



Student Well-being

"New beginnings aren't about starting over; they're about starting stronger, wiser, and with renewed purpose."

When I accepted the opportunity to join Stanford Lake College as Deputy Head responsible for Pastoral Care, Discipline, Boarding and School Culture, I did so because I believe schools have the remarkable privilege of shaping not only academic achievement, but also character, belonging and purpose. Education has always been about people.

Every learner who walks through our gates brings a unique story, different strengths, different challenges and enormous potential. Our responsibility is to create an environment where every young person feels safe enough to grow, challenged enough to improve and supported enough to become the very best version of themselves.

Over the past few weeks, many of our conversations have centred around learner wellbeing. You may have noticed initiatives such as our wellness curriculum, empowering tutors, House Pulse Checks, a central wellbeing tracking system, positive affirmation, strengthening relationships with parents, and the continued development of systems that enable us to identify learners who may need additional support before challenges become crises.

While these initiatives may appear different on the surface, they all serve one simple purpose, ensuring that every learner is known.

Boarding schools are unique communities. Houses quickly become families, and the relationships built between learners, tutors, house staff, teachers and parents are often what young people remember long after they leave school. We want every learner to experience a genuine sense of belonging while also being encouraged to embrace responsibility, resilience and kindness.

Our approach to discipline reflects these same values. Discipline is not simply about rules or consequences. It is about helping young people develop sound judgement, personal accountability and respect for themselves and others. High expectations and genuine care should always go hand in hand.

At the heart of our vision is the Japanese philosophy of kaizen, the belief that meaningful change is achieved through small, continuous improvements. We encourage our learners and staff to embrace the mindset of becoming just 1% better every day. Whether it is showing greater kindness, working a little harder in the classroom, supporting a friend, embracing feedback or demonstrating stronger self-discipline, these seemingly small improvements compound over time. Schools, like people, become exceptional not through occasional brilliance, but through the consistent pursuit of excellence in the everyday.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue strengthening our pastoral systems, expanding opportunities for learner leadership and wellbeing, and ensuring that every child has trusted adults who know them well, believe in them and are invested in their success. If we remain committed to knowing every learner, serving one another with compassion, and pursuing continuous improvement together, I have no doubt that the future of Stanford Lake College is an exciting one.

Thank you for the warm welcome my family and I have already received from the Stanford Lake College community. It has been a privilege to join a school with such a strong sense of tradition, warmth and heart. I look forward to partnering with our staff, learners and parents as we continue building a community where every learner feels known, valued and inspired to flourish.

Best wishes,

Mr Olwethu Hugo

SOCCER SEASON KICK OFF

The soccer season got underway this weekend as Stanford Lake College travelled to Mitchell House for the opening fixtures of the season. Our girls' teams enjoyed a positive start, with both the U15 and 1st Team producing determined performances to earn well-deserved draws against strong opposition.

The boys faced the added challenge of playing on a bumpy, uneven pitch but adapted well and displayed excellent skill and resilience throughout their matches. The U15 side narrowly went down 1-0 in a closely contested encounter, while the 1st Team delivered an outstanding performance to secure an impressive 3-1 victory.



BADGER OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Gomolemo Molepo, for being named Goalkeeper of the Tournament at the Noordvaal Hockey. To be recognised as the outstanding goalkeeper among the very best players at one of South Africa's premier school hockey tournaments is an exceptional achievement.



NOORDVAL HOCKEY

Boys' Hockey Teams Shine at Noordvaal Tournament

Our U15 and U16 Boys' Hockey teams travelled to Gauteng to compete in the highly competitive Noordvaal Hockey Tournament, where they tested themselves against some of the strongest hockey schools in the country.

Throughout the tournament, both teams displayed determination, resilience and outstanding teamwork, gaining valuable experience against quality opposition. The U15 team finished in an impressive 7th place, while the U16 team secured 9th place, with both squads representing Stanford Lake College with pride.

The standout achievement of the tournament came from Gomolemo Molepo, who was named Goalkeeper of the Tournament. To be recognised as the tournament's best goalkeeper amongst the top school hockey players in the region is an exceptional honour and a testament to Gomolemo's skill, composure and consistency throughout the competition.

Congratulations to both teams and to Gomolemo on an outstanding tournament. We look forward to seeing our hockey programme continue to grow from strength to strength.



BEAUTY AND BEYOND

A crown may recognise achievement, but character is revealed through action.

Congratulations to Stanford Lake College learner Charlie Peniston on being crowned Miss Teen Universe South Africa Limpopo First Princess.

While this is an incredible accomplishment, Charlie's journey extends far beyond the pageant stage. She is passionate about serving others and has dedicated her time to community outreach at Briershof Primary School in Alldays, giving back where it matters most.

Her love for conservation has also seen her working alongside wildlife professionals, assisting with animal rehabilitation, working with lions, and honing her aerial darting skills from a helicopter in support of South Africa's rhino conservation efforts.

Charlie embodies compassion, courage and a genuine commitment to making a difference. We are immensely proud of the young woman she has become and congratulate her on this well-deserved achievement. We have no doubt that this is just the beginning of an inspiring journey.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Stanford Lake College learner Mathapelo Kubyana is proving that leadership is about creating opportunities for others. As a Miss Limpopo finalist, she has launched Little Readers, Big Dreams, a literacy initiative aimed at placing books into the hands of children who have limited access to reading material.

"Reading has the power to inspire imagination, build confidence and open doors to a brighter future," says Mathapelo. "Even the smallest donation can make a lasting difference in a child's life."

Stanford Lake College is proud to support Little Readers, Big Dreams and encourages our school community to get involved. Donations of new or pre-loved children's books can be made until 30 September 2026.

Together, we can help foster a lifelong love of reading and remind every child that big dreams often begin with the turning of a page.



WICKET TAKING

Our 1st Team took on Mohadi Hub Girls in a thrilling T20 clash, claiming some important wickets and showing great determination throughout the match. While the result didn't go our way, with Mohadi Hub Girls securing a 54-run victory, there were plenty of positives to take from the game.

Well played, girls. We look forward to watching you build on this performance as the season continues.



BADGER BONANZA

Get ready for one of the biggest highlights on the Stanford Lake College calendar!

The Badger Bonanza returns on Saturday, 29 August, promising a day packed with fun, friendly competition and plenty of school spirit. There will be no shortage of entertainment, with exciting games and activities for all ages, making it the perfect opportunity to spend the day with family and friends.

Each of our boarding houses will be hosting their own stalls as part of a fundraising initiative to help upgrade their boarding facilities.

Adding to the excitement, Stanford Lake College alumna Zoe Koster will take to the stage for a live performance, while the Food Bar will be serving a variety of delicious food and refreshments throughout the day.



A vibrant, colorful poster for the Badger Bonanza Colour Fun Run. The background is a collage of bright, splattered colors. In the center, a group of four people (two men and two women) are running and smiling, their faces and white t-shirts covered in colorful paint splatters. The text is bold and playful, with 'COLOUR FUN RUN' in large, multi-colored letters. A circular logo in the top left corner features a badger and the words 'BADGER BONANZA'. Various icons (clipboard, stopwatch, running person, calendar, location pin, clock) are used to present key information. The overall mood is festive and energetic.

BADGER BONANZA

COLOUR FUN RUN

WEAR WHITE. GET COLOURFUL! ♥

LET THE GOOD TIMES COLOUR YOU! ♥

 **REGISTRATION OPENS 9:30AM**

 **RUN STARTS 10:00AM**

 **3KM LOOP**

ONLY R50
INCLUDES ENTRY INTO BADGER BONANZA!

 **SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2026**

 **STANFORD LAKE COLLEGE, HAENERTSBURG**

 **GATES OPEN FROM 10AM**

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! ♥

 **RUN WILD AND LET'S MAKE MEMORIES!** ♥

TENNIS TRIUMPHS

Stanford Lake College's tennis players enjoyed tennis against Merensky, producing two convincing team victories.

The Girls' Team delivered a dominant performance, securing an impressive 25–11 victory. Strong displays in both the singles and doubles matches highlighted the team's consistency, teamwork and determination throughout the afternoon.

The Boys' Team followed with a hard-fought 24–22 win. Every point proved crucial in a closely contested encounter, with the team showing resilience and composure to edge out their opponents.

Congratulations to all our players on two outstanding team performances. We look forward to another exciting round of fixtures as the season continues.



SOCCER FIXTURES

SLC VS PEPPS

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST

FIELD A

14:15 - 15:00	U15 A BOYS
15:05 - 16:05	2ND BOYS
16:10 - 17:15	1ST BOYS

FIELD B

14:15 - 15:00	U15 GIRLS
15:05 - 15:50	1ST GIRLS
16:10 - 16:35	U15B BOYS

PLAY WITH PRIDE. WEAR OUR COLORS.

#BADGERPRIDE

MTB XCO SCHOOL SERIES

AT MERENSKY

SATURDAY 15 AUG

06:30 - 16:00

RIDE HARD. STAY FOCUSED. SHOW INTEGRITY.

BOYS CRICKET VS THE OAKS

@ STANFORD LAKE COLLEGE

SATURDAY 15 AUG

09:00 - 15:00

1ST BOYS BOTTOM OVAL

U15 BOYS TOP FIELD OVAL

PLAY WITH PRIDE. FIGHT WITH PASSION. WIN WITH INTEGRITY.

GIRLS CRICKET

SLC VS LTT

@ SLC TOP OVAL

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST

13:30 - 17:00