



## Matters of Principal

*"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." – Ecclesiastes 3:1*

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to thank our entire school community for your support over the past year, and especially during the last six months. It has been an incredible journey, and I am truly grateful for the dedication and commitment I have seen from everyone.

To our teaching and support staff, thank you for your hard work throughout the year. Your efforts, both in the classroom and behind the scenes have made this year a success. I also want to acknowledge the work that will continue over the next eight weeks on campus in preparation for another wonderful year. Your dedication ensures that our school remains a place where pupils can learn, grow, and thrive.

To our parents and the wider community, thank you for supporting me in my role as Headmaster. Leading this school, which is so close to my heart, has been a privilege. I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside each of you to create an environment that nurtures our pupils and encourages them to become the best versions of themselves.

Over the past five months, you may have noticed a focus on values in my snapshots. These values are an important part of our school life, and I encourage pupils, parents, and the community to continue promoting and living by them during the holidays. Encouraging these values at home and in your communities will help our pupils carry the lessons of the school into their everyday lives. This term, we also say goodbye to four valued members of staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service and contributions to our school. Each has played a role in shaping the experiences of our pupils, and we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. You can read more about them later in this snapshot.

As we approach the festive season, I would like to wish everyone a joyful and safe Christmas. May this time be filled with happiness, rest, and the company of loved ones. I hope that the holidays allow our pupils, staff, and families to recharge and return refreshed and ready for the new school year ahead. Finally, thank you once again to every member of our school community for your support, hard work, and commitment this year. It has been an honour to lead a school with such wonderful people, and I look forward to all that we will achieve together in the year to come.

May God bless you all and keep you safe during this festive season. Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Warm Regards

# TRAIL BADGERS 2025 RECAP

The Trail Badgers wrapped up the year on a high note with the Makgobaskloof Plunge Half Marathon. The programme officially started at the end of Term 2 with a clear goal: to introduce students not only to trail running, but also to longer-distance running in general. Our main aim was to help students realise their own potential — to show them that with steady training and the right mindset, they could achieve far more than they expected.

We wanted to move beyond short cross-country sprints and help runners gradually build the endurance needed to complete a half marathon (21.1km) by the end of the year. We are proud to say the season was a success!

Our first big outing was the Wolkberg Trail Run, where every member of the group completed their longest run ever. A huge congratulations to Maropeng Kekana and Kaelo Manake, who both pushed themselves all the way to finish the marathon distance — a truly impressive achievement.

Throughout the season, we didn't only focus on trail running, but also included road running to help balance training and build strength and stamina. Regular club runs in the forests and on the roads around the school helped prepare the group for a busy race calendar.

The Trail Badgers went on to compete in several events, including the Iron Crown Trail Run, the Nedbank Spring Opener, and finally the Makgobaskloof Plunge.

A special mention must go to Mika Jones, who had an outstanding season with podium finishes in her Junior Women category at three events:

2nd place – Iron Crown Trail Run (10km)

3rd place – Nedbank Spring Opener (10km)

2nd place – Makgobaskloof Plunge Half Marathon (21.1km)

Another highlight was Mia Drake, who proudly completed her first-ever half marathon at the Plunge — a huge personal milestone.

Looking ahead, 2026 is set to be an even bigger year. Our highlight for next year will be travelling to Underberg to compete in the Drakensberg Rock Jumper 25km. This challenging route includes 805m of elevation gain and takes runners through the stunning foothills of the southern Drakensberg.



- Mr PJ Bouwer

## WATERPOINT FUN AT THE PLUNGE RACE

A few brave pupils were up at 04:30 to make sure runners at the Plunge race stayed hydrated. Lots of fun was had handing out watermelon and energade, and supporting every athlete along the route.





# U15 Lowveld District Provincial Tournament



Our U15 players recently competed in the Lowveld District Provincial Tournament with fantastic results! Congratulations to Tristan Savage, Thatego Molokomme, and Alastair Wiltshire for being part of the winning team, and well done to Mpho-Kane Mashego, who also represented another team with great effort. A brilliant achievement for our young athletes!

## GRADE 10 ENRICHMENT TOUR

The Grade 10s arrived home today after an intense 10-day expedition, having worked extremely hard throughout. This is just a glimpse of their adventures—more highlights to come!



# LIMPOPO CLUB SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Stanford Lake College's very own Alessia Dowle closed off the sporting year with an outstanding performance at the Limpopo Club Swimming Championships this past weekend.

Competing against top swimmers from across the province, Alessia delivered three podium finishes — securing one silver and two bronze medals in her freestyle and breaststroke events. Her dedication, discipline, and love for the water continue to stand out, and she remains a proud ambassador of SLC's sporting spirit.

We're incredibly proud of her achievements and look forward to seeing her make even more waves in the new year!



## Round Square Conference Mar 26

The Round Square Committee is excited to share that St George's Grammar School will host a five-day Adventure-focused conference in Cape Town before the March holidays, open to all Grade 10–11 students in 2026. Students will collaborate with peers from local and international Round Square schools.

Spaces are limited:  
Gr 10 and 11 can apply to attend by emailing:

[rsrep@slc.co.za](mailto:rsrep@slc.co.za)





# MY DIFFERENCE

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SELECT  
STANFORD LAKE COLLEGE AS  
YOUR CAUSE ON THE NEW  
WOOLIES APP  
Reselecting your cause may  
take a moment, but it unlocks  
stronger loyalty and lasting  
support for the difference you  
make.

Thank you for being part  
of this journey.  
The MyDifference Team



## D6 has updated Download the new APP



## Back to school 2026

Email:  
[info@pnatzaneen.co.za](mailto:info@pnatzaneen.co.za)  
Whatapp: 0832855034

We have made stationery shopping for 2026  
easier  
Follow the QR code to view and purchase the  
stationery needed for 2026  
Free Delivery to school or pick up in Tzaneen



## BADGER OF

## THE WEEK



Badger of the Week goes to Mika Jones for her  
outstanding podium finish in the 21km  
Magoebaskloof Plunge this past weekend. A  
fantastic way to cap off a season of dedicated  
training and remarkable running  
achievements!



# Exchange Chronicles

## Episode Four

### CHILE

#### Exchange in Santiago, Chile

Before coming to Chile, I had no idea what to expect from living in a country with a completely different language and culture. What I imagined turned out to be the complete opposite of what Chile is actually like. From the moment I arrived—after 20 hours of travelling—I was greeted with a warm welcome from my exchange family, which instantly made me feel at home. Starting school soon after, I quickly realised how friendly and open everyone is here.

The school that Holly and I are attending is a British school, so the language barrier hasn't been too difficult to manage. I've made some amazing friends here who already feel like people I've known for far longer than just a month. The teachers are incredibly supportive and have made me feel comfortable and included from the start.

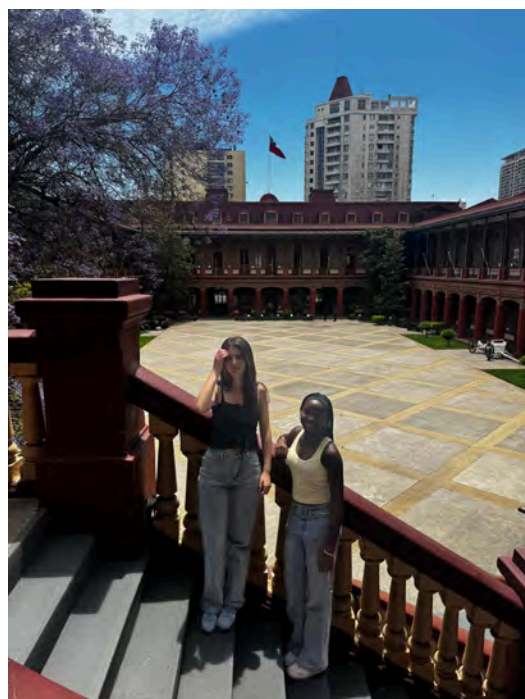
Another highlight is the food! The food in Chile is so diverse and absolutely delicious! I've tried many traditional Chilean dishes such as empanadas, mote con huesillo, completos, and sopaipillas, along with food from Venezuela and Colombia. The architecture is stunning—since Chile was once a Spanish colony, there are many beautiful old buildings like the Iglesia de San Francisco, a church that's over 407 years old.

Life in Chile has also come with some new and unexpected experiences. I even experienced an earthquake at school, which is quite common here, though most are very small. In the afternoons, we've started playing volleyball, and recently we played in one of the teams in the interhouse volleyball tournament. We also took part in a service project to support an underprivileged preschool in a rural area of Chile. It was so much fun playing with the children and answering all their curious questions about my hair!

Although the beginning was a little challenging, I'm so glad I came to such a culturally rich country. The people are incredibly kind and welcoming, which has made the experience even more meaningful. The challenges and differences have helped me grow as a person and realize just how big and diverse the world is. Sometimes we tend to get so stuck in our own world that we forget that.

I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity and would encourage anyone considering an exchange to step outside their comfort zone and go somewhere that challenges and inspires them. As I continue this exchange, I hope to learn even more about this beautiful country and its people, try as much food as possible, and hopefully improve my Spanish along the way.

- Ru Ngwarai





# Warm Welcome

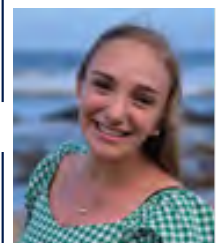
We warmly welcome Mr Pierre Rupert Jacobs as the 7th Headmaster of Stanford Lake College, commencing January 2026. Currently Headmaster of Glenwood High School in Durban, Mr Jacobs brings extensive experience in academic leadership, pastoral care, staff development, and extracurricular programmes. Bilingual in English and Afrikaans, he is committed to holistic education and the boarding system as a cornerstone of character development. His leadership, grounded in integrity, humility, and servanthood, will inspire both learners and staff.

We look forward to the positive impact he and his family will bring to our community.



Welcome to Chantel Alcock, who now fills the Bursar position. Chantel brings over 20 years of experience in bookkeeping, accounting, and financial management. She is proficient in Acumatica ERP, Pastel, and full-function accounting, including payroll, budgeting, and audit preparation. Her references consistently highlighted her accuracy, integrity, leadership, and strong team management skills.

Welcome to Simone Steenkamp, who joined us in October 2025 and has moved into the Afrikaans Department following Mr Nel's promotion to Akfrikaans HOD. Simone is a versatile educator, coach, and cultural leader with a proven track record across both primary and high school levels. She excels in Creative Arts, Languages, netball, athletics, and national oratory performance, and is known for her strong communication, organisation, and commitment to learner development.



We are pleased to welcome Junior Teacher Kayla Olivier, who has been appointed to support our growing number of English pupils next year. Kayla will be assisting with Junior English and will also coach the swimming team. She brings South African Schools swimming experience and is a qualified Level 3 swimmer. We look forward to her expertise in both the classroom and the pool.

We are excited to welcome Alicia Giles as our new Junior Afrikaans teacher. Alicia holds a B.Ed. (Senior Phase & FET) and has experience teaching Geography, History, and Life Orientation. An accomplished hockey and cricket coach, she has multiple provincial achievements and holds Level 1 coaching and umpiring qualifications. Her passion for both academics and sports will inspire and engage our learners in and out of the classroom.



# Warm Welcome



We are thrilled to welcome Brad Askew, who will be joining us in January 2026. Brad brings extensive experience designing and leading youth, corporate, and wilderness programs across South Africa and the USA. He is highly skilled in outdoor safety, leadership development, and adventure program design, with qualifications including Wilderness First Response, abseiling, and white-water rafting. We are excited for the energy, expertise, and adventurous spirit he will bring to our community.

We are delighted to welcome Reinet Barnard as our new CAT Teacher. Reinet is an experienced educator and academic leader with over 30 years of expertise in teaching, curriculum development, and school management. Former Head of Academics at St Ursula's School, she brings extensive knowledge in CAT, ICT, and educational leadership. Skilled in project management, curriculum innovation, and people development, Reinet will be relocating to Tzaneen to be closer to her children, and we are excited to have her expertise joining our team.



We are pleased to welcome Lizelle Jacobs, who will be joining us in January 2026 as an Administration Assistant. Lizelle Provide admin support for academics and estate departments. A previous small-business owner with a strong background in customer service and team management, and brings valuable skills in resource organisation, administration, and stakeholder support.



Jaco Nel  
HOD Afrikaans  
Mr Nel will lead the Afrikaans Department. Jaco's passion for language and culture inspires all, and his commitment to excellence will ensure the Afrikaans department thrives.



Ncobile Nkosi  
Housemistress Serala  
Mrs Nkosi has been promoted to the Housemistress post after successfully fulfilling the Assistant Housemistress role at Ken Shuter. We know that Ncobile will create a wonderful home away from home for the Serala girls.



# Farewells

We wish Aeron Williams all the best as she resigns to take up a position at Reddam House, closer to her family. Aeron has made a valuable contribution as House Mistress at Serala Boarding House and as Stanford's swimming coach. We thank her for her dedication and wish her every success in the next chapter of her career.



We bid farewell to Nic Paidas, our CAT teacher and digital media content creator, who has resigned to take up a position at Treverton College alongside his wife. Nic has made a significant contribution to our IT and digital design programs, inspiring learners with his creativity, technical expertise, and innovative approach. His passion for photography, design, and digital media has left a lasting mark, and he will be greatly missed by both colleagues and students.

We say farewell to Corne Perkins, who has made a valued contribution to both the Art Centre and the Afrikaans Department. Corne's creativity, dedication, and commitment to nurturing learners' talents have left a lasting impact. Her passion for the arts and language, combined with her positive influence in the classroom, will be greatly missed by colleagues and pupils alike.



## PEN'S DOWN END OF TERM *PICNIC AT THE LAKE*



## Farewell to Tiaan Fullard

After more than 11 years at Stanford Lake College, we bid farewell to Tiaan Fullard. Tiaan began his journey with us as an intern and quickly found his calling in Adventure Education. Over the years, he contributed across academics, middle-distance athletics coaching, boarding, mountain biking, kayaking, adventure racing, and school expeditions. Known for his integrity, dedication, and strong Christian values, Tiaan has made a lasting impact on both colleagues and students. We wish him every success in the next chapter of his career.





# Christmas Carols

The Carol Service and choir created a truly magical evening, with candlelight and hymn singing bringing the whole school together. Our pupils guided us through a timeline of readings, making the event both moving and memorable.

Stanford Lake College  
Carol Service



# Merry Christmas

Wishing you  
a joyful  
holiday season

*Safe travels to you and your families  
and see you all in 2026*