



Matters of Principal

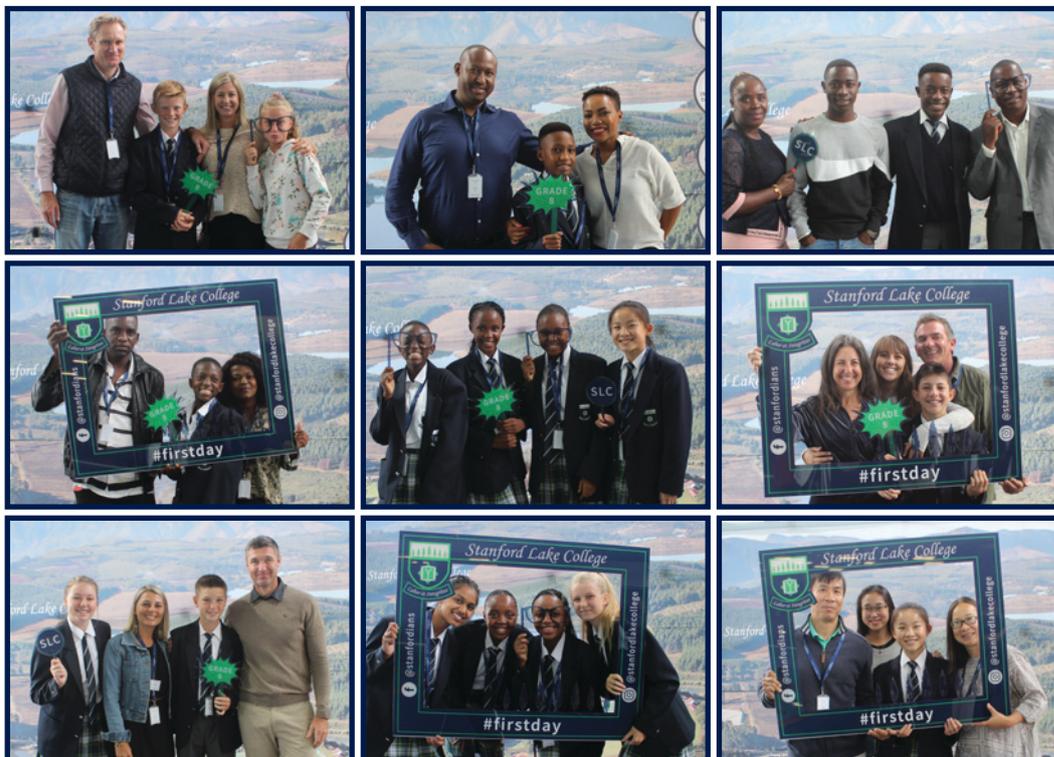
“It’s time that we teach humanity to the humans, and the only way to do that, is by being the emblem of humanity ourselves. And being an emblem of humanity means being an emblem of justice, equality, reasoning and acceptance.”

— Abhijit Naskar

One of my favourite days as an educator is the first day of school. Tuesday morning dawned overcast and misty on the mountain; despite this, by 7am the campus was already a buzz with staff and pupils preparing for the arrival of our new crop of Stanfordians. The excitement amongst all was tangible. Walking around the boarding houses chatting to parents and pupils, as they unpacked, one could sense the excitement mixed with a good dose of trepidation. The HPC was the perfect venue to gather in for our welcome and introductions. Two hundred excited voices could be heard chatting, catching up and making new acquaintances; the atmosphere was fantastic. A cup of tea, a few snacks, speeches from the Head Girl and Head Boy and, before we knew it, it was time to say goodbye! A real sense of hope, wonder and anticipation of what lay ahead certainly filled the air. Looking out over the deck of the HPC onto the mountain across the valley as parents and staff filtered out of the venue I once again counted my blessings to be involved in this noble profession. As educators we are tasked with molding and guiding these beautiful minds that are left in our care. The enormity of the task does not escape me as over the next five years we will be responsible for “educating” these young men and women. I place “educating” into inverted commas as this is such a broad term with

so many different facets. At the end of the day it is the well-rounded holistic education that we strive for. On reflecting on results and activities related to our school over the past few weeks I am confident that we are certainly getting much of this right – our Matric results were outstanding, we produced two National level fly-fishermen and an SA School Colt’s Cricketer during the holidays. These achievements aside; what really struck home to me was observing our Head Boy and Head Girl in front of a large crowd of adults speak with poise and confidence about a school they clearly love. Added to this watching our matrics interact with new parents and their mentees gave me a sense of pride that we are doing something right. In years to come a student’s ability to access and manipulate information is going to be a given, in my opinion what will really count will be their “HUMAN-NESS”, their ability to connect and their ability to form real positive relationships. This is our greatest challenge, but an area in which we are making excellent strides.

Alan Redfern
Headmaster



#firstday

On Tuesday, 14 January, the Stanford campus was a buzz with activity as we greeted 65 new students onto the property!

As well as new Grade 8s and bridging year pupils, a number of students also joined Grade 9, 10 and 11. Nervous and anxious faces soon were turned into (still nervous) smiles as the soon-to-be badgers met their mentors and enjoyed a family portrait with the selfie frame. After the formalities, the newbies were whisked away by their mentors to start the hatchery process - they had pine cones to find and friendships to forge!

After just a few days on campus, those nervous smiles seem to now be genuine smiles as the new students settle into life at Stanford. We are so looking forward to watching these students grow during their time with us.

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Ms Danniela Lourenço - HOD Visual Arts



Ms Lourenço is an artist and passionate art teacher who originates from Botswana. She studied her BFA at Rhodes University, specialising in painting and then went on to study her PGCE at UCT. She specialises in painting, drawing and sculpture and hopes to inspire the pupils with her enthusiasm. Her focus is to help each learner find their individual niche and medium. She has had a number of personal art exhibitions in Botswana and Johannesburg and is currently partnered with the Thomarts Gallery in Johannesburg.

Mrs Gretha van Staden - HOD Physical Sciences



Mrs van Staden completed her BSc degree at the University of Pretoria in 1995. Since then she has taught at several schools. In Limpopo, she taught at Hoërskool Pietersburg for 8 years and was at Merensky High for the last few years. Mrs van Staden has received various awards from the Department of Education for excellence, in the province and the district. She has a passion for children and strives to make a difference in their lives.

Mr Divine Mwakonya - Mathematics



Mr Mwakonya joins the Stanford family from Get Ahead College in the Eastern Cape. He graduated with a BSc (Ed), majoring in Mathematics and Chemistry from the University of Zimbabwe. He has been teaching for 19 years and has worked at a number of schools in Zimbabwe, including Peterhouse, Falcon and Eaglesvale. He is joined by his wife Hazvinei and his four children.

Mr HERNUS Swanepoel - HOD IT & CAT



Hernus Swanepoel matriculated at the end of 2011 from Ferdinand Postma High School, Potchefstroom. He completed his studies, with distinction, fulltime from 2012 until 2014 from the NWU Potchefstroom campus, with the degree BSc Biology Science with main modules: Mathematics and Psychology and ancillary subject: IT. In 2015, he started working as an educator at Ferdinand Postma High School, where he taught Mathematics and IT. While working, he studied part time from 2015 until 2016 at UNISA, where he received his PGCE (Post-graduate Certificate in Education) qualification with main modules of Mathematics. Mr Swanepoel then studied part time from 2017 until 2018 from the NWU Potchefstroom campus. He finished a BedHons degree in Mathematics, with distinction.

Mr. Adin Bennett was privileged to attend the FIH Academy Level 2 Coaching Course in Johannesburg from the 3 – 6 January. The FIH Level 2 Coaching Course is an International Hockey Coaching Course. The course was led by FIH Educators from the Netherlands and South Africa including; Thomas Tichelman, former Netherlands Men's Coach and 2012 Olympic Games Silver medalist; Craig Sebien, coach of Netherlands Club side Pinoke; Tsoanelo Pholo, Youth Olympic Games coach and UJ 1st Ladies coach; Andi Bernstein, former Junior National and WP Senior Ladies coach. It was a grueling three days, as the educators tested knowledge and analysed skills. Mr Bennett received good feedback from the educators and his mentor, Tsoanelo Pholo. He looks forward to imparting this knowledge to our Stanford Lake College coaches and players. Well done on receiving your FIH Academy Level 2.

COACHING EXCELLENCE



STANFORDIAN SECOND IN SA



During the Grade 11 leBT Physical Sciences exam that was written in November, Danica Altenroxel achieved an incredible 92.5%, claiming second position in South Africa! This is absolutely incredible, Danica - Well done!

Two other Stanfordians also achieved above 80% in the exam. Congratulations to Ayesha Ayob and Faaria Rhemtula.

A PUBLISHED POET

Former Stanford pupil, Raymond Bonniwell, was recently published in the 2019 Student Poetry Collection book titled, "Illustrious". Raymond studied at SLC from Grade 8 to Grade 11 and then moved to the USA to complete his schooling. He sent a copy of the poetry book to Stanford, thanking his English teachers, Mrs Thompson and Mr Jack, for helping to instil his creative spirit. Less than 20% of all submissions made it into the 2019 collection, so this just shows what an exceptional young author Raymond is.

Here is Raymond's Petrarchan sonnet:

Vestige

by Raymond C. Bonniwell

He was at the highest point

Thus, the only natural course of action was down
He was at the top of his game, the pride of the town
But he started to feel a weight in his joints

He had thoughts inside as sharp as needlepoint
"The younger generations say I constantly have a frown.
My family no longer comes around."

He did gain a wealth of wisdom in his time,
Even though his physicality is a vestige
and he may no longer be in his prime
But his mind is straight and trimmed like a Westminster hedge
When running, his lungs may burn as if in lime
But he is as intelligent as a sharp edge



MAYES GAINS MOMENTUM

Thomas Mayes (Class of 2019) was recently selected for the Momentum Multiply Titans U/19 Cubs team as well as for the SA Colts, meaning he is one of the top 24 school going cricketers in the country. Thomas is pictured (back, far right) representing the Titans at the CSA Cubs Week held in Paarl recently.

FLY FISHERMEN AIM FOR THE TOP

Marthinus Maritz, Jason Freestone and Lloyd Lombard were ranked among the Top 16 fly fishermen and qualified to attend the Youth Protea Trials in Kamberg, KwaZulu-Natal from the 6 - 8 December 2019. Unfortunately, Lloyd Lombard couldn't attend due to being on exchange.

During the weekend of trials their fly tying skills, dry fly fishing and nymphing techniques were closely evaluated and scored on. The selectors looked at the way they positioned themselves relative to where the fish were, their casting, their ability to land the flies gently on the water as well as speed and efficiency. Due to harsh fishing conditions, the end competition was cancelled and so the weekend ended with a personal interview. The lads had a tense wait to see who had qualified. Performing very well at trials, Jason qualified for the youth SASACC Team once again and will be traveling to the Czech Republic as part of the exchange programme later this year.



Marthinus again qualified for the Youth Protea Team and will compete in the World Youth Championships in Bosnia as the team's Vice Captain later this year.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

For students and parents alike, the first port of call for any issues should be the student's tutor. If not done so already, tutors will be making contact with parents by Monday. Should you not be able to reach your child's tutor, the next option is to make contact with your child's housemaster / housemistress (Mr or Mrs Jack for Day Scholars). Thereafter, academic issues can be addressed to Mr Norton, pastoral care issues to Mr Jack and boarding and discipline issues to Mr Friedrichs. Please note that it is parents' responsibility to inform the school of any changes to contact details including phone numbers, email addresses, physical addresses etc.