



SNAPSHOT



Matters of Principal

“Social media has given us this idea that we should all have a posse of friends when in reality, if we have one or two really good friends, we are lucky.”

- Brene Brown

Last week I attended a talk at Unicorn presented by The Digital Law Company. I have seen this presentation before but I found it to be a very useful reminder of the dangers and pitfalls that are associated with the uncontrolled use of smartphones and social media by adolescents. Most notable to me was the reminder from the presenter Ms Carla Pretorius that we, as adults, legally own the phones we give to our children and so have 100% control over them. That said we can also be implicated and held liable in any unacceptable activity that takes place whilst these phones are in use. We CAN and MUST make the rules!

It is important to remember that social media use and sensible use of smartphones can be advantageous to all of us when properly monitored and controlled. Unfortunately, as adults, we have been poor in exercising effective control of these devices and putting in place the required securities in order to protect our children. There is well-documented evidence that speaks to the addictive effect of social media, the social factors associated with accumulating online likes and the negative impact that this has on pupil mental wellness. Carla spoke of the desire that people have to be liked and followed online and made a comparison to our physical lives. Many of our kids will have thousands of online followers on Instagram and TikTok but when asked how many real friends they have, the answer always comes back as a handful. Carla suggests that our online lives should mirror our physical lives and unless we actually know the person and have physically touched them we should not befriend them online. I am sure all of us adults will remember the conversation with our parents in the 80's and 90's about the man in the panel van driving around the neighborhood offering children sweets. We were warned not to go near him as we did not know him and had no idea of his intentions. This analogy should be used when it comes to our children accepting friendship requests online. Predators are out there, they create profiles that are misleading and lure people in and then they strike!

There is plenty of information out there that we can access in order to better educate and, therefore, protect our pupils in this space. There is an information sheet that was shared by The Digital Law Company after their presentation. Please follow the hyperlink in order to access this. I also recommend that you visit The Digital Law Company website and read through some of the incredibly informative blogs.

<https://www.thedigitallawco.com/blog/>
Click HERE for the information sheet

Our SMT and Housemasters committee are once again looking at our internal cell phone policies to see if we can exercise more effective control over our pupils' use of smart devices. It is interesting to note that in as many as 1 in 4 countries, smartphones have been banned in schools by legislation. It is important that we continue to examine our policies and ensure that we adopt the best practices in education when it comes to the use of smart devices.

We have an extremely exciting weekend ahead of us with the final production of the school play Remember, Remember, Remember My Name. The cast has braved the freezing cold weather down in the Dream an' Do Centre over the past few days as they prepared for opening night. They will not disappoint. I know those of you who have booked for the show will be treated to an evening of top-class entertainment. I do advise that you dress warmly though!

I wish our two hockey teams traveling to the Noordvaal finals all the best.

Have an excellent weekend.

DEBATING



On Wednesday, 2nd of August, the Senior Debating Team took part in the second round of the Mayor's Cup Debating competition in Polokwane. They proposed the motion "The NSFAS should exclusively fund scarce skills as opposed to the current system" against St Brendan's School.

The floor members and speakers; Vukosi Mbowane, Jenny Zhang and Nanaki Kgopong were able to formulate a strong argument to prove that indeed NSFAS should fund the scarce skills qualifications, thus they won the debate against St Brendan's and made it through to the third round. Special mention to Jenny Zhang who was awarded best speaker. Well done to the team!



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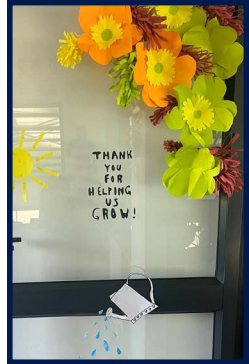
NEW FACES ON THE MTB TRACKS

A number of pupils participated in the Limpopo Schools XCO event held at Merensky last weekend. It was wonderful to see some new faces out on the tracks. Congratulations to Robbie Noel, Nathan Berrie and Reza Moosa who all raced for the school for the first time. They came 7th, 9th and 36th respectively in the Sub-Junior Boys category. Judah Leher and Gordon Noel raced among the Youth Boys and Gordon secured the top spot on the podium. Lungile Sithole-Wiltshire had a very good race and finished 14th overall among the Junior Men. Well done to all.

Due to all the riders' combined efforts, we are currently standing 5th on the schools' log. With little points difference between third and fourth, and fourth and fifth, it's still all to play for. We invite as many pupils as possible to get on two wheels and give the next race a go to rack up the points for Stanford Lake College.



Last week we celebrated Friendship Day (30th July) in a number of ways throughout the week. Words of appreciation and notes of kindness were written and then on Friday, each tutor group was tasked with decorating their tutor's door. There were some really wonderful decorations and great fun was had by all.



We are super excited to announce that the 25-year publication will be available towards the end of the year. The hardcover coffee table book details the history of Stanford Lake College. You can pre-order your copy via the ALLXS system at the cost of R460.00



If you are unfamiliar with the ALLXS system and would still like to pre-order, please send an email to: marketing@slc.co.za



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SOCCER VS PEPPS

On Wednesday, 2nd August, Stanford took to the football fields for the first time this year. This was a much anticipated day as the excitement to begin the football season had been long-awaited for many. Even the rain could not stop the players from enjoying the experience.

U/15B BOYS

The first game played was the U/15B boys which turned out to be a dramatic match from the first minute. PEPPS scored the first goal within the first three minutes of the match. Stanford U/15B did not back down and managed to win two penalties in the next five minutes, of which they converted one. The game was tightly contested by both sides and they played very well until the end of the first half. In the second half, things did not go as well and the boys conceded three more goals. Towards the end, Stanford replied by scoring a brilliant team goal, leading to the match ending 5 - 2 to PEPPS.

U/15A BOYS

The U/15A boys had a tough game! In the first half, the game was tightly contested and the boys had three clear chances which they could not convert. PEPPS came back strongly and managed to score three goals within 10 minutes. At this point the Stanford team was very disorganised and couldn't get a hold on the game. The match ended 4 - 0 to PEPPS.

2ND TEAM BOYS

The 2nd Team Boys' game started well with both teams contesting and playing hard. It took a long time before the deadlock was broken by any side. Towards the end of the first half, the boys got a few clear chances but did not manage to convert. Unfortunately, PEPPS then managed to utilise their chances and scored two goals before the break. In the second half, the boys came back strongly and wanted to make an impact and they managed to pull one through. At this point, PEPPS were really strong and scored the final goal, ending the match 3 - 1 to them.

1ST TEAM BOYS

The 1st Team Boys' game started with high intensity as both sides did not want to back down. The Stanford boys created many chances in the first half but, unfortunately, could not convert them. Towards the end of the first half, they set up a good counter attack and managed to get the lead. During the second half, the game became more intense and more physical. The boys played hard and defended well but, unfortunately, conceded due to the slippery conditions. They worked really hard to find the winning goal but just couldn't - the match ended 1 - 1.

U/15 GIRLS

The U/15 girls went into their game very excited as many were playing their first football match for Stanford. Their confidence and passion was shown on the field as they dominated the opposition. The girls started very well, played an organised game and it did not take long for them to score two goals. They had total control and finished the first half 4 - 0 up. They then came back with passion in the second half and kept their momentum, scoring two more goals and ending the game 6 - 0.

1ST TEAM GIRLS

Due to the absence of many regulars for the 1st Team Girls, the Stanford team walked into the challenge even more determined to get a win. The game started really well and it did not take long for the girls to get their first goal. The girls managed to maintain ball possession and soon secured a second goal. At this point, the Stanford girls were cruising and had total control of the game. PEPPS managed to pull one through in the second half, however, the Stanford girls scored the last goal towards the end of the match, putting the game to bed. The match ended 3 - 1 to Stanford.

Thanks to all the coaches and staff who made the games possible in terrible weather conditions and to the parents and staff who came out to support.