



Matters of Principal

It was with great excitement that my 19-year-old daughter received her first dosage of the Covid 19 vaccine. She is petrified of needles but braved the process knowing the importance of “getting” the vaccine, I am extremely proud of her. My son had registered by 10 am last Friday and is hoping to get his first jab later this week. I am also pleased to mention that a number of our matrics have been for their first vaccination. The youth are certainly showing us up when it comes to proactively fighting this pandemic through vaccination.

A number of Heads in the region have acknowledged that it is part of our responsibility as leaders to ensure that our communities are properly informed and educated when it comes to vaccination. Vaccine hesitancy is a major hurdle. If we are to reach “herd immunity” we need to dispel the myths and conspiracy theories associated with the Covid-19 vaccinations. Critical thinking is a key part of any educational system. We encourage our pupils to access knowledge through research, evaluate its scientific validity and apply reason in formulating an informed response. In a world where fake news and conspiracy theories dominate social media it is essential that we are able to follow the science and identify what is true and what is not.

I quote Stephen Lowrey, the Head of Mitchell House and an historian, in the following paragraph, *‘Plague and pestilence are part of life for every living organism, and no less in human history. The bubonic plague in Europe in the 1350s killed 25% of the population. Smallpox imported to the Americas by European colonizers, wiped out most of the indigenous population (some estimates put it as high as 90%), within a few decades, because the populations had no natural immunity to the disease. One of history’s*

deadliest diseases, smallpox is estimated to have killed more than 300 million people since 1900 alone. But a massive global vaccination campaign put an end to the disease in 1977—making it the first disease ever eradicated. Both of these plagues and many other dangerous ailments (polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, rubella, Hib, mumps, rotavirus measles) are now seldom even heard of and no longer a daily threat due to vaccination.’

As a community we need to share accurate facts about the vaccination and the role it will play in ensuring that we get some degree of normality in our lives. We can all attest to the devastating effects of this pandemic. Not only has it taken too many lives already but it has affected the emotional and social wellbeing of everyone. Our children have been denied so much; they have been forced to stay at home, to learn online, not allowed to play competitive sport or to socialise openly with one another. Social distancing, mask wearing and continual sanitising have inhibited our natural human behaviours. Simply being able to see the open joy on a child’s face when they achieve something special has been taken from us.

In amongst all of this negativity is a silver lining. The vaccine works and will allow us to reclaim the lives we so desperately crave.

In a letter to her community, Mrs Annabel Roberts (Executive Head of PEPPS) says, “We know now, without any doubt, that hospital admissions are currently predominantly un-vaccinated individuals. We know that vaccinated people are less likely to spread the disease due to having fewer virus shedding symptoms such as coughing. We know that vaccines save lives.” Let’s encourage all around us to get vaccinated.

God Bless.

Please refer to the references on page 4 & 5 for further information.



Today our students celebrated National Tekkie Tax Day by purchasing a sticker at R10.50 that goes towards a fundraising initiative for the physically disabled. The school has sold 184 stickers thus far among our students and staff, which is a great accomplishment taking into consideration that the Gr 9s & 12s are not currently present with us. The funds will be specifically donated towards the Polokwane Nasorgsentrum to assist those in need. We would like to thank all of those that have supported this initiative very much for their contributions.

GUNTHER REPRESENTS SA IN ITALY

Gunther Katzke was selected to represent South Africa at this year’s World XCO Championships in Val di Sole, Trentino, Italy, from 25 – 29 August. He made his first debut appearances at the World XCO Championships event on Thursday, 26 August, by taking part in the Junior Mens Cross-country division. The route comprised of a 4 km circuit with 190 metres of elevation gain around the Val di Sole Bike Park in Daolasa di Commezzadura. From the stones and roots to the adrenaline sections, and technical hurdles, these were set to test the riders in every possible way. We are extremely proud of him for giving it his utmost best and representing his school and country with pride despite the tough competition and track that he endured. We look forward to hearing all about his experience, once he returns.



THE ADVENTUROUS "AKKEDISSE"

This past weekend, Benno Kotzé, Heidi Katzke, Stefan Hacker and Tristan Brett competed in a 60km adventure race, hosted by Kinetic Events Africa at Klipskuur near Vaal Dam. Team "Akkedissee", as they are known, raced extremely well and ended up finishing first in their category, mixed teams of four. Well done to them!

Benno wrote the following report:

"The day started early with breakfast at 5:15. Thereafter, we dropped our bicycles at the first transition point and headed to the start for a race briefing. The weather conditions were extremely cold and windy. The race started at 7:40 with a 13km trek / running leg. After about two hours and 15 minutes, we reached the first transition area where we started a 10km cycle. We enjoyed this leg and sped through to the second transition at the Stilbaai Yacht Club where we did our 10km paddle on the Vaal Dam. During the first half of the paddle, the wind came from behind us on the way to the other end of the island where we found the checkpoints but from there we had a strong headwind causing waves and slowing us down considerably. When we got back to transition, we started our final leg which was a 26km cycle on the way to the finish line. However, some sections were harder than others because the area was very rocky and some sections of the road were all rocks. We finished at 14:45, after seven hours and five minutes, and were able to find all 16 checkpoints on our way. Overall, we enjoyed it a lot and did reasonably well. We were the youngest participants in the race. We finished in good spirits and it truly was an event where we met new people and strengthened our good relationships. Adventure racing is a real test of your tenacity and we are proud to be Stanfordinians! We look forward to the next race."



STAFF GIVING IT A TRI

On Saturday, 21 August, Mr Willson and Mr Swanepoel took part in the Ironman 5i50 Triathlon at Bela Bela. The Ironman 5i50 is basically an Ironman 'sprint' race as it is only 51.5km (1.5km swim, 40km ride, 10km run). Mr Willson managed an overall time of 2:34:35, placing 15th overall out of 419 competitors. He also ranked 7th in the 35-39 age category, which he was very happy with, as he had done no proper training leading up to the event.



Mr Swanepoel was also very proud of his achievement for gaining an overall time of 3:08:55 and placing 114th overall, reaching his personal goal of 3:10:00. He ranked 14th in his age group of 25 - 29, which was a brilliant result, as this was only the second official triathlon that he has taken part in thus far.



They mentioned that the event was well organised and the weather was bearable, apart from the heat during the run and strong headwind on the bicycle. Overall they enjoyed the race very much and it was a good day to be out on the race track.



LIMPOPO RUGBY TRIALS

Congratulations to David Ramalepe and Xilombe Ndlopfu for being selected to take part in the final round of the Limpopo U/16 and U/18 Rugby Trials respectively. The boys both played some good rugby with and against the best that Limpopo has to offer. Well done to both of them for representing the College with such passion.

Huge congratulations to Xilombe for being selected for the Limpopo Academy Team. This is a great achievement and Stanford is very proud.



Xilombe Ndlopfu



David Ramalepe

EQUESTRIANS EXCEL



Koni Fobbe and Ruben le Roux represented SLC at the Schools' League Equestrian event that was held in Vivo last weekend. This was the third qualifier for the Limpopo team.

This was the first time Koni and her horse, Dragonfly, took part in a SANESA show. They did exceptionally well in the 1m show jumping classes. In the competition class on Saturday, Koni came in second place, and in the speed class on Sunday, she had a brilliant clear round - ending in first place!

Ruben le Roux again participated with two of his horses. With his young thoroughbred Thembinkosi, he achieved a 2nd place in the 90cm competition class, and a fourth place in the 90cm show jumping speed class. In the 80cm working hunter class on Sunday, they ended in 3rd place.

With his new horse, Capital Clooney, Ruben obtained three first places! On Saturday they jumped in the 1.10m show jumping competition class and in the 1m equitation class. On Sunday, Clooney and Ruben made us proud with a quick, clear round in the 1.10m show jumping speed class, called 'accumulator'.

The Limpopo team will be announced during next week and the National Championships will be held in Kyalami during the October holidays.



SCHOOL GROUP PHOTO ORDERS

How to order:

1. Go to Prestige website: <https://orders.prestigephoto.co.za>
2. Enter your Access Key
3. Select order options and pay directly online
4. Should you have more children or group photo's, simply click "**Order for another**" and enter the next learner / access key to complete your whole order in one transaction.

School Group	Access Key
ADVENTURE RACING	JP6UVA4A
CHESS	Z78NU7YZ
CHOIR	Q6UQGJS9
DAY SCHOLAR BOYS	9R6RSE3V
DAY SCHOLAR GIRLS	ZGLG6UQS
DAY SCHOLAR GIRLS "CRAZY"	5T3F4BUW
DEBATING	3RLE5R7J
DRUMMING	G2E7E63B
EQUESTRIAN	T69JUM9D
FLY FISHING	9B67TTCM
FOUNDERS NORTH BOARDING HOUSE	DT3J5J5J
FOUNDERS SOUTH BOARDING HOUSE	Y5EB6S9G
GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD	B3EK9SR5
GOLF	P4ZKHE3A
GRADE 12 MATHS LIT	F6EPB6JW
HOCKEY 1ST TEAM BOYS	JHS4D8TH
HOCKEY 1ST TEAM BOYS "CRAZY"	VFJHG3WZ
HOCKEY 1ST TEAM GIRLS	TA67DEY9
HOCKEY U/14 BOYS	5AE39QTH
HOCKEY U/14 GIRLS	S43HZWTR
HOCKEY U/16 BOYS	G6E6QNLN
HOCKEY U/16 GIRLS	ZL8LMNPJ
KEN SHUTER BOARDING HOUSE	A8CG6ASR
KEN SHUTER BOARDING HOUSE "CRAZY"	9NQ5JM6B

School Group	Access Key
LAKESIDE BOARDING HOUSE	5DKP78R3
LAKESIDE BOARDING HOUSE "CRAZY"	DWMNGKR5
MARIMBA BAND	7J2TA4EN
MATHS OLYMPIAD JUNIORS	KX72QCKN
MATHS OLYMPIAD SENIORS	AAQA5BU7
MOUNTAIN BIKING	HNPQ5GQJ
NETBALL 1ST TEAM	9V9CGZU5
NETBALL 2ND TEAM	XBK2XRSH
NETBALL 2ND TEAM "CRAZY"	TPP838KX
NETBALL U/14 A	3W8ST4YA
NETBALL U/14 B	74F67EXR
NETBALL U/15 A	LJN3HLU8
NETBALL U/15 A "CRAZY"	AQG95KEY
NETBALL U/15 B	F6W2XD6R
NETBALL U/15 B "CRAZY"	CRV6PLKL
PEX LEADERSHIP	BFYTYXHQ
RUGBY 1ST TEAM	3EDY5QEA
RUGBY 2ND TEAM	H2V2LHLV
RUGBY U/15	F4N4RRSP
SERALA BOARDING HOUSE	UD2V58E3
SERALA BOARDING HOUSE "CRAZY"	5WET3UTX
SPORT HOUSE CAPTAINS	8KUPF74F
TENNIS TEAM	MV3HJQ66
TENNIS TEAM "CRAZY"	YQV7U8DJ
TRITECH	26LTG7M2

RESOURCES

The one or two doctors who have expressed concerns about vaccines are outliers and should not be validated more than the thousands of doctors who are begging people to get vaccinated.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED VIDEO:

<https://web.facebook.com/mark.carolissen/videos/813461216019038>

Source: World Health Organisation

COVID-19 Vaccines

Most people have mild or no side effects after taking a COVID-19 vaccine.

Why?
As of May 2021, over 1.35 billion vaccine doses have been safely administered globally. Usual side effects are mild – headache, fever and body aches – and normally go away within a couple days. Any concerns should be reported to your healthcare provider.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Getting vaccinated can help protect you and those around you from COVID-19.

Why?
New data shows that COVID-19 vaccines help to stop you picking up the virus and spreading it to others. Your decision to get vaccinated helps others, too. This protection is not 100%; continue to take precautions to protect yourself, friends and family, even after vaccination.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Getting ill with COVID-19 after you are vaccinated is possible, but rare. Your symptoms are more likely to be mild.

Why?
Breakthrough cases of COVID-19 after vaccination usually happen before the body has had time to develop maximum immunity. Even with a highly effective vaccine, a small number of people will still get ill – no vaccine protects 100% of people. Get vaccinated as soon as it is your turn.

COVID-19 Vaccines

All ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Why?
Ingredients help keep the vaccine blended together, stable and even at the injection site a little longer. All tests have confirmed that these components are safe for people.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccines are highly effective against severe illness and death caused by the COVID-19 variants, including Delta.

Why?
COVID-19 vaccines may be slightly less effective at preventing infection and mild symptoms caused by the Delta variant, but they are highly effective at preventing severe illness and death. Some variants spread more easily. Getting vaccinated can save your life and protect you from severe COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccination develops immunity from COVID-19 more effectively than getting infected and sick.

Why?
Vaccination reduces the risk of getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. Those who have already had COVID-19 may not acquire full immunity. Getting vaccinated provides a stronger level of immunity.

COVID-19 vaccines

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 helps protect you from getting sick.

Why?
Vaccination reduces your risk of getting seriously ill and dying from COVID-19. The vaccine can create mild side effects such as headache, fever & body aches, but these normally go away within a couple days. Serious side effects are very rare and should be reported to your healthcare provider.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Even after getting vaccinated, keep taking precautions to protect yourself, family and friends

Why?
The COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective, but a small percentage of people will still get ill from COVID-19 after vaccination. You could also pass the virus on to others who are not vaccinated. Everyone should continue to distance, wear a mask, clean hands frequently, cover a cough or sneeze and avoid poorly ventilated areas.

COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines only contain safe ingredients.

Why?
It is impossible to place a microchip inside your body when getting vaccinated. All vaccine components have been shown to be safe for people.

COVID-19 Vaccines

Take all recommended doses of your COVID-19 vaccine to get the maximum level of protection

Why?
The maximum protection is not reached until several weeks after full vaccination. If you have a two-dose vaccine, this means that you don't get full immunity until 2-4 weeks after the second dose.

Source: [The Unbiased Science Podcast](#)

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WHAT'S THE STORY WITH BREAKTHROUGH CASES OF COVID-19?

BREAKTHROUGH CASE: WHEN A FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUAL BECOMES INFECTED WITH SARS-COV-2 (OR ANOTHER SPECIFIC PATHOGEN AGAINST WHICH THEY ARE VACCINATED)

IN THIS POST, WE ANALYZE DATA PROVIDED BY:

- OFFICIAL STATE SOURCES,
- JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY COVID-19 DASHBOARD,
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (NOT NEWS OUTLETS)

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THE BREAKDOWN OF BREAKTHROUGH CASES

KEY NUMBERS 1 2 3

1 RATE OF COVID-19 BREAKTHROUGH INFECTIONS: BETWEEN 0.01% - 0.29% FOR ALL 50 US STATES. THE BREAKTHROUGH CASE RATE DOES NOT EXCEED 0.29% FOR ANY STATE.

2 COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATION RATES AMONG FULLY VACCINATED: BETWEEN 0.00% - 0.06%. SOME HOSPITALIZATIONS ARE NOT EVEN RELATED TO COMPLICATIONS DUE TO COVID-19.

3 COVID-19 DEATH RATES AMONG FULLY VACCINATED: ESSENTIALLY ZERO. 2 STATES HAVE A BREAKTHROUGH CASE DEATH RATE OF 0.01% (AR AND MI). SOME DEATHS OF FULLY VACCINATED ARE NOT RELATED TO COVID-19.

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COVID-19 INFECTIONS AMONG UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS MAKE UP BETWEEN:

94.1% AND 99.85% OF TOTAL COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN THE US (VARIES BY STATE)

95.02% TO 99.93% OF THOSE HOSPITALIZED IN THE US DUE TO COVID-19 COMPLICATIONS ARE UNVACCINATED

96.91% TO 99.91% OF COVID-19 ATTRIBUTED DEATHS ARE OCCURRING IN UNVACCINATED AMERICANS

THE MAJORITY OF THESE HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED BY VACCINATION.

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KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- 1 BREAKTHROUGH CASES ARE RARE, EXPECTED, AND HAVE HISTORICALLY OCCURRED WITH OTHER VACCINES
- 2 SERIOUS ILLNESS AND DEATHS IN INFECTED FULLY-VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS ARE EXTREMELY RARE
- 3 VACCINES ARE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING INFECTION, SEVERE ILLNESS, AND DEATH DUE TO COVID-19

SA Covid-19 and vaccination statistics:

- Follow the Face Book page of [Kevin Leo-Smith](#)

Information on vaccines and immunization:

- World Health Organisation: page on [Vaccines and immunization](#)
- Scientific American: [Decoded: How do vaccines act... \(Video\)](#)

Information on Covid-19 vaccines:

- World Health Organisation: page on [Covid-19 vaccines](#)
- WebMD article: [Chance That COVID-19 Vaccines Are Gene Therapy? 'Zero'](#)

The dangers of vaccine denialism:

- Oped piece in the Daily Maverick: [Vaccine denialism kills](#)