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ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of the Girls JP

FROM THE HEADMASTER

CLASS SELECTION

Each year, at this juncture, I share with parents, the school's philosophy and processes in allocating girls to their new classes for the following year. In so doing, I ask parents 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.

To start the process, classes are split into mixed academic ability groups.

We then look at friendship groupings and who should, or should not, be placed together. In the Junior Prep and Middle School, it is common practice to allow the girls to choose a few friends and to guarantee that at least one of these friends will be in the same class, the following year.

Opportunities for establishing new relationships each year must be seen as a positive mechanism for growth and maturity. If we claim to teach resilience at school then we need to teach our girls, as early as possible, to interact with different girls every year.

Teacher-match or suitability is also considered.

In the JP, the class teachers, in consultation with Mrs Heather Kissack, take all decisions around class placement. In the SP, the class teacher and Mrs Cara Eggett (Head of Pastoral Care) decide on this, in consultation with Mrs Pam van Gass. It is also important for parents to be aware that a girl may not necessarily be placed in the same teacher's class, as was her older sibling.

Classes for 2019 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 this was arrived at with very good reason, rather than a 'knee-jerk' insistence that your daughter needs to be moved. If we acceded to every request of this nature, the end 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.

I wish you a wonderful weekend. Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)

FROM THE JP HEAD

CLASS PLACEMENTS

It is that time of the year again, when parents start thinking about class placements for their daughters in the year ahead. At St Peter's we are extremely aware of your daughters' needs and we try to make sure that we place the girls with friends and in classes that will support their learning and well-being. As Darrel has mentioned, the JP teachers look at a range of criteria when placing girls. These vary from friendships to emotional needs, academic strengths, names and birthdays! The girls are familiar with all the teachers at the JP as it is an intimate and inclusive environment, so moving to another grade should not be at all challenging.

Grade 2 girls also have a great deal of support with their transition to Grade 3. They go for 'Hot Lunch' for a trial meal, they join a Chapel service with the SP and have the opportunity of meeting their future teachers. The girls spend time in the Grade 3 classrooms. They also spend time with the Grade 3 girls during paired reading time, and in their 'soon to be' surroundings. The Grade 2 'Service of Thanksgiving' is a day for formal farewells and a tour of the SP is conducted, as well as an opportunity to meet with their Grade 6 'buddies'. All in all, this is a complete and rounded process.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further. I know that you are aware of our process and that we have your daughter's very best interests at heart

HERITAGE DAY HARVEST TABLE – 2018

On Thursday, 20 September the JP Social Cohesion team hosted a wonderful evening celebrating our various heritages by means of sharing food from a Harvest Table. This was an evening of sharing and growing as a Junior Prep Community at St Peter's.

Due to the theme we would host a cooking demonstration using the 3 Legged Pot. The legs of our pot represents the St Peter's Community – one leg is the children who attend our school, the other their parents and the last leg represents their teachers. If one leg was to break off we would not be able to complete our meal successfully. All three are required to create a safe, nurturing community for our children.

The ingredients for the demonstration include our values, as we believe these are what feed our community.

RESPECT:

Our first ingredient is respect; within a community, respect leads to loyalty. Without respect for one another, friendships cannot grow. The ingredient respect is one of the founding values in the world in which we live. Without respect within our community, we cannot move forward.

RESPONSIBILITY:

After a quick stir we add responsibility to our pot – as members of a community, we need to take responsibility for each other. And as role models to the younger generation, we need to be relied upon to do what is expected and say what is right. This includes developing an understanding for and tolerance of other's views.

HONOUR:

Let the pot simmer over a low heat adding the ingredient honour, slowly, to the mix. For a community to thrive one should support the relationship between families and their collective honour. Family honour is impacted by many aspects of our daily lifestyle including religion, clothing, hobbies, culture and food.

COMPASSION:

Next, we need to add a sprinkling of compassion. The golden rule of treating others as you would like to be treated. This will allow compassion to thrive within a community. Communities should be driven by the idea that beneath conflict, inequality and indifference runs a deep river of compassion, engulfed in an aquifer (a body of permeable rock which can contain or transmit groundwater) of loving kindness.

COLLABORATION:

A heaped spoonful of collaboration will add to the flavor, it is collaboration that makes it possible to reach a goal that cannot be achieved by one person alone. An element of trust is required for collaboration to be successful – we need to remember that *it takes a village to raise a child*.

RESILIENCE:

Put the lid on the pot after adding resilience as this represents a community's ability to recover from adverse situations and demands that we support others in their time of need whilst celebrating each other's successes.

Our pot is ready to enjoy! Never forget that everyone's heritage has many positive influences on community building and growing our rainbow nation. We would like to thank both the PA and the amazing Social Cohesion team for the time and effort they put into the evening. Thanks to the parents and staff who attended and shared their heritage stories so willingly. It certainly gave Heritage Day an extra special quality, in 2018.

NEW PERSONAL ASSISTANT IN THE JP

We are really privileged to have a new PA starting on Monday, 1 October in the JP. Lerato Coulter will take on all the administrative roles in the front office, as well as supporting our girls if they are ill. This will release Kelly Bongers from the role to focus entirely on Admissions.

Lerato says she is proud and to be joining the St Peter's family as her younger brother was a pupil at the College some years back. She was born and bred in South Africa, Johannesburg. She is an ESL teacher by profession and an avid learner. She has a CELTA certificate from the University of Cambridge, a Bachelor's Degree from UNISA majoring in International Politics and Anthropology, including a Project Management certificate from the University of Cape Town. She has taught and been an administrator for 11 years in schools and corporate, mostly in Asia, the Middle East and South Africa. In her spare time, she spends time with her husband Ryan, their five-year old son Evan and their sausage dog Alfie. Cooking and gardening are a close second. She is excited to be meeting you all and working together in the coming weeks.



Kelly Bongers and Remember Rabali will support her transition into this new role! We are really excited to welcome her to the family.

Have an awesome weekend! Looking forward to seeing you at the Camp Out.

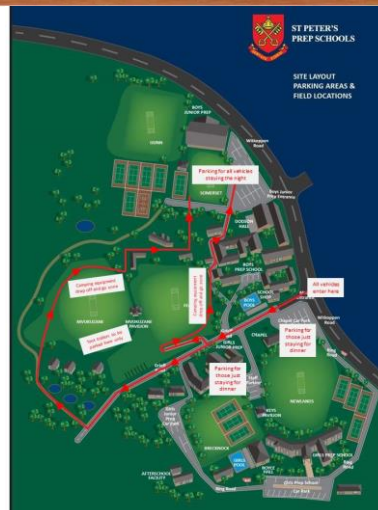
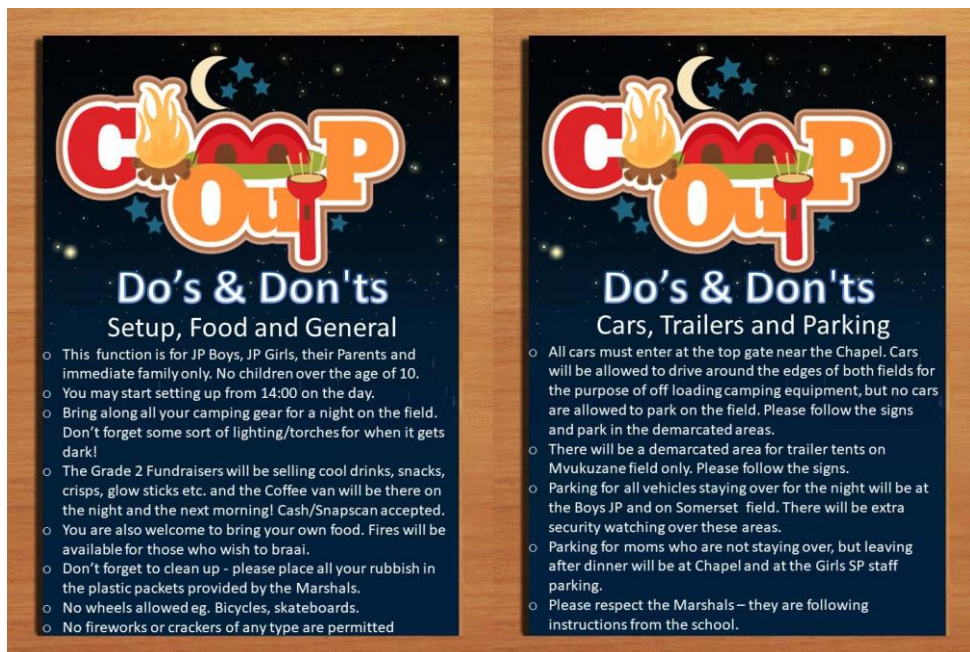
Heather Kissack

BIRTHDAY CHAPEL

On **Tuesday, 2 October** the following Birthday girls will receive their birthday card and a blessing in Chapel at 8:00. We hope to see the parents there.

L Nhleko
P Ntsoane
T Strangway Driver Pitman
S Dlamini

G Sithole
Z Stockill
R Romanis
M Harris



WHAT'S AHEAD

Wednesday	03/10/2018	08:00:00	13:00:00	Experi Buddy	Girls JP Hall
Thursday	04/10/2018	08:00:00	13:00:00	Experi Buddy	Girls JP Hall
Friday	05/10/2018	08:00:00	13:00:00	World Cardboard Challenge	
Friday	05/10/2018	08:00:00	16:00:00	World Teachers' Day	
Friday	05/10/2018	12:00:00	22:00:00	PA Golf Day	
Saturday	06/10/2018	08:00:00	10:30:00	Girls JP Sport's Day	Newlands Field
Tuesday	09/10/18	09:30:00	12:30:00	Grade 2BP Spur Behing the Scene Experience	Spur Rivonia
Wednesday	10/10/18	09:30:00	12:30:00	Grade 2CM Spur Behing the Scene Experience	Spur Rivonia
Thursday	11/10/18	09:30:00	12:30:00	Grade 2KG Spur Behing the Scene Experience	Spur Rivonia



The St Peter's Foundation invites you to participate in the 2018 Sunset Carols Christmas Market to be held on Saturday, 1 December!

This is a wonderful opportunity to sell your goodies. This market has grown in popularity each year. It is held prior to the St Peter's Prep Sunset Carols, which in the past has attracted over 2 500 people. To apply for your stall click on the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/RTuZaQASlx6BtnlK2>

PA NEWS

Link to booking site - to purchase tickets:

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/st-peter-s-prep-schools-raffle-2018/pre-sale>



RAFFLE 2018
R200 per ticket

ST PETER'S
PREP SCHOOLS

**Buy a raffle ticket and
stand a chance of winning**
R30 000 towards
your *school term fees.*

T's & C's apply
Only 600 tickets available
Purchase your tickets on TIXSA
On sale from Wednesday, 19 September 08:00

Draw: 5 October 2018
Time: Approx. 19:00
Venue: Kyalami Country Club
Event: St Peter's Prep Schools Golf Day

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AT THE DRAW TO WIN!