



Edition: 5

14 February 2019

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

In my first Newsletter article of 2019, I reflected on some positive aspects at the beginning of the year. One of those I listed was the appointment by the Heads of an additional two Black teachers. I referred to these as 'highly competent'.

I recognise that it would have been unlikely for me to have used a similar descriptor in referring to new White teachers. As such, the words could be viewed as reinforcing the concept that Black teachers are unlikely to be of the same quality as White teachers. My remark is therefore likely to have caused offence and for this, I apologise unreservedly.

I am deeply grateful to those people who have the courage to point out such blunders to me. It's the only way to overcome my own unconscious bias.

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

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Last week, Rob shared the tragic news of two teachers that were struck by lightning earlier this year: *'Our broader school community has been shocked by the deaths of two coaches as a result of lightning strikes over the past two weeks. Our hearts go out to the schools concerned and to the families of the deceased. These tragic incidents have highlighted, once again, that despite our frustrations when we have to pull boys off the fields while the sun appears to be shining, we must adhere strictly to our protocols.'*

To this end, I'd like to remind parents of the lightning procedure. When an alert is received, we clear the fields and the girls are taken to the nearest point of safety. They are to remain at these points either until the all clear (a double five-second siren) is heard or until further instructions are issued over the school PA system. Parents are warned that they are as vulnerable to lightning strikes as their children and are therefore advised to take similar measures. We do, at times, have parents who choose to ignore the warning and who collect their children from the pavilions at their own risk. Please be aware, that should you choose to do this, the coaches have been asked to warn you of the danger, but cannot be held responsible should you or your child be injured due to lightning. An overview of the lightning protocol appears below.

LIGHTNING WARNINGS

A reminder to all of the meanings of the sirens:

- **ONE LONG BURST** – the school is under lightning conditions. Everyone on campus to take cover at the nearest shelter.
- **TWO SHORT BURSTS** – lightning threat has cleared, normal activity may resume.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Parents are reminded that if the red strobe light is flashing when you enter the school it means we are under lightning conditions.

Drop off

On these occasions, our recommendation is:

- Keep your child in your car, until you hear the all clear signal or an announcement over our PA system.
- The school will, obviously, take the situation into account as to why your child may be late for class.

Pick up

The procedure in the afternoons is:

- The children are taken from their activity to the closest point of shelter. Pavilions, classrooms, etc
- We will try, as far as possible, to get the children to the same point on every occasion, however, this point may vary depending on the location of the activity and the nearest point of shelter.
- Parents may personally collect their child from the teacher/s on duty and take them at their own risk. (**Please note:** No staff member will send a child unaccompanied to any car park or collection point)

We must remember that as adults, it is of the utmost importance that we also heed the lightning warnings and respect the procedures by getting under cover ourselves!

I wish you a wonderful weekend. Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)



CHANGE TO START DATE FOR TRINITY TERM

Election Day has been set as Wednesday, 8 May 2019.

As a result of this, it has been decided that the **TRINITY TERM WILL BEGIN ON THURSDAY, 9 MAY 2019.**

D. Webb

FROM THE JP HEAD**GRADE 0 INTERVIEWS FOR 2020**

The 2020 prospective parents have started visiting St Peter's Girls JP to hear about what they can look forward to when their daughters start school and they become a part of our community. We are eager to share our Best Practice as well as hear what parents are anticipating for their children. Please contact Mrs Remember Rabali on rrabali@stpeters.co.za if you wish to book your appointment and have not as yet heard from us.

BOOK WEEK

The Book Week activities and learning opportunities taking place next week, are as follows:

Hooked on Books

The *Hooked on Books* show is a dramatisation of book-trailers from eleven pre-selected contemporary children's books, (these change, on a yearly basis). It will take place on **Monday, 18 February in the Royce Hall**. A charge of R18 will be levied against each girl's sundries account for the show.

Author Study

The girls will have an opportunity to meet **Elaine MacDonald (Author) and Vanessa Mearns (Illustrator)** of the children's book '*I See an Elephant*'. They will be presenting to the Girls JP on Tuesday, 19 February. The girls will have fun listening to the story and at the same time learning the skills of writing and illustrating. The presentation will take place in Royce Hall.

Guess the teacher!

A board with pictures of teachers (in disguise), reading their favourite book, will be on display. The girls will guess who the teacher is, behind the book. This display will be in the Media Centre.

DEAR Time

'Drop Everything And Read' is a reading activity that happens in the classroom at a set time. A signal will indicate that everyone should *drop everything (that they are doing) and read* for 10 minutes. This will occur every day during Book Week.

Dress-up Day

On **Wednesday, 20 February**, the girls will dress-up as their favourite book character or author. They will parade around the JP and show off their costumes. Girls should be prepared to share something about their character.

Book Sale

Marcus Gooderham from *Knowledge Road* will hold a book sale in the Keys Pavilion from the **18-20 February 07:30 - 15:00**. Book prices range from R100. Please send your child with cash, or you can take her to purchase a book together before or after school.

BIRTHDAYS

This week we celebrate the following girl's birthdays in Chapel, parents are welcome to join us.

Jemma Stott, Nakai Matambo, Courtney Kruiskamp, Emily Kruiskamp, Coco Lang

THE ROLE OF THE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST IN SCHOOLS

Lisa Human is our resident Speech Therapist at the Girls Prep. She has worked at St Peter's for 11 years, and is well known for her thorough approach to working with our pupils and achieving success. In the following article, Lisa explains her approach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all she does, which includes working in the Grade 0 *Round Table* classes, where she offers advice and gives support to teachers.

*Many people wonder what the role of the Speech and Language Therapist in a mainstream school environment is. Speech Therapists treat a **variety of difficulties**, which school age children may experience. Each area of difficulty is characterised by specific features that may be identified by the parent or by the classroom teacher.*

Articulation: *Children develop and acquire the speech sounds in a specific order and at specific ages. By school going age (6 years), children should have speech patterns that are characteristic of an adult's speech. Some children,*

however, may be delayed in acquiring specific speech sounds or may have difficulty producing certain sounds correctly. The most common errors noted in children of this age include:

Lisp th/s e.g. thun/sun

w/r e.g. wabbit/rabbit

f/th e.g. bath/baf

Language Difficulties: Certain children experience difficulties understanding language or expressing themselves adequately. They may still use immature grammar or have difficulty retrieving vocabulary, which will affect their ability to tell you what they did at school or to describe an event that has taken place.

Fluency Disorders: This refers to the interruption of the normal speech patterns. Non-fluency may be characterised by whole word repetitions, syllable or initial sounds repetitions and prolongations of sounds.

Auditory Processing Difficulties: Auditory Processing entails the ability to attend to, discriminate, interpret, recall and manipulate AUDITORY information. It is essential for the development of written language skills, including reading and spelling. Many school age children have difficulty retaining auditory information or processing complex commands that are given by the teacher every day. It is important to emphasise that Auditory Processing difficulties are not characterised by or related to hearing as children with this difficulty present with normal hearing acuity.

Phonological awareness refers to an understanding of the way sounds are used to make up words. The acquisition of these skills is imperative for literacy. Often children who experience difficulty spelling or reading will require consolidation of their Phonological Awareness Skills, which is done by the Speech Therapist.

Lisa Human

Speech and Language Therapist

With much love,

Heather Kissack (Head: Girls JP)



SEFIKENG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our partner school, Sefikeng Primary, is seeking an IRBA registered auditor to audit their 2018 financial statements. They have not asked for it for free, but have asked for a quote. Please contact me should you be able to help: msloane@stpeters.co.za

Monica Sloane
(Foundation Manager)

SECURITY SYSTEM FOR 2019

REMINDER: please follow the link below to complete the relevant details, of your vehicle, for the new security system. (If you have more than one child, please only complete the form once):

<https://goo.gl/forms/qk0VZnK5SMmJjxO53>

MORNING BUS SERVICE TO ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS

We are all striving to reduce the traffic congestion in and around the school car parks and Witkoppen intersections. The morning bus service is a convenient and safe alternative to getting your children to St Peter's in the morning traffic.

There are two routes:

1. **Fourways Gardens** in the Spar parking lot on Uranium. Time: 06:20 to leave at 06:30. The bus will continue to the **Lonehill Fire station**, arrive 06:35 to leave at 06:40.
2. **Kyalami** bus runs from **the Kyalami Downs Shopping Centre**, next to the KFC. Time: 06:25 to leave at 06:30.



Bus Consent and Indemnity Form can be found on the Communicator. Please send to: reception@stpeters.co.za. For more information please contact Tim at tim@sagolfing.com



VISION: *Growing servant leaders within our St Peter's family to uplift our community for their big futures.*

In order to create a more sustainable and meaningful impact within our community, St Peter's Boys Prep and Girls Prep have chosen Sefikeng Primary as our partner school. We will concentrate all our time, effort and resources on their Foundation Phase. Each St Peter's child and our staff will have an opportunity to make a contribution in some way. We would like to invite you to volunteer too, as we make a difference together!

Recent statistics released show that 8 out of 10 pupils in Grade 4 cannot read at an appropriate level and without this fundamental skill, little learning can take place. St Peter's has developed a partnership with *Read for Africa* and this phonics-based programme has enabled us to effectively teach Literacy Skills. We are also able to make regular assessments to track and measure progress.

The St Peter's interns have become a fundamental support for the programme. We do, however, also rely hugely on parent volunteers to give of their time or money to support the programme. The volunteers assist with small reading groups and create fun lessons. The more volunteers, the smaller the groups and the more effective the learning. Why should you get involved?

- Experience the unadulterated joy of assisting a child to move from being almost illiterate to being able to recognise letters and eventually words.
- Meet and be a part of a special group of like-minded parents (grandparents and friends) trying to make a difference, one child at a time!

What you need to know...

- ABSOLUTELY no teaching experience or knowledge is needed! If you can identify your letters, handle a pen and whiteboard you are fully equipped. Training will be provided.
- We visit Sefikeng every Wednesday morning 08:30 to 09:30, it takes 15 minutes to get there (traffic dependent) and is 100% safe. 'Car shares' are very easily arranged.
- Your commitment is driven solely by you - one session a term, a month or every week.

How do you get involved?

- Contact Leigh Lidgey (llidgey@stpeters.co.za) or Jaya Govender (jgovender@stpeters.co.za) to volunteer your time.

If you are unable to volunteer your time, please consider donating R250 towards this very worthy cause.

- EFT - St Peter's Foundation, Standard Bank, Account No: 422 057 533, Reference CP/surname.
- Or follow this link to pay online: <https://www.stpeters.co.za/prep-foundation/donations>

Please help us make a difference in the lives of others!

VALENTINE'S SOCIAL



St Peter's Girls Prep is hosting their annual Valentine's Social on **Saturday, 16 February**.

The Social is for **Grade 7 pupils only** and pupils from all Johannesburg Prep schools are invited, so please share the love and spread the word.

Avoid the queues on the night and buy your tickets ONLINE now!

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/stp-girls-social-2019>

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Monday to Thursday	18/02/2019	21/02/2019	07:30:00	14:00:00	Book Week
Monday	18/02/2019	18/02/2019	09:00:00	10:00:00	Hooked on Books
Wednesday	20/02/2019	20/02/2019	07:30:00	13:00:00	Book Week: Dress Up Day
Thursday	21/02/2019	21/02/2019	10:00:00	10:30:00	JP Closing Times: Grade 0:10:00; Grade 1: 10:15; Grade 2: 10:30.
Thursday	21/02/2019	21/02/2019	11:00:00	11:00:00	MID-TERM BREAK COMMENCES
Thursday	21/02/2019	21/02/2019	11:00:00	14:30:00	Aftercare available until 14:30