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## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

### Weekly Newsletter of St Peter's Girls SP School

#### FROM THE HEADMASTER

Last week, I mentioned the need for parents and teachers to model the behaviour that we would like our children to follow, in relation to respectful greetings. This week I'd like to extend this appeal to certain Whatsapp groups.

I have recently been made aware of a few derogatory remarks being made about teachers and the school on certain class and sports groups. I'm sure we all agree, that if we want St Peter's Girls School to be the very best, then a better option would be to express a concern you may have, with the respective teacher or a member of management.

Expressing frustration via Whatsapp groups, merely serves to exacerbate a particular situation, as opposed to us being able to deal with it in a constructive manner.

Your support and understanding in this matter will be appreciated.



Greg Royce, Darrel Webb and Jess Webb  
(class of 2006) - Old Girls Tea held on  
Saturday, 1 October 2016

Further to this theme of technology, please see below a note from our Head of Technology, Mr Scott Hauptefleisch:

Dear Parents,

#### Bring Your Own Device Acceptable Use Policy

*As you know, over the past few years we have been conducting action research in order to ascertain the advantages offered by Information and Communication Technology to our academic curriculum. In 2016 we allowed Grades 6 and 7 pupils to bring their own devices to school for specific educational use.*

*We are concerned that some pupils are using their devices for unsuitable activities and that they have inappropriate apps installed. Just to reiterate, the BYOD policy states, that the devices will only be used when a teacher instructs the girls to use them, otherwise the devices should be kept in the lockers. When a device is used, it may only be used for educational purposes. There should be no social media apps installed on the devices. If the BYOD policy is broken, the offender will be prohibited from using the device.*

*The popularity of apps, social networking and gaming amongst young people could potentially lead to childhood developmental problems through negative personality modelling.*

*At present, there isn't yet a firm medical consensus on digital addiction. This month, however, the US Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), published by the American Psychiatric Association, is set to classify Internet Use Disorder (IUD) as an area worthy of further study.*

Lego, one of the largest digital gaming companies, offered the following statement about responsible digital usage: "Each child and situation is unique and that decision is ultimately the responsibility of the parent, that's why we encourage parents to have a dialogue with their children on healthy digital behaviour and – as a family – set some clear rules regarding digital activity."

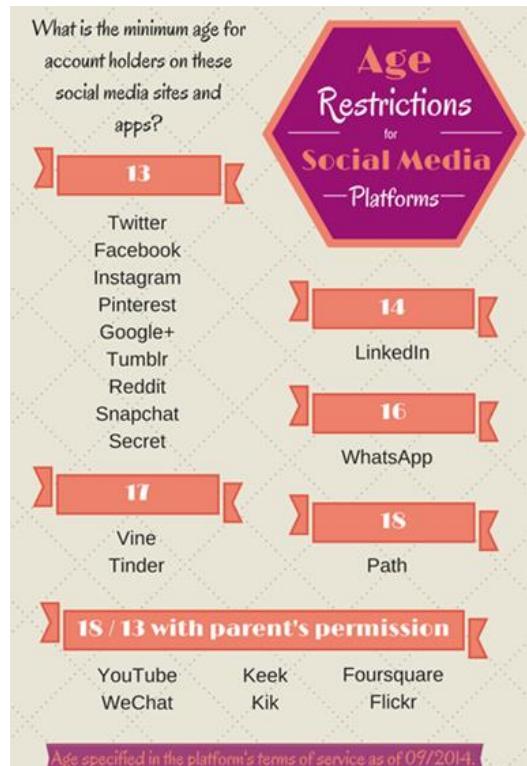
How children use digital devices and games will be dictated by the example that parents set at home. It's worth considering this the next time you download an app to keep the children quiet.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FKepNvkL7q>

Please assist us by explaining this to your children as well as monitoring their usage.

I have also attached the recommended age limit for various social media apps. Please take careful note of Instagram, Snapchat and WhatsApp, as these seem to be commonly used by the children. Please can you ensure that none of these are loaded onto their devices. Please refer to the diagram.

Scott Hauptefleisch  
(Head of Information Technology)



This week's 10 year countdown takes us to the year 2013. Patti Blackhurst recalls the year with a multitude of mixed emotions.

### Photos from 2013



Mr B broke a few ribs, in 2013, falling off a table.



Heritage Day celebrations in 2013 (a chilly day!)

The Lord of the Dance team in the SVS



Pam van Gass & Patti Blackhurst:  
2013 Staff Variety Show



ST PETER'S  
GIRLS PREP SCHOOL



## 2013 – by PATTI BLACKHURST

*I remember the year 2013 with a multitude of mixed emotions!*

*One thing that stands out was the unexpected crash of Mr B off a desk which he had climbed onto, to change an overhead projector globe! He broke his hand, as well as a couple of ribs!*

*St Peter's Girls School had become a significant school and a place I loved and had invested in very deeply. The opportunity to be part of the early journey of a new school is an experience not many teachers are privileged to have. Along with the Grade 7s of 2013, who were the Grade 0s of 2006, I had journeyed through the years and learned and grown at each interface as we made decisions that were to lay the foundations and determine the future direction of the school in so many ways.*

*I believe, however, that each day is a miracle and so when the opportunity to apply for a promotional post came up, I had to make one of the most difficult decisions of my life.*

*I made a conscious decision, on the day I applied for the post as Principal, Junior Prep, Dainfern College, not to count down the days, but to make each day count.*

*As a result of this, each and every magic memory of 2013 remains etched on my heart.*

*The Heritage Day celebrations where the Parents Association from both the Boys and the Girls Schools and all the pupils from both schools gathered on Mvukuzane Field to sing, watch dances and listen to the story of our heritage, told by Greg Royce, Rob Macaulay (who wore his kilt and played his bagpipes) and Trish Attlee was a very moving and unifying celebration of us as members of the two schools as well as us as citizens of South Africa.*

*The Staff Variety Show of 2013 was also an event I remember so clearly! The laughter, the hours of practice, the camaraderie and the pride in the final product was simply intoxicating! I will never forget the giggles, the glamour and the glitter of those nights!*

*Sefikeng and the introduction of Phonographix in Grade 1 and 2 inspired me and provided evidence of the fact that good teachers could change children's futures. I will never forget witnessing children learning to read as our warm and competent teams of teachers and moms ensured that they all succeeded in the lessons we had prepared.*

*The Middle School started in 2013. Rachel Amm proved to be a warm and empathetic new member of the Girls School Executive Committee.*

*I remember the early work with iPads and Thinking strategies. The children amazed us as they took to the technology and engaged in projects beyond our expectations. I remember the Grade 2s working with me on a presentation about rhinos using de Bono's Thinking Hats. They were extraordinary. This was a rich task and an early example of 21C inquiry based learning in St Peter's Girls School.*

*In 2013, I presented a paper at the Proudly Primary Conference in Natal on Carol Dweck's work on Growth Mindsets. I remember sitting late that night around the table with delegates from so many schools as we realized that the reality of this work was going to challenge us immensely. Three years later we are still working at it!*

*The Girls School was hard pressed for space as the buildings were bursting at the seams and Kenda and I proposed having one aftercare facility for the girls and the boys. Watching the girls and boys playing together so happily in the afternoons was heartwarming and we were thrilled that the children from both schools had this opportunity to get to know each other.*

*I remember Cathy Linnel's address to the girls at the Grade 7 Leavers' Dinner. In her speech she used the analogy of a box of chocolates to describe the girls.*

*My memories of 2013 are dominated by parents, staff and girls who were just like that box of chocolates; impossible to resist, nutty, colourful, gorgeous, different, but equally sensational! I treasure the years I lived and loved, learned and grew at St Peter's Girls School and know that they contributed significantly to who I am today.*



Nibe neviki elimnandi (Have a good weekend)  
Darrel Webb  
(Headmaster)

## SPORT DEPARTMENT

Please remember the SP Sports Day this Saturday, 8 October. It will commence at 08:00 and end by 10:30 (the starting time has been changed from 09:00 – the School Communicator calendar has been updated).

Girls are to be seated in their Houses by 07:45. The girls have been practising all week and are excited to represent their houses. We have also held Inter-house standards this week – each girl ran the 800m, a longer sprint (either 100m, 150m or 200m depending on their Grade) and participated in the Long Jump. By doing so, they all earned additional points for their house which will be added on to the final total on Saturday.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Parking arrangements for Saturday are as follows:

All girls parents are to use the Chapel parking, the Girls SP and JP parking, and Greeff Road. There will be additional parking available on Feathers Field.

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)

## GRADE 4 MARKET DAY

Join us for fun games & delicious homemade treats

Grade 4 Market Day  
Friday 14th October  
09:00-11:00

All items are R5 so bring along R10-R30 to join in the fun and share a treat or two!

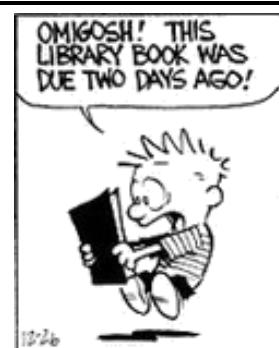
(All profit will be donated to charity)

## OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

I am sending home notices regarding overdue library books this week. Please assist your daughter to locate her library book(s) and return them to the library.

Books which remain overdue will need to be replaced or the amount charged to the school account.

Jenny Hugo  
(*Librarian*)



## PA NEWS - ST PETER'S CLASSIFIEDS

We are looking for a volunteer to manage the St Peter's Classifieds. This involves sourcing advertisers, managing the ads and payments and compiling the newsletter on a monthly basis.

A percentage of the revenue generated accrues to the responsible person to cover costs and time.

If you are interested, please mail:  
[robyn@designoval.co.za](mailto:robyn@designoval.co.za) for more information.

## SAFE DRIVING ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Please could parents be vigilant about driving safely on school grounds as there are many children walking around.

Even where there are 'caution children crossing' signs and pedestrian crossings, parents are ignoring the rules of the road. Please do not sms or talk on your cellphones while driving on the school property as it is against the law. This could save a life.



## College: Applications for Grade 8

Please be advised that the College Grade 8 2017 intake is now full. Applications are still welcome but will be added to the waiting list.

Headmaster, Mr Rui Morais, will commence with interviewing 2018 Grade 8 applicants from the Prep in November. Kindly contact Tanya Oakes on 087 000 0377 or [admissions@stpeterscollege.co.za](mailto:admissions@stpeterscollege.co.za) to schedule your child's interview. The enrolment application form is available via the website [here](#). Please ensure your application has been submitted to the College by the end of the year for 2018 as applications from other primary schools will be open for consideration from January 2017.

Please feel free to contact Theresa Monoyoudis on [marketing@stpeterscollege.co.za](mailto:marketing@stpeterscollege.co.za) or 087 000 0319 at the College if you have any questions.

## ADVENT TERM ECO DRIVE – GREY WATER AWARENESS

The Eco Committee's drive for the term is to create awareness in our St Peter's community about grey water. Grey water is waste water from your household that has not been contaminated by human waste or heavy chemicals found in detergents. 50 – 80% of all waste water from homes can in fact be re-used to water your gardens or flush your toilets. Grey cannot be stored for longer than 24 hours as bacteria multiply and contaminate the water. Using grey water allows opportunity for taking responsibility for efficient use of water, our precious finite resource.



Girls will be educated about grey water and encouraged to collect some of their own grey water from homes. Some easy suggestions for the girls can be:

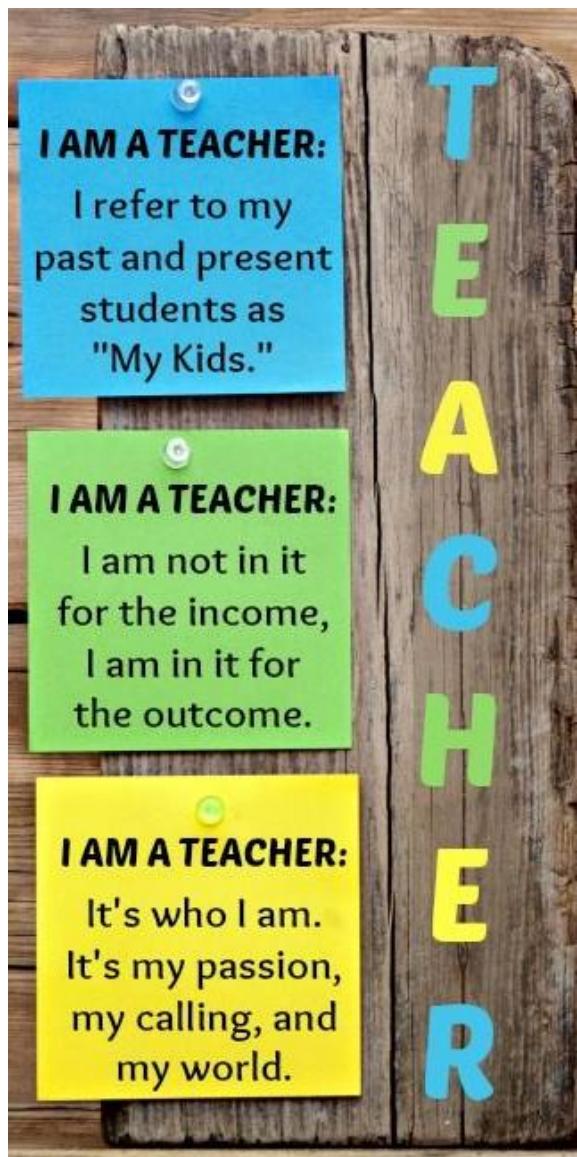
- To put a bucket in your shower to collect the water wasted while you are waiting for the hot water to come
- To use water from your bath
- To collect the little bit of water they never used from their water bottle that day at school
- To wash the fruit and vegetables in a bowl instead of under a running tap and to bring that water to school

Once they have collected the water, they must bring it school in a container. They can then place a coloured sticker on their poster in the classroom and empty their water somewhere on our campus.

This Eco drive will run from next Monday until half term.



## QUOTATION



We celebrated Teacher's Day this week. All eyes were on Mr Webb, Mr Wilson and Mr Thackwell, as they serenaded the ladies. Our very own 'Three Tenors'! Needless to say ... they made our day!



## FORTHCOMING WEEK

Tuesday	11/10/2016	07:30	09:30	Grade 6 Study Skills		Royce Hall
Wednesday	12/10/2016			REMINDER: COLLECTION FOR CHAPEL TOMORROW		
Wednesday	12/10/2016	14:00	16:00	ABRSM Theory Exams		Dining Hall
Thursday	13/10/2016	13:30	16:30	Tennis Matches	Grade 3-7	Home/Away
Friday	14/10/2016	09:00	11:00	Grade 4 Market Day	Grade 4	Girls School Terrace
Friday	14/10/2016	13:30	16:30	Athletics Meeting	Grade 3-7	Home

**REMINDERS**

Please be reminded of the Community Eucharist taking place at St Michael's Anglican Church in Bryanston, on Sunday, 9 October from 08:15 – 09:30 which is a changed time from the calendar.

**Sports and Cultural Photographs will be taken on Wednesday, 12 October 2016.**

The St Peter's Chess Tournament, on Saturday 15 October, has been **cancelled** as the participating schools are no longer available.



**LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE – book now**

**Saturday, 3 December 2016.**

This concert usually draws in excess of 2500 spectators.

The St Peter's Foundation invites you to participate in the **Christmas Market**, which is held prior to the Carols. This is a wonderful opportunity to sell your goodies!

To further support the fundraising efforts, a glossy **A4 Carols brochure** will be distributed to all the attending parents, grandparents, St Peter's staff and friends. This is a fantastic platform to advertise.

For Christmas Market details, contact Amanda or Dalene at [carols@stpeters.co.za](mailto:carols@stpeters.co.za)

For the Carols brochure details contact Monica [msloane@stpeters.co.za](mailto:msloane@stpeters.co.za)

## OLD BOYS CRICKET PLAYED ON SATURDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2016

Click on this link to see the full article on the St Peter's Website:

<http://www.stpeters.co.za/news/entry/st-peters-old-boys-cricket-match>



**Old Girls Tea** held on Saturday, 1 October 2016.  
When the 'Old Girls' get together, SMILES happen!

