



Matters of Principal

As you are all aware, I interview every child that applies to join Stanford Lake College. Interviewing more than sixty twelve-year-olds over a period of 3 weeks may sound like an arduous task, but it is one of my favourite parts of my job. It is incredibly affirming for me that I have chosen the correct profession. During these interviews, two magical things happen. The first and most important is that I get to explore the dreams and passions of some remarkable young people that we have in our country. I gain an insight into how they view the world, what they value and what they want to achieve. They talk about the community and their environment with a deep sense of insight and passion.

I am continually amazed by the uniqueness of each one of them, yet the collective desire they have is to make our world a better place, to get out into society and drive change. I am inspired by the levels of maturity and confidence they display sitting on a couch in the headmaster's office. They look me in the eye and engage positively with me on a variety of topics. Apart from this being a credit to their parents and guardians, it is also a credit to the wonderful job done by their educators in their junior schools. For this, I salute them. Last night, I had the privilege of attending an excellent music and dance concert at Ben Vorster. Several junior schools were involved and I marveled at what the choir mistresses got out of them and how they managed these little people. As an aside, our own choir

"A child's innocence is the one gift, that once stolen, can never be replaced."
- Jaeda DeWalt

was outstanding and did us proud.

The second magical thing that occurs during these interviews is how so many parents are simply blown away by how their children conduct themselves in these interviews and I can see them visibly beaming with pride that their children can handle themselves so maturely in what is essentially a stressful environment.

These interviews fill me with hope and optimism that if we all do our part as parents and educators, we will raise an amazing generation of young people who will make an enormous difference in our world.

While I am looking forward to completing this cycle of interviews, I will miss the sense of upliftment at the end of each of these meetings. I remain blessed to work in this exciting space.

Have a wonderful weekend.

God Bless

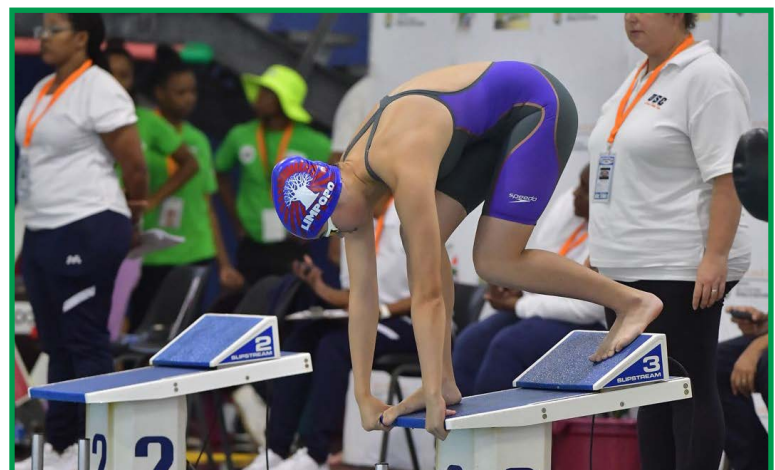
category nationwide, a remarkable accomplishment. She is commended for her role as the Captain of the Limpopo Team and for representing the school admirably over the years. Jenny has truly made a significant impact on Stanford's Swimming programme.

Dario qualified for the 50m, 100m, and 200m breaststroke races and advanced to the final races in two events from the preliminary rounds, finishing 6th and 7th respectively. Congratulations to Dario on his inaugural year of selection to the Limpopo Schools' Swimming Team; we anticipate many successful years ahead for him.

NEWS FROM THE POOLSIDE

During the first term, a couple of individuals from Stanford participated in the Limpopo Schools' Championships for Swimming in Tzaneen. Jenny Zhang and Dario Wasley were chosen and subsequently selected to join the Limpopo Schools' Swimming Team to represent their province at the South African Schools' Swimming Championships in Gqeberha. This event took place from the 19th to the 21st of April.

Jenny successfully qualified to compete in six individual events, reaching the final race in four of them. She secured 5th and 6th place in many of her final races and also participated in three relay finals, with her team achieving 6th and 7th placements. Jenny's outstanding performance places her among the Top 10 swimmers in her age



NEWS IN BRIEF

GOLF

On Monday 6th May our golf team played in the Golf Inter-high in Louis Trichardt. It was a shotgun start, meaning that instead of starting your round at hole no.1 or no.10 the four balls started on every hole, with a shotgun indicating the start of the round. This meant that the golfers could complete the round much faster. Soutpansberg Golf Club is a 9-hole course but you play the second round off different tee boxes. The greens were slow as it was hollow tined a few weeks ago but the golf was hot! Tristan Brett made 38 points, Matt Allison 32 points and Giano October 17 points. This was a much better performance than the previous round.

SPEAKERS SOCIETY

The Speakers Society recently concluded their final round of icebreakers, marking an excellent display from all the participants. The setting at Pot n' Plow was both charming and conducive to the event's atmosphere. Adjudications were comprehensive, offering constructive feedback that was both detailed and well-received by the speakers. A delightful surprise came with Mrs. Redfern's guest appearance via WhatsApp video, adding a touch of remote connection to the gathering. The anticipation is already building for the next event, scheduled for May 20th. Mickey Mkhabele was awarded as Best Speaker and Ryno Schultz as Best Adjudicator.



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DEBATING

On Wednesday the 8th of May, the Senior Debating Team won their second Mayor's Cup round against Dendron Secondary School. They opposed the motion "South Africa should adopt predictive policing to combat crime". The Stanfordians were victorious with Angel Maponya as Best Speaker.

SQUASH

Alisha and Alessio Calokechi competed in the SADC Squash Tournament in Bloemfontein from 25 - 28 April for the U/16s. Alisha won 3 out of 5 of her matches winning against Mpumalanga, Northern Gauteng and Free State. Alessio competed in 8 matches with tough competition. They have both received Limpopo Colours for squash.

LOST & FOUND

A huge amount of lost property is being collected all over the campus at the moment. All items are taken to the Boarding Logistics Office with Miss Blandy. We strongly encourage parents to double check their child's belongings and uniform and make sure they have everything. Should they have lost an item, they can report to Miss Blandy's office to check the Lost & Found box.

BADGER OF THE WEEK

During the past two 1st Team rugby matches, Nakedi Makweya has been by far the best player, simply because he never gives up. He plays rugby with his heart on his sleeve. The 1st Rugby boys have had such a challenging season thus far, playing against much bigger schools. But "Nax" never gets negative, and plays as hard as he can for every minute.



GORDON STILL RACING HARD



It was a big weekend for mountain biking in South Africa this past weekend when the SA Championship for XCC and XCO took place in Paarl in the Western Cape. This was the opportunity for riders to test their skills and fitness against the best in SA. Stanford Lake College was represented by Gordon Noel, riding for the Kings of Neon Academy! Friday saw the XCC event which is a short track race with shorter laps and a very high intensity. Conditions were dry and dusty and Gordon raced hard finishing 15th in the Junior Men's category. Gordon was particularly looking forward to the XCO event on the Saturday as it suited his riding style and strengths better, with a long climbing section. Unfortunately, rain on Friday evening and right through to just before the Junior Men's race, made the long climbing section unrideable, taking Gordon's strength out of contention. Gordon had to work very hard and fight to keep up on the slippery flats and descents, and did so in style, claiming another 15th position. A great result at a national level. Well done, Gordy!!

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 13 OF 2024

HOEDSPRUIT'S HEAT COULDN'T BEAT OUR HEAT

Stanford's netball teams showcased their prowess last week in league matches against Southern Cross and Lowveld Academy. Despite a hiccup of having to walk one kilometre due to the bus not being able to drive on the road, spirits remained high. The U/14A team dominated, triumphing over Lowveld Academy 28 - 1. The U/15A's conquered Southern Cross with a solid 35 - 5 win whilst the U/15B's secured a close victory against Lowveld Academy at 11 - 10. The U/16 girls displayed their skill, defeating Southern Cross 26 - 1. The 1st Team then delivered a stellar performance, clinching a 25 - 5 victory. The day ended with elated players, highlighting growth and camaraderie.



VS.



Last weekend, a number of sports teams battled it out against Northern Academy. The U/15 boys had a difficult rugby game with a mismatch in both physicality and tactics. Irrespective of the results, the team showed great fight throughout the game. The U/16 boys played by far their best rugby of the season thus far. Their structure on both attack and defence was organised and aggressive, and the game was locked up at 10 - 10 for almost 35 minutes. Unfortunately, Northern Academy pounced on a few crucial errors and the U/16 Badgers lost yet another hard-fought and close match. The 1st Team managed to score 26 points, Northern Academy was too strong on the day and Stanford subsequently lost the match.

Only one game of hockey was played against Northern Academy. A mix of all age group girls played against the Northern Academy 1st Team. It was a good experience and turf time for all the players but they, unfortunately, lost 2 - 0.

The girls' netball teams participated in a series of friendly netball matches. Despite a tough battle, Stanford's U/14A Team fell short with a score of 11 - 17. However, their relentless effort was evident throughout the match. The U/14B Team emerged victorious, triumphing with a score of 13 - 8. The U/15A Team, despite missing two players, displayed resilience, although they ultimately lost 4 - 13. The U/16's secured a hard-fought win, edging past their opponents with a score of 22 - 19. The 1st Team exhibited commendable spirit, though they narrowly lost 17 - 20 in a fiercely contested match.

HOCKEY NEWS

On Thursday last week, the Boy's Hockey Teams played against Ben Vorster. The U/14 Boys controlled most of the game but, unfortunately, conceded two breakaway goals. They were only able to respond once through a penalty flick courtesy of Tadgh Egan. The final score was 1 - 2 to Ben Vorster.

The U/16 boys were unlucky to concede two very quick goals which put them on the backfoot and under pressure. They chased the game for as long as they could and played very impressive hockey but, unfortunately, this was not rewarded with a goal until late into the third quarter which brought the hope of a possible comeback. However, the boys ran out of steam after trying to chase the game for so long and conceded another three goals, with a final score of 5 - 1 to Ben Vorster.

The 1st Team Boys unfortunately could not find their rhythm and succumbed very early in the second quarter to the aggressive play of the hosts as they scored two quick goals. The Badgers chased on but were not able to generate anything substantial. The hosts then scored once again going into the final quarter of the game to ensure their lead, taking a win of 3 - 0.

On Wednesday this week, the girls' teams played against PHS. In a David versus Goliath match, the U/14 girls were faced with a difficult task from the onset, their main goal was to do their best and to ensure they celebrated the small victories. The girls played their hearts out and had brilliant phases of play which managed to build some confidence. Unfortunately, PHS was just too strong and had run away with the game at half-time already. The final score was 9 - 0 to PHS.

The U/16 girls started the game well with a good attack. It looked promising after the first quarter as they had kept the score line goalless. The visitors scored a brace in the second quarter and then another in the third quarter. The Stanfordinians did not give up and continued to fight. They were rewarded with a consolation goal but sadly still lost 4 - 1.

The 1st Team Girls were out to prove a point and play with pride. Regardless of being looked at as the underdogs, they were not going to give the game away easily. The first quarter ended goalless as The Badgers defended with their hearts. The visitors managed to score two goals in the second quarter, but they had to work very hard for these goals. They managed to score one more goal within the third quarter. The Badgers did well not to concede any goals within the final quarter, with the match ending 3 - 0 to PHS.