

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

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Matters of Principal

"Humans like to consider everything as linear, when in reality everything is cyclic.

They are obsessed with straight lines. Straight roads, straight houses, straight pieces of steel, glass, and timber. Straight cut diamonds. Let's get straight to the point. Be straight with me.

And this is how they see their lives. A linear journey, along the road of life. That is where expressions such as Highway to Hell come from. But what about other expressions, such as the life cycle, the cycle of nature, and the weather cycle?

Because of this obsession with straight lines, they view history and historical events, as existing way back along an imaginary path, one they are sure they are far away from. Like watching a fading wake from a ship.

So when they look at the religious wars, for example, the Christians versus the Muslims, the rise and fall of Empires, democracies and dictatorships, they seem blind when comparing present day situations with those of the past.

The majority of humans see evolution as a race along a straight race track, a race they are winning by a long margin, yet they are afraid to ever slow down, in case other life catches them.

If they did slow down long enough, they may observe that the track is actually cyclic."

— Robert Black

Under normal circumstances, school life follows a fairly predictable rhythm. As we all know, recent months have been far from predictable! Life has been chaotic, unpredictable and to be honest, pretty frustrating on a day-to-day basis. Dare I tempt fate, as we reach the final three weeks of the third term, by saying that a sense of calm has descended on the campus and the rhythm appears to be back?

The DAD centre is once again a hive of activity, with pupils enjoying afternoon lessons around the dam and climbing wall. Pupils are seen walking up to the sports field and gym to kick a ball and get some fresh air and the gym deck is being used for workouts and Pilates classes. The mountain bike tracks in the area are well worn as our pupils test their skills on the single track. The Grade 11 and 12 pupils are writing important examinations. The trial examinations offer an opportunity for the staff and pupils to measure how their preparation for the final examinations is going. This is a stressful but important part of their preparation. The staff are comfortable that the build-up has been good and that pupils have all they need to succeed. The ball is now firmly in their court and I wish them all well during this period.

Added to all of this, spring is in the air! I have been assured by the "mountain locals" that we are in for another cold snap in September before we can claim to be out of what has been an extremely harsh winter, but the signs of spring are all around us. The blossoms are out and nature is putting her best foot forward. As I walked to work this morning it was with a strong sense of optimism. Despite all that has transpired over the past 6 months we have so much to be grateful for and so much to look forward to in the coming months.

Have an excellent weekend.
God Bless



Celebrating great women

To celebrate Women's Day earlier in the month, Ms Scheepers asked her tutees to write a short piece about what women mean to them. Here is a beautifully written piece by Morné Lindeque:

A woman that has inspired me is without a doubt my mom. Because of her, when I think of women, I think of inspiration, strength, beauty, not knowing when to quit.

Raising four children couldn't have been easy but she managed to be there for every sports day, every dance recital, every first day of school, every hard maths question and every tear. Showing equal amounts of love to all her children and teaching us that it is never too late to chase after our dreams. Teaching us values and standards for life.

Excepting our flaws but loving us because of them. Just thinking about raising four teenagers makes me tired, but my mom always has the energy to listen to my problems. My mother has showed me that being strong doesn't necessarily mean to have muscle, but to be courageous and never give up. That's what Women's Day is all about; celebrating women who have helped us shape this world we live in today.



The clothing items donated by the Stanford Lake College community were distributed to needy families in the local area this week. The distribution was done alongside the St Paul's United Church COVID 19 Relief Initiative.