



Edition: 26

12 September 2019

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

When I was at school (the Dead Sea was only critical at that stage), it was customary for teachers to assign an essay entitled "My Holiday" at the start of term. So here is mine.

We spent the first week at a well-known timeshare resort on the North Coast of Kwa-Zulu.

During this time, which we spent with children and grandchildren, the following occurred at home:

- The Great Dane ingested the fibre stuffing from its bed and had to have an emergency bowel operation from which, the Vet warned us, it was unlikely to recover.
- I contracted a severe tummy bug, the anti-biotic for which prevented any exercise.
- Pam was summoned to the CCMA.
- A geyser burst in the house.

We returned to campus for the final 3 weeks. Bliss. The Great Dane recovered. 4 of the school chickens hatched clutches totaling over 30 chicks. Rob Macaulay became a grandpa.

All was heavenly until the last week. The events in the country left us feeling resentful, disheartened, depressed, angry and fearful for our own and our children's futures. There is such an obvious lack of accountability, morality and leadership in so many spaces.

When news is overwhelmingly bad as is this, it's very easy to lose sight of the good. Moreover, when we hear it, we tend to minimise it.

The fact is, that in the "Republic of No Consequences" there has been a great deal of good progress. Those of you who read the address of the State President to the World Economic Forum while the nation listened to his pre-recorded briefing on measures to protect women and children, will have noted his determination to eradicate corruption and to have the perpetrators serve jail time. In ridding our institutions of those whose motives are self-enrichment and indifference to the poor, much good has been quietly achieved at SARS by the dogged Edward Kieswetter, by the Finance Minister, Pravin Gordhan, Shamila Batohi (experience in the International Court) at the National Prosecuting Authority and the highly competent and determined Advocate Andy Mothibi at the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). Those of you who receive newsletters from the Nedbank Private Wealth Investment Research will have read JP Landman's wonderfully comprehensive overview of the many steps that have been taken to clean up government institutions. (Please try to access this article before you pack for Perth or Paternoster).

So, while counting school chickens (after they had hatched), I pondered what lessons the school could learn from the horrific events of the past week.

We need to teach our pupils that we are all God's children, equally precious in his/her eyes; equally valued, regardless of race, ability, origin, gender, age (I put that in for me) or any other defining factor. When we demean (or worse) any other human being, we are demeaning ourselves.

The notion that women should obey their husbands and partners emanates from an era when survival depended on physical strength. We have to disabuse our children of the notion that women are subject to the whims of men. The "Thinking Skills" programme at St Peter's assumes an even more important status when related to last week. South Africa needs decision-makers who think broadly about each problem: the positive, the negative, interesting, the long-term as well as short-term consequences, **all** people affected by the decision, the emotive and objective aspects. Too many decisions are made by people on the basis of what they think they know and not what they actually know. Children need to learn the art of broad, comprehensive and deliberate consideration of problems.

The chasm of inequality has to be addressed deliberately and effectively. As such, St Peter's will make every effort to expand our Teacher Intern Programme. Great teachers are the most effective way to tackle these challenges. We currently host 24 intern teachers and will do everything we can to double this number.

I spent the last weekend of the holiday between Bombela (Nelspruit) and White River. A prominent Lowveld school had asked me to facilitate the Leadership Development Programme which we have developed at St Peter's. The hostelry where I was billeted is frequented by travelling tradesman, professionals and service providers. Each evening, I took the opportunity to speak to Telkom and Transnet employees, former prison warders and waiters.

The experience was a stark reminder of how many decent, intelligent people exist in our country. Nobody had pulled the wool over their eyes. They were scathing about the corruption and horrified at the misguided violence. They reinforced my faith in the country's people.

On Monday, the staff returned to school. We gathered to share a moving Eucharist service.

Thereafter, the entire staff met: teachers, caterers, cleaners and administrators. We committed to continue offering a world-class education to our children.

Catherine Steenhoff told me to get my hair cut. Thankfully, some things don't change.

Greg Royce
(Rector)

ABSENCE OF POINTSMEN

The absence of pointsmen at the St Peter's Prep entrances is a consequence of the failure of the City of Johannesburg to adjudicate tenders timeously and/or to renew its service agreement with Traffic Freeflow. As a consequence, intersections all over Johannesburg have been affected.

We have been unsuccessful in locating temporary replacement pointsmen.

Issues such as accreditation and insurance complicate replacement of the pointsmen. It's not simply a matter of finding individuals who can do the job.

The community would be grateful for any assistance or contacts parents might be able to furnish.

Any queries or suggestions regarding this matter, please contact Campus Deputy Head: Compliance, Mr Vijay Maharaj vmaharaj@stpeters.co.za

Greg Royce
(Rector)

FROM THE HEADMASTER

WELCOME BACK TO THE ADVENT TERM!

For those of you fortunate enough to have taken leave during the August Holidays, I hope you managed to have some quality time with your family. For the parents who usually make up the lunch boxes and do the early morning drive to school, I hope you enjoyed the time-off! ☺

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Candice and Myles Ellis on the birth of baby Matthew and to Lerato and Kaiser on the birth of their baby daughter, Atelwang Mafatle.



Matthew Roger Ellis



Atelwang Mafatle

We welcome back some staff members who have been away for a while: Ingerid de Bruyn, Alyssa Barberis and Kelsey Mohamed. Also, welcome to Megan Baker who has come in as a locum in Lerato Matfatle's Grade 0 class.

Sincere congratulations to Ralf Schmitt and the **Ndlovu Youth Choir** who have reached the finals in *America's Got Talent*! His wife, Marguerite left last night, to join her husband as he takes the choir into the finals early next week. We want them to know that we wish them all the best! The whole country is behind them.



WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING GIRLS WHO JOINED THE ST PETER'S FAMILY THIS TERM:

Neha Vallabh Grade 1LL, , Tadiwa Muradzikwa Grade 3NH and Rachel Badham Grade 5NM.
We hope you will enjoy a wonderful school career at St Peter's Girls Prep!

I wish you all a wonderful term ahead!

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

FROM THE SPORTS DESK



ATHLETICS – TIC Tumi Makola (kmakola@stpeters.co.za) and Tshego Mashabela (tmashabela@stpeters.co.za)

- This term, we kick off our athletics season with our first athletics meeting being held on Friday, 27 September. Due to a couple of Grades being on tour and the long weekend next week, we will be running athletics during PE and sports lessons until then, to ensure that our girls are ready for the first meeting.
- The team selection for athletics meetings, in the different events, will be as follows:
 - Grade 3**
 - 60m – top 8
 - 100m – top 4
 - Long Jump – top 2
 - Grade 4/5**
 - 80m – top 8
 - 150m – top 4
 - Long Jump – top 2
 - Junior 800m** – top 4 runners (Grade 3, 4 and 5 combined)
 - Grade 6/7**
 - 100m – top 8
 - 200m – top 4
 - Long Jump – top 2
 - High Jump – top 2 (Grade 6 and 7 combined)
 - Senior 800m** – top 4 (Grade 6 and combined)
- Teams are selected on times, heights and distances for the respective events. Please note the girls may challenge to get into the athletics team every Monday morning from 06:30-07:15. Teams will be confirmed a week before the scheduled meeting.
- 800m practice will take place on a Monday morning from 06:45-07:15. This is open to all girls wanting to train for the 800m.
- Thursday morning from 06:30-07:15 there will be hurdles, long jump and high jump training for selected girls participating in the meeting.

Andrew Steyn
(Director of Sport)

'THE SOUND OF CHILDREN' CHOIR FESTIVAL: TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER

The Cadet Choir (Gr 3-4) will be participating in 'The Sound of Children' Choir Festival on Tuesday, 1 October at the Linder Auditorium. On this prestigious occasion the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra, conducted by Richard Cock, will accompany the choir. This event is one of the highlights of our choir year and is enthusiastically anticipated by both participants and audiences.

Seats for the concert can be purchased through Computicket at R100 per adult and R50 per non-participating child.

More details and bus reply slips will be sent out next week. Please join us for this fantastic musical evening.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Ingerid de Bruyn who has joined the Music Department this term. Ingerid will be assisting with administration and all music queries can be sent to her at idebruyn@stpeters.co.za

Marguerite Schmitt
(Director of Music)

GRADE 0 - 4 MATHS MORNING

Let us show you how 'Ahead of the Game, Behind every Child' we are!

Join us for a Maths Open Morning on Tuesday, 17 September.

Grade 0 - 4 parents are warmly invited to join us for a cup of tea/coffee and a welcome, which will be followed by a demonstration of our teaching philosophy of Mathematics.

Time: 07:15

Venue: Girls JP Hall

Demonstration: 07:30 to 08:30 (Come and observe how we teach Maths in small focus groups in your daughter's classroom)

Kim Gordon
(HOD: Mathematics)

TIME CHANGES

Please note: lunch will now be at 13:00, every day of the week.

Teacher Access is now 13:30 - 14:00, Monday – Wednesday.

There is no Teacher Access on Thursdays & Fridays.

Kerryn Schmidt
(Director of EdTech and Organisation & Administration)

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP OPEN DAY – SATURDAY, 5 OCTOBER

Please note that the Girls Prep is holding an Open Day on Saturday, 5 October.

Certain girls will be asked to join us that day – to demonstrate areas of the school that would be best exhibited with pupil participation. We will confirm details nearer the time.

See flyer below. Please help us spread the word by mentioning this to friends and family, who you think may be interested in attending this event. Thank you! Registration email address: girlsopenday@stpeters.co.za

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL
105 Witkoppen Road | Paulshof

OPEN DAY*

We are expanding and have spaces in Grade 0 and 1 for 2020!
(turning 6 or 7 years old)

- > **Saturday, 5 October 2019**
- > **09:00 to 12:00**
- > **Venue St Peter's Girls Junior Prep**
105 Witkoppen Road
(Opposite Porsche)

*** Register for OPEN DAY**
girlsopenday@stpeters.co.za

www.stpeters.co.za

OLD GIRLS NEWS

Last Thursday Romy Myers (St Peter’s Prep Old Girl) took part in the silent marches.

In this march, we were standing up against all the terrible things that are happening in our country at the moment. I marched with my ‘you strike a woman, you strike a rock’ sign. I got this quotation from St Peter’s Girls Prep. For me, I felt that I was representing all my St Peter’s sisters and teachers as I had learnt the meaning of feminism, and that we must fight for it, from all of them.

Romy Myers



Cara Eggett
(Director: Pastoral Care)



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME - SEFIKENG PRIMARY SCHOOL

With the huge success of our Mandela Day initiative on 20 July, several parents expressed their interest in becoming involved at Sefikeng. We would welcome new volunteers and see hope to more parents/relatives joining us in this initiative. The needs of the programme are vast and varied, but most importantly we are looking for committed, enthusiastic, child loving volunteers to join the team!

Why should I get involved?

- Experience the unadulterated joy of assisting a child to move from being almost illiterate to being able to recognise letters and eventually words.
- Meet and be a part of a special group of like-minded parents (grandparents and friends) trying to make a difference, one child at a time!
- There are few more rewarding times than having a group of tiny, bright-eyed little people OVERJOYED to see you, regardless of the time, weather or day!

What I need to know . . .

- ABSOLUTELY no teaching experience or knowledge is needed! If you can identify your letters, handle a pen and whiteboard you are fully equipped. Training will be provided.
- We visit Sefikeng every Wednesday morning 08:30 to 09:30. It takes 15 minutes to get there (traffic dependent) and is 100% safe. 'Car shares' are very easily arranged.
- **We work in the Grade 0 classes on Perceptual and Gross Motor activities and with the Grade 1s on Phonics and reading, as well as some perceptual and mathematics activities. You can see which one 'floats your boat'!**
- You drive your commitment, solely - one session a term, a month or every week.

How do I get involved?

- Contact Leigh Lidgey (llidgey@stpeters.co.za) for more information.



Welcome back to the Advent Term!

HERITAGE HARVEST TABLE – THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

Following on from last year's Heritage Harvest Table, the Social Cohesion committee will be hosting another similar event on **Thursday, 19 September**. You would all have received your invitation so please do not forget to RSVP by Tuesday, 17 September. Entrance is a plate of goodies, to share, that uses a uniquely South African product – think Marmite, Bovril, Biltong, Oma Rusks, Mrs Balls Chutney etc. We look forward to meeting many parents at this event.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8p4zuaQzluZ6eXycYbbriXpTclEtKetNXtfg5pw-YMICjPw/viewform?usp=sf_link





You're invited

HERITAGE HARVEST TABLE

We're coming together to share our unique South African flavours with classics that add warmth and spice to our special moments. We'd love you to join us and bring along your culinary creation that features a proudly South African ingredient.

Thursday 19 September 2019
 18:30 for 19:00
 Dodson Hall
 REGRET NO KIDS
 RSVP via Google form

Dress: South African flavour
 - think Lucky Star, Chappies or Ouma
 Entrance: Your ultimate Saffer plate of goodies
 Drinks will be supplied

St Peter's Prep-Raffle-2019

RAFFLE 2019

**Buy a raffle ticket for R200 to
stand a chance to win**

R30 000

towards your school fees!

The fine print:

- The draw takes place on 27-09-2019 at approx 19:00
- You don't have to attend the draw to win
- A maximum of 600 tickets will be sold
- You can buy multiple tickets
- Ts & Cs apply



FORTHCOMING WEEK

Please check on the Communicator St Peter's for the 2019 Advent Term Calendar.

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE FOR NEWS SUBMISSIONS IS 10:00 ON WEDNESDAYS