

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." – Ecclesiastes 3:1

The Valediction Service and Matric Dinner marked the official end of formal schooling for our Class of 2025. These two occasions are always deeply meaningful, moments of reflection, gratitude, and anticipation for what lies ahead. While our matrics are now fully immersed in their final IEB examinations, last week's events reminded us of the importance of balance, purpose, and wellbeing as they transition into the next stage of their lives.

We were honoured to welcome back one of our own, Makungu Valoyi, Head Girl of 2015, as our guest speaker at the Valediction Service and as my guest at the Matric Dinner. Makungu, who now runs a practice specialising in mental wellbeing in her hometown of Phalaborwa, spoke powerfully about the need to care for oneself both physically and mentally in an increasingly demanding world.

She shared her insights on burnout, a challenge faced by many students and professionals alike, and emphasised the importance of self-awareness, rest, and setting healthy boundaries. Her words served as a timely reminder that success is not simply measured by academic results or professional titles, but by one's ability to sustain passion, energy and purpose over the long term.

What resonated most deeply was how Makungu connected her message to the values of Stanford Lake College, values that she said continue to guide her both personally and professionally. She spoke of resilience, cultivated through the challenges faced during outdoor education and the rigour of our academic programme. She mentioned the community spirit that taught her empathy and collaboration, qualities that now underpin her work with clients and colleagues. She also reflected on the school's emphasis on integrity and responsibility, which she carries into her practice, ensuring that compassion and professionalism remain at the heart of her work.

As we reflect on her words, we can take great pride in knowing that Stanford Lake College continues to produce young men and women of depth, courage and purpose, individuals who make a difference in the world beyond our gates.

Warm Regards





THE WEEK

Badger of the Week! Congratulations to Dario Wasley for earning two gold medals at the Top Schools Gala this past weekend! Your dedication and outstanding performance in the pool make us incredibly proud!



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ROUND SQUARE TRAVELS ABROAD



Nick Dando Arrving in Germany, Louisenlund



Miano Tshivula with his exchange Will Jones in Rousseau Lake College near Ontario, Canada



Carmen van der Merwe with her exchange Jemima and Ruby Fair's exchange Maddie from The Armidale School in Australia.



Hana MacMillan and her exchange Eva from Scotch Oakburn College in Tasmania.



Ru Ngwarai in Chile! Enjoying school life and a uniform change at Craighouse School

Just a few of this years travel destinations

Lorelei Scott with her exchange Ella from Radford College in Canberra.







Beyond the Dunes

In September, eleven senior students represented Stanford at the prestigious Round Square International Conference in Dubai. The theme, Beyond the Dunes, explored Dubai's transformation from desert landscape to thriving modern city. Delegates reflected on innovation, sustainability, and the power of vision in overcoming challenges. Our students took part in inspiring keynote sessions, engaging baraza discussions, and experienced the warmth and hospitality of the UAE. From a boat cruise on the Dubai Marina to a thrilling desert adventure, the week offered unforgettable moments that broadened their perspectives and deepened their understanding of global collaboration.

This year, Stanford hosted eleven exchange students from partner schools around the world, enriching our community with new stories, languages, and cultures. Another three are due to arrive in January, while fourteen of our own students are currently on life-changing exchanges to destinations including Australia, England, Germany, the United States, Canada, and Chile — each gaining new confidence and a deeper appreciation of what it means to be a global citizen..

MAKING WAVES

Limpopo Top Schools Gala

This past Saturday, our swimmers took part in the Limpopo Top Schools Gala in Tzaneen, delivering an exceptional performance in the pool. There were some standout swims — particularly from Dario Wasley, who claimed gold in both of his breaststroke events and helped his relay team secure two additional medals.

Stanford Lake College finished the day with an impressive 10 podium finishes, showcasing the depth of talent and dedication within our swimming team.

Medal winners: Alessia Dowle, Dario Wasley, Ewan Snyman, Nathan Berrie, Andreas Toulou, and the U16 Boys Relay Team.

A huge congratulations to all our swimmers who represented SLC with pride at this provincial event!







This past weekend, Stanford Lake College teams took on the SA Schools Adventure Race at Treverton College, with three teams competing across the 120km and 60km distances.

In the 120km race, Ilne Kotzé teamed up with her brother Benno, a Stanford Old Boy, $racing \ as \ SLC \ Wild \ Explorers. \ Despite \ challenging \ conditions - rain, \ cold, \ and \ fatigue - rain, \ cold, \ and \ cold, \ c$ they showed incredible grit, finishing as a short-course team just after midnight.

In the 60km Schools race, Benjamin Terblanche and Judah Leher (SLC Expedition Badgers) delivered a strong performance, finishing 4th in the School Pairs category after just under eight hours on the course.

The mixed four team, SLC Badger Clan — ${\sf JC}$ Els, Juliette Leher, Inbar Cohen, and Zoe Trusler — took on their first major race together. They battled tough night conditions and finished after 13 hours, claiming 1st place as the only four-person Schools team.







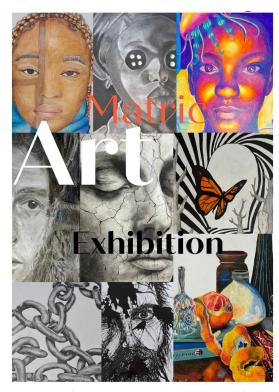












31st October 2025 Venue: HPC at 17h00









