



Edition: 7

2 March 2017

ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

FROM THE RECTOR

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our 2011 Boys School leaver group did us proud in the 2016 matriculation exams, garnering 125 distinctions. In the following configuration:

1 distinction – 17 boys
2 distinctions – 2 boys
3 distinctions – 5 boys
4 distinctions – 3 boys

5 distinctions – 7 boys
6 distinctions – 2 boys
7 distinctions – 2 boys
8 distinctions – 2 boys

We are especially delighted with their results, given that it has never been school policy to select pupils only on academic ability at entry. We do not need for our Old Boys and Girls to become famous public figures. Our only hope for each child that passes through our school is that as adults, they are contributing citizens, wonderful parents and the best that they can be in any career they choose, hopefully bettering the lives of those around them.

Our first crop of Girls School leavers matriculates this year. I have no doubt that they will do us equally proud!

Questions for the Rector:

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

Greg Royce
(Rector)

FROM THE HEADMASTER

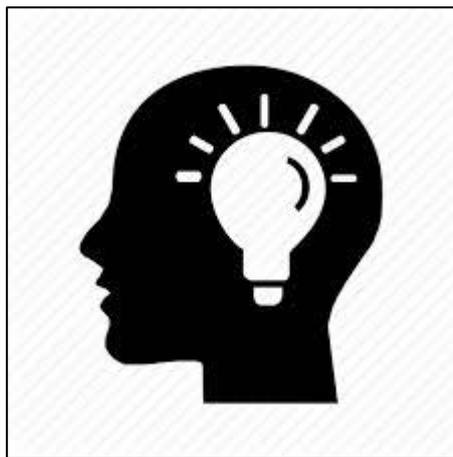
Prior to our Midterm break, I challenged the Senior Prep Girls to find the time to use their imaginations – to make up games to play or at the very least read books that enabled their minds to be set free. In today's world of TV, DVDs, Play Station, X box, board games and a myriad of toys, children seldom get to use their imaginations – an aspect of thinking that is crucial to develop any form of innovation or creativity. Parents and teachers can do a great deal to enable their children to rediscover their imaginations.

Extracts from an article written for Childtime Learning Centres gives us some sound advice:

The Importance of Imagination

Do children today use their imaginations as much as we did when we were kids? Do you see your children spinning incredible tales and stories in their fantasy play like we used to when we played “cops and robbers” or “house”? Or does your child’s fantasy play seem to consist only of repetitive movements like karate chops or ballerina spins that have no story to them?

In the world of child development you may hear us use phrases like “critical thinking skills” and “creative problem-solving abilities” when referring to our goals for your child’s cognitive development. What we are really talking about is... imagination. The way to create human beings with imagination is to provide them with opportunities to develop it for themselves when they are very young. These opportunities are found in one place and one place only... play. Playing with paints, playing with play dough, with costumes, with glue and with crayons. Making a mess. Exploring the woods. Splashing in a puddle. Wondering at a caterpillar you notice inching by you. Pretending to be a bird, gliding through the sky.



Are you providing your children enough opportunities for this type of play? If they are spending hours sitting at a computer, watching television or playing video games, they are passive participants being fed someone else’s stories instead of having the time and space to dream up their own. If they are enrolled in soccer, ballet, karate and gymnastics all in the same week, they are receiving wonderful opportunities to develop their skills. But they have little to no opportunity to use their creativity and imagination to decide how to use their free time, what fantasy to explore or what part of their world they’d like to discover more about at their own pace, in their own way.

Often parents today think that if they give their children too much free time they are wasting opportunities for learning and preparing children for their futures. But these types of parental choices, though done with love and the best of intentions, are not a gift to children, according to current child development theory and research. Children today desperately need time and space to develop their creative imaginations free from adult agendas. Even if your children complain, “I’m bored! There’s nothing to do!” please, please, please trust that if you force them to figure out for themselves how to fill their time, their innate creativity will kick in and their imaginations will soar!

Have a good weekend! Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

SPORT IN THE INDEPENDENT GIRLS' SCHOOLS

Our aim, as physical education teachers and sports specialists, is to promote lifelong participation and enjoyment in sport through providing a diverse variety of sports for girls' participation.

Over the past few years, there has been a growing concern amongst the various Head of Sports at the Johannesburg Girls' Schools. These include the increase of injuries in children; the increase in anxiety regarding performance; the increase in fatigue, which ultimately leads to injury; and the decrease in match time due to late arrival of busses and the increase in traffic.

These concerns have given us an opportunity to reflect on our current practices and procedures as we continue to focus on best practice for girls.

We continue to believe that we need to provide a strong foundation for late specialisation sports. Research has proved that players who have developed a vast fundamental physical literacy of movement, transition into any sport later on, smoothly and effectively. Examples of fundamental skills are catching, jumping, running, swimming, throwing and skipping.

Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) need to be taught or learnt before sport-specific skills can be acquired. Throwing, jumping, swimming, catching and running are essential skills to acquire before trying out either netball or hockey, for example. If children are introduced to sport-specific skills before Functional Movement Skills, the results are an increased incidence of early injury and the development of incorrect or weak habits.

As educators, we feel that although this is what we have been practicing, we will continue to tweak and refine our methods as new research directs us to what is best practice. If we develop leagues that are purely focused on results we will create a scenario where the focus is on winning and not on skill or strength development.

The girls' schools have based their new approach on the Long Term Athletic Development model (LTAD). LTAD is the introduction of any sport through various developmental stages based on ages of athletes. Training age is when an athlete starts to take part in regular, planned, goal orientated training. This training is directly impacted by the specific training age of the student. This becomes evident when developmental age, trainability, and periodization affect each stage of an athlete's development, taking into account physical, mental and cognitive, and emotional development characteristics.

Players who have developed a vast fundamental physical literacy of movement: transition into any sport later on smoothly and effectively (This can be best achieved by participation in many different sports throughout primary school). To further develop the sport in this country, we need to introduce programs and structures, which attract athletes and encourages them to stay involved in the sport through to adulthood; we can achieve this by following the LTAD program.

As a group of Girls' Independent Schools, we have committed to:

- Creating an environment that is educationally sound, focusing on participation, enjoyment and skill acquisition.
- Teaching the girls how to play through a gradual introduction of the rules as they move from fun matches in Grade 3 to more competitive type matches in Grade 7.
- Creating a scenario that allows girls to play matches in a non-threatening environment with more festival type-fixtures. As an example, tennis matches could be time based.

- Allowing for competition but within a strict framework. Some age groups play mixed ability, some on half a field, which then builds up to full field, full application of the rules and more competition.
- Trialling a new winter sports programme with all the above in mind.

From May 2017, sport across the Girls' Independent Schools will be implementing the refined programme. Some schools have decided to continue playing hockey and netball at the same time, and others will split the two codes. Each way, both codes ending up with the same number of fixtures and festivals despite the option chosen. Both codes (netball and hockey) will only compete in a festival- type scenario once every two weeks which ends up in three festival- type fixtures per code over the term and not the weekly fixtures as in previous years.

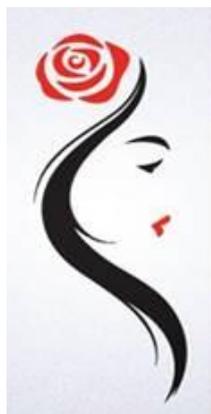
We have decided to play netball first and then hockey as we always have. One of the reasons for this is that we don't want girls to feel overwhelmed with the intensity of playing Netball and Hockey at the same time and therefore choosing one over the other. As netball is considered a Functional Movement Skill sport it will help develop skills in the girls that will help them in playing hockey, which is a more specialised sport. The girls develop the following skills playing netball that are important to hockey; running off the ball, marking skills, agility, playing to a game plan, general ball skills, for all of the reasons mentioned previously.

Over the six weeks of netball we will play three festival type fixtures and over the six weeks of hockey we will play three festival-type fixtures. This is excluding Saturday festivals. There will be up to three schools participating in each fixture, so a match afternoon will be longer, for example, starting at 14h00 and ending at approximately 17h30. Girls will play more games and have more game time in an afternoon. This could possibly allow for more specific coaching to take place during the 'off' week.

As it is the first time we will be trialing this system as the Independent Girls' Schools, obstacles that we may not have thought of, may arise, so we ask for your support and patience while we perfect what will be a great netball and hockey season for our girls.

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

YEAR OF THE WOMAN



Prof. Carol-Ann Benn addressed the parents on breast cancer in the Royce Hall on Tuesday evening. This was an informative talk focusing on screening, early detection, treatment and living with cancer. She encouraged conversation with our girls, family members, nannies, domestics and work mates. Mammograms and regular checks are important. Medical aid members should make their annual visits to hospitals of their choice. Helen Joseph Hospital does not turn away non-medical aid members. The Year of the Woman (YOW) steering committee thanks Colleen Hayward-Butt for arranging the talk that left us positive and hopeful!



Vijay Maharaj
(Head of Diversity)

HOT DOG DAY & CARTRIDGE COLLECTION - FRIDAY, 3 MARCH

A reminder that tomorrow is Hot Dog Day! **The cost is R25.**

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help serve. Please meet us at Keys Pavilion at 08:45 (for Grade 0 – 2) and 09:30 (for Grade 3 – 7). Please remember to bring in your empty ink cartridges too. There will be a collection point (big green and white cardboard boxes) throughout the day for empty ink cartridges in the Chapel carpark. There are permanent collection points at both the Girls Senior and Junior Prep, and Boys Junior reception areas.

Thank you for your ongoing support this year!

THANK YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION...

"Give a gift, change the future"

Adopt a School: Sefikeng Primary/ Diepsloot Combined

What a wonderful start to the year with many new enthusiastic volunteers - our literacy programme continues to strengthen! A huge thank you to the families who also contributed financially, all initiatives need time and money and we are grateful to you for both.

TAX-YEAR END

A huge thank you to those who heeded our call to donate any unspent CSI funding, we appreciate your contribution!



Monica Sloane
(Foundation Manager)

LATEST EDITION OF AWSUM NEWSPAPER

We are on Page 6:

https://issuu.com/tiemediac/docs/johannesburg_february_primary_-_hi

REMINDER: SHOE DRIVE FOR DIEPSLOOT COMBINED SCHOOL

ST PETER'S COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

When interacting with the children from Sefikeng Primary, we often notice the poor condition of their school shoes. Please consider donating school shoes or takkies, which your children have outgrown, to this cause. We have placed permanent collection boxes in the Junior/Senior Girls Reception areas. This will be an ongoing collection throughout the year.

Monica Sloane
(Foundation Manager)

REMINDER: ST PETER'S COLLEGE OPEN DAY SATURDAY, 11 MARCH 08:30

Click here to RSVP and book your seat online <http://www.stpeters.co.za/college/content/page/college-open-day>

PA AGM – WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH

Please note that Notice of PA AGM and Proxy Forms have been emailed to all parents. They can also be found on the Communicator St Peter's under Resources/BOYS/GIRLS PA.

INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS GROUP PHOTOGRAPH ORDERS

You will have received your daughter's individual photograph (a 'thumbnail' version), attached to an order form, today. Individual photos are not displayed on the photographer's website – for security reasons.

All group photos can be viewed and ordered on the website: www.lifeimaging.co.za

Username: stpeters

Password: spg123

(These details are on the order form)

Please read ordering instructions very carefully to avoid frustration!

Photographs which are ordered using the order form - must be paid for via EFT (banking details on the form). Proof of EFT should be attached to the order form when it is returned. **NO CASH CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

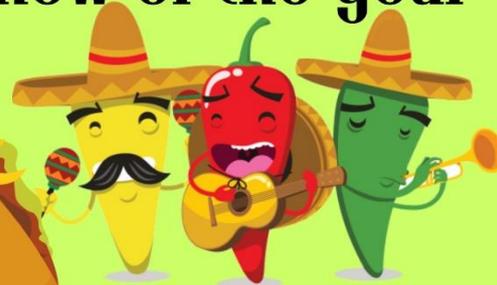
Deadline for orders is **6 March 2017.**

Jean Macleod
(Marketer: Girls School)

STAFF VARIETY SHOW BOOKING PROCEDURE

It's the greatest show of the year

Let's
TACO
'bout it



Price: R300 per head

down by R50 

(Incl dinner & show)

MexiKEYn

2017 STAFF VARIETY SHOW

Get your table of 10 together or we will find you a spot

Show dates: 24 or 25 MARCH /
31 MARCH or 1 APRIL

Booking procedure:

Send a booking request to
svs@stpeters.co.za on
Friday, 3 March at 08:00.
Tickets will be allocated on a 'first
come, first served' basis.

Email your name, the names of those on
your table, preferred date and second
choice date to the email address
provided.

You will be notified by Monday, 6 March if
your booking has been successful.
Payment in full will be required by
Tuesday, 7 March to secure, else the
table will be reallocated to the next
person on the waiting list.

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Wednesday	08/03/2017			REMINDER: CHAPEL COLLECTION FOR TOMORROW		
Thursday	09/03/2017	10:00:00	10:30:00	Grade 3CI Sandwich Making		Classroom
Thursday	09/03/2017	13:30:00	16:30:00	Tennis Matches		Home/Away
Friday	10/03/2017	13:30:00	16:30:00	Swimming Galas		Home/Away
Saturday	11/03/2017	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 4 Tennis Festival		Roedean
Sunday	12/03/2017	09:30:00	10:30:00	Morning Prayers (Chapel Choir)		Chapel

Extension of Library and SP Staffroom:

The Girls Senior Prep staffroom is being altered, as you will have noticed, if you use the front entrance to the school!

The plan is to extend the staffroom, as well as the library upstairs, and include a reprographics room in the extension. (**Reprographics** is a blanket term encompassing multiple methods of reproducing content, such as scanning, xerography and digital printing i.e. photocopying room!)





The gala was held – at last!

