



Edition: 410

2 June 2016

## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

### FROM THE RECTOR

The spectre of racism which arose so powerfully at the end of last year constitutes a disheartening reminder of how little progress we have made in uniting as a nation since 1994.

I often think that as South Africans, one of our most limiting characteristics is that we do not know how to listen. We listen to respond rather than to understand. This is why, for me, the parent Transformation meeting held the week before last was so important. It provided the first real opportunity for people, with different life experiences, to listen respectfully to each other. The honesty with which the stories were told provided an atmosphere in which people felt free to express their fears, however tentatively. It constituted a very special start to a critical journey in our community as a microcosm of the country.

Not everyone in our country has yet to overcome the challenges facing us. During the holidays Pam and I spent time in the Cederberg. While in Clanwilliam, I couldn't resist the opportunity to visit the 200-odd year old Anglican Church of the Parish of St John the Evangelist. When I peeked inside the door I was greeted by the sight of a group of elderly ladies (even older than me) sitting in a circle before the altar. They were engaged in a Bible study. The group comprised white, coloured and black women. There was spirited debate, relating the Bible text to the very similar experiences of their very different lives in a building so closely related to the era of Colonialism and the domination of a particular language group. These ladies did not need to destroy anything to find understanding or the common threads in their lives.

As I quietly withdrew, their invitation floated across the pews, 'Wil jy nie by ons aansluit nie, Meneer?'

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))<sup>MF C-N</sup>

Greg Royce  
(Rector)

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

### CONDOLENCES

Please keep the Melvill-Smith family in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the passing of Greg, husband to Kenda and father of Kaila and Natasha. Greg was a special part of the St Peter's family and presented at our Staff Training Session in January. Greg's presentation on 'positive psychology' epitomised the manner in which he lived his own life. He will be fondly remembered by the St Peter's Community.

### MEETINGS WITH CLASS MOMS

I have asked to meet with the Senior Prep Class Moms once a term, and I know Heather is doing the same in the Junior Prep, to discuss any issues/concerns of which they may be aware. Over the last two weeks I have met with Gr 3 – 6 Class Moms and thought it would be useful to share the issues that were discussed with all our Prep parents:

#### Holy Communion:

Concern was raised over why this service was held during the week, particularly in terms of working parents. I mentioned that this is under discussion and may well revert to a Sunday in future.

#### Security:

A number of missing items were reported. The sad reality of this behavior has to be tackled on three fronts:

- 1) Girls need to be constantly reminded of our values and the need to align their choices and behaviour with their value structure.
- 2) We need to remind our girls and teachers to be vigilant at all times!
- 3) The school will be investing in cameras in a phased approach to monitor corridor movement.

#### Study Skills:

It was confirmed that this critical life skill is in place for Grade 5s, 6s and 7s. The outline of each programme is as follows:

##### Grade 5

Stage 1	Stage 2
A Self-disciplined student Goal setting Strengths and weaknesses Studying routines Mind mapping introduction Thinking maps Question creation Bloom's Taxonomy Test anxiety	Taking responsibility Creative thinking Active listening The benefits of collaboration Key words Tips for remembering Developing a growth mind set Reflection

**Grade 6**

Stage 3	Stage 4
Your amazing brain Left and right side dominant brain Multiple intelligences Improving concentration Tips for studying Types of questions	Motivation Managing stress St Peter's Girls Prep exam experience The St Peter's Study Buddy Revision of studying tips Preparing for exams During the exam

**Grade 7**

Stage 5	Stage 6
Different perspectives Personality styles and learning The psychology of success Research skills	Improving your exam experience The St Peter's 'Ready Set Go booklet' Getting ready for high school The ideal learning environment Time management Conflict resolution

**Photo Gallery:**

The suggestion was made that the photos have names with the actual achievement. It was agreed that this suggestion would be discussed with those involved.

**Sugar:**

The Class Moms suggested that we look for alternatives to rewarding children with sweets and concern was raised with regard to the kitchen's treat day for the girls who have Hot Lunch. I agreed to investigate further and report back. My PA, Mrs Paula Gouveia, has sourced some wonderfully appropriate stickers to replace the sweets.

**Use of Pavilions for Class Parties is no longer permitted:**

This was explained in terms of the inability for the school to accommodate all the requests as well as the lack of supervision for children at these events.

**Parking and Traffic:**

Constant reminders are communicated to parents with regards avoiding parking in 'Drop off' zones, yet these still seem to be ignored. The school is investigating the potential benefit of another guard on duty in the mornings to keep the traffic flowing. I also assured our class moms that additional parking is on the Capex Plan, particularly in terms of having an additional 125 girls in five years.

**Communication:**

The group agreed that the initial Grade 3 Parents Information Evenings should take place before extra-murals commence to avoid confusion and mixed messages. It was also agreed that we need to be very clear with our sports communication in terms of our rotational policies (to ensure that every girls gets to participate in a match) regarding if, when and where the girls will be playing in a particular fixture. Going forward it was mentioned that a letter would go out to parents at the beginning of each season, outlining all requirements/ processes and procedures.

It was also agreed that if we are embarking on initiatives such as Africa Day, one very clear and concise message needs to go out to avoid potential confusion.

Further, regarding communication - in one of the meetings I mentioned my concern in terms of teachers and coaches sending out information/homework etc. via electronic media. As much as it makes a parent's life easier, it negates the need for your daughter to be held accountable to listen, write down or take home whatever is required, resulting in a 'learnt helpless' child!

#### **Bullying:**

We had some debate around the sad reality of bullying. I mentioned that bullying, in all its various forms is a social reality and impacts adults as much as it impacts children. The first challenge is to ascertain whether or not the behaviour is indeed bullying or merely a disagreement, misunderstanding or accident. If, however, it is repetitive and hurtful, it is bullying and needs to be dealt with accordingly and that requires informing the school as soon as possible so that we are able to intervene.

It was also agreed that we should investigate a repeat of the 'Queen Bee' presentation which took place a few years ago to assist parents in guiding their daughters.

I would like to thank all the Class Moms for the incredible work they do on a daily basis for our school! The more we talk about the issues, the more parents will be assured that we are listening to their concerns and that we are constantly attempting to improve the way things are done.

Have a wonderful weekend – see you at the Fun Run! I'll be the guy at the back!!

Darrel Webb  
(*Headmaster*)

---

### **SUPERVISION AFTER SCHOOL HOURS**

We have noticed a number of girls waiting to be collected for lengthy periods of time after school. We therefore, thought it important to remind parents that supervised prep and supervised extramural activities take place in the library and on the sports fields respectively until 16:15 Monday to Thursday. On a Friday school finishes at 13:00, unless there are extramural activities scheduled.

After this time there is no formal supervision. A security guard will, however, always be on duty in the guard house. Girls are reminded that they not allowed to climb on the jungle gyms, but rather to wait patiently for their lifts at the pick-up area.

Darrel Webb

---

### **MVUKUZANE'S COFFEE AND WIFI STATION**

This is a reminder that Mvukuzane Pavilion is a warm and comfortable place to enjoy a cup of Nespresso coffee (R10 a cup, honesty box) and use free wifi, while you allow the traffic to clear, before heading on to work in the mornings.

Jean Macleod  
(*Marketer*)



## SPORT DEPARTMENT

One of the most important principles that the sports programme operates on, is the idea of exposing the girls to a variety of different sports during their time at St Peter's, i.e. not allowing the girls to specialise. Research shows that early multi-sports participation typically leads to success. Participating in a range of sports has also been shown to:

- Improve motivation
- Increase enjoyment of sport
- Equip children with far more skills
- Lead to fewer injuries
- Increase pattern recall skills and improve decision making
- Develop more creative players

The girls have been reminded that they must stay until the completion of netball and hockey fixtures. Girls may not leave until all the teams in their grade have finished playing.

Liz Ashmore (*Director of Sport*) [LAshmore@stpeters.co.za](mailto:LAshmore@stpeters.co.za)

---

## ST PETER'S SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR AND MOBILE APP

**The following is an explanation of what to do in order to obtain the Authenticated St Peter's Communicator:**

### Desktop

- The next time you open your DESKTOP version of Communicator, you will be prompted to request a Password.
- You will then check your emails for the password to use for authenticating the Communicator. Save this password as it will be needed for when you authenticate your other devices as well.

**The St Peter's Mobile App will only be ready next week - we will let you know when it is ready for download from the Appstore/PlayStore.** For any technical advice/issues, please contact D6 directly on: 021 880 0185.

Jean Macleod  
(*Marketer*)

---

## HOT DOG DAY

Our next Hot Dog Day will be on Friday, 10 June. If you are available and would like to help, please add your name to the list which will be up on the front door of Reception (Senior Prep) and on the notice board – next to the Grade 0 sign out sheets - (Junior Prep) from Monday, 6 June.

Five volunteers per grade are required and are to meet us at 09:30 (for Grade 0 – 2) and 10:00 (for Grade 3 – 7), at the Keys Pavilion. **The cost is R20.**

Jen, Marcia & Nicky (*Hot Dog Day Co-ordinators*)

## THUNK TANK

As part of our thinking skills programme, a philosophical question is posted on the board each week and the girls are encouraged to put their interpretation of the question and answer to it into a fish bowl which we call the THUNK TANK. The Think Tank monitors choose a few of the answers to read in chapel and the girls are awarded with House points.

Last week's question was: ***Are the things in the world real or are they just thoughts in our mind?*** The winning answer to the question was supplied by Ruby Logan in Grade 4. The question for this week was supplied by Ashleigh Jackson and Erin Duffy: ***Are our shadows just a mere glimpse of ourselves in another universe?***

Please encourage your girls to think about the weekly questions and supply their THUNKS to fill the tank. I would really appreciate the girls supplying me with more questions that will elicit discussion among the girls and the staff.

Jenny Hugo  
(Librarian)

---

## DIVERSITY: RAMADAAN AND EID

Our Muslim pupils, friends and families will be observing Ramadaan, the month-long fast, starting Tuesday, 7 June (subject to the sighting of the moon) until 6 July. The annual fast is considered one of the five 'pillars' of Islam. The fast is from sunrise to sunset; the evenings being spent enjoying family and community meals, engaging in prayer and spiritual reflection, and reading from the Holy Book, the *Quran*. Muslims are encouraged to read verses in the *Quran* and reflect on God's guidance. At the end of the month of Ramadaan, a 3-day holiday known as Eid al-Fitr is enjoyed.

St Peter's wishes all Muslim families well over Ramadaan and extends its best wishes for the joyous celebration of Eid.

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Please observe and discuss the importance of greening and saving the planet. The following important days are being observed:

5 June World Environment Day – 'Join the race to make the world a better place'

8 June World Oceans Day

## MYSCHOOL CARD COMPETITION: PA NEWS

St Peter's is the leader in its category (Visit <http://www.myschool.co.za/WINR100K> ).

The school stands the chance of winning R100 000 and you stand a chance to win a R50 000 bursary for your child. You are also helping MYSCHOOL raise R100 million for education.

SWIPE THAT CARD AND LET'S BE WINNERS!

Vijay Maharaj  
(Director: Diversity)

---

## PA NEWS

**MYSCHOOL SUPPORTERS: WIN R100 000 FOR OUR SCHOOL AND R50 000 FOR ANOTHER SCHOOL OF OUR CHOICE.**

**GREAT NEWS!** We are STILL top of the leader board in our category and if we maintain our lead, we will win these great prizes! See <http://www.myschool.co.za/winr100k>. Please keep swiping your MySchool card when shopping at Woolworths. Competition ends 26 June 2016. You also stand a chance to win a R50 000 bursary for your child, just by swiping.

**P.S. EarthCred items SCORE DOUBLE in May and June.**

Every time EarthCred sustainable food or clothing at Woolies is purchased, not only is this an earth-friendly choice, but it adds even more to our school's score!

To apply for a MySchool card or to add St Peter's Prep as a beneficiary to your existing card, please apply online at [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za) or via MySchool customer services 0860 100 445.

Or alternatively, please complete the attached form and email to Anne [annedp@live.com](mailto:annedp@live.com) or Gabby [gabby@brandalivegroup.com](mailto:gabby@brandalivegroup.com) and they'll get your MySchool card to you right away.

## 2016 FUN RUN & WALK

SUNDAY, 5 JUNE

08:30-10:00



**ST PETER'S  
SCHOOLS**

### ON-THE-DAY DETAILS

<b>START TIMES</b>	08:30 - 6.8km (R40 entrance fee) 08:45 - 2.5km (R20 entrance fee) 09:00 - 1.5km (R20 entrance fee)
<b>PARKING</b>	Parking on the day will only be available as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>on <b>Newlands Field</b> (Girl's school) accessed through the School Chapel entrance</li> <li>in the <b>Boy's JP car-park</b></li> <li>on <b>Somerset Field</b> (accessed from the Boy's JP car-park)</li> </ul>
<b>MEDALS</b>	Medals will be presented to all pupils completing the event.
<b>GOODIE BAGS</b>	Dis-Chem goodie bags will be handed out to the first 300 pupils finishing the event.
<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>	Food and Beverages will be on sale as part of the Grade 7 Fundraiser

Should you be able to volunteer to assist on the day of the event or have any queries regarding the event, kindly email [funrun@stpeters.co.za](mailto:funrun@stpeters.co.za)



SECOND LEG OF  
THE IRONMAN  
CHALLENGE



OPEN TO ALL PUPILS, SIBLINGS, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND FRIENDS

## QUOTATION



*'Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try' – Dr. Seuss*

## CREATIVE WRITING

### A Book

A book is a container for characters to hide  
Their stories and their futures are concealed inside.

A book is a pathway to travel to other lands  
Just imagine what's possible, with a book in your  
hands.

A book is a smile waiting to make a happy call  
Or a teardrop, waiting to eventually fall.

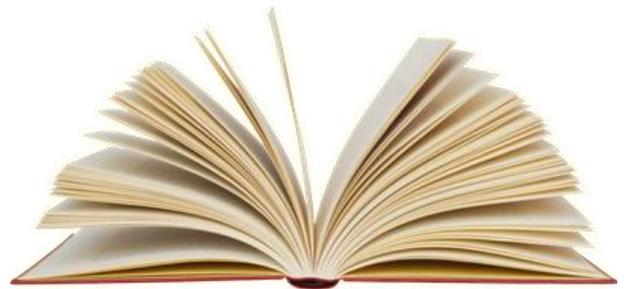
A book is a story waiting to unravel itself  
A timekeeper, waiting patiently on its shelf.

A book is a key waiting to unlock the door  
The door hiding all the stories we'll love even more.

A book is a teacher, teaching us beautiful things  
Or a messenger, who to us, good news brings.

A book can be anything we want it to be  
Just waiting to set its characters free.

By Meg Parker (Grade 7)



**FORTHCOMING WEEK**

<b>Monday</b>	06/06/2016	14:00:00	15:00:00	<i>IT SteerCom Meeting</i>	Council Chamber
<b>Tuesday</b>	07/06/2016	11:30:00	16:00:00	<i>Afrikaans Skills Development</i>	Media Room
<b>Tuesday</b>	07/06/2016	14:00:00	15:00:00	<i>EE Meeting</i>	Council Chamber
<b>Wednesday</b>	08/06/2016	16:00:00	17:30:00	General Knowledge Quiz	St Stithians
<b>Wednesday</b>	08/06/2016	18:30:00	19:30:00	Instrumental Ensemble Festival	Royce Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	08/06/2016			<b>REMINDER: COLLECTION FOR CHAPEL TOMORROW</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	09/06/2016	07:00:00	07:45:00	<i>IT Drive Team Meeting</i>	Girls School Meeting Room
<b>Thursday</b>	09/06/2016	07:30:00	16:00:00	<i>IsiZulu ASFAL Conference</i>	Redhill School
<b>Thursday</b>	09/06/2016	13:30:00	16:30:00	Netball Matches - Heron Bridge	Home/Away
<b>Friday</b>	10/06/2016			<b>HOT DOG DAY</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	10/06/2016	07:30:00	16:00:00	<i>IsiZulu ASFAL Conference</i>	Redhill School
<b>Friday</b>	10/06/2016			<b>Girls School '10 Year' Activities</b>	
<b>Friday</b>	10/06/2016	13:00:00	18:00:00	College Astro Opening (Gr 7A)	St Peter's College
<b>Friday</b>	10/06/2016	13:30:00	16:30:00	Hockey Matches (Grade 3, 4 & 5) vs St Teresa's	Home
<b>Friday</b>	10/06/2016	13:30:00	16:30:00	Mini Netball Festival (Grade 3 Red & Yellow)	Knights
<b>Friday</b>	10/06/2016	18:00:00	20:00:00	Dad's and Daughters Dinner	Royce Hall
<b>Saturday</b>	11/06/2016	07:30:00	16:00:00	<i>IsiZulu ASFAL Conference</i>	Redhill School
<b>Saturday</b>	11/06/2016	07:30:00	12:30:00	Grade 7 Market Day	St Peter's
<b>Saturday</b>	11/06/2016	08:00:00	13:00:00	C - F Netball Festival - Gr 3, 4, 5	Home
<b>Saturday</b>	11/06/2016	08:00:00	13:00:00	C - F Netball Festival - Gr 6	Brescia House
<b>Saturday</b>	11/06/2016	18:00:00	22:30:00	Grade 7 parents (Girls & Boys Sch) Comedy Evening	Royce Hall