

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 11 of 2022 - 13 April



Matters of Principal

The past ten days really have flown by. During discussion in the staff meeting yesterday, it was evident that despite the disrupted nature of the start of this second term, the staff feel that we have achieved a great deal. The academic programme is in full swing and the pupils have been hard at work. We have had a busy sports programme and the call has gone out to pupils to think about what they would like to audition for the variety concert, which will take place two weeks after the Easter break (5 and 6 May).

While all of this is positive and affirming, we continue to see the true impact of Covid in how it has affected school life. A common observation and one that I need to highlight is that of commitment, drive and expectation and the lack thereof in too many of our pupils.

If you speak to our girls and boys, they are quick to say they want excellent marks; they want to win on the sports fields; they want to go to trials and be selected for provincial teams. When those aspirations are not met, some are equally quick to blame the teachers or bemoan the fact that staff did not remind them to go to extra lessons. Blame is easily laid on the coaches or the refs when things don't go their way. Too few accept responsibility or accountability. Many of our children, I fear, have forgotten what real commitment is about... what drive looks like... what genuine effort is.

When I first arrived at Stanford Lake College in December 2018,

"Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal – a commitment to excellence – that will enable you to attain the success you seek."

– Mario Andretti

I bumped into a young lady who introduced herself as the head girl. On a hot December afternoon, with nobody watching, there she was on the field training for the upcoming athletics season in her holiday. It was impressive. I am afraid that post the pandemic, I see very little of this. I asked one of our senior rugby players, who has provincial ambitions, if he had done any cardio during the past holiday and his reply was no. Coaches bemoan players who run for a few minutes and then need to rest or claim a sudden injury. Some teachers see lethargy in classes and homework sloppily done.

Yet commitment is one of our core values. I challenge our pupils to critically evaluate their performances, both academically and in all other aspects of school life, and ask themselves a question that demands the truth: am I truly committed to doing my best?

I implore parents to ask the same of their children as we do: put in the hard yards; do the extra half an hour of prep; go on that 5km run; do some wind sprints in the back garden.

It's time we take back control of the things we can control and work harder in all aspects of our lives.

I wish you a peaceful and blessed Easter.



WARMBAD CLINCH VICTORY

On Saturday 9th April, Stanford hosted Hoërskool Warmbad in the annual league fixtures. It was a wet and misty day out on the field.

The first game was our U/15B team against their U/14's and unfortunately Stanford lost the game 0 - 51. The 2nd Team then took to the field in what was expected to be a hard-fought contest. Stanford lost the game 0 - 19 against Warmbad's U/16 team. The U/15A team then played a league match. Thabang Shabangu opened the scoring for Stanford with a try in the first 10 minutes of the game. Stanford was all over the opponents but ill-discipline on Stanford's side resulted in the team being reduced to 14 men. Warmbad capitalised on this and scored three tries to end the game 5 - 21 in the visitors' favour.

In the much anticipated clash between the two first teams that kicked off at 12:00 in the rain, it was Hoërskool Warmbad who scored the first try of the match to make the score 0 - 5. Jethro Clowes then scored a try which was converted by Devon Coad. The opposition ran in two further tries to stretch their lead to 7 - 15. With 10 minutes left, Devon Coad kicked a penalty over to take Stanford within one try's score. Unfortunately, Stanford bent the knee and Warmbad was victorious at the end clinching the win 10 - 15.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

NETBALL

Last week the first team netball girls travelled to St Andrews for their annual netball festival where they played against many other schools from around the country. They played a total of 13 matches throughout the tournament, which was a great opportunity for the team to bond and work on our weak points, both individually and as a team.

Though we may not have got the results we had hoped for, we were still able to bring home a few wins and are grateful for the love and support we received from the mountain.

Congratulations to Dimpho Thobane, Tanatswa Murasiranwa, Shriya Patel, Cara Prinsloo, Jacinta Kubayi, Isabella Alcock and Chelsy Mathebula, who were nominated as players of the match during the course of the tournament.



HOCKEY

On Saturday, we played a friendly match with a mixed team of Stanford boys, against a fairly new team in the form of Hans Strijdom. The weather made for an interesting game as we had players sliding around on the turf. The boys went on to record a 13 - 0 win, with Kian Noné and Kyle Allison both scoring four goals each. The day allowed for a fun interaction between our junior and senior boys.

NETBALL TRIALS

Congratulations to Nanaki Kgopong and Nsovo Mabila who made the Limpopo Netball squad for their respective age groups. Well done, girls!!



WELCOME MR DE LANGE



I have been teaching Mathematics Since 2010. I previously taught at Hoërskool Linden for 3 years, Midstream College for 2 years and the last 7 and a bit years I taught at St Alban's College. My wife's name is Marisa and we have two small children, Hannah (3) and Rohan (1). As much as I enjoy teaching, I also enjoy coaching and watching sports. My favourite sport is Cricket, I also enjoy Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Squash, Golf and when possible, Snowboarding. I also love nature and enjoy spending time outdoors, mostly visiting the Kruger Park, camping or hiking and although I do love animals, I do not currently own any pets. Another favourite pastime is reading, my favourite genre is Fantasy (not Sci-Fi). Lastly, although my wife would tell you this should be number one on the list, I enjoy playing board games, however I seldom get enough people together to fully enjoy this hobby of mine.

STANFORD: SHAPING FUTURES



Ali Conn (Class of 2007) was recently interviewed by the Round Square Organisation about his career and how both his journey at Stanford Lake College, and his experiences with Round Square, helped to shape the person he has become.

Round Square writes, "Ali Conn's unremitting sense of adventure and deter-

mination has catapulted him around the world on a journey rich with experience and discovery. His insatiable desire to make a difference and "disrupt" established patterns of behaviour has made him a founding member of SA Harvest; a non-profit organisation committed to rescuing and redistributing surplus food that would have otherwise ended up in landfills around South Africa. Ali, a Stanford Lake College alumnus (2007), attributes his sense of adventure, concern for the environment, and drive to make a difference in the lives of others to his time at Stanford Lake College.

... Ali remembers the freedom he experienced when he first joined the "Dream and Do" programme at his new school, Stanford Lake College... Conditioned by his previous teacher-centred, classroom-based experiences of education, Ali was shocked. "It blew my mind! How would you allow kids to go and swim in the lake? Shouldn't they be doing maths or something? But the school was like, "No! Go be adventurous and explore the world around you!"

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