

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 26 OF 2024



Matters of Principal

*“For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself, then he has nought
To say the things he truly feels
And not the words of one who kneels
The record shows I took the blows
And did it my way
... Yes, it was my way”
- Frank Sinatra*

Our children never cease to amaze me! This week Merensky hosted its annual Eisteddfod. We entered our choir, and several solos, duets, dance and instrumental items. I had the privilege of spending three and a half hours in the venue listening to our pupils perform. I was struck by the bravery and confidence they displayed. To stand up in front of an audience in a small and intimate venue takes enormous courage, to perform at the level they performed requires talent and hard work. What I witnessed from our pupils both on and off the stage in those few hours, epitomised everything good about our school. Whilst our pupils were outstanding, I was amazed by the talent on show across the board, pupils from various schools showcasing their talent, taking risks and learning so much about themselves and what they can achieve through hard work. It reminded me why I do what I do! One of our soloists sang her rendition of Frank Sinatra’s “I Did It My Way”, the song chosen by my grandmother who died at the age of 96 to be sung at her funeral – it brought a tear to my eye. The adjudicator (one of the leads from the Mama Mia production recently put on at Montecasino) was amazing in her feedback and so positive about our Stanfordinians and their attitude and behaviour. At one point she even asked if they could be her ‘rent-a-crowd’. I received a wonderful email this morning which succinctly summarises what was simply an amazing afternoon.

but also wanted to send you an email. They looked smart and neat and their manners were impeccable.

The SLC team sat through the entire solo vocal schedule, listening and respected the other singers. What stood out for me the most was when one of their own ‘team’ solos were sung. WOW. The sense of spirit, happiness, togetherness, genuine care for each other, fun and support made me feel SO proud to be a parent of a Stanfordinian. There was genuine joy and happiness between all the students - a special bond that I feel at times is quite rare but also at times quite unique to Stanford.

Then, as only our Stanfordinians can, at the end, they stole the show when the adjudicator sang a Whitney Houston song, to which the Stanfordinians cheered her on, danced and made HER night!”

I wish you all a safe and happy weekend.

“I was blown away by how well SLC’s choir sang at the Eisteddfod - with such a small choir (and so few to choose from) I was so enthralled by their songs and their harmony. I congratulated Rene,



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Diarise the 19th of October for La Chanson Des Fleurs. Tickets cost R200.00 each and each table consists of 10 seats. All funds raised will go to Noah’s Ark, Goue Jare Old Age Home and the SPCA.

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Diversity is Resilience, Connection is Strength

In honour of Women's Month we've had inspirational women speaking to our pupils. This week we had the privilege of having Dr. Bronwyn Egan who delivered an inspiring talk that we're sharing a part of. Thank you for your time Dr. Egan.

"Hi everyone and thank you for inviting me. I'm here because it is August, and I'm a woman, but other than that I'm not very well qualified to be talking! Hence the slideshow of the diversity of indigenous flowers in our local mountains. They say in pictures what I'd like to say in words.

For a start, I'm not here to tell all the girls that the world is theirs for the taking, or to the guys that they need to rescind their masculinity, or to tell anyone that they need to change because they don't fit into my box. Today we need diversity and giving, not clone-making and taking. I'm also not here to tell you my wonderful life story and all the odds I overcame to get my career going. The worst I had to face as a woman in this life is being told I should do horticulture instead of Zoology because there weren't many jobs in Zoology for women. I just rolled my eyes at that one, because although it looks like it from my grey hair, I wasn't living in the dark ages and nor do I come from a background where poverty, lack of education, cultural norms and crime force women into the dead end of life. I was lucky enough to be able to follow my dream without being labelled as weird, or targeted because it was thought that I didn't belong.

It was much harder for me to accept being told that my maths was appalling and that I shouldn't go to university because I probably wouldn't pass. But, I wanted to save elephants, which at that stage were being poached into oblivion, and to me the best way of doing that was to become a Zoologist and so I spent my undergrad years in a blind panic and a mole-hole of work, too scared to party and too worried to have fun. But it paid off and nowadays I don't so much save elephants as try to find ways of saving the few patches of indigenous vegetation that remain to us in the world, because ultimately, they are what give resilience to the ecosystems that hold and support all of humanity, including those giants of the animal world that started me down this conservation path.

What I do want to do, is to remind you that you don't need to be in a box, and more importantly, that you don't need to be rich, famous or influential to have a meaningful, beautiful life. And I'm here to tell you that no, conventional happiness isn't everything, and if you think it is you WILL feel like you've failed. Because happiness is not a constant. It is a beautiful, ephemeral gift that should be valued when it arrives but not mourned when it leaves. It is not the thing that teaches empathy, compassion or understanding, and in our society today, we need these things so much more than we need the buzz we get from Instagram likes. If there was more compassion, there would be less killing...of anyone... but particularly of the vulnerable and downtrodden. If there was more empathy, there would be more understanding of what it is like to be the underdog, and if there was more understanding, then there would be more willingness to spend time and effort to prevent the poverty that is rising so exponentially in the world, despite our modern technologies. Our culture teaches that we are owed it all. That we deserve our dreams to come true. And TikTok teaches us that we can get this without any effort. What our culture does not teach, is that if our dreams are meaningless, we might reach them, but they will not make us happy.



Dr. Bronwyn Egan (left) with English HOD, Mrs Amy Taylor-Bennett

Why am I emphasising helpfulness and contentment? Isn't life all about MY needs and aspirations? Do I not have the right to be authentic, or to speak my truth? To dance to the beat of my own drum? In a way I do. Our unique lives, that no one else can live, are what we offer to society like a mulch of learning from which others can also grow.

Living someone else's dream, or suppressing our own way of doing things, is not helpful, because we rob one another of the story of our OWN life and how we've overcome obstacles and how we've learnt from that. We run the risk of having a much tougher journey to get to where we know is right for us. And here's a trivial example from my life: Learning Sepedi in the time of apartheid was not the kind of thing white kids at primary school were encouraged to do. Try as I did, I couldn't get my teachers to support me in this and I was forced into Accountancy, another numbers crisis for me, so I barely scraped through. Nowhere would I need Sepedi I was told. But accountancy would be greatly useful. Surprise, surprise! Twenty years down the line I was trying to communicate with elderly women in Blouberg who had a lifetime of wisdom on how to use edible insects which I was studying for my doctorate. We had to struggle through with our half-baked Afrikaans, which was a second language to us all, and rely on student interpreters who kept missing the nuances of what the women were telling me. If I'd had the wisdom and guts to have fought harder to learn Sepedi, my thesis would have been much richer and more useful than it was. And in addition, I would not be struggling now, as Rosie Ramohlala patiently feeds Sepedi words into my aging and aching brain!"

Merensky Eisteddfod: Our pupils did exceedingly well at the Merensky Eisteddfod! Read the Snapshot next week for the full update. Well done to all who participated, we're so proud of you!

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GET TO KNOW OUR COACHES

This week we get to learn more about our Head of Swimming – Aeron Williams who has been coaching swimming for 10 years! We’re also lucky enough to have Aeron as the Manager of our First Team Girls’ Soccer.

Coaching certificates

- Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching ASCA
- Advanced Learn To Swim course will be completed this season

“I love swimming. I really enjoy it. I started swimming when I was very young at school level from Grade 1 where I used to train twice a day. I have also represented the Eastern Cape at provincial level for two years and continued to swim when I moved to Johannesburg. Some of my coaching highlights include making the first division A league and being able to stay in that league. My B team was also promoted to Division 2A; the highest division leagues at school level. The best part about what I do is giving confidence to swimmers who may not be the top swimmers but feel confident enough to jump into the pool and help them to develop their stroke and even give them the ability to do something new i.e. learn a new stroke. It’s also really great to be able to see pupils that were previously reserves and watch them work their way to actually making the team.

Being at Stanford Lake College has given me the opportunity to drive the sport and run it from all aspects. I’m really proud of our pupils and their willingness to train one example is the early morning swimming that takes place during winter.



Aeron Williams, HOD Accounting, Headmistress: Serala and Swimming Coach pictured with Jenny Zhang.

We also participated in the Ebenezer Mile and had two pupils that were fortunate enough to qualify to represent Limpopo at provincial level. I’ve always been drawn to sport at University level where I was in charge of all the sports codes for all the students for my residence (res) and have always been willing to try something new.”

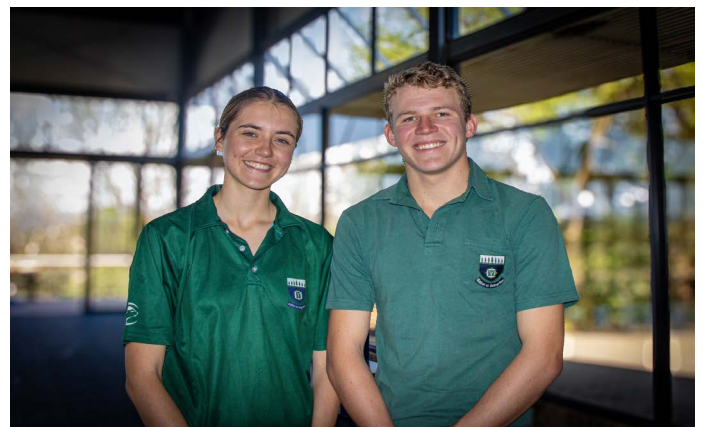
Aeron’s previous coaching experience includes helping to develop girls’ soccer at previous schools, run girls’ hockey across various levels, coached drum majorettes and was also the leader of the squad and was in charge of water polo!

WELL DONE DARIO!



On Saturday, August 24th, Dario Wasley represented the Limpopo Swimming Team in the interprovincial gala against the Mpumalanga Swimming Team, held at Stanford Lake College’s HPC. He received a silver medal for his 100m breaststroke, improving his time by 0.87 seconds. He was also part of the winning teams for both the 200m freestyle relay and the 200m medley relay. Additionally, Dario improved his time in the 200m individual medley by 2.88 seconds. Well done, Dario, for contributing to the overall victory of the Limpopo Province for the day!

SWIMMING CAPTAINS



Congratulations to Emma Imrie and Christoff van der Westhuizen for being selected as Swimming Captains for this season! Keep that #badgerpride flying high!

NEWS IN BRIEF

CRICKET

The Girls Cricket Team took on Mohodi Cricket Hub in a well contested game on Monday the 26th of August.

Electing to bat first, the Stanfordinians struggled to find momentum, with the batting order crumbling under pressure. Despite a valiant effort, only one batsman managed to reach double figures, scoring 21 runs. The team ultimately posted a modest total of 73 runs.

Undeterred, Captain Moratiwa Inama led the charge in the field, taking two crucial wickets in her first over. However, Mohodi Cricket Hub's batting lineup proved too strong, chasing down the target in just 11 overs.

Despite the loss, the Girls Cricket Team has improved significantly.

Well done to the girls on their spirited display!

WELL DONE TRISTAN



On Saturday 17 August, Tristan Brett participated in the Limpopo Cross Country Champs. This year also saw him compete in three compulsory League events.

Tristan has qualified for the Limpopo U23 Men's Distance team 4km and will represent Limpopo at the SA Nationals on 7 September in Vanderbijlpark.

Good luck Tristan!

Stanford Lake College Debating Teams Shine at Turfloop Debating Tournament

On Saturday, August 24, the Stanford Lake College Junior and Senior Debating Teams participated in the Turfloop Debating Tournament, hosted by Mitchell House College. This marks the second time this year that our teams have competed in the tournament, having already showcased their skills and achieved great success at the beginning of the year. They faced the formidable challenge of either maintaining or surpassing their previous high standards.

We are thrilled to announce that the Junior Debating Team, comprising Ruby Fair, Miano Tshivhula, and Joshua Joynt, rose to the occasion. They successfully defended their title and emerged as champions, earning gold medals and proudly retaining their trophy, showcasing their consistent excellence and mastery of debating skills. Meanwhile, the Senior Debating Team, consisting of Alessio Calokechi, Alisha Calokechi, and Kayla Makhomisane, secured the runner-up position (silver medalists) in a fiercely competitive group of gifted speakers across the region. Their relentless pursuit of excellence and exceptional talent enabled them to excel under pressure against some of the best debaters. Congratulations to both the Junior and Senior Debating Teams for their outstanding accomplishments. Their success is a testament to every team member's hard work, commitment, and skill. We look forward to seeing their continued growth and triumphs in future competitions.



Junior Debating Team



Senior Debating Team

DEBATING

Lets get social

Remember to follow, like, share and support our school via social media.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stanfordlakecollege/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stanfordinians>



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STANFORD LAKE COLLEGE T20 CRICKET



● Stanford Lake College
T20 **25 - 27**
OCTOBER
Festival

Diarise the 25th to the 27th of October! It's the annual Stanford Lake College T20 Cricket Festival! This year we have an additional school that's been added to the action. If you would like to get involved and sponsor this event, please contact marketing@slc.co.za

Remember to plan your week. You can now find the weekly planner under the "Resources For Parents" tab on our website. Not sure of how to navigate there? Hover over the "More" tab, click/select "Resources For Parents" and then click the "Weekly Calendar" button which will direct you to this link: https://www.slc.co.za/files/ugd/8be4d8_b74ec626cfcd454d805cd1fb1fac8fe5.pdf