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ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

This week I am in Cape Town attending the International Conference for Principals (ICP). I sincerely hope to bring back some pearls of educational wisdom from the many international speakers. Having said this, one doesn't always have to attend conferences to keep up-to-date with modern thinking, we just need to read the latest educational research.

The article below discusses the critical need for teachers and parents to allow and, in fact, encourage their children to make mistakes, especially in a subject like Mathematics. This way children can form real pathways for learning, as opposed to always focusing on what they got right – we need our girls to understand the value of getting it wrong!

Why Mistakes Matter in Creating a Path for Learning

Most of us can remember a moment like this from our school years: the teacher poses a question – you raise your hand, you give your answer with full assurance. And then? You're shot down. You got it wrong. We remember moments like this because they brim with some of our least favourite emotions: shame, humiliation, self-recrimination, and that gutting sense that you want to melt into the floor. Ah yes, I remember it well.

As it turns out, though, such moments are ripe with learning opportunity. Contrary to what many of us might guess, making a mistake with high confidence and then being corrected is one of the most powerful ways to absorb something and retain it.

In recent years, cognitive scientists have done significant research on how making mistakes helps us learn, much of it funded by the Federal Institute for Education Science.

Traditionally, educators and psychologists in the U.S. were not fans of allowing students to flounder. Skinner, the hugely influential 20th century behavioural psychologist, did not even like his lab rats and pigeons to err and constructed experiments to shape their behaviour toward always getting the task right. "He thought that, if they made a mistake, the mistake would get entrenched, and you'd have to backtrack to erase it," explains Janet Metcalfe, a professor of psychology at Columbia University.

American educators, perhaps influenced by Skinner, have tended to see things the same way. They found that American teachers emphasised specific procedures for solving problems, largely ignored errors and praised correct answers. Japanese teachers, by contrast, asked students to find their own way through problems and then led a discussion of common errors, why they might seem plausible and why they were wrong. Praise was rarely given and students were meant to see struggle and setbacks as part of learning. The difference, the authors believed, is one reason that Japanese students outperform Americans in Mathematics.

The American allergy to errors began to ease with a burst of new studies by cognitive psychologists beginning this century. They showed clear benefits to engaging with mistakes—in both verbal and Mathematics tasks.

Why is this? The answer is not completely clear, but it likely involves the fact that making an error rallies your attention — and even more so, if you are surprised that you got it wrong. In addition, it is easier to learn something new after you've summoned up your prior knowledge — a process neuroscientists call memory reconsolidation.

Psychologist Robert Siegler, an expert on how children learn Mathematics, has delved deeply into the best way to give feedback on student errors. He has shown, for instance, that asking third and fourth graders to explain how someone got the wrong answer and also how someone got the right answer is enormously effective – more so than just asking the child to explain the correct procedure, as teachers so often do.

In keeping with a growth mindset, students began to see errors as a path to learning rather than humiliation. When he shared students' errors anonymously with the class, he says, "the kids got really good about saying: 'Hey, that's my mistake! Let me talk about what I did wrong.'

Claudia Wallis

Mr Tony Blackhurst (our Grade 6 Mathematics teacher, newly appointed as a Master Teacher at St Peter's), has been driving this philosophy of teaching Mathematics for some time now. The process differs from a conventional Mathematics lesson where a teacher shows the correct method and girls copy blindly from the board. He rather poses the problem and encourages the girls to think and make mistakes before coming up with a solution, which they truly understand. I am delighted that this philosophy is permeating throughout the school and I'm quite sure it's the reason why so many of our girls excel at Mathematics in their respective High Schools.

Have a good weekend! Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (Headmaster)

STAFF NEWS

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Lerato Mafatle as our Grade 0 teacher in 2018 at the Girls JP. Lerato has worked as an Intern at St Peter's for the past two years and has demonstrated outstanding understanding around teaching and learning.

Lerato was born, in Virginia, in the Free State and has two siblings. She attended Lakeview Primary School and later went to Harmony High School. She furthered her tertiary studies in KwaZulu-Natal, where she obtained a National Diploma in Dramatic Arts as well as a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Drama and Performance. She moved to Johannesburg and worked as a drama teacher and performer. This is where her passion for education and teaching was stimulated.

Lerato has continued her studies towards a B Ed. She is excited about the opportunity to work at St Peter's Prep and make an impact on the lives of children.

We wish her many happy years at St Peter's.

D. Webb



SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Please take careful note of the dates of the Inter-schools' athletics meetings (on Fridays) as well as the Inter-house Sports Day (Saturday, 14 October). All girls are expected to be available to participate.

Should you need to excuse your daughter from any lesson due to illness/injury, please direct your emails/correspondence to Toni Clarke-Buchanan as she is the teacher in charge of athletics: tclarke@stpeters.co.za

Please note that Grade 3 & 4 girls will no longer receive weekly sports letters – they will be told that they are part of the athletics teams and shown where the lists are. Parents must please check the Communicator weekly – all sports team lists are posted there.

Please remember to consult the Sporting Week Ahead that is available on School Communicator.

Liz Ashmore

(Director of Sport)

LAshmore@stpeters.co.za

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

'THE SOUND OF CHILDREN' CHOIR FESTIVAL: MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER

The Cadet Choir (Gr 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.

A bus will leave St Peter's Prep at 15:45, on the 2 October, for the Linder Auditorium. Please indicate whether your daughter will be travelling on the bus by following the Google Form link below.

<https://goo.gl/forms/9vjuwPFhdwaCVyQY2>

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

Please provide your daughter with a healthy snack.

17:00 Combined rehearsal at the Linder Auditorium

18.30 Concert begins

An entry fee, of R100 per family, will be collected at the door.

Please join us for this fantastic musical evening.

Marguerite Schmitt

(Head of Music)

CIVVIES, HOT DOG DAY AND CARTRIDGE COLLECTION – FRIDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

A reminder that tomorrow is Civvies, Hot Dog Day and cartridge collection day! The cost is R35 (for a hotdog, chips & juice + R10 donation to charity, for the privilege of wearing Civvies!)

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help serve. Please meet us at the Keys Pavilion at 08:30 (for Grade 0 – 2) and 09:30 (for Grade 3 – 7).

Please note that this is a 'Heritage Day' Civvies Day! Girls, who choose to, are free to wear traditional outfits to reflect their heritage. Sports supporters' shirts or colours, reflecting their country of origin, may also be worn.

Jen, Marcia & Mark (*Hot Dog Day Co-ordinators*)

DIVERSITY: HERITAGE DAY

The first Heritage Day was instituted in 1995, after the first free elections that spelled the beginning of a new, non-racially based democracy.

The roots of Heritage Day, however, precede 1995. The 24 September was originally a Zulu holiday, celebrated in KwaZulu-Natal. It was in remembrance of Chaka, the great chief, who united the Zulu tribes into a unified nation. When establishing South Africa's official public holidays, the significance was broadened to include the celebration of the heritage of all South Africans.

The official government definition of the 'heritage' in 'Heritage Day', refers to all that the people inherit; culture, history, wildlife, monuments, artwork, literature, music, folklore, languages, culinary traditions and more. In 1996, president Nelson Mandela declared that Heritage Day should help South Africans use their 'rich and varied cultural heritage' to 'build our new nation.'

Many South Africans 'braai' on Heritage Day. Braai is the Afrikaans word for 'grill or barbecue'. 'Braaivleis' means 'grilled or barbecued meat'. Family and friends gather to grill meat, such as boerewors, kebabs, lamb chops, pork, chicken, steak, and ribs. You will also find fish and rock lobster ('kreef') in coastal towns; and pap (cornmeal porridge) in almost every town.

St Peter's wishes you well as you celebrate Heritage Day and appreciate the beauty and diverse culture of South Africa. Share interesting, positive stories about the brave acts of South Africa's men and women.

Vijay Maharaj (*Director: Diversity*)

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP, 'OLD GIRLS' NEWS

We are delighted to share the news that Danni Chasenski (Grade 7, 2013) has been made Head Girl of St Anne's Diocesan College in Hilton, KZN for 2018.

Lebone Dube (also Grade 7, 2013) has been appointed 2018 Head of Boarding at The Wykeham Collegiate in Pietermaritzburg, KZN.

Congratulations to these two girls! St Peter's Girls Prep School is proud of you!

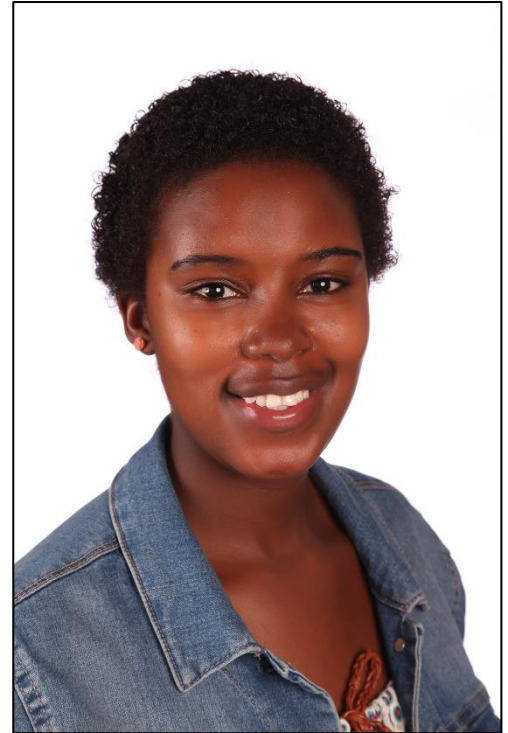
GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

ITUMELENG KUMALO

Itumeleng Kumalo, or Tumi as she is affectionately known, was born in Johannesburg and matriculated at Bryanston High School. Sadly, her father died in 2007. Her mother is a receptionist, and the family was therefore, able to cope financially. Her family were fortunate too, in that the extended family helped in supporting them – her uncle in particular.

Tumi says that *The Isamatholeni Intern Programme* has provided her with a wonderful opportunity:

"I chose teaching because I am passionate and my dream is to change someone's life and ensure that this world becomes a better place. I live by the motto 'If you think you can, you can and if you think you can't, you can't – you always right'! Everyone is so helpful here at St Peter's and I am gaining invaluable knowledge all the time. It has enabled me to start understanding myself more and to realise my love for teaching. I am very grateful."



ST PETER'S GOLF DAY

The Rugby Sevens event in Cape Town is a SELL OUT so buy your raffle ticket now!!!!

RAFFLE St Peter's Golf Day **RAFFLE**
HSBC CAPE TOWN RUGBY SEVENS 2017

THE PRIZE
 Tickets to both days of the Cape Town Rugby Sevens 2017, return flights and 3 nights accommodation at the 5* Radisson Blu Hotel from 8 - 10 December for FOUR people

TICKET PRICE R200
 Limited to 500 tickets only
 Email golffaffle@stpeters.co.za to purchase tickets

WORLD RUGBY™
HSBC SEVENS SERIES

The raffle draw will take place at the Golf Day Prize Giving function on the evening of 29 September 2017. The prize winner does not have to be present at the raffle draw in order to win the prize.

ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS

The St Peter's Golf Day
29 September 2017
 Kyalami Country Club

**ONLY 2
 FOURBALLS LEFT!**

The Essentials...

- 12:00 shotgun start
- Gin bar on arrival
- Prize giving and casual dinner in the bar
- Draw for the raffle valued at R40 000 (no fundraising auction this year)

Bookings open 20 July 2017
 email golfday@stpeters.co.za for further info
 and to request a booking form


 ST PETER'S
 PREP SCHOOLS

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Wednesday	27/09/2017	07:30:00		BACK to SCHOOL		
Wednesday	27/09/2017	09:00:00	13:00:00	isiZulu Outing to Soweto	Gr 6,7	
Wednesday	27/09/2017	10:30:00	11:30:00	Redhead Afrikaans Production	Gr 3-7	Royce Hall
Wednesday	27/09/2017			REMINDER: CHAPEL COLLECTION FOR TOMORROW		
Thursday	28/09/2017	09:30:00	10:00:00	Grade 3MH Sandwich Making		
Thursday	28/09/2017	13:30:00	16:30:00	Tennis Matches		Home/Away
Friday	29/09/2017	12:00:00	21:00:00	Golf Day		Kyalami Country Club
Friday	29/09/2017	13:30:00	16:30:00	Athletics Meeting		Home/Away
Saturday	30/09/2017	08:30:00	12:00:00	St Peter's College Open Day		St Peter's College
Saturday	30/09/2017	09:30:00	11:00:00	Old Girls' Tea		Girls School Terrace

2018 TERM DATES

EASTER TERM

Term Commences: Wednesday, 17 January.
 Mid-term Break: Close Thursday, 1 March and return Tuesday, 6 March

Public Holidays:

Wed, 21 March (Human Rights Day)
 Friday, 30 March (Good Friday)
 Monday, 2 April (Family Day)
 Term Ends: Wednesday, 11 April.

TRINITY TERM

Term Commences: Wednesday, 2 May.
 Mid-term Break: Close Friday, 22 June and return Monday, 2 July.
 Term Ends: Friday, 3 August.

ADVENT TERM

Term Commences: Tuesday, 4 September.
 Mid-term Break: Close Thursday, 18 October and return Tuesday, 23 October.

Public Holiday:

Monday, 24 Sept (Heritage Day)
 Term Ends: Thursday, 6 December.

Please note that during the course of the year, extra holidays are sometimes granted on special occasions. It is recommended that parents check the Newsletter, throughout the year, for any changes.

THIS WEEK



Thinking Skills Open Morning in the SP

ST PETER'S COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Parents and students are invited to attend the St Peter's College Open Day taking place on Saturday morning, 30 September 2017. Kindly RSVP online by clicking [here](#).

Please contact Theresa Monoyoudis on marketing@stpeterscollege.co.za or on 087 00 00 319 should you have any questions.



ST PETER'S COLLEGE
 RELATIONSHIPS • RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • RESILIENCE

OPEN DAY
 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

St Peter's College is an established, independent, co-educational Anglican high school espousing Christian values in a balanced, caring environment. Our students thrive in the St Peter's world of opportunity that inspires and equips them with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to achieve their personal success.



**Real Education
 Real Students
 Real Results**

CLASS OF 2016
 100%
 PASS

**OPEN DAY
 SATURDAY,
 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

08:30 Arrive and register
09:00 Headmaster's address, followed by school tour and refreshments

Venue St Peter's College,
 College Lane off Maxwell Drive,
 Sunninghill, Sandton

RSVP ESSENTIAL
marketing@stpeterscollege.co.za
 or 011 807 5315



APPLY NOW FOR 2019/2020 Download the Enrolment Application form from St Peter's College website

College Lane off Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill (next to Eskom Megawatt Park), Sandton
 Telephone 011 807 5315 | www.stpeters.co.za

