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ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

I had the privilege to speak to our new Gr 0 parents of 2018, last Saturday. One significant point I try to get across, is the need for parents to guard against the concept of 'learnt helplessness' – where parents do everything for their daughters. Parents do this to try and make their daughter's life as easy as possible, but actually they are not doing them any favours at all. I mentioned examples such as:

- Allowing them to carry their own bags to school.
- Insisting they have a job to do at home, such as making their own beds.
- Playing board games with them and not always letting them win!
- Dressing themselves in the morning.

I mention this presentation because this week I was sent this article, written by a teacher, that made me realise that, too often at school, we are also exacerbating this 'learnt helplessness' by providing a step by step guide for success, instead of using relevant opportunities to allow them to solve the problem and figure things out for themselves:

For ease of understanding, IKEA is a Do-it-yourself Store – I think in the US?

What IKEA and Our Education System Have in Common (It's Not a Good Thing) By AJ Juliani

If you are anything like me, you probably have a love/hate relationship with IKEA. I love walking through their store, putting our kids in childcare, and seeing all the possibilities (and cheap prices) of their furniture. Last week we headed to IKEA because my youngest was turning two-years-old, and she was asking for a "big girl" bed of her own!

Sure enough, IKEA had what we wanted and we picked it out and loaded the four huge boxes into our car. The entire way home my thoughts were on how long this would take to put together. It was Saturday and there was College Football to watch, stuff to do around the house, and a party to get ready for the very next day.

I got myself all set up for some work time and unloaded all four boxes into her room. The parts were everywhere, but IKEA did a great job organizing them, colour coding them and giving me a clear set of directions on how to build the bed. A few hours later, my task was complete! I followed the steps, took my time, and voila! We had a big-girl bed ready.

While I was putting the IKEA bed together and following the steps, I couldn't help but think that this is what many of our students must feel like. They are often given "big tasks" to complete in school. These tasks could be writing a paper, research essay, book report project, word problem, or lab.

In each case, the task must seem like it is going to take forever for the learner to complete. But then, we break it down step-by-step. We give students the exact directions and models on how to finish the work. We outline a rubric

and project guidelines that keep the student working at a good pace, and urge them to take it step-by-step until it is completed the “right” way.

While this might seem like a good thing, I’d argue it is one of the biggest issues we have in our education system right now. It’s hard to foster creativity and innovation when kids are always asked to follow the rules and complete the steps.

Here are four big takeaways I had from the IKEA experience and what our education system has in common:

1. IKEA is easy. But, I didn’t learn anything.

IKEA makes it easy to build a bed, a table, a chair, or anything else you might need in your house. I’ve personally built an entertainment unit, dresser with eight drawers, coffee table, two beds, desk, a couch, and two chairs from IKEA. Yet, I didn’t learn anything. I can’t even call it “building” because it was more like following the steps of a Lego set than learning how to create anything. How many times do our kids finish and create something in school but not learn anything because they are following prescribed steps and guidelines?

2. IKEA is about compliance. Satisfaction is only in getting it done/finishing.

The only thing I got from the process is that I better really pay attention to the directions or along the way I’ll mess up the product and have to go back and start all over again. If I was not compliant, I would be getting penalized because there was only ONE right way to make this bed. After the bed was complete, I’ll admit, I did feel a sense of satisfaction. However, it was in having a finished product that was good enough for my daughter to use. The more I thought about it the more I realized the process had duped me into thinking I was making, but really I was just following. My self-worth was tied into how well I could follow directions, not how well I could make something.

3. IKEA is convenient. It’s not creative.

You know what was great about this process from IKEA? It didn’t take too much time. It was extremely convenient to drive to the store, pick out which item we wanted. Slide it into the back of the car. Bring it up to her room and have it finished in an hour or two. It was extremely convenient. But, it wasn’t creative.

We want students to be successful, so we scaffold and build up support systems for them to find success. But, where is the line? How can we support student success, celebrate them making mistakes along the way, and make time for them to learn during the process of creating, instead of just following a process to create?

A.J. Juliani

Medium member since May 2017

Author. Speaker. Dad to four Crazy Kids. Dir. of Innovation. Faculty at PLN UPenn Graduate School of Ed. Once a Teacher Always a Teacher.

A little more food for thought . . .

Have a good weekend! Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)

MARKETING APPEAL

In 2015, St Peter's Girls Prep School's management made the decision to align with the Boys School in adding a third stream to the school, starting in the Junior Prep. This process involved us exhausting our extensive waiting lists.

This has made replacing girls, leaving in these grades, quite a challenge.

The reason we share this information with you is to harness your marketing potential! We often hear that parents don't even try to get their children into St Peter's Prep Schools, because of our extensive waiting lists. Well, in this case presently, we have an exception, in that we have a few places available in both Grade 2 and 4 next year. All other grades are full, with waiting lists.

We would love for you to 'spread the word' regarding these available places and perhaps we can fill them with friends of girls in the school!

Those interested would obviously go through our usual assessment procedure, which is customary for any new pupils entering the school. Interested families should contact admissions@stpeters.co.za as soon as possible.

Jean Macleod
(Marketer: Girls School)

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

The final inter-schools' Cross-country event will be held next Thursday, 16 November. There will be two events: senior (Grade 5-7) starting at 14:40 and junior (Grades 3 & 4) starting at 15:05. The afternoon will end at approximately 15:30. The seniors will run their 2,2k m route first and then the juniors will run their 1,8 km route. The route will start and finish on Mvukuzane Field. The girls will be running through the PWC bike park.

The arrangements for the second Biathle next Friday (17 November) afternoon are as follows:

Girls must report to the Girls pool directly after school, please. They are to wear their house T-shirts with skorts over their costumes and their house swimming caps. They may choose to wear takkies for the running leg, but most girls choose to run barefoot.

The starting times and race distances are:
13:40 Grade 5 (12 lengths/1 laps running/12 lengths)
14:00 Grade 3 (8 lengths/1 lap running/8 lengths)
14:20 Grade 4 (8 lengths/1 lap running/8 lengths)

Both the Cross Country and Biathle are optional for Grade 6 & 7 girls as they are on study break – they will compete with the grade 5s if they would like to join in.

A reminder that Grade 6 & 7 girls do not have afternoon sport from next week, but they will still have their morning lesson at 12:40 (Grade 7 on Monday; Grade 6 on Wednesday) – as per the week ahead.

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

Liz Ashmore
(Director of Sport) LAshmore@stpeters.co.za

HOT DOG DAY

A reminder that tomorrow is our last Hot Dog Day for 2017! **The cost is R25.**

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

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

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music Department is a hive of activity in preparing for the Sunset Carols, a highlight on our calendar.

SUNSET CAROLS ARRANGEMENTS

Rehearsal: Saturday, 2 December

Dress Code: Civvies with a hat

Venue: Mvukuzane Field

Please provide a snack pack as this is a long session.

Junior and Cadet Choir (Gr 2-4)

08:45-10:00

Chapel Choir (Gr 5-7)

10:00-12:30

The Marimba bands, Orchestra and other individuals will perform at the Christmas Market from 16:00.

Choristers arrive backstage: 17:45

Sunset Carols Performance:

18:00 - 20:30

Dress Code:

White school shirt, blue jeans and white trainers.

Marguerite Schmitt

(*HOD: Music*)

PA NEWS



WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE.

Don't forget to drop your slips, with your name and number on the back, in the entry boxes at all receptions in order to stand a chance to win the Nespresso Coffee Machine. Draw will take place on 2 December at Sunset Carols

NESPRESSO ZENIUS



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 Doak (robyn@designoval.co.za), Malope Mabizela (mabizelama@yahoo.com) 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.

POSITIONS FOR 2018 ARE OPEN IN THE GIRLS COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (OLD EC)**Roles and responsibilities of the CC**

Each school has its own CC. These individuals represent the parents of each school on the PA Committee. The main role of the CC is to manage and co-ordinate the class reps who play a crucial liaison and communication role between the parents of their classes, the teacher and the school, ensuring the correct information gets out to all parents.


The CC is responsible for the management of PA funds for TLC, and various breakfasts and functions required during the year.

The CC also support the school and PA functions as and when necessary. These functions include the Ladies Lunch, Winter Warmers, and the St Peter's Golf Day, to name a few.

It is important that the CC individuals uphold and epitomise the core values and community spirit for which St Peter's is known.

LIBRARY

Please return all library books by Friday, 17 November. Books not accounted for during stocktake will be charged to your school account. Books for the holidays may be taken out after Wednesday, 22 November.




ST PETER'S
SEATS OF FAME

- R250 per plaque
- Order forms available on the Communicator or at Reception
- Sample plaque can be viewed at reception
- Plaques will be installed on brick seating alongside Newlands field, amphitheatre, tennis courts or swimming pool (as specified on your order form)
- Orders can be placed any time but plaques will be installed twice annually
- Email completed forms to Katinka Cross kcross@mweb.co.za or hand in at reception

St Peter's Girls Prep
Leavers' Plaques
An initiative of the St Peters PA


Three Options:
Current pupil:


	MOTHEO RAMORITING GRADE 3 2017
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Leaver's plaque:


	KATIE SMITH 2010 – 2017
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Family plaque:

	THE SMITH FAMILY 2008 – 2017 KATIE JOSIE BELLA
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Sample plaque



Order by
15 November
for January
installation

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

LYDIA TELEKI

I was born in the Free State. I have never had contact, or support, from my father. I have no siblings, as my older brother was shot when he was 6 years old. I grew up being raised by extended family members. It was a hard life as things were tough and there were times when I was treated unkindly.

In Grade 10 I moved to Johannesburg to live with my mother in Fourways Gardens.

My mother is a domestic worker and has been employed by the Principal of Buccleuch Primary, and her husband, for 20 years – they have been very good to her and very supportive.

I attended Ferndale High School from Grade 10 to Matric.

'St Peter's is a blessing in my life. I have never been this happy or relaxed! My role as an Intern, and the pupils, mean so much to me. My incredible mentor is supportive of me and is always on the look out to see that I'm happy. I'm extremely humbled by everyone and everything! I promise to always do my very best!'



CHRISTMAS BOXES – REMINDER

BOXES TO BE RETURNED BY 17 NOVEMBER

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 the box up with: tinned fish, tinned beef, tinned fruit, baked beans, sugar, tea bags, long life milk, jam, biscuits. Please be so kind as to wrap them in Christmas or newspaper.

Collection points: Girls SP reception and Girls JP reception. Please contact Monica on msloane@stpeters.co.za for any further info.

Father Richard
(Chaplain)



FORTHCOMING WEEK

Monday	13/11/2017			NO EXTRAMURALS FOR GRADE 6 AND 7		
Tuesday	14/11/2017			NO EXTRAMURALS FOR GRADE 6 AND 7		
Wednesday	15/11/2017	13:00:00	13:30:00	Exam Set Up	Gr 6,7	Royce Hall
Wednesday	15/11/2017			NO EXTRAMURALS FOR GRADE 6 AND 7		
Wednesday	15/11/2017			REMINDER: CHAPEL COLLECTION FOR TOMORROW		
Thursday	16/11/2017	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 6 and 7 Exams		Royce Hall
Thursday	16/11/2017	09:30:00	10:00:00	Grade 3CI Sandwich Making		
Thursday	16/11/2017	13:30:00	16:00:00	Cross Country	Gr 3-5	Home
Thursday	16/11/2017			NO EXTRAMURALS FOR GRADE 6 AND 7		
Friday	17/11/2017	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 6 and 7 Exams		Royce Hall
Friday	17/11/2017	13:30:00	16:30:00	Girls School Biathle 2	Grade 3-5	
Friday	17/11/2017			NO EXTRAMURALS FOR GRADE 6 AND 7		

SUNSET CAROLS – SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER**AVOID THE QUEUES - TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE ELECTRONICALLY!**

For Sunset Carols tickets:
tickets@stpeters.co.za



Sunset Carols
2017

Online tickets sales are
open

R120 per adult and *R60* per child

Christmas Market opens at 15:00
Sunset Carols start at 18:00

R120 Adults, R60 Children or reserve a table for 8 to 12 people at R220 per person

NOTE: Choir children get free admittance, as they are performing. This includes Grade 2 Choir, Cadet Choir, Chapel Choir and Chamber Choir.

Pre-order DVD's at R150 each.

EFT DETAILS:**St Peter's Foundation**

Standard Bank: Acc No. 422 057 533

Branch: Rivonia

Reference: Surname

Send proof of payment with ticket requirements to: tickets@stpeters.co.za

FOUND on 28 October 2017 - MALE CAT DOMESTIC, SHORT HAIR FOUND IN PAULSHOF



FOUND NEAR ISIPINGO ROAD IN PAULSHOF

NEUTERED MALE DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR, SUCH A SWEET BOY! NOT MICROCHIPPED.

Owners not yet come forward and contact **FOURWAYS VET – 011 705 3411**

GOOD LUCK FOR EXAMS NEXT WEEK, GRADE 6 & 7!

