



Matters of Principal

“The way to achieve your own success is to be willing to help somebody else get it first”
- Iyanla Vanzant

Over the holiday, I had the pleasure of traveling down to George to support our boys and girls involved in the George Winter Sports Festival. It is the first time in 4 years that we have been able to send all four of our senior winter sports teams on tour together. While it was an incredibly long drive, it was most certainly worth it. The opportunity for our pupils to interact with pupils from schools across the country, to play fixtures against new opposition and to spend time together bonding cannot be underestimated. The camaraderie displayed by our Stanfordinians was fantastic. They presented themselves impeccably and their manners were outstanding. Our staff were very proud of how they conducted themselves at all times. At Stanford we pride ourselves on the quality of young adults that we produce at our school and sometimes we begin to take this for granted. We assume that good manners, neat dress, being litter conscious and being confident teenagers who can engage with strangers is the norm, but I can assure you, at a festival with pupils from over 20 schools across the country, our pupils stood out for those very qualities. As a group, they grew both on the sports field and socially. I am confident that this time away will set us up for an excellent sporting season. We will see badger spirit in abundance.

On Sunday afternoon, as I was preparing for the term, I spent some time interrogating the term calendar and - no surprise - it is going to be busy! This term is going to test our resolve, our resilience and our commitment. Staff and pupils are going to be stretched. Time

management and good planning will be essential. We have an incredibly busy sporting and cultural programme, including 3 derby weekends. Grades 8- 10 will be writing exams towards the end of the term and Grade 11 and 12 pupils will have important academic consolidation during this same period. I appeal to parents to assist us in helping your children plan and balance their activities. The solution does not lie in pulling pupils out of extramural activities but rather in assisting in planning. I ask parents to do all they can to join us on the side of the sports field supporting our teams, to participate in Parent meet Teacher meetings and to engage fully with all that we do at school. If we are going to reach the heights that we are capable of, it will be through a team effort. We are all going to have to chip in and support one another. Please keep up with communications sent out and if you have queries or questions, please don't hesitate to contact the relevant staff member.

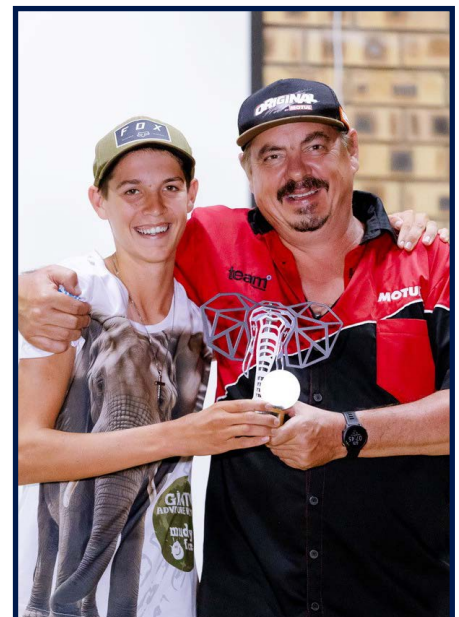
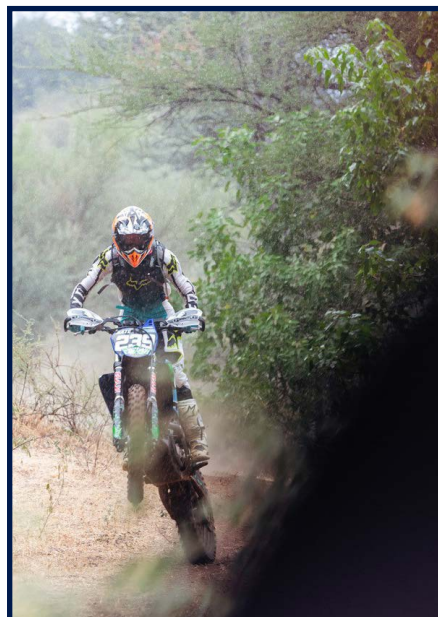
I look forward to an exciting and busy second quarter at school and hope to interact with many of you on campus during this time.

I wish you all a wonderful term and a happy weekend.

God bless.

YOUNG, BUT A GIANT COMPETITOR

During the school holidays, Nathan “Nate” Berrie (Grade 9) participated in a rally in Botswana called Giants Rally. Nate emerged as the overall winner of the Giants Rally held from 20th to 24th March. His victory over Charan Moore, who won the Malle Moto category at Dakar 2023, demonstrates his exceptional skills and determination. In addition to that, Nate was the youngest competitor there, showing true badger spirit. The rally attracted 81 riders from Southern Africa, and despite being the youngest competitor, Nate showcased remarkable talent and perseverance. The event spanned three days, covering approximately 200km each day across diverse terrains in Botswana’s Tuli Block.



NEWS IN BRIEF

DEBATING

Our Junior Debating Team took part in the first round of the Polokwane Mayor's Cup Debate 2024 on Wednesday. In debating against Bokamoso Secondary School, Stanford Lake College opposed the motion "The responsibility of selecting language policy should remain with School Governing Bodies (SGBs) instead of the Provincial Education departments (PEDs)". Ru Ngwarai, Teya Zanetic and Ruby Fair were the speakers and unfortunately lost the debate to the proposition team.

ATHLETICS

During the last week of the holidays Mokgale Mamabolo represented Limpopo at the National Athletics Championship. He ran the 100m heat on Thursday and finished in 2nd place which secured him a spot in the final. Mokgale then ran in the final on Friday afternoon but unfortunately injured his hamstring. He still finished the race in 7th place which makes him the 7th fastest U/19 boy in the country. This is an exceptional performance.

DONATION



A huge thank you to Tienie Prinsloo from BEC Construction who kindly donated two new pavilion stands so more people can enjoy spectating sports at SLC. We appreciate your generosity!

THE WIK

We would like to make a correction or rather add to the results of the Wik Memorial Triathlon. In our previous notice it was mentioned that Isabella Dando finished second in the Open Ladies category. She did however also win the Junior girls category. Well done Bella.

MERENSKY HOCKEY FESTIVAL

The U/16 Hockey Teams were fortunate to participate in the Merensky Hockey Festival we co-hosted during the holidays. The U/16 girls faced a series of challenging matches in the pre-season festival. They began with a solid 2 - 0 victory against HTS Witbank but encountered tough competition, resulting in losses to Nelspruit (0 - 3), Bergsig (0 - 3), and Oos-Moot (0 - 1). Despite these setbacks, they showed resilience by securing a hard-fought 2 - 1 win against Zwartkop. Ultimately, the girls won 3 games and lost 2, displaying determination and effort against formidable opponents. Similarly, the U/16 boys encountered a tough tournament, facing strong opposition throughout. They started with a 0 - 3 loss on the first day and struggled against Sentral (0 - 0) and Nelspruit (0 - 2) on the second day. The challenges continued as they faced Curro Bankenveld (0 - 5) and Bergsig (0 - 2) on subsequent days, resulting in losses. Despite not securing a win, the boys displayed perseverance and effort in each match, showcasing their potential for growth in the upcoming season.



GORDY HOT ON THE TRACK

by Gordon Noel

The first SA XCO and XCC Cup of the South African MTB Series was held at Thaba Trails on the 29 and 30 of March. This event was also part of the Junior World Series which means there were a lot more UCI points up for grabs. This made for some serious competition with riders from Namibia, France and South Africa all lining up. I managed a 13th place on the XCC after 7 flat-out laps of racing which meant I had secured a 3rd row start for the following day. The XCO race was even tougher with the track being quite dusty and worn out by the time I raced, making everything just a bit more difficult. After six hard laps, I managed an 11th place to end off my weekend.



TRISTAN TRUFFLE HUNTING FOR A SECOND PLACE

by Tristan Brett

This past holiday I was at it again taking on Mountain Mammoth's supposedly 120 km adventure race in the Eastern Cape. I had the privilege of racing with Team Truffle Hunters consisting of Franco, Dewald and Andrea who brought along a lot of experience. The course covered a distance of over 120km and 2000m of climbing. We started at 2am on Saturday morning with the first 20km trek leg which went well at first but ended with navigation errors which resulted in two hours lost. The second leg was a fast but technical 30km bike. The third leg was supposed to be a 1km trek but ended up being 35km with the addition of an optional point, gruelling terrain and interesting route choice. The 6km kayak leg and swim was fast but cold as the wind and rain moved in. We then had a 4km trek to the transition where we embarked on a 40km bike section which was extremely muddy and rocky. The last 8km trek took us five hours to complete as this consisted of hectic bushwhacking, kloofing and tricky orienteering. We finished with a total distance of 164.5 km with 3950m of elevation gain in 26 hours non-stop. It was pretty tough considering the brutal terrain. We finished in 2nd place overall which was a rewarding result considering the tough course. I look forward to a great season ahead.

GEORGE TOUR

Our journey to George for the Southern Cape Festival was marked by much anticipation by both staff and players alike. Despite the long travel time to the southern coast, everyone was excited upon arrival, especially when attending the opening ceremony in the Outeniqua Rugby Stadium, which was attended by over 2500 players from all over South Africa.

The Netball girls rallied their spirits for the upcoming challenges the following morning, as they would be the first team to play fixtures on Day 1. In their first encounter against Drostdy, the toll of travel impacted their performance, resulting in a 29 - 10 loss due to some sluggish legs. However, their resilience shone through in subsequent matches. Facing El Shadai, they secured a well-deserved victory with a score of 19 - 13. They then maintained their momentum, triumphing over Curro Somerset with a convincing 22 - 11 win on the first day. Regrettably, the following day's solitary fixture against Kloof ended in a 31 - 13 loss. Undeterred, the team faced a challenging third day, playing in three back-to-back matches. Despite drawing against both Bultfontein (14 - 14) and Punt (23 - 23), they encountered a setback against International with a 13 - 21 loss. On the fourth day, competing for the 5th and 6th positions, the team showcased their determination and skill, securing a decisive 19 - 7 victory. This commendable performance culminated in a 5th place finish out of 8 participating schools, a remarkable achievement considering the calibre of competition.

The 1st Girls Hockey Team kicked off their pre-season campaign against Fichardt Park, facing initial struggles after an overnight journey, resulting in a 0 - 2 loss. However, they quickly found their footing on day two, defeating Wagpos 4 - 1. Despite playing two games on day three fatigue set in, leading to a 1 - 1 draw against Melkbosstrand and a 2 - 0 victory over Hoerskool Dimanika. The tournament concluded on a challenging note as they faced Secunda, resulting in a 1 - 7 loss.

The 1st Team Boys began with a narrow 0 - 1 loss to Fichardt Park but rebounded strongly with a convincing 3 - 0 win over Wagpos on day two. Day three saw them dominate with a 3 - 0 win over Melkbosstrand and a hard-fought 1 - 1 draw against the George Club side. They concluded their tournament with a 2 - 0 victory over Hillcrest on the final day.

Overall, the girls won 2 games, drew 1, and lost 2, while the boys won 3, drew 1, and lost 1. Both teams did well demonstrating commendable performances in their pre-season tours.

The 1st Rugby Team had the honour of playing the opening fixture of the tournament against Hoogenhout. Heavy legs and slow movements after the long journey was the order of the day and Hoogenhout capitalised on this very quickly and the boys learned some hard lessons with a heavy loss. Tuesday was recovery day for the team and they enjoyed a day at the beach for an 'ice bath' to help with the recovery process. The second match on Wednesday was against Montana B. It was a much better performance by the team

and scrumming against props that weighed about 140kg didn't deter them from winning the scrum contests! However, the overall match result didn't go Stanford's way, but a much better and improved performance was seen. The last match on the Friday was against Pinehurst. The team were their own worst enemies on the day and threw the game away. It was a narrow loss but very valuable lessons learned. It was a brutal and very physical tour but the boys did not let that get to them and the spirits are high for the season ahead.

In between all the numerous fixtures, the pupils also enjoyed the many sights and sounds of the town of Wilderness during their down time. A highlight was some of our outings to the beach where, like true 'Vaalies' many of them spent hours in the cold water and rough waves, or learning to play beach volleyball with total strangers. Dylan and Kgonne both celebrated their birthdays while on tour.

We are very proud of our touring First Teams. Despite many hours on the bus, and most of our players competing in two different sports throughout the Festival, the improvement and growth shown was exceptional. Our First Team coaches gained much insight into their players' abilities, and the teams all formed strong cultures and connections, which will go a long way towards what we hope will be a very successful Winter Sports season.

Well done to all the players who took part in the Festival. A big thank you to all the parents that travelled all that way to support their children and teams. A massive thanks to our sponsors and supporters of this tour: PNA Tzaneen, Expedition North Polokwane, Premjee Cash & Carry Tzaneen, The van der Westhuizen family, Tswelapele Farms, Mrs Bernadette Veldsman, PPS Petroleum Suppliers Tzaneen and The Pot 'n Plow Haenertsburg. Lastly, a very sincere thank you to the Sports coaches who gave up part of their Easter holiday to travel with the teams.

