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ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Mr B sent this blog to the Girls School staff recently. I am quite sure you are going to identify with the **not-so-subtle** hint it gives to teachers and schools. It is also particularly relevant to the discussion I had with our Middle School class reps this week, around the issue of how incredibly busy our girls are during term time.

THIRTY MINUTES TOPS

By Claire Wapole

The new school year has begun! Kids in Chicago Public Schools are going on year two of the mayor's longer, fuller, most bestest day ever! The seven-hour school day has resulted in the shortest, most truncated school night ever. My kids have just slightly over four waking non-school hours to call their own. As a parent, I really cannot cover everything I want my kids to learn from me in the four hours I have them at home. I really like my kids teachers and I really appreciate all the work they do during the day, but due to the short amount of time I have my kids at home, I'm going to have to send some work back to school with my kids to complete during the seven hours they spend in the classroom. I apologize for the negative impact this work might have on the teachers and the rest of the class. I know only too well how that feels. However, the lesson plans I have in the evening are better learned if there is some additional follow through done during the day, parent/home connection and all that. None of these assignments should take up much time, thirty minutes tops.

To all my children's teachers: Please note that each of my children will be bringing a basket full of laundry each day to school. We are covering a unit on self-sufficiency at home. Children will be learning how to sort, fold and put away their clothes. We work on this during the evening, but if they do not finish their work by bedtime, it will need to go to school with them each morning. This is a great opportunity for teachers to reinforce in the classroom, what I as the parent am trying to teach at home. Having to fold laundry with my kids will cause you to cut short or eliminate some planned activities, but the laundry needs to be done. Resist the urge to grab it and do it yourself to speed up the process. It shouldn't take too long, unless you count all the time my kids will procrastinate and complain and tell you how they "hate folding laundry" and how they will never use this skill later on in life, and how you are the meanest teacher ever for making them do their work. In which case, this task could go on for over an hour. Neatness counts, and since we are using the Trailblazers method of folding clothes, please have my kids write an answer to the following question: How you KNOW the laundry is folded?

For my daughter's teacher: My daughter has brought a leotard and a set of bar grips to class. My daughter has gymnastics every day after school. It provides an outlet for her energy, stimulates her vestibular sense, which helps with some of her sensory integration issues. Believe me, she is a better student for you during the day, if she gets a couple of hours of physical activity during her short non-school time. She hasn't perfected her bar routine yet and she will be tested on it. This is a benchmark year for her in gymnastics, so testing is super important. Her coaches and gym facility will be judged on how well she performs her uneven bar routine. I'd like you to work with her, one on

one, so when she takes the gymnastics test, she can score at or above average. It shouldn't take much time, unless she is exhausted from the two-hour workout she already completed. In which case she will fall apart, cry, want to talk to you about all the other girls in her class, who was making fun of whom, how to handle a snotty kid or a grumpy coach. Kids do need time to decompress, unwind, and talk about the social emotional aspects of their lives. I'm sure you can find time to listen, to soothe, to offer advice, AND get her to work on her hip circle. The gymnastics world is moving to Common Core too. So in addition to being tested on her basic skills, she will need to write an extended response regarding the main topic of her bar routine. It shouldn't take her long. Half hour tops.

Teachers: My children are being sent to school today with a tank containing two bearded dragons. The poop needs to be cleaned out, the substrate refilled, food and water dishes removed, cleaned and refilled as well. Pet care is incorporated into our nightly routine, but sometimes, during the four waking hours I am with my kids, they can't complete this task, so I'm sending it to school for them to complete with you. It shouldn't take too long to accomplish, unless you find you are out of supplies, in which case you will have to run to the store and pick up some things to finish this on going project. Even though you were not planning on leaving your other students to run out for supplies, let me assure you, you can pick up ground walnut shells, super worms and live crickets just about anywhere. It's so important that you as the teacher work with me on this. Failure to complete this assignment will result in sick pets, so please nag my kids every single day, to make sure they complete this on time. I know it will create a bad vibe between you and my kids and that vibe will rub off on the rest of the class, but reinforcing pet care during the day with you, is essential to what I am trying to teach them here at home. No big deal, twenty minutes tops.

For my son's teacher: Please make sure you check his backpack for his tin whistle. It's a traditional Irish instrument and lucky for you, sounds a whole lot better than a recorder. As a family, music is important to us and we fund raise extensively to provide music instruction during our four-hour home time. We want to foster a love of music here at home as well as the idea that any type of skill or talent, improves with practice. My son doesn't always have the time to practice during the four hours I have him home. As a parent, there are just too many other things I need to cover with the entire family like eating dinner and having a lively discussion. My son may need to spend time practicing his tin whistle during the day, at school, with you. It really helps if you can listen to him play and encourage his effort, reinforce in the classroom what I am trying to teach at home. It shouldn't take too much of your time, unless your other students also want your attention with their individual projects and efforts. Then you'll have to hear how no one cares about the oldest/middle/youngest child. The whole whistle practice won't take too long. Fifteen or twenty minutes tops.

Finally, for all teachers: I am sending my kids to the classroom with Barbies, board games, bicycles, sidewalk chalk, scooters, baseball cards, photo albums, records, a box of old buttons, brownie mix, an excellent climbing tree and a box of crayons. One of the most important things I can do for my child as their parent is give them the time, space and tools they need to have a fun-filled childhood. I've been a parent in the system for almost thirteen years, and I have found that my children need to decompress and get completely away from the seven hour longer, most behest school day ever, if they are to go back to it the next day refreshed and ready to learn. Four hours is barely enough time to do this, especially if they have homework. I need you to reinforce during the seven-hour school day, what I am trying to teach during the four-hour school night, that there is a time for work, and a time for play, and you need time away from each in order to enjoy them both. One more thing teachers, it is my policy to send work home with you over the holiday breaks as well. It won't cut into your vacation time too much....thirty minutes tops.

Claire Wapole Advocate, Raise Your Hand Coalition

Certainly inspiration to ensure that the structure of our day and our homework policy remains manageable and age appropriate at all times!!

Have a good weekend! Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (Headmaster)

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

As communicated previously, there has been some resistance from other girls' schools to participate in Cross Country this year. In order to give our keen runners an opportunity to run, we entered a small team into the co-ed schools league – this proved to be beneficial to the girls as the standard was quite high and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I am pleased to report that we will be hosting three Cross Country meetings next term and this will provide an opportunity for many more girls to get involved. Due to these further three events; we will be holding over the Cross Country awards to next term.

Please remember to consult the Sporting Week Ahead that is available on School Communicator.

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

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Musical Showcase - Thursday, 13 July 18:30

Please join us for a musical delight. Our Orchestra as well as the Grade 6 and 7 Marimba band will perform. Some girls who have recently completed their practical exams are participating.

Marguerite Schmitt
(Head of Music)



DAD'S HOT DOG DAY AND CARTRIDGE COLLECTION FRIDAY, 14 JULY – R25



This Hot Dog Day is especially for the Dads!

If you would like to help, please add your name to the list, which will be up on the front door of Senior Prep Reception and on the Junior Prep notice board, from Monday, 10 July.

Five volunteers per grade are required and are to meet us at 08:30 (for Grade 0 – 2) and 9:30 (for Grade 3 – 7), at the **Keys Pavilion**.

The cost is R25 (for a hotdog, juice & chips).



CARTRIDGE COLLECTION

Please remember to bring in your ink cartridges. There will be a collection point (big green and white cardboard boxes) in the Chapel car park throughout the day for empty ink cartridges. There are permanent collection points at both the Girls Senior and Junior Prep, and Boys Junior Prep reception areas.

Thank you for your continuing support this year!

ST PETER'S FAMILY DAY

To register by 13 July, please click on this link <https://goo.gl/forms/qx9eqFkwIAm5JdQ92> or let your class mom know.

**ST PETER'S
PREP SCHOOLS**

St Peter's Prep Schools Soccer Day

Saturday, 15 July at 13:00 on Feathers Field

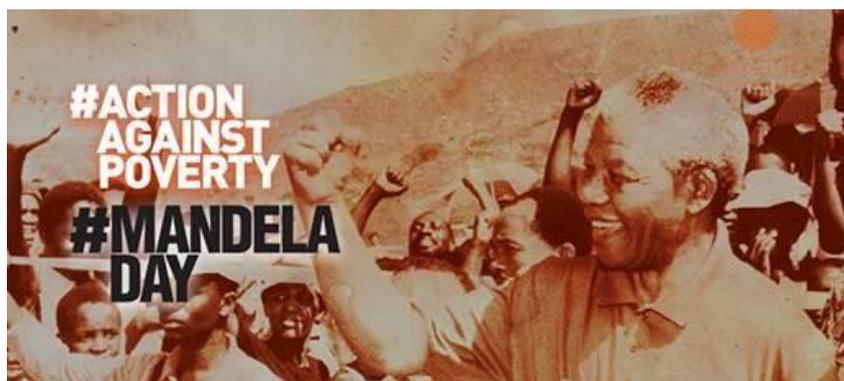
Come and watch these talented performers before the matches begin:
Drumkit, the incredible beat-boxer and
Philani Gumede, the acrobatic freestyle ball juggler.

Then show off your own beat-boxing and ball skills!

Charity collection:
Please donate any unused sporting equipment you may have in support of the school's Nelson Mandela Day drive. You can drop off items in the chapel car park from 11 July.

To register, click on the link in the next message or let your class mom know.

MANDELA DAY 18 JULY 2017



As part of our Mandela Day Drive, we appeal to all our families to donate their unwanted and unused items. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Knysna crisis. We had already planned this initiative and hope that some goods remain in your cupboards! We would like to support:

<i>Vuleka Schools</i>	BOOKS	For their library
<i>Diepsloot Combined & Sefikeng Primary</i>	SPORT KIT and TAKKIES	Part of the Family Day Drive on 15 July
<i>St Peter's community</i>	SECOND HAND CLOTHING & EDUCATIONAL TOYS	
<i>Diepsloot Combined</i>	BOOKS and TENNIS BALLS	JP Boy initiative, further information in JP newsletter

We will be collecting from 11 July onwards. We look forward to your support!

The Mandela Day Team.

SOCIAL – FOR GRADE 7s

ST PETER'S GOLF DAY

The St Peter's Golf Day
29 September 2017
 Kyalami Country Club

The Essentials...

- 12:00 shotgun start
- Gin bar on arrival
- Prize giving and casual dinner in the bar
- Draw for the raffle valued at R40 000 (no fundraising auction this year)

Bookings open 20 July 2017
 email golfday@stpeters.co.za for further info
 and to request a booking form

EXCITING RAFFLE
 Win tickets to both days of the HSBC Cape Town Rugby Sevens 2017, return flights and 3 nights accommodation at the 5* Radisson Blu Hotel from 8 - 10 December for FOUR people

ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS

BISHOP'S HOLIDAY AND SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION HOLIDAY

The **BISHOP** has granted St Peter's Prep an extra day of holiday. This day will be taken on **Tuesday, 26 September**.

GREG ROYCE also granted St Peter's Prep Schools an extra day off school, in celebration of the number scholarships, which were awarded to the 2017 Grade 7s for 2018. This day will be taken on **Thursday, 19 October**. This makes our Nativity Term Midterm break a day longer! We will close on Wednesday, 18 October and return to school on Tuesday, 24 October.

CHRISTMAS MARKET VOLUNTEERS



A co-ordinator, for the Christmas Market, has been appointed! We now need additional volunteers to help on the Co-ordination Committee. This committee will co-ordinate the vendors on the day of the market (14:00 – 18:00)

Please email Monica if you are interested in volunteering to be a part of this committee - msloane@stpeters.co.za.

Monica Sloane
 (Foundation Manager)

TRINITY TERM CHAPEL COLLECTION

Our Chapel collection this term will go towards the Teddy Bear Clinic. This organisation has been assisting abused children for the last 31 years.

The vision of this clinic is to put an end to child abuse and provide efficient and professional services to promote healing in children who have been abused. This is a mission, which endeavours to minimise any secondary harm being caused to children and their families upon their entering the child protection system.

Kamohelo Kotsi (*Chaplain Assistant*)

FORTHCOMING WEEK

Sunday	09/07/2017	09:00:00	10:00:00	Family Eucharist	Chapel Choir	Chapel
Wednesday	12/07/2017			REMINDER: CHAPEL COLLECTION FOR TOMORROW		
Wednesday	12/07/2017	18:30:00	20:30:00	PA Meeting		Council Chamber
Thursday	13/07/2017	10:30:00		Gr 3CI Sandwich Making		Classroom
Thursday	13/07/2017	13:30:00	17:00:00	Hockey Matches	Gr 3	Home/Away
Thursday	13/07/2017	18:30:00	20:30:00	Girls Music Evening		
Friday	14/07/2017	10:00:00	10:30:00	HOT DOG DAY (R25)		
Friday	14/07/2017	13:00:00	17:00:00	Hockey Matches	Gr 4,6	Home/Away
Saturday	15/07/2017	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 4A-D Hockey Festival	Gr 4	St Mary's School
Saturday	15/07/2017	08:00:00	13:00:00	Grade 5A-C Hockey Festival	Gr 5	St Andrew's School
Saturday	15/07/2017	13:00:00	17:00:00	PA Family Sports Festival		



A visit from some Old Girls today!

The staff, loving their work space, in the new staffroom.

