



ST PETER'S
COLLEGE

1998 - 2018

20
YEARS

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE NEWSLETTER

RELATIONSHIPS • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • RESILIENCE

9 November 2018
CONTENTS

Message from the Headmaster	1
Academic news	3
<i>Grade 10 Life Science</i>	3
Mother and Daughter Breakfast	3

Useful links: 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,

The St Peter's College Sports Philosophy

There has been a robust debate in the media in recent months regarding the abuse of performance enhancing substances by children of school going age. One of the leading sports physicians in South Africa, recently did a survey amongst 1st team rugby players at some of the top rugby playing schools in Johannesburg, and the findings were real eye openers – close to 70% of the players used some form of performance enhancing substance.

Schools are, unfortunately, being judged primarily by the results of their rugby teams, especially by the results of the 1st XV. It is a sad state of affairs, that this is often the sole deciding factor when parents choose a high school for children. Schools will often market themselves, by referring to their success on the rugby and cricket fields, and to how many Springbok rugby players and Protea cricket players they have produced. **Should we not be judging schools differently?** Are there not a variety of facets we must consider when educating children? I would approach it differently - a school should be judged on the **character** of students that have passed through its gates and not by the handful of Springbok rugby players it has produced.

I firmly believe the poor grounding that our international sportsmen receive comes from our school system, and the fact that school sport has now become a **“win at all costs”** scenario, where our sportsmen do not know what true sportsmanship is. Let it never be said that our sports results at St Peter's College are based on the strength of our scholarship programme.

The true meaning of sportsmanship is lacking in school sport. **Sportsmanship** expresses an aspiration or ethos that the activity will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with one's competitors. Sportsmanship typically is regarded as a component of morality in sport, comprised of three related and perhaps overlapping concepts: **fair play, sportsmanship, and character**. Fair play refers to all participants having an equitable chance to pursue victory and relating to others in an honest, assertive and dignified manner even when others do not play fairly. It includes **respect** for others - team members, opponents, and officials. **Character** refers

to dispositions, values and habits that determine the way that a person responds to challenges, opportunities, failure and success. Typically, this is displayed in polite behaviour toward others; helping an opponent up or shaking hands after a match. An individual is believed to have **"good character"** when those dispositions and habits reflect core ethical values.

Our international sportsmen no longer reflect the values of true sportsmanship. From a young age, players with talent are given demi-god status at their respective schools and this elevation in their status spills later in their careers. In recent rugby test matches, how many games have the Springboks lost due to the ill-discipline of our players? It was also with a great deal of interest that I read a report, which was apparently leaked to the media, regarding the **"Alcoholgate"** saga a few years ago. Our cricket players were involved in all night drinking binges just prior to important matches, which led to several players cramping at critical stages of a game. I clearly remember the very same "drinking" issue being raised at the previous cricket world cup held in South Africa. Can we keep laying the blame of poor performance on the "quota systems"?

Schools have, unfortunately, lost a measure of perspective and have a distorted view of what school sport is all about. The sports field is an extension of the classroom, in that as educators, our job is not to produce Springbok rugby players, but to prepare our students for the challenges that lie ahead in a rapidly changing global environment. **The sports field is merely one facet of that education process.**

That is why we at St Peter's College define winning as doing your personal best and living up to the high standard of sportsmanship established by your coach. It is important that, as teachers and coaches, we instill in every student these values and the correct sport etiquette.

THE QUEENSBURY RULES:

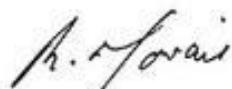
In conclusion, as we approach the new season in 2019, it is apt that we take note of the Queensbury Rules which were the first attempt of instilling sportsmanship and fair play in a sporting code. In 1867, the Duke of Queensbury established a set of rules for professional boxing. A Code of Conduct, if you like, wherein the respectability of boxing as a sport was entrenched. This moral code was accepted internationally. Amongst other things, it required as boxer to wear gloves. Each round would last for only three minutes and punching below the belt was outlawed.

*Although boxing was considered violent, the rules attracted gentlemen to the sport. With the passage of time, the rules and the morals have survived. In popular culture the term is used to refer to a sense of sportsmanship and fair play. Let's strive to live by the ideals of the **Queensbury Rules**.*

Every time we compete we always go out to win, even though that is not always possible. More importantly, the question we ask ourselves is - did we perform to our full potential? **Our philosophy is the education of children as a priority and not only to produce Springboks.**

"In Futurum Fortiter"

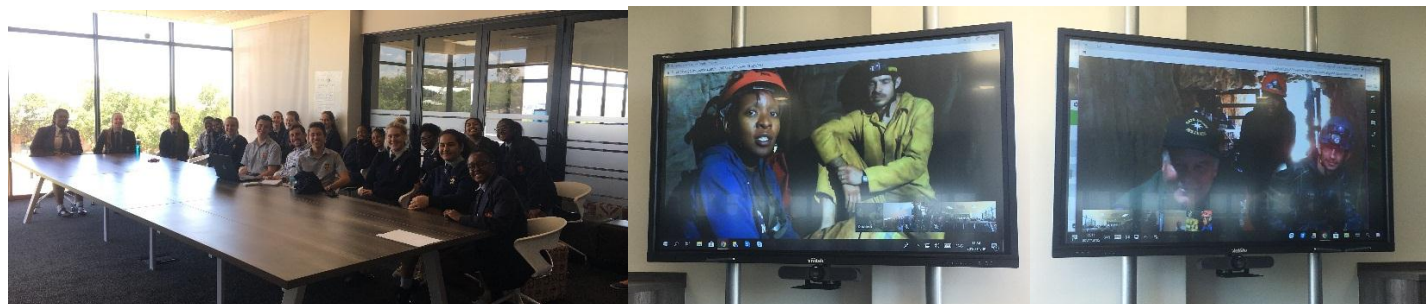
Regards,



Mr Rui Morais
Headmaster

Academic news

Grade 10 Life Science



Our Grade 10 Life Sciences students had the opportunity to video chat with Prof. Lee Berger and his team of scientists. In 2013, this team discovered more than a thousand fossil elements belonging to *Homo naledi*, a previously unknown early human relative in the Rising Star cave system in South Africa. The students were able to see how the scientists are conducting the excavation within the Dinaledi Chamber and have some of their questions answered.

Ms Nicole Candy
Science Teacher

Mother and Daughter Breakfast

On Saturday, 27 October 2018, the Matric Dance Committee hosted a mythical-themed breakfast. The invite was open to any of the school's girls and their mothers, aunts and grandmothers. The breakfast took place in the MADD centre foyer, which was transformed into a mythical land with unicorns, flowers, balloons and splashes of colour which adorned the tables.

Happy smiles of daughters and mothers who were dressed in unicorn horns, flower crowns and butterfly wings surrounded the tables.



The morning began with a welcome by the organisers Mrs Robertson and Ms Malan. What followed were fun ice-breaker games such as two truths and a lie, and after several laughs were shared, it was finally time to eat the delicious food that had been had prepared for us.

Sweet and savoury items were snatched off the table and soon more games ensued. Each mother and daughter took a quiz to find out who knows each other the best, and in conclusion, I think we could agree that most of us were surprised at some of the answers!

The guest speaker, Mrs Pam Meiring, reminded us of the value we as women have in society and that we were all created especially and for a specific purpose. The morning was a great way to appreciate the female figures in our lives and it was, as promised, magical.

I highly recommend attending this function to mothers, daughters, grandmothers and aunts whether it is with other friends or not. It is a place where problems and stresses are forgotten and a lot of fun and appreciation is spread. A great thank you to everyone involved in the set-up and managing of the event as well as to Mrs Robertson and Ms Malan!

Sabrina Jansen

Grade 10