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## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

### FROM THE RECTOR

#### RECENT ALUMNI: WHAT DO THEY THINK?

St Peter's Prep is no different from any other company or organisation in that it seeks to preserve and enhance its reputation and wishes to provide the best service possible.

The schools' mission statement opens with a commitment to *prepare children for senior school and the world*. We aim to make the transition from our school as easy as possible for our pupils. As such, we place a great deal of emphasis on self-discipline, a strong work ethic, mutual respect and respect for staff and elders, independent thinking and the exercise of good judgement. The school is structured to facilitate this process with housemasters, housemistresses (shortly to come), and vertical pupil pastoral structures: older children taking care of younger children within the house system from Grade 3 – 7.

Each year we approach our feeder high schools for constructive criticism as to how we can improve.

Of course, there is nothing like hearing it from the horse's mouth. Old Boys and Old Girls frequently visit the school (unusual for a prep school) and are quick to tell us what they value and what we need to improve. They compare their transition with those of children from other primary schools. Herewith a range of comments from pupils now at schools including St Peter's College, St Anne's, Wykeham Collegiate, Pretoria Girls and Boys, Hilton, Michaelhouse, St Andrew's, Brescia, St Mary's Kingsmead, St David's and St John's:

- *Hate the petty rules, but haven't been in trouble yet as we were taught how to behave.*
- *The workload is much heavier, but was easy to understand. We had covered a lot of it already.*
- *My marks went up 20% during my first year.*
- *I miss Chapel so much. (from many past pupils)*
- *Men teachers are different from ladies, but we were used to that.*
- *The St Peter's boys were ahead in Zulu even though so many others came from Natal.*
- *You need to teach more Design and Technology.*

And finally, from a St Peter's parent, the coach's response when the parent remarked that he had a few St Peter's boys in his team: *'I wish they were all from St Peter's.'*

This feedback encourages us to work even harder at this critical aspect.

#### Questions for the Rector:

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at [groyce@stpeters.co.za](mailto:groyce@stpeters.co.za) or [dradloff@stpeters.co.za](mailto:dradloff@stpeters.co.za)

Greg Royce (*Rector*)

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

At one of our recent Senior Prep Class Rep's meetings a concern was raised that the school is doing too much 'experimentation' with the girls and that this has a potential negative impact on the girls' educational process. What a wonderful opportunity this question presented to share some modern educational strategies and thinking, in line with a newsletter I wrote recently about the world of tomorrow and the need for us to adapt our educational philosophy accordingly.

Firstly, let me start by assuring parents that the teaching of core skills (reading, writing and "rithmetic") required to not only cope, but excel in High School are, and always will be, of the highest standard – as per feedback from Greg's article above. This standard is also checked by various Independent Schools benchmark tests as well as numerous international benchmark tests at different grades. The results of these tests all show that our core teaching is exceptional.

A large proportion of the educational process is behaviour that is modelled by both parents and teachers. If it's agreed that we need to teach our girls to challenge the status quo and always try to do things better than they were done before, then surely we need to be modelling this mindset at school?

A number of examples of this come to mind.

We trialed a new reporting system this year, with the objective to transfer the emphasis of the learning process onto the girls. The student-led conferences empowered the girls to reflect on what they have achieved and what plans they have put in place to address their weaknesses. Feedback from parents and teachers will enable us to review the process to ensure we can improve next year.

We trialed a new Exploration and Learning period. This involved a group of teachers collaborating in order to develop an inquiry based learning programme or mini FLP (Flexible Learning Programme) for the girls over an extended period in the timetable. Once again, we will use feedback from the girls and the teachers to improve on this initiative next year.

I could go on but I'm hoping the point is clearly made. We will always model a mindset of continuous growth and improvement without ever sacrificing the critical core skills and knowledge needed in High School and beyond.

Have a good weekend!

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb  
(Headmaster)

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## SAVE THE DATE: DAD'S HOT DOG DAY

A reminder to diarise Friday, 27 October as it is the date of our last Dad's Hot Dog Day for 2017!

Jen, Marcia & Mark  
(Hot Dog Day Co-ordinators)

## SPORTS DEPARTMENT

A final reminder of Inter-house Sports Day, which will be held on Saturday, 14 October. All girls are to be seated in their houses by 07:30 so that we can start at 08:00. Girls are to wear their HOUSE t-shirts, skorts and white socks and takkies (they may run barefoot). They may wear their school tracksuit if it is cool, but must also please remember sunblock, a hat and a water bottle. The Grade 7 parents will have coffee and some food on sale – please support their fundraising efforts.

Further to this, we will hold the Field Events on Thursday, 12 October from 13:30-14:30. Girls selected to represent their house in High Jump (Grade 6/7) and Long Jump (Grade 3-7) have been notified.

We have placed an emphasis on the correct warming up techniques this athletics season. We have taught the girls a series of dynamic warm up exercises and we have educated them on the importance of warming up and cooling down, and the role this plays in not only performance, but injury prevention too. We have also enlisted the services of a biokineticist who is testing all our Grade 4 girls – these tests bring to light any weaknesses the girls may have. The biokineticist will then advise parents on how to improve these issues in the hope that injuries in later life can be avoided.

Once the athletics season has come to an end, we will commence with swimming. As per the calendar, we will be holding internal miles and biathles for the girls. These events are great fun and they are an opportunity for everyone to get involved, as this is a house competition. For the mile swims, girls can opt to either swim a half mile (32 lengths) or a full mile (64 lengths). The biathle involves two swimming legs and some running. We encourage all the girls to participate.

Please remember to consult the Sporting Week Ahead that is available on School Communicator – please note that the athletics on Friday is at St Stithians, not Brescia. The Grade 3 tennis festival has moved from 26 October to 2 November.

Liz Ashmore  
(Director of Sport)  
[LAshmore@stpeters.co.za](mailto:LAshmore@stpeters.co.za)

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## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

### JENNY VAN WYK

Jenny joined St Peter's Schools Accounts Department in 2010 with her area of focus being debtor's management. Prior to joining St Peter's, Jenny performed a similar role at Grayston Preparatory School.

Jenny's secret talent is playing the organ and she has a delightful sense of humour.

She is blessed with two beautiful daughters and four grandchildren.

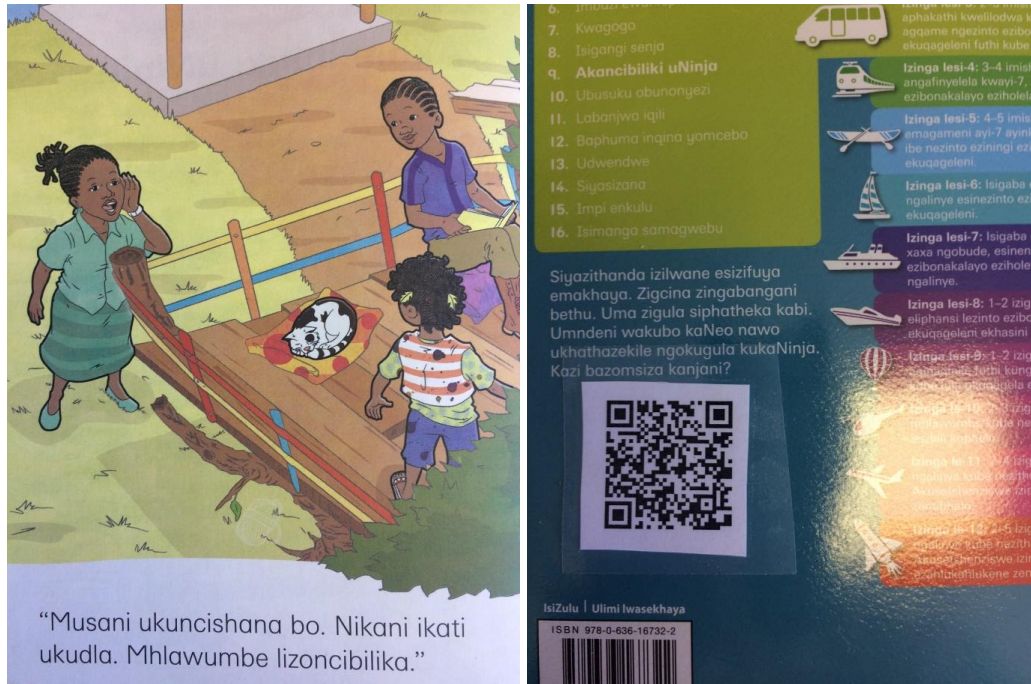
Jenny celebrated her birthday this week – we hope it was a happy one, Jenny!



## QR CODES BEING USED IN READING ISIZULU BOOKS

In an attempt to assist girls with isiZulu pronunciation, Mrs Kizito has recorded the Vuma series of isiZulu readers. The Grade 7 girls converted these recordings to QR codes, which they have attached to the back of the relevant book. The QR code can be scanned and listened to at the same time as reading the book. We hope this helps with reading and pronunciation! QR Code readers e.g. I-nigma, can easily be downloaded onto your device.

Try it! Scan the code on the back of the book in the photo - and hear the story, read in isiZulu!



## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP 'OLD GIRLS' NEWS



St Peter's Girls Prep School wish our 'Old Girls' all the very best in their Matric exams!

**ST PETER'S COLLEGE NEWS**

Congratulations to the following Old Girls and Boys who have been elected prefects for 2018.

**Girls:**

Shannon Louis

**Yogita Mohabir- Deputy Head Girl**

**Boys:**

Christopher Mukheibir

Daniel Duke

**Didintle Mokae - Deputy Head Boy**

**Matthew Garrett - Head Boy**

Sebastian Long

**HEAD PREFECTS**

(L-R) Yogita Mohabir: Deputy Head Girl (St Peter's Girls Prep Old Girl), Matthew Garrett: Head Boy (St Peter's Boys Prep Old Boy), Vuyo Tshwele: Head Girl, Didintle Mokae: Deputy Head Boy (St Peter's Boys Prep Old Boy)



## DIVERSITY - DIWALI

Hindus throughout the world will celebrate the fifth and final day of Diwali next Thursday, 19 October.

Diwali is called the 'festival of lights'. It is a period spent with friends and family, mending relations, reuniting, forgiving one for one's wrongdoings and renewing friendships.

It is also a time for deep reflection on the past successes and failures and to look forward to the new year with energy and inspiration.

During Diwali, Hindus exchange sweetmeats, fruit and sweets and wish each other well. The morning is spent in thanksgiving prayers and the evening is filled with fun, laughter, lighting of lamps and fireworks.

The lamps and fireworks signify the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and the invitation of light and joy into our lives.

St Peter's Prep Schools wishes all Hindu friends, pupils and families Happy Diwali.

Vijay Maharaj  
(Director: Diversity)



## FORTHCOMING WEEK

Tuesday	17/10/2017	07:30:00	08:30:00	Grade 3 and 4 Class Moms Meeting		Girls Boardroom
Tuesday	17/10/2017	13:30:00	15:00:00	Art Exhibition		Girls Prep Foyer
Tuesday	17/10/2017	18:00:00	18:00:00	Choir Tour Returns		Chapel Parking
Wednesday	18/10/2017	07:30:00	08:30:00	Eucharist	Blazer Day	Chapel
Wednesday	18/10/2017	11:00:00		MID-TERM BREAK COMMENCES		
Thursday	19/10/2017			RECTOR'S HOLIDAY		
Friday	20/10/2017			MID-TERM		
Saturday	21/10/2017			MID-TERM		
Sunday	22/10/2017			MID-TERM		
Monday	23/10/2017			MID-TERM		
Tuesday	24/10/2017	07:30:00	07:30:00	TERM RECOMMENCES		

Online ticket  
sales open in  
November  
(details to follow)



ST PETER'S  
FOUNDATION

# Sunset Carols 2017

Featuring: The St Peter's Choirs  
& Monde Msutwana

Saturday, 2 December at 18:00

Christmas Market gates open at 15:00  
St Peter's Prep Schools: 105 Witkoppen Road

Entrance: R120 per adult & R60 per child  
Tickets for sale in carparks

Bring family & friends / Blankets & picnic  
Food will be on sale

Enquiries: [carols@stpeters.co.za](mailto:carols@stpeters.co.za)

All proceeds go towards the *Isematholeni* Intern Programme