

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 9 OF 2024



Matters of Principal

On Monday I delivered my end-of-term assembly address to the pupils, I began with the following quote from Henry David Thoreau:

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it”

It has been an incredibly busy 9 weeks since we first welcomed the Matric class on campus for their leadership camp right up until this evening’s Matric Dance it has been high-octane energy. We pride ourselves on offering a holistic education, one that allows our pupils the opportunities to develop the skills that will enable them to flourish in a modern world. The tone set by the matric class has been exceptional from the word go, they have led by example in all activities, I commend them on what they have done. The Grade 8s have been equally remarkable, adjusting to a foreign environment, taking on new challenges and in most cases, reaching new heights. The achievements throughout the term are simply too numerous to mention, but I encourage you to enjoy this bumper edition of Snapshot which covers our last 10 days of activities. I am sure that you will be blown away by what has been done.

At the assembly, I was pleased to initiate the announcement of the top ten academic performers in the Grade. The pupils were called up to the front of the assembly and acknowledged for their hard work. In Grades 10, 11 and 12 we initiated another incentive scheme for academics. Any pupil who achieves above an average of 80% will be issued a Green Card, which will enable the pupil to seek permission from his/her teachers to miss one academic class a day. Unless the

staff member feels the pupils must be in class as they are working on an important section the pupils choose to use that time productively. If the following term their average drops below 80% they will lose that privilege. The pupils are very excited by this innovation.

Our Open Weekend sleepover is our main marketing event and this year it went off superbly, the campus looked amazing, our pupils were extraordinary as they enthusiastically spoke about their school and our staff displayed normal levels of commitment as they went about their various tasks. The one constant in this place is that when we host the Wik **IT WILL RAIN!** This year was no exception with the mist and rain hanging heavily over the event. While the inclement weather did cause us to shorten the swim that was the only damper placed on the day. The sense of community that existed around the Lake on Sunday was a great reminder of what an amazing community we live in.

The school production of Sophia was nothing short of brilliant with many who watched it commenting on how It was the best school production they had ever seen and that we needed to take it on tour! I think if I even suggested that, there would be a rebellion in my household. I congratulate and thank all those who assisted in making the production as truly memorable as it was.

As many of you venture into your holiday many of our sports teams will still be going on tours. I wish the U/16 Hockey Teams and the 1st XV Rugby Team, the 1st Netball Team, and both 1st XI Hockey Teams all the best and I thank the staff for giving up their holiday time at home to facilitate this tour.

After a busy, fun-filled term I wish you all an excellent Easter Holiday.

BADGERS OF THE WEEK

Last week, Thebe Thobejane was nominated as Badger of the Week. He showed a lot of leadership during the Grade 9 expedition. He was always willing to help both boys and girls when the going got tough, and did not complain once. On the Olifants River, Thebe volunteered to paddle one of the barge rafts on his own, and was almost always one of the first to go down the big rapids.

This week, Tristan Brett was nominated. He put in a sterling performance during The Wik Memorial Triathlon on Sunday. Not only was he the first across the line in his age category, but also overall among all the athletes!



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NEWS IN BRIEF

CHESS



On Saturday, the Chess Team went to Merensky to partake in a big tournament with more than 300 participants. The team scored 14.5 points out of a possible 25. Krish Pandya was our highest-rated player and Tshepiso Molepo came 3rd overall after he won 4 of his 5 games. Mukundi Ralubuvhi was the 3rd placed female participant in the Open Category.

SQUASH



Three Stanford Lake College pupils participated in Limpopo Squash Trials recently. Alisha Calokechi ranked No.1 for the U/16 girls and Alessio Calokechi ranked No.4 for the U/16 boys. Giano October won all of these matches over the course of the two days and all three pupils were selected to represent the Limpopo Team and qualified for the Bloemfontein tour.

EB MILE

On Saturday, Jenny Zhang, Emma Imrie, and Amber McHugh all swam in 3km event at the Ebenezer Mile. Jenny came in at 46:48 minutes which puts her four minutes faster than the women's open SA qualifying time for open water swimming! Emma finished in 57 minutes and Amber in just over an hour. Holly McHugh, Thomas Imrie, Ilne Kotzé, Sasha Boyum, Aiden Robinson-Kok and Ben Tasker all swam the mile beautifully in times ranging from 30 - 35 minutes with some PBs being recorded. Elia and Mika Jones swam in the 500m event and both finished in 14:08 minutes. Nicholus Boyum also came in at just under 15 minutes.

SWIMMING



Congratulations to Jenny Zhang and Dario Wasley who have been selected for the Limpopo Schools' Swimming team to represent Limpopo at SA Swimming Champs in Gqeberha from the 19th - 21st of April 2024.

MTB



Gordon Noel recently cycled in the second race of the Limpopo XCO Series which was held in Vaalbos just outside of Marble Hall. Racing in the heat of the day, on a flat and dusty track made for some interesting racing. Unfortunately, he suffered two punctures; one on lap one and one on lap three but still managed to take 3rd place after 5 laps.

SPEAKERS SOCIETY

Mrs Redfern writes: "On Monday night, the third and final meeting for the Speakers' Society for the term was held at The Red Plate. We are still working our way through the ice breaker speeches and, as with the previous meeting, the standard of both the speeches and the evaluations of them was exceptional. This is an extraordinary group of speakers who craft their words with care, speak with honesty and intent and who learn from one another. It has been a privilege working with them. The best evaluators were Mickey Mkhabele and Dylan Turner. The best speech went to Ryno Schultz."

MATHS OLYMPIAD



As many as 40 students have made it through to the second round of the Mathematics Olympiad! The two top performers during the first round were Tadhg Egan with 90% and Hana MacMillan with 85%.

RAFFLE WINNERS



Congratulations to David Tasker and Thato Moleya who won the sheep raffle!

All the money raised will go towards the George Sports Tour.

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STANFORDIANS ON FIRE IN "SOPHIA"

Last week the school put on an electric production called "Sophia". Mrs Dionne Redfern, the Head of Culture at Stanford Lake College, writes: "The script for this show was written with this cast in mind. Having watched them for two years, it was clear that we needed to do another musical to showcase the extraordinary talent in our school. Sophiatown had a profound influence not only on the political landscape but also on the music and dance styles of our country, long after it was gone. In a very busy term, the rehearsal schedule pushed the cast almost to breaking point... but we have made it. Every single person involved has made sacrifices to make this happen and the result was a show that was an emotional roller-coaster ride that told a horrible history whilst also being vibrant and uplifting. We are beyond proud of the cast of over 100 pupils who danced, sang and acted their hearts out. You truly showcased excellence in our school."



[CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS](#)

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Farewell, Mrs Redfern...

Mrs Dionne Redfern joined Stanford Lake College in January 2021 as Head of the English Department and Director of Culture. She very quickly made an impact in both of these areas. Shortly after her arrival, she was also appointed as the Assistant Housemistress of Ken Shuter boarding house and took over the control of girls' discipline, working closely with Mr Shane Friedrichs and Mr Lucas Ludick to ensure we maintain our high standards.

Dionne is recognised for the passion and professionalism that she puts into all that she does. She sets incredibly high standards for herself and her pupils and does not compromise. She expects the best from her pupils at all times. As an English teacher, her planning and preparation is meticulous and her subject knowledge is unparalleled. While in her position as HOD English, she initiated and organised an IEB Limpopo English teachers conference with top-quality speakers. It was an enormous success and will still be a regular feature on the Limpopo English teacher's annual calendar. The conference was aimed at improving English teaching in the province and creating a tighter-knit English



teachers' community, thereby improving collegiality and cooperation between schools.

Mrs Redfern made an enormous impact in the cultural arena. She hosted the inaugural meeting of the Stanford Speakers' Society and has subsequently grown it into one of the premier societies on campus. She has spent hours helping the senior prefects prepare for and polish speeches and, in doing so, has created strong bonds between herself and these pupils. Mrs Redfern has directed many productions: an excellent variety concert "Stanford Stars", the musical "Remember, Remember, Remember My Name" along with two Christmas Carol Services, an Easter devotion, Heritage Day celebrations and inter-house music. She was also involved in assisting the Cultural Committee polish the Hatchery shows. Along with these she also organised "La Chanson des Fleurs" which served as a community fundraiser. Her final production was the musical "Sophia". It was a remarkable production that was pulled together under the guidance of Dionne by an unbelievable cast of pupils and supporting directors. Those of us privileged to have seen the play would acknowledge that it serves as a wonderful tribute to all that Mrs Redfern has brought to our school: a production full of passion and emotion stretching our pupils to their limits and getting the best out of all involved and in doing so, creating lifelong relationships with many of those involved. We wish Mrs Redfern all the best with her appointment as Headmistress of Epworth High School and look forward to seeing her back on campus during her holidays. Good luck, Dionne. We are going to miss you.

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TOGETHER, WE ARE THE SOLUTION!

Last week, seven Grade 9 pupils had the enriching opportunity to attend a Round Square conference hosted at St. George's College in Windhoek, Namibia. The trip commenced with an exhilarating pre-tour to Swakopmund, where the students, accompanied by peers from Dainfern College and St. Cyprian's, embarked on a memorable seal and dolphin cruise, followed by an adventurous afternoon of sandboarding down stunning sand dunes. Notably, Ruby Fair and Matthew Pullinger demonstrated exceptional fearlessness as they led the charge down the dunes.

Upon arrival in Windhoek, the conference officially began. Focused on service and centred around the motto 'Together we are the Solution,' the conference featured diverse activities. These included volunteering at 'Beautiful Kids,' an after-school programme, where our learners assisted students with homework and contributed to the beautification of the facility. Additionally, they had the privilege of attending insightful talks by esteemed speakers such as Gys Joubert, CEO of Gondwana Collection, and Carol Semedo, a board member of the Nampharm foundation. Beyond the activities, our learners formed enduring friendships with peers from around the globe, embodying the Round Square ideal of internationalism, and representing our school proudly.



MOKGALE OFF TO SA'S!

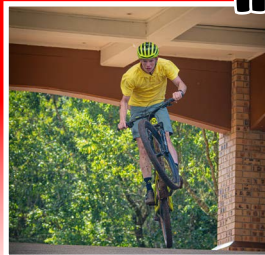
Six Stanford athletes participated in the Limpopo Athletics Championships held at the University of Limpopo recently. The day started well with Olivia Turner and Thato Thobejane both finishing in the top 6 athletes in their events. Mokgale Mamabolo then hit the track and what a race it was. After the first heat, the leading time was 10.59 seconds. Mokgale had to run 10.70 seconds to qualify. He started well and kept increasing his pace and finished his heat in 1st place. His time, 10.31 seconds, makes him the fastest U/19 Boy in the province. Just as Zayd Moosa was about to start his Javelin event, a massive storm came up and the event was suspended for the time being. Zayd eventually finished third in the province for Boys U/19 Javelin. Isabella Alcock finished 5th in the 1500m race and 6th in the 800m race for Girls U/19. Fia Niemann was our last athlete to participate and she finished third in her heat for Girls U/17.



Mokgale will represent Limpopo at the South African Athletics Championships in Paarl from 3 - 6 April. We wish him all the best.



INTERHOUSE WIK



What a contrast to the main event on Sunday! On Sunday we could barely see because of all the mist and rain and on Monday afternoon it was sunny and a perfect day for racing! We had 15 participants doing the full event and the rest of the school did the run. It was muddy and a lot of fun! Well done to Tristan Brett for taking the win (again!) and well done to all who took part in the event.



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WINTER SPORTS KICK OFF!

In preparation for the upcoming winter sports season, our U/14, U/16, and 1st Team Girls' Hockey Teams played friendly matches against Hoërskool Louis Trichardt. The U/14 girls, despite it being their first game together as a group, displayed commendable effort, with some experiencing their first-ever hockey match. They narrowly lost 0 - 1 in a closely contested match. In contrast, the U/16 girls asserted their dominance on the field, delivering a great performance to secure a resounding 5 - 1 win. The 1st Team set the tone for an impressive season, overpowering their opponents with an emphatic 11 - 0 win.

On the rugby field, the U/15 boys played their first match of the season. This is a team that comprises mainly U/14s, many of whom were playing a rugby match for the first time. The team showed immense spirit and heart, losing the game by only two points (17 - 15). It is evident that this is a team that possesses a lot of talent, which bodes well for the upcoming season. Special mention to Zwivhuya

Raulinga and Matthews Munyai, who have been chosen as the Captains of this team. Andani Rembuluwani was voted as man of the match, scoring 13 out of the team's 15 points.

The U/16 Badgers faced a tough opponent for their first ever fixture together, and unfortunately lost the game 37 - 0 to a much better team. However, there were plenty of positives to come out of the loss for the team to focus on. Captain, Matthew Scriven, had a particularly good game and lead from the front and was awarded man of the match.

In an intense rugby showdown, the 1st Teams then took to the pitch. However, it was Louis Trichardt who emerged victorious with a score line of 46 - 11. Despite the defeat, our own Dylan Turner stood out as the man of the match, demonstrating exceptional skill and determination on the field. Although we fell short on the scoreboard, Stanford Lake College showcased significant progress and resilience, signalling a promising season ahead.



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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF STANFORD LEGENDS

In the first week of March, the Grade 9 students embarked on their first expedition of the year - 'In the Footsteps of Legends'. The expedition consists of 3 and a half days of hiking- starting at Sekororo and finishing in Penge. Day 1 started off with a steep climb to the first break. It didn't get much better from there, as the next section in the bush had to get cut open as the trail was completely overgrown after the rains we had the last couple of months. The Grade 9s were taken to some of the most beautiful and interesting locations South Africa has to offer, including the Christmas Plateau, which was the camp for day 1. The camp fell silent fairly quickly with all the weary souls enjoying the rest.

Day 2 greeted the group with beautiful sunny weather. The first 700m of the day took them just over 2 hours to complete as they ascended almost 300m! After a long rest at the top, the group walked around to the Louis Trichardt Memorial Plate for a quick photo before visiting the site where people, still to this day, are digging to find the mythical Kruger Gold Rands. Paul Kruger is believed to have buried them here before his exile. They then descended to their camp - Louisfontein, aptly named after the fountain that flows out the mountain at the camp. It was a very gusty evening and the best sunset ever!

Due to water availability the decision was made to hike a new route on Day 3, with ample fresh water at the bottom and a beautiful new campsite next to the Olifants River. A big thank you goes to Joseph at Dimakatso Tropical Resort Mankele for use of their beautiful campsite.

The following morning, after reaching Penge, and of course the shop, the Grade 9s readied themselves for an eventful rafting experience on the Olifants River. The fun started on Monday afternoon once the hefty task of inflating and carrying 24 boats had been done. Thankfully for all the weary souls who were tired and needed a break, the first day was only 10km filled with only a few small rapids that gave a taste of the larger ones to come. Camp that night was situated on the banks of the river, now named Loerie Camp. The second day was a much longer day on the water with about 25km covered until camp. Even though none of the rafts flipped on the second day, the rapids were still enough to keep the adrenaline up and eyes wide open.

The adventurers arrived at Samango Camp and the kayakers played in the rapid next to camp and gained some valuable river skills. The rest of the group filled up water bottles from a fresh stream on the opposite bank and also swam down the rapid. That night the whole camp seemed to be full of a long-lost energy and were excited for the days to come.

Day 3 on the river was a lot shorter than the previous day, yet just as exciting due to the ever-increasing number of rapids. It was on this day that they encountered their first named rapid, Zuma's Tea Party. This was the students' first chance to show what they were capable of. The rapid proved to be a walk in the park for all the students because none of them flipped or even fell out of their boats, except one kayaker!

That afternoon they arrived at Baobab Beach fairly early! Without wasting any time and in preparation for what was coming the next day, Mr Haarhoff made all the students do raft and swimming

drills down the rapid above camp. At first the complaining didn't stop, but soon enough they were willingly swimming down the rapid with whoops and shouts of excitement, adrenaline and fun! Baobab Beach gets its name from the three enormous baobabs (now only 2!) situated on the slope behind the beach.

An early start the next morning indicated a long day ahead. The whole camp was packed and ready to go just before 7 o'clock. After Mr Haarhoff's briefing, the bunch of anxious students hit the water. The first rapids of the day started only 100m from camp in the Olifants River Gorge. The first major one being Rent-O-Kill. This name has struck fear into the hearts of many nervous paddlers over the years and so it was no surprise that when given the option, some students walked around the rapid instead of running it. However, those who decided to run the waters seemed to have a blast judging by the smiles on their faces. Rent-O-Kill lived up to its expectations and claimed a few tipped rafts and empty kayaks.

From here on down, the river didn't ease up because rapids such as Double Trouble, Corner Post, Long Drop, Simple Simon and Roller Coaster were still to come. Fortunately, no major issues occurred on the rapids to follow and everyone made it out the other side in good spirits and with silly stories to tell back at school. After roughly 20km of paddling and multiple large rapids, they made it to the take-out point at the base of the Strydom tunnels. At this point almost everyone was happy to be going home after a long expedition but there were a few, who were sad that it had finished so soon. Thank you to all the staff members that came along and made this a memorable experience for all.



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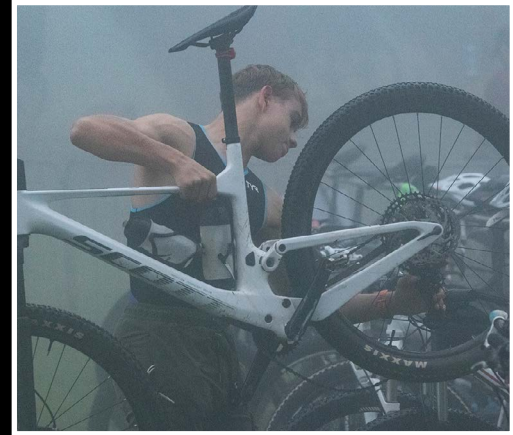
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THE WIK

Officially the 11th Wik Memorial Triathlon took place on Sunday (unofficially, it was the 12th as the staff competed in their own event during COVID in 2020). We started the day off with stars in the sky and then the weather closed in! Not as bad as in 2023, but much more persistent! TSA wanted to cancel the swim leg due to the heavy mist but we convinced them to continue, just on a shorter course but still safe enough to get everybody a chance in the water. We saw an amazing turnout for this year's event with 320 entries, despite the weather! Alumnus Kyle Burelli finished 3rd in the Stanfordian. Tristan Brett took all the honours in The Wik Individual, not only being the first junior across the line but the first athlete overall. Matthew Scriven was the 2nd Junior male and Ryno Schultz 3rd. Ilne Kotzé finished as the 2nd Junior female and Holly McHugh 3rd! Isabella Dando finished 2nd Individual Female for the Wik, after a sprint finish with her dad! We also had a lot of students and parents competing in the team event. Well done to Mr Mabayah for finishing his first ever triathlon. Thank you very much to all the sponsors; Trophy Toyota, PPS, Miami Cannons and Dust Suppression Technologies that made this event possible and of course to the staff, that helped out during and before the event with marking routes, admin, marketing etc!



HONOURS AWARDED



Mokgale Mamabolo has had an outstanding athletics season thus far. It started with SLC's Interhouse event at the end of January when Mokgale broke the school's U/19 long jump and 100m records. He was awarded the Senior Victor Ludorum on the day. The following week, at the Independent Schools' Athletics Meet, he won the U/19 200m and 100m events. He also broke the U/19 long jump record for this meet but ended up coming second. He was awarded the Senior Victor Ludorum. At the Frikkie Deysel Athletics meeting hosted by Merensky on the 9th of February, he won the 100m race, in a time of 10.97sec, the 200m, in a time of 22.30sec (new school record), the 400m, in a time of 51.57 sec (new school record), and came third in the long jump. These performances ensured that he once again won the Senior Victor Ludorum trophy. On Friday 16th February, Stanford's athletics team travelled to Louis Trichardt to take part in the High School Louis Trichardt Prestige Athletics meeting where nine local schools participated. Mokgale was once again on top form as he broke two event records; the boys U/19 100m in a time of 10.72sec as well as the 200m (21.85sec). He also won the U/19 boys 400m race. Mokgale won the trophy for the Best Senior Boy Track athlete as well as winning the Senior Victor Ludorum.

Six Stanford athletes then participated in the Limpopo Athletics Championships held at the University of Limpopo. Mokgale hit the track and what a race it was. After the first heat, the leading time was 10.59 seconds. He had to run 10.70 seconds to qualify. He started well and kept increasing his pace and finished his heat in 1st place. His time of 10.31 seconds makes him the fastest U/19 Boy in the province. He will represent Limpopo at the South African Athletics Championships in Paarl from 3 - 6 April.

Ordinarily, the culture awards are made in April but the recipient is leaving Stanford at the end of this term. It would be a miscarriage of justice for her not to receive her Honours before she goes. Thapelo Nare has shown sustained and outstanding commitment and ability across a range of cultural activities, taking part in debating, the variety show in 2022, both carol services, the Valediction performances, Interhouse Music (with her directing Serala to a win last year) Fame and Sophia. She is the consummate performer, able to be a lead dancer, solo singer and lead actress. Very few can perform at a level of excellence in all three disciplines. She is completely committed to rehearsals and takes time to train and coach others. As a natural leader in the cultural sphere, it was her drive that pushed much of what the choir did last year. Over the last two years, she has attained the following grades at the Eisteddfods: 90% for Dance; 90% for Drama; 78% for Dance.

This year, she was given one of the three larger lead roles in "Sophia" and then, with 10 days to go before opening night, she took over a second lead role, blended the two characters and played the role superbly. She sang most of the songs (including 2 solos) in the show and danced most of the dances (including a solo). She was responsible for some of the choreography and showed extraordinary stage craft skills. There is much that can be coached by the staff but true flair, sparkle and charisma is innate. She has those qualities in abundance. Her energy on stage is extraordinary and without her, the show would not have worked the way it did.

FEBRUARY RECYCLING STATISTICS

MATERIAL	KILOGRAMS
MIXED PLASTICS	840 KGS
CARDBOARD	462 KGS
PAPER	1985 KGS
ALUMINIUM CANS	95 KGS
TOTAL WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL	3292 KGS

