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ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER

This week: Academic news, Cultural news and Sporting news.

ACADEMIC

We were delighted to announce the names of the girls who were awarded scholarships to various High Schools, this week. Considering fewer High Schools are actually offering scholarships these days, this is a wonderful achievement. These six girls were awarded a total of *seven* scholarships.

Congratulations girls! (L-R in photo):

Clare Keegan, Isabelle Barrow, Romy Myers, Hanna Wannell, Tshepi Moleah and Pelonolo Moerane.



CULTURAL

On Monday morning, I had the privilege of having a 'sneak preview' of our Grade 7 play. Very sadly, I'll be away next week at a Girls' Schools Conference. I need to tell you – it's simply amazing! The play is still a week away, ticket sales are now open - I encourage all Senior Prep Girls and their parents to attend.

I'd also like to congratulate our Chapel Choir who performed at the Singing Sista's Choir Festival, last week and our Cadet Choir who performed at Summit College the week before. Both performances were phenomenal! Well done, to all the girls and teachers involved. I was one very proud Headmaster!

SPORT

Last Friday we hosted a very well attended Sports Meeting. The objective of the meeting was to share some crucial sporting philosophies as well as a number of processes and procedures recently discussed, and agreed, by our Sports Department. It was also an opportunity for the school to gain a better understanding of parents' current concerns regarding sport in the Girls School. The ultimate mandate is for the school to produce a policy document, which will be a combination of the presentation (available for viewing at [Girls School, Physical Education - website page](#) and then open the ***Girls School Sports Powerpoint Presentation***) and the suggested solutions to the common issues raised by parents, shared below:

- Is the current St Peter's Sports Philosophy being carried through to new and peripatetic coaches who might be unfamiliar with the school and the girls?
- Are the necessary skills being taught in Grades 1 and 2, as there seems to be disquiet amongst the Grade 3 girls and parents?
- Are the girls able to rotate positions in netball and hockey?
- Do we spend enough time reaffirming sporting skills in Grade 3, before we choose teams?
- How do we ensure every girl has equal opportunity to be selected?
- Are parents aware of the selection criteria?
- If we want to be competitive – should the best coach be coaching the A team?
- Can teams with additional players, or reserves, use these in rotation to provide more playing opportunities for everyone?
- Should our swimming team have at least one team training session before a gala?
- Should we be training more than once a week, bearing in mind that we only have one pool but many swimmers?
- How do we encourage girls who never make it into a team or onto the bus, to continue to love sport, regardless?
- Should the private clubs and clinics held at St Peter's be more widely advertised?
- Could there be more Saturday Sports Festivals?
- Who should parents contact for the different sports?
- Good sportsmanship (do's and don'ts) needs to be instilled. The school needs to be stronger in encouraging parents and children to stay until the end of all the sports matches.

As may be appreciated, this is an ongoing process and a follow up meeting will be crucial. If there any other points/issues that were discussed at the meeting and which have not been documented above, please could I ask you to send them to Chris Tomsek at ctomsek@stpeters.co.za.

I would like to thank all the parents who attended this meeting and for the positive atmosphere in which the discussion took place. There was a clear understanding that both the parents and the school want the same thing: We want our girls to be passionate about playing sport, regardless of the team for which they are playing. We want effective and timely communication regarding fixtures/teams etc. We want open, two-way positive communication between parents and school. We desire a policy, which ensures transparency and consistency at all times. We hope that the first draft of this policy document will be ready before the end of this term.

Have a wonderful weekend! Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

We make a sincere request for our parents not to contact teachers after business hours. Teachers have also been asked not to respond to or answer these calls, after hours. Your support and understanding of this request would be greatly appreciated.

D.Webb

COMMENTS FROM PARENTS FOR OUR WEBSITE

These are some of the wonderful comments received from parents, which will be included in the Headmaster's website article:

NICK VAN DER MERWE (OLD BOY AND CURRENT PARENT)

As a St Peter's Old Boy I reflect on my school days at St Peter's as the happiest of my school life for many reasons. In order to convince my wife (Melissa) that St Peter's would be the best school for our two girls literally took only one visit to the school where she could *see*, *hear* and *feel* it all. I am so pleased that my girls are now experiencing the same nurturing environment filled with opportunities for them to grow and excel in all the critical skills required, not only to cope, but also to succeed in high school and beyond. Thank you, St Peter's and to all those who have and continue to make it what it is today.

NAFFIE ISRANI

As a foreigner living in South Africa, I never truly felt that I had laid down roots during my first six years living here – I could have packed up and left at a moment's notice! Things all started to change when we became a part of the St Peter's family, first with my son at the Boys Prep, then my daughter (and soon to be followed by my third child!). For the first time I had a sense of belonging in Africa and to a community and it's grown stronger every day. I often comment that if my husband asked me to move back home I don't think I could do it . . . I just can't imagine being able to find another School like St Peter's anywhere in the world!

ZODWA PAKADE

We joined St Peter's Girls Prep 6 years ago, and my daughter Yamani has flourished in all areas, be it academically, in sport and in music. She has choices, shared authority, control, and responsibility, aligning with the values we teach at home. The learning at St. Peter's is hands-on and experiential, with the teachers deliberate about creating good learning experiences in the classrooms. Parent participation enables us to become an integral part of the school, contributing outside-life realities into the DNA of St Peter's. What a happy, fulfilling journey this has been.

DALENE PATON

St Peter's has afforded my daughter every opportunity to discover her passion and interests. It is a nurturing environment and one which seeks to grow every child. We feel very privileged to be part of the St Peter's family.

LINDSAY DE VILLIERS

We've entrusted the care and education of our daughter to the Girls School for almost eight years. With a full day on campus, 5-days a week, we've never had a doubt about her wellbeing, which speaks volumes about the culture, philosophy, parent body, fellow girls, teachers, support staff and leadership.

Thank you for these contributions – they are much appreciated!

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

HOCKEY

Sport provides some wonderful opportunities to create new friendships. So often, players, coaches and parents get caught up in a single game and fail to recognise the opportunities that the sporting event has to offer on a grander scale.

Sports events hosted by St Peter's allow the school a wonderful opportunity to showcase our magnificent facilities and the wonderful camaraderie that exists between coaches and players. We further need to make the effort to embrace our visitors in the spirit of fellowship and sportsmanship. We all play an important role in modelling these values to our visitors. Let's make their visit to St Peter's a memorable one.

Sports events allow us to relax and enjoy the great gifts that have been bestowed upon us. What better way for players to showcase their skills than matched against the skill of the opposition? The coach offering tactical nous, while parents offer words of encouragement from the side-line.

We recall with pride the nation-building euphoria which culminated in our hosting of the 1995 Rugby and 2010 Football World Cups.

The late President Nelson Mandela will forever be etched our minds, wearing the No. 6 Jersey of the captain Francois Pienaar whilst lifting the William Webb Ellis trophy. We were a nation truly united! The joy and elation was palpable! St Peter's hosts sporting events nearly every week and this provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know our neighbouring school communities.

I challenge all players, coaches and parents to try to make a new friend at a sporting event this term. Make an effort to engage in conversation, share ideas and explore new opportunities. Players and coaches may compete against each other for years to come, whilst parents may sit next to the very same parents at these annual events. Start the conversation today so that the next time you meet, you will be like long lost pals. Wouldn't that be great?

Some important dates to diarise:

On Friday, 22 June we celebrate St Peter's Day. We will be running an Inter-house soccer festival. The girls are reminded to bring their sports kit with their House T-shirt.

INTER-HOUSE SOCCER:

Date: Friday, 22 June
Teams: Grade 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Venue: St Peter's Prep

HOCKEY FESTIVALS:

Date: Saturday, 7 July	Date: Saturday, 7 July
Teams: Grade 4 A-D	Teams: Grade 5 A-D
Venue: St Mary's	Venue: St Andrew's

Date: Saturday, 14 July	Date: Saturday, 14 July
Teams: Grade 6 B/C	Teams: Grade 7 B/C
Venue: St Mary's	Venue: St Stithians

MIDLANDS TOUR:

The senior girls are very excited about the impending hockey tour to the Midlands.

Date: Thursday, 19 July to Sunday, 22 July


Teams: Grade 6A and Grade 7A

Venue: St Anne's DSG

Please take note that the Grade 7 extramural activities have been cancelled next week due to the play production. There will thus be no afternoon sport for the Grade 7s.


Chris Tomsek

(Acting Director of Sport)



**ANTI-HIJACKING AND CRIME AWARENESS
PRESENTATION FOR ST PETER'S PARENTS**

Date: Tuesday, 19 June
Time: 18:30 to 20:00 (tea and coffee will be served from 18:00)
Venue: Dodson Hall, Boys Senior Prep



There is no charge for this presentation and no need to book seats.

Sophisticated anti-theft technology has made it increasingly difficult to steal motor vehicles. As a result we are witnessing a dramatic increase of vehicle hijackings. To the unprepared driver who does not understand the concept of situational awareness the hijacker has the element of surprise and attack. We are dealing with specialised syndicates who run international multimillion Rand operations. They are highly organised and very successful and well trained in the art of hijacking. The sad reality however is that the hijack victim is totally unprepared. Armed attacks of this nature are extremely intimidating and frequently end in tragedy. Understanding this hostile environment and the psychology of the hijacker can only come from proper training, and this presentation will equip you with the knowledge on how to minimize the risk of being hijacked and the modus operandi of hijackers. The presentation (presented by leading Anti-Hijack specialist Francois Marais) covers both *avoidance* and *survival* as follows:

Part 1 – Vehicle Hijack Avoidance

- Why are vehicles hijacked?
- Is hijacking here to stay?
- Which cars are not hijacked?
- Profile of a typical hijacker
- When & where am I most at risk?
- Four Golden Rules
- How to avoid hijacking at home
- Preparing your car

- How to avoid hijacking on the road
- Follow-home robberies (shops / banks / airports)
- What to do if followed
- Should I carry a gun?
- Suitability and use of pepper spray
- How to recognize bogus cops
- Preparing family & children

Part 2 – Vehicle Hijack survival

- What if avoidance fails?
- The hijackers state of mind
- What prevents me from being kidnapped?
- What prevents me from being killed?
- Critical survival point strategies
- Fight vs flight – what will I do?
- Body language tricks & techniques
- If you remember nothing else...
- Your car vs your life...
- If you are shot or injured...
- Dealing with the after effects
- Post-Traumatic Stress
- Getting back behind the wheel.

We look forward to seeing you there!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The St Peter's School of Music invites you to the annual Choir Festival Festivals.

The **Senior Choir festival** will be held on **Wednesday, 4 July at 18:30** in the Dodson Hall (Chapel Choir Grade 5 - 7)

Please take note of the following time:

Mass Choir Rehearsal: 17:00 – 18:00 in the Dodson Hall

We ask that your daughter be on time and be dressed in: Blue jeans, white school takkies and white winter long sleeve shirt

The **Junior Choir festival** will be held on **Thursday, 5 July at 18:30** in the Dodson Hall. All the Junior Choirs will perform - this includes the Junior Prep Choir (Grade 2s) and the Cadet Choir (Grade 3s and 4s).

Please take note of the following time:

Mass Choir Rehearsal: 17:30 – 18:10

We ask that your daughter be on time and be dressed in her winter uniform:

JP Girls: Red fleece and socks (no stockings)

SP Girls: No. 1s (stockings). Please check that they have both buttons on their blazer.

The girls must please bring a healthy snack. Soup and other snacks will be on sale. Tickets for these events will be available online for purchase through the Tixsa website. The link will be available in next weeks' newsletter.

We look forward to an amazing evening filled with beautiful music.

Marguerite Schmitt (*Director of Music*)

REMINDERS – FRIDAY, 15 JUNE**CIVVIES DAY**

Please bring a donation of outgrown or unused clothing for the privilege of wearing civvies.

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.

**GRADE 7 PRODUCTION - TREASURE ISLAND**

The Grade 7 girls', musical version of *Treasure Island* will be performed next week. The performance dates are Wednesday, 20 and Thursday, 21 June.

Tickets will be available from this morning **Thursday, 14 June until Thursday, 21 June**, in the mornings, in the Reception foyer.

Please note that we will not be selling tickets online, as previously stated. For more information, please contact Mrs Lara Rishworth on lrishworth@stpeters.co.za.

Come along and see the dashing and creative abilities of the girls, as they 'swashbuckle' on the stage in Royce Hall!

Melanie Aspelung
(HOD: Drama)

**EDTECH & BYOD COFFEE MORNING**

We were very happy to welcome 50 parents along to our EdTech and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) information session.

During the morning, the parents who attended had the opportunity to gain a further understanding of the fabulous initiative, which is preparing our Grade 6 and 7 pupils for the years ahead where they will be spending more and more time and effort becoming the digital leaders of tomorrow.

We are incredibly proud of how far we have been able to push our pupils into becoming not just consumers of digital content, but real engagers with, and creators of, content. We also had the opportunity to reflect on how to help our children stay safe online both here at school and at home. We also discuss the dangers of screen time and how we

limit it at school. A few questions were raised how this could be monitored at home and what is the best 'parent control app.' We would recommend the following apps that will work at home and on our school network.

- Our Pact - <https://ourpact.com/>
- Kids Loxs - <https://kidslox.com/>
- Net Nann - <https://www.netnanny.com/>

With regards to screen time apple are currently launching a new Screen Time app which will let users see a dashboard highlighting on how much time they have spent using which apps. The link below will take you to the article.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jun/04/apple-ios12-screen-time-apps-how-much-spent-phone-digital-wellbeing>

We also discussed the EdTech pledge and emphasised what is permissible on the pupils' iPads at school. The following apps are not permitted:

- Any social media apps
- Any instant messaging apps
- Any apps, which are restricted to 13 years or older

If your daughter is worried about a certain app and if it is permitted, she should chat to Mrs Kerry Schmidt. The EdTech pledge can also be found on the communicator for those who would like to review it.

For those who were unable to attend the coffee morning and would like any further information, please feel free to contact Kerry Schmidt on kschmidt@stpeters.co.za or me on shauptfleisch@stpeters.co.za.

Scott Hauptfleisch
(Campus ICT Integrator)

PA NEWS

SECOND HAND SHOP

Opening times: Wednesday 07:00 – 08:00

The Second Hand Shop is proving to be a popular option for many parents.

We are looking for more volunteers to assist with the shop.

We would also like to start supplying second hand sporting equipment (cricket bats, hockey sticks, tennis racquets etc.)

Please contact Carol Sithole on carol.sithole1977@gmail.com or on 072 2268599 if you are able to help.

PA COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Several of the current serving members of the St Peter's Parents Association will be stepping down toward the end of this year as their terms come to an end.

As a result, we are looking for parents to volunteer to fill these vacancies. Being part of the PA is a fun and rewarding way of contributing towards the school to which we all belong. Please contact Malope or Robyn if you are interested in getting involved.

Malope Mabizela: malopem@icloud.com & Robyn Doak: robyn@designoval.co.za



GRADE 7 FUNDRAISER – ST PETER'S BLANKETS

A limited number of lovely St Peter's branded knee blankets (1.5 x 1m) will be on sale at the Winter Warmers Festival at R220 each. This a Grade 7 Girls fundraising initiative and profits will go towards a new guardhouse for David Sentse, our Security Guard at the Girls School.

If you would like to secure one in advance, please make your deposit into the St Peter's PA account: Standard Bank Rivonia, Branch Code 001255, Account 220028044 using reference 'Surname/Blanket' and email proof of payment to susanwolfenden55@gmail.com.

