



Edition: 14

16 May 2019

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

Welcome back. I have no doubt that you are all grief-stricken at being separated from your children during the day.

The school is well into the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA) process. Thank you to all those parents who took the trouble to complete the on-line survey. There was a 43% response.

The data is now being analysed to determine areas for improvement. Some issues will require further investigation, which can be done by way of meetings with the relevant stakeholders – focus groups. Some of these have commenced.

Overall, however, we have been delighted at the overwhelmingly positive response.

A report will be available once the process is complete.

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

Welcome back to the Trinity Term!

Last Friday we ran a Staff Development Workshop on the Pedagogy of Play. The essence of the workshop was based on research from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) at Harvard University.

We started by reflecting on a personal learning experience and perhaps it would be interesting to pose the question to you, the parent: can you recall a meaningful, significant, enjoyable learning experience in your life?

When you have recalled something - ask yourself the following questions:

- Was it useful, practical and relevant to your life?
- Did you decide what to learn?
- Was it tested/assessed in a stressful environment?
- Was it perhaps self-taught? If not, did you relate to/respect/like your teacher?
- Did you learn from someone talking and then you remembering the facts?
- Did you learn from playful situations/experimental activities/by experience?

If we know the answers to these questions around real learning, surely the challenge for schools is, how we transfer what we know about this learning process into the school environment?

Physics Teacher: 'Isaac Newton was sitting under a tree when an apple fell on his head and he discovered gravity. Isn't that wonderful?'

Student: 'Yes sir, if he had been sitting in class looking at books like us, he wouldn't have discovered anything.'



Research shows that play promotes: Ownership, Curiosity and Enjoyment.

Ownership is when children feel empowered to lead their own learning. **Curiosity** invokes a drive to learn more and **Enjoyment** ensures that learning is active and joyful.

However, we have a conundrum on our hands:

- Play is timeless – school is timetabled
- Play is messy – school is ordered
- Play involves risk – school is safe
- Children are in charge of play - teachers are in charge of school

And sadly, many teachers and parents worldwide still believe that play is opposite to learning. That play results in poor behaviour and a lack of control. In order to learn, they would far rather have their children sitting in silence staring at their books. In their mind, play is play and learning is learning. Research now tells us – it's just the opposite: real learning takes place through play, engagement and enjoyment.

Thankfully, the teachers at St Peter's have embraced this philosophy for many years and more specifically in our Junior Prep classes. However, the challenge still exists for us to reflect on our current methodologies and make adjustments if need be.

We need to remind ourselves that we are teaching children. And children are not designed to sit still and quiet for hours on end.

Whilst I fully accept the need for Prep schools to prepare their children for the specific workload and academic expectations of a High School, I believe it's more important to develop a LOVE OF LEARNING and a BELIEF IN THEIR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE. If a child is armed with these two attributes, there is no doubt in my mind; they will excel in High School and life thereafter.

The Pedagogy of Play should also be a reminder to parents to find any opportunity to play with your own children. Board games at home, fun games in the car, throwing, catching, kicking, hitting a ball outside. Not only is this called quality time, it's also called learning! ☺

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

FROM THE JP ACTING HEAD

Welcome back from the Easter break! I trust parents and girls are still feeling rested and refreshed. It is wonderful to be back in the warm and welcoming school community of St Peter's and I am looking forward to my tenure at the Junior Prep until the end of the year.

The girls have arrived back in their usual energetic and enthusiastic style and I so look forward to spending time with them and inspiring them to be the very best that they can be.

CRAFT MORNING

A wonderful morning of enjoyment and activities was organised by the parents, on Saturday! The hall was beautifully decorated in a flamingo theme and it was most gratifying to see moms and daughters involved in a fun activity together.

Sincere thanks to Stacy, Asanda and their team of Moms, for organising the morning in their usual enthusiastic, hardworking and efficient manner. Positive parental involvement in the school is so appreciated.

ANXIETY TALK

This evening (Thursday, 16 May) all parents are invited to a talk in the Boys Junior Prep at 18:30 on how to assist children with anxiety.

OUTINGS

The Grade 0 girls will have their first outing on Friday, 17 May to the Lory Park Zoo. They are excited for this fun, educational experience.

On Friday, 24 May, the Grade 2 girls make their annual visit to Summerfield Retirement Home. The girls will sing and take delicious treats for the senior citizens. This is a wonderful opportunity for our young girls to interact with the elderly and for them to recognise what a positive effect their interaction has on older people in the community.

BIRTHDAYS

The following girls will receive their birthday cards next Tuesday at 08:00 in the chapel. Parents of these girls are welcome to attend.

Alma Pettersson

Sibabalwe Mlonzi

Tanika Naicker

Inothando Ndlovu

Sibabalwe Zulu

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMME

I am obviously not able to be involved in the Afterschool Programme this year so Barbie Millar has taken over the management of the facility until I am back at the beginning of next year.

Please contact Barbie for any queries or messages. Her contact details are as follows:

Phone number: 083 297 4535

Email – barbara@pickle.co.za

Alicia Shepherd will also be assisting in the Aftercare facility until the end of the year. Her phone number is: 0781667721

I look forward to meeting as many parents as possible during my time at the Girls Junior Prep and will be out and about as much as possible. Please introduce yourselves to me if you have the opportunity. Have a great week ahead!

ECO DRIVE FOR THE TRINITY TERM 2019

This term we will be raising an awareness of what plastics are used and how frequently the girls use plastic. We will be creating Ecobricks which are plastic bottles, packed with non-recyclable plastic to a set density to create a reusable building block. Ecobricks are used to make modular furniture, garden spaces and full-scale buildings such as schools and houses. An Ecobrick is made of a plastic bottle which has random plastic waste compressed inside it. Generally, a stick is used to stuff the rinsed and dried bottle densely layer by layer with non-biodegradable waste.

We are encouraging girls to bring in clean, dry, 2 litre bottles to school from Monday, 20 May. During the school week, the girls will be collecting plastic waste from their lunch boxes to help build their class Ecobricks after each break. The girls will also be encouraged to make an Ecobrick at home and bring in the completed brick to school, where their name will be entered into a draw. Please note that the Ecobrick is considered full, when it weighs between 400-600g.

We are very excited by this project and hope that you will encourage and assist your daughter with completing an Ecobrick.

Kerry Glass

(JP Eco Committee Representative)



Trish Attlee

(Girls JP Acting Head)

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Food for thought...

Sport is much like life. There are going to be good times and bad times, highs and lows. As in life, sports will sometimes disappoint. These disappointments come in different forms for example being dropped or not being selected for a particular team, being injured or losing a close match.

At St Peter's we would like to teach the girls that disappointments are all part of their journey. There are two paths the girls can choose from when dealing with disappointment.

The negative way would be to see the situation as a failure and give up. They might look to focus on the uncontrollable and blame the coach, umpire or the other team. This approach will not allow them to learn and grow from the experience.

The positive way would be to see the situation as an opportunity. They view setbacks and disappointments as a way to build grit and a great opportunity to move stronger.

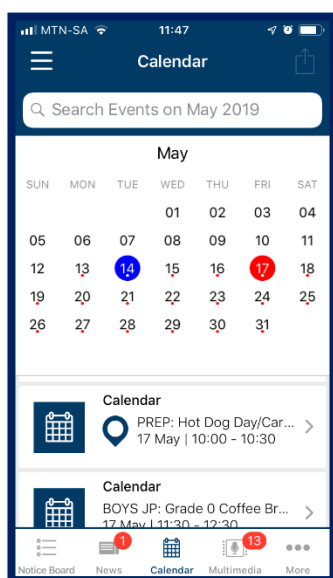
'A great team player is much like a rubber ball. After disappointments or setbacks, they bounce back even higher.' – *Becoming a great team player* – Allistair McCaw

Andrew Steyn
(Director of Sport)

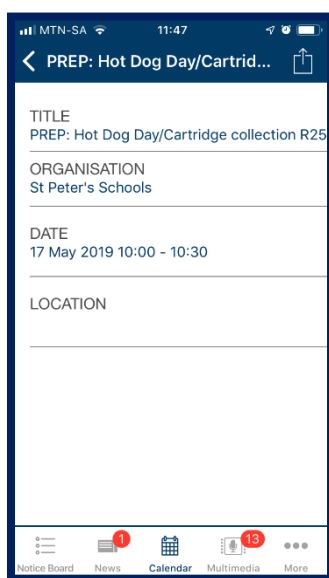
COMMUNICATOR ST PETER'S

Did you know, that you can go into the **CALENDAR** section of the App and save each event, that relates to your family, *directly into your electronic calendar on your device*? You can also look at this Calendar, on a daily basis, for the most up-to-date event information and a reminder of what is coming up.

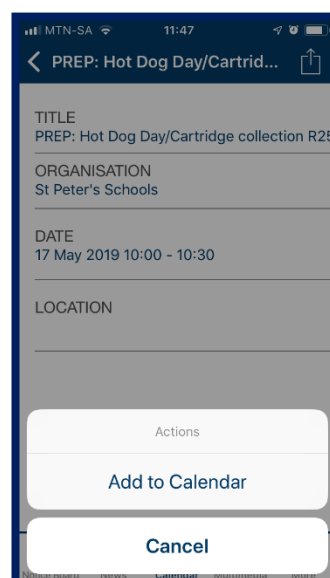
(these dates are accurate, as this calendar is updated with any changes that occur)



Go to Calendar in your App and search through the different dates



Click on the event you want to save and then click on the box with the arrow (here it is right hand top)



Click "Add to Calendar" and it will take you to your electronic calendar where you press add/save.

The calendars under the 'Resources' tab on Communicator have been deleted as they were already out of date!

Please check the **CALENDAR** tab on Communicator St Peter's

REMINDER: TOMORROW, FRIDAY 17 MAY
HOT DOG DAY AND CARTRIDGE COLLECTION



R25

DIVERSITY: RAMADAN AND EID

Muslims throughout the world observe the blessed month of Ramadan from Sunday 5 May to Tuesday 6 June 2019 - a time for reflection, contemplation and celebration. Ramadan is the most important month of the year on the Muslim calendar.

Observing Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. For Muslims, Ramadan is a month of spiritual dedication and its purpose is to strengthen their relationship with God. Observers abstain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset for the next 30 days. Typically, Muslims will sip water and eat dates before observing sunset prayers. They will then share a feast with friends and family.



The popular greetings during the fast are 'Ramadan Mubarak' and 'Ramadan Kareem', wishing the recipients a 'blessed' and generous Ramadan. In case you were wondering, it's perfectly fine for a non-Muslim to wish a Muslim for Ramadan.

At the end of the 30 days of fasting, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which translates to 'festival of breaking the fast' in Arabic. A special prayer accompanies it in the morning, usually at an outdoor location or a mosque. Visits to friends and relatives follows after the prayer, along with giving gifts and making phone calls to distant relatives to exchange greetings.

St Peter's wishes all our Muslim pupils, parents and friends 'Ramadan and Eid Mubarak'.

Vijay Maharaj
(Campus Deputy Head: Compliance)

WELCOME TO THE ST PETER'S FAMILY!

Welcome to: Bella-Rose Andrews in Grade 1RvG

We hope that Bela-Rose and her family will be very happy at St Peter's!

SECURITY: CAR PRE-APPROVAL DISCS (QR CODES)

If you have not yet received the security disc for your car, please follow the steps below in order to download the Charlie App:

- Download and install the Charlie app from your respective app store (click either [Android](#) or [iOS](#))
- Sign in with either email or cellphone number (if you use your cellphone number you will receive a 6-digit pin).
- Once in the app select the blue block to update your profile details.
- Email stpeters@appcharlie.com with your vehicle details (registration, make/model, colour).

PA NEWS

MySchool are running a competition during May 2019 and June 2019 and the help of our MySchool cardholders is needed to help our School to WIN!

See below for more details. If you need to replace your MySchool card or would like to join, visit www.myschool.co.za or contact Anne on annedp@live.com for assistance.



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet
MAKE EVERY SWIPE COUNT



R150 000 FOR YOUR SCHOOL
YOUR SHARE OF R150 000 IN VOUCHERS

With R150 000 up for grabs for the school and one of 10 x R15 000 vouchers for you, everyone is giving their all to win the challenge. Remember to swipe your MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card to get your school a swipe closer to winning big and to bagging your share in vouchers from any of our partners.


Each swipe is an entry*, so the more you swipe, the more entries you get.

Competition closes 30 June 2019.

* Each swipe is one entry however MULTIPLE swipes done at the SAME partner store on the SAME day will count as one entry only.

Don't have a MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card?
Visit www.myschool.co.za.

T&Cs apply










CRAFT MORNING

