



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Further to last week's newsletter on our philosophy of teaching Maths at St Peter's, this week I'd like to share an article relating to Carol Dweck's *Growth Mindset* and the part parents can play to promote this type of thinking. The *Growth Mindset* is at the very heart of what, and how, we teach at St Peter's:

PARENTING: WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WHEN THEY'RE NOT IN SCHOOL.

When the school year winds down, many parents ask themselves what they can do to help their children's school achievement. Most typically their thoughts will run to math drills or reading practice, but they should be considering something even more fundamental: their children's beliefs.

Research now shows that students' beliefs about their intelligence play an important role in their school achievement, and that parents can influence the development of these beliefs. Students who believe their intelligence is simply a fixed trait fare more poorly, especially as school becomes more challenging, than students who believe their intellectual abilities can grow. When students are taught the growth-oriented view—whether they are inner city middle school students or students at an elite university—they show a rapid increase in their enjoyment of learning and in their grades.

In one of our studies in the New York City schools, seventh graders were taught that every time they learn something new their brain forms new connections and that over time their intellectual abilities can be developed. Whereas a matched control group continued to show the poor motivation and decline in grades so commonly seen in adolescents, the group that learned the growth-oriented view of intelligence showed a significant upsurge in their motivation to learn and in their grades.

As is often the case, one adolescent stands out in our minds. He was the most turned-off and disruptive student in the class, but as we began to deliver the growth-oriented message, he looked up with tears in his eyes and said "You mean I don't have to be dumb?" For the rest of the term, he recruited his teachers to help him learn, and began for the first time to do all his homework and study for tests. As a result, his grades went from C's and D's to B+'s.

Wait a minute, you may be thinking, haven't we been down this road with the self-esteem movement? The self-esteem movement encouraged parents and teachers to tell children how smart they are. This, they believed, would give children confidence in their abilities, and thus the desire to learn and the hardiness to withstand difficulty. Research shows that this is wrong. Praising children's intelligence may boost their confidence for a brief moment, but by fostering the fixed view of intelligence, it makes them afraid of challenges, it makes them lose confidence when tasks become hard, and it leads to plummeting performance in the face of difficulty. In some studies, praising intelligence led to lower performance on an IQ test.

What should parents do? Research shows that praising the process – children's effort or strategies—creates eagerness for challenges, persistence in the face of difficulty, and enhanced performance. Next time you are tempted to tell your child that he or she is the next Einstein or future Picasso, stop yourself.

Instead, take the time to appreciate what they put into their work, not what the work means about their innate brains or talent. Ask them how they went about it and show them how you appreciate their choices, their thinking process, or their persistence. Ask them about strategies that didn't work and what they learned from them. When they make mistakes, use these as occasions for teaching them to come up with new strategies. When they do something quickly, easily, and perfectly, do not tell them how great they are. Tell them, "I'm sorry I wasted your time on something too easy for you. Let's do something you can learn from." Look for ways to convey your valuing of effort, perseverance, and learning—rather than some empty display of ability. Instead of false confidence in fixed ability, these methods will foster an appreciation for the true ingredients of achievement.

It is now abundantly clear from research that brains and talent alone don't bring success. The work of Benjamin Bloom and of Anders Ericsson shows clearly that people of outstanding accomplishment—be it in science, the arts, or athletics—are typically no more talented than many of their peers. In fact, their peers who seemed most brilliant at the start often turned out to achieve very little. This is most likely because, believing too much in the power of their brains and talent, they did not put in the effort that all great accomplishment requires.

In short, believing in brains or talent as something fixed and all-powerful works against long-term success in school, careers, and life in general. It's the wrong mindset. If you teach your children one thing this summer, it should be how to grow their intelligence.

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Darrel Webb (*Headmaster*)

FROM THE JP HEAD

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The festive season is here! I see decorations going up in shop windows, the tree at school is up and we are packing our Christmas boxes to give to under-privileged children, so they too can experience the joy of Christmas. This year we will begin the festivities with the Grade 0 Nativity Play. The Grade 1 Eisteddfod will be held the next week, followed by the Grade 2 Thanksgiving on Monday, 28. We have our *Little Mozart's Concert* the same day. All the invitations are coming your way, so be on the look-out for them!

GRADE 0 NATIVITY

I have had the privilege of watching the girls rehearse as they prepare for the Nativity Play. The teachers have done an awesome job of making sure the girls are ready. It is wonderful to see the girls' enthusiasm and animation, modelled by the teachers, in a truly charming way. We look forward to celebrating their successes next week. Monday's performance is for Grandparents and Caregivers. We will start at 10:00 sharp. On Tuesday evening we will host parents and brothers and sisters. Please see the detailed message which has been sent to Grade 0 parents with all the times, etc.

SWIMMING DEMONSTRATIONS AND GALA

The philosophy at St Peter's is to make sure that the girls are being developed as individuals at their own pace. We are privileged to have had expert training in this field. Competition is introduced and encouraged when the girls have reached a stage where they are ready. On Saturday next week, the girls will demonstrate

their ability and skills in the swimming pool. They Grade 1s and 2s will compete informally, similar to the Sports Day experience.

GRADE 0 2016 SEFIKENG GRADUATES

Parents who support our community school at Sefikeng had a treat when they witnessed the Grade 0 pupils, from that school, graduate into primary school. We thank the parents who have worked in the school - adding value and enhancing learning whenever they could.

BALLET AND DANCE-MOUSE RECOGNITION

We have had some interesting and entertaining times of late - celebrating these girls and their successes. We had a Dance Mouse Demonstration a week ago and this week our ballet girls have an opportunity to express themselves. Next week, Ballet will continue as per the schedule.

WAITING CLASS

Interns and teachers will keep clipboards with them for 15 minutes into waiting class. Parents and caregivers must sign out with the teacher. Thereafter, Interns on duty will keep these at tables marked accordingly, and parents will need to sign children out with the Intern on duty, until 14:00 when they are walked to Aftercare.

Aftercare children will meet at the stairs outside Chloe's room at 13:00. Interns who take the children there are to wait for an Afterschool rep before they go from the area to manage girls.

Thanks for assisting us in making sure the girls are safe.



The Grade 0 Sefikeng graduation.



Our beautiful ballerinas showing off their skills.



A very excited Jody Glass getting fitted for Grade 0 2017.



More talented ballerinas.

Heather Kissack (JP Head)

SCHOOL SHOP

Family Organisers

We have limited stock of the popular 2017 Family Organisers - R140

Grade 1 – 2017

The current Grade 0 girls will need the following uniform for Grade 1:

- Checked blouse and navy skirt
- Black shoes

Grade 3 – 2017

A reminder for current Grade 2 girls to get their Grade 3 uniform. They will need the following:

- Red sport shirt and skort
- House T-shirt and swimming cap

Nadia Thompson (School Shop Assistant)

From the Sports Department

We hope to see you at the Swimming Demonstration on Saturday 19 November at the Boys School swimming pool.

08:30-09:30 Grade 0
10:00-11:00 Grade 1 and 2

SECURITY

Please take note of this operational information/communication. Our security personnel have requested that parents only stop to collect children in the **demarcated Drop-off zones**. They are experiencing a number of incidences in which parents disregard this request and simply stop in the middle of the road. This results in traffic jams and it is the guards who take the brunt of other parents' anger. Thank you so much for your co-operation.

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Please encourage your children to get involved in the process of giving to others - the true meaning of Christmas.

We are including the following suggestions, as sometimes this is the only treat these communities receive:

Please include:

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Face Cloth, Soap
- Small toy (Maximum value R50 as the children will open their boxes in front of other children who have received a box and we don't want any disappointment)
- Packet of Sweets
- Crayons and blank book



If there is space, please fill box up with: Tinned fish, tinned Beef, tinned fruit, baked beans, sugar, tea bags, long life milk, jam, biscuits. Please be so kind as to wrap them in Christmas or newspaper.

Please help us to build on last year's success by returning your boxes by the **18 November**. We collected over 800 boxes last year.

Collection point: Girls JP reception area

Please contact Monica on msloane@stpeters.co.za for any further info.

Father Richard (*Chaplain*)

COMMUNICATOR ST PETER'S

We have had a number of parents requesting access to the School Communicator.

HOW TO GET IT:

There is a link below to a **Google Form** – which you are required to complete, please.

These details are needed in order to set up a once-off verification step.

Access to our St Peter's Communicator will only be available to those using an email address which is listed on our parent database.

LINK: <http://goo.gl/forms/kvMdLCEq0G>

PLEASE ALLOW 24 HOURS BEFORE YOU DOWNLOAD THE COMMUNICATOR ONTO YOUR DEVICE.

FOR MOBILE DEVICES

Please go into your PlayStore/AppStore and download **Communicator St Peter's**. When registering, it will say that you need to request a password. When you click on 'Request a password', the Communicator will check the database for your name and email address – when it 'matches/finds' the one which you supplied when completing your Google Form, it will email you your password to this address (this may take a number of minutes). You will need to use this password to access the St Peter's App on all your personal devices and therefore you should save the Password in case you need it again.

'Personalise' the app - once you have downloaded it. This means you must 'Deselect all' the channels, and then choose which channels you would like to receive.

Please make sure you tick **'Girls Senior Prep General'** or **'Girls Junior Prep General'** – in order to receive only Girls School information. (If you do not do this, you will find that you receive a lot of irrelevant information from the Boys School and the College!)

Jean Macleod (*Marketer*)

St Peter's 2017 Term Dates

Eater Term:	Wednesday 18 January – Wednesday 12 April Mid Term Break: Thursday 23 February – Return: Tuesday 28 February Extra day given: Monday 20 March (Bishops Holiday) Public Holiday: Tuesday 21 March
Trinity Term:	Wednesday 3 May – Friday 4 August Mid Term Break: Friday 23 June – Return: Monday 3 July Public Holidays: Friday 16 June
Advent Term:	Tuesday 5 September – Thursday 7 December Mid Term Break: Thursday 19 October – Return: Tuesday 24 October Public Holidays: Sunday 24 September, Monday 25 September

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday	14/11/2016	10:00:00	11:00:00	Grade 0 Nativity Dress Rehearsal	Royce Hall
Tuesday	15/11/2016	08:00:00	08:30:00	Chapel	Chapel
Tuesday	15/11/2016	18:00:00	19:00:00	Grade 0 Nativity Performance	Royce Hall
Thursday	17/11/2016	08:00:00	09:30:00	Christmas Puppet Show	JP Hall
Thursday	17/11/2016	13:00:00	16:00:00	Ballet Watching Day	Girls J Hall
Saturday	19/11/2016	08:30:00	09:30:00	Grade 0 Swimming Demonstration	Boys School Swimming Pool
Saturday	19/11/2016	10:00:00	11:00:00	Grade 1 & 2 Swimming Gala	Boys School Swimming Pool



SUNSET CAROLS
3 DECEMBER 2016

ONLINE ticket
SALES are open

R100 per Adult
R50 per CHILD (3-18 yrs only)

CHRISTMAS Market opens 14:00
CAROLS Start at 18:00

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

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