



ST PETER'S GIRLS PREP SCHOOL

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Please see below, information on technology from Scott Hauptfleisch.

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."

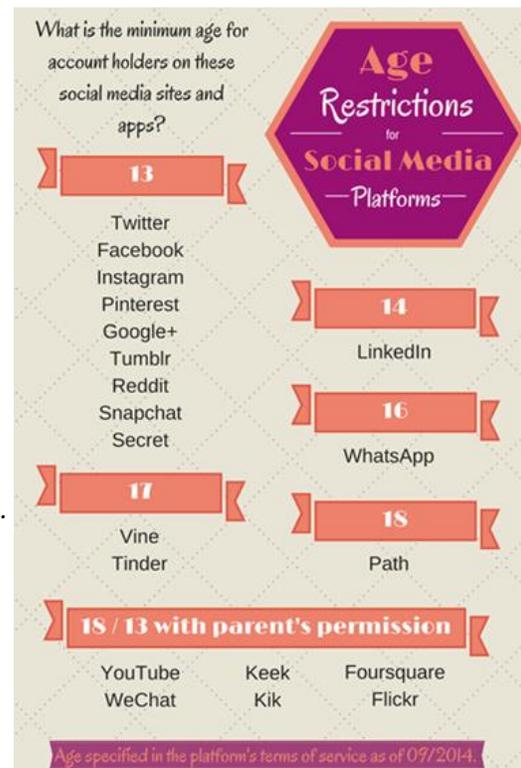
How children use digital devices and games will be dictated by the example that parents set at home. It's worth considering this the next time you download an app to keep the children quiet.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FKepNvkL7g>

Please assist us by explaining this to you 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 Hauptfleisch
(Head of Information Technology)



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 has 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 have 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.

Patti Blackhurst



FROM THE JP

Grade 2 Happenings

There has been a tangible energy in the Grade 2 classes over the last few weeks, as our young scientists explore and manipulate changing matter. Our classes have made sugar crystals, seen yeast 'eat' biscuits and sugar, baked bread rolls and had many interesting discussions and thoughts on various topics. Our focus has been to foster an interest and love for Science, whilst simultaneously encouraging the girls to critically think about the world around us. We have been impressed by the level of enthusiasm the girls have shown for this Unit of Inquiry and have been excited ourselves by the number of 'teachable moments' these discussions have allowed.



Learning lands recently opened in the JP library. The learning Land is based on the Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton. Magic lands appear at the top of the Faraway Tree. Each land is different and the children of the Faraway Tree have fun exploring the different lands. This term Marble Land has appeared at the top of our treehouse. The girls have been encouraged to explore different uses for marbles.

They have created marbled art and have used recycled material to make their own marble runs. They have also learnt how to play a game of marbles. The girls are very excited about this space of discovery and thoroughly enjoy their time spent in the Learning Land.



In the coming weeks, we will be preparing the girls for the Grade 2 Service of Thanksgiving. This allows for an opportunity for the girls to bid farewell to the Junior Prep as well as showcasing some of their experiences during their time in the JP. Formalities of the day will be communicated in the near future.

Kerry Glass, Catriona Montagu and Bronwyn Peake

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday	10/10/2016	09:00:00	10:00:00	10th Birthday Activity	Aerial Photo	POSTPONED
Tuesday	11/10/2016	08:00:00	08:30:00	Chapel		Chapel

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.

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 for more information.
