

### GRADE 9 TREK – SOUTPANSBERG (IN THE RESTING PLACE OF LOUIS TRICHARDT)

The Grade 9's of Stanford Lake College embarked on an 8-day self-guided expedition from 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September. The students do their own navigation in the mountains. Navigational exercises were done in class in preparation for this big trek! The base location is near Louis Trichardt. The bus dropped the students off and they hiked the distance of approximately 10km in their 2 allocated groups to base camp.

The activities started the next day with a project focused on our commitment to sustainability of the environment. Then the groups had some problem solving to do which involved building shelters to sleep in using invader plant species.



Cameron Truesdale & Andreas Hacker at their invader species shelter



It's so cold we can get 3 people into one sleeping bag!

Later that afternoon, group 1 received their briefing for the self-guiding mountain section. They had to plot the points on a 1:50 000 topographical map and work out the routes they would need to follow to get to their camp sites. They spent 3 days guiding themselves in the mountain, during which time any obstacles and challenges experienced had to be solved as a group.

Group 2 stayed at base camp and were involved in activities including abseiling, visiting Bushman paintings and learning some bush craft techniques. They learnt how to make fire with sticks, a magnifying glass and steel wool. Then they went out on their 24 hour SOLO experience!



Husnaa Dada abseiling



Bushman paintings

After 3 days the groups swapped around with group 2 going out on their self-navigation and group 1 back in base camp with activities and their SOLO experience. The last afternoon, with all the trekkers back at base camp, we had a review session followed by the groups putting together a performance of their songs for a special reward of a swim in the pool and a delicious braai with the staff. Eventually the whole group was invited to join the braai where we had a small prize giving ceremony at which the students had to pick a boy and girl that they thought benefitted the most from this expedition. They chose **Ayesha Ayob** as the girl and **Juan Botha** as the boy.

We arrived back on campus on Wednesday with a bunch of exciting experiences to tell everyone. The students can't stop talking about their expedition and the last night's wors braai! Well done to everybody for completing this challenging but fun expedition!



A big thank you to the parents who sponsored the wors braai and a huge thank you also to the staff for all their help and assistance to make this a memorable experience for all.

*Mr Neil Haarhoff*

### GRADE 8 "TWIN PEAKS" TREK REPORT

The Stanford Lake College Grade 8's completed their annual "Twin Peaks" Trek, summiting both the Iron Crown, which is the highest point in Limpopo, as well as Serala, which is the second highest. The group left school early last Wednesday morning, the 6<sup>th</sup> of September and navigated the 8-day route up the Iron Crown, into the Wolkberg, down into the Mhlapietse Gorge, up onto Serala, and eventually arriving back at school the following Wednesday morning, the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. They hiked a total of 83km in 8 days, through some of the remotest and wildest areas of the Wolkberg Mountains.

Apart from the hiking, the Grade 8's also engaged in an environmental project, by removing countless small Blue gums and Pine trees from the endangered Serala Grasslands. They also enjoyed a fun day off at the Serala bum slides.

The weather was unbelievable and everyone picked up a bit of sunburn. This Trek is beyond what any other school or group does for their Gold President's Award, which most pupils around the country only do in Grade 10 or 11. Well done to all the Grade 8's on a fantastic achievement!

*Mr Jandre Fullard*



**SUCCESSFUL GROUP SUMMIT OF IRON CROWN**

### 1<sup>ST</sup> XI CRICKET MATCH vs MITCHELL HOUSE

Mitchell House won the toss and batted first. Stanford soon had them in trouble and they never recovered. They were bowled out for 56. Abhey Patel was the pick of the bowlers, taking 6 wickets for 5 runs. Stanford took 11 overs to knock off the required runs, winning by 9 wickets. Christian Schmidt made 38 not out. Well done, boys!

*Mr Shane Friedrichs*

### CAREERS EXPO AT STANFORD

On Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, a Careers Expo will be held in the High Performance Centre from 14h30 – 15h30. There will be more than 30 exhibitors. Parents are welcome to come along with their child/children. All grade 10 and 11 pupils to attend. (Compulsory for Grade 11s.)

*Mrs Shirley Jack*