

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 01 of 2021- 22 January



Matters of Principal

What a year 2021 has been and we are only 22 days into it. The planning that we had so diligently done in the last quarter of 2020 has been thrown out and while we have a new plan, I have no doubt that in the next few weeks we will ditch that one too and devise another. None of this troubles us this time round. We navigate this uncertain future with agility and know we will emerge stronger than before. We live in a tumultuous world where the only certainty is uncertainly itself. And in these times, we have to be strong and resolute; we have to offer firm, decisive leadership; we need a unity of purpose; we need to embrace our circumstances and make the most of them. I am sure that many of you watched the inauguration of President Joe Biden on Wednesday: a celebration of democracy and of resolute leadership. Importantly, in our context of educating young minds, it was also a celebration of the wisdom of youth.

The words of Amanda Gorman (22-year-old poet) ring true for all of us as people and for all nations - not simply the United States.

*“And yes, we are far from polished, far from pristine,
but that doesn’t mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.
We are striving to forge our union with purpose.
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters, and conditions of man.
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us.
We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.
We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew.*

“When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry, a sea we must wade.

We’ve braved the belly of the beast.

We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace,

and the norms and notions of what “just” is isn’t always justice.

And yet, the dawn is ours before we knew it.”

- **Amanda Gorman**

President Joe Biden’s inauguration 20 January 2021

That even as we hurt, we hoped.

That even as we tired, we tried.

That we’ll forever be tied together, victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.”

- Amanda Gorman

So many lessons and so much hope can be taken from this! I am inspired by these words and motivated for what I know will be an excellent year for our school. We hosted our new Grade 8s on Sunday for a shortened orientation. The energy they exuded was palpable. They were excited and could not wait to start high school (as we can’t wait to have them on campus). They appear to be an amazing group of young Stanfordinians and I know they will add enormous value to our school. I was also blown away by our Head Boy and Head Girl, who stole the show in their display of humility and compassion as they assisted with the pupil orientation. Our school is again in safe hands this year.

We all look forward to opening our school properly and getting back to teaching and learning, playing sport, being involved in cultural activities and going on trek, but for now will make the most of the hand we have been dealt.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy safe 2021.

God Bless you all.



Good luck Grade 8s

On Sunday we welcomed our new Grade 8 pupils to campus for a short orientation and so they could be introduced to their teachers and tutors. Now, the newest members of the Stanford family must tackle online learning from home. To the Grade 8 Class of 2021, we wish you the very best of luck! We cannot wait to have you on campus and introduce you to Stanford Lake College properly.

FLYING INTO 2021...

Congratulations to Ruben le Roux and his horse, TI Quinta, who finished in eighth position at the SA Equestrian Youth Championships held from 15 to 20 December at Kyalami Equestrian Park. The competition was tight and some classes were made up of more than 60 riders. Well done Ruben. The full article can be read by clicking [here](#).



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SCIFEST WINNERS

Three pupils from Stanford (two from the Class of 2020 and one from Grade 12 2021) were recently offered a scholarship to Rhodes University after winning the Scifest Africa Science Quiz in December!

Owen Venter was one of the members of the winning team and wrote the following:

Early in 2020, four Stanford teams took part in the Scifest Africa Science Quiz. The competition is open to all high schools in South Africa and two of Stanford's teams placed in the top four teams in the country. Team one consisted of Muaaz Bhyat, Stefan Otto and myself and team two consisted of Danica Altenroxel, Juan Botha and Reuben Middleton. Both our teams were invited to the Scifest Convention in Grahamstown to participate in a final face-off between the top four teams. Due to COVID-19, the festival was postponed and was moved online. Over the December holidays, the top four teams came together on Zoom and competed in a quiz consisting of 42 questions covering all the sciences from Biology and Physics to Astronomy and Maths. The stakes were high with the first prize being a scholarship to Rhodes University. Stanford team number 1 (Muaaz, Stefan and Owen) narrowly beat Grey College for first place and Stanford team number 2 (Danica, Juan and Reuben) placed fourth. It was an amazing experience that really tested our knowledge and I would encourage anyone who enjoys science to form a team and give it a shot.



Muaaz, Stefan and Owen during the competition finale in December.

Well done

VENTER'S ADVENTURES

Casper John Venter, aged 19 and the 2019 Head Boy of Stanford Lake College, has embarked on a life-changing journey. He is cycling from the northern most point of South Africa, a point on the Limpopo River close to Beitbridge, heading to Cape Town and not by the conventional tar-road way. He opted to follow the escarpment of South Africa, cycling through many remote and very mountainous areas. He has no support crew, cycling mostly on his own and making do with a bit of money and with what he has with him on his mountain bike. Some of his basic equipment includes a tent, sleeping bag, mattress, extra clothes, GPS, light, dynamo and some basic bike tools. He procures places to sleep, supplies and food as he goes, enjoying the support and hospitality of local people as he travels through rural, communal and farm lands.

Casper started his journey on 5 January 2021 and has been going strong for just over two weeks now, so far covering 1550 km and is currently nearing Pietermaritzburg. His route has taken him from the Limpopo River through the Sand River Valley in the Soutpansburg, past Tzaneen and over the Wolkberg mountains at the Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve. He then made his way to Badplaas by way of Pilgrim's Rest, Sabie and Kaapsehoop. It is here where he met Oliver Greaves, a fellow "Freedom Challenge" cyclist, who will join him for the journey until Pietermaritzburg. From Badplaas they made their way to KZN via Amsterdam and Piet Retief. A route that did not just have amazing scenery, but also some historical significance from the early years of South Africa, passing the Blood River monument, crossing the Tugela River and riding into Weenen, a small historical town from the time of the Boer War. From Weenen, they are making their way to Pietermaritzburg via Mooi River and Karkloof, and they plan to be there today. He plans to spend a day or two in Pietermaritzburg to stock up on bike spares and food before heading across the Transkei towards the Eastern Cape.

