



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Wednesday, 10 February was Ash Wednesday. During our Chapel service the meaning of Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, was explained to the boys. The practice of making the sign of the cross on the foreheads of Christians originated in the early Church as an outward sign of penitence for our sins. As Father Richard explained to the boys, we use it today to remind us of how much Christ loved us. He was prepared to give up his Heavenly existence to become a man and to even go so far as to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus then rose from the grave and conquered death and sin once and for all on Easter Day. The Easter story is well known and is probably the most significant event in the Christian calendar.

Father Richard also explained to the boys that we use the period of Lent as a time to practice some extra discipline in our lives in order to strengthen our Christian resolve as we prepare for Easter. This can be done by giving up something we like or by taking up a particular practice that will enhance our spiritual life in some way. The Season of Lent lasts for forty days. In the Anglican tradition, Sundays are regarded as "Little Easters" and the Lenten Fast is not a Sunday experience. I hope that this information helps you as you discuss this special time with your boys. Please contact Father Richard: fatherrichard@stpeters.co.za if you would like more insight into the Anglican view on this Christian practice.

BYOD

There is a voluntary BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) programme running for Grade 6 and 7 Boys. Boys may bring in a device for use during specific lessons at school. This device must be used with the permission and under the supervision of a teacher. Smart phones are not considered as devices for this programme and it is also not compulsory for any boy to participate in the BYOD part of the project. Devices ranging from iPads to Netbooks are available from the library if they are needed by boys who have not brought their own device to school. Much of the work being done on the devices is cloud based (Google Classroom), which means that the boys can access their work from home using whatever technology you have so long as there is an Internet connection. Every boy in the Upper School has his individual log-on. If your boy has not shown you his work already, please ask him to.

One must remember that there will be security challenges with so many boys (who can be very forgetful) carrying devices. We have lockers and storage available for the boys, but they do sometimes forget to use them. If you are sending a device to school for your son, please make sure that there is tracking software (such as "Find My iPad") loaded on the device and that your son knows the relevant log-on and password to activate a search. It is also important to note that, should a device be tracked to a location that may suggest that "theft" is occurring, the boys must report immediately to an adult and ask for assistance. While the boys may be better than many of us at tracking the device, we would not want them to accost a "thief" and find themselves in deep water. We have recently been informed by ISASA that there is an increase in remote jamming incidences at independent schools and so this request for extra vigilance is based on these warnings. The boys enjoy using their devices and the capability for "flipped learning" and other 21st century teaching methodologies makes them a valuable teaching tool. so we would hope to see the programme grow from strength to strength.

Have a wonderful week ahead

Rob Macaulay

DIVERSITY

St Peter's wishes all Chinese parents and pupils a happy Chinese New Year, celebrated on Monday, 8 February. It is the Year of the Monkey, the ninth animal in the 12 year cycle. People born in the Year of the Monkey are characterised as lively, quick-witted, curious, innovative and mischievous. The general image of people in this zodiac sign is of always being smart, clever and intelligent, especially in their career and wealth. In addition, their gentleness and honesty bring them an everlasting love life.

ENVIRONMENT

Ryan Sawkins addressed the boys in chapel on World Environment Day, observed internationally on 1 February. He focused on the need to maintain the wetlands which provide more than a billion livelihoods. The wetlands also meet our fishing, tourism and leisure, transport and water provision needs. The frightening statistic is that we have lost at least 40% of our wetlands in the last 100 years. Encourage the boys to play a greater role in raising awareness and of looking after and promoting the wetlands.

Vijay Maharaj (Director: Diversity)

SPORT IN GRADES PHILOSOPHY

St Peter's endeavours to create an environment where boys feel comfortable and safe, allowing them to develop both their character and their skills to the best of their abilities. St Peter's sport is no different.

The decision to play sport in grades and not in age groups falls directly in line with this philosophy. The foundation of our sport is found in the compulsory team sports. These team sports are the sports in which we believe boys learn both the skills associated with playing the sport, and equally importantly, the social and team dynamics that are so important to our boys' development. To allow boys to develop their skills, as well as their understanding of the team and the dynamics associated with that, in the familiarity of their grade with their classmates, provides our boys with optimum opportunity for growth and development.

This seems all well and good up to Grade 6. The challenge for the school has been the history associated with Grade 6 or U12 boys playing 1st Team or Open sport. A well debated and thought out decision was reached by the management of the school to enforce grade sport right up to Grade 7. This means that no Grade 6 boy may play in a team or year group outside of his grade. This is a bold step. Why take it then?

We believe that boys in Grade 7 should enjoy their final year at the school without any regrets. They should be finalising their rite of passage in their Grade 7 year with the sense that they have had every opportunity to maximise what the school offers them. They should leave at the end of their Grade 7 year feeling fulfilled and "ready" to leave.

What does that mean for our Grade 6's? As I have mentioned earlier in the year, Grade 6 is a year of consolidation. Moving and adapting into the senior quad from the isolation of the Grade 5 quad takes time. The transition gives Grade 6 boys time to settle in and feel in control of their lives. I have seen too many occasions where Grade 6 boys, elevated out of their age group or grade, lose that sense of control and togetherness that a year group should feel. By playing Grade 6 or U12 sport a Grade 6 boy goes through the rite of passage at the appropriate time in his school career. He gets his "reward" in his Grade 7 year and must understand the passage to that "reward". We are a big school and are fortunate to have so much talent in every age group. I do not believe that we need to fast-track boys in our care for the sake of supposedly better results. We need to fully develop all the talent in each grade and ensure our Grade 7 boys finish off their journey at the school as they fully deserve.

I would be happy to discuss this philosophy further with parents if they need more clarity on the educational principles underpinning our decision. Please feel free to contact me.

Barry Detert (Director: Sport)

INTER-HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP GALAS

The Intermediate and Senior Inter-House Championship Galas will take place on **Friday, 11 March**.

Intermediate Gala (U9's and U10's)	11:00 to 12:30
Senior Gala (U11's,U12's and Opens)	13:30 to 15:30

Pupils are required to wear either a plain black speedo costume or the school team costume. Requests for permission to be excused from swimming in/and or attending the gala should be received by the relevant housemaster before Friday, 26 February.

Mike Mitchley (MIC: Swimming)

SCHOOL SHOP

Family Organisers

The popular family organisers are in stock for R120 (same price as last year!).

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Friday	12/02/2016	11:00:00		Installation of Darrel Webb, Headmaster of Girls School and Blessing of Girls JP
Friday	12/02/2016	14:00:00	17:00:00	Inter-School Galas
Saturday	13/02/2016	08:30:00		Cricket vs St Stithians
Saturday	13/02/2016	08:30:00	11:00:00	U11 - U13 Basketball Matches
Monday	15/02/2016	14:00:00	18:30:00	U10 Cricket Matches
Monday	15/02/2016	16:00:00	18:00:00	Chess Matches
Tuesday	16/02/2016	13:15:00	18:00:00	Kids Lit Quiz
Tuesday	16/02/2016	14:00:00	18:30:00	U11 Cricket Matches
Tuesday	16/02/2016	18:30:00	20:00:00	St Peter's College Presentation and Cocktails for Parents (Prep Boys/Girls)
Wednesday	17/02/2016	12:00:00	13:00:00	Week 5 of Additional Learning Programme
Wednesday	17/02/2016	14:00:00	18:00:00	Open Cricket Matches
Thursday	18/02/2016	07:30:00	08:00:00	General Assembly
Thursday	18/02/2016	18:00:00		Council Meeting
Friday	19/02/2016	11:00:00	12:00:00	Eucharist
Friday	19/02/2016	11:30:00		Grade 3s Go Home
Friday	19/02/2016	12:00:00		Mid-Term Break Commences
Tuesday	23/02/2016	07:30:00		School Commences

PA NEWS

LADIES LUNCH

Bright on White

Ladies Lunch 2016
12 March, 12pm
R350 per lady



Don't delay, because
the tickets will be
going... going...
gone

We KAHN'T tell you
who the entertainment is,
but miss it and you will
MORBEE than
disappointed

Tickets on sale at 7 am on 24 Feb - first come first served.
Get your tables together now because you KAHN'T afford to miss this one.

ladieslunch@stpeters.co.za

BOOKING DETAILS TO FOLLOW

ST PETER'S MILE SWIM


ST PETER'S MILE SWIM

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS OF ST PETER'S BOYS & GIRLS SCHOOLS
ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN THE
ST PETER'S MILE SWIM WHICH WILL BE HELD ON
28 FEBRUARY 2016

TICKET SALES: 18 & 19 FEB, AND 25 & 26 FEB IN THE CAR PARKS BEFORE SCHOOL. YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER ON THE DAY (R50 PER SWIMMER)

TIME: 07:30 – 12:30. (WE REQUEST THAT THE MORE COMPETENT SWIMMERS START EARLIER AND THE MORE SOCIAL SWIMMERS START AFTER 9:00, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN WHENEVER IS CONVENIENT)

PLACE: SWIMMERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SWIM THE:
FULL MILE (64 LENGTHS) - IN THE GIRLS' POOL
HALF MILE (32 LENGTHS) - IN THE BOYS' POOL (IT HAS A SHALLOW END AND IS MORE SUITABLE FOR YOUNG SWIMMERS)
THERE WILL BE A 10LAP SWIM FOR SMALLER KIDS NOT ABLE TO COMPLETE 32 LENGTHS, BUT THIS WILL NOT QUALIFY AS PART OF THE IRON MAN CHALLENGE
FOR SAFETY REASONS, THERE WILL BE A **LIMIT OF 4 - 6 SWIMMERS PER LANE** AT ANY ONE TIME.

ST PETER'S IRON MAN CHALLENGE

THE SWIM WILL BE THE **FIRST LEG** OF THE CHALLENGE. IF YOU WANT TO COMPETE IN THE IRON MAN CHALLENGE, YOU **MUST REGISTER SEPARATELY BEFORE THE SWIM.** (ADDITIONAL R40)
IF YOU DO NOT REGISTER YOU WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR A MEDAL!

* THE RUNNING & CYCLING EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE LATER IN THE YEAR
– DETAILS TO FOLLOW *

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT
NATALEE HOLMES (NATALEE.HOLMES@GMAIL.COM) OR
BERTHA MUCHINERIPi (BEEMUCH75@GMAIL.COM)

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS IS WEDNESDAY 17:00