



## ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

### FROM THE HEADMASTER

A small contingent of staff were fortunate enough to attend the International Principal's Conference in Cape Town, recently. Although the quality of the presentations at the conference varied substantially, the over-riding emerging theme (for me) was the question to all schools around the world; Are we really preparing our children for the future?

Do rigid timetables, set classes, prescribed curricula, standardised testing, marks, averages, etc., etc. give our children the tools to cope with the future? My answer to this question is 'no', but we continue to operate in this manner because of the next step in our educational 'sausage machine'. Prep Schools have to prepare children for High School (not to mention the pressure of scholarships) and High Schools have to prepare children for University through an antiquated, draconian, 'teach for the test' Matric system!

In a recent interview, the MD of Daimler Benz (Mercedes Benz) said their competitors are no longer other traditional car companies, but rather Tesla, Google, Apple and Amazon. He went on to say *that, software would disrupt most traditional industries in the next 5-10 years:*

- *Uber is just a software tool. They don't own any cars, and are now the biggest taxi company in the world.*
- *Airbnb is now the biggest hotel company in the world, although they don't own any properties.*
- *In the US, many young lawyers don't get jobs. Because of IBM Watson, you can get legal advice within seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans.*
- *Watson already helps doctors diagnosing cancer 4 times more accurately than humans do.*
- *There are companies who will build a medical device that works with your phone, which takes your retina scan, your blood sample and you breathe into it. It then analyses 54 biomarkers that will identify nearly any disease. It will be cheap, so in a few years everyone on this planet will have access to world class medical analysis, nearly for free. Goodbye, medical establishment.*
- *In 2018, the first self-driving cars will appear for the public. You don't want to own a car anymore. You will call a car with your phone, it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination. You will not need to park it, you only pay for the driven distance and can be productive while driving. Our kids will never get a driver's license and will never own a car.*
- *Insurance companies will have massive trouble because without accidents, the insurance will become 100x cheaper. Their car insurance business model will disappear. Real estate will change. Because if you can work while you commute, people will move further away to live in a more beautiful neighborhood.*
- *Electric cars will become mainstream about 2020. Cities will be less noisy because all new cars will run on electricity. Electricity will become incredibly cheap and clean.*
- *Last year, more solar energy was installed worldwide than fossil. Energy companies are desperately trying to limit access to the grid to prevent competition from home solar installations, but that can't last.*

- *With cheap electricity comes cheap and abundant water. Desalination of salt water now only needs 2kWh per cubic meter (@ 0.25 cents). We don't have scarce water in most places, we only have scarce drinking water. Imagine what will be possible if anyone can have as much clean water as he wants, for nearly no cost.*
- *The price of the cheapest 3D printer came down from \$18,000 to \$400 within 10 years. In the same time, it became 100 times faster. All major shoe companies have already started 3D printing shoes. At the end of this year, new smart phones will have 3D scanning possibilities. You can then 3D scan your feet and print your perfect shoe at home.*
- *In China, they already 3D printed and built a complete 6-storey office building. By 2027, 10% of everything that's being produced will be 3D printed.*
- *There will be a \$100 agricultural robot in the future. Farmers in 3rd world countries can then become managers of their field instead of working all day on their fields.*
- *Aeroponics will need much less water. The first Petri dish produced veal, is now available and will be cheaper than cow produced veal in 2018. Right now, 30% of all agricultural surfaces is used for cows. Imagine if we don't need that space anymore. There are several startups who will bring insect protein to the market shortly. It contains more protein than meat. It will be labelled as "alternative protein source" (because most people still reject the idea of eating insects).*
- *There is an app called "Moodies" which can already tell in which mood you're in. By 2020, there will be apps that can tell by your facial expressions, if you are lying. Imagine a political debate where it's being displayed when they're telling the truth and when they're not.*
- *Bitcoin may even become the default reserve currency ... Of the world!*
- *Right now, the average life span increases by 3 months per year. Four years ago, the life span used to be 79 years, now it's 80 years. The increase itself is increasing and by 2036, there will be more than one year increase per year. So we all might live for a long, long time, probably way more than 100.*
- *By 2020, 70% of all humans will own a smart phone. That means, everyone has the same access to world-class education. Every child can use Khan academy for everything a child needs to learn at school in First World countries. There have already been releases of software in Indonesia and soon there will be releases in Arabic, Swahili and Chinese this summer.*

So why then do we continue, in schools across the world, to educate our children for today's world instead of tomorrow's? A world where they will need: emotional intelligence, creativity, leadership skills, critical thinking and very obviously an ability to use technology because in the future - if your business idea doesn't work using your phone, it simply won't work.

For the immediate future, we will continue to prepare our girls to excel in High School, but we also need to review and reflect on current practice to ensure we are offering an education that will have some benefit for our girls in the future.

Have a good weekend!

Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb (Headmaster)

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## FROM THE JP HEAD

### NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PRINCIPALS (ICP) 2017

The long weekend was a busy one for the Heads who attended the ICP Conference. I came away with a great deal of inspiration. I appreciated the opportunity to listen to international and local educators. The ideas that resonated with me were:

- The future is uncertain, so build courage and inquiry
- Careers will change, so teach flexibility and collaboration
- Machines will replace many jobs, so encourage skills that are universal
- The speed of change is greater by the day, so teach resilience and GRIT
- We will need to learn, unlearn and relearn, so teach a growth mind-set

The challenge for us is to implement a programme and curriculum that supports our girls in this fast moving and ever developing world. I am confident that we are doing that.

The important point that I took away from the conference was the confirmation that St Peter's is committed to creating opportunities for the development of these skills in our girls. Our focus on values, attitudes and dispositions is as important as our academic curriculum. We, as staff, are fortunate to work at a school that values professional development so highly.

### HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Grade 2 team, supported by Mrs Zanele Mbatha, put on a wonderful display of dance and cultural information for Heritage Day. The Grade 0s had a Heritage Day feast. It was super to see everyone dressed in their outfits and regalia. The food was delicious too! Thank you to all the staff involved, as well as the parents, who supported them.





### **BIRDS AND BEES TALK – THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER**

On Thursday we are hosting a talk by Wendy Wenzel, our resident School Therapist, on how to discuss this sometimes difficult subject with our girls. We will start at 07:30 promptly, in the Girls JP Hall. Tea and coffee will be served.

### **JP SPORTS DAY**

Sports Day is on Saturday, 7 October, on Newlands Field.

Please have the girls in their classrooms by 07:30. They will be led up to the field at 07:45, ready to start at 08:00.

Please remember the following:

- Your daughter must be dressed in her sports kit and school hat (she can wear a school peak)
- It is important that she has a water bottle. (Remember, juice will make her very thirsty)
- Please apply sunblock before coming to school.
- There will be light refreshments on sale, hosted by the Grade 2 parents. Please support them.

Just for fun: Grade 2 parents will participate in a Parent/Daughter Shuttle Relay!

See you all there . . .

**Heather Kissack**

*(JP Head)*

## DIVERSITY: ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

*Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year, was celebrated from 20 to 22 September – a period of prayer and a time to ask the Almighty to grant a year of peace, prosperity and blessing.

*Yom Kippur* (30 September) is the holiest day of the year. Yom Kippur means ‘Day of Atonement,’ as the verse states, ‘For on this day He will forgive you, purify you, so that you are cleansed from all your sins before God.’

St Peter’s wishes our Jewish friends, pupils and parents well over this holy period. Shanah Tovah! May you have a sweet New Year.

Vijay Maharaj (*Director: Diversity*)

## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

### NASH RAHUBE

Nash Rahube is 24 years old. She was born in Soweto. Nash matriculated from McAuley House.

She has no parents. Her mom died in 2009, the day after her little brother turned one.

Nash has a three-year-old daughter and says, ‘*She is the reason I wanted to better myself and create a better future for her*’.

*‘I love teaching and I am very grateful that I was chosen to be a part of the St Peter’s Isematholeni Intern Programme so that I can pursue my dreams. I want to be the role model that I never had, to my daughter and all the children that I am going to teach. Life may get a little tough, but I always smile knowing that I am on the road to success!’*



## WEEK AHEAD

04/10/2017	09:00:00	17:00:00	ABRSM Practical Exams (Music)	
<b>05/10/2017</b>	<b>06:00:00</b>	<b>06:00:00</b>	<b>World Teachers' Day</b>	
05/10/2017	07:30:00	08:00:00	"Birds and Bees" Parent Talk	Girls JP Hall
05/10/2017	09:00:00	17:00:00	ABRSM Practical Exams (Music)	
05/10/2017	18:30:00	20:30:00	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
07/10/2017	08:00:00	11:00:00	Girls JP Sports Day	Newlands Field

**CHAPEL BIRTHDAYS – 3 OCTOBER**

The following girls will receive their birthday cards on Tuesday, 3 October at 08:00 in the Girls JP Hall. The birthday girls are welcome to donate a book to the library. Please note that it does not have to be wrapped.

O Belford	G Sithole
T Mpakati	T Strangway Driver Pitman
A Ellis	S Dlamini
J Ramsay	M Harris
L Nkadimeng	Y Pillay
E Scribante	R Romanis
K Thomson	C Kirkwood
A Boyd	M Gershow
T Sibisi	Z Stockill

We look forward to seeing parents of these girls, there!

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**SAVE THE DATE: MY STORY - REFLECTIONS ON TRANSFORMATION AT ST PETER'S**

Given recent events at schools around the country and following Greg Royce's message to St Peter's School Prep parents at the end of last term, we will end this year's *My Story* series by reflecting on the Transformation journey at the School.

We will look back at all that has been achieved and look to the road ahead: identifying current challenges and discussing concrete initiatives for 2018. We would welcome your input and hope that you will be able to join us.

Date: Tuesday, 10 October

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Venue: Girls Junior Prep Hall

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