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14 July 2016

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

FROM THE RECTOR

During the mid-term break I attended the **European Education Conference**, hosted by the International Academic Forum in Brighton, where the weather was similar to the South African cold snap. Over 150 presentations addressed various aspects of the conference theme: Education and Social Justice.

Globally, education systems are becoming increasingly socially, ethnically and culturally diverse. Very few of the 45 countries represented were not grappling with the need to teach second and even third languages, owing to economic immigration or refugee influx. As with SA, they too have to solve the problem of providing education in mother tongues not necessarily that of the country. I was consequently able to gather valuable and up-to-date research on cognition in language acquisition and the most effective methodologies. This information is invaluable to us as we seek to improve language education at St Peter's in a multi-cultural milieu.

Other themes included the use of IT to teach language, inequalities in language systems world-wide, e.g. urban vs rural and the effects of political and economic decisions on education quality, a trend not confined to our own country.

The British media was consumed by the Brexit issue and the consequent political manoeuvring. Three unrelated items caught my eye:

- Research has recently identified *Fleeces* as one of the most toxic contributors to micro-plastic pollution. Approximately 2000 micro-fibres are released after each wash, most ending up in the sea. These are then ingested by small organisms and later fish and birds, blocking the gut and often entering the bloodstream.
- 12% of the 16-24 year old age group has been identified as 'Neets' (*not in education, employment or training*). The impact on the UK economy was the equivalent of five years of EU immigration.
- Scouts were introducing an "anti-fat" badge for the youngest recruits (6-8 year olds), in order to combat the challenge of child obesity.

ADVENT TERM MID-TERM BREAK

I have been reminded by a number of staff that we are still due a Bishop's holiday, awarded last year. In recognition of the outstanding number of scholarships, we have allocated this to **Tuesday, 25 October**, combining with the day customarily awarded for an exceptional number of scholarships won. Both Boys and Girls Schools certainly deserve this with their tallies this year.

The new dates for next term's Mid-term break are as follows:

Close: Friday, 21 October 2016

Return to school: Wednesday, 26 October 2016

Greg Royce (*Rector*)

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Welcome back after our wonderful midterm break!

Study and research around the concept of motivation and what drives children to succeed has fascinated me for my entire teaching career. As with most of these conundrums; there is always a myriad of factors that contribute to the debate and as usual different personalities respond to different stimuli. It is also fascinating to track motivation as a child progresses through their schooling career. Some struggle at prep school and only find their mojo in high school, some thrive throughout their schooling career and struggle at tertiary level and vice versa.

Contributing factors always include a balance between intrinsic and extrinsic motivators. Daniel Pink is an educationalist and an author. He has looked at four decades of scientific research on human motivation and has found a mismatch between what science tells us and what organisations actually do. In an interview with Amy Azzam (a senior editor of Educational Leadership), he answers a number of pertinent educational questions which I believe add significant value to the concept of what motivates children (and adults) to succeed. I hope to share a number of these questions and his answers with you before the end of the year.

People often rely on external rewards to get children to do something—a school rewards a class if the students score proficiently in a test; a parent rewards a child if the child gets all 'A's. What's your take on this?

My take is what 50 years of behavioural science tell us. There are certain kinds of motivators, what I call "if-then" motivators, as in "If you do this, then you get that." Those motivators, science tells us, are pretty effective for simple, short-term, algorithmic tasks. But if-then rewards are far less effective for more complex, creative tasks.

The problem we have in schools and organisations is that we tend to use those if-then rewards for everything rather than for the areas in which they work. The trouble is, in both the workforce and education, people now rely less on these routine kinds of skills and more on work that requires greater judgment, creativity, and discernment. In many ways, how we motivate people hasn't caught up to the reality of our times.

Now, let's be clear. We all love rewards. If you dangle a prize in front of people, it gains their attention, but—and here's the important point—it grasps their attention in a narrow way. That's acceptable for certain things—for example, if you're stuffing envelopes or turning the same screw the same way on an assembly line. Rewards for things like that, can actually improve performance. But if people have a completely narrow view of a task that requires more creativity or judgment—designing a new piece of software, inventing a product the world doesn't know it's missing, and so on—then they're not going to do as well.

What's more, this carrot-and-stick approach confuses two types of goals. Research by Carol Dweck and others has shown that there's a difference between learning goals and performance goals. A learning goal is, "I want to master algebra." A performance goal is, "I want to get an 'A' in algebra." The research shows that reaching performance goals doesn't necessarily mean that you have hit a learning goal. If people are single-mindedly focused on performance goals, and they achieve them, it doesn't mean they've learned anything, improved their capabilities or mastered something complex. The child is less likely to retain what she learned to get the 'A', less likely to persist when the going gets tough and less likely to understand why algebra is important in the first place.

However, if a child is single-mindedly focused on a learning goal, mastering algebra, the chances are he's going to do reasonably well. In the process, he'll probably attain that performance goal and get his 'A'. So it's best to simply go for the learning goal and use the grades and scores as feedback as the student works toward mastery.

Amy Azzam

Darrel Webb (Headmaster)

SPORT DEPARTMENT

This week our Grade 7 netball girls hosted, and played against, a team from Oratory Prep in the UK. Many thanks to those families who hosted the girls on Tuesday night. The teams played a very exciting game of netball and our girls, ever the gracious hosts, narrowly lost 23-26.

Good luck and safe travels to our Grade 6 and 7 hockey girls, and staff, who will be travelling to the Midlands for a hockey festival from 22 - 24 July. The girls have prepared well and are sure to have a successful tour.

A reminder that girls need to ensure they have all the relevant kit for their hockey lessons: gum guard, shin pads, stick, correct hockey socks and their sports kit.

All girls must please wear a hat for all sports lessons and bring their own water bottle.

See the School Communicator under the Resources tab for sports notifications.

Liz Ashmore (*Director of Sport*) LAshmore@stpeters.co.za



St Peter's Girls Prep and Oratory Prep netball teams

ART DEPARTMENT

We are in urgent need of the following, please:

- Old towels, tea towels and dishcloths (to mop up art spills and clean tables and floors etc...)
- Newspaper and magazines (but, please filter mags like GQ, Menshealth and Cosmopolitan for inappropriate content)

Belinda van der Watt
(*Art Teacher*)

MY SOUTH AFRICAN STORY – THURSDAY, 21 JULY

The Transformation Committee invites you to an informal discussion forum where parents will have an opportunity to share personal stories about how growing up and living in South Africa has shaped us. We invite you to think about your own story and to consider sharing it:

Thursday, 21 July

Mvukuzane Pavilion

18:30 for 19:00 until 20:30

Please join us for a bowl of hot soup and some good conversation.

Transformation Committee

PA NEWS

CYCLE CHALLENGE 24 JULY 2016

Tickets still available – if you would like to enter, please email cycle@stpeters.co.za

Everyone is welcome – kids, moms, dads, grannies, ~~grampas~~ and friends! The more the merrier!

Come enjoy a great morning out in the sun with your family and the St Peter's Family!



GOLF DAY

30 September 2016

Limited Four Balls Left!

Please don't delay if you would like to reserve a four-ball.

There are only a few left and we don't want to have to turn late comers away like last year.

To reserve your four-ball, email golfday@stpeters.co.za

DO IT NOW! Don't be the person who just missed out!



MANDELA DAY 2016 – MONDAY, 18 JULY

A reminder of our collection, for Mandela Day, of the following unwanted and unused items.

We are supporting:

- *Touch Africa and our community schools:* BOOKS and TOYS
- *Diepsloot Combined and Sefikeng Primary:* SPORT KIT and TAKKIES
- *Our community:* SECOND HAND CLOTHING

We will be collecting from now until the 22 July. Please bring your goods to:

SP Girls: Girls Reception

JP Girls: Reception area

We look forward to your support!

The Mandela Day Team.

CHARITY EVENTS

GUIDE-DOGS ASSOCIATION
South Africa

MARKET DAY

Come and Enjoy...

- . Food Stalls
- . Flea Market
- . Book Sales
- . Beer Garden
- . Tea Garden
- . Kennel Tours
- . Kids Entertainment
- . Working Dog Demonstrations

And so much more...

Date: 31 July 2016

Time: 10h00 - 16h00

Entrance: Adults - R40

Pensioners & Children under 12 - R20

Regret GDA Dogs and Puppies Only

Tel: 011 705 3512 Latitude : S26.0269
126 Wroxham Road, Paulshof Longitude : E28.0326

QUOTATION

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. ~ Nelson Mandela

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Monday	18/07/2016			Mandela Day	
Monday	18/07/2016	08:00:00	08:30:00	Mandela Day Service	at Mandela Tree
Monday	18/07/2016	14:00:00	15:00:00	<i>Academic Meeting</i>	Council Chamber
Tuesday	19/07/2016	07:00:00	08:30:00	<i>Small Calendar Meeting</i>	Staff Room
Tuesday	19/07/2016	14:00:00	15:00:00	<i>EcoCom Meeting</i>	Council Chamber
Tuesday	19/07/2016	14:30:00	15:30:00	<i>Combined Schools Marketing Meeting</i>	Boys School
Tuesday	19/07/2016	16:00:00	17:30:00	General Knowledge Quiz	Brescia House
Wednesday	20/07/2016	18:30:00	22:00:00	<i>PA Meeting</i>	Council Chamber
Wednesday	20/07/2016			REMINDER: COLLECTION FOR CHAPEL TOMORROW	
Thursday	21/07/2016	07:00:00	07:45:00	<i>IT Drive Team Meeting</i>	
Thursday	21/07/2016	08:15:00	09:30:00	<i>Final Calendar Meeting</i>	Boys Staff Room
Thursday	21/07/2016	17:00:00	18:00:00	<i>Combined College/Prep RemCo Meeting</i>	Council Chamber
Thursday	21/07/2016	18:30:00	19:30:00	<i>Finance Committee Meeting</i>	Council Chamber
Friday	22/07/2016	06:00:00	06:00:00	Grade 6A/7A Midlands Hockey Tour leaves	Chapel car park
Friday	22/07/2016	13:30:00	16:30:00	Hockey Matches vs Brescia House	Home/Away
Saturday	23/07/2016			Grade 6A/7A on Midlands Hockey Tour	
Sunday	24/07/2016			Cycle Challenge	St Peter's & PWC Bike Park
Sunday	24/07/2016	16:00:00	16:00:00	Grade 6A/7A Midlands Hockey Tour returns	