



Edition: 2

24 January 2019

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

I am feeling a good deal more positive about 2019 than I did last year. I am encouraged by:

- The uncovering of corruption within the government and the private sector. Many people feel that insufficient is being done to bring the guilty to book, but there have been many encouraging signs, not least of which are the leadership changes at SARS and the NPA.
- With the exception of the western parts of the country, good rains have fallen, lowering the risks associated with diminished food production.
- As regards the school:
 - the Heads have added two highly competent Black teachers to the staff;
 - the Greening programme has commenced with the installation of water and electricity meters, allowing us to monitor the consumption of both elements at different points in the schools. The meters have already assisted us in locating a substantial water leak and pinpointed areas of high electricity consumption, which we are now able to reduce with improved management.
 - recruitment drives revealed a higher number than ever of teachers from prestigious schools wanting to teach at St Peter's. We have consequently been able to make good appointments, despite the shortage of competent educators. We especially seek open-minded, committed team-players with a strong affinity to children. These days we often advertise up to three times before we find the right candidate.

Incidents at prominent independent schools over the last 18 months have left the sector with a blemished reputation. As is usually the case with such generalisations, not every one of the other 700 independent schools in the country can be characterized in this way. Nevertheless, we need to learn from these events so that we can be confident that our own attitudes and actual practises reflect our commitment to Christian values.

We live in a wonderful country and are particularly resilient and innovative people. In my view, there are far more similarities we should celebrate between the different cultures, than there are differences. We all want the same for our children, seek the same reassurances about health and retirement and wish to be treated with respect and dignity, no matter our income, culture or employment status.

We work hard at school to inculcate Christian values in the children so that they will become great friends, spouses, parents and citizens in time. Children naturally adopt the views and attitudes of their parents and teachers. These include gender, race and other stereotyping. Children give undue weight to status reflected in the 'dissing' of those not so talented, by the sporting stars.

Please support us by having the difficult conversations with your children. Help them to understand the worthlessness of any type of generalisation be it race, gender, body shape, mental state or sexual orientation. God loves each of us as individuals. Every person has something different and special to offer. We need to teach our children to seek and support the good without looking through a learned lens of bias.

Greg Royce (*Rector*)

FROM THE HEADMASTER

While the girls were still enjoying their last couple of days of holiday, we commenced the year with two days of Staff Development. On the first day, Rose Nkomo invited Roy Gluckman to speak to our staff on the issue of transformation. Roy is a qualified attorney of the High Court of South Africa and the CEO of [Cohesion Collective](#), an Equality, Diversity & Inclusions consulting and implementation firm. Roy has been speaking professionally on issues relating to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion since 2010 and has since developed into an exceptionally engaging, highly sophisticated and passionate speaker and facilitator.

I found his presentation particularly enlightening and have attempted to interpret a few of the profound issues he raised, for you. Certainly food for thought and lots more discussion:

EMOTION VS INCIDENTS

Too often we talk about the issue or incident and not about the emotions. Fear and Anger are the two emotions that are usually associated with racial issues. He encouraged us to acknowledge the issues but more importantly, to make ourselves vulnerable by talking through these emotions.

Aggression can be a mechanism used to defend how we've been socialized or what we've been conditioned to think over the years. Too often we want to defend who we are and how we see the world instead of being willing to unlearn and relearn a different reality.

Sadly, the starting point of racially related issues is mistrust, hence the option of a person making themselves vulnerable is exceptionally unlikely.

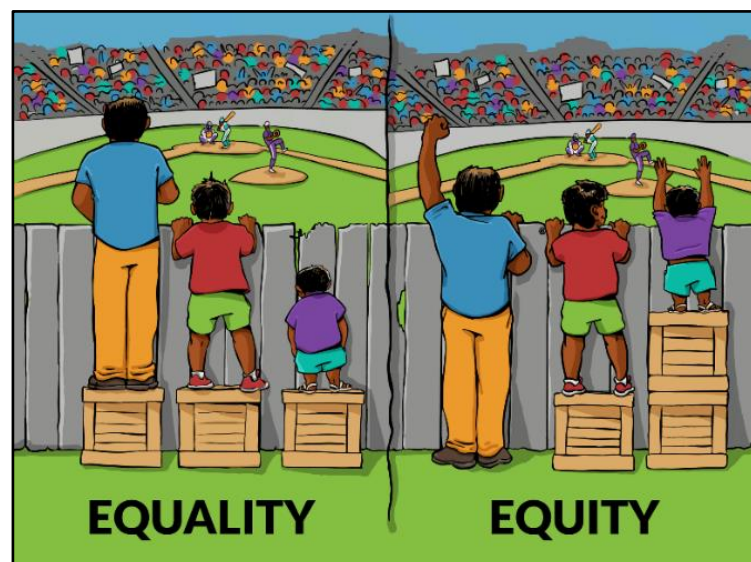
INHERITANCE

Both advantage and disadvantage are inherited! This highlights the critical need for us all to respect the events of the past. Reaction to an incident or a comment is not only caused by the "hurtfulness" of the comment itself but also by the emotion it stimulates from the past. The past is, therefore, something that can never be forgotten!

EQUALITY VS EQUITY

Gluckman reminded us that Equality is not the same as Equity. This profound image shows the difference between the two:

We obviously need to strive for Equity not Equality. Different people have different needs in order to have the same opportunity.



VOICELESSNESS

In the workplace, black employees are too afraid to speak up, lest they become known as trouble-makers. White employees are too afraid to speak up, fearful that they become known as racists. The end result is that everyone avoids the difficult conversations that are so desperately needed.

TICKING THE BOX OF TRANSFORMATION

Gluckman challenged leadership of organizations who believe they have ticked the box of transformation when the optics are seen to be correct. In other words, just because we have the politically correct number of black pupils and teachers doesn't mean our work is done. In fact, it's only the beginning.

SAME STARTING POINTS

He reminded us that all protests for equal rights are not asking for change. Protestors merely want to be at the same starting point as the rest of the population. He used the LGBT movement around the world as an example. They simply want to be at the same starting point as everyone else – a right to be who they are and to marry a person of their choice.

STAFFROOM DYNAMICS

Gluckman's take on this issue is that when people are relaxing they are perfectly entitled to relax in the company of people with whom they identify and who speak their language. We should, however, be orchestrating opportunities for us to really get to know each other better – the St Peter's 'My Story' initiative came to mind when I heard this comment. I was also relieved to hear this, as I've always been uncomfortable when our black and white teachers chose to sit separately, in the staffroom.

Mrs Rose Nkomo's new position as our Head of Curriculum Diversity and Transformation has already facilitated a number of honest and courageous conversations with our girls, staff and with parents and Roy Gluckman's input certainly gave us more food for thought on this journey of transforming our school. However, the more input we receive; the further we progress on our journey. Parents are, therefore, encouraged to attend the school's transformation initiatives such as *My Story* or even to come in and meet with Rose and/or myself to share your perspective on what we are doing and how we can further improve.

I wish you a wonderful weekend. Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

I was asked a question last week by a friend of mine, 'Why do we encourage and drive the sport the way we do at St Peter's?'

The first answer is simple; the girls gain all the health benefits of being active. Through physical literacy, the girls learn the importance of fitness, eating healthily, having a strong core and good flexibility, etc.

I am reading a book by Alistair McCaw called *Champion Minded* and he writes of the importance sport has in developing a growth mindset and he speaks about the life skills that are learnt through sport. We are able to teach critical life skills such as accountability, commitment, confidence, courage, discipline, gratitude, failure, resilience and more, all of which will aid our girls in their future endeavours.

Thirdly, the girls need to learn that we are not born with a growth mindset. You choose to have one or not (fixed mindset). Developing a growth mindset means we have to endure experiences that include failure and

disappointment. Your daughter may not be selected for a team or she may suffer an injury. It is how she reacts to those experiences that will determine whether, she begins to develop GRIT and overcome tough times.

SWIMMING

- **Teacher in charge (TIC)** - of swimming is Toni Clarke-Buchanan. Should you have any questions concerning swimming, please feel free to contact her on tclarke@stpeters.co.za.
- **Swimming trials** – Thank you to all the girls who took part in the swimming this past week. The swimming was of a very high standard and the girls did extremely well!
- **Team selection** – Teams will be selected based on the times recorded this past week. There will be three teams selected each week. The distances each team swims are as follows:
A Team – 4 x 50m relay. The butterfly and medley relays are 25m events
B Team – 4 x 25m relay
C Team – 4 x 25m relay
- **Challenges** – If a girl would like to challenge to make a higher team she may do so on a Monday morning from 06:30-07:15 at the girls' pool. Please note the girls will be challenging for the gala being held the following week. We will NOT be holding weekly group timing as this takes away from the training time which is crucial to the girls' performance. Should we decide to hold a group challenge parents and girls will be notified in advance.
- **Kit** – All swimmers participating in an A Team gala must swim in the **blue school costume and red school cap**.
- **Galas** – Please note that there is NO gala next week Friday, 1 February due to the Grade7s being on Keys Camp.

TENNIS

- **Teacher in Charge (TIC)** – of tennis is Tshego Mashabela. Should you have any questions concerning tennis, please feel free to contact her on tmashabela@stpeters.co.za.
- **Optional tennis** - Any girls wanting to play, are invited to attend the practice sessions in the afternoons. Please note the afternoon sessions are open to all girls who would like to play tennis. There is no need to sign up. Please meet Nadine, our tennis coach, at the tennis courts at the allotted time. The afternoon sessions are as follows:
Grade 3 – Tuesday, 14:00-14:45
Grade 4 – Wednesday, 14:00-14:45
Grade 5 – Wednesday, 14:45-15:30
Grade 6 – Tuesday, 15:30-16:15
Grade 7 – Tuesday, 14:45-15:30
- **Team tennis** – Girls are able to challenge to get on to the school ladder, from which the school teams are selected. The team practices are held on a Tuesday morning from **06:30-07:15**
- **Sports kit** – The girls must wear their blue skorts and red sports shirts to all sporting activities. Girls must wear non-marking shoes. Girls must please have their own tennis rackets.

GENERAL

You will notice on the Week Ahead, that some of the afternoon lessons have been allocated as Physical Education lessons. Please ensure that your daughters pack both their sports kit and takkies, as well as their swimming things on those days. This gives us the option to have a swim after PE lessons on very hot days.

Andrew Steyn
(Director of Sport)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

ONLINE MUSIC APPLICATIONS

Registration for individual music lessons is open for 2019. An electronic application form (which can be found on the Communicator St Peter's) must be completed so that new pupils can be allocated to a teacher.

<https://goo.gl/forms/xJdsPcgclF1kSHsf1>

The following instrumental lessons are currently on offer at an additional cost of R195 per half hour lesson:

Piano	Cello	Saxophone	Violin	Recorder	Percussion
Flute	Drum kit	Voice	Clarinet	Guitar	Ukulele

The majority of the above lessons take place during the morning. Some lessons are scheduled in the afternoon, depending on the availability of the teachers and the extramural timetable.

For more information on the St Peter's School of Music, please visit the website on:

https://www.stpeters.co.za/girls-prep/content/page/girls-sp-cultural?prep_type=sp

MUSIC COFFEE MORNING

The St Peters Music Department is hosting a coffee morning on Tuesday 29 January 2019

Kindly confirm your attendance by filling out our google form link <https://goo.gl/forms/BS705FAFC3C1uD0t1>

My child has started an instrument, now what?

Coffee Morning

We would love for you to join us to discuss the following:

- ♥ I don't play an instrument, how can I help?
- ♥ What should I expect?
- ♥ Busting the Myths of practicing/practicing explained
- ♥ What does a music exam involve and how can I help my child prepare



Date : Tuesday, 29 January 2019

Time: 07:30 - 08:30

Venue: St Peter's Girls Senior Prep
Music Room

Marguerite Schmitt
(Director of Music)

PHOTOGRAPH USAGE

From time to time, we like to use photos on various platforms that we have taken of the girls. They may be published in the newspaper, in a magazine, on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, on the Communicator St Peter's Gallery or on our website/online.

If you DO NOT wish to allow us to use photos of you or your daughter in the media, please inform Jean Macleod, in writing, at jmacleod@stpeters.co.za

Jean Macleod
(Marketer)

HOT LUNCH

If your daughter requires Hot Lunch in 2019 please click on, and complete, the following Google Form, by Friday, 25 January:

<https://goo.gl/forms/zE1KQrBYxm42mvPO2>

This link is also on Communicator St Peter's, in the HOT LUNCH category, under Resources.

The term, week-by-week menu is also in this section of the Communicator.

CELEBRATION OF MATRIC CLASS OF 2018

Matric is the destination of a twelve-year path of learning. St Peter's Girls staff are incredibly proud of the Matrics of 2018. Our teachers have all played an important role in these young ladies' journey of education. Congratulations to the following girls (i.e. those that we know about) who received distinctions!

ST PETER'S COLLEGE

Christie Vemer – 8
Yogita Mohabir – 6
Nicole Brent – 2
Jessica Sloane – 2
Shannon Louis - 1

BRESCIA HOUSE

Christy Leather – 7
Emma Fearnhead – 7
Olivia Buck – 6 (top 1% of candidates in the country for Consumer Science)
Jessica Amsinck – 4
Alexandra Amsinck – 3
Nina Leenstra – 1
Sisikelo Mzobe - 1

DAINFERN COLLEGE

Erin van den Heever - 7

ST ANNE'S DIOCESAN COLLEGE

Cassandra Brown – 7 (top 1% of candidates in Physical Science and Mathematics)

Daniella Chasenski – 6

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

Chloe Caveney - 1

ST STITHIAN'S GIRLS COLLEGE

Caroline Mack – 8

Mariska Bester – 4

Chanté du Preez – 4

Zabaguni Phakathi – 3

Georgy Turner – 2

MORE OLD GIRL NEWS

St Mary's, Waverley:

Amy Urmson – Dux Scholar, Form 1

Emma Craig – Dux Scholar, Form 3

Kristy Leonard – Fifth in Form 1. Kristy has been selected for the All Star African Indoor Hockey team. They will travel to Germany and the Netherlands this year.

Cara Eggett

(Director: Pastoral Care)

FROM THE LIBRARY

Parents are requested to consider donating a book to the Library, on the occasion of their daughter's birthday. This is something, which has been done in the past and means that the Library receives a beautiful collection of books over the year. Your daughter's name will be recorded inside the book.

Once a month a group of mothers, meet in the library to cover any new books or textbooks for the school. This meeting takes place on the first Friday of every month. We are looking for volunteers. If you would like to join the team, share a cup of coffee, have a good laugh and a bit fun while doing something for the school, please let Leigh van Rooyen know on ivanrooyen@stpeters.co.za

Leigh van Rooyen

(Librarian)

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Monday	28/01/2019	01/02/2019	06:30:00	06:30:00	Grade 7 Keys Camp departs to Waterberg Game Lodge	Chapel Car Park
Tuesday	29/01/2019	29/01/2019	07:30:00	08:30:00	Coffee Morning: Music in the Girls School	SP Music Room
Tuesday	29/01/2019	29/01/2019	09:30:00	10:00:00	DSG Presentation: optional for Gr 5 & 6 girls	Royce Hall
Thursday	31/01/2019	31/01/2019	07:30:00	08:30:00	Coffee Morning: Sefikeng Volunteers	JP Girls Hall
Thursday	31/01/2019	31/01/2019	14:00:00	17:00:00	Tennis Matches: A-D Teams	Home/Away
Thursday	31/01/2019	31/01/2019	18:30:00	20:30:00	PA Meeting	Mvukuzane Pavilion
Friday	01/02/2019	01/02/2019	10:00:00	10:30:00	Hot Dog Day/Cartridge collection R25	
Friday	01/02/2019	01/02/2019	12:00:00	12:00:00	Grade 7 Keys Camp returns	
Sunday	03/02/2019	03/02/2019			REMINDER: CHAPEL COLLECTION FOR TOMORROW	

THANK YOU, TO THE ST PETER'S FAMILY

Thank you so much for the amazing Christmas boxes that you gave to the young children in Diepsloot.

The boxes were distributed to three Early Child Development (ECD) centres in Diepsloot, including our own Khulani ECD centre, which operates at the St Mungo's church site.

Your generosity brought Christmas joy to so many children and as always was much appreciated by us all.



Some little visitors popped in to say 'hello' to Mr Webb!