

SENIOR PREP

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

# Merry Christmas



### FROM THE RECTOR

If the school has an unofficial motto, it has to be “always seeking to improve”. I think we have managed to do this on many fronts this year and I am very grateful to the staff, parents and members of the community who have supported us with their time, effort and honest criticism.

My PA, Shelley Heald leaves us to support her husband in a new venture. Those of you who have dealt with her, will miss her willingness to help and her efficient and gracious manner. At the same time I am especially delighted to tell you that Monica Sloane has been appointed as the new Foundation Manager following an exhaustive process. This included two rounds of advertising, as we were dissatisfied with the initial response, followed by interviews conducted by members of the Foundation Trust and School EXCO. We were unanimous in Monica’s appointment and she is excited to begin this role.

The children have done us proud this year. There is a sense from all of them that they are increasingly taking responsibility for their own progress and also seek to continually improve. Their many achievements are humbling.

There is an apocryphal story about a school boy at a prestigious school who struggled desperately with his academics. The teachers did everything they could to assist him, alas, to little avail. At the end of the year, his parents opened his report to discover that his Housemaster, obviously at a loss, had used the familiar words from St John’s gospel as his comment: “*The light shineth in the darkness, but the darkness comprehendeth it not.*” Hope you don’t receive one of these...

Pam and I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a happy and fulfilling New Year and urge you to take care while on the roads.



### 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**

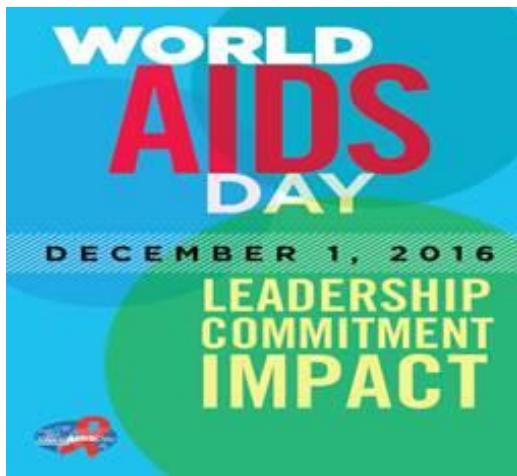
This will be our final Newsletter for 2016 and it is appropriate that we acknowledge everyone who has worked so hard to make the year the success that it has been. Of course, we need to thank the pupils, parents and teaching staff and to congratulate everyone on a job well done. However, I would like to dedicate this Keyhole to the support staff at our school. While the teachers and pupils enjoy the front of stage during the year, nothing could happen without an incredible team in the engine room of the school:

- Our Finance Department has an extremely important role to play. The St Peter's family of schools could be compared to a small to medium business and the billing, purchasing, payroll, debtors and creditors all require a high level of professional input. Thank you, to the Finance Department and its management team for all that you do.
- There would certainly be a very grumpy cohort of teachers facing the children if it were not for the hard work of the HR Department. Constant benchmarking of HR practices and the organisation of payroll, on-boarding of teachers and general enquiries ensures that our staff complement feel well looked after.
- With so many boys on campus, balls are bound to go through the odd window! Our Maintenance team not only repairs our buildings and infrastructure, but are skilled artisans in their own right, building, renovating and repairing to a very high standard.
- Marketing and Admissions work together with our "Front of House" and Reception to ensure that first impressions of the school are favourable.
- An army marches on its stomach and the Catering Team, not only provide around 400 meals a day, but also caters for functions and general meetings of Council, Foundation and PA. Thank you for the high quality of meals and the wonderful catering this year.
- After the children leave, the classrooms become the domain of Ntjilo's Cleaning Services. Isaac's team also prepares venues for functions, cleans up late into the night and generally ensures that our school is spic and span.
- Preparing the fields for the literally hundreds of sporting fixtures in a year is the task of Muchachari's Garden Services. Mugochi's team can be proud of how we have managed to ensure that our sporting facilities and gardens are maintained to a high standard, despite the drought and associated water restrictions.
- The boys are safe at school thanks to the efforts of the security team. In particular, I would like to highlight our gate guards who know all the children and even which vehicles they should go home in. This vigilance and care means that we can all feel a little safer in these times of uncertainty.
- If a boy hurts himself, Sister Gail and Father Richard (who is a registered paramedic) are on hand to treat him and offer TLC. In fact, I have had to extract certain boys from the sick bay this year, since it became too much of a home from home.
- Our IT Infrastructure has developed incredibly over the past four years. Thank you to the dedicated team who ensure that, not only do we adhere to current best practice, but are always on hand to help out when technological gremlins do the rounds.
- Part of being a caring school is that we look beyond our own welfare. To Monica Sloane, Father Richard and the team, thank you for your caring.
- The school shop is a first stop for many a new parent and the lost property may be a close second! Thank you to this team; one of our 3 G's is "Grooming" and you certainly play a major role in this.

Behind every successful team is a highly efficient support unit and I would like to thank these wonderful people for all they do to make St Peter's Boys Prep School the successful team that we have been this year.

All that is left for me is to wish everyone a blessed Christmas, a happy holiday and a safe return to school in 2017.

Merry Christmas  
**Rob Macaulay**

**DIVERSITY: WORLD AIDS DAY**

World Aids Day is celebrated every year all over the world on 1 December to raise public awareness about AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome). AIDS is a pandemic disease caused due to the infection of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The day is celebrated by government organisations, NGOs, civil society and other health officials by organising speeches or forum discussions related to AIDS.

A variety of activities can be done on the day to increase the awareness and distribute the message of the theme of a particular year.

St Peter's boys and girls will wear red ribbons to mark their awareness of the pandemic and to signal hope for HIV/AIDS victims.

Pupils are encouraged to speak against AIDS intolerance. Trees have been draped in red to heighten awareness among parents and visitors.

**DIVERSITY: ST PETER'S YEAR OF THE WOMAN**

St Peter's Prep School dedicates itself to a particular theme every year. The 2017 theme will be *Year of the Woman*. A planning committee is already at work creating innovative initiatives across the school for the year. The theme will be integrated into the school curriculum. The launch event of the year will be a purposeful morning for all the women of the school, on Saturday, 4 February 2017. You may want to diarise now!

More details will follow in a letter early in 2017.

**Vijay Maharaj**

On behalf of the Diversity and Planning Committee

**OLD BOYS NEWS****Hilton College**

**Sheldon Bishop** was awarded Half Colours for Dramatic Arts and a Commendation Certificate.

**Chris Meyer** was selected for the U15A Cricket Team and for the KZN Inland U15 Cricket Team. He received a Certificate of Merit for Cricket.

**S'bonelo Phungula** was selected for the U15A Basketball Team.

**Keegan Raves** passed his Rockschool Grade 5 Vocals Examination with Merit. He was awarded a Commendation Certificate.

**Connor Russell** was awarded a Commendation Certificate.

**Gareth Schreuder** was selected for the 1st Cricket Team and for the KZN Inland U17 Cricket Team. He received a Certificate of Merit for Cricket.

**Richard Teichmann** was awarded the Headmaster's Award for Outstanding Leadership in recognition of his strong leadership and commitment to the school.

**Jordan Twiss** was awarded a Commendation Certificate and appointed as Head of Newnham House for 2017.

**Luke Van Ryswyk** was selected for the U14A Water Polo Team.

**Michaelhouse**

**Alan Buttle** was awarded his full school colours for golf.

**INDIVIDUAL MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS 2017**

Please click on the following link to sign up for Individual Instrumental Lessons in 2017:  
<http://goo.gl/forms/CT5SHUuhDA>

Alternatively, the link and form can be found on the Communicator under Resources/Boys Music.

**Hugo Roodt** (Director: Music and Drama)

**FROM THE CHAPLAIN**

Dear Friends

"Tis the season to be jolly!" so the song says but many people are not feeling it. Our own personal pain and difficult situations, our relationships and even our country outweighs the "jolliness" of life. Sometimes we even feel guilty because we haven't caught the Christmas spirit.

So what ... Christmas was never about happiness but about hope. The first Christmas story was about God being born into a land and people who were broken. He was the hope in their brokenness. Over 2000 years later this story has changed with the increasing commercial celebration of Christmas. However, the reality has not changed. Christ is still our hope in every situation and as long as we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate hope.

What is hope? I believe it is knowing that our future will be OK, that tomorrow won't destroy us but that we will be good. This is what Jesus promised, that we would have life and life in all its fullness. This is what we celebrate, the hope of this promise, that even in death we celebrate the resurrection. Today might be dark and stormy but tomorrow will be brighter, filled with a few rays of hope.

This is the hope of Christmas - Christ in us and we are not alone, Christ through us and we walk in the power of God, Christ with us and we belong to Him.

So without God we are defeated and have no hope in a better future, but realistically because of Christmas and knowing that God is on our side, we have the assurance that we will be OK. St John agrees as he says that Jesus, the light, shines in our darkness and the darkness will never put it out.

I wish you a million  
rays of sunshine this  
Christmas.

Love  
**Fr Richard**



**FORTHCOMING WEEK**

|                  |            |            |          |          |                              |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|
| <b>Friday</b>    | 02/12/2016 | 02/12/2016 | 10:30:00 | 13:00:00 | Sunset Carols Rehearsal      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 02/12/2016 | 02/12/2016 | 13:00:00 |          | Sunset Carols Band Rehearsal |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 02/12/2016 | 02/12/2016 | 19:00:00 |          | Leavers' Dinner              |
|                  |            |            |          |          |                              |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 03/12/2016 | 03/12/2016 | 14:00:00 |          | Christmas Market             |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 03/12/2016 | 03/12/2016 | 18:00:00 |          | Sunset Carols                |
|                  |            |            |          |          |                              |
| <b>Monday</b>    | 05/12/2016 | 05/12/2016 |          |          | Inter-House Relay Gala       |
|                  |            |            |          |          |                              |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 06/12/2016 | 06/12/2016 | 18:00:00 |          | Prize-Giving                 |
|                  |            |            |          |          |                              |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 07/12/2016 | 07/12/2016 | 09:30:00 | 11:00:00 | Eucharist                    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 07/12/2016 | 07/12/2016 | 11:00:00 |          | End of Term                  |

