



Edition: 32

26 October 2017

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

During our Midterm break I finished a book called *The Happiest Kids in the World: Bringing up children the Dutch Way*, recommended to me by Mr Blackhurst. I am grateful to Mrs B for allowing me to use extracts of her summary.

At a time of the year when things appear to get frenetic for our children and ourselves, I thought it might be useful to reflect on some sound advice from the Netherlands.

Rina and Michele are two expat mothers living in The Netherlands. One is English and one is American. Rina and Michele report that, as soon as they arrived in The Netherlands, they were immediately struck by how happy Dutch children were. After a UNICEF report verified their perception, they decided to research this phenomenon and document their findings in a book.

The authors report that some of the things that set Dutch children apart from children in the UK and US are the following:

- Dutch children get more sleep
- They have very little homework until they are ten years old
- They are not just seen, but heard
- They are given independence
- They ride their bikes to school
- They play outside (in parks) unsupervised
- Dutch children enjoy regular family meals (twice a day)
- Dutch children spend more time with their moms and dads
- Dutch children are raised in a society that is not materialistic or competitive and which enjoys simple pleasures.

Like our UK and US counterparts, many South African parents are inclined to pressurise children to perform and micro-manage their children's lives. Sadly, the defining feature of these parents is often anxiety! Dutch parents, according to these authors, understand that achievement does not necessarily relate to happiness, but that happiness can cultivate achievement.

Rina and Michele experienced an enviable work-life balance in The Netherlands. They experienced Dutch mothers making adequate time for themselves, motherhood and work. Dutch fathers are absolutely equally involved with the household chores and the children. I quote from the book: *'We see British and American parents feeling constantly challenged and unsettled by their own unrealistic expectations and by other people's opinions. There is an assumption that children need all the money, resources and attention that a parent can (superhumanly) provide in order to give them a head start in life. If mums do not live up to the ideal of self-sacrificing, Pinterest-savvy, bending-over-backwards Mommy, society is quick to wave a finger. At the very crux of the judgemental bandwagon is the*

way society measures and compares parenting expertise through the academic and other accomplishments of our children.'

There seems to be an underlying belief that the time and effort (and money) that we put into celebrations, such as birthday parties, proves our love. Conversely, in The Netherlands, birthday parties and other celebrations are simple and more about the togetherness and the joy of celebrating the child.

In The Netherlands the pre-school focus is on teaching the child social and emotional skills such as taking turns, sharing, being nice and playing together. (Just like we do at St Peter's Prep!) Children are not taught to read early and the emphasis is on learning through playful activities and play. (Just like we do at St Peter's Prep)

A prep school report in The Netherlands has no grades, only an indication of whether the child is: behind the general learning pathway, far behind it, following it or ahead of it. The value of education lies in collaboration, communication, deep learning, critical thinking, creativity and social values as opposed to the rewards of competition, top grades and results. (If results and external rewards become a source of self-esteem, what happens in the workplace? There is surely a danger that figures, increases and salaries could be seen as a measurement of self-worth?)

The authors of the book met a professor from Rotterdam, Professor Veenhoven, who is involved in the research on happiness. He stated categorically that Dutch schools intentionally ensure that children *like* going to school (just like our girls at St Peter's Prep 😊) investing more energy in motivation than in achievement. Social skills are also stressed as the professor says, *'They are much more important than IQ.'*

The book will be available in our library for parents to borrow in the very near future.

Have a good weekend!

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)

DADS HOT DOG DAY AND CARTRIDGE COLLECTION - FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER

Tomorrow is Dad's Hot Dog Day!

Volunteers, please to meet us at 08:30 (for Grade 0 – 2) and 09:30 (for Grade 3 – 7), at the Keys Pavilion.

The cost is R25.

Remember to bring empty ink cartridges in as usual too, please.

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

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

With the final athletics meeting of the season taking place tomorrow Friday, 27 October, the focus will shift to swimming for the remainder of the term. From Monday, 30 October, all girls will be swimming in their morning and afternoon lessons. They must remember to bring all the required kit (team/black costume, school/house cap, goggles – if required, school towel and sunscreen). Girls may wear slops (navy, black or the school slops) or takkies and they must have their sports kit (to wear over their costumes or for the lesson if the weather is inclement). Black/navy or school rash vests may also be worn.

We will be hosting three Inter-schools Cross Country events in November – these are not compulsory, but we would love as many girls as possible to run. There will be two events: Junior (Grade 3 & 4) and Senior (Grade 5-7) so the afternoon will conclude at approximately 15:30. The seniors will run their 2,2km route first, and then the juniors will run their 1,8km route. Further details regarding the route and start/finish locations will be made available closer to the time.

As per the calendar, the girls will be participating in two Biathle events and one Mile event this term. The Mile will be an opportunity for girls to swim either 32 lengths (half mile) or 64 lengths (mile) in a given time. The Biathles involve two swimming legs and one running leg. These events are great fun and we would like all girls to participate, as it will be run as an Inter-house competition. We will be preparing the girls for these events in their sports lessons. As we are not under pressure to prepare for galas this term (other than the Inter-house Relay gala), we will also have the opportunity of introducing the girls to some other Aquatic games/sports, e.g. water polo and synchronised swimming.

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

Liz Ashmore

(Director of Sport)

LAshmore@stpeters.co.za



PA NEWS

VOLUNTEER NOW FOR 2018!

The St Peter's Prep Parents Association is planning the following events for 2018, and as always, we are looking for volunteers to participate in the organisation of these events. Please contact Robyn (robyn@designoval.co.za) or Caron (cduplessis@stpeters.co.za) if you are interested in getting involved.

The planned events are:

- **Ladies Lunch:** this takes place every second year, in the first term, alternating with the Staff Variety Show. It involves the moms of the school purchasing tickets for a fun afternoon, involving lunch, drinks and some form of entertainment – the format and choice of entertainment to be decided by the organisers.
- **Winter Warmers:** we have decided to bring back the very popular Winter Warmers concert in 2018, as a change from Movie Night and Autumn Carnival. The format and entertainment to be decided by the organisers, but this typically involves an outdoor music festival/act coupled with an Inflatable Carnival, entertainment for kids, food and drink vendors. Families come for a relaxed afternoon on the field in the winter sun, listening to great music, while the children are busy with their own entertainment.
- **Family Soccer Festival:** as per the 2017 festival, this will involve an afternoon of friendly soccer matches between the children while parents relax and enjoy the matches.
- **Golf Day:** the annual Golf Day, held at Kyalami Country Club, will take place in the third term of 2018.



NESPRESSO ZENIUS 

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE.

Win a Nespresso Zenius Machine just by using your MySchool Card.

Winning is easy at St Peter's Prep, all you have to do is swipe your MySchool card between 1 - 30 November 2017, save your slip from the MySchool partner, write your name and contact number on the back and pop it into 1 of 4 branded competition boxes, allocated in each of the schools' receptions. Remember multiple entries are permitted. So every receipt is an entry. One MySchool member from the St Peter's Prep community will be selected as the winner, by way of a random draw from all the receipts collected from the competition boxes, at Sunset Carols on 2 December 2017.

If you do not have a MySchool card and would be interested in joining please contact Gabby Cowling (gabby@brandalivegroup.com) or Anne Du Preez (annedp@live.com)



T & C'S APPLY THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

SOLLY SITHOLE

Solly Sithole is an intern in the Boys Junior Prep and is 24 years old. He was born in Randfontein, Johannesburg where he lived with both his parents. He has 13 siblings.

Solly matriculated in KZN in 2012 and then relocated back to Johannesburg. He secured employment at Sparrow Schools in Sophiatown, as a quality assurer.

Sadly, Solly's father passed away, after a long illness, in June this year. He has a great relationship with his mother and describes her as being 'extremely supportive.'

Solly says, "When I heard about the St Peter's Intern Programme, I told myself that this is the 'big break' that I've been waiting for - I've always wanted to be a teacher. Being a teacher will help me change lives and be a good role model to my own children. I am so grateful for this opportunity and my life will change forever.'



HOME CONNECT OFFER

We have great news! St Peter's Prep Schools internet connection has been upgraded by an additional 1Gbps at no cost to the school. Home Connect has simply asked that we send a pamphlet home, with the children, offering parents great pricing for home fibre connections.

If you would like to take them up on their offering, the details will be on the pamphlet.

Dieter Glöss
(IT and Project Manager)

EXTRA CHESS LESSONS

Nhlanhla Thabethe is offering extra Chess lessons at St Peter's Girls Prep. Nhlanhla has been Chess coach at the Boys Prep for the past five years.

He will conduct individual lessons at school on Fridays from 14:00 to 16:00 – these started after the October Mid-term break. He still has eight spaces and teaches four individuals only, per hour.

Should you wish to find out more about these lessons, and the cost, please contact him on 083 962 3320 or email nhlekgza60@gmail.com

Nhlanhla Thabethe
(Chess Coach)

CHRISTMAS BOXES

We will be sending a box home with your child, for our Christmas box appeal. These filled boxes will be distributed to vulnerable children and families in Diepsloot. Please encourage your daughter to get involved in the process of giving to others – and in so doing understanding the true meaning of Christmas. We are including the following suggestions (Sometimes this is the only treat these communities receive). Please include:

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Face Cloth, Soap
- Small toy (Maximum value R50 as the children will open their boxes in front of other children who have received a box and we don't want any disappointment)
- Packet of Sweets
- Crayons and blank book

If there is space, please fill box up with: tinned fish or beef, tinned fruit, baked beans, sugar, tea bags, long life milk, jam, biscuits. Please be so kind as to wrap them in Christmas paper. Please help us to build on last year's success by returning your box by the **17 November** (last year we collected over 800 boxes!)

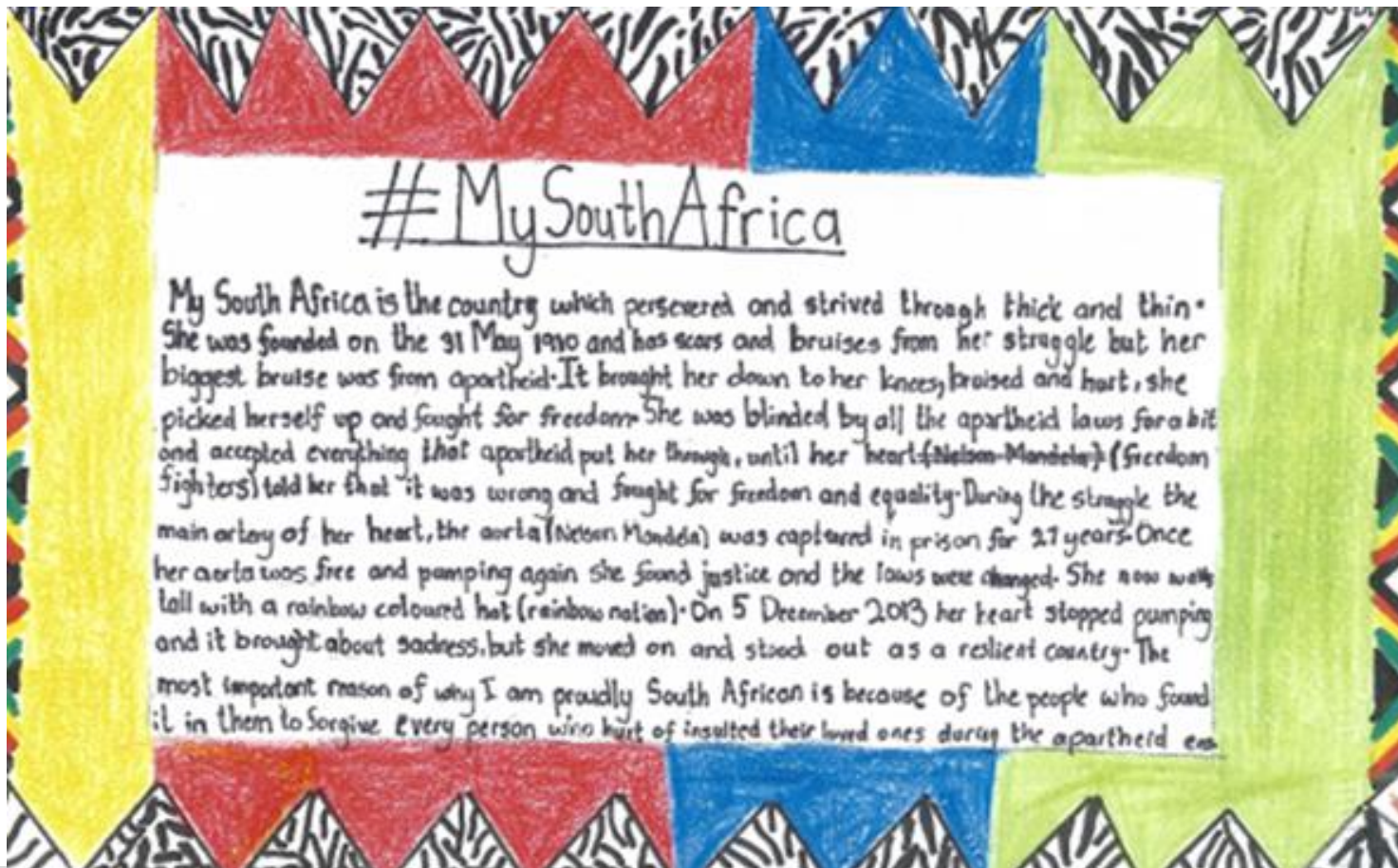
Collection points: Girls SP Reception
 Boys SP Reception
 JP Girls and Boys Reception areas

Please contact Monica on msloane@stpeters.co.za for any further info.

Father Richard
 Chaplain



WRITTEN BY ALMAAZ MUDALY, GRADE 5 NM



ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY IN SUNSET CAROLS PROGRAMME



The St Peter's Sunset Carols is a wonderful family event that attracts over 2000 people.

Each year a Christmas Carols programme is distributed on the evening. It is filled with wonderful photos of our choirs.

This publication is a perfect opportunity for your business to support the event by advertising in this glossy A4 magazine.

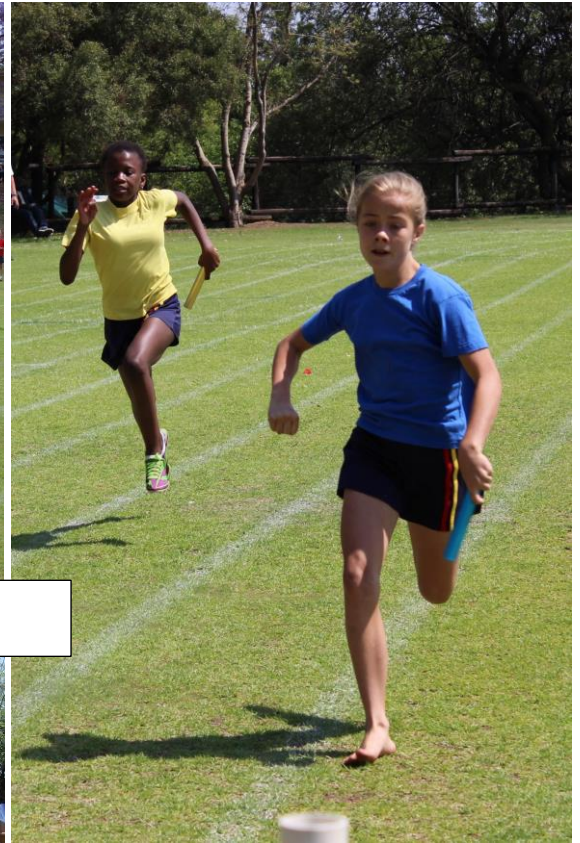
Please contact Monica Sloane (msloane@stpeters.co.za) for further details.

Monica Sloane
Foundation Manager

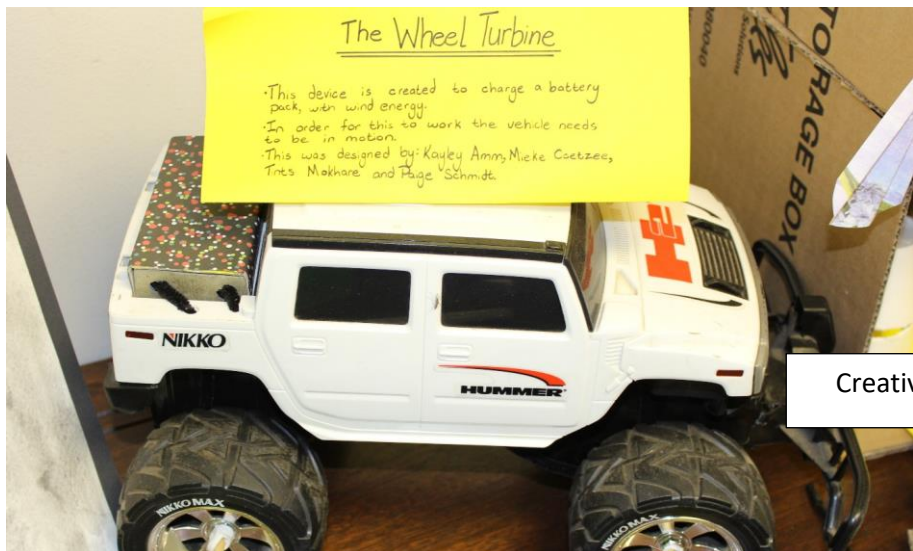
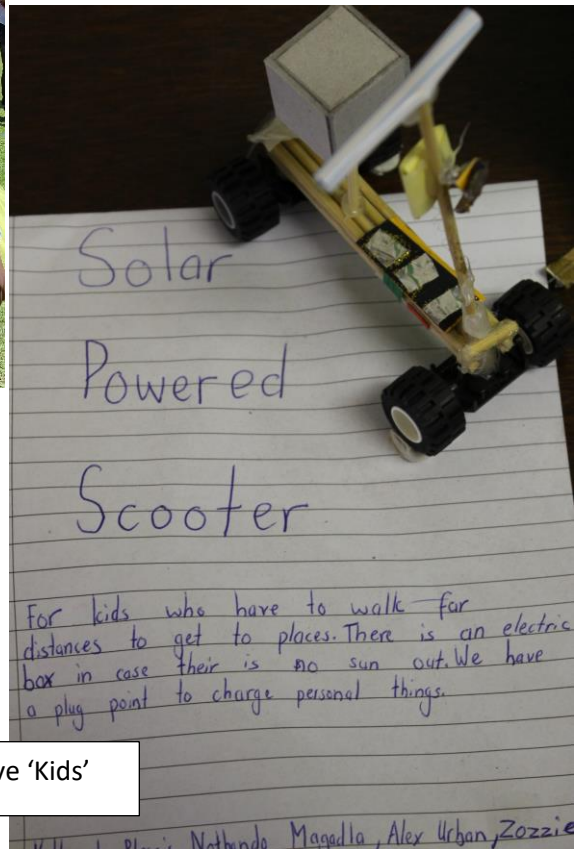
FORTHCOMING WEEK

Monday	30/10/2017	16:00:00	17:30:00	Inter-School General Knowledge Quiz		Kyalami Preparatory School
Wednesday	01/11/2017	18:30:00	20:30:00	New Parents' Evensong and Cocktail Party		Chapel and Girls JP Hall
Wednesday	01/11/2017			REMINDER: CHAPEL COLLECTION FOR TOMORROW		
Thursday	02/11/2017	07:30:00	13:30:00	GIRLS SPORTS & CULTURAL PHOTOGRAPHS	No 1s and Sport Kit	Royce Hall
Thursday	02/11/2017	09:30:00	10:00:00	Grade 3JA Sandwich Making		
Thursday	02/11/2017	13:30:00	15:30:00	Cross Country	Gr 3-7	Home
Thursday	02/11/2017	13:30:00	16:30:00	Grade 3 Tennis Festival		Roedean
Friday	03/11/2017	09:00:00	11:00:00	Grade 4 Market Day		
Friday	03/11/2017	13:30:00	16:00:00	Girls School Biathle 1	Gr 3-7	Girls Pool

THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS



Fun at Sports Day!



Creative 'Kids'