



Matters of Principal

I had an amazing day yesterday. I left school at about 06h15 heading off to meet the Grade 9s on the last stage of their Water Trek. Little did I know what lay ahead, as I have never travelled out on the Ofcolaco Road before and I was amazed by the extent of humanity living out there. Children of all ages walking to school, taxis weaving in and out of the traffic, adults going about their daily business, it was a real hive of activity – so removed from the serenity and peace in which our pupils are privileged to be educated.

As we approached Ofcolaco a Land Cruiser came charging past us with the driver waiving politely. A few kilometres down the road the Cruiser had stopped and the driver was signaling us to pull over. In amongst this mass of humanity we had been overtaken by our one and only parent from Ofcolaco, Ian greeted us and asked where we were going. I replied that we were off to meet the Grade 9s on the river and Petrus took up the explanation of exactly where we were going. The somewhat surprised look on Ian's face should have been a signal that maybe we were headed into trouble! We parted with greetings and confidently headed off into the mountains. We got ourselves horribly lost, ending up on a koppie overlooking a valley with no river in sight. To cut a long story short, we were saved by technology! All I knew was that we had to meet the group at Foreplay Rapid - not the kind of info that yields meaningful results on Google Maps or Waze. A call back to school enabled us to establish that we were 43 km (as the crow flies) from where we should have been. Using live tracking on WhatsApp, Google Earth on a computer in the Magoebaskloof and a three cell phones, we managed to get back on track, arriving an hour and a half later than planned.

These things have a way of working out and as it happened the Grade 9s had only been waiting for us for 10 minutes! I arrived to the happy sounds of 45 pupils chatting away and enjoying a mid-morning snack.

I was quickly bundled into a life jacket, helmet placed on my head and ushered into a boat. The next five hours were incredible. Central to all of our concerns with an outing of this nature, was obviously that of water safety. As a result of the unfortunate occurrences with the Parktown Boys outing, we re-examined, at length, all of our safety protocols prior to departure. Having been on the water with staff and pupils, I can without a doubt confidently say that the professionalism of the staff on the river is of the highest level. Nothing is left to chance and the staff are fully appraised of what is required. I won't go into detail of the safety precautions in place in this Snapshot but I will very happily share this with any parent who is interested.

I have written at length before about how good our kids are when on Trek, and once again this group reinforced this. Following six tough days of walking and paddling, their spirits were high, their sense of humour intact and a deep appreciation for the beauty of their surroundings was evident.

The conversation quoted above goes on:

"Sir, I asked a mate of mine what they did in class for Phys Ed. He told me they run and swim and do fitness. I laughed and said we get to play in our lake during class!"

My outing reinforced two things. Firstly, our pupils get to do the most amaz-

"Sir look at this, isn't it amazing...and we get to call this school."

- Grade 9 pupil looking back up a rapid he had just shot chatting to the Headmaster.

ing things in the name of education and secondly, I can confidently say our adventure department is world class and will happily be challenged on this in any arena.

Have a splendid weekend.

Alan Redfern
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Full Grade 9 Trek report in next week's edition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOUNTAIN BIKING

The first round of the Limpopo Provincial XCO took place at Louis Trichardt High School's Leeupark last Saturday, 29th February. Three Stanfordinians competed and achieved excellent results. In the Junior Boys category, Herman Fourie came first whilst Jarryd Gosling came third. Among the Youth Boys, Benno Kotzé came 15th. Well done, boys!



On Wednesday, 4th March, a number of tennis players competed in the Limpopo North Tennis League, against schools such as Merensky, Ben Vorster and Hoërskool Pietersburg. They played their hearts out and showed real sportsmanship on the courts. Due to some of the members of the first teams being away on Trek, some of the more inexperienced players stepped up to the plate. They gave their best, winning some games, losing others, but enjoying all of them. The teams looked forward to playing some friendly games against the same opponents later in the season. Representing the boys were Andreas Hacker, Stefan Hacker, Ryno Schultz and Llewellyn Rogers. The girls' players included Michaela Gosling, Naledi Lebati, Tanatswa Murasiranwa and Lia Posthumus-Meyjes.

TENNIS



Stanford Lake College's debating teams took part in the first round of the Polokwane Mayor's Cup Tournament this week. They debated the motion: South Africa's Mathematics pass rate is not improving: The department of Basic Education should allow learners to matriculate without Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy as a compulsory subject.

DEBATING

The Stanford Senior Team proposed the motion against Taxila High School Senior Team with Oratile Choeu as the chairperson, Zoë Burman as first speaker, Llewellyn Rogers as second and reply speaker and Malaika Mohlaba as the third speaker. Our Senior Team were victorious against Taxila High School and Llewellyn Rogers was awarded best speaker in the senior category. In the junior category, Stanford Lake College team opposed the motion against St Brendan's Junior Team and they also won the debate with Nanaki Kgopong as first speaker, Finn Straughan as second and reply speaker and Tristan Brett as the third speaker. The speakers spoke very well and Nanaki Kgopong was awarded best speaker in the junior category.

MEET OUR STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

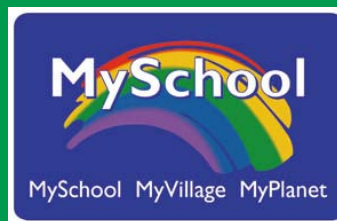
- Lia Revelas, Head of Day Scholars

It was an honour to be selected as a member of the pupil leadership committee of 2020. As Head of Day Scholars, I hope to integrate the Day Scholar pupils with the rest of the school, making us share in the same experiences as the boarders. I wish to improve our spirit and sense of pride, which was undoubtedly responsible for the outstanding performances this year in athletics, especially.

"The biggest risk in life is not taking any risk." This quote by Dr. Christiaan Barnard echoes one of our vital school values: Courage. I want to encourage every student to take the risk, stretch themselves beyond the ordinary, and develop a passion to decimate boundaries. Life will shrink or expand to the proportion of one's bravery.

As Head of the Adventure Committee, I aim to endorse sport as a crutch for individuals to find their passion. I aspire to be an example on the sports field. As sport can be an accurate reflection of the same dedication and zeal that is practised in the classroom. The same ethics of sportsmanship can be applied to the various challenges of life. A sense of team work, persistence and self-respect is essential for many of life's hurdles.

It is a privilege to be part of 250 brave hearts that beat beneath these seven trees of the school badge. I wish Stanford a very successful year to come!



GROCERIES FOR PIANO KEYS

With a MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card, you can raise funds for Stanford Lake College without costing you a cent. Recently, the school bought a new piano for the Music Department with funds raised through this initiative. Pick up your free MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet card, name Stanford Lake College as your beneficiary and you'll raise funds every time you swipe at one of the national partners (Woolworths, Engen Convenience Centres, Loot.co.za and Bidvest Waltons).



Further details can be found here:

www.myschool.co.za

ELZINÉ CROWNED AT NATIONAL PAGEANT



The National finals of Prince & Princess International SA were held in Tzaneen on Saturday, 29th February. Elziné Kotzé entered in the “pre-teen” category with the competition consisting of; Talent Presentation, On-stage Introduction and Evening Wear. Elziné was declared as Overall Winner Girls, Best Talent and Miss Personality. Congratulations, Elziné!

A LESSON FROM THE MASTER

Some of our hockey goalies participated in a goalkeeping clinic lead by former English field hockey goalkeeper, Simon Mason on Friday, 28th February. Mason participated in three Summer Olympics for Great Britain in 1996, 2000 and 2004.

We hope our players picked up some new skills and techniques and we can't wait to see them in action during their next matches.



A “taste” of science



The Grade 9 pupils were tasked to make 3D models of plant cells in their Life Sciences class. These pupils made edible ones, much to the class's enjoyment.

Let the force be with you

The Grade 11 Physical Science students enjoyed a practical lesson on Newton's second law of motion this week.

