



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of the Girls JP

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*)

FROM THE JP HEAD

NATIVITY PLAY

This is an important calendar event at the Girls JP and especially for the Grade 0 girls. On Monday, 13 November, Grandparents and caregivers are invited to watch the Nativity Play from 09:00 – 10:00. On Tuesday, 14 November 18:30 – 19:30, parents are invited to watch this special show. The performances take place in the Royce Hall.

ROUTINES ARE IMPORTANT

At this time of the year, we find the level of anxiety increases as children start to feel that change is in the air, holidays are near and we have a number of different celebrations that add to the excitement. I urge all parents to keep the routines at home consistent, in order to keep yourselves sane and children happy. Some thoughts include:

- Get up at the same time
- Get children to school, timeously
- Collect and do chores and homework at the same time
- Go to bed early 😊

Here's to a happy year end!

SWIMMING GALA

On Saturday, 18 November, we are holding our annual swimming gala at the Boy's Prep School pool. We start with the Grade 0s, at 08:00. Grade 1 and 2 need to be in their classrooms at 08:45 for a 09:00 start.

We will send out more details about this day next Friday.

Have a super weekend.

Heather Kissack (*JP Head*)

CHAPEL BIRTHDAYS

The following girls will receive their birthday cards on Tuesday, 14 November at 08:00 in the School Chapel. The birthday girls are welcome to donate a book to the library. Please note that it does not have to be wrapped.

M Larouque
M Liefferink

We look forward to seeing the parents, there!

EDTECH PROGRAMME AT ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP

We are very excited to announce that from January 2018 St Peter's Girls Prep School will be offering an enhanced EdTech Programme.

EdTech is the use of technology in the form of devices, programmes, applications and tools, to enhance learning, pedagogy and instruction within our school.

The EdTech curriculum comprises of several components: Digital Citizenship, Information Technology Skills, Coding and Robotics. This curriculum will be implemented from Grade 0 through to Grade 7. We are particularly thrilled about the Robotics and Coding elements of the new curriculum as we will be among only a few schools that offer this as part of the standard curriculum for all students.

Kerryn Schmidt will be heading up this department and you are welcome to direct any questions you may have to her at kschmidt@stpeters.co.za.

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)

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)

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!'



PA NEWS



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.

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.

SUNSET CAROLS

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



The poster features a sunset background with silhouettes of acacia trees and a reindeer pulling a sleigh. Musical notes and a treble clef are scattered across the scene. The St Peter's Foundation crest is in the top right corner. The text 'Sunset Carols 2017' is written in a large, stylized font. Below it, the text 'Online tickets sales are open' is displayed, followed by 'R120 per adult and R60 per child'. At the bottom, it states 'Christmas Market opens at 15:00' and 'Sunset Carols start at 18:00'.

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**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: 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

**WEEK AHEAD**

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|------------|----------|----------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 13/11/2017 | 09:00:00 | 10:00:00 | Grade 0 Nativity Dress Rehearsal | Royce Hall |
| 14/11/2017 | 18:30:00 | 19:30:00 | Grade 0 Nativity | Royce Hall |
| 18/11/2017 | 08:00:00 | 09:00:00 | Grade 0 Swimming Demonstration | Boys Swimming Pool |
| 18/11/2017 | 09:30:00 | 10:30:00 | Grade 1 and 2 Swimming Gala | Boys Swimming Pool |