



SENIOR PREP

Edition: 826

17 November 2016

## Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

### FROM THE RECTOR

#### Security

This issue has been at the top 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 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 a highly effective deterrent.

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.

#### 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](mailto:sheald@stpeters.co.za))

Greg Royce

**FROM THE HEADMASTER**

The Grade 6 and 7 pupils begin their end of year assessments today and we wish them everything of the best.

You may recall that, earlier this term, I wrote about the endeavours of our Transformation Forum and invited parents to attend the “My South African Stories” evenings. A number of parents did attend and all have reported that it proved to be a particularly positive experience. 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 Mr Webb asked her to write something for this week’s newsletter. Thank you, Phetsile, for your contribution, which appears below:

*I write as parent who has been at the Girls School for four years and a year at the Boys School. 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 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 that the parent body directly or indirectly are to a larger extent responsible for the atmosphere and the general feeling you are 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 little 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 the 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, the changes that we debate 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 got 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 don’t say and do much about.*

*Phetsile Ramabulana*

Please remember that the season of Carol Services kicks off with Middle School Carols this evening. We also have the JP Nativity Play and the Nine Lessons and Carols Service next week. The Sunset Carols event takes place on Mvukuzane on Saturday, 3 December. What better way to celebrate the joy of Christmas than with the sound of children's voices. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various events.

Best wishes

**Rob Macaulay**

### **CHRISTMAS BOXES – REMINDER - DUE DATE 18 NOVEMBER**

**Collection point: Boys Senior Prep reception area**

Please encourage the children to get involved in the process of giving to others - the true meaning of Christmas. We are including the following suggestions, as sometimes this is the only treat these communities receive.

#### **Please include:**

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Face Cloth, Soap
- Small toy (Maximum value R50 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 them in Christmas paper or newspaper.

Please help us to build on last year's success by returning your boxes by the **18 November**. We collected over 800 boxes last year. Please contact Monica on [msloane@stpeters.co.za](mailto:msloane@stpeters.co.za) for any further info.

**Father Richard** (Chaplain)

### **ART AND DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION**

There will be an ART EXHIBITION and DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION showcasing boys' work for 2016 from Grade 3 to Grade 7.

When: Thursday, 24 November from 17:00 (come and view before the Nine Lessons and Carols)  
Friday, 25 November from 07:00 to 17:00

Where: The Art Exhibition will be in the Art Room  
The Design & Technology Exhibition will be in the D&T Room

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Suzette de Kock** (Art) and **Mike Mitchley** (D&T)



SUNSET CAROLS



ST PETER'S FOUNDATION

# SUNSET CAROLS

3 DECEMBER 2016

**ONLINE ticket Sales are open**

**R100 per ADULT**  
**R50 per CHILD (3-18 yrs only)**

CHRISTMAS Market opens 14:00  
CAROLS Start at 18:00

featurepics.com, dazdrapema

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](mailto: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**

PA NEWS



Volunteers needed for the new **Autumn Carnival** event next year

Taking place in May, this brand new event will be great fun to organise and needs plenty of people on the committee. Get involved for a small project (plan a stand, help with food vendors, organise the rides), or help oversee the whole event! This promises to be an event full of fun and new ideas!

Contact Debbie  
[debbie@littlemail.co.za](mailto:debbie@littlemail.co.za) or 083 391 1206 for more information

**TERM DATES FOR 2017****Term 1**

Start: Wednesday, 18 January  
 Close: Wednesday, 12 April  
 Half Term: Thursday, 23 February return to school Tuesday, 28 February  
 Public Holidays: Monday, 20 March (Bishop's Holiday)  
 Tuesday, 21 March (Human Rights Day)

**Term 2**

Start: Wednesday, 3 May  
 Close: Friday, 4 August  
 Half Term: Friday, 23 June return to school Monday, 3 July  
 Public Holidays: Friday, 16 June (Youth Day)

**Term 3**

Start: Tuesday, 5 September  
 Close: Thursday, 7 December  
 Half Term: Thursday, 19 October return to school Tuesday, 24 October  
 Public Holidays: Sunday, 24 September (Heritage Day)  
 Monday, 25 September (Public Holiday)

**Term 1, 2018**

Start: Wednesday, 17 January

**FORTHCOMING WEEK**

Friday	18/11/2016	18/11/2016			EXAMS
Friday	18/11/2016	18/11/2016			NO SPORT OR CHOIR FOR GRADE 6 AND 7
Friday	18/11/2016	18/11/2016	19:00:00		Council Dinner
Monday	21/11/2016	21/11/2016			EXAMS
Monday	21/11/2016	21/11/2016			NO SPORT FOR GRADE 6 AND 7
Monday	21/11/2016	21/11/2016	13:15:00	13:45:00	Chapel Choir
Tuesday	22/11/2016	22/11/2016			STUDY DAY
Tuesday	22/11/2016	22/11/2016			NO SPORT FOR GRADE 6 AND 7
Tuesday	22/11/2016	22/11/2016	13:15:00	13:45:00	Chapel Choir
Wednesday	23/11/2016	23/11/2016			EXAMS
Wednesday	23/11/2016	23/11/2016			NO SPORT FOR GRADE 6 AND 7
Wednesday	23/11/2016	23/11/2016	12:00:00	13:00:00	Additional Learning Programme Week 33
Thursday	24/11/2016	24/11/2016	07:30:00		Awards Assembly
Thursday	24/11/2016	24/11/2016	07:30:00		Awards Assembly (Grade 7 SPIG Catch up)
Thursday	24/11/2016	24/11/2016			Grade 4GW Sandwich Making
Thursday	24/11/2016	24/11/2016			NO SPORT FOR GRADE 6 AND 7
Thursday	24/11/2016	24/11/2016	17:00:00		Art and Design & Technology Exhibition
Thursday	24/11/2016	24/11/2016	18:30:00		Nine Lessons and Carols
Friday	25/11/2016	25/11/2016	07:00:00	17:00:00	Art and Design & Technology Exhibition

PLEASE REFER TO THE WEEKLY SPORTS NOTICE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION AND NEWS ON SPORTS  
 FIXTURES AND VENUES

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS IS WEDNESDAY, 17:00