



Matters of Principal

During the holidays, let go of stress and embrace the spirit of joy, love, and gratitude. It's a time to rejuvenate and find inner peace.

There was certainly no easing up through the last week of term and into the holiday for any of us. This week has been another ridiculously busy one but - on the whole - incredibly affirming. I have sat with Grant Norton and we have gone through the examination results with a fine tooth comb. The Grade 10 and 11 marks overall are fantastic and we can look forward to some excellent academic achievements in the coming years. The top end of both Grade 8 and 9 is also incredibly strong. There are some concerns at the bottom of both of these grades but as a staff, we will work hard to offer all the support that we can to ensure that they all reach their full potential.

The junior pupils enjoyed a well-structured Discovery Dash week, culminating in the Christmas party for the Glenshiel pupils. This is the fifth one that I have attended and it was certainly the best. Our pupils pulled out all the stops, putting on the most fantastic party for the little children. A jumping castle, various game stations (including a basketball hoop, musical chairs, hill rolling and some football) kept the Glenshiel pupils engaged for hours. They were served a scrumptious lunch consisting of hamburgers cooked and prepared by our students and they were all given a party pack to take away. The joy on the faces of the little ones was incredibly heartwarming. However, to me, the greatest success of the day lay in watching our pupils interact with the guests and happily giving back to our community in a small way. The spirit of Ubuntu was on show in abundance.

On Wednesday evening we hosted our second school Carol Service. It was a spectacular evening and reinforced everything that is good about our school. The setting was stunning, the music beautiful, the quality of the reading excellent and the overall feeling in the room one of peace and calm. It was an uplifting, spiritual occasion

that brought our community together one last time after what has been an incredibly busy term.

At the end of the year, we say farewell to six staff members. We wish Mr Michael Swann, Mrs Alex Schoeman, Mr Songezo Mpangeva, and two of our interns, Miss Charlize Meyer and Miss Thelma Hutamo, all the best as they leave us. After 13 years of service at Stanford, Michael Swann has taken up the position of Head of Afrikaans at Uplands. During his time at Stanford, Michael has been involved in countless school productions and variety concerts, coached tennis and been a housemaster along with teaching Drama and Afrikaans. Mrs Schoeman has been with us for 5 years during which she has taught History, Geography, English and Business Studies. She has been involved in Mountain Biking and helped with the organisation of the Matric Dance and Valediction, along with other school dances. We wish her and her family all the best as they relocate to the Western Cape. Mr Mpangeva has chosen to further his career in Gauteng. After two years on the mountain, the bright lights are calling him. I thank Mr Mpangeva for his contribution to teaching junior science, coaching rugby, soccer and athletics and the work he has done in the boarding house as an assistant housemaster. I look forward to monitoring his progress as an excellent young schoolmaster. Miss Meyer and Miss Hutamo both leave us to further their studies. Please see a short tribute to Denis and Shirley Jack below.

As we get to the end of our school year and the beginning of a well-deserved holiday, I wish everyone a safe, happy and peaceful rest with family and friends. I wish you a very merry Christmas. God Bless.



BADGERS OF THE WEEK



Zayd's dedication to cricket has paid off as he successfully secured a spot on the Limpopo team. His relentless hard work and commitment to the sport have been evident throughout his journey. Zayd's selection is a testament to his skill and passion for cricket, reflecting the culmination of his efforts in earning a coveted position on the Limpopo team. Congratulations to Zayd on this well-deserved achievement!

Congratulations to Mr Fullard who represented South Africa as part of Team Red Ants at the AR World Championships recently. Sadly, Mr Fullard had to pull out of the race due to contracting COVID but still raced close to 500km while navigating for his team. Mr Fullard showed exceptional determination and sets a wonderful example to the pupils.





SNAPSHOT



Farewell Mr and Mrs Jack

John Maxwell said: “Students don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care” resonates with me when I think of this amazing couple. These two people have collectively dedicated more than 80 years to this most noble of professions. I cannot calculate the number of pupils who have passed through their caring hands. The impact that they have made on the lives of children is immeasurable and society owes these two master educators a debt of gratitude.

Denis has often said to me he wished he had written down just a few of the experiences that he has had and documented some of the characters who have crossed his path. Denis and Shirley have worked through a period in which education collectively has undergone the most dramatic changes seen in the profession in the last 200 years, from a time in the early 80’s when producing notes was done on a Roneo machine, to an age of AI-generated notes and essays handed in compiled by chat GPT, Denis and Shirley have seen it all. Not many of us know that Shirley was driving a minibus full of children, towing a trailer on a relatively isolated road in central KZN, when she was hijacked at gunpoint. Naturally, her first concern was for the children in her care and (in particular) a young girl who was wheelchair-bound. At gunpoint, she managed to convince the thugs to gently take the girl out of the bus and leave her safely at the side of the road - all of this as the other pupils escaped into the bushes. In her humble manner, she tells me she was frustrated that she did not save the wheelchair too. This all in the days before cell phones!

Denis has worked at all levels in education. He was a headmaster at Ixopo High before coming the Stanford Lake College, choosing to work with children rather than as an administrator. Whenever I meet up with old Stanfordinians, inevitably the first question they ask is “How is Mr Jack and is he still teaching?” He is the Mr Chips of Stanford Lake College.

Both Denis and Shirley are excellent in the classroom but more importantly amazing outside of it, gently guiding, teaching and caring for other people’s children whom they have treated as their own. They can now enjoy the peace of their retirement knowing that they have made the most amazing contribution to education and, in so many cases, literally changed people’s lives.

We all wish Denis and Shirley a happy, healthy, long retirement and will welcome them on our campus with open arms whenever they feel the need to visit.





HONOURS AWARDS PRESENTED

Congratulations to Gordon Noel and Ruben Venter who both received Honours awards during a special assembly held yesterday. Gordon has exemplified the spirit of Stanford Lake College at every Mountain Biking event he has participated in. In 2023, he won three of the Limpopo XCO races, missing one due to injury. Despite this, Gordon still managed to finish first overall in his age category in the Schools' Series, taking the top spot for the Limpopo team. Gordon also participated in numerous marathon events, always finishing in the top three and winning most of them, including the Magoeba Trek Stage Race. He took part in the National SA Cup XCO Series, ranking 10th in the country. He placed 5th at the Parys Cup event. Gordon then went on to represent Stanford at the Schools Cycling SA Nationals event and finished sixth. He represented Limpopo in the Inter-provincial Champs the next day and finished 6th nationally. Gordon has a corporate sponsorship from Insect Science and was asked to be one of only two junior representatives of their Kings of Neon Training Academy.

In Adventure Racing, Ruben Venter has raced 1080km in the last two years, in eight different races. The first six races covering 810km were all in Grade 10. He sustained a hip injury early this year which resulted him not being able to race for a long period and having to wait patiently to be able to achieve his goal of achieving over 1000km of racing. He finally got the green light and jumped right back in, quickly completing two races and covering 270km, thus achieving his goal. He has raced with numerous teams and in different locations, travelling long distances all over the country and braving extreme weather conditions. He has showed commitment and perseverance, volunteering to race with unknown teams on a senior level and even accepting the huge responsibility of navigating on some occasions. In his last race, he completed over 200km within 26 hours. This was a true demonstration of skill, determination and Badger spirit.



The Limpopo Blue Bulls Rugby Referee Association recently had their yearly prize giving. Mr Pretorius received the trophy for the person who did the best in the rules examination throughout the year. Mr Haarhoff was awarded the trophy for the best 1st League Referee in the province. Well done to both of them.



On Tuesday night the 1st Cricket Team had their prize giving at the Pot & Plow, where they celebrated performances during the year. The following players received certificates for outstanding performances.

- Zayd Moosa – 110 runs vs Phalaborwa Hub in 2022
- Connor Veldsman – 6 for 12 in 5 overs vs The Oaks, 6 for 21 in 5 overs vs Frans du Toit
- Matthew Allison – 6 for 44 in 10 overs vs Southern Cross, 6 for 20 in 4 overs vs Ben Vorster

The following players received special merit awards:

- The Most Committed Player – Christoff van der Westhuizen
- Most Improved Player – Nakedi Makweya
- Fielder of the Year – Dylan Turner
- Bowler of the Year – Matthew Allison
- Batsman of the Year – Zayd Moosa
- All-rounder of the Year – Connor Veldsman
- Players' player of the Year – Connor Veldsman

Thanks to all the parents, staff and players who attended and we look forward to the season to come.



Mr Friedrichs handing over the Class of 2023's shoes to Nancy Motena and Ann Luther from Thusanang.

The whole school enjoyed a special Christmas lunch on Monday.



Christmas festivities

We held a wonderfully festive Christmas Carols Service on Wednesday. We were treated to beautiful solo performances from the Choir. Thank you to Reverend John Meintjes for leading the service.

The Grade 8s hosted the annual Christmas Party for the pupils from Glenshiel Primary School. They did a remarkable job of putting together a festive and fun event.

The support staff received their Christmas parcels.

