



Edition: 16

17 May 2018

## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

### FROM THE RECTOR

#### FAMILY IS KEY TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ST PETER'S

When one considers the 17ha campus, the 200 –odd staff, the 2 swimming pools, multi-purpose surfaces, many fields, courts and IT infrastructure, it is difficult to believe that St Peter's opened on a plot of scarcely 1 ha, with 10 boys, 2 girls and a cow. Its development is truly a testament to the spirit and power of volunteerism. If it were not for all the parents who committed time and energy, skill and money, we would not be able to celebrate and enjoy the facilities, which pupils experience today. Moreover, there would be no Foundation, Community Partnership or Intern Programme, Transformation initiatives or the many fun- and fundraising events.

When we speak of volunteering, we refer to all the parents who roll up their sleeves and apply their minds to the various functions, events and requirements that the school demands. Parent involvement allows us to reduce the cost of operating and, in some cases, helps us to raise additional funding to invest in the growing infrastructure of the school. When one volunteers, one devotes precious time, energy, commitment, skill and experience. The motive is involvement in supporting and advancing a worthy cause. It is less about what one is seen to be doing but the results that one's efforts will yield. The roles that we assume are not meant to define us or create a platform for public recognition; they are merely a means to the outcomes, which we seek to achieve.

The school relies heavily on volunteers, both informally and formally in the Council, PA and EC. They fulfill many functions including:

- overseeing governance of the school
- facilitating continuous dialogue and engagement between the school and the parent body
- supporting the teaching staff in areas such as book covering, reading with children and managing a Library of puzzles
- driving the community initiatives with our partner schools
- building a community within the school via social and fundraising activities
- supporting families and individuals in distress
- supporting many social, sporting and cultural initiatives at the school
- advising on the development of policies and practices within the school, leaning on industry thought-leaders and activists in the areas of diversity, technology, nutrition, etc.

The list is not exhaustive as we continually invest in and seek to build an environment that will positively influence the development of the school and hence our children.

The school will thus always rely on a willing parent-body that commits to support the school in more ways than paying their fees and donating money. As we journey together, we will always ask parents to volunteer and participate. Our experience to date has been that some areas attract crowds of volunteers while others struggle to generate the same amount of enthusiasm or support.

We are always appreciative of and grateful to those who 'put up their hands'. We acknowledge that at times the process and manner in which parents' involvement is solicited, might have limitations or be perceived as exclusive to those who have been involved for long periods. To new parents, this can appear intimidating or uninviting. We appreciate that the assignments and duties that we allocate and the expectations of our volunteers might differ. However, we earnestly appeal to all parents to remain focused primarily on the tasks and the cause at hand and to support the school by sharing what their experience of the process has been and how it can be improved. We seek to ensure the involvement of all who so wish.

Individual status or importance is not part of the culture of the school. Neither the Heads, Rector nor Chairman of Council have their own parking spots or seats in meetings. We recognise the importance of all those who contribute to the development of our children.

Being involved not only furthers the cause of the school but also creates a great sense of pride in our children. They love seeing their parents at school, sharing in their own experiences and the milestones and celebrated moments. The more parents that are involved, the more the environment becomes more welcoming and inclusive for all families. We appeal to all those who have been involved over the years to remain grounded in the values of the school, ensuring that we go about our tasks with humility, honouring the St Peter's core values: respectful, honourable, compassionate, resilient and responsible.

We thank all those who have and continue to be involved and contribute. Everything you do is greatly appreciated, no matter how insignificant the task. St Peter's believes in family and regards the family relationship as of the utmost importance. We would never be where we are today without this.

Greg Royce (*Rector*)

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## FROM THE HEADMASTER

This week, a mixed bag of information to share:

### BUILDING PLANS

Over the past few months Girls School staff have been involved in conversations with our architects to ascertain our specific building requirements as we continue to add an extra class to the school for the next three years. Building will start at the beginning of next year.

### SPORT

Mr Chris Tomsek (acting Director of Sport) has hit the ground running in terms of coming to terms with the challenges of sport in our school. He and I have met with a number of parents recently to get a better understanding of the issues. We intend to put a plan in place to address these issues, accordingly. This process or policy will be shared with parents in due course. We also hope to set up a coffee morning to discuss Sport in the Girls School, with interested parents. A date is still to be confirmed.

### PRONUNCIATION OF NAMES

Over the past few months, teachers at St Peter's have been attending isiZulu lessons. One of our many objectives in this regard is the crucial need for us to pronounce all names correctly. I have encouraged the girls to assist us, if we are still getting it wrong. This initiative is not just in relation to our black girls. We have a number of diverse nationalities at St Peter's whose names do not easily roll off the tongue for many of us – especially me 😊. But, we(!) have to get it right!

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

St Peter's is well known for the importance it places on ongoing staff development to ensure we always offer the best educational process. On occasions this means that staff are away from school, but parents need to be assured that plans are always in place to keep disruptions to a minimum. Further to this point I am hugely fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the biannual International Girls School Conference to be held in Washington DC in June, this year.

## REPORTS

A significant amount of time and effort is currently going into compiling our new reports. I sincerely hope that parents appreciate the new format, which has been designed, to clearly define our common purpose of character, core skills and critical life skills.

## SECURITY

In an attempt to slow down the cars on campus, the school will be buying a speed camera to record and indicate the speed of each passing vehicle. We hope, like in many estates, that this intervention will have a positive impact.

Parents will also notice cones in place, in the Girls Junior Prep car park, in the mornings and afternoons, out of peak times. The purpose of these cones is to prevent cars travelling through the middle of the carpark, thereby potentially endangering the lives of little ones being fetched from aftercare.



## STAFF NEWS

Mrs Jane Ritchie, currently teaching Maths and Science to our Grade 7s, has recently been offered a job at DSG in Grahamstown. Jane has always been keen to move to this part of the world and has therefore, made the decision to move – but thankfully only at the end of the year. Jane is an outstanding teacher and will be sorely missed by all of us at St Peter's Girls Prep. The process is already underway to find a suitable replacement.

We will be welcoming Mrs Kelsey Mohammed, as the new IT Integrator, at the start of the Advent Term. Mrs Mohammed comes to us, very highly recommended, from Carlswald House Preparatory School.

## IBTS (INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS)

Every year our girls in different grades write IBT's. These diagnostic tests give us an indication as to how we are performing against international standards. Mr Blackhurst analyses these results every year and uses data from the tests to recommend specific academic focus areas. Yet another 'measure' to ensure we are delivering a world class education.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

I am delighted to announce that our Grade 7s have done themselves proud in the interview processes and we have been awarded a number of scholarships. Considering fewer and fewer High Schools are offering scholarship these days – this is a wonderful achievement. In fact St Mary's only offers one scholarship and one of girls won this prestigious award. Details will be revealed soon.

Have a wonderful weekend!  
Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb  
(Headmaster)

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## SPORTS DEPARTMENT

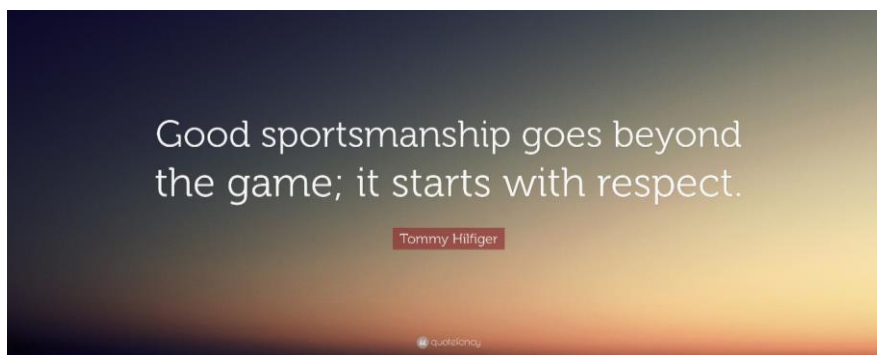
### WHAT IS SPORTSMANSHIP?

Sportsmanship can be described as *the ethical and integral actions shown by players in a sporting event*. Three words sum up true sportsmanship - they are *Respect, Honesty* and *Integrity*. Sportsmanship is crucial in all sports. Successful athletes are ones who exhibit true sportsmanship towards others and to the game, when they are placed in pressure situations. On Friday and Saturday, our girls will have an opportunity to display true sportsmanship.

This is a friendly reminder that your daughter needs to stay, after her netball game, to support her peers in her age group - this shows respect and builds team camaraderie within the camp.

When traveling on a bus to a fixture, girls are reminded (i) to inform the coach, if they are to be collected by their parents and (ii) they must be 'signed off' before they leave the venue. Coaches are responsible for the girls, and if they are not informed of your daughter's whereabouts at away venues - this causes great consternation. This also results in a delay for those returning to school on the bus. Thank you for your understanding in this regard.

Chris Tomsek  
(Acting Director of Sport)



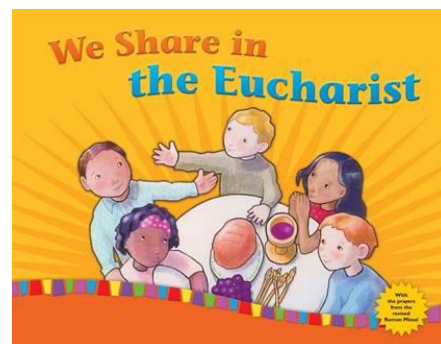
## FAMILY EUCHARIST

This Sunday is our Family Eucharist. Please join us as we celebrate Pentecost.

Date: 20 May 2018

Time: 08:00

Fr Richard Wossler  
(Chaplain)



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## CIVVIES DAY COLLECTION INITIATIVE

At St Peter's we believe that, as Christians, we should act on the principle that, *as we are blessed, let us bless others*. With this in mind, we would like to start a collection of clothing that is no longer worn, in order to share with those who are less fortunate than we are.

For our Civvies Day (Friday, 15 June), we will be collecting clothes for the HLALISEKANI PLAYGROUP (based in Kya Sands). This playgroup is a small crèche in a community where the parents leave home very early in the morning and return in the late afternoon. Many of the young children, in this area, were being left without adult supervision. A few women saw the need for a safe environment for these children and so Hlalisekani Playgroup was started. There is an urgent need for clothing for these little children.

We will begin collecting items of clothing, at school, immediately and continue until Civvies Day, 15 June. Please drop donations in the Vestry of our Chapel. All sizes of clothing will be collected. St Mark's Anglican Church will distribute the adult clothing.

Your support for this initiative would be greatly appreciated.

Kamohelo Kotsi  
(Chaplain Assistant)

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## DIVERSITY: RAMADAN

The holy month of [Ramadan](#) starts on 15 May this year, marking a period of fasting and religious focus for millions of Muslims across the globe.

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and marks the month that the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammed. For many Muslims it means a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset, forgoing food and water during daylight. Ramadan is a holy month in which many Muslims focus on prayer and reading the Quran, while generosity and giving to good causes or neighbours is encouraged. It is a period of reflection, patience, self-restraint and generosity intended to bring Muslims closer to Allah.

St Peter's wishes all Muslim parents, pupils and friends well over the fasting period and the celebration of Eid at the end of the fast.

Vijay Maharaj (Campus Deputy Head: Compliance)

A promotional poster for St Peter's Prep Schools Soccer Day 2018. The background is a vibrant green with a soccer ball in the lower-left corner. The text is in red and black. The St Peter's Prep Schools logo is in the top-left corner.

**St Peter's Prep Schools  
Soccer Day 2018**

Get ready to celebrate the  
Beautiful Game!

**Saturday, 16 June**  
**11:00 Registration**  
**11:30 First kick-off**

- For St Peter's Prep Schools boys & girls only.
- Siblings welcome (minimum age group is Grade 0).
- Only participating players to register.
- Submit one registration form per participating child.
- Sports departments will allocate players into teams.

**Remember to register by  
Wednesday, 13 June**

Click on this LINK to register:

<https://goo.gl/forms/QKJpQ9xaDPsGg5uY2>



Mrs Ingerid de Bruyn is back in the 'swing of things', after being away on maternity leave!

**CHARITY EVENT**



Enthusiastic St Peter's pupils handing out flyers, in the carpark, for The High Roller Rodeo for The Cows Fundraising Night!



**THE COWS**  
Let's Rodeo Up!

**CHOC**  
Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa  
"Keeping more than hope alive"

**HIGH ROLLER RODEO**  
**CHARITY FUND RAISING NIGHT**

**WHEN**  
Saturday 2nd June 2018. From 7pm onwards. Tables open at 8pm.

**WHERE**  
Rivonia Recreation Club, Achter Road, Paulshof, Johannesburg.

**DRESS CODE**  
Black, White and Red. Rodeo and Cow dress up optional.

**CHARITIES**  
Our chosen beneficiary is THE COWS who raise funds for CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation SA.  
[www.thecows.co.za](http://www.thecows.co.za) and [www.choc.org.za](http://www.choc.org.za)

**TICKET PRICE**  
Includes fabulous food throughout the evening, welcome cocktail, a bottle of wine and gaming vouchers for black jack and roulette. Amazing entertainment with Vegas Royale, DJ, photo booth and the hilarious Dave Levinsohn as the host.  
R600 with all proceeds going to The Cows for CHOC.

**STAY IN THE GAME**  
Buy some shooters or charity merchandise to earn more gaming vouchers.

**AMAZING PRIZES ON THE NIGHT**  
For best cowboy, best cowgirl, most awesome cow, most creative interpretation of the theme, highest roller, most enthusiastic player and many more...

So book now and come and be part of this fantastic initiative and support these incredible charities.

**BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES**  
[perceptivepartners@gmail.com](mailto:perceptivepartners@gmail.com)  
Find us on Facebook - High Roller Rodeo.

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE COWS FOR CHOC**

