



Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Boys Prep School

FROM THE RECTOR

RECENT ALUMNI: WHAT DO THEY THINK?

St Peter's is no different from any other company or organisation in that it seeks to preserve and enhance its reputation and wishes to provide the best service possible.

The schools' mission statement opens with the commitment to "preparing children for senior school and the world". We aim to make the transition from our school as easy as possible for our pupils. As such, we place a great deal of emphasis on self-discipline, a strong work ethic, mutual respect and respect for staff and elders, independent thinking and the exercise of good judgement. The school is even structured to facilitate this process with housemasters, in the Boys Prep, and housemistresses (in the Girls Prep shortly to come) and vertical pupil pastoral structures: older children taking care of younger children as well as the house system from Gr 3 – 7.

Each year we approach the schools which we feed for constructive criticism as to how we can improve.

Of course, there is nothing like hearing it from the horse's mouth. Old Boys and Old Girls frequently visit the school (unusual for a prep school) and are quick to tell us what they value and what we need to improve. They compare their transition with those of children from other primary schools. Herewith a range of comments from pupils now at schools including St Anne's, Wykeham Collegiate, Pretoria Girls and Boys, Hilton, Michaelhouse, St Andrew's, Brescia, St Mary's Kingsmead, St David, St John's, St Peter's College:

- *Hate the petty rules but haven't been in trouble yet as we were taught how to behave.*
- *The workload is much heavier but was easy to understand. We had covered a lot of it already.*
- *My marks went up 20% during my first year.*
- *I miss Chapel so much (from many past pupils).*
- *Men teachers are different from ladies, but we were used to that.*
- *The St Peter's boys were ahead in Zulu even though so many others came from Natal.*
- *You need to teach more Design and Technology.*

And finally, from a St Peter's parent, the coach's response when the parent remarked that he had a few St Peter's boys in his team: "I wish they were all from St Peter's."

This feedback encourages us to work even harder at this critical aspect.

Questions for the Rector:

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

Greg Royce

FROM THE HEADMASTER

I believe that we all have stories about the violent storms that hit our area on Monday this week. When one sees the power of nature and the destruction that can occur, it does make us reflect about the smaller issues that so often consume our daily lives, creating stress. Things are certainly put into perspective.

Our St Peter's story involves a group of boys returning from the College Astro after their hockey practice had been called off due to the storm. Many of you may have seen the fallen trees and blown over signs on Witkoppen Road. A sign from the highway blew across the road and hit the SA Golfing bus that the boys and coaches were travelling in. While the windscreen sustained damage, the bus was able to return to school. I would like to compliment Sam Nghonyam, the driver, and our staff and boys on the way in which the situation was handled.

We are very pleased that Andrew Bench is back at home following his surgery and we wish him everything of the best on his road to recovery. A number of parents have asked if they can help Andrew in any way. As a staff, we do set up a roster to deliver meals to those who are off school for medical reasons. This is coordinated by Sheri Curling, our head of staff wellness initiatives. If you would like to work through Sheri, please email her at scurling@stpeters.co.za.

Our mid-term break begins on Wednesday next week. I hope that everyone will enjoy safe travel if you are going away and a restful time wherever you are. On our return to school, the end of year functions begin in earnest and I encourage you to consult the diary so as to be able to "save the date" for exciting functions such as "Viva Voce," our Sunset Carols and the various Chapel services and awards assemblies that are a feature of this final part of the school year.

Enjoy the week ahead.

Rob Macaulay

DIVERSITY - DIWALI

Hindus throughout the world will celebrate the 5th and final day of Diwali next Thursday, 19 October.

Diwali is called the "festival of lights". It is a period spent with friends and family, mending relations, reuniting, forgiving one for one's wrongdoings and renewing friendships.

It is also a time for deep reflection on the past successes and failures, and to look forward to the new year with greater energy and inspiration. During Diwali, Hindus exchange sweatmeats, fruit and sweets and wish each other well. The morning is spent in thanksgiving prayers and the evening is filled with fun, laughter, lighting of lamps and fireworks.



The lamps and fireworks signify the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and the invitation of light and joy into our lives.

St Peter's wishes all Hindu friends, pupils and families a Happy Diwali.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Jenny van Wyk

Jenny joined St Peter's Schools Accounts Department in 2010 with her area of focus being that of debtors management. Prior to joining St Peter's, Jenny performed a similar role at Grayston Preparatory School.

Jenny's secret talent is playing the organ and she has a delightful sense of humour.

She is blessed with two beautiful daughters and four grandchildren.

Jenny also just celebrated her birthday this week – Happy Birthday Jenny!



Online ticket sales open in November (details to follow)

Sunset Carols 2017

Featuring: The St Peter's Choirs & Monde Msutwana

Saturday, 2 December at 18:00

Christmas Market gates open at 15:00
St Peter's Prep Schools: 105 Witkoppen Road

Entrance: R120 per adult & R60 per child
Tickets for sale in carparks

Bring family & friends / Blankets & picnic
Food will be on sale

Enquiries: carols@stpeters.co.za
All proceeds go towards the *Isematholeni* Intern Programme

OLD BOYS NEWS**ST PETER'S COLLEGE**

Congratulations to the following Old Boys and Girls who have been elected prefects for 2018.

Boys:

Christopher Mukheibir

Daniel Duke

Didintle Mokae - Deputy Head Boy

Matthew Garrett - Head Boy

Sebastian Long

Girls:

Shannon Louis

Yogita Mohabir- Deputy Head Girl



L-R: **Yogita Mohabir**: Deputy Head Girl (Old Girl), **Matthew Garrett**: Head Boy (Old Boy), **Vuyo Tshwele**: Head Girl, **Didintle Mokae**: Deputy Head Boy (Old Boy)

FORTHCOMING WEEK**INTER-HOUSE HOCKEY NEXT WEEK**

Monday, 16 October - U11 13:30 to 16:00 at Boys Prep

Tuesday, 17 October - U10 13:30 to 16:00 at Boys Prep

Tuesday, 17 October - U12 & Open 14:00 to 16:30 at St Peter's College

Tuesday, 17 October - Ist Hockey Team vs Staff 16:30 to 17:45 at St Peter's College

FINAL SWIMMING TRIALS

Final Swimming Trials are taking place week of 17 October. Look on Communicator/BOYS Sport/Resources for more information.

Friday	13/10/2017	08:00:00	10:00:00	Grade 7 Study Skills Course
Saturday	14/10/2017	08:00:00	12:00:00	Hockey vs St John's
Sunday	15/10/2017	15:00:00		SACS Water polo tour returns
Monday	16/10/2017			Cricket and Basketball Season Starts
Monday	16/10/2017	16:00:00	19:00:00	Chess B Team vs St John's B
Monday	16/10/2017	16:00:00	19:00:00	Chess A Team vs St Benedict's
Tuesday	17/10/2017	08:00:00	10:00:00	Grade 5 Study Skills Course
Wednesday	18/10/2017	10:00:00	11:00:00	Eucharist
Wednesday	18/10/2017	11:00:00	11:00:00	MID-TERM BREAK COMMENCES
Thursday	19/10/2017			RECTOR'S HOLIDAY
Thursday	19/10/2017	07:00:00		Basketball Tour Departs for Natal
Thursday	19/10/2017	07:00:00		Cricket Tour Departs for Nelspruit
Friday	20/10/2017			MID-TERM
Friday	20/10/2017	08:00:00	17:00:00	Cricket: U12 St David's Festival
Saturday	21/10/2017			MID-TERM
Sunday	22/10/2017			MID-TERM
Monday	23/10/2017	15:00:00		Basketball Tour Returns
Monday	23/10/2017	15:00:00		Cricket Tour Returns
Monday	23/10/2017			MID-TERM
Tuesday	24/10/2017	07:30:00	07:30:00	TERM RECOMMENCES

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