



Edition: 30

10 October 2019

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER

OPEN DAY

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our girls, parents and staff who made our Open Day the massive success it most certainly was. Our Chapel choir was phenomenal, as always. Our Junior and Senior Prep girls proudly showed off their various lessons, thinking routines, coding and robotics skills. Our marimbas were amazing and our Grade 7 PR girls walked prospective parents around the school with supreme knowledge and confidence. The day certainly exceeded all expectations. A special thank you to Jean Macleod for organising the morning, particularly in terms of this being one of her final marketing events at St Peter's. For those of you who are unaware, Jean retires at the end of this year.



2020 CLASS TEACHERS

Every year, I encourage teachers to take on different and new teaching responsibilities. It provides an opportunity for fresh ideas and reinvigorated teaching strategies. I am delighted that we have quite a few changes for 2020.

Before I share these changes with you, I'd like to remind parents how classes are selected each year and in so doing ask you not to approach teachers with special requests for your daughter to go to a particular teacher or for your daughter to be placed with a pre-selected group of friends:

- Classes are split into two or three (depending on the grade) equal academic ability groups.
- We then look at friendship groupings and who should, or should not, be placed together. In the JP, it has been common practice over the years to allow the girls to choose four friends. This guarantees that at least one of these friends will be in the same class, in the following year. In the Senior Prep, every effort will continue to be made to accommodate certain friendship groupings. However, if we claim to teach resilience at school then we need to teach our girls, as early as possible, how to interact with different girls every year. Opportunities for establishing new relationships must be seen as a positive mechanism for growth and maturity.
- Finally, teacher match or suitability is considered. Occasionally, a girl may be better suited to a particular teacher in terms of teaching style and personality. However, it needs to be said that every teacher at St Peter's is phenomenal and there is no doubt that your daughter will flourish, no matter the teacher to whom she is assigned.

All JP classes are then double-checked by Trish Attlee and Carmen Whitfield (our Educational Psychologist). In the SP, Cara Eggett (Head of Pastoral Care), Pam van Gass, Carmen Whitfield and I, check all classes.

Classes for 2020 will be announced in the last week of the year. We will then ask for parents to support the school's decision and to guide and encourage your child to understand that the decision was made with very good reason. If we acceded to every parent for a teacher of their choice, the result would be chaos. However, if parents support the school, your daughter will very quickly realise that she needs to make an effort to adapt to her new surroundings. If your daughter thinks that mom or dad can 'fix' the problem, then they will continue to protest and not make any effort to adapt.

I sincerely hope this clarifies the process for you. If you have any questions or concerns in terms of this process please feel free to chat to your daughter's teacher or me.

Junior Prep

Grade 0: Janet Buck, Chloe Hall, Lerato Mafatle & Shelli Golden

Grade 1: Sheena Steyn, Robyn van Ginkel & Catriona Montagu

Grade 2: Bronwyn Peake, Kerry Glass & Leigh Lidgey

Afrikaans & IT: Lauren Keeve

isiZulu & Library: Zanele Kekana

Music: Jessica da Silva

Sport: Leanne Fleming & Tshego Mashabela (Leanne Fleming will be going on maternity leave in December! We wish her love and happiness as her family grows!)

isiZulu & Class Assistant: Charmaine Ndzwane

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)

FROM THE JP HEAD

MEANINGFUL CONNECTION WITHIN FAMILIES

Last week, I attended Sally Thorpe's talk on the importance of conversations around the dinner table. It is a very relevant topic in the busyness of today's world and I would like to share some of her thoughts and ideas.

Sally stated that there are currently the following distractions over dinnertime:

- 40% TV
- 28% discussions about household worries
- 22% arguments
- 16% on a device

Children need to feel connected to their parents and they need to feel safe. The quality of attention received from their parents is paramount if we want to increase our children's chances of growing up to be successful adults.

Research has shown that meals together result in:

- better family relationships
- healthier foods
- better grades
- greater happiness
- healthier children
- less stress
- teens less likely to be involved in risky behaviour

Sally gave some ideas on how to initiate deep conversations and provided some wonderful conversation starters such as:

- What were you grateful for today?
- Who are you grateful for today?
- Did you tell them?
- How did that feel?

- What mistake did you make today?
- How did you handle it?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What did you learn?

- What acts of kindness did you show today?
- Share how someone was kind to you.
- How did it make you feel?

- What was difficult for you today?
- How did you handle it?
- Could you have done it differently?

The quality of listening is also important. It is important to listen:

- without interruption, judgement or interrogation.
- with genuine interest and curiosity.
- so that you inspire and ignite further sharing of ideas.

I suggest you formulate a variety of similar questions and put them in a jar in the middle of the table and give each member of the family a turn to answer a questions (adults included). These type of questions empower our children:

- to learn from mistakes
- formulate their own informed opinions
- to be authentic
- share their own thoughts in a safe, unthreatening environment
- to understand concepts and feelings on a deeper level
- build connections and trust
- develop social and communication skills

Dinner around the table provides the ideal opportunity for families to bond and form deep, meaningful connections. Parents are able to keep up to speed with their children's daily activities, feelings, interactions and problems within a safe and caring environment. I challenge all parents to make every effort to have these dinnertime conversations and to encourage your girls to talk, share their feelings and problem-solve solutions to challenges.

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day will be held on Saturday, 12 October. Please see the detailed letter attached giving all the information required.

WOODROCK

A reminder that Woodrock is visiting the school next Wednesday, 16 October. We are collecting much needed pet food for this rescue organisation. If you intend contributing, please bring in donations before Wednesday.

RUGBY WORLD CUP

Girls may wear a supporter shirt or clothes depicting support for the Springboks on the day South Africa plays. It is optional, but no general civvies may be worn.

BIRTHDAYS

The following girls will receive their birthday cards on **Tuesday, 15 October** at 08:00 in the chapel. Parents of these girls are welcome to attend.

Morgan Butterworth, Akari Mthethwa, Helena Papas, Mixo Tlakula, Luyanda-Jaanai Gimani-Mpatsi, Hannah Saunders, Tawananyasha Buruuru

ANXIETY PARENT WORKSHOP

In the Know is running a four-week workshop at St Peter's, starting on Friday, 11 October. This workshop gives parents the tools they need to assist an anxious child. There are a few places available. If you are interested and need more details please email: n.louw@mweb.co.za

2020 TERMS DATES**Term 1 (Easter Term)**

Start: Wednesday, 15 January

Close: Thursday, 9 April

Half Term:

CLOSE Thursday, 27 February

RETURN Tuesday, 3 March

Public Holidays: Saturday, 21 March (Human Rights Day)

Term 2 (Trinity Term)

Start: Tuesday, 5 May

Close: Friday, 31 July

Half Term:

CLOSE Friday, 26 June

RETURN Monday, 6 July

Public Holidays: Tuesday, 16 June (Youth Day)

Term 3 (Advent Term)

Start: Tuesday, 1 September

Close: Friday, 4 December

Half Term:

CLOSE Thursday, 15 October

RETURN Tuesday, 20 October

Public Holidays: Thursday, 24 September (Heritage Day)

Have a great week. Ni hambe kahle!

Trish Attlee
(Girls JP Head)

OPEN DAY – THANK YOU!

Thank you everyone who played a part in making the Open Day the success it was! This event was a first for the school. The need for this occasion arose after we found that numbers had dropped as a result of families emigrating. The day was wonderfully successful and our waiting lists are now far more 'healthy'. Thank you to the following people who assisted in various ways.

- Girls Prep Staff
- Girls involved on the day
- Hugo Roodt
- Fr Richard
- Nonhlanhla Majokane
- Diane Fraser
- Security staff
- Sharon Rabibal and the kitchen staff
- Isaac Ntjilo and his staff
- Mugocho Muchachari and his staff
- Tim Steenhoff
- Medical specialists (Dr Terri Barrow, Dr Fuzile Dlakavu & Judy Kirkwood) who helped with distribution of flyers in waiting rooms.

Thank you for helping us promote our amazing school.

Jean Macleod
(Marketer: Girls Prep)



ST PETER'S COLLEGE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Congratulations to the following St Peter's Girls Prep Old Girls who were announced, as prefects at St Peter's College for 2020:

- **Eden Backman**
- **Jessica Dunstan**
- **Jessica Parsons**
- **Kerryn Hayter**

Boys Prep Old Boys on the prefect body for 2020 are:

- **Jonty Webb - Head Boy for 2020** (Jo and Darrel Webb's son)
- **Justin Amm** (Rachel and Richard Amm's son)
- **Aiden Enslin**
- **Carl Vemer**
- **Daniel Raggett**
- **Michael Du Plooy**
- **Nicholas Els**

We are very proud of them!

ST PETER'S BOYS PREP IS TURNING 70 YEARS OLD NEXT YEAR & WE ARE TRACKING DOWN ALL OLD BOYS

If you, as a dad, grandfather, uncle, brother etc. went to St Peter's Boys Prep, please complete this short Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/o25tdakrZQCLMoUt7>



Sunset Carols Market Application Form <https://bit.ly/2ost9tQ>
