



**ST PETER'S
COLLEGE**

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE NEWSLETTER

RELATIONSHIPS • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • RESILIENCE

Term 1 2024

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Headmaster's Address



Dear St Peter's College Staff, Parents and Students,

As we approach the end of our first term at St Peter's College, I find it fitting to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments we have achieved, to update you on important changes and to express my anticipation for an even more successful Term 2.

It is truly an exhilarating time to be part of St Peter's College. Our leadership team thrives on change, diversity, and progress and I am privileged to work alongside some of the best educators I have ever encountered. The dedication, passion and determination demonstrated by our staff, underpinned by their skill, knowledge, and empathy, have propelled teaching and learning forward despite the ever-evolving social, learning and emotional needs we face.

Our students and staff have shown remarkable commitment to maintaining momentum throughout 2024, infusing our school with positive energy. I am particularly delighted with how our Grade 8 students have settled into college life and I extend my gratitude to the families who have joined us on this journey. Moreover, our Grade 9-12 students have also transitioned seamlessly into the term, demonstrating focus and diligence in their studies.

Term One has witnessed an exceptional level of engagement, creativity, and resilience from our students, as evidenced by their participation in a multitude of co-curricular activities. Our campus design reflects our commitment to holistic learning, providing a sustainable urban environment conducive to intellectual, physical, social, spiritual and emotional development. The feedback from our wider community has been overwhelmingly positive, with prospective parents and students commending our outstanding facilities and educational offerings during the Open Day. Furthermore, I am pleased to announce the ongoing enhancements to our facilities, including the construction of a new netball and tennis serving area and stands, as well as the imminent completion of Phase 1 of our water project, aimed at mitigating water shortages.

I must commend our teachers for their unwavering professionalism and resilience in ensuring the seamless operation of St Peter's College despite various challenges. Additionally, while bidding farewell to some cherished members of our staff this term, we eagerly welcome new teachers who will contribute to our community's growth in Term Two. I am pleased to share some positive staff changes as we prepare for the start of Term Two. While it is always bittersweet to bid farewell to valued colleagues, it is also an opportunity to welcome new faces and fresh perspectives into our community.

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Fr. Tshepo Kekana and Mrs Laila Jeebodh-Desai for their dedicated service to St Peter's College. Fr. Tshepo Kekana, who has been an integral part of our Business Studies department, will be moving closer to home to join St. Martins. Mrs Laila Jeebodh-Desai will be embarking on a new journey as a Psychology lecturer at the University of Johannesburg. We wish them both the very best in their future endeavours.

In their place, we warmly welcome Remoratile Mamogobo to the Business Studies Department, Malesela (Carol) Lepadima to our Life Orientation team and Clarence Mthombeni to the Maths Department who will be joining us in June. Additionally, I am pleased to announce that Justine Daly will continue in the Maths locum position until the end of May.

These new additions bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to our school community. I am confident that they will make valuable contributions to the education and well-being of our students and I look forward to the new perspectives they will bring.

As we embrace these changes, let us continue to foster a supportive and collaborative environment where every member of our community can thrive. Together, we will continue to uphold the values and standards of excellence that define St Peter's College. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new staff members and wishing them success in their roles.

As we approach the holiday period, I urge us all to acknowledge the hardships and losses endured by many in our community, continuous load shedding, water shortages and fuel price hikes. Despite these challenges, our collective resilience has been a beacon of hope and perseverance.

Looking ahead, I am heartened by the continued interest in St Peter's College, evidenced by record numbers of applications and acceptances. Our inclusive, forward-thinking educational approach continues to resonate with families seeking a nurturing yet ambitious environment for their children.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support, cooperation, and commitment to our students' education. The partnership between students, parents, and the school is invaluable, and I am confident that together, we will continue to navigate the challenges ahead, steering St Peter's College bravely into the future. Wishing you all a restful break and I eagerly anticipate welcoming you back at the start of May.

Regards,

Rui Morais

Headmaster

Sports News

Tennis News

Tennis at St Peter's College continues to soar to new heights, showcasing exceptional talent and dedication both on and off the court. The past year has been particularly remarkable, marked by numerous achievements and memorable moments.

To recap, in 2023, our tennis teams embarked on a successful tour to Sun City, where they demonstrated their skill and determination against formidable opponents. This experience not only strengthened team camaraderie but also provided invaluable exposure to high-level competition. The Beaulieu Tennis Tournament proved to be another highlight, with our players delivering commanding performances and clinching impressive results. Their hard work and commitment paid off as they showcased their prowess and secured victories on the court. At the annual St Peter's Sports and Cultural Festival, both our boys and girls teams emerged victorious, showcasing their dominance and reinforcing our school's reputation as a powerhouse in tennis.

The recruitment of talented Grade 8 players in 2024 has further bolstered our teams, promising an exciting future for St Peter's College tennis. While our performance at the senior boys tennis Inter-High saw us finish 16th out of 22 schools, our girls A team left an indelible mark at the tennis Inter-High, securing a commendable 6th place overall. Additionally, our girls B-team showcased resilience and skill, finishing 3rd in their pool at the B Inter-High.

Throughout the season, our players have achieved remarkable results, demonstrating their dedication and passion for the sport. These accomplishments are a testament to their hard work, discipline, and unwavering commitment to excellence. As we look forward to the upcoming season, there is an air of excitement and anticipation. With a talented roster of players and a determination to succeed, we are confident that our tennis teams will continue to thrive and achieve greatness on the court.

The future of tennis at St Peter's College is bright and we eagerly anticipate the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead.



Cricket News

The cricket section at St Peter's College continues to soar with remarkable achievements and promising talent. Lucius Uys has notably secured provincial representation, showcasing his prowess in the CGL Gauteng U16B side.

The influx of skilled and competent cricketers in 2024 has bolstered our cricket section, further fuelling the steady growth of our cricketing prowess. Embracing an exciting brand of cricket across all levels, our players exemplify a thrilling and dynamic approach to the game.

Our junior teams have made significant strides, with our U15s reaching the semi-finals in the prestigious Johnny Waite B Section tournament. Additionally, our 1st team exhibited exceptional performance, clinching the runner-up spot in the same tournament. Moreover, they showcased their mettle by securing third place in the highly competitive 8th Edition of the Old Petrians' T20 Tournament.

As we eagerly anticipate the next season, the entire St Peter's College cricket community is buzzing with anticipation for the exciting prospects that lie ahead. With a solid foundation and a wealth of talent, we are poised for continued success and are thrilled for what the future holds.



Basketball News

Our Term 1 season kicked off with a 5-day basketball clinic where our coaches teamed up with Egoli Magic Basketball Club. The 2024 basketball post-season for boys and girls across the Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, and 1st teams was marked by exhilarating match-ups as well as remarkable displays of skill and improvement from those who are new to the sport. Our annual Inter-house also unveiled some tough competition amongst teammates. We saw a massive growth in numbers, specifically our junior girls.

St Peter's College basketball competed in the following Competitions between 2023- 3rd Term and 2024 – 1st Term:

Girls

- St Stithians Girls Under 16 Basketball Tournament 2024
- St Peter's Sports and Culture Festival – Senior Girls 2023
- St Mary's Waverly Basketball challenge 2023
- St Peter's Seniors Old Petrians' Basketball Tournament 2024

Boys

- St John's Under 15 & 1st Team Basketball Tournament 2024
- Northwood KZN Basketball Tournament Under 15 - 2023
- St David's Inanda Hoops Boy's Under 15 & Under 18 2023
- St Stithian's Boys Under 16 Basketball Tournament 2024

Boys

Boys Under 14: Boys Under 14 consisted of categories A Team, B Team and C Teams. These teams displayed remarkable talent and determination throughout the post-season. We witnessed an intense battle against St Benedicts, Pretoria Boys High and Parktown Boys High where we came out victorious and only lost against St John's. Notable performances included Athe and Ndalo in the A team who played major roles in helping the team get important wins.

Boys Under 15: In the boys Under 16 category, fans were treated to electrifying matchups and impressive displays of skill and talent. The boys experienced their first tournament (St John's Basketball tournament) for the year. The team was excited, had fun and learned a lot from the tournament with some friendly matches.

Boys Under 16: The Under 16 boys team embarked on a challenging and exciting journey in term 3 and term 1, competing in the prestigious St Stithian's, Northwood and St David's Inanda basketball tournaments. Despite facing formidable opponents, the boys were competitive as they demonstrated resilience and sportsmanship. This team has shown what it takes to earn the basketball team of the year award.

Boys 1st Team: The boys 1st Team had a very challenging season, resulting in intense battles and memorable moments. The boys played some home games against some of the toughest and top seeded teams (St Benedict's and Parktown Boys High) winning one and losing a close game. We saw some juniors coming into the first team and showing they are ready to play for the badge.



Girls

Girls Under 14: Our Under 14 girls5 division had a massive turnout. The girls showcased a high level of competition and willingness to learn during the basketball clinics. The girls in this age group shown how the future of our girls teams will look like in coming seasons. Standout performances came from across all teams (Under 14 A, Under 14 B, Under 14 C and Under 14 D teams) These amazing girls managed to win all their matches against St Mary's DSG, Sacred Heart, Holy Rosary, Sacred Heart, St Dustan's and Saheti school.

Girls Under 15: These girls are a marvel to watch. They have been dominating from term 3 in 2023 and still showing their dominance in term 1 2024 winning 8 games out of 9. Some notable performances from Neo and Phenyio who were also called up into the 1st team. This team also showed a good team spirit and winning mentality.

Girls Under 16: Our Under 16 girls have come a long way and have showed a lot of improvement. The girls had a memorable season as they competed in the St Stithians' basketball tournament where they played their hearts out. Their season was also filled with some tough competition winning against their rival's Sacred heart. Overall, this group worked very hard and it is reflected on the court.

1st Team Girls: Our 1st team's performance this term had a better season, winning 5 out of 6 games. Also, they pulled a better performance during the SPC Old Petrians' basketball tournament. With some changes to our structure and how we want to play, our girls adapted smoothly to the changes, showing hunger to compete and win. With some juniors coming into the setup, the 1st team, the building phase looks promising.

To conclude, the 2024 basketball post-season for boys and girls across the Under 14, Under 16, and 1st Team categories were a testament to the talent, dedication, and passion for the sport. Congratulations to all the teams, players, coaches and supporters for making this season a resounding success. We eagerly anticipate the upcoming season and the continued growth and development of basketball at all levels.



Football News

Preseason Soccer at St Peter's College: Building Foundations for Success

As the new academic year dawns upon us, so does the anticipation and excitement for another thrilling season of Football at St Peter's College. Amidst the flurry of activity that heralds the beginning of a new term, one aspect stands out prominently – the preseason football program. At St Peter's, this program serves as a vital cornerstone in the preparation of our football teams, laying the groundwork for success both on and off the pitch.

The Importance of Preseason Preparation

Preseason football is more than just a series of training sessions; it is a holistic approach aimed at honing skills, building team cohesion and fostering a winning mentality. It provides players with the opportunity to regain their fitness levels after the break, fine-tune their techniques and adapt to any tactical changes implemented by the coaching staff.

Moreover, preseason football allows coaches to assess the strengths and areas for improvement of individual players, thus enabling them to tailor their training regimes accordingly. This personalized approach not only enhances player development but also fosters a sense of accountability and responsibility within the team. The addition of Monday morning training sessions added a much needed extra day for practice.

The Significance of Friendly Fixtures

Central to St Peter's preseason program are the friendly fixtures – invaluable opportunities for our teams to test their mettle against different opponents in a competitive yet non-threatening environment. These fixtures serve as a litmus test for the progress made during preseason training, allowing players to apply their skills and tactics in real-game scenarios.

Furthermore, friendly fixtures facilitate the development of crucial attributes such as resilience, adaptability and sportsmanship. Whether securing a victory or grappling with defeat, each match provides invaluable lessons that contribute to the overall growth and maturation of the players.

Continued Focus in Term Two

Looking ahead, the preseason momentum will carry into Term Two as our football teams continue to participate in friendly fixtures. These encounters will not only serve as a means of fine-tuning strategies but also as opportunities for players to showcase their progress and solidify their positions within the team.

Remarkable Achievements of the Girls and Boys Teams

This preseason has seen remarkable strides made by both the girls and boys football teams at St Peter's College. Their recent participation in the St Stithians Easter Festival stands as a testament to their dedication and determination.

The girls team exhibited commendable prowess on the pitch, securing victories in four out of their six matches. Their performance at the festival reflects the fruits of their hard work and the exceptional guidance provided by the coaching staff.

Similarly, the boys team showcased their talent and tenacity, emerging victorious in four out of their five matches at the St Stithians Easter Festival. Their resolute performances underscore their commitment to excellence and the continuous improvement of their game.

As we embark on another exciting season of football at St Peter's College, the preseason program serves as a beacon of hope and aspiration for our teams. Through rigorous training, friendly fixtures, and unwavering determination, our players are poised to scale new heights and leave an indelible mark on the football landscape. With each match, each victory, and each setback, they inch closer to their collective goal – the pursuit of sporting excellence and the realization of their fullest potential.



Hockey News

The hockey season has had an extensive start to the season. The trials and registration process has allowed us to field 9 teams at our 1st Derby Day.

Our preseason saw some of our teams participate at various festivals and tournaments. Both first team boys and girls attended the inaugural Steyn City First Team Hockey Tournament. Over Easter weekend, both teams also attended the St Dunstan's Easter Festival, where the boys went unbeaten through their 5 games and the girls placed 5th out of 10 schools. A fantastic experience for both sides as they get to play teams from all over South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The U14 and U16 girls played in the Roedean and St Andrew's Festivals respectively. The U14 girls had an amazing weekend and in our first time at the tournament, we placed 6th out of 20 schools.

A very promising preseason has us all excited for the year of hockey to come!

Golf News

Our golf teams had a successful end to their season. The first team managed to place at most fixtures, even winning the one. The second team has put in some impressive scores and performances, showing that they can make the first team one day soon.



Charlotte Dry and Jaime Meth made serious waves in their personal pursuits of excellence. Charlotte has been selected as part of the Golf RSA Development Squad and she managed to win the North West Women's Open B Section. Jaime has continued to compete in many national and provincial amateur competitions and in that finished T17th in the South Africa Women's Amateur and T10th in the North West Women's Open.

Academics

IsiZulu Oral Competition

A number of our isiZulu students entered the isiZulu Oral Competition held at St Stithians College. We commend all of our participants for competing in the event and congratulate three of our students on their remarkable achievements at the competition:

Thembelihle Khumalo – Third Place in Grade 11 Poetry

Tshinakaho Ramikosi – Second Place in Grade 11 Poetry

Sandile Nzimande – Second Place in Grade 11 Poetry

Thank you to Ms Jiji and Ms Msomi for organising and assisting our students in their preparation for the event.

History – Grade 9 Outing

The Grade 9 History students had the privilege of visiting the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre at the start of April. The visit built on the knowledge of their studies of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust as well as the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. Through interactive exhibitions, engaging discussions, survivor recounts and working with sources, our students learnt about the evils of genocide; the roles of activists, bystanders and perpetrators; the lives of children during the genocides and heard from a genocide survivor. The visit also helped foster a sense of humanity and empathy among our students whilst examining the fragility of life and truly seeing people beyond the naked eye.





Mathematics

The Maths Olympiad is an eagerly anticipated annual competition hosted by the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) nationwide. Consisting of three challenging rounds, the Olympiad attracts participants from across the country, ranging from juniors to seniors. This year marked a significant milestone with a record entry number of 362 students vying to test their mathematical prowess. In order to progress to Round 2, participants must achieve a score of 50% or higher in the initial round. The anticipation peaked as 98 students successfully qualified for Round 2, marking an impressive increase of 32 participants compared to the previous year. Round 2 is scheduled to take place on May 9th, 2024, setting the stage for an exhilarating and intellectually stimulating competition. For the coveted Round 3, held in Term 3, only the top 100 participants in each category will be selected to compete, representing the pinnacle of mathematical excellence in the country.

In addition to the exhilarating atmosphere surrounding the Maths Olympiad, this year's event took on an extra layer of excitement with the incorporation of "pi-day" celebrations on March 14th. Recognized globally as a day to honour the mathematical constant π , whose first three significant digits are 3.14, this date also holds special significance as the birthdate of the renowned physicist Albert Einstein. To commemorate this occasion, teachers came together in a spirit of unity, donning matching T-shirts to showcase their involvement in the celebration. The vibrant display of camaraderie and enthusiasm further enhanced the sense of community and shared passion for mathematics that defines the Maths Olympiad experience.

Engineering Graphics and Design

Engineering Graphics and Design (EGD) is a fundamental subject that plays a crucial role in various fields of engineering and design. It involves the creation and communication of technical drawings and visual representations of objects, components, and systems using specialized software tools and manual techniques. EGD serves as a universal language that facilitates the effective communication of ideas, designs, and specifications among engineers, designers, manufacturers, and other stakeholders involved in the development and realization of products and structures.

The subject at St Peter's College has gained popularity over the years and continues to show its strength in 2024. The integrated approach encompassing Computer-Aided Drawings has played a significant role in the subject's growth. Students are exposed to Computer-Aided Drawings (CAD) from Grade 10 with all of our grades writing a formalized CAD examination in November.

The subject is based on two pillars namely; Mechanical Drawings and Civil Drawings. These two pillars offer students exposure to Mechanical Design and Civil Design. Many of our students who take Engineering Graphics and Design chose either Engineering or Architecture as their preferred field of study.

The Practical Assessment Task (PAT) is a year long project where students are given a design project based on a scenario. This project allows students the opportunity to showcase their design skills. The PAT is an integral part of the subject as it allows the teacher to expand the student's drawing skills outside the curriculum.

The core benefits of the subject are outlined below:

1. Visualisation and Conceptualization
2. Communication and Collaboration
3. Problem-Solving Skills
4. Prototyping and Manufacturing
5. Compliance and Regulations

Rest assured, this fascinating subject aims to strengthen students' arsenal this year and all the years to come.

Whilst this is simply a snapshot into what this term had to offer, please keep an eye out on our social media pages for EGD content as well as other academic content. We regularly cover competitions, tours and exciting events in and out of the classroom – almost on a daily basis! Moreover, our cultural content is plentiful on these platforms. Immerse yourself in our world on Facebook or Instagram!