



Edition: 21

21 June 2018

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

Thank you, once again to all those parents who rallied to our call for a Tractor Loader Backhoe! (TBL). We were delighted with the number of responses received. The ground behind the After-School facility has been levelled and a berm built.

The Foundation is looking for Mathematics sets. We have been made aware of a Gauteng public school where Grade 12s are preparing for their matriculation exams and not one has such a set. If you would like to donate a set, please deliver to any of the Junior or Senior Reception areas, marked 'Foundation Maths Set'. The School Shop have limited stock.



St Peter's Intern Programme: We now have 25 interns on campus ranging from first to fourth year in their studies. Their ability to achieve excellent exam results, while managing family responsibilities, e.g. cooking, and caring for younger siblings, is inspirational. The children continue to delight in their presence and frequently form strong bonds with them. Their role in the classroom has resulted in improved Reading and Mathematics ages, thanks to the increased student-teacher contact time.

Over and above this, the programme is able to change the lives, albeit of a very small number of people. In its own small way, it also addresses South Africa's most pressing issue, that of the lack of quality education.

We are deeply grateful to those parents who have, and continue to support this programme financially, or with their time. We are especially grateful to the CIDA Empowerment Trust (www.cidatrust.org) which supports 6 interns and the Gauteng Central Region Academy (GCRA) (www.gauteng.gov.za/services/youth/Pages/GCRA.aspx), which supports 16.

CIDA seeks to multiply the positive effects of quality in education in low income communities. It focuses on teacher development in the highly successful internship model that St Peter's offers.

The GCRA is a branch of the Gauteng Department of Education responsible for promoting skills development. It also seeks to enable young people to make the transition from school to work through relevant work training opportunities. It, too, has recognised the success of the St Peter's Intern Programme, in partnership with the University of Johannesburg, and also sponsored interns in 2017.

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 DEPUTY HEAD: ACADEMICS

The new report provides feedback on the three main areas of focus at Peter's, which were addressed at the parents' information evenings at the beginning of the year, namely: character development, skills for life and core academic skills. *Character development* embraces our values-based foundation explicit in our teaching: responsibility, collaboration, compassion, respect and honour. *Skills-for-Life* includes descriptions of activities designed to promote development in the key areas: Music, Art, Physical Education, EdTech, Life Orientation and Drama. The *core academic skills* are English, First Additional Languages, Mathematics, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Exploration and Learning - a composite subject, which encompasses the varied skills of Social Sciences and includes relevant and current content matter. The reports will be issued to your daughters today, Thursday, 21 June.

Many comments on the reports, written by the staff, refer to the development of a growth mindset. Carol Dweck, a renowned psychologist, identified this critical component to succeeding in all aspects of life. A growth mindset is a common factor associated with all high achievers.

Growth mindset is a subtle, but important change to pedagogy. Assessment and classroom language has far-reaching effects on student outcomes. A focus on the development of this encourages feedback practices, which inspires students to seek challenges, focus on learning, exert their full effort and be resilient problem-solvers when they encounter difficulty.

St Peter's provides students with a 'safe space' for trying something new, without being assessed. We praise and reward personal growth in the classroom. Our girls know that learning and growth are valued for their own sake. In the classroom, we aim to provide specific actionable feedback about performance, which is motivating and empowering so that the pupil understands the steps involved in reaching the target. Our goal is to further develop the process to focus more on what our girls do i.e. the things over which they have control - rather than their intelligence alone. This helps them focus on their own learning processes, rather than how they compare to others.

Student-led Conferences are scheduled for the week starting the 23 July. Parent consultations with academic staff who are involved in teaching the specialist subjects, are on offer for those parents who require greater feedback, on Tuesday, 31 July.

ROBOTICS MORNING

Our girls took part in their first internal robotics competition on Saturday morning. The team players required grit and determination, in order to programme the Mindstorm EV3s to complete an obstacle course and solve various challenges. It was both fun and a great learning opportunity. Thank you, Kerryn Schmidt and Megan Haas.





GRADE 7 PRODUCTION

Our Grade 7 girls excelled on stage in their first performance of *Treasure Island* last night. While they tracked 'the loot' across the stage, the girls rose to the occasion and portrayed their characters convincingly.

Congratulations to the producer, Mel Aspeling, the musical director Marguerite Schmitt and the rest of the team. The costumes and set were phenomenal.



FAMILY SOCCER DAY

Congratulations and thank you, to the PA for a most successful Family Soccer Day held on Youth Day. The girls thoroughly enjoyed their 'Soccer World Cup'.



HALF TERM

School closes at 11:00 tomorrow Friday, 22 June. St Peter's Day Eucharist takes place at 07:30 that morning. We wish all our St Peter's families a warm, relaxing and enjoyable Half-term and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday, 2 July.

Pam van Gass
(Deputy Head: Academics)

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

PA SOCCER YOUTH DAY CHALLENGE

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the awesome soccer event put together by the PA in conjunction with the Boys Prep. The girls had an amazing time playing soccer and socialising with the boys. There was great food and music, enjoyed by all, not to mention the ball juggling display by the professionals at the lunch time break – absolutely amazing skills!

The girls showed great tenacity and courage in front of the boys, certainly laying down the challenge in the skills department. The boys were overheard on the side-line, commenting on how fast and how good the girls were at soccer. Another amusing remark was when one of the defenders in the boy's team said to their goal keeper after a blistering shot from one of the girls, *'How hard was that shot? You would never have saved it'*. The goal keeper replied *'No, that shot was too hard'*.

Thank you to the PA for an awesome event, thoroughly enjoyed by the girls and staff, well done!

UPCOMING HOCKEY FESTIVALS

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

Date: Saturday, 7 July
Teams: Grade 5 A-D
Venue: St Andrew's School for Girls

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

Date: Saturday, 14 July
Teams: Grade 7 B/C
Venue: St Stithians College

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

Chris Tomsek (*Acting Director of Sport*)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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

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 shortly.

MUSIC SHOWCASE (ORCHESTRA, MARIMBA BANDS AND OTHER SELECTED ITEMS)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, kindly take note of the following changes to this term's Music Showcase, originally planned for Wednesday, 18 July:

Date: Tuesday, 17 July
Time: 18:30 – 19:30
Venue: Royce Hall

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

Marguerite Schmitt (*Director of Music*)

PA NEWS



GRADE 7 FUNDRAISER – ST PETER’S BLANKETS

The St Peter's branded knee blankets (1.5 x 1m) have arrived early and will be on sale outside the Girls Senior and Junior Preps after Half-term at R220 each. If you would like to see one before then, please pop in to see Nonhlanhla Majokane at the Girls Senior Prep reception.

This is 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 your blanket in advance, please 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.



MANDELA DAY 2018



Mr Mandela lived his life by three rules:
free yourself, free others and serve every day.

This is the message that St Peter's Prep would like to embrace this year, and as part of our Mandela Day drive, we appeal to all our families to donate books. Books for all age groups would be greatly appreciated.

80% of Grade 4 children cannot read at an appropriate level!

We would like to support: *Diepsloot Combined, Sefikeng Primary, The Tomorrow Trust and our own community.*

We will be collecting from 10 to 20 July - SP Girls and Boys Reception areas.

We look forward to your support!
The Mandela Day Team.

Have a very happy Half-term!
Enjoy lying in a little longer on these
chilly mornings!
School reopens on Monday, 2 July.