



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Thank you to all of our parents for making the effort to attend our recent Parent Information Evenings. If you weren't able to make it, please feel free to make an appointment with your daughter's class teacher to get all the necessary information. You are also more than welcome to pop in for a chat with me, to catch up on the overarching themes mentioned in our plenary sessions.

Further to the Information Evening, we'd really appreciate your feedback to ensure that we use this precious time with parents optimally. A form will be sent out in the next few days to this effect.

In the December holidays, I read a book entitled *Originals* by Adam Grant. Essentially, it provides a fascinating insight into the factors which make people 'original' and who have a significant impact on the world in which we live. I have paraphrased one chapter that speaks to the 'disconnect' I mentioned in last week's newsletter and again at our Information Evenings, that exists between 'doing school' and 'doing life.'

The Two Faces of Ambition

If you consider the individuals who will grow up and make a dent in the universe, the first group that probably comes to mind is child prodigies. These geniuses learn to read at age two, play Bach at four, breeze through calculus at six, and speak seven languages fluently by eight. Their classmates shudder with jealousy; their parents rejoice at having won the lottery. But to paraphrase T. S. Eliot, their careers tend to end not with a bang, but a whimper.

Child prodigies, it turns out, rarely go on to change the world. When psychologists study history's most eminent and influential people, they discover that many of them weren't unusually gifted as children. And if you assemble a large group of child prodigies and follow them for their entire lives, you'll find that they don't outshine their less precocious peers from families of similar means.

Intuitively, this makes sense. We assume that what gifted kids have in book smarts, they lack in street smarts. While they have the intellectual chops, they must lack the social, emotional, and practical skills to function in society. When you look at the evidence, though, this explanation falls short: Less than a quarter of gifted children suffer from social and emotional problems. The vast majority are well-adjusted and as delightful at a cocktail party as in a spelling bee.

Although child prodigies are often rich in both talent and ambition, what holds them back from moving the world forward is that they don't learn to be "original". As they perform in Carnegie Hall, win the science Olympics, and become chess champions, something tragic happens: Practice makes perfect, but it doesn't make new. The gifted learn to play magnificent Mozart melodies and beautiful Beethoven symphonies, but never compose their own original scores. They focus their energy on consuming existing scientific knowledge, not producing new insights. They conform to the codified rules of established games, rather than inventing their own rules or their own games. All along the way, they strive to earn the approval of their parents and the admiration of their teachers.

In adulthood, many child prodigies become experts in their fields and leaders in their organizations. Yet "only a fraction of gifted children eventually become revolutionary adult creators," laments psychologist Ellen Winner. "Those who do must make a painful transition" from a child who "learns rapidly and effortlessly in an established domain" to an adult who "ultimately remakes a domain."

Most prodigies never make that leap. They apply their extraordinary abilities in ordinary ways, mastering their jobs without questioning defaults and without making waves. In every domain they enter, they play it safe by following the conventional paths to success. They become doctors who heal their patients without fighting to fix the broken systems that prevent many patients from affording health care in the first place. They become lawyers who defend clients for violating outdated laws without trying to transform the laws themselves. They become teachers who plan engaging algebra lessons without questioning whether algebra is what their students need to learn. Although we rely on them to keep the world running smoothly, they keep us running on a treadmill.

Child prodigies are hindered by achievement motivation. The drive to succeed is responsible for many of the world's greatest accomplishments. When we're determined to excel, we have the fuel to work harder, longer, and smarter. But as cultures rack up a significant number of achievements, originality is increasingly left to a specialized few.

When achievement motivation goes sky-high, it can crowd out originality: The more you value achievement, the more you come to dread failure. Instead of aiming for unique accomplishments, the intense desire to succeed leads us to strive for guaranteed success. As psychologists Todd Lubart and Robert Sternberg put it, "Once people pass an intermediate level in the need to achieve, there is evidence that they actually become less creative."

The drive to succeed and the accompanying fear of failure have held back some of the greatest creators and change agents in history. Concerned with maintaining stability and attaining conventional achievements, they have been reluctant to pursue originality. Instead of charging full steam ahead with assurance, they have been coaxed, convinced, or coerced to take a stand. While they may seem to have possessed the qualities of natural leaders, they were figuratively-and sometimes literally-lifted up by followers and peers. If a handful of people hadn't been cajoled into taking original action, America might not exist, the civil rights movement could still be a dream, the Sistine Chapel might be bare, we might still believe the sun revolves around the earth, and the personal computer might never have been popularized.

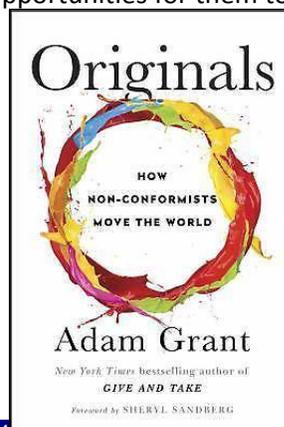
The last time you had an original idea, what did you do with it? When it comes to the powerful ideas in our heads and the core values in our hearts, we censor ourselves. "There are so few originals in life," says renowned executive Mellody Hobson, because people are afraid to "speak up and stand out."

Adam Grant (Extracts taken from *Originals*)

One of our many challenges as parents and teachers is, therefore, to empower girls to 'speak up and stand out.' We need to encourage conversations and opportunities for them to do so at every turn!

Have a great weekend.

Darrel Webb
(**Headmaster**)



FROM THE JP HEAD

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Sincere thanks to all parents for the overwhelming support we received over the past week. Please continue to participate and share in the school. This is a wonderful, caring and fun-filled community.

PLAY WORKSHOP

The Workshop was well attended and conversations were engaging and relevant. The JP Boys and Girls Schools will continue to bring relevant discussions to the fore during these planned Coffee Breaks. The posters, which were created by the parents at the workshop, will be on display.

WELCOME

On behalf of our St Peter's family I'd like to welcome all our new Grade 0 families, **Melissa Laroque** and **Antigoni Christos** into Grade 1 and **Mikayla Moodley** in Grade 2.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMME

At the beginning of last year, St Peter's launched its own Afterschool Programme, headed up by Trish Attlee. A property adjacent to St Peter's was acquired last year in order to set up 'a home away from home' to accommodate the boys and girls during the afternoon. The house and spacious garden provides wonderful spaces for the children to engage in creative and constructive activities as well as providing quiet areas for children to complete homework under supervision.

The facility has grown immensely over the first year and equipment such as jungle gyms, a sandpit, swings, toys and other equipment ensure the children enjoy a fun and stimulating afternoon. The Homework Rooms accommodates the growing numbers.

The children are served a 'hot lunch' from the school kitchen which includes a dessert. Fruit or biscuits are provided mid-afternoon. As the number of children has increased so has the Aftercare's staff. There are now five full-time supervisors as well as an intern who assist with homework supervision.

It is a happy environment where the children feel safe, supervised and nurtured. The ethos of St Peter's is perpetuated during the afternoon and the good old-fashioned Christian values are emphasised and reinforced at every opportunity.

It is wonderful to see the children socialise happily and engage in good old-fashioned play without the use of technology or screens of any kind. Activities such as making mud pies, climbing trees, skipping, playing soccer, building houses, playing shops and putting on plays are firm favourites at Aftercare! The facility would welcome the donation of any toys or equipment, which are no longer being used at home, in order to expand the offering provided.

We look forward to another happy and fulfilling year at the Afterschool Programme. The facility will continue to expand as the need arises so please feel free to send your son/ daughter when or if it is convenient.

The fee structure is as follows:

PROGRAMME	TIME	GRADE	FEE
Full time	13:00 -17:30	Gr 0 - 2	R1725
Adhoc	13:00 -17:30	Gr 0 - 2	R130
Full time	13:00 -16:00	Gr 0 - 2	R1400 (9 months)
Adhoc	13:00 -16:00	Gr 0 - 2	R110
Full time	15:30 – 17:30	Gr 3 - 7	R700 per month
Adhoc	15:30 – 17:30	Gr 3 - 7	R55 per day
Adhoc – late lunch		Gr 3 - 7	R35 per day
17:30 – 18:00 pick up			R25 per day per child

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC – FRIDAY, 27 JANUARY

Due to the weather and wet fields the JP picnic has been cancelled.

FAMILY PHOTO

Please send your family photo to the class teacher. A board will be going up shortly.

Grade 0s being creative in their art lesson.



Mums being equally creative at the play workshop.

**Heather Kissack
(JP Head)**

PHOTOGRAPHS OF GIRLS AT SCHOOL

From time to time photographs, which have been taken of the girls are used by the Marketer, in digital and print media e.g. newspapers, magazines, Facebook, d6 Communicator Gallery or on our website/online.

If you **DO NOT** wish us to use photos of you or your daughter, please contact **Jean Macleod** in writing at jmacleod@stpeters.co.za.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Please note the official School Individual and Class Group photographs will be taken on **Wednesday, 1 February** (this coming week). Normal summer school uniform must be worn. It would be a good idea for girls to bring a hairbrush to school that day. No sharing of hairbrushes, please.

Jean Macleod
(*Marketer*)

CAR SECURITY STICKERS

Thank you to the majority of parents who have placed the new, yellow 2017 security stickers on their cars. It makes the gate guards jobs so much easier and in turn makes for a safer school campus for our children.

This is a reminder to those parents who have not put the new sticker on their cars to please do so. The stickers were distributed with the December 2016 reports and new parents received theirs in their welcome packs. If however, you still need a sticker, the Reception desks have them and you will be required to sign for them.

Jean Macleod (*Marketer*)

CHAPEL COLLECTION

Our Chapel collection this term will be going towards supporting Rainbows and Smiles. Rainbows and Smiles is a community-based, charitable foundation dedicated to providing emotional, social and financial support to children diagnosed with cancer or a life-threatening illness, and their families and caregivers.

Kamohelo Kotsi
(*Chaplain Assistant*)

DIVERSITY: CHINESE NEW YEAR

The 2017 Chinese New Year begins on January 28. The celebrations will start on January 27, New Year's Eve, and continue for around two weeks - ending on February 2. The global celebrations are an explosion of light and sound involving bell ringing, lighting firecrackers, and watching traditional lion dances. Chinese families gather together for a reunion dinner on New Year's Eve, and clean their houses to sweep away bad fortune on New Year's Day. Traditionally, kids would be given red envelopes stuffed with 'lucky money' and positive

wishes on New Year's Day. Some teens now have red envelope apps, so their relatives can transfer cash digitally!

This year is the Year of the Rooster. Roosters are known for being trustworthy, punctual and responsible (especially at work). Roosters are also active, amusing, popular, healthy, outspoken, honest, loyal, talkative and charming. Famous faces born in the Year of the Rooster include Prince Philip, Serena Williams, Beyoncé and Roger Federer.

St Peter's wishes our Chinese families and friends a blissful New Year.

Vijay Maharaj (*Director: Diversity*)

INTENTIONS OF LEAVING ST PETER'S

Kindly send an email, to the Head, informing him of your notice and giving a term's notice. This is essential in order to qualify for a deposit refund.

Kelly Bongers (*Admissions Officer*)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Registration for individual music lessons is now online. Please follow the link below to enrol your daughter.

The link is also available on the Communicator.

<https://goo.gl/forms/xJdsPcgclF1kSHsf1>

Marguerite Schmitt

(*Head of Music*)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday	01/02/2017			Individual and Class Photos	
Wednesday	01/02/2017	18:30:00	20:00:00	PA Meeting	Mvukuzane Pavilion



SUPPORT GR 7 FUNDRAISER

Did you know?

- Moms and Dads can order flowers from the Gr7 Committee for **FREE** delivery to the Girls Senior Prep Reception.
- Place your order by Tuesday for delivery by Friday.
- A bunch of flowers will cost only **R200**.
- Please email naomibrett20@gmail.com for orders.

We Thank You for your Support!!

PA NEWS

On behalf of the St Peter's Parents Association, a belated *welcome back to school* (or to the school if you are a new parent). 2017 will be an exciting and fun-filled year and we look forward to seeing you all at our many events planned for the year. Not least of these is the famed St Peter's Staff Variety Show, which takes place in March/April. Make sure you save the date as this is an event not to be missed!

We are sad to say goodbye to our Joint PA Chair, Cindy Wannell, who stepped down from the PA at the end of 2016. Cindy served on the PA for many years, being a long-standing member of the Girls Prep PA, as the My School representative and later as the Chair. She was instrumental in combining the two parent bodies and served as Joint Chair, originally with Steve du Toit and last year alongside Robyn Doak. The PA would like to thank Cindy for her many years of service - her valuable input will be sorely missed.

The St Peter's Parents Association is proud to announce the appointment of Malope Mabizela as Joint Chair. Malope will be working with Robyn Doak and will be the Girls Prep representative on the PA and on Council. Robyn Doak will continue to represent both.

Malope has been a parent at the school since 2011 and has been active on a number of levels. She has served as a class mom and as the Girls Prep EC rep for two years. Currently she is a Trustee for the St Peter's Foundation and sits on the Transformation Committee. She is a qualified CA and started her career at KPMG, subsequently worked for ABSA Corporate and Merchant Bank and recently worked at Joe Public as a Financial Manager.

Malope has three children at St Peter's, a son in Grade 6, a daughter in Grade 5 and another son in Grade 2.