



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE RECTOR

St Peter's Intern Programme

This year St Peter's is again hosting 20 interns. We see producing new teachers as our premier corporate social responsibility project and our way of contributing to our nation's future. Education is our area of expertise which positions us best to undertake this initiative. At the same time, we are contributing to the shortage of effective teachers and creating a pipeline to meet our Transformation targets while providing additional classroom support for our pupils.

The 10 new candidates selected this year were the very best from over 40 applications. Applicants must possess a matric Bachelor's pass, be proficient in English with a minimum of 75% from previously disadvantaged circumstances.

The value of the programme has been acknowledged in endorsements by the Independent Schools Association of SA (ISASA) and the Anglican Board of Education (ABE).

Our focus has been on Foundation Phase interns (the *Isematholeni* Intern Programme), with 15 interns. This is owing to the following factors:

- **Early Childhood Development (ECD)**, which Foundation Phase is the last stage, has been shown in research, verified by the World Bank, to be the most effective education segment resulting in, amongst others:
 - Higher intelligence scores
 - Less grade repetition and lower drop-out rates
 - Higher school completion rates
 - Improved nutrition and health status
 - Improved social and emotional behaviour
 - Increased earning potential and economic self-sufficiency as an adult

The presence of interns in the classroom has been of substantial benefit to our pupils. This is evident in the anecdotal enjoyment which they express, as well as observed improvement in individual progress. Interestingly, two studies funded by the Education Endowment Foundation in the UK, produced compelling evidence that trained teaching assistants who deliver structured lessons to small groups or individual pupils, accelerated the vocabulary, grammar and listening skills of 4 and 5 year olds by up to four months, in a 30-week programme. A second study on 9 and 10 year olds produced similar results.

Last year's three graduates were quickly snapped up and have permanent posts in state schools and a private remedial school. The remaining candidates did well in their first set of exams, some achieved distinctions, a fact of which we are very proud.

The St Peter's Foundation is the major benefactor, while other donors include Standard Bank (2016), the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (R600 000.00 for 2016/2017), the St Peter's PA, as well as individual St Peter's parents, some of whom have donated their tuition deposits. The programme currently costs R1.4 million per annum to run. We have raised close to R1 million for 2016 and are awaiting results of proposals to other Trusts and companies.

If any parents would like to contribute to this programme, we would be delighted. You have only to contact myself, June Tromp, Heather Kissack or Kenda Melvill-Smith.

Pam and I wish you all a happy Easter.

Questions for the Rector:

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at sheald@stpeters.co.za

Greg Royce

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The PA AGM took place on Tuesday evening and it was gratifying to note the good turnout of parents for the meeting. There have been quite a few changes on the PA Committee, with a number of the old guard standing down after serving both the Girls and Boys Schools for many years. The amalgamation of the two PAs into one body that represents parents in both schools has resulted in increased synergy between parents and we are looking forward to the new team creating an even greater community spirit between all parent groups at St Peter's. I would like to express my thanks to both the outgoing and incoming committee members. I have been privileged to work with a great team over the past three years and look forward to the year ahead with our new PA Committee.

The 2016 Joint PA Committee is:

PA Committee 2016	
Cindy Wannell	Joint Chair
Robyn Doak	Joint Chair
Linda Aitken	Treasurer
Caron du Plessis	Secretary
Guy Imbert	School Shop
Tutu Mojapelo	Transformation
David Bailes	Special Projects
Natalee Holmes	Boys SP EC
Bertha Muchineripi	
Penny Coltham	Boys JP EC
Donna Clay	
Gráinne Formby	Girls SP EC
Nicky Thompson	
Marcia Osborne	Girls JP EC
Colleen Hayward-Butt	
Gabby Cowling	My School
Anne du Preez	
Portfolio Managers	
Cynthia Wheeler	Bookkeeper
Deidre Lister	Boys Sports Teas
Caron du Plessis	Boys Pavers
Katinka Cross	Girls Pavers
Mandy Berry	Classifieds

Leslie McMurchie	School Shop
Nadia Thompson	School Shop
2016 Events	
Ladies Lunch	Marcia Wefelmeier and Helen Melville
Movie Night	Debbie Little
Mile Swim	Bertha Muchineripi and Natalee Holmes
MTB	
School to School	John van den Aardweg
Triathlon	Andrew Thorburn
Golf Day	Tim Steenhoff, Sarah Baisley, Jodie Shapley and Eric Proudfoot

One thing that I noticed at the meeting was that it is very important to get our parents together regularly in a setting that allows for informal discussion. All too often we find ourselves sticking to our small friendship groups, which are based on our boys' grade and particular friends. I commend the PA for their efforts to create "Fun Raising" events and look forward to more of these in the forthcoming year. I encourage all parents to make a point of supporting these events. Not only do they provide a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your child, but you have the added benefit of meeting other parents and helping us to build our community.

With the Easter break starting on Friday, I wish everyone a meaningful time of reflection on the many blessings we enjoy and a joyous time of family togetherness. If you are travelling, be careful on the roads, it would appear that traffic will be particularly heavy over this ten day period. I look forward to the boys' return for our FLP Programme and the senior excursions in the two weeks following the Easter Weekend.

Best wishes

Rob Macaulay

FROM THE DIRECTOR: DIVERSITY

Eco-Committee News: World Wetlands Day (2 February) and National Water Week (19 to 25 March) were highlighted. Congratulations to the Girls School for receiving an award of R4500 from Water Explorers for the wonderful project submitted to Eco-Schools last year. A successful Water Festival was held at the Girls School on Wednesday. A Water Explorers organiser who attended the festival commented that the school is one of the top 5 schools engaged in activities that raise awareness about water conservation.

Saturday, 19 March is Earth Day. Earth Hour is observed globally and serves as a symbolic gesture of 'switching off' for an hour between 20:30 and 21:30. Instead of using electricity, have a picnic or braai and enjoy an evening under the stars! Let us commit to reducing our carbon footprint every day.

Human Rights Day: Monday, 21 March is Human Rights Day. Remind the boys of the sad history of Sharpeville Day when Black South Africans protested against having to carry a pass (identity document) at all times, thereby restricting freedom of movement. Many innocent lives were lost. Have fun celebrating the day but reinforce the need to celebrate our rights with the concomitant responsibilities.

Easter: While taking a rest from the routine, focus on the sacrifices that the Lord made for us. Spend time reflecting and encourage our boys and girls to serve God by serving mankind. Every act of love, kindness and generosity is done in the name of the Lord. Have a blessed break.

Vijay Maharaj

PHOTOGRAPH USAGE

From time to time, we like to use photo's that we have taken of the boys. They may be published in the newspaper, in a magazine, on Facebook or on our website/on-line. If you DO NOT wish to allow us to use photo's of you or your son, please inform **Diane Fraser** in writing at dfraser@stpeters.co.za

2015 BOYS SCHOOL MAGAZINE

The 2015 magazine has been sent home with boys Grade 1 – 7 along with a note. The cost of the magazine is R150 which will be debited to your school account.

If you **do not** want the magazine or only require one per family, the magazine needs to be returned to Reception in **pristine condition by FRIDAY 18 MARCH.**

Returned magazines must have a piece of paper, **with your son's name and class on it, loosely** placed in the magazine under the front cover (so we know whose magazine has been returned).

Diane Fraser (Marketer)

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Just a reminder that our First Communion classes begin on Wednesday, 6 April 12:00 to 13:00.

The course dates are as follows:

6 April

4 May

11 May

18 May (Rehearsal session)

The **Baptism** service will be on Tuesday, 24 May at 17:30 (only for those who have not yet been baptised).

The **Boys School Admission to Communion** service will be on Thursday, 26 May at 17:30pm.

Blessings

Fr Richard (Chaplain)

PA NEWS

PA AGM – 15 MARCH 2016

Thank you to all of the parents who took the time to submit their proxy, or to attend the AGM in person on Tuesday evening. A total of 149 parents attended the AGM in person, or were represented thereat by proxy - the highest attendance achieved at an AGM in recent years. Your support and input is greatly appreciated!

All resolutions proposed at the AGM were passed by the requisite majority, and the results of the voting at the meeting are available on the Communicator.

The minutes of the AGM will be published on the Communicator as soon as these have been finalised.

Please contact Cindy Wannell or Robyn Doak via cduplessis@stpeters.co.za should you have any questions or wish to volunteer to serve on the PA Committee or a PA sub-committee.



Thank you ...

... to Marcia Wefelmeier, Helen Melville and their enthusiastic team for the fantastic Ladies Lunch that was held on Saturday.

... to the 302 glamorous ladies who managed to secure a table and make the day an absolutely fun day

... to Isaac & his amazing team for setting up and clearing up so | efficiently

... to Sharon and the kitchen staff who outdid themselves on the food and fed us magnificently

... to the extremely generous donors of the fabulous giveaways!

We look forward to the next one and hope to see all of you, and more, again!

MOVIE NIGHT *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!*

We are looking for volunteers to assist with ticket sales in the JP,SP girls and boys car parks on the following mornings:

6-8 April

3-6 May

Please contact Sally - 082 850 7843 or sdiack@go2uti.com if you are able to assist.

We would really appreciate your support!



FORTHCOMING WEEK IS THE HOLIDAYS!

Friday	18/03/2016	11:00:00	12:00:00	Eucharist
Friday	18/03/2016	11:30:00		Grade 3 Boys Go Home
Friday	18/03/2016	12:00:00		Easter Break Commences

THE WEEK AFTER THE HOLIDAYS:

Tuesday	29/03/2016			Term Recommences
Tuesday	29/03/2016			Flexible Learning Programme Week (Grade 3 - 7)
Tuesday	29/03/2016	07:30:00	08:00:00	Middle School Academic Award for Grade 3 - 5
Tuesday	29/03/2016	07:30:00	08:00:00	General Assembly for Grade 6 and 7
Tuesday	29/03/2016	14:00:00	15:00:00	Main School Production Auditions
Tuesday	29/03/2016	13:45:00	19:00:00	Parent Consultation Evening (Grade 3 – 7)
Wednesday	30/03/2016			Flexible Learning Programme Week (Grade 3 - 7)
Wednesday	30/03/2016	12:00:00	13:00:00	Week 10 of Additional Learning Programme
Wednesday	30/03/2016	14:00:00		Prestige Athletics Meeting by Invitation
Wednesday	30/03/2016	16:30:00		PA Meeting
Thursday	31/03/2016			Flexible Learning Programme Week (Grade 3 - 7)
Thursday	31/03/2016	07:30:00	08:00:00	General Assembly
Thursday	31/03/2016	13:45:00	16:00:00	Parent Consultation Afternoon (Grade 3 – 6)
Thursday	31/03/2016	18:00:00		Council Meeting
Friday	01/04/2016			Flexible Learning Programme Week (Grade 3 - 7)
Friday	01/04/2016			HOT DOG DAY (R20)
Friday	01/04/2016	14:00:00	16:00:00	Inter-House Field Events by Invitation
Saturday	02/04/2016	08:30:00	12:00:00	Inter-House Athletics Meeting

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS IS WEDNESDAY 17:00

Happy St Patrick's Day!

