



## Matters of Principal

*"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." – Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Last week Thursday, I had the privilege of being involved in the Grade 11 Leadership Day, which turned out to be an excellent and meaningful outing for our pupils. The day was carefully planned to give our Grade 11s valuable lessons in leadership as they prepare for the important year ahead. At our school we take leadership development seriously, and we believe it is something that starts from Grade 8 and continues all the way through to matric. This journey gives our pupils the chance to learn, grow, and take on responsibilities that shape their character and prepare them for life beyond school.

During the day, I spent over an hour with the Grade 11s, presenting an interactive PowerPoint session on the theme "Living Our Values". The session was designed to encourage pupils to think deeply about what leadership really means, and how our school values can act as a guide in their leadership journey over the next twelve months. We spoke about the idea that values should be seen as a compass. Just as a compass always points north, our values can guide us when we face challenges or difficult decisions. I encouraged the pupils to always return to their values when "the going gets tough" and to use them as a source of direction and strength.

We also discussed the important concept of servant leadership. This idea focuses on leading by serving others, rather than seeking power or recognition. I asked the Grade 11s to think about how they could put others first, support their peers, and create an environment where everyone feels valued and included. We reflected on how true leaders inspire and influence not by force, but by example and service.

The session was interactive, with pupils sharing their thoughts and experiences. I was impressed with their willingness to reflect and contribute. I believe they left the session with a clearer sense of purpose and a stronger understanding of the kind of leaders they want to be. Overall, Leadership Day was an outstanding opportunity to guide our Grade 11s and to prepare them for the responsibilities and challenges of the year ahead.

The Grade 11s will now take part in an interview process over the next two weeks. This will not only help us identify their strengths as potential leaders, but also give them valuable experience in presenting themselves with confidence. These interviews will equip them with important communication and interpersonal skills. Such skills will serve them well, not only in their leadership journey but also in life beyond school.

Warm Regards

*D. Prinsloo*



# Grade 11 Leadership



## Grade 11 Leadership: Building Trust for the Future

As the Grade 11 class steps into their leadership journey, the focus is on trust, teamwork, and responsibility. Over the coming year, they will be challenged to grow in confidence and character, preparing to take the reins as the leaders of Stanford Lake College in 2026.

Leadership is not just about titles, but about service, integrity, and the ability to inspire others. Trust lies at the heart of this – trust in one another, trust in themselves, and trust in the values that shape our community.

Through team-building activities, mentoring opportunities, and shared experiences, the Grade 11s are learning that true leadership is built together. With commitment, empathy, and courage, they will be ready to guide Stanford Lake College into the future.



# Literacy Day



*This week we celebrated World Literacy Day — a reminder of the power of reading, writing, and learning to open doors to opportunity. At Stanford Lake College, we believe literacy is more than a skill — it's the foundation of lifelong growth, creativity, and understanding.*

*Let's keep inspiring a love for words, stories, and knowledge in every learner.*



## Girls' 1st Team Cricket vs PHS

This week, our Girls' 1st Team Cricket took on PHS at their grounds. With some strong batting, the team managed to bowl PHS out, setting a target of 117 runs to chase. Despite a determined effort, the girls were unable to reach the target and narrowly lost the match.

Well done to the team for their courage, teamwork, and sportsmanship — every game is a learning experience and a chance to grow!



**BADGER OF**

# THE WEEK

Badger of the Week: Nakedi Makweya  
In tricky batting conditions, Nakedi delivered a Vice-Captain's innings, finishing 37 not out to guide the 1st Team to an important win over Mahwereleng Hub. He then made his mark with the ball, claiming 2 crucial wickets, capping off an impressive all-round performance.



# Stanford Lake College Grade 9 Expedition

## – Soutpansberg

From 1 – 8 September, the Grade 9s of Stanford Lake College embarked on their final trek of the year — an unforgettable self-guided expedition through the Soutpansberg Mountains. This journey wasn't just about hiking; it was about independence, resilience, teamwork, and self-discovery.

### The Journey Begins

The adventure kicked off on the 1st of September when the students boarded a bus to Louis Trichardt. After receiving their first maps and briefings, they set off in groups on a 13 km hike to their first camp. That evening, a second set of instructions guided them toward Base Camp, where problem-solving and teamwork quickly became the order of the day.

### Into the Mountains

At Base Camp, Group 1 was briefed for their self-guided mountain section. Using 1:50 000 topographical maps, they plotted their routes and began three days of independent navigation in the rugged Soutpansberg. Problem-solving skills were tested daily — with the group managing to locate 3 out of 7 checkpoints on their first day before being rerouted.

Meanwhile, Group 2 remained at Base Camp, where they experienced a mix of abseiling, bush craft, studying Bushman paintings, and a problem-solving challenge. Their time culminated in the much-anticipated 24-hour SOLO experience — just themselves, their thoughts, and nature. Each student wrote letters to themselves, their parents, and a fellow peer, creating a deeply reflective moment.

After three days, the groups swapped roles: Group 1 returned to Base Camp for activities and SOLO while Group 2 headed into the mountains for their self-guided section.

### A Memorable Finale

On the final afternoon, the Grade 9s gathered for a lively song performance challenge, rewarded with ice-cold cooldrinks, a sizzling wors braai, and a crackling fire. The evening closed with a prize-giving ceremony, where students themselves voted for the peers who had grown the most on trek. Congratulations to Daniela Esteves and Tebogo Ramoshaba for being recognised by their classmates.

The expedition wrapped up on Monday morning at Schoemansdal — tired, but proud.

A heartfelt thank you to the parents who sponsored the braai and supported the logistics, and to the staff who gave their time and energy to make this trek a safe, meaningful, and truly memorable experience.

The Grade 9 Soutpansberg Trek will be remembered not only for its challenges, but for the friendships, resilience, and confidence it built in every student who took part.

-Neil Haarhoff  
-Tiaan Fullard



## Alumni Kate Wood Champions Hockey Drive at Stanford Lake College

Stanford Lake College is proud to highlight an inspiring initiative led by alumni Kate Wood, aimed at supporting the next generation of hockey players at her school.

After matriculating at SLC, Kate pursued her passion for education at The University of Pretoria (TUKS), graduating in 2023. She then spent a year traveling on a life-changing backpacking trip through Southeast Asia, before returning to South Africa to focus on what she loves most: teaching. She is currently a teacher at The King's Court Christian School in Modjadiskloof.

"I wanted to create something special for the kids — something they could truly enjoy, something fun and meaningful outside of school time. That's why I started this free hockey clinic for the kids at our school. Hockey is a sport I've always loved deeply, and sharing it with them is my way of giving back. I believe these children deserve more opportunities to discover their passions, to have fun, and to grow — not just in their athletic skills, but in their sportsmanship, discipline, and teamwork. This clinic isn't just about hockey — it's about creating joy, building confidence, and showing the kids that they are worth every opportunity to thrive."

As part of this initiative, Kate is spearheading a drive to collect hockey gear, sticks, and balls for students who need equipment to participate fully in the sport. We are appealing to parents, alumni, and friends of SLC to donate any spare hockey equipment they may have. Your contributions will ensure that every student has the opportunity to develop their skills and enjoy the game.

We are also calling on scholars at our school who would like to help coach hockey students. This is a great opportunity to share your skills and inspire younger players. Interested students can **contact Mr Mabayah** to sign up.

If you have equipment to donate, please reach out to the **Sports Department** at Stanford Lake College. Every contribution, whether big or small, will make a real difference in the lives of these budding players.



Trail Badgers Team Hits the Trails in Style

Stanford Lake College is thrilled to introduce our new Trail Badgers team, an exciting addition to our sports program! Our trail runners are looking fantastic in their new running gear, kindly donated by our wonderful mountain friends at The Eatery.

The team is ready to take on challenging trails, build endurance, and embrace the spirit of adventure that defines trail running. A huge thank you to The Eatery for supporting our athletes and helping them look and perform their best!

## Fact of the month:

The 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of September is **Clean-up & Recycle** week! Well done on contributing by recycling. We encourage you to let all students know about this week and challenge them to do a clean-up nearby and recycle at home if possible.

# Recycling 101

## The dos & don'ts

### Recyclables

#### Plastics



plastic bags, rinsed bottles & containers, PET 1 containers



rinsed foil-lined juice boxes (TetraPak) & milk containers



polystyrene (black, green & white), clean veg & food trays, clean take away containers

#### Paper & Cardboard



white paper, colour paper, newspaper & magazines



flattened & folded cardboard

#### Glass & Tin



rinsed jars, wine, beer & champagne bottles



rinsed food tins, crushed cans & scrap metal

#### E-Waste



e-waste & old appliances, scrap metal, batteries

**KEEP SEPARATE FROM MIXED**

### Non-Recyclables



chemicals, paint, straws, toothpaste tubes, clear food punnets, chip packets, dog & cat food packets, washing powder packets, motor oil containers, acids or solvents



clothing or shoes  
**DONATE**



compostable or biodegradable packaging  
**COMPOST HEAP**



organic waste, food scraps, vegetable peels, garden waste, coffee grounds  
**FOOD WASTE BUCKET**



nappies, earbuds, fabric, feminine hygiene products, cotton wool



ovenware & Pyrex, mirrors & crystal, drinking glasses



used tissues  
**FLUSH DOWN THE TOILET**

