



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

RECENT ALUMNI: WHAT DO THEY THINK?

St Peter's Prep is no different from any other company or organisation in that it seeks to preserve and enhance its reputation and wishes to provide the best service possible.

The schools' mission statement opens with a commitment to *prepare children for senior school and the world*. We aim to make the transition from our school as easy as possible for our pupils. As such, we place a great deal of emphasis on self-discipline, a strong work ethic, mutual respect and respect for staff and elders, independent thinking and the exercise of good judgement. The school is structured to facilitate this process with housemasters, housemistresses (shortly to come), and vertical pupil pastoral structures: older children taking care of younger children within the house system from Grade 3 – 7.

Each year we approach our feeder high schools for constructive criticism as to how we can improve.

Of course, there is nothing like hearing it from the horse's mouth. Old Boys and Old Girls frequently visit the school (unusual for a prep school) and are quick to tell us what they value and what we need to improve. They compare their transition with those of children from other primary schools. Herewith a range of comments from pupils now at schools including St Peter's College, St Anne's, Wykeham Collegiate, Pretoria Girls and Boys, Hilton, Michaelhouse, St Andrew's, Brescia, St Mary's Kingsmead, St David's and St John's:

- *Hate the petty rules, but haven't been in trouble yet as we were taught how to behave.*
- *The workload is much heavier, but was easy to understand. We had covered a lot of it already.*
- *My marks went up 20% during my first year.*
- *I miss Chapel so much. (from many past pupils)*
- *Men teachers are different from ladies, but we were used to that.*
- *The St Peter's boys were ahead in Zulu even though so many others came from Natal.*
- *You need to teach more Design and Technology.*

And finally, from a St Peter's parent, the coach's response when the parent remarked that he had a few St Peter's boys in his team: *'I wish they were all from St Peter's.'*

This feedback encourages us to work even harder at this critical aspect.

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

At one of our recent Senior Prep Class Rep's meetings a concern was raised that the school is doing too much 'experimentation' with the girls and that this has a potential negative impact on the girls' educational process. What a wonderful opportunity this question presented to share some modern educational strategies and thinking, in line with a newsletter I wrote recently about the world of tomorrow and the need for us to adapt our educational philosophy accordingly.

Firstly, let me start by assuring parents that the teaching of core skills (reading, writing and "rithmetic") required to not only cope, but excel in High School are, and always will be, of the highest standard – as per feedback from Greg's article above. This standard is also checked by various Independent Schools benchmark tests as well as numerous international benchmark tests at different grades. The results of these tests all show that our core teaching is exceptional.

A large proportion of the educational process is behaviour that is modelled by both parents and teachers. If it's agreed that we need to teach our girls to challenge the status quo and always try to do things better than they were done before, then surely we need to be modelling this mindset at school?

A number of examples of this come to mind.

We trialed a new reporting system this year, with the objective to transfer the emphasis of the learning process onto the girls. The student-led conferences empowered the girls to reflect on what they have achieved and what plans they have put in place to address their weaknesses. Feedback from parents and teachers will enable us to review the process to ensure we can improve next year.

We trialed a new Exploration and Learning period. This involved a group of teachers collaborating in order to develop an inquiry based learning programme or mini FLP (Flexible Learning Programme) for the girls over an extended period in the timetable. Once again, we will use feedback from the girls and the teachers to improve on this initiative next year.

I could go on but I'm hoping the point is clearly made. We will always model a mindset of continuous growth and improvement without ever sacrificing the critical core skills and knowledge needed in High School and beyond.

Have a good weekend!

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(*Headmaster*)

FROM THE JP HEAD

Sawubona,

SPORTS DAY

Today was wonderful. The atmosphere was jolly and the girls were very enthusiastic! A special thank you to Ms Musi, Ms Mashabela and Mrs Clarke for making the day so special and showcasing the girls' skills. Thanks to those who attended. Your efforts are always appreciated by the girls.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY AT ST PETER'S PREP

Thanks go to Liz Ashmore for introducing parents to the sports philosophy of to the Girls School. Leanne Fleming was introduced as the new JP Sports coach for 2018.

GRADE 1 EISTEDDFOD

Next week the Grade 1 girls will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to say a poem and read a set piece of writing. This opportunity affords the girls the chance to develop their confidence and ability to speak in a public setting.

MID-TERM BREAK WEDNESDAY

Mid-term commences on Wednesday 18 October, at 10:30. There is no Afterschool Programme that day. We return to school on Tuesday, 24 October.

Have a super weekend.

Heather Kissack (*JP Head*)

CHAPEL BIRTHDAYS

The following girls will receive their birthday cards on Tuesday, 17 October 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.

H Papas
H Saunders
S Marrie

LJ Gimani-Mpatsi
T Buruuru

We look forward to seeing parents of these girls, there!

SAVE THE DATE: DAD'S HOT DOG DAY

A reminder to diarise Friday, 27 October as it is the date of our last Dad's Hot Dog Day for 2017!

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

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

JENNY VAN WYK

Jenny joined St Peter's Schools Accounts Department in 2010 with her area of focus being debtor's management. Prior to joining St Peter's, Jenny performed a similar role at Grayston Preparatory School. Jenny's secret talent is playing the organ and she has a delightful sense of humour. She is blessed with two beautiful daughters and four grandchildren. Jenny celebrated her birthday this week – we hope it was a happy one, Jenny!



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP 'OLD GIRLS' NEWS



St Peter's Girls Prep School wish our 'Old Girls' all the very best in their Matric exams!

ST PETER'S COLLEGE NEWS

Congratulations to the following Old Girls and Boys who have been elected prefects for 2018.

Girls:

Shannon Louis

Yogita Mohabir- Deputy Head Girl

Boys:

Christopher Mukheibir

Daniel Duke

Didintle Mokae - Deputy Head Boy

Matthew Garrett - Head Boy

Sebastian Long



HEAD PREFECTS

(L-R) Yogita Mohabir: Deputy Head Girl (St Peter's Girls Prep Old Girl), Matthew Garrett: Head Boy (St Peter's Boys Prep Old Boy), Vuyo Tshwele: Head Girl, Didintle Mokae: Deputy Head Boy (St Peter's Boys Prep Old Boy)



DIVERSITY - DIWALI

Hindus throughout the world will celebrate the fifth and final day of Diwali next Thursday, 19 October.

Diwali is called the 'festival of lights'. It is a period spent with friends and family, mending relations, reuniting, forgiving one for one's wrongdoings and renewing friendships.

It is also a time for deep reflection on the past successes and failures and to look forward to the new year with energy and inspiration.

During Diwali, Hindus exchange sweetmeats, fruit and sweets and wish each other well. The morning is spent in thanksgiving prayers and the evening is filled with fun, laughter, lighting of lamps and fireworks.

The lamps and fireworks signify the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and the invitation of light and joy into our lives.

St Peter's Prep Schools wishes all Hindu friends, pupils and families Happy Diwali.

Vijay Maharaj
(Director: Diversity)



WEEK AHEAD

16/10/2017	14:00:00	15:00:00	Grade 1 Eisteddfod	Girls JP Hall
17/10/2017	14:00:00	15:00:00	Grade 1 Eisteddfod	Girls JP Hall
18/10/2017	10:30:00	10:30:00	MID-TERM Closing time: 10:30	
18/10/2017	11:00:00	11:00:00	MID-TERM BREAK COMMENCES	
19/10/2017	00:00:00	23:00:00	RECTOR'S HOLIDAY	
24/10/2017	07:30:00	07:30:00	TERM RECOMMENCES	
27/10/2017	10:00:00	10:30:00	HOT DOG DAY (R25) (bring old catridges)	