



Matters of Principal

"The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable."

— Kurt Vonnegut

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parents' Association for hosting such a wonderful Badger Bonanza this past weekend. The hard work and energy that went into planning this event could be seen throughout the day. It was a day filled with joy, spirit, and a true sense of community. Organising something of this size is no small job, and it was thanks to the tireless efforts of the Parents' Association that the event was such a success.

A big thank you must also go to all our pupils, boarding and day scholar houses for the creative way in which they contributed. Each house organised activities that were not only fun but also helped raise funds. The teamwork, imagination, and effort that went into these projects were outstanding. What stood out most was how naturally our pupils showed leadership and organisational skills. These are not only things we learn in lessons, but also in daily school life—in the boarding houses, during tutor times, in wellness classes, and through the many leadership opportunities our pupils are given. The Badger Bonanza reminded us of how these lessons come alive in real situations.

Our pupils did much more than take part in the day's fun. They led, encouraged one another, and took responsibility for making their own activities a success. It was inspiring to see pupils of all ages working together, supporting each other, and showing real pride in what they were giving back to the school community.

During this week, our Grade 9s began another important journey as they left for their expedition in Louis Trichardt. There were a lot of nervous faces, but also plenty of excitement. Expeditions are never easy, and this one will also test them. It will take courage, patience, and the ability to solve problems as a group. There will be disagreements and challenges, but there will also be many moments of growth. Through these experiences, our Grade 9s will build resilience and learn what it means to keep going, even when things are tough. They will return with new skills—about themselves, about working with others, and about finishing what they start.

Both the Bonanza and the expedition remind us of what makes our school so special: a strong community, opportunities for growth, and the chance for every pupil to develop character in meaningful ways.

Warm Regards

Dr. [Signature]



BADGER OF

THE WEEK

A belated but well-deserved recognition goes to Maropeng Kekana and Kaelo Manake, who conquered the 42km Wolkberg Trail Run. Completing any marathon is rare — only about 1% of people ever do — but finishing a trail marathon is an achievement to be truly proud of.



Arbor Day at Stanford

For Arbor Day, our scholars planted several *Celtis africana* (White Stinkwood) trees along our beautiful Lake. This initiative ensures that as the current trees eventually reach the end of their life cycle, a new generation of trees will already be thriving.

The White Stinkwood is a resilient and fast-growing indigenous tree, valued for its wide shade, graceful foliage, and the habitat it provides for birds and insects.

By planting these trees, our students are not only beautifying the campus but also making a lasting contribution to biodiversity and sustainability for future generations.



The Grade 10 members of the Environmental Committee had the chance to work with Mokgale Maenetje and his team from Kruger2Canyon. They introduced us to the SASS method (South African Scoring System), a simple way to check the health of rivers. By collecting and identifying small water creatures like mayflies, dragonflies, and snails, we can tell if the water is clean or polluted. Sensitive species means good water quality, while tolerant ones show pollution. We hope to assist them in their monthly water monitoring in the future – making a real difference to our environment!

Learners involved: Miano Tshivhula, Katje Göbel, Britta Göbel, Ru Ngwarai, Holly McHugh



DEBATING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Alessio Calokechi and Teya Zanetic who have been selected to represent and participate in the Provincial Limpopo Debating Team. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and wish them every success as they take their debating skills to the next level!



SOCCER VS APPEL COMBINED

Under-15 Soccer

Our Under-15 boys played a riveting game of soccer against our neighbours, Appel Combined School. They were kept on their toes throughout, with Appel putting on a great display and securing a 5–1 victory.

Well done to both teams for the spirit and energy shown on the field. Don't miss these great action shots (and more!) now uploaded on our website www.slc.co.za/photos.



English Olympiad Results

We are delighted to share the outstanding results achieved by our students in the prestigious English Olympiad. This national competition challenges learners to think critically, write creatively, and engage deeply with literature — and our participants rose to the occasion with remarkable success.

Congratulations to the following students:

Silver Awards: Teya Zanetic,
Juliette Leher, Kayla Makhomisane

Bronze Awards: Sasha Boyum,
Carmen van der Merwe, Ru Ngwarai,
Miano Tshivhula

Merit Awards: Mukundi Ralubuvhi, Phuluso
Musetsho, Holly McHugh

We are incredibly proud of each participant for their hard work and commitment. Your achievements are an inspiration to the Stanford community.



TENNIS SQUAD





Stanford Lake College



BADGER BONANZA

Badger Bonanza – A Roaring Success Festival of Fun

Our first Badger Bonanza festival of fun was a resounding success! The event fulfilled the Parents Association and the school's vision of bringing the Stanford family closer together, strengthening connections, and encouraging greater involvement in school life.

At the same time, it supplemented our fundraising efforts towards the new tuckshop and gave hostels, day scholars, and the Grade 11s an opportunity to raise funds for their own initiatives. Valuable lessons were learnt along the way, and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their (and many parents') labour.

An event of this scale comes with extensive costs, and we are still finalising the numbers. What is clear, however, is that it was a true team effort. Pupils, teachers, parents, and the wider community all came together to create something special. We have no doubt that it will grow into an even bigger and better tradition in years to come.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our many generous parents and sponsors who donated products and prizes, ran activities, gave of their time, and brought incredible energy. A special mention goes to those who braved the icy waters of the dunk tank – including Mr Houston (Headmaster of Unicorn Primary), Mr M (Head of Robotics Unicorn Primary), Merensky's 2026 Head Boy Jan Pretorius, our Acting Head Shane Friedrichs, and Stanford's very own fun-loving staff members PJ Bouwer, Amy Taylor-Bennett, Kyla Hamer, and Tatenda Mabayah.

Finally, our sincere gratitude to the dedicated committee who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it all happen: Lola Berrie, Rouan Snyman, Shirley Scriven, Sophie Niemann, and Caryn Rathmann – we salute you!

We would love to hear your feedback, thoughts, and suggestions on the event. Please feel free to share them with any of the committee members.



