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SNAPSHOT



Matters of Principal

"In times of life crisis, whether wildfires or smouldering stress, the first thing I do is go back to basics... am I eating right, am I getting enough sleep, am I getting some physical and mental exercise every day?"

- Edward Albert

The Matrics are now well into their exams, with many of them already half-way through their final timetables. As far as I am aware, there have been no complaints about unfair papers and - in fact - the general comments have been that the Finals have been easier than the trials. This is, of course, not true. The Trial Examinations are all set at the relevant standard but what has shifted is that the pupils are better prepared and more focused than they were two months ago. The staff have been very comfortable with the papers so I am sure we can look forward to a pleasing set of results. The remainder of the school is also into the Final Examination period. As mentioned so often, the end of year examinations are an opportunity for us to measure the learning that has gone on over the past year. These are important academic markers for staff, pupils and parents. Exams, however, are not only about the final mark. They are also about pupils learning to apply themselves consistently over a period of time; they are about learning how to learn; they are about resilience and time management and they are about self-discipline. Part of the process includes an understanding that they will

not all get this right and partly about honing skills in preparation for the final exit examination in matric. We have carefully planned a sports programme to run over the next few weeks as we know that exercise is essential during these times of stress. Teenagers cannot study for 10 hours a day. It is important that they get outdoors, breathe some fresh air and have a little fun. It is extremely frustrating when parents come to us and say their child will not do sport as they have to study. The next few weeks are going to be stressful. Let's do our bit to support our pupils, encourage them to work hard and to minimise any unnecessary pressures that they may be under.

Have a good weekend

God Bless.



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BADGER OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Megan Lamminga for being named the Badger of the Week! It's truly inspiring to see her step up and volunteer to play Interhouse Squash, especially when she didn't even know how to play. Her determination and willingness to try something new is commendable. Winning one of her games is a testament to her spirit and determination. Megan exemplifies the true badger spirit, and her actions are a source of motivation for all of us. Keep up the fantastic work, Megan!





SNAPSHOT



Hello, from Down Under

by Craig Freestone

Johannesburg to Sydney and then to Canberra is a very long way to fly! Stepping off the plane into Canberra's baggage collection area, I was heartily welcomed by my host family, who held a sign that read, "WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA, CRAIG." And welcome I certainly felt.

The following day saw an exciting visit to Floriade, a festival heralding the return of spring, located at the Commonwealth Park in Canberra. After immersing myself in the festival's offerings, Chloe, my exchange host, and I made a quick detour to Parliament House and then to the National Arboretum.

My first day at Radford College arrived the following Monday. As the new student, at a school boasting over 1000 attendees (and with my distinct uniform making me instantly recognisable), the experience was somewhat daunting. However, the head of Grade 10 promptly introduced herself and extended a warm welcome. My initial few days at Radford were marked by a degree of confusion regarding locations and schedules, but I quickly adapted, forged new friendships, and settled into life at my new school. Thus far, my time at Radford has been immensely rewarding. The students and staff have been exceedingly welcoming and the campus provides an excellent learning environment.

Settling in has not only been an experience at school. Something I had to get used to pretty quickly was the time the sun sets, which has been at 19h30 each night since my arrival. Another thing that has been interesting to deal with is the multiple occasions where I am met with "Oh, you speak such good English for an African!" and seeing the confused faces when I reply with a laugh and say "I should hope so as I grew up in an English-speaking household".

In the past few weeks that I have been in Australia, I have taken up the exciting venture of teaching the Aussies how to speak Afrikaans and attempting to teach them the few Sepedi phrases I know. This tends to be extremely funny when many think they master the pronunciation and then try to put on a South African accent.

The weekend following my arrival featured an unforgettable 3-hour trip to Broulee, a coastal town near Canberra. It is a town of stunning sunrises, sunsets and beaches. Then it was a trip to Sydney, including a boat ride past the iconic Sydney Opera House, a comprehensive tour inside the opera house, a walk across the Harbour Bridge, a visit to the famous Bondi beach, an exploration of The Rocks, and immersion in the vibrant city atmosphere.

This was followed by an 8-day school camp (Trek) in Kosciuszko National Park, where I was captivated by the sheer beauty of the Australian wilderness. The landscape featured pristine, rugged mountains and crystal-clear streams. The opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture and history of the area added a profound layer of appreciation to the experience. Witnessing wild horses grazing in the meadows and kangaroos gracefully hopping about left me with fond memories. One of the exciting memories was the day I got "swooped". This is when a magpie (Aussie bird) swoops over your head and pecks at your head in attempt to scare you away from their nest. This happened to me three times in the span of 30 seconds. Clearly it found me threatening!

While on camp, the Springboks won the Rugby World Cup (possibly the most exciting part of camp for me). On the day of their win, I was woken by my camp leader with the words "The All Blacks lost the World Cup" to which I responded with a couple of seconds of singing "Nkalakatha" by Mandoza. The strange looks from my camp mates soon silenced me.

My time in Canberra for this school term has been nothing short of incredible. The city's unique amalgamation of urban and natural beauty has made a lasting impression on me. Exploring local attractions such as the Parliament House and the National Arboretum has deepened my connection to this remarkable country. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to explore this extraordinary country with its diverse landscapes, rich cultures, and unique wildlife. My exchange programme in Canberra has been an exhilarating and enriching journey.

I would like to wish all my fellow Stanfordians all the best for their exams!





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Greetings from Germany

by Wihan van Eeden

I want to express my gratitude for the incredible experience I'm having during my exchange at Louisenlund in Germany. Fortunately, the 15-hour trip to Germany went really smoothly. This was my first international flight and since I travelled alone, everything was new but very exciting at the same time. It has been only 5 days that I have been at this school and in this short time have found it truly amazing. From the delicious food that keeps me full to the stunning natural surroundings every day. The massive, beautiful buildings and the informal approach to education have made my time here so far, unforgettable. I've not only learned a lot but also made lifelong friends and cherished memories. The weather here is currently very similar to that of Stanford during winter months. Fine drizzle, morning mist and the cool wind. I do, however, expect and hope for some snow later in the month!

Class at Louisenlund is much different from that of Stanford as the school follows a university approach, with classes in the mornings and the afternoons. There is also ample free time in between lessons. The school is virtually paperless and each student receives an Ipad with keyboard and pen, to complete lessons.



During last week, most Major Universities in Germany visited the school in order to showcase what they can offer prospective students. This was most informative and gave some insight into studying abroad.

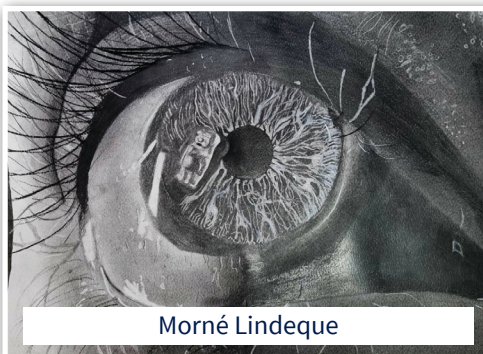


I keep myself busy in between lessons by visiting the cafeteria and getting a quick snack or going to the school's Studio to get some work done. The onsite Gym is also a huge bonus! Louisenlund offers an immense variety of sport, culture and extracurricular activities. I hope to fit in as much as possible during my 6 weeks stay. Thank you again for this incredible opportunity.

When the Grade 11s saw the Grade 10 drawings of eyes they wanted to do the same project, so Mrs Obojkovits agreed to give it to them as their practical examination. This was very ambitious due to the time constraint of 11 hours. They all rose to the challenge and Mrs Obojkovits says she is exceedingly proud of them.



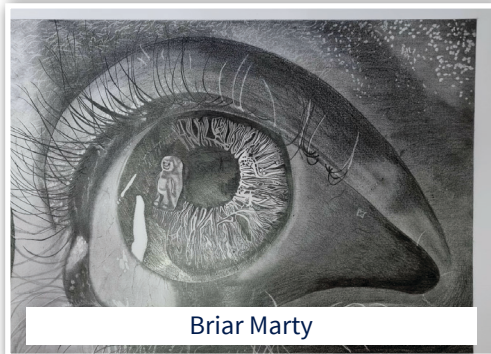
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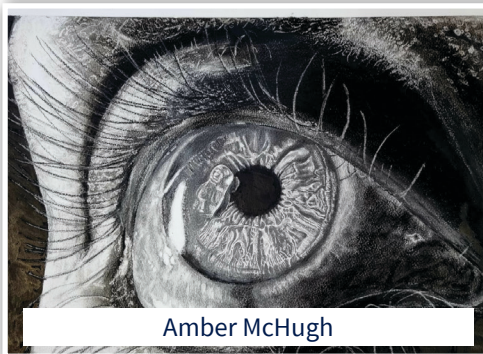
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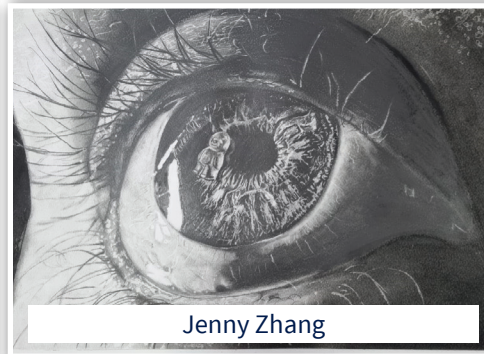
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