



Edition: 12

4 April 2019

## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

At the beginning of this year Carmen Whitfield, an Educational Psychologist, was appointed as the Head of our Academic Support Unit (ASU). Carmen has already added tremendous value in terms of providing critical support for our girls and teachers from Grade 0 to Grade 7 in the development of our personalised learning process.

This process should enable each girl to work at their respective level of understanding, regardless of their grade. This philosophy challenges traditional schooling paradigms that suggest, for example, if a girl is in Grade 6, they should only be doing Grade 6 work. Our feeling is that, if they have the ability to read or calculate at a Grade 8 level, they should have the opportunity to do so. Conversely, if they are not ready to cope with Grade 6 work – they should be provided with the relevant support and guidance to bring them 'up to speed'.

This support and guidance is obviously varied depending on the individual needs of the girl.

The support and guidance starts in the classroom where our teachers make every effort to personalise their teaching to accommodate different needs – as mentioned in last week's newsletter. We also have numerous periods every week where an additional teacher joins a class, in Maths and English, to provide better individual support – this is a value-add, which not many schools are able to provide.

There are still times, however, when a teacher may need additional support and guidance to cope with a particular girl's individual needs. This support is provided at weekly class meetings with Carmen, where individual girls are discussed and specific recommendations are made. These recommendations are then put in place, in the classroom, and reviewed on a regular basis. If they are not proving effective, Carmen may then suggest individual therapy or a full Academic Assessment.

As you may be aware, we have a number of phenomenal therapists and support teachers working at our school. Lisa Human is our Speech and Language Therapist. Some of her focus areas include: articulation, auditory processing, language difficulties and fluency disorders. It is important to note that Speech Therapy addresses areas which precede literacy skills. Therefore, a child who struggles with reading or spelling may need to see a Speech and Language Therapist before any other intervention. This forms the foundation of any language development.

Saskia Leenstra, Kathryn Tarlton and Fiona van der Zee are our three Occupational Therapists. Occupational Therapy focuses mainly on sensory modulation and postural control. Together, these areas form the foundation of effective learning within a classroom environment. If these areas are not addressed timeously, this could negatively affect the child's overall development.

Micaela Laios is our remedial therapist in the Junior Prep. Micaela offers girls individualised remedial support focusing on consolidating areas such as: Mathematics, English and organisational skills. Remedial therapy often takes place after foundational therapies (Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy) have been completed, to ensure that there is transfer into the classroom.

Sue Garner provides girls with Academic Support and individual Mathematics intervention. More recently, she is offering short skill-based workshops. These workshops do not replace any necessary intervention; they rather provide girls with some additional support in specific areas.

Samantha Schulz is a physiotherapist who focuses on developing areas such as core strength, hypermobility and girdle strength. These areas are important to support a child's physical ability to learn optimally in the classroom environment.

(Although we are privileged to work with such an experienced and knowledgeable team of therapists, it needs to be remembered that parents are never compelled to utilise the services of *our* therapists. In fact, we are always able to provide a list of external service providers, should parents request one).

Carmen also monitors the effectiveness and progress of these therapies by meeting with the therapists on a regular basis. In this way, she becomes 'the common thread' that tracks our girls from Grade 0 through to Grade 7 on their academic journey. I'm sure you join me in welcoming Carmen to St Peter's Girls Prep School and thank her, in advance, for the incredible value she will be adding to our school.



Saskia Leenstra, Lisa Glover, Carmen Whitfield, Fiona van der Zee, Sue Garner, Kathryn Tarlton, Micaela Laios

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

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## FAREWELL MRS KISSACK

Mrs Heather Kissack leaves us today, to take up the position as Headmistress of Redhill. As much as we are very proud of Heather, we are also very sorry to lose her.

Farewell Mrs Kissack. May this new, exciting chapter be everything you are hoping for and more.



## LIGHTNING

I can understand that the recent lightning conditions have caused significant frustration for parents not being able to collect their daughters as planned. However, what I cannot understand, is parents who verbally express their frustrations to the teachers - who are merely following school protocol by not releasing the girls under these conditions.

Parents are not permitted to send a sibling to 'fetch' a child. In such instances, the teacher-in-charge will keep both children under shelter for their safety. Please could I ask that all parents demonstrate a little more patience when the school is under lightning conditions – we are doing everything we can to keep your children safe.

A further reminder of our 'lightning conditions' protocol - girls are to move quickly to the nearest indoor venue or stay inside.

- If the lightning siren goes off while a class/grade is participating in an afternoon activity, the teacher-in-charge will direct them to the nearest indoor venue and stay with them until it is safe to move or they are collected by a parent/guardian. The teacher will notify Reception of the girls' whereabouts, so that they can be collected from that venue.
- If the lightning siren goes off or sport is cancelled due to wet weather, girls will be supervised by the Sports Department for the duration of their sports lesson. They will be in the STEM Lab and may be collected from there.
- If the lightning siren goes off while girls are waiting to be collected in the afternoon, they will be required to stay in either the Library or the Grade 4 IdB classroom until collected by a parent/guardian.

Please note that all girls are required to move to the Aftercare Programme facility, after 16:15. If, however, the lightning siren goes off, the teacher on duty will stay with the girls in the Grade 4 IdB classroom until they are collected. It is unsafe to walk across to Aftercare when the school is under lightning conditions.

D.Webb

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## AFTERNOON SUPERVISION

Afternoon supervision is provided for Grade 3 – 7 girls, not doing sport, from Mon – Thurs 14:00 – 16:15. This person will supervise in the areas mentioned below:

- **Library**

Girls may use the library for reading, homework and revision. This is a *quiet* space and we ask all to be respectful of those who are trying to work. Grade 6 & 7 girls – may use iPads with teacher supervision. Grade 3 - 5 girls – no iPads.

- **Outside Playground (between school entrance and hall)**

Afternoon play is encouraged after completion of homework and revision. Girls who are wanting to play outside should make use of this area.

- **Grade 4 IdB classroom** (downstairs, first classroom on the left of the foyer)

This classroom is available in the event of cold/wet weather. Games are stored in Mrs de Bruyn's classroom. All girls are required to play responsibly and tidy up before leaving the venue.

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## CALENDAR

The Trinity Term calendar is attached to this newsletter and has been loaded onto the Communicator St Peter's app. Please direct any calendar queries to Kerry Schmidt: [kschmidt@stpeters.co.za](mailto:kschmidt@stpeters.co.za)

Cath Holm (*Head of Organisation and Administration*)

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## FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Food for thought . . .



## CROSS COUNTRY

TIC - Leanne Fleming ([lfleming@stpeters.co.za](mailto:lfleming@stpeters.co.za))

Reminder that we will be hosting our Inter-House Cross Country on **Wednesday, 10 April**. Please see the start times below.

14:00 – Grade 5-7 girls meet at Newlands Field

14:15 – Grade 7

14:30 – Grade 6

14:35 – Grade 3-4 girls meet at Newlands Field

14:45 – Grade 5

15:00 – Grade 3

15:15 – Grade 4

## NETBALL & TENNIS

Wishing our teams, traveling to Bloemfontein this weekend, the very best of luck!

## OPTIONAL TENNIS

The optional tennis practices will continue as per the extramural timetable. Please could all girls playing tennis meet at the astro tennis courts for their sessions. Please ensure that your daughter has the correct shoes and hat when attending the practice sessions!

### Tennis Ladder

Girls are able to challenge to get a place on the school ladder, from which the school teams are selected. The team practices are held on a Tuesday morning from **06:30 - 07:15** on the astro courts.

Andrew Steyn (*Director of Sport*)

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## REMINDER: TOMORROW FRIDAY, 5 APRIL

## HOT DOG DAY AND CARTRIDGE COLLECTION



# R25

## EXTRAMURALS

Please note that the last day of extramural activities, as per the afternoon extramural timetable, will be Tuesday, 9 April. All girls from Grade 3 - 7 will be involved in Inter-house Cross Country on Wednesday, 10 April from 14:00 – 16:00.

There are no changes to the extramural programme in the Trinity Term and it will commence again from Monday, 13 May. However, there will be netball practice for Grade 4-7 A Team netball players on Thursday, 9 May from 13:30 – 14:30 as they are participating in a netball festival on Saturday, 11 May.

Cath Holm  
(Head of Organisation and Administration)

### SECURITY QR CODE UPDATE

If you **HAVE NOT** filled in a Google Form, please fill this in: <https://goo.gl/forms/NX1PEDAYmpKMctxR2>  
For those that **HAVE** filled in the Google Form, please watch your Inbox next week. Your code will be emailed to you.

For any other queries, please email: [stpeters@appcharlie.com](mailto:stpeters@appcharlie.com)

Lance Camphor  
(Head of Security)

## IDAI CYCLONE: MOZAMBIQUE

### COLLECTION: 8 – 11 APRIL

Days after tropical cyclone IDAI swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, the visible effects are starting to unfold and the world can see the catastrophic disaster, which has taken place. It has destroyed almost everything in its path, causing not only devastating floods, but also leaving thousands of people missing, injured, deceased, homeless, helpless and distraught.

More than 100 000 children in Mozambique have been adversely affected, not having eaten in days nor having access to clean water. Many children either have lost their parents or are still looking for them. These children are in desperate need of help.

Paediatric Care Africa is co-ordinating a collection and St Peter's is acting as a drop-off point for people who would like to make any donation. Please drop off any of the following in the Prayer Room in the Chapel:

**Babies' needs:** Clothing, baby equipment, non-disposable nappies, cream, soap, non-perishable food and milk for babies, bottled water, mosquito repellent, water-purifying tablets

**Children's needs:** Clean re-usable, or new, shoes, clothing, blankets, sunhats, socks, jerseys.

Details about this organisation can be found at <https://www.pediatriccareafrika.org>

Father Richard  
(Chaplain)



## REMINDER - INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS GROUP PHOTOGRAPH ORDERS

The photographer has kindly given us an extension for photograph orders - deadline for orders is today **Thursday, 4 April 2019**.

All group photos can be viewed and accessed on the website: [www.lifeimaging.co.za](http://www.lifeimaging.co.za)

**Username: stpeters**

**Password: spg123**

(These details are on the order form)

Please read ordering instructions very carefully to avoid frustration!

Photographs which are ordered using the order form - must be paid for via EFT (banking details on the form). Proof of EFT should be attached to the order form when it is returned. **NO CASH CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

Jean Macleod

(Marketer: Girls School)

## ST PETER'S PREP PARENT PORTAL

We are pleased to announce the opening of our Parent Portal, which will allow parents to check upcoming events, extra-curricular information and view school reports from home, office or anywhere. Communications between parents and teachers can and will take place via the portal. The real-time link, this Portal provides, is a 'must have' facility in today's busy world.

We will be keeping all our current communication channels open until we are comfortable that the Portal provides a better service. One important feature is the Portal Calendar. Export and import functions are available for all popular third-party calendars with the ability to set up and view multiple calendars.

Activation of the Portal will be emailed grade by grade. Parents, who have children in multiple grades must please only activate their account once. This will take place from the end of March until the end of May, starting with the Grade 7s.



We will be placing the First Semester reports, 28 June 2019, onto the Portal, so it is important that you set up your account and ensure that you remember your password. A Helpdesk will be set up to assist parents who have difficulty. [Portalhelp@stpeters.co.za](mailto:Portalhelp@stpeters.co.za)

A user manual can be found on the Communicator.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to Caron du Plessis, who will be managing the Portal. [cduplessis@stpeters.co.za](mailto:cduplessis@stpeters.co.za)



## Sign up for Holiday Netball Clinic



Date: 26, 29 & 30 April

Time: Grade 3 – 4 **08:00-10:00**  
Grade 5 – 7 **10:30 – 13:30**

Venue: St Peter's Girls Prep Netball courts

Hosted by: Tumi Makola & Ronel Schoeman

A holiday netball clinic is on offer - to help girls with pre-season training and to improve their netball skills. We will be focusing on agility, footwork, on-court playing techniques, shooting techniques, defense and many other skills.

We also include some life-skills development, personal growth and skills development. We teach the children the following aspects:

- Sportsmanship
- Teamwork
- Building individual character
- Acceptance of cultures and personalities
- Mental strength
- That sport is fun!

Cost: **R110** per child **per day**. Bookings can be made (with payment in cash) to Tumi Makola or Ronel Schoeman

Ronel Schoeman [rschoeman@stpeters.co.za](mailto:rschoeman@stpeters.co.za) and Tumi Makola [kmakola@stpeters.co.za](mailto:kmakola@stpeters.co.za)



Tennis Team off to Bloemfontein this morning!



Grade 4s on their Seussical Show outing. Mahlohonolo Malie, a Grade 4 pupil is part of the cast!



Crazy Hair Day in the JP!  
Farewell, Heather! Be happy at Redhill!