



Edition: 35

18 November 2016

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

SECURITY

This issue has been at the forefront of our minds for a while and I apologise for this rather late communication.

Since the beginning of term, two extra guards have been posted on campus making a total of six. They have been especially briefed to be vigilant and have rehearsed procedures in reacting to different threats, as have all those who answer the telephones at school. Our security company was also informed of our concerns and consulted for additional advice. Drills have been practised and we've enjoyed more frequent visits from their security patrol vehicles.

Earlier this year, we ordered a review of our security infrastructure. We received the results early this term and have begun implementation of the recommendations. The first of these involves the installation of R500 000 worth of new cameras. Cameras to date have proved to be highly effective deterrents. Access control is a significant challenge. The problem lies in the absence of sufficient space to allow for vehicle back-up when stopping cars and, in St Peter's' case, on busy days, the back-up would extend into Witkoppen Rd. We have been advised by traffic engineers that this would create a high probability of a collision occurring given the speed at which vehicles travel on this road. We continue to seek a solution for this.

Coloured windscreen stickers are not effective on days when there are fixtures against other schools. In the meantime, the guards have proved to be particularly effective and have thwarted two attempted car thefts this year.

As annoying as it was to have the switchboards jammed with calls for the 'escaped' tiger publicity hoax, this proved to be a good test of our procedures. As children were bundled inside, the Crisis Committee convened and in the absence of any fence alarms being activated, teams were dispatched to ensure that the 'tiger' had not jumped the fence. I can't say that I was all that thrilled to discover that it was a hoax and I vented, telephonically, to the restaurant's headquarters. They were as sympathetic as a traffic cop at a speed trap.

It's difficult not to assume that the campus is a safe space, not subject to the threats that are normally associated with public areas. While this is partly true, we cannot take this for granted and we should exercise all normal precautions by not leaving valuables unattended or ensuring that our cars are properly locked when we leave them.

Greg Royce

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Throughout my 27 years of teaching, I have been involved in a number of initiatives in order to achieve various objectives. The 'My South African Story' initiative is, without doubt, the most significant of them all. It has been an opportunity to share stories, voice opinions and listen to conversations which, takes us one step closer to understanding the complexity of what it means to be South African, what this means to St Peter's and the part we all have to play today - for the benefit of tomorrow.

At last week's meeting Mrs Ramabulana, voiced her opinion about the critical need for parents to model the right behaviour. What she said was so profound, that I asked her to write something for this week's newsletter, with the view to setting up a meeting for like-minded parents, in order to further the conversation:

I write as parent who has been at the Girls School for four years and for only a year at the Boys. It is with pride that I share where my children go to school because, to a large extent, I do admire how the school is run and despite a glitch from time to time, I generally do feel that my children have found a place that will influence and invest in their critical formative years.

Having attended the Transformation Forums that have been held this year I was delighted to see both principals and the Rector in attendance sharing their own SA stories amidst this amazing group of individuals that has managed to create a safe space for parents and some staff to raise their concerns, debate issues and come up with ideas about making St Peter's a truly inclusive and transformed society. What was clear to me that night was so much blame and responsibility is apportioned to the management and staff of both schools especially when something goes wrong, when I personally believe the parent body directly or indirectly are to a larger extent responsible for the atmosphere and the general feeling that one is likely to encounter in and around the school. It is not the teachers you butt heads with for parking as you race into the car park to drop off your children, the parents are the ones we chit chat with more often in the car park as we say our goodbyes or do the walk-in with the little ones. It is a mixture of the social interactions as well as structured learning that we contend with at home via our children's feedback to the typical 'how was your day, my nunu?' That social interaction is fuelled and moulded more by the parents, but also to some extent by the teachers. However, we do find many associations develop and are cemented based on friendship lines in the grades. We as parents choose whether or not to broaden the circle or to keep it tight. We are challenged by our littles ones to extend our homes to children we would not have typically hosted. We see ourselves begin to engage more with each other as we share and create memories for our children. If we do so we begin an uncharted course if we don't we maintain the status quo fighting to keep our society comfortable, the way we know it to be. So, as we gather formally or informally at school functions or outside of the school we are either reinforcing what we are comfortable with or opening ourselves to totally new experiences.

I write this note because I do believe that the society we profess that we want and the changes that we know are needed in our lives today are only going to come if we are bold. Bold enough to break our patterns and challenge ourselves to engage openly with each other with the common vision to build a truly transformed and integrated society for our children. As a parent body, I think we now need to focus on the changes we need to make and the positive influence we need to be if we are going to begin to make these essential changes. The Transformation Forum has been great because it has started paving out a path for the school. We have started to talk about many diverse topics and experiences and in doing so, have found some common ground and touched on some uncomfortable thorny issues. In the process, we have developed some trust and a broadened perspective for and about each other. Wouldn't it be great if we get together more often as a parent body to build that level of trust amongst each other and to begin

engaging constructively about the issues we see, yet do not mention or do much about.

Phetsile Dlamini

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts and ideas on this topic, please join us for a cup of coffee in Mvukuzane Pavilion at 07:15, next Tuesday, 22 November.

Nibe neviki elimnandi

Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

FROM THE JP HEAD

HELPING YOUR CHILDREN COPE WITH CHANGE: BUILDING RESILIENCE

As parents, our instincts are to dispel our children's fears and anxieties. We start to think, at this time of the year, about the changes that are imminent; new class, grade, teacher and friends and how these changes will impact our children. It is important that we do some preparation, with them, around this opportunity for them to grow and prepare for future successes and challenges.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Keep your home routines unchanged. This creates a sense of consistency at home.
2. Encourage your children to play with children from diverse backgrounds.
3. Create an environment of free and open questioning with realistic, reassuring answers.
4. Let your children talk about what saddens them and what they might miss.
5. Talk them through what the change will be like. Take them on a visit to their new classroom, house, etc., or help them imagine what it will be like.
6. Understand that it will take time for the adjustment and don't worry!

Over the next few weeks teachers will be starting to assist the girl's with their transition into the year ahead. On Tuesday, 6 December they will meet their new teachers and peers. Please talk to them about new playmates and be proactive about arranging playdates. Together, we will make their transition a success!

NATIVITY LAUNCHES THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Grade 0 Nativity was a beautifully conceived narrative using the age appropriate language of early childhood: that of Nursery Rhyme. This held grandparents and parents spellbound! From meerkats, lion cubs, dicky birds and the like, the Grade 0 Nativity was a treat for all who attended, celebrating the innocence of childhood and the story of the birth of Jesus. Sincere gratitude goes to the Grade 0 Team and Jess da Silva who, together, created a spectacle of song, dance and colour, to take us into the Christmas season.

Please visit the **St Peter's Girls Prep Facebook** page to view our photos of the Nativity Play.

GRADE 0 SWIMMING DEMONSTRATIONS

Date: Saturday, 19 November 2015

Time: **08:30** (Please meet your teacher in your classroom by **08:15**)

Venue: Boys Swimming Pool

NB: School swimming costume, red swimming cap and blue school towel, sun block and water

GRADE 1 & 2 GALA

Date: Saturday, 19 November 2015

Time: **09:30** (Please meet your teacher in your classroom by **09:15**)

Venue: Boys School Pool

NB: School swimming costume (black), red swimming cap and blue towel, sun block and water

GOLDEN MOMENT

During a science lesson, there was some discussion about measurement of liquid in a glass. It was discussed and the answer, from a girl, was: 'Well if you are negative, the glass is half empty, but if you are positive, it's half full!'

Heather Kissack (JP Head)

STAFF NEWS

JENNY HUGO

It is with great sadness that we heard this week, about Jenny Hugo's plans to retire at the end of the Easter Term of 2017. Jenny joined St Peter's on the 1 September 1995. She was originally Librarian in the Boys School and moved to the Girls School, as Librarian, when it opened in 2006. We will express our gratitude to Jenny for everything she has done for St Peter's at her farewell towards the end of next term.

CASEY MACAULAY

It is also with great sadness that we inform you that Casey has resigned. She has made the decision to focus on class teaching at Bellavista rather than one-on-one intervention. We wish her much happiness and success as she takes up her new position. We are in the process of finding a suitable candidate to take on her students. We will be contacting each of her current pupils individually about our procedures going forward.

DRESS WHEN ATTENDING SIBLING CHAPEL SERVICES

Please note that if girls are attending end-of-year Chapel services or Prize Givings, as a sibling, they are required to wear their summer uniform (with blazers, for the SP girls)

Library Books and Puzzles

Please ensure that all library books, puzzles and games are returned next week as there will be a stock take during the holidays.

SCHOOL SHOP

Family Organisers

We have limited stock of the popular 2017 Family Organisers - R140

Grade 1 – 2017

The current Grade 0 girls will need the following uniform for Grade 1:

- Checked blouse and navy skirt
- Black shoes

Grade 3 – 2017

A reminder for current Grade 2 girls to get their Grade 3 uniform. They will need the following:

- Red sport shirt and skort
- House T-shirt and swimming cap

Nadia Thompson (School Shop Assistant)

From the Sports Department

We hope to see you at the Swimming Demonstration on Saturday 19 November at the Boys School swimming pool.

08:30-09:30 Grade 0
09:30-11:00 Grade 1 and 2

St Peter's 2017 Term Dates

Easter Term:	Wednesday 18 January – Wednesday 12 April Mid Term Break: Thursday 23 February – Return: Tuesday 28 February Extra day given: Monday 20 March (Bishops Holiday) Public Holiday: Tuesday 21 March
Trinity Term:	Wednesday 3 May – Friday 4 August Mid Term Break: Friday 23 June – Return: Monday 3 July Public Holidays: Friday 16 June
Advent Term:	Tuesday 5 September – Thursday 7 December Mid Term Break: Thursday 19 October – Return: Tuesday 24 October Public Holidays: Sunday 24 September, Monday 25 September

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday	22/11/2016	08:00:00	08:30:00	Chapel	Chapel
Tuesday	22/11/2016	11:00:00	12:00:00	Grade 2 Hot Lunch Tasting	Dining Hall
Wednesday	23/11/2016	09:30:00	10:30:00	Grade 0 St Peter's & Grade 0 Sefeking Mr Popper's Penguins Show	Girls JP Hall

GRADE 0-1 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB

GRADE 0 AND 1 GIRLS/SIBLINGS/COUSINS/FRIENDS COME AND JOIN MRS STEYN AND MRS BUCK FOR A FUN CHRISTMAS CRAFT, BAKING CLUB.

DATES: THURSDAY 8 to THURSDAY 15 DEC

TIME: 7.30am-12pm

VENUE: MRS BUCK'S CLASSROOM

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: CHRISTMAS BAKING, CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, BIKE DAYS, CHRISTMAS TREASURE HUNT AND LOTS MORE.



COST: ONLY R200 PER DAY, YOU CAN COME EVERY DAY OR ON SELECTED DAYS ONLY.

REMEMBER TO BRING A PACKED LUNCH, DRINK AND A PAINTING T-SHIRT. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW WHICH DAYS ARE BIKE DAYS SO YOU CAN BRING YOUR BIKE!

CASH PAYMENT OR EFT'S STRICTLY BY DEC 2nd



GRADE 2 - 4 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY COOKERY CLUB THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER TO THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER

Do you love to Cook, Bake and Create? Do you love Christmas?

We are combining a love of Christmas with baking, cooking and creating.

Join us for a week of fun-filled baking, cooking, decorating, designing and packaging this Holiday!

Friends and family are also welcome.

Remember to bring an apron, an ice-cream tub, a packed lunch, water bottle, hat and sunscreen.
SPACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK YOUR PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by sending Mrs. Montagu an email!

cmontagu@stpeters.co.za

Dates: Thursday 8 December to Thursday 15 December.

Time: 08:00 – 12:00 Daily.

Cost: R200 per day. (EFT available on request)

We look forward to seeing you there!

St Peter's Foundation
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Rivonia 001 255
Acc no.: 422 057 533

Your ref: Your Initial & Surname

- TABLES CAN ALSO BE BOOKED AT R2000 FOR A TABLE OF X10 (limited)
- DVDS CAN BE ORDERED AT R150

Tables and DVD payments can be done together with your ticket payment.

Please send proof of payment with your contact details and confirmation of what you paid for, to: tickets@stpeters.co.za

Tickets will also be sold in the last week 28 November to 2 December in the car park

BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY, PICNIC BLANKETS AND CAMPER CHAIRS - DELICIOUS FOOD WILL BE ON SALE

AUTUMN CARNIVAL

