



Edition: 28

13 September 2018

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

HEADSHIP FOR ST PETER'S INTERN

Earlier this year, we were delighted to hear that one of our early interns was appointed Head of Bishop Bavin Preparatory School.

We continue to be delighted at the success, which our graduates achieve. For further information, please see the attached annual report on the intern programme from the St Peter's Foundation.

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 or dradloff@stpeters.co.za.

Greg Royce
(Rector)

FROM THE HEAD OF ACADEMICS

WHY HOMEWORK SHOULD BE BALANCED?

At St Peter's we believe that learning should be engaging and meaningful and, in the school environment, we aim to use the methodologies based on the *Visible Learning* research of John Hattie, who ranked, in order of effectiveness, 139 influences and how they relate to learning outcomes and student progress. Research indicates that at the prep school level, homework is not as beneficial as it is at high school.

Feedback from high schools suggests that our students are particularly well prepared and equipped with strategies and thinking approaches, which promote independent learning.

Some of the misconceptions around homework are:

1. *Practice makes perfect*

This is true when an expert coach is involved. The concern being that practice makes permanent and we don't want permanent incorrect neural pathways to be established. Practice is beneficial when practising multiplication tables and activities with known answers or when pupils re-teach or revise what they learnt on a particular day to reinforce the neural pathways.

2. *It is an essential preparation for high school*

A healthy work ethic and self-belief are the two essentials for high school. Hours of homework in prep school does not necessarily promote a healthy work ethic as this achieves the opposite in the form of burn out. Innovation and creativity are also diminished when there is extensive homework merely for the sake of keeping children occupied.

3. *Homework positively improves academic performance*

Ongoing research shows that reading has more impact on academic performance than the completion of endless worksheets. Engaging in dialogues, discussion and debate on a variety of topics also has a significant positive outcome on performance.

4. *Homework provides parents with an awareness of the school curriculum:*

Today's learning is dynamic and flexible and requires collaboration and skills. Parents wanting an awareness of what is being taught at school are encouraged to ask their son or daughter what they learnt at school on a particular day.

5. *Homework is a valuable afterschool activity.* Children increasingly have less 'down time' for their bodies and minds to recuperate after the busy programmes in which they participate. It is evident in recent studies that children need to be taught how to relax as they are losing this important aspect in their busy lives. We advocate read, read, read!

St Peter's approach to homework necessitates:

- a scaffolding of approaches: age appropriate work in the various grades
- core skills including – bonds and Maths tables, phonics and spelling practice
- the expectation of every child to read, or be read to, for at least 20 minutes a day
- no homework to be assigned during the holiday period, but reading is always encouraged
- homework or learning, which is authentic, engaging and meaningful, in the upper grades

At the Girls School, a time is scheduled in which teachers are available to help those in their grade who request assistance. This is called 'Access to Teacher Time'. The girls are encouraged to work diligently and independently during this time and complete homework or learning which has been set for the week.

HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE

On Tuesday, 18 September 2018 from 07:15 to 08:00, we will host a Coffee Morning, to discuss High Schools - regarding what to consider when making this choice.

This meeting will be held in the **Girls School Science Lab**.

If need be, we may set up a similar meeting early one evening.

Have a happy weekend!

Pam van Gass
(Deputy Head: Academics)



MY STORY - MY HERITAGE

Join us, in celebration of Heritage Day, as we embrace unity in diversity as a St Peter's family. Bring along any item that reflects part of your personal story or heritage - a photo, an article of clothing, memorabilia from a particular event in your life - and come and share that aspect of your story. Exploring our collective history sets us on a path towards building a stronger community.

Date: Thursday, 20 September

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

Venue: To be confirmed

(Please note that the Junior Prep Schools will be running a separate event.)

'THE SOUND OF CHILDREN' CHOIR FESTIVAL: THURSDAY, 4 OCTOBER

The Cadet Choir (Grade 3-4) will be participating in 'The Sound of Children' Choir Festival. 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 – enthusiastically anticipated by both participants and audiences.

The following schools will also take part on the evening: Pridwin, Kingsmead, APPS and Roedean School. Seats for the concert can be purchased through Computicket at R100 per adult and R50 per non-participating child. I have attached the link below, but it can also be found by going to the Computicket website and searching for Sound of Children.

https://online.computicket.com/web/event/sound_of_children/1250101782/

A bus will leave St Peter's Prep at 15:45, on Thursday, 4 October, for the Linder Auditorium. Please indicate whether your daughter will be travelling on the bus by following the Google Form link below (one way)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVwVEMLhWCojCGYobG47M_cZaa4LuOBHY_5KgUZE4nQfmn7w/viewform?usp=pp_url

15:45 Bus leaves from the St Peter's Chapel. Girls must be dressed in their No 1s (stockings).

Please provide your daughter with a healthy snack.

17:00 Combined rehearsal at the Linder Auditorium

18.30 Concert begins

Please join us for this fantastic musical evening.

Marguerite Schmitt

(Director: Music)

COFFEE MORNING: WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

Jo Hamilton has been working with children and their families for over twenty years. A qualified primary school teacher and educational psychologist, she is passionate about the social and emotional development of children. Jo has worked in a variety of educational settings, as well as running her own private practice. Her work has included play therapy, individual psychotherapy, skills based group counselling and training, psycho-educational assessments, parental counselling, teacher and school based consultation and training, as well as informative talks to parents and teachers. Jo developed an assertive training programme for children, helping them to interact effectively in their social environments, as well as providing them with valuable insight and practical advice to assist their children. Jo has since written the book: *The Ultimate Assertiveness Toolbox for Kids*.

Join Jo for a coffee morning on Wednesday, 19 September in the Royce Hall at 07:30, where she will be discussing *tweens* and growing up.

Cara Eggett
(Director: Pastoral Care)

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TERM CALENDAR

This is a reminder that the calendar will not be printed this term. Please refer to the D6 communicator for all dates. Please click on the button as shown in the diagram to export the event into your personal calendar. All updates or changes will be loaded onto the D6 Communicator.

The screenshot shows the St Peter's Schools website interface. At the top, there is a logo with two crossed keys and the text "ST PETER'S SCHOOLS". Below the logo, the location "Johannesburg" is displayed with a dropdown arrow. The weather forecast shows: Mon 1° - 16°, Tue 5° - 19°, and Wed 8° - 22°. The main section is titled "CALENDAR" with a dropdown menu set to "All channels". Underneath, it says "Entries for 06 September 2018". A calendar entry is listed: "GIRLS SP: Grade 5 Camp" on "6 September 00:00". To the right of the entry is a small calendar icon. Below the entry is a larger calendar for "September 2018" with the 6th highlighted in red. At the bottom right, there is a note: "Click on the action icon to add the calendar entry to the calendar on your computer."

NEWS FROM THE ST PETER'S KITCHEN

The school's kitchen, once again, attained fantastic results following the Hygiene Audit, which took place in August.

Sincere congratulations to Sharon and her team and in particular to Howard and Tebogo.

How wonderful to know that we are so well cared for.



MORNING BUSES

Further information with regards to the morning buses, that will be operating from Lonehill and Kyalami, will be sent out shortly to those parents who expressed an interest in the service.

Should you require more information or would like to be included on the emails, please contact cduplessis@stpeters.co.za



REMINDER – FRIDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER

CIVVIES DAY

R10 for charity

HOT DOG DAY

R25 for Hot Dog, Crisps and a Cool drink.

INK CARTIDGE COLLECTION

There are permanent collection points on campus or hand in at a reception.

R10



PA NEWS



The St Peter's Prep Golf Day
Friday, 5 October 2018
Kyalami Country Club



BOOKINGS OPEN
16 July

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

- R1000 per player - includes welcome drink on arrival, halfway house, mulligans and casual dinner
- Shotgun start at 12:00
- Prize giving and casual dinner in the bar
- An exciting RAFFLE DRAW – raffle to be announced shortly (no fundraising auction)

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES available!

DON'T MISS OUT!
To book your spot, or for any additional information email
golfday@stpeters.co.za

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Please check Calendar section of Communicator St Peter's for the forthcoming week's activities.

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS IS 11:00 ON WEDNESDAYS.