



Matters of Principal

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

Why Stanford Lake College Prioritises Adventure in Learning

Our Grade 10 pupils will soon embark on their final expedition as a group of Stanford Lake College pupils. This is an exciting moment for them, and they will once again have the chance to learn valuable lessons about themselves and their friends.

As the Grade 12s near the completion of their final exams, I would like to thank them for everything they have contributed to the school over the past five years. We wish them safe travels to their various destinations as they celebrate their achievements.

The Grade 8, 9 and 11 pupils still have just over a week of examinations remaining, and we encourage them to stay focused and committed to the task at hand.

The 'WHY' Factor

At Stanford Lake College, adventure is not an extra; it is an essential part of how we help young people grow. The outdoors gives pupils the space to explore who they are, what they can do, and how they respond when things become challenging. These experiences build skills that cannot be taught in a classroom alone and shape young people in ways that last well beyond their time at school.

Outdoor learning allows pupils to take safe and supported risks. Whether they are hiking, paddling, cycling, or completing teamwork challenges, they learn to manage discomfort, stay calm under pressure, and push beyond what they thought possible. These moments help them develop resilience, a key skill in adolescent life and a strong protective factor for mental wellbeing. When pupils overcome real challenges outdoors, they gain confidence that transfers directly into academic and social spaces.

Adventure activities also strengthen leadership. Pupils learn to communicate clearly, listen to others, and make decisions that affect their group. They take turns leading, supporting, problem-solving and reflecting on what worked and what did not. These are practical, lived lessons in responsibility and teamwork. They learn that leadership is not about being the loudest voice, but about guiding others, staying reliable, and keeping a steady mindset.

The outdoors also builds courage. Facing a steep climb, a cold morning paddle, or a long trail teaches pupils to persevere. They discover that courage is often quiet: the choice to keep moving, to trust a team member, or to try again after a setback. These experiences help pupils understand themselves better and build self-belief. Our adventure programme supports academic learning too. Pupils develop critical thinking, planning, reflection, and awareness of their environment, skills that strengthen problem-solving in the classroom. They learn discipline, preparation, and the value of consistent effort. Many activities also connect directly to subjects such as Life Sciences, Geography, and Physical Education.

Most importantly, adventure teaches pupils to work with others, appreciate different strengths, and act with empathy. When pupils help each other through a difficult task, they build trust and deepen relationships. Stanford Lake College continues to invest in outdoor education because it creates balanced, confident and capable young people. Adventure shapes character. It prepares pupils for life.

Warm Regards,

LION RESCUE UKRAINE

Summary of Our Recent Trip from South Africa to Poland

My dad, Anthony Peniston, my brother Tiger, mom and I recently set out on an unbelievable mission to rescue lions from Ukraine — a mission that turned into one of the most intense and unforgettable experiences of our lives. After meeting the Mr Beast team at the Ukrainian border, my dad helped dart, prepare, and load the lions before beginning a 72-hour nonstop journey back to South Africa. Today, those lions are living freely in the bushveld on our property in Alldays, at our lion sanctuary.

One of the craziest parts of the trip? Tiger and I were teamed up with the MR BEAST crew. Yes — that Mr Beast. While we were staying with them, Russia launched a drone attack over the town we were in. The airport went into lockdown for 24 hours, delaying everything. At the same time, Qatar Airways — who generously sponsored the cargo plane — had to reroute and reorganise after bombings shook Doha.

Despite all the chaos, the rescue was a massive success thanks to an incredible team effort. Mr Beast even featured a part of the journey on his channel. Maj, one of the main Mr Beast team members, travelled with my dad from the Ukraine border all the way to the lions' release on our farm — capturing every moment.

This mission took months of planning. My dad worked closely with Natalia Popova in Ukraine to make it happen. It was his second mission into Ukraine, and he's already preparing to go back in February 2026 — hopefully to a country that's finally at peace.

Follow the ongoing journey of Cleopatra, Zoyra, and Mira — and my dad's future missions — on Instagram @lionwatchprojectsa and TikTok @lionwatchsa.

- Charlie Peniston

- Tiger Pensiton





REMEMBER TO RETURN ALL TEXTBOOKS & LIBRARY BOOKS



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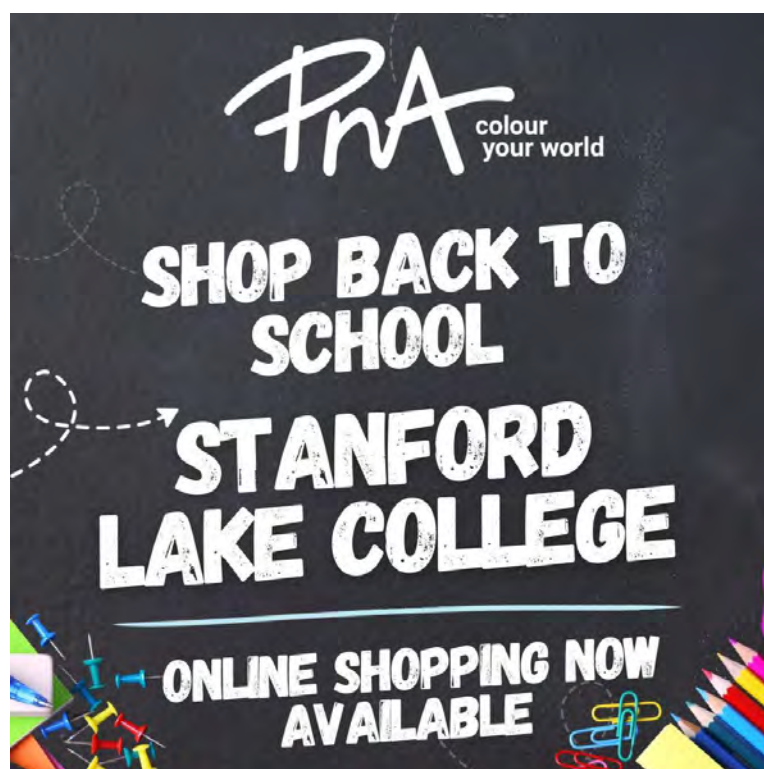
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BADGER OF

THE WEEK

Badger of the Week goes to Tadhg Egan for his outstanding performance in this weekend's cricket game against Merensky. He took a brilliant catch in the outfield, bowled with control, and contributed solid runs with the bat — a true all-round effort.

What is a WhatsApp Community?

We're excited to introduce our new WhatsApp Community — a central, organised space that brings all our school communication together.

A WhatsApp Community allows parents to receive school-wide announcements while also making it easy to find and join the specific groups you need, all in one place. You may also leave any groups whenever you choose, giving you full control over what communication you receive.

Important to know:

- Only the school can post in the main announcement group.
- Your phone number is not visible to parents outside your existing groups.
- All groups will continue to communicate as normal.
- The Community simply ensures you don't miss important school-wide updates.

To join simply scan the QR code and find the groups you want to be part of





Exchange Chronicles

Episode Three

CANADA

From the moment I landed in Canada, life's been one new experience after the other. From the countless malls and restaurants in Toronto to the collection of different people from around the world that I met at Rosseau Lake College, each with interesting backgrounds and cultures that culminate into endless interesting stories and experiences.

The school here has been rich with opportunities from the physics and English classes that continue sharpen my knowledge even further -as well as my music and PE classes that have enlightened me on nutrition and have broadened my knowledge on various sports such as volleyball, badminton or softball.

And finally to the math contests and model UN activities that have fueled my sense of competition and enriched my mind on internationalism and public speaking, but that's not all! Just last week I was fortunate enough to take part in the treaty week celebrations where we spent the week honouring the indigenous people of the land upon which the school is built and the treaty between the crown and the indigenous people through games, riddles and trivia that have sharpened our knowledge alongside the guest speaker.

Just this week we've now moved onto celebrating remembrance day with red poppy pins on our jackets to a lovely song sang by the foundation years (grade 7-9) and ending it off with tear-jerking speeches from a military veteran and one of our very own teachers who spoke beautifully about his family in the military and reminded us all that although we may not always enjoy taking in instruction on what we ought to do and what we ought not to do from our parents, but that in the end all of it is for our own good.

Last weekend I had the opportunity to go visit the royal agricultural winter fair an event that was riddled with giant horses, goats, sheep and one of the biggest pumpkins I've ever seen.

Truly this trip has been a ball of randomness and fun, but as the snowflakes begin to fall and I learn to layer myself with a bunch of clothes my days slowly fall away and I being to dread the day of my departure.

- Miano Tshivhula



GRADE 10 OVER THE YEARS



As the Grade 10s set off on their Enrichment Expedition, we look back on the adventures that have shaped them — from first-day nerves and their inaugural trek, to lake swims and challenges conquered along the way. Now, they blaze the trail into their final years of high school, ready for whatever comes next.



FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

With the Examinations in full swing and the Grade 10s getting ready to leave for their Enrichment Tour on Saturday morning, it is important to ensure that there is clear communication to all parents regarding the expectations for the next few weeks.

Saturday 22 Nov - Mon 1 Dec	Grade 10 Enrichment Tour
Mon 24 Nov	Examinations continue for Gr 8, 9 and 11
Tues 25 Nov	Examinations continue for Gr 8, 9 and 11 Gr 12 Final Exam for IEB
Wed 26 Nov	Examinations continue for Gr 8, 9 and 11 SLC Carol Service Compulsory for all students 18:30 Start - Tzaneen Day Scholar bus will leave after the service and dinner will be provided
Thur 27 Nov	Examinations continue for Gr 8, 9 and 11
Fri 28 Nov	Examinations continue for Gr 8, 9 and 11

Mon 1 Dec	Last Examination for Gr 8, 9 and 11
Tues 2 Dec	Normal Lessons until 12 Final Assembly Compulsory
Final Day for all local students Parents may collect their child any time after 1pm Students who need to stay over and are only able to travel on the 3rd are most welcome to.	
Wed 3 Dec	International students travel to JHB and Midrand Bus leaving at 2am
3-5 Dec	Reports to be sent out

