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1 February 2018

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Greg and I went out to visit our Grade 7 Girls on their Keys Camp for a night, this week. For those of you who are unaware, this is a five-day, four-night camp in the Waterberg, where our girls experience school – outdoors. They have built rafts; been on walks; done various obstacle courses and orienteering; had an opportunity to buy and cook their own food; they have built mini bridges; swum in the dam and so much more. They have also been involved in various leadership debates and discussions. Our very own teachers, including two of our JP teachers, have hosted all of these activities. When they arrive back at school on Friday (exhausted), they will be ready to take on the world! I'm not sure how many schools offer this type of opportunity for their girls, but what I do know is our girls have benefitted tremendously from the experience.

This week, I also had the privilege to meet and chat to our JP class reps – a wonderfully diverse group of moms and a dad, who have put their hands up to contribute. Yes – this is very much a continued appeal (especially to SP parents), to find the time to be involved in some small way.

I am delighted to announce our new Communication Committee and would like to thank them, in advance, for their time and commitment:

In our Junior Prep : Kefilwe Mudeme and Claudia Pharboo

In our Senior Prep : Tessa Barry and Phetsile Dlamini.

I will continue to host class rep coffee mornings, with each grade in the Senior Prep, each term this year. If there are any issues or concerns, please be reminded to ask your class rep to raise them at these meetings, or alternatively, please come and chat to me directly.

Fortune favours the brave – be BRAVE in 2018! By John Sanei

We have a clear choice to make: do we want to be victims or architects of the expansive future that lies ahead? KNOWLEDGE IS POWER – Throughout history technology and disruption have continually shaped our future. Invariably, those who are excited by change are open to learning new tricks; they are ready to run towards the future, and not away from it. What a time to be alive – our lives are getting better and better. Our access to information is at an all-time high and technology is advancing exponentially. The phrase "Ipsa scientia potestas est", meaning "Knowledge itself is power" has never been more meaningful.

In a recent blog post by Singularity University, I read that a child in Malawi who has a smartphone and an internet connection, has access to more information than the president of the USA had in 1994.

This democratisation of knowledge is one of the main reasons why we're moving into an era of "technological socialism" – the idea that technology is breaking the capitalist divides that have previously limited access to products, services and education to those who could pay for it. Trying to imagine that the things we spend money on today will

become more affordable (or even free) in the future, is almost as impossible as your grandparents having predicted that they could one day make calls without a landline telephone.

Photography is just one example of how technology has made some commodities more affordable. Old-school cameras were cumbersome, the number of photos you could take was limited and you had to pay to have every photo developed (even the bad ones). Just over a decade ago, we would not have dreamed of having free cameras...on a telephone...that has no buttons. Today, our phones have megapixel cameras and we can take as many photos as we like before sharing them with people all around the world in an instant – for next to nothing.

The proliferation of free Wi-Fi and an inevitable reduction in data costs, mean that technological socialism is already a tangible reality. A quick look into developments within a multitude of industries including energy, transportation, communication, education, entertainment, clothing, food and medical care, will reveal real-life tales of increased efficiency, accessibility, innovation and cost-reduction.

If you feel pressed for time to research the incredible advancements that are shaping our future, there are three key areas to keep a close eye on: quantum computing, artificial intelligence and block chain technology. These are the innovations that are going to fundamentally change the way we work, how we use money and our approach to well-being and longevity. In the next decade, we will also need to swallow hard and grapple with new norms that will come in the form of digital brains (as pioneered by the Swiss Blue Brain Project) and genetically engineered, designer babies.

Granted, some of these innovations may make you want to move to Mars, but although our minds are more prone to resisting change and forming new habits, the choice to adopt new perspectives is ours – do we choose to be excited or damned by this future?

If we take on a victim mindset we will be damned, doomed and ill-prepared, rejecting change and wishing for the old days. But we can also choose to take on a victor mindset, to be the optimist, dreamer, do-er and operator. There are two ways to do this: first, stop feeling sorry for yourself and take responsibility for this incredible reality we will live in. Decide to get excited about change even though your habitual thought-patterns might argue against it. Secondly, expose yourself to this future by being informed about technological and scientific innovations, and then share these insights and the enthusiasm with your family, friends, organisation and community; help everyone prepare to accept change with open arms.

The time to collaborate and empower everyone is here and with these new tools at our disposal, accessing the global village and reaching your individual potential has never been easier. We just have a clear choice to make: do we want to be victims or architects of the expansive future that lies ahead?

The quote “fortune favours the brave” has never been more true – be brave in 2018 and make a fortune by impacting billions of people’s lives in a positive way.

Have a good weekend!

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)



CIVVIES & HOT DOG DAY & CARTRIDGE COLLECTION TOMORROW - FRIDAY, 2 FEBRUARY



The cost of Hot Dog Day is R25 and, for the privilege of wearing civvies to school, girls are required to bring a tin of 'human' (i.e. not animal!) food. Tins will initially be collected in classrooms and then taken to the following collection points:

Girls SP : Chapel Vestry

Girls JP : JP fountain.

Boys SP : Chapel Vestry

Boys JP : JP Reception



The tinned food will be given to the Christ Church Children's Centre. (an orphanage, which looks after about 60 children in Hillbrow)

Belinda, Ellen & Victoria
(Hot Dog Day Co-ordinators)



THE ISEMATHOLENI INTERN PROGRAMME

The Isematholeni Intern Professional Development Programme has grown considerably since its inception in 2015. We now have 20 Interns on the programme.

A few of them have expressed a wish to make a bit of extra pocket money during weekends, public holidays, mid-term breaks or school holidays, by offering to house or baby-sit.

Please contact June Tromp (082 5731030) should you require any further information OR to make a booking.

June Tromp
(Head Mentor)

ST PETER'S SECOND HAND SHOP

We have taken a decision to run a charity based second hand shop for St Peter's parents. In the past, the second hand goods have been sold out of the school shop, but have received little focus and have become difficult to manage as the size of the school has grown.

As a result, we have decided to run a specific store for second hand goods. As with many other schools, we will be taking in second hand clothing from parents who are leaving the school, or whose children have outgrown their uniforms. These will be repaired as needed, laundered and made available for resale to parents, at discounted price vs the new stock. Any money made from the sale of these items, after the costs of running the shop are covered, will be donated to the Foundation to assist bursary children with sundry school expenses. The shop will be situated

behind the current school shop, and will be open on Wednesdays, to coincide with the day that the regular shop is open.

Please bear with us while we get it all up and running - hopefully in the next few weeks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: please let us know if you are interested in assisting with this endeavour - either with setting it up, or running and managing it for the school. Please contact Carol Sithole for more information: carol.sithole1977@gmail.com.

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Wednesday	07/02/2018			REMINDER: CHAPEL COLLECTION FOR TOMORROW	
Thursday	08/02/2018	10:30:00	11:00:00	Grade 4DB Sandwich Making	Classroom
Thursday	08/02/2018	13:30:00	16:30:00	Tennis Matches vs APPS	Home/Away
Friday	09/02/2018	13:00:00	16:30:00	Swimming Galas	Home/Away
Saturday	10/02/2018	18:30:00	21:30:00	Grade 7 Girls School Valentine's Social	Royce Hall

GRADE 7 SOCIAL

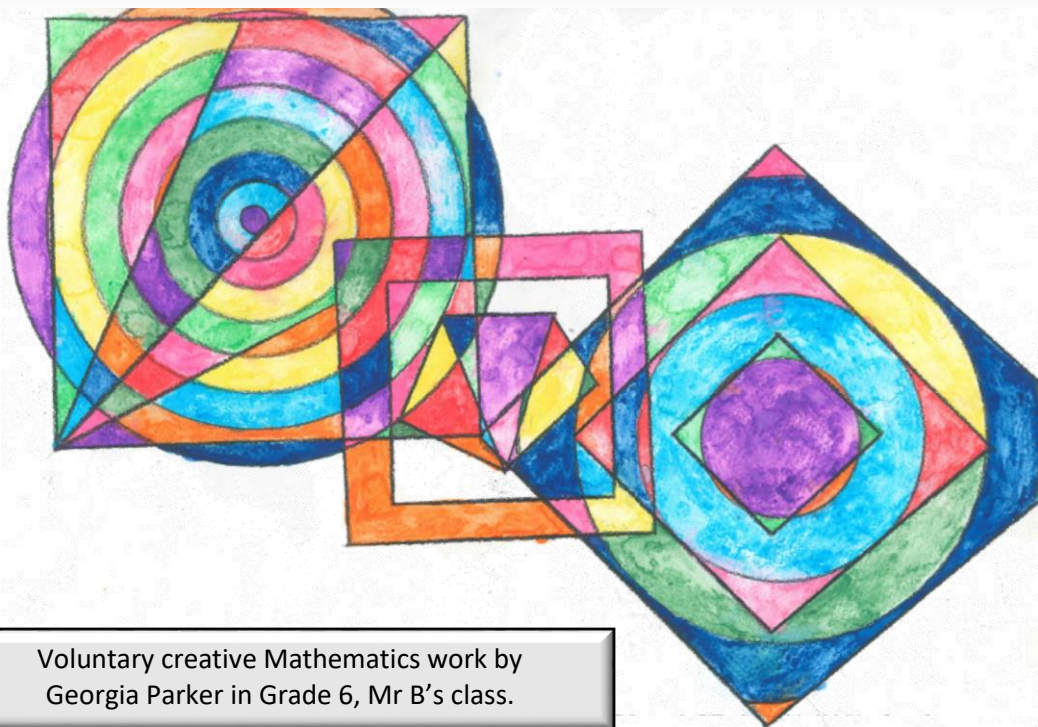
LADIES LUNCH



THIS WEEK



Grade 7s on Keys Camp this week. We missed you, Girls!



Voluntary creative Mathematics work by Georgia Parker in Grade 6, Mr B's class.