and I thank you for your understanding as our goalposts are shifted regarding school reopening dates. You will have noted from the Rector's Covid-19 update that, until we can secure a visit from a Department official, we are bound by the Gazetted reopening dates published by the DBE. Hopefully, things will change and we can reopen according to our own timetable soon.

In the meantime, I thank all those parents who responded to our survey regarding your decision to send your boys back to school or to remain online. In general, the response has been around 68% planning to return and 20% opting to stay at home, with the remainder choosing not to reply. Interestingly enough, despite the last minute changes made to the Government statement on Sunday, we had 59 out of a possible 74 Grade 7 boys return on Monday morning. They have been superstars and have adapted to the very different environment with aplomb. I have to confess that the social distancing requirements have made the old "boy behaviour" more difficult and we all look forward to the jossle and impromptu football matches of the past returning to our campus. Nevertheless, the opportunity to share stories with

classmates and teachers has been one of the highlights of the return. We have realised that we have made aspects of the day too structured and are looking at increasing the opportunity for social banter in next week's timetable. We are certainly on a learning curve. I hope you enjoy the pictures below.



Our aim going forward is to get back to face to face schooling for all grades as soon as possible, but our paramount concern is for the health of the boys, teachers and the broader St Peter's community. We continue to consult with specialists in the medical profession to this end and will make sure that we have taken every possible precaution to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 on the campus, while also bearing in mind the very important factor of the social and emotional health of our boys. As soon as we have been able to secure the necessary legal approval to continue our phased reopening of the school we will let you know. In the meantime, I cannot express how proud I am to be a part of this amazing three-legged pot called St Peter's Boys Prep.

Have a good weekend.

**Rob Macaulay**

### FOOD DRIVE: FEEDING FAMILIES IN DIEPSLOOT.

Thank you for the awesome response to date, our collection continues.

The following items are needed:

- 12.5kg mielie meal; cans of: mixed vegetables, bully beef, sardines, pilchards; 2kg sugar; cloth face masks; shoes and clothes

**Collection point: in front of chapel.**

It costs R600 to feed a family of four for a month, and if you prefer to make a contribution of any amount, please deposit into:

St Peter's Foundation, Standard Bank, Acc: 422 057 533 (Section A18 tax certificates can be issued).

**Father Richard and Monica Sloane**



### 70<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATIONS

The first swimming pool was a concrete reservoir situated in Rob Macaulay's garden beside his house, close to the current carpark. The water was habitually tinged a deep green by the algae that flourished in its depths and we know that boys from visiting schools such as St John's, also swam in it. It was common for the boarders to skinny dip in this pool and this became a dare after hours. Another boarder tradition in the early days lasting into the 80s was to sneak out of the boarding house after lights out and do a lap or two of Newlands, sometimes dressed but usually not.

During the tenure of the last Housemaster of Founders, a group of boys exited via the windows in the downstairs Dining Room to undertake their dare. One boy, who was rather generously built, was too big to make it through the burglar bars and was stuck fast. If I recall correctly, he was the son of a politician. The Housemaster was alerted to his subdued cries for assistance. His flat adjoined the boarding house. He slipped downstairs and was confronted by a pair of buttocks protruding from the window. He assisted the boy to pass through to the other side with a whack of his cane. The rest of the groups were equally rewarded on their return.

**Greg Royce**

