



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

TRAFFIC POINTSMEN UPDATE '*NOUGHT FOR YOUR COMFORT*'

The school has recently received an explanatory letter from Traffic Freeflow, the agency which has historically provided pointsmen to the city of Johannesburg. The letter notifies us that Traffic Freeflow has withdrawn from the tender process owing to the inability of the city to meet deadlines on several occasions.

We also have a parent involved in the negotiation process who has warned us that there is no solution on the horizon. The recent resignation of the mayor of the city has further exacerbated the matter.

In the meantime, we expressed our admiration for parents who are showing exemplary patience in a very frustrating situation. For the benefit of new parents, the issue of access and egress at St Peter's campus has been an ongoing problem. We have engaged the services of three traffic engineers to provide solutions at a cost of close to R200,000. The advice has been implemented in addition to our own measures which have served to effect slight improvements. The real problem is the traffic on Witkoppen Road over which we have no control. In time, we hope that the K60 will be built. This will divert all non-school traffic away from Witkoppen and provide relief. Petitions for the building of the K60 are in circulation and we urge you to sign these.

I guess we all have to continue getting up a little earlier in the mornings, unless Rassie Erasmus is able to provide a solution.

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.

Greg Royce
(Rector)

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY HEAD ACADEMICS: MRS PAM VAN GASS

Two weeks back, I attended a panel discussion of high school heads, facilitated by Darrel Webb. The topic was 'What do high schools want from prep schools?'

Participants in the dialogue were Deanne King, Head of St Mary's Waverley, Dave du Toit and Sally James, Heads of St Stithians Boys and Girls Colleges respectively, Lisa Kaplan, Head of Kingsmead College, Gary Norton, Head of Marist Lindmeyer and Rui Morais, Headmaster of St Peter's College. There was such synergy in their responses that there was even a request from the audience for a podcast to communicate the high school perspective to parents of prep school children.

The following questions were posed:

What do you look for when assessing Grade 7 pupils for placement into the respective high school?

All the schools represented placed the emphasis on the interview process and guarded against a focus on academic results. They are looking for children who are able to engage in conversation and who would be able to contribute meaningfully to life at high school. They value girls who are socially and emotionally mature and who display skills of adaptability, flexibility and can cope with change. Children who are able to be independent individuals and look toward themselves to solve problems are valued. They celebrate girls who speak about their passion in assisting communities and caring for the environment. Responsibility and the ability to organise oneself were also mentioned as important. 'A happy girl who is not perfect in the classroom' was a response I appreciated. And even 'Enjoying sport and music rather than being good at it' was another inspirational answer from a particular Head.

Reading with understanding is vital, basic mastery of mathematical skills and children who can write creatively and grammatically correctly were necessary skills.

What are your thoughts about inquiry-based education and how are you implementing this learning into your school?

All these high schools have introduced inquiry-based learning into their Grade 8 and 9 years to a greater or lesser degree either as modules or fully fledged units of inquiry which develop research and thinking skills. They are reporting that it has reintroduced enthusiasm into learning. The pupils take ownership of their learning and there is personal involvement. The integration of subjects, in which the silos are broken down and connections are made, is developing. Learning is relevant and engaging. It sets children up for success. Good, happy, well rounded citizens are a result of this approach. St Mary's embarked on this road five years ago with their first year of matrics now benefiting from the research skills and investigation skills encouraged in their earlier years. This was particularly encouraging, knowing that St Peter's have used this educational initiative for a number of years now.

How can prep schools improve the transition into high school?

Overwhelmingly, the Heads reported that pupils and parents are too anxious around the high school process. Grade 7 to Grade 8 is only a step in the process and a part of the educational journey. Children are children and we, as Prep Schools, must continue to do what is best for our pupils and not fixate about what they need for High School. This year Cara Eggett has been in contact with a number of the High Schools, to which we feed, and I'm delighted to report that our girls are thriving!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Pam van Gass
(Deputy Head: Academics)

2020 STAFF UPDATE

We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Nthabeleng Nhlapo has been appointed as our new Girls Prep Marketing manager for next year! Nthabeleng has two daughters, one who is in Grade 2 and another who will be joining the Pre-Prep in 2020. She has over 10 year's experience in sales and marketing, a large portion of this spent in the radio industry.

News from the Junior Prep: Mrs Leigh Lidgley will move to be a Grade 2 class teacher. Mrs Catriona Montagu, who is returning from maternity leave, will be a Grade 1 class teacher and Mrs Megan Haas will move back to the Senior Prep as our IT Integrator.

In the Senior Prep, Mrs Toni Clarke-Buchanan and Mrs Rachel Amm will move to Grade 3 Class Teacher roles. Mrs Ingerid de Bruyn will be assisting Mrs Amm to allow her, as head of our Middle School, to move between the classes and get to know all the girls in the Middle School. Mrs Julia Aitken remains in Grade 3.

Mrs Kelsey Mohamed and Mrs Colleen Ireland move into a Gr 4 class teacher role with Mrs Thobile Kizito.

Miss Nicci Horak moves into Grade 5 with Mrs Mel Aspeling and Mrs Alyssa Barberis.

Mrs Niki Mayne moves into Grade 6 to assist Miss Kirsty Morey with the English. Our Grade 6 class teachers are Miss Kirsty Morey, Mrs Ronel Schoeman and Mrs Kerryn White.

Our Grade 7 Class Teachers remain as Mrs Kim Gordon and Mrs Rose Nkomo.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you that our Heads of Houses have been appointed for 2020. They are: Mrs Keitumetse Makola, Mrs Kerryn White, Mrs Nikki Mayne and Mrs Ronel Schoeman. A reminder that all House allocations, including staff, will be done in the first week of next year.

D.Webb

FROM THE SPORTS DESK



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Please note that the water polo sessions will finish on Thursday next week - for Grade 3, 4 and 5.

AFTERNOON SPORT

Please note the following, with regard to afternoon sport sessions.

- All Gr 3, 4 and 5 afternoon sport will finish on Friday, 22 November.
- All girls (Grades 3 – 5) will be swimming in the afternoons next week

Andrew Steyn
(Director of Sport)

CHRISTMAS BOXES 2019

Christmas is time to celebrate! We remember, however, that it is also a time of giving and it creates the opportunity for us to give to someone who is less fortunate than we are.

In the boxes provided, please include:

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, face cloth, soap
- Small toy (Maximum value R60 as the children will open their boxes in front of other children who have received a box and we don't want any disappointment)
- Packet of sweets
- Crayons and blank book

If there is space, please fill the box up with: tinned fish, tinned beef, tinned fruit, baked beans, sugar, tea bags, long life milk, jam, biscuits.

Please be so kind as to wrap the box in Christmas wrapping paper or newspaper.

Please help us to build on last year's success by returning your boxes by the Friday, 29 November.

Collection points:

Senior Prep Girls and Boys: Chapel

Junior Prep Girls and Boys: JP reception areas

Blessings

Kamohelo Kotsi

FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

As excitement mounts in anticipation of our move to the spectacular new Art room, Mrs van der Watt (a.k.a 'Juffie') is in urgent need of the following:

1. Moms to assist with the setting up of the exhibition on Monday 25th & Tuesday 26th November.
2. Donations: *(Please drop in the art room)*
 - a. **IN DESPERATE NEED** of old bath/swimming/hand/tea towels for drying hands and cleaning up paint spills
 - b. Old Scrubbing brushes & nail brushes to clean paint off hands and containers.
 - c. Old sponges (to cut up and use for painting techniques)
 - d. Newspaper (but NO magazines please)
 - e. Any unused plain black material or paper
3. For next year each child will require their own apron/art shirt and 2l ice-cream tub in which to keep their own art supplies. *(Please keep these at home until school starts next year)*

Thank you in advance.

Belinda van der Watt
(Art Teacher)

SECURITY REPORT: SPEEDING ON CAMPUS

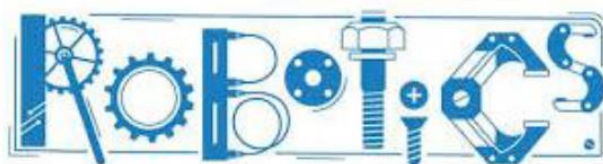
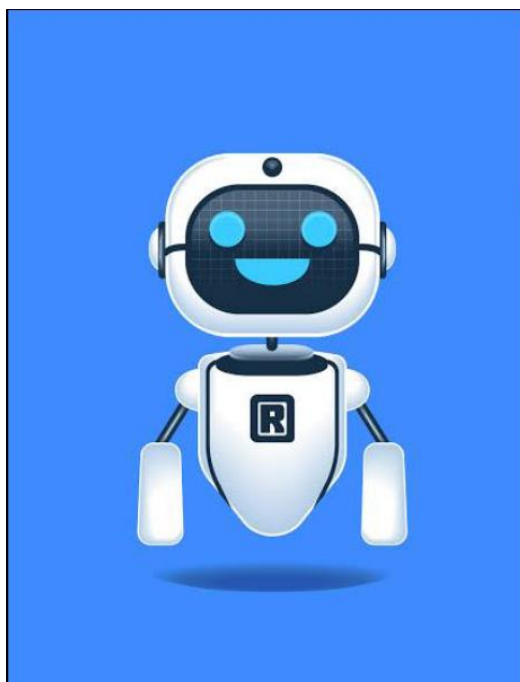
The safety of our pupils, parents, staff and visitors is of paramount importance. To enhance traffic safety, a speed-monitoring camera has been installed on the property. We share the following downloaded statistics:

	Total Vehicles	Percentage motorists exceeding the speed limit	Max Speed Recorded
July	12302	25%	40 km/h
August	3004	24%	40 km/h
September	8008	28%	50 km/h
October	13791	24%	50 km/h

Please note that the schools were closed in August and we had a mid-term break in the month of September. These statistics indicate that a large percentage of motorists are not complying with the **20 km/h speed restriction**. Please adhere to the speed limit and exercise greater caution in the interest of the safety of our community.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Lance Camphor
(Security Manager)



Holiday Club

build – code – learn – play

DATES: 9-13 December

TIME: 08:00 to 12:00

COST: R220 per day

FACILITATORS: Kerryn Schmidt & Megan Haas

Children will build and code various LEGO robots. They will also have the opportunity to work with Spheros and Ozobots.

If your daughter is keen to join us for the whole week or part thereof please complete the Sign Up Form that will be sent home shortly or email Kerryn on kschmidt@stpeters.co.za

SPANNS OF SPORT HOLIDAY ROUND ROBIN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Venue: St Stithians Boys Tennis Courts

Date: 9 – 12 December

Time: 08:30 – 13:00

Please contact Nadine on 083 306 2886 for more information.



SUNSET CAROLS - TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Sunset Carols
2019

TICKET SALES ARE OPEN!

Go to our ticket site on Tixsa to purchase yours

Online Prices:	Prices @ Door:
Adult (18+) R150	Adult R160
Child (3-18) R80	Child R90
Child (under 3) free	

Tables R250 per ticket (min 8, max 10)

Choir participants free - they will be given their armbands beforehand

<https://tickets.tixsa.co.za/event/stpeters-sunset-carols-2019>