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ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of the Girls JP

FROM THE HEADMASTER

This week: Academic news, Cultural news and Sporting news.

ACADEMIC

We were delighted to announce the names of the girls who were awarded scholarships to various High Schools, this week. Considering fewer High Schools are actually offering scholarships these days, this is a wonderful achievement. These six girls were awarded a total of *seven* scholarships.

Congratulations girls! (L-R in photo):

Clare Keegan, Isabelle Barrow, Romy Myers, Hanna Wannell, Tshepi Moleah and Pelonolo Moerane.



CULTURAL

On Monday morning, I had the privilege of having a 'sneak preview' of our Grade 7 play. Very sadly, I'll be away next week at a Girls' Schools Conference. I need to tell you – it's simply amazing! The play is still a week away, ticket sales are now open - I encourage all Senior Prep Girls and their parents to attend.

I'd also like to congratulate our Chapel Choir who performed at the Singing Sista's Choir Festival, last week and our

Cadet Choir who performed at Summit College the week before. Both performances were phenomenal! Well done, to all the girls and teachers involved. I was one very proud Headmaster!

SPORT

Last Friday we hosted a very well attended Sports Meeting. The objective of the meeting was to share some crucial sporting philosophies as well as a number of processes and procedures recently discussed, and agreed, by our Sports Department. It was also an opportunity for the school to gain a better understanding of parents' current concerns regarding sport in the Girls School. The ultimate mandate is for the school to produce a policy document, which will be a combination of the presentation (available for viewing at [Girls School, Physical Education - website page](#) and then open the **Girls School Sports Powerpoint Presentation**) and the suggested solutions to the common issues raised by parents, shared below:

- Is the current St Peter's Sports Philosophy being carried through to new and peripatetic coaches who might be unfamiliar with the school and the girls?
- Are the necessary skills being taught in Grades 1 and 2, as there seems to be disquiet amongst the Grade 3 girls and parents?
- Are the girls able to rotate positions in netball and hockey?
- Do we spend enough time reaffirming sporting skills in Grade 3, before we choose teams?
- How do we ensure every girl has equal opportunity to be selected?
- Are parents aware of the selection criteria?
- If we want to be competitive – should the best coach be coaching the A team?
- Can teams with additional players, or reserves, use these in rotation to provide more playing opportunities for everyone?
- Should our swimming team have at least one team training session before a gala?
- Should we be training more than once a week, bearing in mind that we only have one pool but many swimmers?
- How do we encourage girls who never make it into a team or onto the bus, to continue to love sport, regardless?
- Should the private clubs and clinics held at St Peter's be more widely advertised?
- Could there be more Saturday Sports Festivals?
- Who should parents contact for the different sports?
- Good sportsmanship (do's and don'ts) needs to be instilled. The school needs to be stronger in encouraging parents and children to stay until the end of all the sports matches.

As may be appreciated, this is an ongoing process and a follow up meeting will be crucial. If there any other points/issues that were discussed at the meeting and which have not been documented above, please could I ask you to send them to Chris Tomsek at ctomsek@stpeters.co.za.

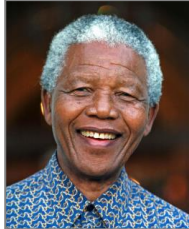
I would like to thank all the parents who attended this meeting and for the positive atmosphere in which the discussion took place. There was a clear understanding that both the parents and the school want the same thing: We want our girls to be passionate about playing sport, regardless of the team for which they are playing. We want effective and timely communication regarding fixtures/teams etc. We want open, two-way positive communication between parents and school. We desire a policy, which ensures transparency and consistency at all times. We hope that the first draft of this policy document will be ready before the end of this term.

Have a wonderful weekend! Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

FROM THE JP HEAD**'BOOKS AND BALLS' INITIATIVE FOR MANDELA DAY**

We will be participating in the 'Balls and Books' and Biscuit Day for Mandela Day on 25 July at Sefikeng. A hard copy of the information will be sent out next week.



**FREE YOURSELF, FREE OTHERS AND SERVE EVERYDAY
ST PETER'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
BOOK, BALL AND BISCUIT INITIATIVE
WEDNESDAY 25 July 2018**



These packets will be on sale in the JP carpark on 21 and 22 June.

Please support this initiative – you can purchase and collate your own pack or you can purchase from the team for R50.00. A detailed letter will be sent home early next week!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT SEFIKENG

Our Community Outreach at Sefikeng has continued to grow exponentially this term. This has been largely due to the fact that a decision has been taken by the JP Heads and the Foundation, to utilise all interns on Tuesdays at Diepsloot and Wednesdays at Sefikeng. This means a total of 18 interns go on these days. This increase in 'manpower' has created the following impact:

- At Diepsloot, more children can be reached in smaller groups, with the interns being mentored and guided by Jenny Taylor of Phono-Graphix.
- At Sefikeng we are now able to reach three of the grades - Grade 0, 1 and 2.

In Grade 0 there is a dedicated team of moms who, along with Charmaine Ndzwane from the Girls JP, do fun, interactive perceptual and gross motor lessons with the children.

In Grade 1, the fact that we have some dedicated volunteer moms and the additional interns, means that the groups are very small. There can be as little as two children per volunteer and they thus benefit from intensive focus on the phonics taught to them. With the assistance of Jenny Taylor we are now implementing her Phono-Graphix programme into Grade 2.

In Grade 2, pupils have been assessed and streamed into three groups. These groups are then run by up to three interns at a time, each group broken up into smaller groups.

On visiting Sefikeng last week and watching all the above in action it was so exciting to see the way the programme has continued to grow and improve. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who give of their time. The invitation is open to everyone to please feel free to come and join us on a Wednesday to be a part of, as Jenny Taylor calls it . . . *Teaching Africa to read!*

Leigh Lidgley is the Community Outreach Co-ordinator at the Girls JP

OUR NEW GIRLS 2018



Welcome to all the girls who joined us in 2018!

OUR TWINS IN THE JP



BRING IN PLASTIC FOR THE OWL HOUSE INITIATIVE

Please continue to send in plastic for our Owl house initiative! You have already filled up one bag! Can we fill another before half term?

CONGRATULATIONS

Nkosinathi Nkuna, Inathi and Khanya's Dad completed his 7th Comrades. Congratulations and well done to all the other participants who completed the Comrades.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Heather Kissack
(Junior Prep Head)

BIRTHDAY CHAPEL

On **Tuesday, 19 June** the following Birthday girl/s will receive a birthday card and a blessing in Chapel at 8:00. We hope to see the parents there.

J Edwards
J Barbour
A Gilbert

A Georgiades
B Lutge

THE ST PETER'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC INVITE YOU TO THE ANNUAL CHOIR FESTIVAL FESTIVALS.

The **Junior Choir festival** will be held on Thursday, **5 July at 18:30** in the Dodson Hall. All the Junior Choirs will perform - this includes the Junior Prep Choir (Grade 2s) and the Cadet Choir (Grade 3s and 4s).

Please take note of the following time:

Mass Choir Rehearsal: 17:30 – 18:10

We ask that your daughter be on time and be dressed in her winter uniform:

JP Girls: Red fleece and socks (no stockings)

The girls must please bring a healthy snack. Soup and other snacks will be on sale.

Tickets for this event will be available online for purchase through the Tixsa website. The link will be available in next weeks' newsletter.

We look forward to an amazing evening filled with beautiful music.

Marguerite Schmitt (Director of Music)

COMMENTS FROM PARENTS FOR OUR WEBSITE

These are some of the wonderful comments received from parents, which will be included in the Headmaster's website article:

NICK VAN DER MERWE (OLD BOY AND CURRENT PARENT)

As a St Peter's Old Boy I reflect on my school days at St Peter's as the happiest of my school life for many reasons. In order to convince my wife (Melissa) that St Peter's would be the best school for our two girls literally took only one visit to the school where she could *see, hear and feel* it all. I am so pleased that my girls are now experiencing the same nurturing environment filled with opportunities for them to grow and excel in all the critical skills required, not only to cope, but also to succeed in high school and beyond. Thank you, St Peter's and to all those who have and continue to make it what it is today.

NAFFIE ISRANI

As a foreigner living in South Africa, I never truly felt that I had laid down roots during my first six years living here – I could have packed up and left at a moment's notice! Things all started to change when we became a part of the St Peter's family, first with my son at the Boys Prep, then my daughter (and soon to be followed by my third child!). For the first time I had a sense of belonging in Africa and to a community and it's grown stronger every day. I often comment that if my husband asked me to move back home I don't think I could do it . . . I just can't imagine being able to find another School like St Peter's anywhere in the world!

ZODWA PAKADE

We joined St Peter's Girls Prep 6 years ago, and my daughter Yamani has flourished in all areas, be it academically, in sport and in music. She has choices, shared authority, control, and responsibility, aligning with the values we teach at home. The learning at St. Peter's is hands-on and experiential, with the teachers deliberate about creating good learning experiences in the classrooms. Parent participation enables us to become an integral part of the school, contributing outside-life realities into the DNA of St Peter's. What a happy, fulfilling journey this has been.


DALENE PATON

St Peter's has afforded my daughter every opportunity to discover her passion and interests. It is a nurturing environment and one which seeks to grow every child. We feel very privileged to be part of the St Peter's family.

LINDSAY DE VILLIERS


We've entrusted the care and education of our daughter to the Girls School for almost eight years. With a full day on campus, 5-days a week, we've never had a doubt about her wellbeing, which speaks volumes about the culture, philosophy, parent body, fellow girls, teachers, support staff and leadership.

Thank you for these contributions – they are much appreciated!



**ANTI-HIJACKING AND CRIME AWARENESS
PRESENTATION FOR ST PETER'S PARENTS**

Date: Tuesday, 19 June
 Time: 18:30 to 20:00 (tea and coffee will be served from 18:00)
 Venue: Dodson Hall, Boys Senior Prep



There is no charge for this presentation and no need to book seats.

Sophisticated anti-theft technology has made it increasingly difficult to steal motor vehicles. As a result we are witnessing a dramatic increase of vehicle hijackings. To the unprepared driver who does not understand the concept of situational awareness the hijacker has the element of surprise and attack. We are dealing with specialised syndicates who run international multimillion Rand operations. They are highly organised and very successful and well trained in the art of hijacking. The sad reality however is that the hijack victim is totally unprepared. Armed attacks of this nature are extremely intimidating and frequently end in tragedy. Understanding this hostile environment and the psychology of the hijacker can only come from proper training, and this presentation will equip you with the knowledge on how to minimize the risk of being hijacked and the modus operandi of hijackers. The presentation (presented by leading Anti-Hijack specialist Francois Marais) covers both *avoidance* and *survival* as follows:

Part 1 – Vehicle Hijack Avoidance

- Why are vehicles hijacked?
- Is hijacking here to stay?
- Which cars are not hijacked?
- Profile of a typical hijacker
- When & where am I most at risk?
- Four Golden Rules
- How to avoid hijacking at home
- Preparing your car
- How to avoid hijacking on the road
- Follow-home robberies (shops / banks / airports)
- What to do if followed
- Should I carry a gun?
- Suitability and use of pepper spray
- How to recognize bogus cops
- Preparing family & children

Part 2 – Vehicle Hijack survival

- What if avoidance fails?
- The hijackers state of mind

- What prevents me from being kidnapped?
- What prevents me from being killed?
- Critical survival point strategies
- Fight vs flight – what will I do?
- Body language tricks & techniques
- If you remember nothing else...
- Your car vs your life...
- If you are shot or injured...
- Dealing with the after effects
- Post-Traumatic Stress
- Getting back behind the wheel.

We look forward to seeing you there!

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Tuesday	20/05/2018	09:00:00	10:00:00	Grade 7 Production	Royce hall
Thursday	21/06/2018			Reports go home	
Friday	22/06/2018			ST PETER'S DAY	
Friday	22/06/2018	07:30:00	08:30:00	Eucharist and Blessing of the Chapel	Chapel
Friday	22/06/2018	11:00:00		HALF TERM COMMENCES	

Monday	02/07/2018	07:30:00		TRINITY TERM CONTINUES	
Thursday	05/07/2018	17:30	18:10	Choir Rehearsal (Gr 2s Only)	Dodson Hall
Thursday	05/07/2018	18:30		Junior Choir Festival (Gr 2s Only)	Dodson Hall
Saturday	07/07/2018	18:00:00	19:00:00	Viva Voce	

REMINDERS – FRIDAY, 15 JUNE

CIVVIES DAY

Please bring a donation of outgrown or unused clothing for the privilege of wearing civvies.

HOT DOG DAY

R25 for Hot Dog, Crisps and a Cool drink

INK CARTIDGE COLLECTION

There are permanent collection points on campus or hand in at a Reception.



PA NEWS

SECOND HAND SHOP

Opening times: Wednesday 07:00 – 08:00

The Second Hand Shop is proving to be a popular option for many parents.

We are looking for more volunteers to assist with the shop.

We would also like to start supplying second hand sporting equipment (cricket bats, hockey sticks, tennis racquets etc.)

Please contact Carol Sithole on carol.sithole1977@gmail.com or on 072 2268599 if you are able to help.

PA COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Several of the current serving members of the St Peter's Parents Association will be stepping down toward the end of this year as their terms come to an end.

As a result, we are looking for parents to volunteer to fill these vacancies. Being part of the PA is a fun and rewarding way of contributing towards the school to which we all belong. Please contact Malope or Robyn if you are interested in getting involved.

Malope Mabizela: malopem@icloud.com & Robyn Doak: robyn@designoval.co.za



WINTER WARMERS MUSIC FESTIVAL & FAMILY DAY!
Live Music | Kids Inflatables & Entertainment
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
SAVE THE DATE
DATE: Saturday, 14 July 2018
TIME: 12:00 – 17:00
TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON – STAY TUNED!
winterwarmers@stpeters.co.za

GRADE 7 FUNDRAISER – ST PETER’S BLANKETS

A limited number of lovely St Peter's branded knee blankets (1.5 x 1m) will be on sale at the Winter Warmers Festival at R220 each. This a Grade 7 Girls fundraising initiative and profits will go towards a new guardhouse for David Sentse, our Security Guard at the Girls School.

If you would like to secure one in advance, please make your deposit into the St Peter's PA account: Standard Bank Rivonia, Branch Code 001255, Account 220028044 using reference 'Surname/Blanket' and email proof of payment to susanwolfenden55@gmail.com.

