



Matters of Principal

Over the past week, we have most certainly felt the full wrath of Mother Nature. Cyclone Eloise has swept over the eastern part of Southern Africa wreaking havoc, flooding land and property, causing power outages and generally making life even more challenging for hundreds of thousands of people across our country. At the same time, our streams and rivers are flowing into the dams replenishing much needed life-giving water supplies. The devastation of the wind and flooding on the one hand was countered by the renewal brought by the nourishing water. We live in a world which often causes us to question our faith. Our community has suffered loss over the past few weeks, our province has been hit by a cyclone and we are still engulfed by a pandemic that has curtailed our lives and livelihood. I remain resolute in my belief that we are a part of something bigger than just this life and that, ultimately, God has a plan for all of us. We must remain strong and faithful.

During the course of last week, we put in place a number of maintenance plans to be completed by 15 February (the proposed return to school date). That timetable has been dramatically accelerated with the re-scheduling of our opening to Monday. This, coupled with torrential rain, has caused our maintenance and cleaning teams to be hard pressed. I am amazed at what has been achieved and I am sure that you will be impressed with the

"This house has been far out at sea all night,
The woods crashing through darkness, the booming hills,
Winds stamping the fields under the window
Floundering black astride and blinding wet "

- Wind, by Ted Hughes

work that has been done and the manner in which our campus will be presented. Whilst not perfect, it looks stunning. Much of the work is visible as one walks around the campus, but most of it is unseen. My sincere thanks goes out to all who have assisted in preparing our campus and boarding houses for the eagerly anticipated return of our pupils.

We have worked hard in order to be ready to safely receive our pupils. My prayer is that everyone returns safely and that we are able to run our school without further interruptions. The SMT and Staff have been looking closely at our curriculum (both written and unwritten) in order to ensure that we are able to offer a full educational experience to our pupils within the COVID restrictions. In the coming weeks, I hope that you will notice some exciting developments as we endeavour to meet our strategic objectives despite the fact that we cannot run our full on campus programme. I eagerly anticipate the first term of 2021.

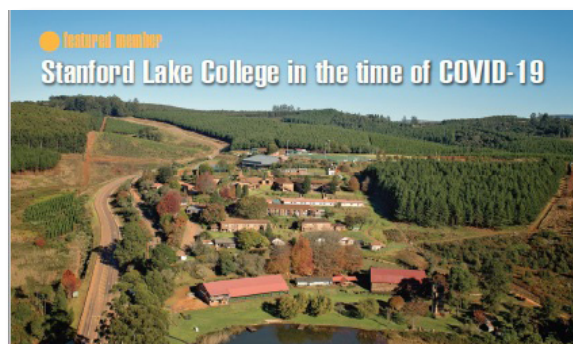
God Bless.

We are saddened to hear of the tragic passing of two of our parents in recent weeks. Both Edna Maite Mohuba and Conrad Krüger lost their fight against COVID-19. Our deepest condolences to the families at this terrible time. We continue to hold all our community members who are fighting COVID in our thoughts and prayers.



In case you missed it, follow the link below to read the Summer Edition of ISASA's Independent Education Magazine. Ms Nel contributed a wonderful piece on page 26, titled, "Stanford Lake College in the time of COVID-19".

ISASA Independent Education - Summer 2020



BY TAMARA NEL

Those of us of a certain age all have an answer to that question, the one that you hear around 11 September: "Where were you when you heard about nine-eleven?" Now it feels like there will soon be a new question: "Where were you when lockdown started?"

I will always remember that time just before the announcement was made.

Remember that if you will. A bright sunny Sunday morning. There are mountain lakes, swimming caps and bottles of water everywhere. Flaps are flying and sporadic announcements boom over the PA system. There are just so many people, of all ages, all over the place. It is a buzz of activity that feels like chaos to the uninitiated, but in fact, it is one site quietly and observed, organized and deliberate. The details will differ from school to school, but those of us in the business can recognise a school campus bustling with activity anywhere.

This particular event was the 2020 edition of The Wik, a tradition event hosted every March by Stanford Lake College in Hammanskop, Limpopo. But the ongoing conversations on this particular day were not all that one would expect. Alongside the fun and fun of such an event was the underlying tension of uncertainty. The so-called first world, the 'superpowers' in our global society, were falling against a novel

Tshantulo at Stanford Lake College

In accordance with the presidential pronouncement made on Sunday 15 March 2020, schools were instructed to close from 18 March 2020. On that same Sunday, a number of our boarding parents sought and were given permission to take their children home, so our physical numbers started depleting. The hall was rolling and it was gaining momentum. On Monday 16 March 2020 we rolled out, for the first time, Google-based school e-mail addresses for all our students. This allowed our teachers to set up Google Classroom, something more challenging for many of us than for the kids! The students were given a two-day 'acclimatisation holiday' whilst Thursday and Friday were spent training the staff on a couple of different video-teaching platforms and basic how to use Google Classroom workshops. By the following Monday we were running a fully-fledged online teaching and learning programme!



SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College
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MEET THE CLASS OF 2021

MADA BULIANI - HEAD BOY

1 What are your hopes for Stanford Lake College as you lead the school in the year ahead?

My hopes are that Stanford Lake College can become more educated in terms of social issues that are affecting us as the youth of South Africa. It's important that each and every one of our students gets some sort of knowledge this year on how to tackle social issues to make a better South Africa. The world has become such a fast-changing place and young pupils will need to be grounded in their person, with enduring values firmly established, so that they are in a position to embrace and conquer the future. I'm hoping that, as Matrics, we will endeavour to know each and every student - to challenge them both as an individual and as a team member. To stretch them in their formulation of opinions and world view. To always give their best consistently, as one of our values is to stretch yourself beyond the ordinary. Spirit is definitely one of the key aspects that make the school bond more and I hope that we as Matrics can build on the spirit that the Matrics of 2020 initiated. This certainly made sports a lot more enjoyable. I'd like the Matrics to give it their all this year - mainly academically - as I feel this is the way to truly thank the teachers for their five years of hard work. Through hard work and discipline, I do believe we can achieve exceptional results. Prosperity in unity is what I'm hoping to instil in the school by the end of the year and for students to have learnt or developed a new skill that they will utilise for the rest of their lives.

2 What is your proudest accomplishment?

Being given the opportunity to lead such a great school.

3 Share a memorable moment during your time at Stanford Lake College...

Definitely my solo Trek experience. Mr Haarhoff had allocated me in a cave-like area for the 24hr journey and I forgot my sleeping bag. I remember during the midst of the night it started raining heavily, the wind was blowing really hard, everything became wet including myself. I started shivering throughout the night, I could hardly move. I had no food. My torch broke. Eventually, the morning came and I was alright. But that experience really taught me to be grateful for what I have, big or small. I couldn't imagine the people that live like that on a daily basis, longing for shelter and not knowing where their next meal is coming from. From that day on, my image of life truly changed.

4 What are your hobbies?

I love playing and watching football, running, reading during my free time and watching educational documentaries on Netflix.

5 If you could share a meal with any 4 individuals, living or dead, who would they be?

Vusi Thembekwayo, Nelson Mandela, My Dad, Cristiano Ronaldo

6 What's your favourite movie?

The Long Walk to Freedom.

7 What's the most daring thing you've ever done?

To speak up. It sounds weird, but, growing up I was a soft and shy boy who always kept his opinion to himself. Today's society has taught me to speak up for myself. Today I can speak up without being afraid of other people's opinions.

8 If you had to describe yourself as an animal, which one would it be?

A lion.

9 Where do you see yourself in five years?

I see myself completing my degree and furthering my studies.
I see myself as a grounded young Christian man who is willing to acquire new knowledge at all times.
I see myself furthering my campaign of educating mostly young boys on the social issues we face today.
I see myself taking good care of my family.

