



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE RECTOR

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our 2011 Boys School leaver group did us proud in the 2016 matriculation exams, garnering 125 distinctions. In the following configuration:

- 1 distinction – 17 boys
- 2 distinctions – 2 boys
- 3 distinctions – 5 boys
- 4 distinctions – 3 boys
- 5 distinctions – 7 boys
- 6 distinctions – 2 boys
- 7 distinctions – 2 boys
- 8 distinctions – 2 boys

We are especially delighted with their results, given that it has never been school policy to select pupils only on academic ability at entry. We do not need for our Old Boys and Girls to become famous public figures. Our only hope for each child that passes through our school is that as adults, they are contributing citizens, wonderful parents and the best that they can be in any career they choose, hopefully bettering the lives of those around them.

Our first crop of Girls School leavers matriculates this year. I have no doubt that they will do us equally proud!

Questions for the Rector:

If anyone wishes any further information on any topic, please feel free to contact me at school or at (dradloff@stpeters.co.za)

Greg Royce
(Rector)

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Prior to our Midterm break, I challenged the Senior Prep Girls to find the time to use their imaginations – to make up games to play or at the very least read books that enabled their minds to be set free. In today's world of TV, DVDs, Play Station, X box, board games and a myriad of toys, children seldom get to use their imaginations – an

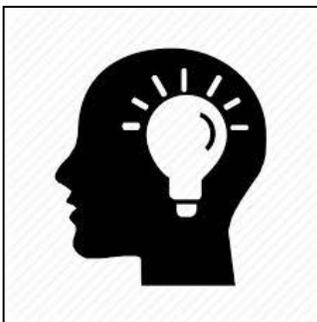
aspect of thinking that is crucial to develop any form of innovation or creativity. Parents and teachers can do a great deal to enable their children to rediscover their imaginations.

Extracts from an article written for Childtime Learning Centres gives us some sound advice:

The Importance of Imagination

Do children today use their imaginations as much as we did when we were kids? Do you see your children spinning incredible tales and stories in their fantasy play like we used to when we played “cops and robbers” or “house”? Or does your child’s fantasy play seem to consist only of repetitive movements like karate chops or ballerina spins that have no story to them?

In the world of child development you may hear us use phrases like “critical thinking skills” and “creative problem-solving abilities” when referring to our goals for your child’s cognitive development. What we are really talking about is... imagination. The way to create human beings with imagination is to provide them with opportunities to develop it for themselves when they are very young. These opportunities are found in one place and one place only... play. Playing with paints, playing with play dough, with costumes, with glue and with crayons. Making a mess. Exploring the woods. Splashing in a puddle. Wondering at a caterpillar you notice inching by you. Pretending to be a bird, gliding through the sky.



Are you providing your children enough opportunities for this type of play? If they are spending hours sitting at a computer, watching television or playing video games, they are passive participants being fed someone else’s stories instead of having the time and space to dream up their own. If they are enrolled in soccer, ballet, karate and gymnastics all in the same week, they are receiving wonderful opportunities to develop their skills. But they have little to no opportunity to use their creativity and imagination to decide how to use their free time, what fantasy to explore or what part of their world they’d like to discover more about at their own pace, in their own way.

Often parents today think that if they give their children too much free time they are wasting opportunities for learning and preparing children for their futures. But these types of parental choices, though done with love and the best of intentions, are not a gift to children, according to current child development theory and research. Children today desperately need time and space to develop their creative imaginations free from adult agendas. Even if your children complain, “I’m bored! There’s nothing to do!” please, please, please trust that if you force them to figure out for themselves how to fill their time, their innate creativity will kick in and their imaginations will soar!

Have a good weekend! Nibe nempelasonto emnandi!

Darrel Webb
(Headmaster)

FROM THE JP HEAD

WHAT IS READING?

Are you constantly wondering about the progress your child is making in reading and whether she is on track? Do you want to reassure yourself that her progress is measurable and in the range of expected standards? Do you worry that she should be reading sooner, more or 'harder' books?

Teaching reading is complex and is a part of every aspect of school life. Reading includes decoding and encoding and most importantly, making meaning from print. It is taught throughout the day, through shared reading, research, guided reading and specific language instruction. The earliest reading behaviour is typically modelling of reading; holding a book and pretending to read and this develops throughout our lives. Every child grows their reading skills in their own way and at their own pace. As parents, we have the responsibility to support the process and trust that the school is doing their job. Which we do!

Here are ways in which you can support reading at home.

- Read to and with your children.
- Encourage them to explore a variety of different genres: plays, poems, fiction and non-fiction.
- Teach your children to respond to different texts, for example – newspapers, magazines, menus and recipes. Ask questions, explore characters and make connections to their own lives and others.
- Ensure your child has the opportunity to read independently each day.
- Encourage them to re-read texts and practise expression and fluency.
- Support reading strategies teachers provide.
- Practise writing stories based on reading experiences.
- Encourage your children to take risks and test out their skills; make it safe.
- Model reading yourself!
- Have fun!

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body - Joseph Addison

LEANNE FLEMMING GRADE 0 LOCUM POSITION

It is with great pleasure that we announce the successful candidate to locum Mrs Megan Baker's Grade 0 class through to the year-end.

Leanne Flemming is an enthusiastic, experienced teacher, with all the attributes of engagement as well as empathy to meet the needs of our girls and grow them with confidence. She has a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Cum Laude, and a solid background in classroom teaching. She is coming from Montrose Primary School and St Stithians as a classroom teacher and sports coach. Last year she worked at St Peter's and taught Sport (including swimming) from Grade 0-7. She describes herself as: *a professional, committed, qualified teacher, who believes that the best teaching environment comes through dedication and passion in your work, accompanied with strong communication skills and confidence. Catching the interest of your pupils and helping them engage in learning will result in increasing their success and therefore yours as a teacher, creating a holistic learning environment for your pupils.*

Leanne has many skills including the 'ability to handle stressful situations, she is hardworking and conscientious, with a strong emphasis on teamwork, high energy and self-motivation, together with excellent classroom management and creative lesson planning approaches'. Our excellent Grade 0 team are excited to welcome her and give her all the support she may need.

Leanne is married to Graham, and she has recently been on maternity leave. Luke will be 6 months when she returns to St Peter's to take on this new role. She is committed to transitioning into the classroom, and getting to know each girl before the end of the term. Parents will meet with her during parent conferences later in the term, as well as incidentally during the normal running of our school programme.

LENT

A charming incident that came out of Ash Wednesday. One little girl gave up Crispie Cream doughnuts for Lent, she adores them and gets one every Saturday. She then brought in a Crispie Cream doughnut to school as she wanted to give it in with Chapel Collection as her offering of what she was giving up.

Heather Kissack
(JP Head)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday	08/03/2017	18:30:00	20:30:00	PA AGM - Postponed to 15 March	Mvukuzane Pavilion
Friday	10/03/2017	10:00:00	11:00:00	Nursery School Tea (Phonological Awareness)	Girls JP Hall
Sunday	12/03/2017	09:30:00	10:30:00	Morning Prayer (Chapel Choir)	Chapel

YEAR OF THE WOMAN



Prof. Carol-Ann Benn addressed the parents on breast cancer in the Royce Hall on Tuesday evening. This was an informative talk focusing on screening, early detection, treatment and living with cancer. She encouraged conversation with our girls, family members, nannies, domestics and work mates. Mammograms and regular checks are important. Medical aid members should make their annual visits to hospitals of their choice. Helen Joseph Hospital does not turn away non-medical aid members. The Year of the Woman (YOW) steering committee thanks Colleen Hayward-Butt for arranging the talk that left us positive and hopeful!



PA AGM – WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH

Please note that Notice of PA AGM and Proxy Forms have been emailed to all parents. They can also be found on the Communicator St Peter's under Resources/BOYS/GIRLS PA.

INDIVIDUAL AND CLASS GROUP PHOTOGRAPH ORDERS

You will have received your daughter's individual photograph (a 'thumbnail' version), attached to an order form, today. Individual photos are not displayed on the photographer's website – for security reasons.

All group photos can be viewed and ordered on the website: www.lifeimaging.co.za

Username: stpeters

Password: spg123

(These details are on the order form)

Please read ordering instructions very carefully to avoid frustration!

Photographs which are ordered using the order form - must be paid for via EFT (banking details on the form). Proof of EFT should be attached to the order form when it is returned. **NO CASH CAN BE ACCEPTED.**

Deadline for orders is **6 March 2017.**

Jean Macleod

(Marketer: Girls School)

STAFF VARIETY SHOW BOOKING PROCEDURE

It's the greatest show of the year

Let's 'bout it

TACO

Price: R300 per head
down by R50 
(Incl dinner & show)

MexiKEYN
2017 STAFF VARIETY SHOW

Get your table of 10 together or we will find you a spot

Show dates: 24 or 25 MARCH / 31 MARCH or 1 APRIL

Booking procedure:
Send a booking request to svs@stpeters.co.za on Friday, 3 March at 08:00. Tickets will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Email your name, the names of those on your table, preferred date and second choice date to the email address provided.

You will be notified by Monday, 6 March if your booking has been successful. Payment in full will be required by Tuesday, 7 March to secure, else the table will be reallocated to the next person on the waiting list.