



Matters of Principal

How many of us recall the day that Nelson Mandela walked free at last? Amidst fears of rioting and the stock-piling of food, journalists waited eagerly to report on South Africa potentially imploding and civil strife hitting the streets. And nothing happened. The journalists slunk off, disappointed, to find the next juicy drama and we moved on to find our way along a path to democracy. A flawed and imperfect democracy that still has much to be changed about it, but a democracy nonetheless.

In the US National Archives in Washington, DC, armed guards stand watch over three documents enshrined under bullet-proof glass: The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and The Bill of Rights. These pages serve as the ideological foundations for the government of the United States, expressing both the inspiration for American democracy and the blueprint for carrying it out. They speak to all humans being born with "natural rights," including the right to protect their lives, liberty, and property and that their government is a "social contract" between people and their rulers, which can be dissolved if rulers fail to promote the welfare of the people.

And it is against this history that the world waits, amidst allegations of fraud and public bickering, to see the outcome of the elections in the USA. Many are bracing for violence while political polarization dominates headlines in a race for the White House that is fractious, fraught with tension and fueled by behaviour unbecoming of world leaders. I confess I do not know a great deal about Biden, but for the last four years, Donald Trump has used social media to abuse, and bully anyone willing to stand up to him. He has offended so many

people on so many levels. As someone who respects women's rights, feminism and as a humanitarian and someone who believes in the equality of all, I cannot conceive how anyone would want him to remain in charge of the most powerful nation in the world. I know about the flailing economy and his promises of reform... but I also know about the wall, the complicit silence around white extremists, his reaction to the #BlackLivesMatter Movement and his response to an unprecedented health crisis... and I am horrified. It seems to me that in this bitterly contested and deeply divisive election, one thing is clear: democracy is in danger.

This election is just part of the seismic shifting we are sensing in our world. In a year that has inverted expectations, collapsed economies and flipped education on its head, the fallout from COVID is far greater than we ever imagined. We have lost pupils whose families have had to re-locate or whose businesses have closed. We are seeing an increase in a need to offer emotional and psychological support to our pupils and staff who have been placed under extreme stress as a result of this pandemic.

This could all become quite depressing and overwhelming but I also see the bravery and tenacity shown by the majority of our pupils and staff. We have to rise above the disappointments and count our blessings. I count each day that we have our matrices safely writing their examinations in the HPC; I count the days when my staff are healthy and happily teaching; I count each month that we receive our salaries; I count the parents who continue to meet their obligations to the school and pay their fees; I count every interview I have had with a new pupil, which has given me a chance to know them and to meet their parents. And I look forward to seeing the back of this year and pray that 2021 brings the financial and emotional relief we need like rain to restore our souls.

God Bless,

NOTICES



All pupils have been provided with a flyer with details of how to order their official school photographs. Order deadline is 9th November 2020.



It is that time of the year where we are putting together food parcels for all of our support staff. Each grade is responsible for collecting different items. Please ensure that your child hands in these items to their tutor. Alternatively, you can purchase a Christmas Parcel voucher on ALLXS.



The 2019 school magazine is available to purchase on the ALLXS system. The 108-page full colour magazine is available at a cost of R125.00



Please note that this will be the penultimate edition of Snapshot for 2020. The final edition will be published on Friday, 27th November.



As you are aware, we have enjoyed a wonderful partnership with MySchool for many years and, thanks to the ongoing support of so many members of our Stanford community, we receive over funds through the initiative which is used to support key projects at the school. We are delighted to announce a new initiative – School-Days – which provides an additional way to easily support Stanford Lake College. School-Days does not replace MySchool, nor do the initiatives compete with one another as they have completely different retail partners. The School-Days programme enables you to raise funds for school fees by shopping at several retailers including Dis-Chem, Net-Florist, SnapnSave, Shell garages and others at absolutely no cost to you. We believe that a number of additional retail partners will come on board soon, and we will keep you updated. **Further details are on page 3...**

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

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EQUESTRIAN NEWS



Congratulations to Lianke Fourie (Grade 9), who has been awarded her SA Tentpegging Colours on merit. Lianke was selected for the 2020 Junior Development Team due to her performance at the 52nd South African Equestrian Tentpegging Championships in December 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Youth Festival could not take place this year, and so Lianke was awarded her colours on merit. Well done, Lianke!



Ruben and TI Quinta took part in the Erreplus President's Cup - an equestrian show held at Maple Ridge Equestrian farm in a very hot Krugersdorp recently. Ruben and Quinta unfortunately knocked a pole in the Thursday afternoon's A2 speed class at 1.20m. They still managed to achieve a 10th place, though.

On the Friday they jumped in another 1.20m speed class - called accumulator. The last jump in this round was set as 1.30m high. They had a beautiful clear round, and came in 8th place.

In the 1.20m competition class on Saturday morning, they had a clear round, and a very fast jump off, but unfortunately knocked a pole down. They still secured a 6th place! Ruben's next show will be mid-December at the Youth Championships in Kyalami.

SPREADING LOVE AND GOOD VIBES

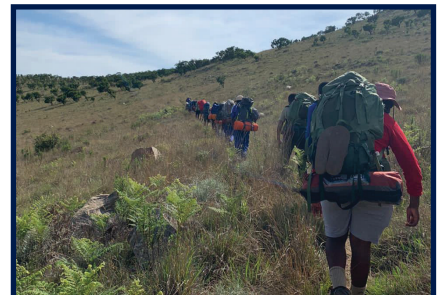
by Jacinta Kubayi

One week before my friends and I started to write exams, we all decided to take part in a 'secret Santa' gift exchange, but instead of exchanging presents, we decided to exchange the next best thing - exam packages. We did this because we realised that while writing exams we won't really see or spend as much time with our friends. This initiative was just a reminder to each of us that we are there for each other in these tough and stressful times. We started by writing each person's name on a separate piece of paper as well as names of three sweets that each person would want included in their package. On Friday, we all met during tea time to draw the random name of the person we would have to create a package for. For our exam packages we were only required to buy the three sweets that we suggested and as the 'secret Santa' you were able to add more items such as stationery, a notebook, a good luck note and maybe a Teddy bear for your own personal touch.

On Monday of the following week, we finally got to exchange our exam packages. Even though it was extremely difficult keeping the name you got a complete secret, it was very enjoyable seeing everyone putting so much effort and time into each of their exam packages. This 'secret Santa' exam package exchange was a very fun experience that we plan on doing every year. People involved were Jacinta Kubayi, Zoë Burman, Azania Mangena, Emmana Mohlaba, Tanya Chauke, Thato Sibuyi, and Nothile Madlala.



On Monday the 2nd of November, the Grade 8s embarked on their Iron Crown Escapade Trek. This expedition took them on a four-day hike, starting at SLC, going past Haenertsburg, summiting the Iron Crown and back to SLC via George's Valley. Light rain made an introduction on the first day, with the sun making an appearance later in the afternoon. Day one went very well, with spirits high in camp that evening. The next morning, the group summited the Iron Crown, the highest point in Limpopo, and were blessed with an amazing view. With some thunder storms developing in the distance, the group hastily made their way down the Crown but were caught in a serious downpour with even some hail adding to the experience. There were mixed feelings in camp that night, with excitement about the day's events and unhappiness with wet tents and sleeping bags. The next day, the group made their way to Bergplaas where everyone had a swim and some of the parents surprised the pupils with a nice meal and cold drinks. Needless to say, the spirits were very high with just one day left. The last day was hard and fast going to get back in time and the Grade 8s received a final farewell just before school in the form of one last rainstorm. The students did very well and can be proud of themselves for finishing this expedition.





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