



Edition: 425

27 October 2016

## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

Our termly Parent Forum Meetings, prior to our midterm break, once again provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss issues raised by parents. In this newsletter I intend share the general gist of the conversations held at these meetings. If you require further information on a particular issue, please feel free to chat to your Class Mom, Mrs van Gass or me.

#### Social Issues on the Middle School:

A number of our younger girls have found the dynamics of social interactions fairly challenging this year. The attendees of the meeting were assured that the school is aware of the issues and deals with the difficult situations on a daily basis. It was also mentioned that when individual intervention is required, it is not necessarily made known to all parents involved. Parents are, however, encouraged to speak to the teachers involved about specific incidents as this makes it easier for the school to deal with. Bully Boxes were suggested as a possible means to communicate bullying. However, on further investigation it was ascertained that these boxes were in place a few years back and actually caused more harm than good, in terms of names put in without good reason. We'd prefer the girls to talk through their problems with teachers if/when an incident occurs.

#### Talks for Parents:

It was suggested that Parent Talks on the challenges of raising girls would be extremely beneficial. The timing of such talks was discussed as there is a concern that parents don't always support these sorts of evenings. However, it was agreed that at least one talk per term will be organised in 2017.

#### Cultural Period:

It became apparent that girls enjoy some Cultural Activities more than others. Management explained that our Cultural period is currently under review for next year.

#### Chess:

It was agreed that this is an incredibly important strategy game for girls to learn. Further discussion and debate is required with a view to providing more girls an opportunity to learn chess.

#### Softball:

An enquiry was made as why we don't play softball at St Peter's? It was mentioned that the sport is, sadly, not played at High School level and, therefore, not seen as a critical part of a prep school sporting programme. It was, however, agreed that it could be something incorporated into the morning Physical Education programme.

**Sports Communication:**

After some debate around the importance of girls taking personal responsibility for checking the notice board to see if they are in a team, it was agreed that it would be appreciated by parents if we could align ourselves to the Boys School by communicating teams and venues of matches as soon as possible via the Communicator.

**Absent Teachers:**

A concern was raised in terms of the potential of a class falling behind, when a teacher is away from school. The parents were assured that work is set to ensure that the class remains on track. However, it was agreed that the school needs to put checks and balances in place to ensure that no relevant information is missed, particularly in terms of homework and preparation for tests.

**Afrikaans:**

A parent expressed gratitude for the work that Mrs Wilna Coetzee has done this year, in terms of assisting us with Afrikaans.

**Whatsapp Groups:**

The article in a recent newsletter resulted in general feedback rather than from a specific grade. With the knowledge that school groups are virtually public domains, all concerns should rather be channelled to the school.

**Colours:**

Concern was raised that the Gr 7s are not able to display their colours as do a few of our competitor schools. Parents were assured that this does not impact their chances of receiving scholarships or similar recognition. High schools are fully aware of the different ways in which prep schools show achievement.

**Stretching before Sport:**

Diagnosis of Osgood Schlatters and Severs, in young athletes, appears to be on the rise and as much as there is some debate around these significant ailments, it was agreed that we need to continue to remind our girls about the importance of stretching before races and the staff to provide opportunities for them to do so. The girls complete a dynamic warm up before each sports lesson and are encouraged to follow the same routine when competing in matches/fixtures.

**Parking and Signage:**

It was agreed that additional signage may assist with the drop and go process. The school will also be asking teachers not to park in this space during peak times. It was also suggested and agreed that showing parents a traffic flow map of the school in terms where you can and cannot park at our Information Evenings at the beginning of the year may also assist the process.

**Code of Conduct:**

There was some interesting debate around rules and regulations which were applicable 10 years ago, and which may no longer be relevant or appropriate, particularly in light of the Pretoria Girls' High hair issues. If there is ever an issue or rule that is questionable and needs an explanation, please approach a teacher or member of management.

**White takkies not being freely available:**

This was also discussed in some detail. The school needs to look at suppliers, availability and quality of shoes before this rule is enforced. That said, shoes with dark soles cannot be allowed on tennis or netball courts.

**No Hat, No play:**

It was agreed that this is a 'three way' responsibility between the child wearing the cap, the parent insisting that they have a cap and the teachers enforcing that they wear it. Ultimately, however, as the girls get older they need get into a mindset of 'no hat, no play'. By the time they get to Gr 6 and 7 teachers cannot still be held accountable to ensure a girl wears their cap every second they are in the sun. It is an important life-lesson for girls to become accountable for their personal well-being.

**Physical fitness:**

It was agreed that it is the school's responsibility to teach the importance of physical fitness, but not necessarily to enforce it on a daily basis. Sport needs to be fun to ensure that exercise is an activity that continues for the rest of time. However, for teams to be competitive, girls also need to realise that what you put in (in terms of training and practice) is what you get out. It was recommended and agreed that the school informs parents where and when additional sports lessons are required and that it may be prudent for the school to consult with specialists in the various sports to ensure that the school coaching is in line with current trends.

**Lost property:**

This remains a concern. Please could I ask that you mark all items of your daughter's uniform. This way, lost or misplaced items can be returned to their rightful owners. I would also like to appeal to parents to please return items to school that have been taken home in error. Your co-operation with this matter will be appreciated.

Nibe neviki elimnandi (Have a good weekend)

Darrel Webb  
(*Headmaster*)

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**OLD GIRLS - IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN 2017**

Congratulations to the following Old Girls (left St Peter's Girls Prep at the end of 2012) who have been elected into positions of leadership at their respective Colleges in 2017:

**St Peter's College**

Jessica Webb - Deputy Head Girl, Morgan Else – Prefect, Talia Rosengarten - Prefect

**Durban Girls College**

Sandhya Ramcharrun – Deputy Head Girl

**DSG in Grahamstown**

Annabelle Schaefer - Head of Espin, Bailey Dovey - Head of Merriman, Nichola Quarmby - Portfolio Prefect - Pastoral: Junior School

**St Stithians College**

Gabrielle Chapman, Ashleigh Crisp, Jennifer Gray, Simi Ncube, Dani Knight, Chiedza Manikai, Bianca Wessels, Megan Siddle, Megan Smith, Denise Orege and Vicky Swart

**Brescia House** have not yet made their announcements.

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## SPORT DEPARTMENT

We will commence with swimming in all sports lessons on Monday, 31 October. We will not be participating in galas this term as it will allow us to focus on pre-season training, fitness and stroke correction. We will also use some of the lessons to expose the girls to other aquatic disciplines, for example, water polo, synchronized swimming and lifesaving. We will be holding two internal biathles and a swimathon on Friday afternoons (the details of these are in the calendar). More information will be communicated with regards to those arrangements.

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

Liz Ashmore (*Director of Sport*)

[lashmore@stpeters.co.za](mailto:lashmore@stpeters.co.za)

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## HOT DOG DAY

A reminder that tomorrow is Hot Dog Day! **The cost is R20.**

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help serve. Please meet us on the patio at 09:30 (for Grade 0 – 2) and 10:00 (for Grade 3 – 7).

Jen, Marcia & Nicky

*(Hot Dog Day Co-ordinators)*

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## DIVERSITY: DIWALI

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights and is traditionally celebrated by Hindus and is one of the most significant festivals in the Indian culture. The word Diwali means rows of lighted lamps and it is known as the Festival of Lights because houses and shops are decorated with candles and colourful lights. This shows the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

For many Indians, Diwali honours Lakshmi, the goddess of material and spiritual wealth and people will start the new business year at Diwali and some will say prayers to the goddess for a prosperous year ahead. Large firework displays are held which celebrate one of the Diwali legends, Rama and his wife Sita. The fireworks signify Rama's return to his kingdom after being exiled for 14 years and defeating king Ravana, when the local people set off their own version of fireworks. Those celebrating Diwali also light traditional earthenware oil lamps called *diyas* which are said to help Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, find her way into people's homes. They'll leave the windows and doors of their houses open so that she can enter.

St Peter's wishes all Hindu pupils, parents and teachers a Happy Diwali and a prosperous New Year.

Vijay Maharaj

*Director- Diversity*

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SUNSET CAROLS

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**

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Wednesday	02/11/2016			REMINDER: COLLECTION FOR CHAPEL TOMORROW	
Wednesday	02/11/2016			Art Exhibition (Grades 5 - 7)	SP Entrance foyer
Thursday	03/11/2016			Art Exhibition (Grades 5 - 7)	SP Entrance foyer
Thursday	03/11/2016	13:30:00	16:30:00	Tennis Matches (Grade 3-7)	Home/Away
Thursday	03/11/2016	18:30:00	20:30:00	My South African Story (Parent Transformation eve)	Mvukuzane Pavilion
Friday	04/11/2016			Art Exhibition (Grades 5 - 7)	SP Entrance foyer
Friday	04/11/2016	07:30:00	08:30:00	Creational Centre Opening	Creational Centre
Friday	04/11/2016	13:30:00	15:30:00	St Peter's Biathlon Challenge	Girls Pool
Saturday	05/11/2016	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 4 Tennis Festival	St Mary's School
Saturday	05/11/2016	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 5 Tennis Festival	St Stithians
Saturday	05/11/2016	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 6 Tennis Festival	St Andrew's
Saturday	05/11/2016	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 7 Tennis Festival	Roedean

# CELEBRATING a decade of MEMORIES

ST PETER'S  
GIRLS PREP SCHOOL



Truth is...it's been a **DECADE** of awesomeness,  
but the **BEST** is yet to come!



Photos from our celebration last week – a great way to start Half-term!



