



Dear Parents,

#### **FROM THE HEADMASTER**

I hope that everyone enjoyed the long weekend and is refreshed and ready for the run down to the end of the first term. Tuesday's celebrations of Human Rights Day around the country included a festival of dance during which people celebrated their individuality and independence. Independence and the right to independence has been the catalyst for many struggles around the world. In addition, we speak about independent thought and independent decision making regularly in our modern world. The term independent is defined in the Collins English Dictionary as, "...not dependent on anything else for function,...not reliant on support." This is certainly a condition to be aspired to, but is independence a right or is it a skill?

I believe that independence is a skill that needs to be developed and that, in its purest form grows into inter-dependence, which means that we can rely on others and, in turn, be relied upon to complete a task in support of those around us. This state begins with being able to do things for ourselves. To this end we should be consciously preparing our boys to take on responsibility for their own learning. I expand on a couple of positive parenting actions that would help with this growth below:

- Preparing his own school and sports bags for the following day. While it may be more time consuming than simply checking the Communicator and packing accordingly, by working with your boy you will not only empower him so that you don't need to pack his bags the following year, but you will prepare him for later life. In addition, if there is a pair of socks missing from his kit he will own the problem rather than defaulting to the standard "...my mother/helper forgot..." Perhaps by facing the consequence of his disorganisation, he will also learn to be more proactive next time.
- Drop him off and let him carry his own bags. I mentioned in the PA AGM that we are noticing more and more parents carrying their children's sports bags, dragging cricket kit and even carting lunch boxes all the way to the classroom while the boy skips along behind. This becomes an expectation for the boy and before you know it he will expect you to make his bed, pick up his dirty washing and even take his dirty dishes to the kitchen. Do some of these "chores" sound familiar? The growth towards an independent and self-disciplined life is scaffolded by many small tasks. While there may be a need for some "difficult conversations" you will be preparing him for a happy and successful high school experience and adulthood.

As an aside, making our boys more independent would also help with our growing carpark challenges. While the number of boys in the school has not increased over the past four years, our carpark woes have. We are conducting a traffic flow study to try to alleviate the problem, but I am fairly confident that part of the solution will be to revert to the days where boys were dropped off at school and not escorted or assisted all the way to the classroom. I suppose that, while this will not facilitate an individual's independence, it may fall under the category of our community inter-dependence, where we all rely on each other to follow the traffic guidelines and drop-off areas to alleviate carpark rage.

By growing our boys' independence we will be preparing them for the challenges they will face in the increasingly more complex society in which we live.

Have a great week.

**Rob Macaulay**



#### **FROM THE JUNIOR PREP**

#### **BOYS NEED TO MOVE**

After spending twenty minutes to half an hour in the traffic, our Junior Prep boys need to move. We encourage them to

go outside and play before school starts in the morning. The running around and playing allows for maximum focus when lessons begin. Similarly our teachers give the boys 'brain breaks' throughout the day. These breaks give them a chance to move and maintain concentration. Research has proved that movement allows for better academic progress.

### **OUTREACH – DIEPSLOOT COMBINED SCHOOL**

On Tuesday we will not be going to Diepsloot Combined School. There will be a prep session, starting at 7:30, to organise activities for next term. Please do join us.

### **GOLDEN MOMENT**

During an introduction to sentence writing, a Grade 1 boy wrote an ambitious and exciting sentence: "I am *macnisfisint!*"

Hope to see you at the Staff Variety Show this weekend.

Warm regards,

**Kenda Melvill-Smith**

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Friday 24 March</b> 19:00 Staff Variety Show: Dodson Hall
<b>Saturday 25 March</b> 19:00 Staff Variety Show: Dodson Hall
<b>Monday 27 March</b>
<b>Tuesday 28 March</b> 7:30 DCS Prep Session
<b>Wednesday 29 March</b> 8:00 Chapel (birthday cards 27 March-2 April) 12:00-12:20 Grade 2 Choir <b>OR</b> 13:00-13:30 Grade 2 Choir
<b>Thursday 30 March</b>
<b>Friday 31 March</b> 19:00 Staff Variety Show: Dodson Hall
<b>Saturday 01 April</b> 19:00 Staff Variety Show: Dodson Hall

### **SCHOOL SHOP**

#### **Winter Uniform**

Please start thinking of coming in to buy the winter uniform as there are very few shop days left before the end of term.

#### **SALE:**

Navy fleece inners (limited sizes left) selling at cost.

Tracksuits (old material only) selling at a 10% discount.

#### **Lanyards:**

We now stock school branded lanyards for your locker keys – R20 each

**Nadia Thompson** (School Shop Assistant)

### **EARTH HOUR - SATURDAY, 25 MARCH**

Earth Hour is the single, largest, symbolic mass participation event in the world. The initiative was born out of a wish to mobilise people to take action against climate change. Earth Hour now inspires a global community of millions of people in 7 001 cities and towns across 152 countries and territories to switch lights off for an hour as a show of concern for the environment.

Switching off lights has become the world's fastest growing environmental movement. If you would like to do your 'bit' on Saturday, a simple idea is switch off your lights and appliances for an hour from 20:30 to 21:30.



To read more about this initiative, visit [www.earthhour.org.za](http://www.earthhour.org.za). There are some inspiring stories of people going 'beyond the hour'. How about using this as an educational opportunity to share as a family? We would love feedback about what you and your family did for Earth Hour!

### ***PALM SUNDAY INVITATION***

Palm Sunday is the day on which we commemorate and celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, prior to His crucifixion. Crowds of people welcomed Him by waving palm fronds and laying them on the ground before Him, in His honour. In the Anglican Church, we distribute palm crosses on Palm Sunday, to celebrate the day. We, as St Peter's Prep Schools, will be celebrating Palm Sunday and teaching the children the significance of the palm crosses.

We invite anyone who would like to learn how to make palm crosses, and those who already know how to make them, to help us make them on Friday, 31 March from 11:00.

***Kamohelo Kotsi*** (Assistant Chaplain)



### ***DIVERSITY***

**Ben Eason** (Gr 7) addressed the boys on the Chinese New Year early in February. Best wishes as you celebrate the Year of the Rooster.

**Thabang Simelane** (Gr 7) addressed the boys in Chapel on Wednesday on Human Rights Day and Water Week. The events of 21 March 1960 were outlined. His special message was that rights are coupled with responsibility. The current generation have to be cognisant of past events and use that knowledge to build on the future. He cleverly wove in the right to access to water, but the need to conserve this valuable resource as responsible citizens.

As an institution, St Peter's promotes fairness and respect for human rights. The community is urged to SAY NO to racism, inequality and disrespect for human dignity.

***Vijay Maharaj*** (Director: Diversity)