



Edition: 17

6 June 2019

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

HELP WITH OLD BOYS ADMIN

We are hoping to find volunteers who can assist with building up the Old Boys database. This would involve contacting Old Boys, updating email addresses and so on. If you are interested and have a little time, please contact Hilary Nothard on hnothard@stpeters.co.za. She will be able to furnish further detail.

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 HEADMASTER

This post written by Ozan Varol, speaks to everything we are trying to achieve at St Peter's, but more importantly, it gives some sound recommendations to parents as to how best to support our philosophy.

A kindergarten teacher was walking around the room to check each child's work as they drew pictures. "What are you drawing?" he asked one student.

The girl said, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher, expecting to hear butterflies and rainbows, was shocked at this deviation from the standard curriculum: "But no one knows what God looks like."

The girl replied, "They will in a minute."

This is the typical juxtaposition: The curious and inquisitive child, and the conformist teacher. Our school systems were designed to churn out compliant industrial workers, not to inspire individuals to dream big and challenge the way things are. School taught us obedience and fitting in, so we could properly operate the assembly line in a dingy factory for six days a week.

The Industrial Age is long gone. This is the Information Age, but our school system is lagging far behind. The workers we're still producing to thrive in the Industrial Age wither in the Information Age.

During a recent speaking engagement, I received a question from a parent on how to undo some of this damage caused by the education system. Specifically, he asked how he could cultivate curiosity and critical thinking in his children. I'm not a parent so, in one sense, I'm underqualified to say anything on this topic. But I'm a professor and, over the past seven years, I've learned a few things for encouraging students to think differently.

What follows is a list of six questions parents typically ask their children. I'll explain why parents should stop asking these questions and what they should ask instead.

1. "What did you learn today?" vs. "What did you disagree with today?"

The cliché question "What did you learn in school today?" reinforces the traditional conception of education: Put your mouth on the spigot of knowledge. Drink deeply and regurgitate it on demand.

Here's the thing: A willingness to question knowledge is far more important than the ability to receive and retain it. Important dates in the Civil War and the capitals of the fifty states will all be forgotten soon enough. Once ingrained, however, the ability to challenge the status quo and to question confident claims—whatever their source—will remain.

2. "What did you accomplish this week?" vs. "What did you fail at this week?"

We live in a society that stigmatizes failure. Growing up, failure got us grounded or put us into the principal's office. As adults, we fear failure to a pathological degree. Behind every canvas unpainted, every goal unattempted, every business unlaunched, every book unwritten and every song unsung is the looming fear of failure.

This isn't an endorsement of failure for the sake of failure. Failure, by itself, isn't enough. You must reflect on it, learn from it, and improve on your next attempt.

3. "Here's how you do that." vs. "How would you solve this problem?"

When a child comes to us with a problem, our initial instinct is to step in to deliver a quick and efficient fix. Resist that instinct. Don't show your hand. Let them find a solution on their own. The process involved in finding the answer is far more important than the answer itself.

When you spoon-feed the solution to your children, you're acting like a personal trainer who "helps" a client by lifting their weights for them. But when you let your children formulate a solution, you're letting them exercise their critical-thinking muscles. And just like muscles, the brain must be exercised through reps and sets to grow and mature. After your children solve the problem, ask them to solve it in a different way. Let them see that there's often more than one way of framing the problem and more than one solution to it.

4. "That's just the way it is." vs. "Great question. Why don't you figure out the answer?"

Children are masters at asking questions. They're moved, not by a desire to impress, but by genuine curiosity. They stare at the world, wrapped in awe, and take nothing for granted. They approach life, not with the assumption that they know (or should know) the answers, but with the desire to experiment and absorb.

Why do we stand still if the world is spinning?

Why does the ground feel cold if the Earth's core is so hot?

Do butterflies poop? (I don't know. Do they?).

These questions annoy many adults who believe that everything important has been settled already (That's just the way it is).

Instead of stifling your children's curiosity, nurture it. Encourage them to ask questions and remain curious about the world. It's this process of open-minded inquiry that has resulted in every major human breakthrough. The longer your children can resist the strong temptation to replace curiosity with complacency, the better off they will be.

5. "You can't do that." vs. "What would it take to do that?"

Don't tell your children that their ideas are crazy or infeasible.

Imagine if a young Einstein had been silenced when he posed this seemingly crazy hypothetical: What would happen if I chased after a beam of light? This question could have been reflexively dismissed as absurd by a busy teacher or an annoyed parent. Its resolution ultimately culminated in the special theory of relativity.

Open up possibilities instead of closing them off. Encourage seemingly crazy ideas by engaging with your children: "What would you need, young Albert, to chase after a beam of light?" "What would the beam of light look like when you arrived?"

6. "Did you make a new friend today?" vs. "How did you help someone today?"

The first question treats school like a superficial networking event (How many business cards did you collect?). The second one encourages forming meaningful connections and developing a spirit of generosity. It sends a far better message: Always be on the lookout for opportunities to help others.

It may have occurred to some of you that this post is a Trojan Horse. These questions are as much for you as they are for children.

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

2019 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE SENIOR PREP: CARDBOARD CHALLENGE

World Environment Day was observed throughout the school.

The Senior Prep girls took part in the **Cardboard Challenge**, involving making creations out of cardboard after being presented with a challenge. Examples of the challenges, presented to the girls, follow in this article.

In the Junior Prep, the girls experienced a day of **Outdoor Classroom**.

This Wordle describes reflections of the day:



The grades approached this learning opportunity in different ways and all the girls thoroughly enjoyed their experiences. Success, and failure, was achieved in various forms.

Grade 7 Challenges

- Plan and design a prototype of any device/ structure / tool that we could implement at St Peter's to assist individuals with any form of disability.
- Invent something, which will enhance learning in an underprivileged classroom where there are no funds for basics such as furniture, textbooks, stationery etc.



These shoes will be a real lifesaver in underprivileged communities as these shoes generate energy as you walk so when the child walks to school energy will be created. What happens is that when you walk in the shoes the friction creates energy. At the bottom of the shoe there is Poron foam and Poron foam is an energy absorber, therefore the energy is absorbed into the shoe and is turned into light so when the child walks home late at night there will be a light for them so that they can see where they are going. When they get home the energy from the shoe can also be used to power up other things.

- Design the ultimate St Peter's Classroom in the beer box. Your classroom must include all furniture, apparatus, technology and inventions for the future that will enhance learning. You can include ALL luxuries...do not forget the poor teacher needs some space too!

Grade 6 Challenge

- Design and build a game that highlights and educates others about environmental issues.



Save the Environment, Jenga

Grade 5 Challenge

- Design and name your own heritage sites accompanied by a story of how it came about and why it is important to preserve.



World heritage site - The hall of fame

Grade 4 Challenge

- Create a cave creature using the design process. Here imaginations ran wild . . .



Great fun – with amazing creations!

Grade 3 Challenge

- Design and construct an insect.

The girls attended two amazing presentations before embarking on this project. One was on bees and the other was on other insects and creatures. This assisted them with their planning and reflection.



Stick insect – fascinating!



An insect creation

Much fun was had in the process - an enjoyable, learning experience!

Pam van Gass
(Deputy Head: Academics)

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Food for thought . . .

“It seems that we’ve forgotten that school is a place where you learn. It’s a place of preparation, not performance. Once you’ve gained skills and learnt confidence based on real competence, you are better prepared for the stress of performance and competition.”

GARY KIRSTEN

NETBALL – TIC Tumi Makola (kmakola@stpeters.co.za)

There will be no more early morning Shooting Practice – due to the fact the all netball matches have finished.

Netball Festivals

Grade 6 and 7 C-E will be participating in the St Mary's Netball Festival on Saturday, 8 June.

Good luck to all the girls participating!

Please find the order of play attached to this email.

A reminder that Inter-House Netball will take place on Friday, 14 June.

OPTIONAL TENNIS

The optional tennis practices will continue as per the extra mural 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!

HOCKEY

St Peter's College Hockey Centre invites all Grade 3-7 girls wanting to play hockey to attend their Skills Development Sessions on a Monday evening at the College Astro. Please see Communicator St Peter's/Resources/Girls Sport for more details.

STRAPPING

Charne Cronin or Meaghan Badenhorst are available to do sports strapping between 13:00 and 14:00 at the sports office. If you would like your daughter to have any strapping done, there are two options available:

1. Girls are to provide their own strapping
2. Girls may pay R100 to cover the cost for the tape

Andrew Steyn
(Director of Sport)

DADS & (GR 4 & 5) DAUGHTERS' DINNER

Saturday, 8 June 2019
18:00 – 20:00

Tickets on sale via TIXSA . Click on the link to purchase tickets:

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/stp-dad-2019>



REMINDER

If you use the campus to walk your dogs, please remember to pick up the poop!





ST PETER'S
PREP SCHOOLS

2019 Winter Warmers

Family Fun Day

Ticket Prices

Scholar 5-18yrs	R150
Adult 18yrs+	R150
Toddler 2-4yrs	R50

Children Under 2
Free Entry

Lucky Draw Tickets
4 for R100
1 for R25

Date: Sat 22 June 11:00 to 17:00
Venue: Mvukuzane Field, St Peter's Prep
Tickets on sale through TIXSA
<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/winter-warmers-2019>

Link to purchase tickets: <https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/winter-warmers-2019>