



Matters of Principal

On Wednesday evening I was privileged to open the Matric Art exhibition. It was a fantastic evening attended by a number of invited guests. I thought it pertinent that I share some of my rambling from the evening with you.

Steve Meuller wrote: *"It has been said that beauty lies in the eye of the beholder. However, when it comes to artistic expression, truly magnificent masterpieces do not necessarily have to be pretty. Instead, the beauty of an artwork is closely linked to its ability to stimulate emotions within us. Art stirs our deep longing for rhythm, balance, and harmony. When combined, these three elements form beautiful artworks that please our senses. At the same time, art celebrates the artist's triumph in manifesting their ideas and giving their creativity a shape...a form. We may all appreciate a work of art but for very different reasons. And sometimes, there are no words to describe what a work of art has communicated to us."*

Since the dawn of time, our ancestors have marked the walls of caves then pyramids, vases, canvases and more with sketches, symbols and paintings that gave meaning to their world.

Art has always been part of our human expression - a central part of our lives. One of my greatest regrets is that at no stage in my education did I allow myself the opportunity to explore my creative side. As a young sportsman, it was all about time on the training ground! As I have grown older, I have come to have a deep appreciation for Art

and the emotions it evokes.

My grandmother was an excellent Artist – her favourite medium being oils. She painted well into her 80's and even early 90's, the walls of her children and grandchildren's homes are graced with her art works. Each one reminds us of a story and evokes special memories for all of us – parts of our childhood captured on canvas.

I certainly would not classify myself as an Art collector but maybe a collector of memories. My wife and I have chosen to live what could be classified as a nomadic lifestyle. Our roots are firmly embedded in the KZN midlands but we have lived in Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and now in Limpopo since we left KZN. One thing we have done during this time is to collect works of art representative of the people and places we have lived in. Lovingly created by friends, family and colleagues, they hang on our walls reminding us on a daily basis of what that space meant to us. Our memories captured in time and which evoke different emotions for me, for my wife and for our children - particularly those of the Eastern Cape.

I look at the Art display in the exhibition and reflect back on the last few Art exhibitions hosted here at Stanford and I know that something very special is happening in our Art department. A safe space has been created where our pupils are given the freedom to express themselves. More importantly, a teacher in Miss Lourenço who has the ability to draw the best from her pupils.

Art is so much more than filling a canvas and Miss Lourenço is so much more than just an Art teacher.

Have a wonderful weekend. God Bless.

CLASH OF THE TITANS

On Wednesday, the long awaited game took place, where the 1st XI cricket team challenged the staff. It is always a highly competitive fixture and this year was no different.

The staff decided to have a go at bowling first. Mr Willson took a wicket in the first over of the game which put the scholars under pressure. It wasn't long before Mr Haarhoff took two wickets in two balls. The 1st XI managed to post a total of 144 - 5 in their allotted 20 overs. Gavin Knott scored a well-deserved 50 and he was ably assisted by Abe Athanassiades who scored 39 runs. The pick of the bowlers was Mr Haarhoff and Mr Willson who were well supported by Mr Pretorius and Mr Bennett. The staff were left feeling like 144 would be a tough task to chase down.

Mr Haarhoff and Mr Willson started the innings well with a good opening partnership. Mr Pretorius and Mr Willson then put up a 70-run partnership for the 3rd wicket and the staff came out victorious and chased down the target within 16 overs. The two top batsmen were Mr Willson who scored an unbeaten 55, and Mr Pretorius who made 30. Abe Athanassiades, Connor Veldsman and Tallen Smit each took a wicket for the 1st XI. It was a lovely day out on the field with some friendly banter flying across the pitch. Well done to the

staff who managed to win the game and regain The Carolan Cup. This game is also a thank you to the Grade 12s who have served the sport of cricket whilst being at Stanford. Well done, gents!



SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

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CLASH OF THE TITANS

continued...

On the hockey pitch there was another clash of the titans, a much anticipated match that would see the staff take on the "matrics" in a battle that would leave most staff hobbling off the pitch and students with some bruised egos. The match was played in good spirits, and as every year, the banter lived up to expectations. The staff put on a valiant performance, trying not to be outplayed, out skilled and out run by the young guns (matrics). The pupils came out strong and showed their skill, making sure they were not to be out done by the staff. It was exciting to have the boarders cheering on both staff and matrics as the teams fought to the end. Unfortunately, the staff's three-year unbeaten run came to an end as they went down 4 - 2. What a great send off to the senior boys who have served in the Stanford Hockey programme since Grade 8. Thank you to Mr Ceronio and Mr Bennett for their contribution to the hockey programme at Stanford, we wish them well on their new adventures.



SCRIVEN: ENDURO CHAMP

Michael Scriven competed in the last round of the Lowveld Enduro Club series in Casterbridge last weekend. The final two events of the series were held on Friday and Saturday as a 'double-header' to end the year. Mike had a good ride on Friday, coming home with the win in wet conditions after the rain. On the Saturday he stopped to help another rider who broke down on the first lap and then had to work hard to catch up the lost time. But he fought back on the second lap, crossing the finishing line first, just moments before his spark plug packed up. With a double win, he also took home the trophy as the Silver A category champion of 2021.

STANFORD SUPER SIXES

On Tuesday the first edition of the Stanford Super Sixes took place. It works similar to the Indian Premier League or the Big Bash league, where the captains of the teams bid against one another to get the best team possible. The team names were: Stanford Scorchers, Stanford Heat and Stanford Burners. A round-robin was played between the team following 6-a-side rules.

The Captains for this year were: Stanford Heat – Devon Coad, Stanford Scorchers – Peter Pratt, Stanford Burners – Tallen Smit

The first game of the day was played between the Scorchers and the Burners, which the Burners won comfortably. The second game was between the Heat and the Burners, which saw the Heat team take the win. The last game of the round-robin was played between the Heat and the Scorchers, which the Scorchers had to win to keep their hopes alive of reaching the final. Unfortunately, the Scorchers lost the game and the final teams was determined: the Burners and the Heat. The Heat team batted first and posted a good total of 65 runs in their allotted five overs. The Burners started their chase well and left themselves 11 runs to get in the last over. They needed two runs off the last ball, which they got, and won the game on the final ball of the day. It was great seeing the spirit between the players on and off the field.

Winning team: Stanford Burners

Best Batsman: Travis Hudson

Best Bowler: Devon Coad



MATRIC ART

The matric students were externally moderated on their art pieces on Tuesday. The exhibition and bodies of work took hours, days, and months to complete. With only two students, Aine Egan and Callan Shultz, this year's exhibition was intimate and small. Yet these two young ladies filled a room with powerful, honest and incredibly detailed works. Their work was of a very high standard, and Stanford Lake College and Miss Lourenço are very proud of what was accomplished. The girls produced an array of work around the two themes of Transition. During this period of time, in which the world has changed from what we once knew, to the new COVID-19 era, this has stained our normal. For "living stillness", they produced works which spoke of poignant and vivid moments captured in time.

Miss Lourenço writes:

I am truly in awe of the work produced by Aine; delicate and soft, yet enriched with powerful concepts. She speaks about what it means to be human, while allowing herself to be vulnerable and honest in her work. In her sculpture of the dominoes seen on this page, I interpret this work as speaking about how we have all been hanging in limbo for the last year. With the difficulties COVID-19 has brought in the last two years, this work can be read as dominoes about to fall. We are, at any moment, subject to being sent home, or put in lock down, or losing the people we love. At any moment, our dominoes may fall, and here they are suspended over this bed of flower petals. This work is a clear metaphor for how many people feel daily. This work is so gorgeous and speaks volumes, yet on a gentle level. All of Aine's work reminds us of our own human fragility and reminds us that even though we may all carry on, that each of us are dealing with our own inner battles. And parents, it reminds us to check in with our young people and how they are coping through this.

Callan Shultz produced a modern and fresh body of work which encompasses her own special brand of colour choices, mark making and honesty. It takes bravery to make such honest work, and even more courage to put it on display. She taught us to think out of the box and surprised and excited her audience with every new work. Callan does not work from references, but rather memory, a great skill that very few possess. She is a multi-talented individual in a huge array of mediums. We are so proud of these two young ladies and wish them all the best for their futures. They have left a high standard to be followed!

