



Edition: 12

4 April 2019

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER

At the beginning of this year Carmen Whitfield, an Educational Psychologist, was appointed as the Head of our Academic Support Unit (ASU). Carmen has already added tremendous value in terms of providing critical support for our girls and teachers from Grade 0 to Grade 7 in the development of our personalised learning process.

This process should enable each girl to work at their respective level of understanding, regardless of their grade. This philosophy challenges traditional schooling paradigms that suggest, for example, if a girl is in Grade 6, they should only be doing Grade 6 work. Our feeling is that, if they have the ability to read or calculate at a Grade 8 level, they should have the opportunity to do so. Conversely, if they are not ready to cope with Grade 6 work – they should be provided with the relevant support and guidance to bring them 'up to speed'.

This support and guidance is obviously varied depending on the individual needs of the girl.

The support and guidance starts in the classroom where our teachers make every effort to personalise their teaching to accommodate different needs – as mentioned in last week's newsletter. We also have numerous periods every week where an additional teacher joins a class, in Maths and English, to provide better individual support – this is a value-add, which not many schools are able to provide.

There are still times, however, when a teacher may need additional support and guidance to cope with a particular girl's individual needs. This support is provided at weekly class meetings with Carmen, where individual girls are discussed and specific recommendations are made. These recommendations are then put in place, in the classroom, and reviewed on a regular basis. If they are not proving effective, Carmen may then suggest individual therapy or a full Academic Assessment.

As you may be aware, we have a number of phenomenal therapists and support teachers working at our school. Lisa Human is our Speech and Language Therapist. Some of her focus areas include: articulation, auditory processing, language difficulties and fluency disorders. It is important to note that Speech Therapy addresses areas which precede literacy skills. Therefore, a child who struggles with reading or spelling may need to see a Speech and Language Therapist before any other intervention. This forms the foundation of any language development.

Saskia Leenstra, Kathryn Tarlton and Fiona van der Zee are our three Occupational Therapists. Occupational Therapy focuses mainly on sensory modulation and postural control. Together, these areas form the foundation of effective learning within a classroom environment. If these areas are not addressed timeously, this could negatively affect the child's overall development.

Micaela Laios is our remedial therapist in the Junior Prep. Micaela offers girls individualised remedial support focusing on consolidating areas such as: Mathematics, English and organisational skills. Remedial therapy often takes place after foundational therapies (Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy) have been completed, to ensure that there is transfer into the classroom.

Sue Garner provides girls with Academic Support and individual Mathematics intervention. More recently, she is offering short skill-based workshops. These workshops do not replace any necessary intervention; they rather provide girls with some additional support in specific areas.

Samantha Schulz is a physiotherapist who focuses on developing areas such as core strength, hypermobility and girdle strength. These areas are important to support a child's physical ability to learn optimally in the classroom environment.

(Although we are privileged to work with such an experienced and knowledgeable team of therapists, it needs to be remembered that parents are never compelled to utilise the services of *our* therapists. In fact, we are always able to provide a list of external service providers, should parents request one).

Carmen also monitors the effectiveness and progress of these therapies by meeting with the therapists on a regular basis. In this way, she becomes 'the common thread' that tracks our girls from Grade 0 through to Grade 7 on their academic journey. I'm sure you join me in welcoming Carmen to St Peter's Girls Prep School and thank her, in advance, for the incredible value she will be adding to our school.



Saskia Leenstra, Lisa Glover, Carmen Whitfield, Fiona van der Zee, Sue Garner, Kathryn Tarlton, Micaela Laios

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

FAREWELL MRS KISSACK

Mrs Heather Kissack leaves us today, to take up the position as Headmistress of Redhill. As much as we are very proud of Heather, we are also very sorry to lose her.

Farewell Mrs Kissack. May this new, exciting chapter be everything you are hoping for and more.



LIGHTNING

I can understand that the recent lightning conditions have caused significant frustration for parents not being able to collect their daughters as planned. However, what I cannot understand, is parents who verbally express their frustrations to the teachers - who are merely following school protocol by not releasing the girls under these conditions.

Parents are not permitted to send a sibling to 'fetch' a child. In such instances, the teacher-in-charge will keep both children under shelter for their safety. Please could I ask that all parents demonstrate a little more patience when the school is under lightning conditions – we are doing everything we can to keep your children safe.

A further reminder of our 'lightning conditions' protocol - girls are to move quickly to the nearest indoor venue or stay inside.

- If the lightning siren goes off while a class/grade is participating in an afternoon activity, the teacher-in-charge will direct them to the nearest indoor venue and stay with them until it is safe to move or they are collected by a parent/guardian. The teacher will notify Reception of the girls' whereabouts, so that they can be collected from that venue.
- If the lightning siren goes off or sport is cancelled due to wet weather, girls will be supervised by the Sports Department for the duration of their sports lesson. They will be in the STEM Lab and may be collected from there.
- If the lightning siren goes off while girls are waiting to be collected in the afternoon, they will be required to stay in either the Library or the Grade 4 IdB classroom until collected by a parent/guardian.

Please note that all girls are required to move to the Aftercare Programme facility, after 16:15. If, however, the lightning siren goes off, the teacher on duty will stay with the girls in the Grade 4 IdB classroom until they are collected. It is unsafe to walk across to Aftercare when the school is under lightning conditions.

D. Webb

FROM THE JP HEAD

GRATITUDE AND INSPIRATION - A SINCERE THANK YOU TO THE ST PETER'S COMMUNITY

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the St Peter's community for the trust and support you have given to me over the past five years. It has been a privilege to work at St Peter's, and grow and learn in an environment that supports the innovative and progressive best practice that is in schools today. St Peter's offers the very best of all - a traditional, Christian and value-based environment that supports children and families to ensure their success in all they strive to achieve.

I have had such an exciting time, but it has been my work with the girls, that has kept my focus and purpose clear – to bring about progressive teaching and learning, to grow identity and leadership and to address the need for girls to be significant, as women in society today.

I want to say a special thanks to the Council and Senior Management for their belief in me as I set up the new JP school, grew the school to three streams and engaged many of the staff that work here today. I also wish to thank the staff at the JP for supporting me as I encouraged new ideas, best practice and creativity around the development of the curriculum.

I have had many amazing opportunities to work on other initiatives at St Peter's. The Intern Programme has been significant and it has gained traction over the past four years. The role it plays in growing young talent in South Africa

is unquestionable and I feel extremely proud of how the team has grown. The impact it has had on teaching and learning is immeasurable. I am so grateful to have worked on this project.

I have been involved in growing the Community Partnership, at Sefikeng, with Monica Sloane. In 2017 Leigh Lidgley was appointed Lead teacher: Community Outreach and under her guidance the Programme has flourished. Thank you for your passion and energy, Leigh.

In my time here, I have also worked on the development and successful running of the Afterschool Programme as well as starting the early plans and supporting the new Pre-prep at St Peter's. I do wish all involved fun as they build a new and exciting space for teaching and learning and I look forward to visiting. The team at the Afterschool Programme is amazing!

As I venture forth, I will continue to reflect and scaffold my career on what I have gained at St Peter's. As a woman in leadership, I will navigate and trust that I will receive much wisdom and support from my peers at St Peter's. I hope to inspire the young girls that I have had in my care, teachers and interns and *walk my talk*, every day.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel - Maya Angelou

WHICH CAME FIRST?

The incubator, with eggs, arrived this week and we have watched expectantly for the chicks to hatch. It is an exciting time for all of us as we see the rather wet and wobbly chicks warm up and fluff out!

So wonderful for the girls to experience the start of life and a reminder of the miracle that takes place!

WELCOME

Welcome to twin babies, Sadie and Travis, born to Catriona and Mike! Baby sister and brother to Kerry Montagu! We wish them health and happiness.



BIRTHDAYS

Emilia Nejthard, Thebe Phukubye, Megan Dijkstra, Catherine Long, Gia de Jong, Matilda Espinoza, Langelihle Mnyani, Maxine Robertson, Aryanna Singh, Coco Scribante, Rebecca Aitken, Ella Williamson, Daniella Gwaunza, Christine Pon, Ashley Thwaites, Taylor White, Kendra Reid, Rofhiwa Tshikhudo

FAREWELL

It is always sad to say farewell. We wish Sophia Liu an amazing journey back home to China and to her family back home. *Once a St Peter's girl, always a St Peter's girl.*

CALENDAR

The Trinity Term calendar is attached to this newsletter and has been loaded onto the Communicator St Peter's app. Please direct any calendar queries to Remember Rabali: rrabali@stpeters.co.za

REMINDER: TOMORROW FRIDAY, 5 APRIL**R25****HOT DOG DAY AND CARTRIDGE COLLECTION****SECURITY QR CODE UPDATE**

If you **HAVE NOT** filled in a Google Form, please fill this in: <https://goo.gl/forms/NX1PEDAYmpKMctxR2>
For those that **HAVE** filled in the Google Form, please watch your Inbox next week. Your code will be emailed to you.

For any other queries, please email: stpeters@appcharlie.com

Lance Camphor
(Head of Security)

IDAI CYCLONE: MOZAMBIQUE**COLLECTION: 8 – 11 APRIL**

Days after tropical cyclone IDAI swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, the visible effects are starting to unfold and the world can see the catastrophic disaster, which has taken place. It has destroyed almost everything in its path, causing not only devastating floods, but also leaving thousands of people missing, injured, deceased, homeless, helpless and distraught.

More than 100 000 children in Mozambique have been adversely affected, not having eaten in days nor having access to clean water. Many children either have lost their parents or are still looking for them. These children are in desperate need of help.

Paediatric Care Africa is co-ordinating a collection and St Peter's is acting as a drop-off point for people who would like to make any donation. Please drop off any of the following in the Prayer Room in the Chapel:

Babies' needs: Clothing, baby equipment, non-disposable nappies, cream, soap, non-perishable food and milk for babies, bottled water, mosquito repellent, water-purifying tablets

Children's needs: Clean re-usable, or new, shoes, clothing, blankets, sunhats, socks, jerseys.

Details about this organisation can be found at <https://www.pediatriccareafrika.org>

Father Richard
(Chaplain)

REMINDER - INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS GROUP PHOTOGRAPH ORDERS

The photographer has kindly given us an extension for photograph orders - deadline for orders is today **Thursday, 4 April 2019**.

All group photos can be viewed and accessed on the website: www.lifeimaging.co.za

Username: stpeters

Password: spg123

(These details are on the order form)

Please read ordering instructions very carefully to avoid frustration!

Photographs which are ordered using the order form - must be paid for via EFT (banking details on the form). Proof of EFT should be attached to the order form when it is returned. **NO CASH CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

Jean Macleod
(Marketer: Girls School)

WEEK AHEAD

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|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|------------|--------------------|
| Friday | 05/04/2019 | 05/04/2019 | 10:00:00 | 10:30:00 | Hot Dog Day/Cartridge collection R25 | | |
| Friday | 05/04/2019 | 05/04/2019 | 18:30:00 | 22:30:00 | Staff Variety Show | | Dodson Hall |
| Saturday | 06/04/2019 | 06/04/2019 | 18:30:00 | 22:30:00 | Staff Variety Show | | Dodson Hall |
| Thursday | 11/04/2019 | 11/04/2019 | 07:30:00 | 08:30:00 | Little Mozart's | Grade 1& 2 | Royce Hall |
| Thursday | 11/04/2019 | 11/04/2019 | 10:00:00 | 10:30:00 | JP Closing Times: Grade 0:10:00; Grade 1: 10:15; Grade 2: 10:30. | | |
| Thursday | 11/04/2019 | 11/04/2019 | 11:00:00 | 14:30:00 | Aftercare available until 14:30 | | |

ST PETER'S PREP PARENT PORTAL

We are pleased to announce the opening of our Parent Portal, which will allow parents to check upcoming events, extra-curricular information and view school reports from home, office or anywhere. Communications between parents and teachers can and will take place via the portal. The real-time link, this Portal provides, is a 'must have' facility in today's busy world.

We will be keeping all our current communication channels open until we are comfortable that the Portal provides a better service. One important feature is the Portal Calendar. Export and import functions are available for all popular third-party calendars with the ability to set up and view multiple calendars.

Activation of the Portal will be emailed grade by grade. Parents, who have children in multiple grades must please only activate their account once. This will take place from the end of March until the end of May, starting with the Grade 7s.



We will be placing the First Semester reports, 28 June 2019, onto the Portal, so it is important that you set up your account and ensure that you remember your password. A Helpdesk will be set up to assist parents who have difficulty. Portalhelp@stpeters.co.za

A user manual can be found on the Communicator.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to Caron du Plessis, who will be managing the Portal. cduplessis@stpeters.co.za

HOLIDAY CLUBS

GRADE 0 - 1 APRIL HOLIDAY CLUB BAKING/CRAFTS/BIKE RIDING

Mrs Janet Buck and Mrs Bronwyn Peake are running a holiday club from **Monday, April 15 to Thursday, April 18**. Come and join us for lots of delicious baking, crafts, treasure hunt and a bike day. Girls may sign up for all days or selected days on the **sign-up sheet** on the Holiday Club board at the JP. All information can be found on this board. Please parents include your email with your child's name and take a sign-up sheet and information letter. Payments to Janet Buck by EFT before the end of term. Baking will take place on every day.



GRADE 2 HOLIDAY SPORT CLUB



Mrs Leanne Fleming and Miss Tshego Mashabela are running a Netball and Sport Holiday Club from Monday, 15 April to Thursday, 18 April. Come join us for lots of fun on the netball courts, riding your bikes around the school, wall-climbing adventures and loads more activities.

Please take an enrolment form and information letter, should your daughter wish to participate in the **Grade 2 Sport Club**. The **sign-up sheet and other forms** will be on the Holiday Club board at the JP. Payments to Leanne Fleming, before the end of term, please.



Crazy Hair Day in the JP!
Farewell, Heather! Be happy at Redhill!

