



ST PETER'S COLLEGE

RELATIONSHIPS • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • RESILIENCE

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE NEWSLETTER



3 NOVEMBER 2017

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Important links

Our website: <http://www.stpeters.co.za/college>

College Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Stpeterscoll/>

Old Petrian's Alumni Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oldpetrians/>

Message from the Headmaster

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

These days it is easy to be overwhelmed by the flow of negative news, especially when living in a country like South Africa.

Daily we are faced with stories of corruption, state capture, high crime levels, low economic growth and downgrades etc.

As a result, it is easy to adopt a negative attitude about the country that we live in and to become consumed by an ever-growing spiral of negativity. However, every now and then we are reminded of how wonderful this country of ours actually is and especially how resourceful our people are and the incredible spirit that they embody.

I recently interviewed a most remarkable young lady for an intern position at St Peter's College. She is the youngest of six siblings, raised by a single mother who is a domestic worker. Even though her mathematics results were not good enough for her to get into university, through sheer hard work and determination, she went on to re-write her maths examination the following year and was accepted into the course that she so desired to pursue. She received a bursary to study at the University of Cape Town where she went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science (Honours).

She was then accepted to do a Masters in Science (MSc) at Wits University. Unfortunately, she did not have the money to pay for these studies, but this did not stop her. She went on to raise the money by tutoring extra maths lessons and by using various platforms on social media, and was thus able to fund her Master's studies at Wits this year.

She has also established an organisation, in Soweto, where she lives, called 'The Mentees Ark' where she tutors scholars at no cost. Her dream is to become a teacher, hence she is joining our intern programme in January 2018 and she will study towards a PGCE, and qualify to become a teacher.

Here is a young lady who, despite her circumstances, has shown resilience and a focused determination, seldom found in the youth of today. She has not sat back and waited for things to fall in her lap, but has a clear vision of what she wants to do and achieve.

The former Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu best explains Ubuntu as:

"The essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks particularly about the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks about our interconnectedness ... We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity."

This young lady undoubtedly displays this spirit of uBuntu, which is pointing to the values and principles that it represents and our humanness and the value of community. It is also about caring and sharing. We look forward to formally introducing her to the College family and have no doubt that she will make a wonderful teacher in the years to come.

Go "Bravely into the Future".

Regards,



Mr Rui Morais
Headmaster

Academic News

Grade 8s Storing Memories



Memories. They are so much more than the dictionary tells us. Memories are a part of us, they are pieces of our lives which we will take far beyond our school careers and into the future. They are like lockets dangling from our necks; always there, not often noticed, but beautiful to look at.

On 31 October, the St Peter's College Grade 8 class of 2017 made their solid mark on the school by being the first to plant a tree and bury a time capsule (filled with the thoughts and aspirations of the students) on the Matric lawn. This is a new tradition that will be continued in the years to come and a legacy which our year will hopefully leave behind. At the end of Matric, we will dig up the capsule and read what our younger selves had to say.

The capsule was a great opportunity to write about our goals and ambitions, our current perspectives of life and what is yet to come. Some of the things we wrote might have been funny,

silly, slightly embarrassing or a little bit peculiar. They may have been heartfelt, sincere and very meaningful or encouraging words, but whatever we wrote now, will be much appreciated later on. The letters will remind us of the memories we possibly erased, and the best parts of our lives that we never would have relived otherwise. With the passing years and time spent with the people in our grade which we will come to know so well, digging up a fragment of our pasts will definitely be incredibly emotional.

We will come to discover that the box which we've buried is more than just a case filled with papers and the tree, more than just a mere chunk of wood. We'll reminisce about the significance of both these things and be grateful that we put them there in the first place. The tree will grow tall with us, bearing fruits and providing shade and the box will grow old with us symbolising the wonderful period of time spent together. And when we leave, the tree will still be there, leaving a part of us behind and by taking our letters, we'll take a part of St Peter's with us.

Emma Eagle (Grade 8)



Grade 10 French Achievers

Bravo! Félicitations! Our French Grade 10s that wrote their DELF A1 examination at the start of Term 3 and they all passed with flying colours and scored +80%!

Well done to Bonheur Nkongolo who passed DELF B1. I am extremely proud of these young ones!

Back Row: Unaswi Modisaotsile, Ethan Brent, Bonheur Nkongolo, Luisa Legoinha, Kiara van Rooyen, Liam George
Front Row: Stuart Kieser, Matthew Beekman, Sindisa Mramba, Ruby Shih



Co-Curricular News

Tour de Math

On 26 October, the TDM (Tour de Math) team participated in the final leg of TDM for 2017. We were lucky to end off the year with a 'home game', hosting the final event in our very own hall. Since the evening couldn't commence with us driving past McDonald's for a treat to jump start our brains as we had done before EVERY other leg (this a tradition), we decided to order in before preparing our school for the closing leg.

The paper was set by Mrs Louw and consisted of different questions not previously seen in the other TDM papers. It involved more riddle and logical thinking questions rather than purely mathematical equations. For example: one question read: "Einstein said that only 2% of the world could complete the final question..."

After the papers had been collected and marked by the organisers, we were called back into the hall for the evening's prize-giving as well as the year's prize-giving. We had two **Grade 8** boys from our school take second place, namely, **Louis Lou** and **David Plumb**. I would also like to thank the entire team for staying at school until 20:30 to assist the ground staff in tidying up and clearing the hall afterward.

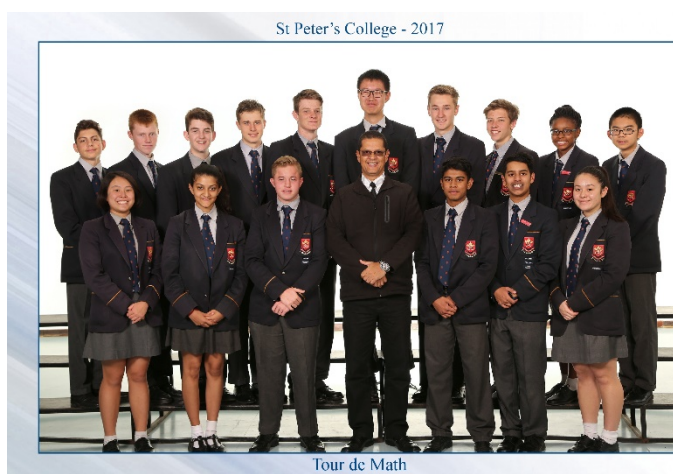
The overall winners for this year were St Stithians Boys followed by St Stithians Girls and Kingsmead College. This year St Peter's College achieved our highest ranking as well as greatest attendance in all the years TDM has been running. We placed 7th out of 26 schools, ahead of some top schools including St David's Marist, Brescia House, St John's College and St Andrew's Girls School. We are proud of our achievement this year, especially considering that our team consists of only twelve members, which is significantly less than some schools that are able to field a team of over twenty students.

I would like to thank my TDM team for a very entertaining year, for all the banter on the bus and the many laughs at least **a third** of the time (inside joke – please note you cannot get **a third** of a cat). I have never worked in a sports team, music ensemble nor a classroom where the characters of the people around me varied so greatly and where the balance of personalities was so *perfect*.

A thank you also goes to **Mr Ian Havenga** for travelling with us. I would like to commend everyone one of my teammates and a special mention goes to **Joshua Jandrell** for his perfect attendance which may have led to him being highlighted as a Top 20 students for the year, ranked 15th.

I wish the years ahead the best of luck and feel that we can, one day soon, bring home the first-place trophy. "Maths may not teach me how to add love to my life or how to subtract hate but it gives me hope that **every** problem has a solution".

Matthew Beekman (Grade 10)



Events

Staff Hosted Youth Chapel: "Your Setback, is the Platform for your Comeback"

On 20 October, the staff undertook to prepare and present the final Youth Chapel service of the year to the students. Mrs Robertson rounded up 23 staff members to participate in this service which the students normally run. The staff have a newfound respect for the children who are often thrown in the deep-end with compiling such a meaningful event.

The readings, prayers, hymns and talks all amplified the message that **"Setbacks are the platform to our comebacks and never to give up. With God on our side, we can do anything"**.

Especially poignant was **Mr Vincent Motshwene's** testimonial. Mr Motshwene grew up in Limpopo, and although he worked really hard at school, he couldn't get the marks he needed in order to enter university as he could not speak English. He only started learning English in Grade 11 and by insisted on interacting with his teachers in English. The people in his village resented him a little bit because they thought he felt he was better or too good for them. Vincent's persistence eventually paid off and he got out of his comfort zone and joined St Peter's College for an internship and was tasked to coach girls' soccer. He felt accepted here and realised that it wasn't how he spoke that mattered most, it was rather what he said that was valuable. The girls heard him and started doing really well.

Mr Motshwene's key messages were:

- Believe in yourself. Don't let failure dictate your life.
- We all have a choice. Make a choice and take the steps.
- If someone gives you a second chance, prove yourself worthy of a second chance.
- Have a winner's attitude, realise there is more to life, set higher standards and work very hard.

Mr Rakubu Sokana also shared excellent insight about **Fall versus Failure**

He gave an example of a rock climber climbing up a mountain. If the rock climber breaks his arm, he is faced with two choices:

1. To **let go**; or
2. To **keep going until they fall**.

Falling is not failing. Keep trying hard, if you do still fall then rather fall with integrity. The only person who can tell if you are falling or failing... is you. Giving up is failure. Push yourself to give your best and succeed. Do not just walk the trail your parents have laid for you... Create your own destiny.

Ms Theresa Monoyoudis
Marketing Manager



Figure Drawing for Moms, Dads and Friends

Mrs Swanepoel is hosting a **Figure Drawing Session** for Moms, Dads and friends of St Peter's

Date: Wednesday, 8 November 2017

Time: 18:30 to 20:30

Venue: MADD Art Studio

Cost: R200 per person

All materials will be supplied, and cheese and wine will be available. All funds raised will be donated to the Grade 11 MAC Build. As space is limited, booking is essential. Kindly email Avril Swanepoel on swanepoela@stpeterscollege.co.za to book your place.

Sports

Interhouse Sports

Basketball

1st Place - Oriole

2nd Place - Bishop

3rd Place - Lourie

Mr Nardus Badenhorst

Tennis

1st Place - Lourie

2nd Place - Bishop

3rd Place - Oriole

Water Polo

1st Place - Lourie

2nd Place - Bishop

3rd Place - Oriole

Cricket

18 October

U15 - lost to RandPark High

1st Team - lost to St John's

24 October

U14 - lost to HeronBridge

U15 - won

1st Team - won

25 October

Congrats to Matthew Harris
who scored 106/37

Mr Lofty Tyebileyo

MIC: Cricket

Equestrian – Term 3

The St Peter's College Equestrian Team has completed a successful season filled with a roller coaster of emotions.

Many riders placed well in the four SANESA Qualifiers, as well as additional shows.

The following riders qualified and were selected to compete at the Regionals:

Amy Shackleton, Andrew Thomas, Chanel Thomas, Chiara Reddy, Erin Dos Santos, Imogen Imbert, Kayla van der Burgh and Stella Sharp.

Amy Shackleton, unfortunately was unable to compete at the SANESA National Championship as the result of her horse, Polo Lounge's injuries.

A definite highlight was that the riders that competed at the Regionals all qualified to compete on National Level.

Some of the riders competed at external shows where they placed incredibly well. To mention a few: Chiara Reddy, Erin Dos Santos (achieved Victrix Ludorum) and Imogen Imbert (achieved Victrix Ludorum),.

Our **Equestrian Dinner** took place on Thursday, 19 October in the Tak Hiemstra Pavilion. The captains addressed the riders, parents and staff. It was a lovely evening, enjoyed by all where special memories were created. The captains showed a presentation with action and baby shots of the riders, compiled by Andrew Thomas.

Thank you to all of our riders and parents for the messages of comfort when Chanel Thomas' father passed away. This proves the sense of unity and empathy that the riders and parents have for each other.

The team has been involved at the **Shumbashaba Community Programme** this year, where they collected donations in the form of money, clothes and blankets. Shumbashaba also runs a Horse Appreciation Programme which the team have been actively involved in. This provided opportunity to serve the community for their 10-hour Community Outreach Hours.

The Equestrian Team has had a remarkable 2017, roll on 2018!

Mrs Joan Delport

MIC: Equestrian

Tennis – Term 3

Tennis in Term 3 has been a challenge. Our Tennis stars had to focus on the demands of Matric. Jason, Alvaro, Michelle and Jess, have been a part of our Tennis family for the better part of five years. They have truly left a legacy behind.

For the first time ever, the **Boys' 1st Team** played in the **C League** - the highest league ever achieved at the College. The Boys' Team managed to find a player or two who could handle a tennis racket just as well as they could handle a cricket bat. Thanks to the versatility of so many cricket players at the College, the Boys' Tennis Team did not disappoint at all. They have won three out of their five league matches. One of the matches they lost was only by narrow margins (three games). Well done to our Tennis Captain, Jonty Webb, for managing to put a team together even at the eleventh hour.

Our Boys 1st Team is: Matthew Harris, Jonty Webb, Keagan Rousseau, Michael du Plooy, Matthew McDermott, Duncan Hill (for helping out with his amazing cricket skills), Adriano Costa (for only being able to play one match due to an injury).

The **Girls' Tennis Team** also had their challenges. For the first time ever, the Girls' 1st Team played in **A1 League** which is the league just below Premier League (the top league). In collaboration with Beaulieu's A Team, our girls have managed to hold their own. They have won two out of six league matches which means that they will stay in the A1 League.

Well done to Mikayla Gounden, Jessica Harris (Captain), Tanya Paul, Justeene Hallowses, Laura Lyle, Nicole Diepeveen and Kayleigh Koekemoer. They have held the College's name exceptionally high and we are proud of them competing against schools like De La Salle, St Mary's, Heronbridge, Linden, Trinity and Roedean.

Our Junior Girls also competed in the **Junior Girls' Tennis Interhigh**. They were outstanding and came 15th out of 27 schools.

Our coaching team from Blessed Tennis Academy has our players' best interests at heart. Benjamin and his team have been an asset to the College's Tennis and we have managed to soar with the big eagles despite any challenges. The teams just always seem to have Game, Set and Match!

A big thank you to Mrs Hallowses who took control of the day and made sure that the girls only received the best treatment on such an icy cold day.

Mrs Cornel Malan

MIC: Tennis

Tennis – Junior Girls Interhigh Competition

Last Saturday, our Junior Tennis Girls, Mikayla Gounden, Justeene Hallowses, Laura Lyle and Kayleigh Koekemoer braved the freezing cold weather and met at Holy Rosary School to participate in the Junior Interhigh Tournament.

The girls were up against some tough opponents but showed their spirit and fought hard for each point. At the end of the first round the girls had been placed 4th and were then to move onto St Andrew's Girls' College to play for position 9-16 in the Tournament.

After some much-needed hot chocolate and a quick break, the girls started the second round. They held the St Peter's flag high and ended the day in 15th position overall. This was out of a total of 28 schools participating on the day, so a great achievement for our junior tennis girls! Very well done!

Mrs Angela Hallowses (Tennis Mom)



Water Polo Results

Herewith all our scores over the weekend:

St Stithians Stayers Festival – 1st Team Girls	Cup of Honour- U15 Boys Tournament	Roedean U14 Girls Tournament
Vs Reddam Constantia 5-1 Loss	Vs St David's 19-0 Loss	Vs St Dominic's 21-1 Loss
Vs Pretoria Girls High 8-5 Win	Vs Northwood 8-0 Loss	Vs Reddam House Constantia 16-1
Vs Fourways High 6-2 Win	Vs Parktown 6-4 Win	Vs Pretoria Girls High 12-5 Loss
Vs Clarendon 6-5 Win (Penalty Shootout)	Vs KES 10-0 Loss	Vs Durban Girls High 19-2 Loss
Vs St. Stithians College 12-3 Loss	Vs Rand Park 4-2 Win	Vs Gauteng Invitational 12-2 Loss
Vs Roedean 10-1 Loss	Vs Northwood 8-1 Loss	Vs Crawford Lonehill 5-3 Win
Vs St Anne's 9-8 Win	Vs Reddam Bedfordview 7-2 Loss	Vs Parktown Girls High 3-2 Win
Finished 7/20 overall	Finished 12/16 overall	Finished 19/22 Overall

- Congratulations to **Jessica Frame** for being selected for the St Stithians Festival Tournament Team.
- Well done to the following players who were selected to represent Gauteng at this year's SA Schools Tournament in PE and Grahamstown from 8-12 December:

Girls U15 B : Jessica Dunstan, Sarah Golightly

Girls U16 A : Jessica Frame

Girls U16 B : Emily Botha, Tyler Thokoane

Boys U16 B : Kosmas Joannou, Michele Brachini (non travelling reserve)

Girls U19 B : Zantia Bainbridge

Boys U19 B : David Baldachin

Girls U19 A : Tasmin Waite, Taylin Blues

Mr Nardus Badenhorst

MIC: Water Polo

Students' External Achievements



Congratulations to **Blake Imbert** who achieved his Junior Black Belt Judo Grading on 21 October 2017. This is a big accomplishment after years of extra-mural training and competing in school, regional and national level Judo competitions since he joined the St Peter's Boys Prep.