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Message from the Headmaster

Dear St Peter's Family,

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT, ACADEMIC MATTERS and NEW TEACHERS

The campus is looking dry and expectant, an odd combination perhaps; our fields have been scarified and will rest waiting for the fertilisers and summer rains to work their magic.

Some of my forbearers from the Eastern Cape farmed in what was known as Frontier Country. **Preparing young lives for significant futures** is similar to preparing good soil, where various seen and unseen chemistries play their part. Having a **plan**, responding to a **change** in climate, and being **patient** are attributes that parents and teachers should model as they allow dusty, desolate times to change into something fruitful and good.



I am happy to give advanced notice of a few **campus upgrade plans**.

- Some of our classroom blocks are soon to enjoy the addition of dedicated **metal lockers** to be used for the safe storage of iPads, tablets, laptops, phones and other **personal belongings**. We will notify parents and students of the allocation process once they are fully installed.
- A 300 KVA **diesel generator** will be installed to ensure the constant supply of electricity during loadshedding – our reliance on well-lit classrooms and uninterrupted wireless uptime is an absolute necessity.
- At the same time we have become painfully aware that our **internet bandwidth** is woefully inadequate and the number of wireless access points is insufficient. Our IT Committee has interrogated this challenge over the past number of months and we are soon to sign new Service Level Agreements that should see us in a much better place as regards the instructional value of reliable internet coverage.

We returned from our Trinity mid-term break and have moved swiftly in to an **examination season** for our senior students, while our **Grades 8s and 9s** have a week of revision in blocks of time supervised by their subject teachers. I have enjoyed two sessions working with these junior Grades facilitating some **reflection and goal setting**. My message to them is that all parts of our lives should cohere to tell a story, and that all stories matter. Young lives need to be **inspired** to become so much more than they have yet become, nurtured along the way and have the desire and inner resilience to deal with the occasional pruning and rough correction.

Finally, I would like to welcome two **new staff members** who have recently joined the St Peter's family.



Mme Innocentia Rapudi has been appointed to a critically important support role as the **Laboratory Technician** in our Department of Sciences. She joins us with 15 years' experience at St Mary's DSG in Pretoria and we look forward to the positive impact her appointment will have on the quality and increased opportunities for experimental learning in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Ms Saranne Hudson has been appointed as **Head of Sport**, a high profile role that coordinates our commitment to appropriate physical education, higher levels of student participation and the best competitive results that St Peter's can achieve in the varied sporting codes we offer. Saranne has competed as an Open Water Swimmer, including the Freedom Swim to Robben Island, she currently competes as a masters swimmer, she is a two time Ironman South Africa finisher, is an athlete who has run the Comrades Marathon and she currently plays club Hockey. Impressive and exhausting! She previously taught at Cornwall Hill College



We wish these new teachers a happy and fruitful time at St Peter's and, in a similar vein, wish our students the best outcome from their present exam season.

Humbly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Murray".

Murray Thomas
Headmaster

2014 School Magazine Update

After some delays, the designer and I are now furiously working on the final edits of the magazine and I promise to let you know when the final product is at the printer. I really thank you for your patience and sincerely apologise for the delay in the delivery of this edition. We have put resources in place to ensure that the 2015 issue can be delivered in the first term next year.

Theresa Monoyoudis
Marketing Manager

Parent Association News

School Shop

Textbooks for 2016

Quotes for textbooks for Grades 9, 11 and 12 and Order Forms for Grade 10 for 2016 will be included in your child's Term 2 report. Please look out for these and respond accordingly. The deadline for returning the quote/order form with payment is **Tuesday 15 September 2015**.

Grade 11s - Matric English and Afrikaans Books For 2016

In order to get a head start on the 2016 matric syllabus, the English and Afrikaans setwork books need to be ordered. Letters from Mrs Sandnes and Mrs Delpont were sent out to the Grade 11 parents regarding this. The deadline for the payments for these books is **Monday, 27 July 2015**. Please note that payments need to be made into the School Shop/PA bank account.

Matric Past Papers – Maths and Maths Literacy

Matric Maths and Maths Literacy Past Papers are available for R50. Some students who ordered the Answer Series Maths Past Papers last year have still not collected these.

Stationery Packs for Exams

These packs contain the following items:

1. Clear zip up bag
2. 2 blue pens
3. 1 clutch pencil
4. 1 eraser
5. 1 20cm ruler
6. 1 highlighter



Available from the School Shop for **R50**.

Blazer Braiding

Students wishing to have their blazers braided during the holidays must hand in CLEAN blazers on the last day of term. The blazers can be collected on Monday 7 September between 11:00 and 14:00 or on Tuesday, 8 September before school. The braiding prices follow:

ITEM	PRICE
SCROLLS (EACH)	R 12.00
SCROLLS SEWN (EACH)	R 25.00
2m CORD FOR ½ COLOURS	R 30.00
4m CORD FOR ½ TO FULL COLOURS	R 60.00
6m CORD FOR FULL COLOURS	R 90.00
SEWING OF CORD FOR HALF COLOURS (POCKETS & SLEEVES)	R 100.00

ITEM	PRICE
SEWING OF CORD FOR HALF TO FULL (EDGES)	R 175.00
SEWING OF CORD FOR FULL COLOURS (EDGES, POCKETS & SLEEVES)	R 210.00
SEWING OF CORD FOR HONOURS (INCL 6m CORD)	R 325.00

Supporter Wear

Wear one of our supporter's items at the Annual Sports Festival in September.

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE
GOLF SHIRTS LADIES	S-L	R 200.00
GOLF SHIRTS LADIES	XL	R 220.00
GOLF SHIRTS MENS	M-L	R 200.00
GOLF SHIRTS MENS	XL-2XL	R 220.00
WINDBREAKER	S-3XL	R 300.00
FLEECE JACKET- LADIES	S- L	R 300.00
FLEECE JACKET - MENS	M-XL	R 300.00
FLEECE JACKET - MENS	2XL-3XL	R 320.00

School Shop Accounts

Statements have been sent out to those who for some reason have a debit balance. Please check the statement and contact Mrs Wheeler on Extension 209 on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday if you have any queries or concerns regarding the statement or by email at wheelerc@stpeterscollege.co.za. Please ensure that all outstanding debt is paid before the end of this term.

EFT Payments

Please note that the School Shop account number is different to the School Fees Account. Please always use the following account for payments to the School Shop for uniform, textbooks or stationery:

St Peter's College PA
Standard Bank Rivonia
Branch Code 001255
A/C # 420095144

All EFT payment confirmations must be emailed to Nerina Deeb at deebn@stpeterscollege.co.za.

School Shop Hours

Please note that the School Shop hours are as follows:

Mon, Tues and Thurs 07:00 to 15:00
Wed and Fri 07:00 to 13:00

Students may only shop before school, during break, lunch and after school and not during their lesson periods. Parents and students are requested not to disturb the staff once the shop is closed as this time is used for admin purposes should the staff still be in the shop.

Kind regards

Nerina Deeb and Cynthia Wheeler
St Peter's College School Shop

PA Annual Quiz Night



Book at table for family and friends to join you at this exciting event! We will once again have teams of 8 at a table. The professional Quiz Master can't wait to test our brainpower and give out some prizes.

Make payment into the PA's account to secure your booking:

St Peter's College PA, Standard Bank, Rivonia (branch code 001255), Account No.: 4200 951 44

Reference: Quiz, your name and number of guests.

Enquiries/RSVPs: Gizelle Schiavini at mindzone@telkomsa.net or on 083 419 7000.

Co-Curricular News

Basketball



Congratulations to Jana Cupedo's Gauteng team won the National Championships U18. She was the vice-captain of her team and she was chosen the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the Tournament.

Biathle

SPC athletes participated in the South African Biathle challenge

By Chesnay Havenga (Grade 10)



South African Modern Pentathlon Association (SAMPA) hosted the 17th SA Biathle Championship held in East London on Saturday, 27th June 2015 for the best athletes meeting set criteria. Athletes participate in district competitions and need to meet the required criteria before participating in district and provincial championships in order to qualify to participate at the prestigious event. The SA Biathle Championships serve as the final competition to select teams to the Union International de Penthalon Moderne (UIPM) Biathle World Championships. Biathle is a UIPM sport and is a continuous RUN-SWIM-RUN competition over varied distances and caters for all age groups (male and female). It was freezing weather conditions with wind, and three SPC biathletes, Chesnay Havenga, Tyler Thokoane and Jade

Thokoane took up the challenge. Jade was unable to finish the event, due to an asthmatic attack in the water. The standard was very high with competitors from other provinces; also trying to qualify for the World Championships to

be held in Georgia, Batumi during October 2015. The competition brought a healthy level of competitiveness and strengthened friendship that will go well into the future.

Results

Youth B Girls –Chesnay Havenga (9th with a time of 11:16:70)

Youth C Girls – Tyler Thokoane (12th with a time of 5:20:01)

Equestrian

The St Peter's College Equestrian Team Aims High and Achieves the Results!

The SPC Equestrian Team riders achieved outstandingly in Show Jumping, Dressage, Working Hunter and Equitation during the course of 2015. The Team participated in the four SANESA Qualifiers for Gauteng Metro Interschool's Competition, and various external and graded shows.



St Peter's College Equestrian Team

Front: Mrs Joan Delpport, Cameron Dawson (Captain), Amy Crossley (Vice-Captain)
 Middle Row: Nolo Maripane, Amy Shackleton, Andrew Thomas, Kayla van der Burgh, Imogen Imbert
 Back Row: Samantha Meiring, Sarah Kickhöfel, Chanel Thomas, Mikaila Fintelman and Caitlin Goodman



Kieran Moodley

Animals in Distress at the last two Qualifier events. The charity was thrilled with the response of the donations and mentioned SPC in their magazine!

On 31 August a number of the riders will be attending a Simulator Seat Workshop with Mrs. Delpport, working on a mechanical horse to improve their seat and posture.

A special thank you to all the devoted parents who have given their time during the week and on weekends, who supported the riders, transported horses, shared in the laughter, frustration and tears throughout the year. Thank you to Cameron Dawson, our Captain (who had the opportunity to be coached by an international trainer) and Amy Crossley the Vice-

Captain of 2015, for your loyalty, support and assistance.

Horse Fever: *The Chronic Condition of those who are afflicted with the sense of joy in all things relates to horses and riding. There is No Known Cure!*

SPC Equestrian Team, keep those Fever's high for 2016!

Leighanne Imbert

Equestrian Parent Committee

The team exhibits passion, dedication and support for the sport which resulted in them achieving a **victorious first place in the Equestrian Interschool League for the second year in a row!**

Nine Riders went on and will be competing in the Gauteng Regional level in August. The commitment and long hours spent 'in the saddle' certainly paid off as evident in these results: Kayla van der Burgh, Andrew Thomas, Nolo Maripane, Imogen Imbert, Sarah Kickhöfel, Amy Shackleton, Mikaila Fintelman, Amy Crossley.

The team has grown from an initial five to sixteen riders this year, setting a new record and raising the bar for the team to strive for achieving new goals. The team is proud of their new team shirts as well as supporter shirts for the parents with their own Equestrian Logo.

Several team members took their community service commitment seriously and volunteered to help the Midrand Animals In Distress, specifically with the horses, ponies and donkeys over the holidays. Added to this, the team supported their horse unit by donating old tack to assist them, and Vice-Captain Amy Crossley, created a Drive at Interschool's for other school riders to donate used tack to

Netball

The **Parents Netball Committee** invites all interested parents to come along and join up on the Committee. We will be focusing on planning for 2016, INCLUDING THE **2016 NETBALL TOUR**. Please bear in mind that if you wait till January to join the committee, you will have missed out on the opportunity to really make a difference to the way 2016 pans out in the Netball year.

PLEASE consider joining this important committee, it is really not an onerous task and it really has made a huge difference to the sport – c'mon – JUST DO IT!" We will be meeting toward the end of July 2015, and look forward to seeing some new members to boost our efforts. For any further info, feel free to drop **Lyndsey Moorhouse** an email on lyndseym@cando.co.za.

Feedback on Ask Murray Session

St Peter's College PA recently saw a need for there to be a Communications Portfolio established on the association. This portfolio came into effect this year and Cheryl van der Walt (Grade 8 parent) volunteered for the position. Initially, the portfolio was to be aimed at interacting with Grade 8 parents but many parents from other grades have indicated that they are also keen to be in the loop of communication between St Peter's College parents. The Communications Portfolio will be a work-in-progress for a while, at least until the PA is satisfied that the portfolio adds value to the school.

The aim of this portfolio is to

- Establish an open forum whereby parents can raise general issues / problems they may be having at school. In this way we will be able to address the issues and ultimately improve / amend the New Student information booklet.
- Enable us to connect with all parents when the school is needing volunteers to work at school events and functions. This is not an onerous task, the school just needs 'hands' on specific days.
- Host events where parents can get together informally, just to get to know other parents in their grade.
- Arrange school tours, enabling parents to get a better idea of the layout and day-to-day happenings at the school.
- Establish regular 'Ask Murray' sessions. These would be held one or two mornings per term and would enable parents to ask relevant questions of Murray or a relevant St Peter's College person.

Here are answers to questions raised at the first Coffee Morning held on 29 May 2015:

Q1: Why not include the Fathers?

HM: Agreed. Our PA set no limits to who should or shouldn't respond to the Coffee Morning invitation. It so happened that for our first Coffee Morning in Trinity Term all of the attendees were mothers. I would like to encourage our fathers or any supporter for that matter to attend; accepting that our 90 minutes together is brief and that not all the questions will be dealt with as thoroughly or effectively as one might wish. Nevertheless the intention of bringing our parents and supporters in to an open forum is positive and we hope many will make an effort to interact with one another.

Q2: Are common courtesies, such as greeting, sufficiently established at St Peter's College?

HM: The regular greeting by our students of parents, adults and other visitors to the campus is something we often receive compliments for. We believe in supporting what has, or should have been instilled by parents into children through their development years by speaking about the three Gs (Greeting, Grooming and Grounds) in my Headmaster's Assembly, supporting it through our Grade Heads Assemblies and by highlighting and recognising positive examples in Prefects Assemblies. In short, although reminders are frequent our students are young adults, not robots. Although behavioural expectations at home and feeder primary schools differ, SPC values common courtesies such as the greeting of adults and visitors.

Q3: Subject choices for Grade 10: why is there no teaching time allocated for students who elect to take extra subjects?

HM: A change in the timetable was made in 2015 in order to increase academic contact time. This was achieved by removing the two pPrep lessons from the previous timetable, among other innovations, which we feel has benefited the majority of the students. Extra subjects are taken for various reasons, and can add value for individuals who are academically strong and have an aptitude and interest in various subjects. From the narrow

view of university admission taking extra subjects can however dilute time and attention away from the required number of 7 subjects. We encourage the majority of our SPC students to perform as best they can with their required subjects and not chase additional subjects for the sake of it. As regards contact time for extra subjects, the teacher is required to meet with the student once a week. All work set for students is important for their development and therefore no project can be omitted from the programme. From 2016 – the subject teacher and Head of Academics will grant permission for an 8th subject in Grade 10. Advanced Programme subjects are not treated the same as other 8th subjects.

Q4: Can teachers provide a homework schedule for the week so students can plan their time better? How much homework should a Grade 8 be doing. Do all teachers give the same amount of homework?

HM: Unlike a Primary school where comparatively few teachers interact with a child, life at SPC involves many inputs from different subjects and teachers. Our aim is to encourage our students to work independently in preparation for university. Grade Heads track the various tests and larger assignments that students undertake, and will from time to time pinpoint bottleneck dates and appeal to individual teachers to move dates where possible. A need for a calendar that lists larger assignments and class tests is being discussed.

The second matter, regarding time spent doing homework is often debated. The nature of the homework task is key and levels of cognitive challenge will vary. Flipped classroom pundits expect a lot of content to be grasped at a factual level at home, while class time is spend grappling with high-order application of knowledge and facilitating debate or critical output. Having lived in Asia for a period with its double digit economic growth rate, I can attest to the fact that South Africa's western-leaning schooling system is very light on homework expectations.

As a rule of thumb we recommend the 10 minutes multiplied by Grade level approach. In other words Grade 12 student will on average spend a minimum of (12 x 10 minutes) 2 hours per night spread over 7 nights all year. This is not a perfect fit for all. The key thing is to know one's personal capacity, and work in such a way as to get the job done. Planning is important. Students cannot leave homework for the last minute. As a parent I empathise enormously with the challenge of tired children grappling with the weekend and nightly homework routine.

Q5: Is it possible to receive one email a week containing a folder with all the information required for the week? There are sometimes so many different emails received from SPC, not all of which seem relevant to a particular child.

HM: This sounds like paradise. Our Marketing and Communications department uses a number of mechanisms to pass relevant information on to parents knowing that not everyone pays the same attention to our printed termly calendar, or email, or the D6 communicator, or various WhatsApp groups. By its very nature our busy school relies on activity sponsors, namely teachers or MICs of sports or cultural activities, to give first-hand information to the parents whose children they interact with. Often our bulk emails are grouped by Grade, despite not all children in a Grade needing to receive it. All information should pass through the Marketing and Communication Office, to ensure streamlined and timely updates are sent to relevant parties. Our Website has an impressive new look and feel, and we are hoping more online information flows through this single access point. I doubt we will do away with single emails being sent about single items, but trust that our relevance hit-rate improves.

Q6: The dress-code and hair policy do not appear to be consistently applied? At times its application seems to be subjective where one teacher applies the codes to the letter, while others seem to turn a blind eye.

HM: Uniform and grooming is a standing item on the agenda at Grade Head Assemblies on Tuesday mornings, and is also communicated to the students after other assemblies throughout the week. We constantly discuss our expectations with our students and remind staff of the need to be vigilant and equally consistent, as much as we can. Inspections are done periodically to ensure uniform consistency; students who do not meet the correct expectations are issued warnings to fix items within a period of time then a second follow up inspection is done. From time to time, after sufficient warnings parents are called and students are sent home to get correctly attired and have haircuts sorted out. Unfortunately not all parents abide by these expectations and actively permit their children to wear the latest trending hairstyles, which requires more follow up by the Grade Head. The code of conduct mentions no Mohican type of hairstyles (radically short and radically long parts of hair), no

comb overs etc. Support from parents is essential for the students to comply with these expectations and we ask that the first checking point be that of the parent when their child leaves for school in the morning.

Q7: How did the matric March exams fare compared with previous years? How are the standards, image and moral of the students from lower grades impacted by senior Grades?

HM: The March matric examination results were not significantly different from previous years. At a Headmaster's Assembly following the March exams I mentioned that a number of measures are run each year to help our matrics achieve their best, namely

- the 'round-table consultations' where a plan of action is agreed for each child,
- alongside the winter school that we run in the Trinity mid-term break.

Historically the March exams see a huge improvement compared to the November Finals. We are also looking to deepen our statistical analysis and modeling of student achievements at SPC. It would be interesting to compare one cohort's results per subject, say in the matric March exams, compared with a similar data point over 5 years.

Q8: All Grade 8s need to do one sport and one cultural extra mural. How does the school monitor / audit this?

HM: Students register for the co-curricular activities and from those lists the Sports Department draws up lists of the co-curricular activities that students have registered for. These lists are then distributed to all the various MICs who then monitor attendance in their particular area of responsibility. It's still not 100%, but the level of participation has improved tremendously across the board.

Q9: How can the school avoid clashes between Sport and Cultural activities?

HM: Unfortunately we are always going to have clashes and sometimes students have to make choices. We sit as a co-curricular committee and look at the best possible time-table in what is already a very busy schedule as we are trying to juggle sport, cultural, as well as, academic afternoon programmes. Unfortunately we cannot adhere to personal requests - there are over 30 co-curricular activities on offer at the College.

Q10: Is there a way of giving advanced warning, linked to the termly calendar, where parents are required to pay additional monies for things like matric dances and jackets, sports tours/clinics or subject specific day trips?

HM: There are too many variables where different activities are taken by some students and not by others – too many for SPC to send advanced warning of total costs for individual families. There are however general principles worth remembering.

- All tours are an additional expense. Our beginning of the year Grade trips happen each year and Grade Heads will share this information early in the year.
- There is a general pattern of sports tours or pre-season clinics that MICs will gladly share.
- Matric Jackets are not compulsory and are not an official part of the school uniform. It is instead memorabilia organised by the matric class themselves.
- Aside from the managed costs of the formal proceedings at the Wanderers Club, the annual matric dance is becoming increasingly expensive as some people compete with one another for lavish clothing, grotesque 'notice-me' transport arrangements and other add-ons.

Q11 What is the rationale behind not awarding colours for sports that are not offered by the school?

HM: Our sporting awards and colours recognition focuses on well-established inter-school sporting codes. We cannot award colours for activities that are not school related. We do however acknowledge all achievements outside of school; students names are announced at assembly, the achievements are placed in the newsletter, and any student who attains national colours has their name placed on the national honours board in the hall.

Q12: What is the dress code for SPC student spectators when we host Derby days? A number of students were haphazardly dressed, some in civvies, during the earlier Derby Days.

HM: Absolutely accurate, the dress code was atrocious at the start of our Trinity sports season. This was addressed at assembly, after which both the dress code of spectators, as well as the participants and there was a vast improvement throughout the term.

Q13: My family does not feel comfortable asking friends each year for the R200 donation towards the annual Gr 11 Build Project. Is there an alternative way to raise this money, possibly through a raffle?

HM: St Peter's commitment to community engagement through service learning is a strength of our wider co-curricular education model. The R200 donation can be raised in a number of ways, and creative alternatives

other than asking for a direct donation from parents and family friends should be encouraged. Some students donate from their pocket money or pay a portion from their holiday or weekend student-jobs. Raffles as a fund-raising measure are now subject to provincial Gambling Board regulations and approval to hold a raffle is difficult to get. The important issue should be less about the monetary amount, and more about the wider social contract that schools and parents share to help our children make a meaningful difference in the lives of others who come from humble homes and communities.

Q14: Some students complain about certain teachers allowing unruly behavior in class, where academic time is less focused and constructive than in other classes.

HM: Academic contact time is next to sacrosanct in my book and needs to be used effectively at all times. Some students may be deliberately disruptive, while others are not always conscious of how distractions take time away from quality input for other fee-paying families. On the other hand, great teachers will use a variety of instructional techniques to help maintain a high level of student engagement in their classrooms. Heads of Department and the Deputy for Academics play an important role in monitoring the quality of learning in classes. Patterns of disruption or ineffective classroom control must be brought to our attention. Specific, detailed concerns will be addressed directly rather than through hearsay and vague allegations.

Q15: What is the IT strategy at the school? Some classes have had no exposure to the Computer Centre.

HM: Grade 9s have just completed an online History project. They have used their own device and where possible we have made use of the MADD iLab and the desk top computers in the Resource Centre. We are aware that the infrastructure cannot cope with the current IT demands, however, this is in hand; there are plans to upgrade the infrastructure shortly.

Q16: Why is there no 2nd-hand uniform shop?

HM: I understand that the PA has tried on numerous occasions to manage lost property items, as a first step in helping recycle unclaimed or unwanted clothing items. A stumbling block exists in the limited space we have – our clothing and stationary shop does not have the physical space or personnel to take on this added responsibility at this time. A volunteer, parent-driven system has also been discussed.

The next Coffee Morning will take place in Term 3 – watch your email for the invitation.

If you have any comments or other questions, please contact Cheryl van der Walt on pa@stpeterscollege.co.za or Theresa Monoyoudis on marketing@stpeterscollege.co.za