

Welcome to Our New Team!

We are excited to have new members on board our Thinking Skills team this year. Staff are responsible for continuing to drive the development and implementation of the St Peter's Thinking Skills Programme across the four St Peter's Prep Schools. Their ideas and enthusiasm give new energy to the process and we are grateful for their involvement!



Bronwyn Peake
Girls JP



Jane Ritchie
Girls SP



Claire Fietze
Boys JP



Kaila Melvill-Smith
Boys SP

Student-Led Conferences in the Girls Prep School

This year, in line with changing worldwide trends, the Girls Prep School decided to try something different for the reporting process in the Easter Term. We wanted to encourage the girls to reflect deeply on their learning and subsequently set goals for themselves for the Trinity Term. Our objective is to promote intrinsic motivation and allow the girls to take ownership of their progress. Each grade designed a report using thinking maps, thinking routines and reflective procedures, which the girls completed themselves. The girls were guided through this process by their mentors, who added their own comments, reflections and praise to the document, which would ultimately be presented to parents.

Student-led conferences were then scheduled and parents were invited to chat with their daughter and her mentor. Typically this conversation would include the student's progress in each learning area, her time management, resilience, participation in sport and other co-curricular activities, organisational skills and social interaction. As the name suggests, the conference was led by each girl, reflecting on her own personal journey.

This proved to be a very valuable activity which was thoroughly enjoyed by the girls. The depth of their contemplation was significant and ensured that meaningful goals were set, with student commitment to the objectives, for the Trinity Term.

The process fostered responsibility and accountability for personal growth and development within the girls and we believe the effects will be sustainable. The response from both girls and parents was very positive and we are excited about the continued high level of involvement each girl will have in celebrating her achievements.



Boys JP Promotes Higher-Order Thinking

Our focus in the Boys Junior Prep over the past few months has been asking higher-order thinking questions. The teachers have been using Bloom's Taxonomy to guide questioning, not only in their planning and Units of Inquiry, but during Theme, Literacy and Mathematics lessons as well.



*On wearing all the Thinking Hats...
"Look Mrs Fietze!
I am over thinking!"*

Grade 0: Peter Pan and Pirates Why did pirates wear an eye patch?

The boys thought.

- The pirate's eye was eaten by crocodiles; pirates had disgusting eyes; pirates lost an eye while fighting.

What we found out was that;

- Pirates had to work quickly between decks and wearing a patch helped keep one eye adjusted to the dark. When a pirate had to go below deck, he would move his patch to the other eye so that he could see clearly in less light.

Grade 1: Under the Sea How could we live under water?

The boys loved using the Thinking Hats and exploring imaginative and creative ways of solving this question. They devised many questions themselves, as they had so many unanswered queries about life under the sea. Students were encouraged to bring some new and exciting facts to school and teach all of the others in the class about what they had discovered, in answering their questions. They made the most wonderful posters using Thinking Maps, drawings and pictures, and even wrote their own facts down to read to the other boys!

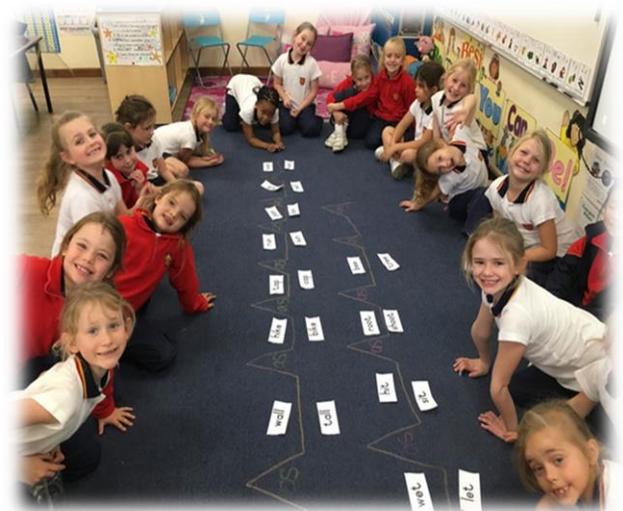
Grade 2: Egypt When was writing invented?

This unit was introduced through pictures of various drawings and writings, including Viking runes, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Roman numerals and Caveman drawings. We then asked the students to analyse these early forms of communication using the 'See – Think – Wonder' routine. After a group discussion and reflection, task cards were created about Ancient Egypt. The boys completed these activities based on the levels of Bloom's Taxonomy and used various media and thinking tools to answer the questions. They thoroughly enjoyed investigating this time period.

Students Learn How to Use Thinking Maps in the Girls JP

The girls in the Junior Prep have been working consistently to understand and apply the Thinking Maps developed by David Hyerle. Thinking Maps are visual teaching tools that provide a framework for documenting eight thought processes. They aid in encouraging lifelong learning and foster a love for the process of learning. The Thinking Maps are based on the simple principle that the same thought processes are taught from Grade 0 through to Grade 7 and these tools can be used independently in high school and university studies.

The use of the Thinking Maps has aided our goal towards making learning visible and accessible to all learners. Daily, the girls of the JP are involved in processes that encourage the choice of various Thinking Maps to suit the skills and content being taught. Our girls are very proud of their ability to apply their use of the Thinking Maps effectively.



Using a bridge map for rhyming words in Grade 2

*"To think is easy, to act is hard, but the hardest thing in the world is to act in accordance with your thinking."
Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe*