

# Matters of Principal

"Look deep into nature, then you will understand everything better"
- Albert Einstein

I have spent the last week in White River at the annual Sahisa Heads' Conference. It has been an inspiring few days. As co-hosts of the conference, the North and North East regions put on an excellent conference for delegates from across Southern Africa. We were able to showcase some of the talent of our region, blending world-class speakers and traditional Lowveld hospitality. International, national and local speakers covered a variety of topics all linked to our theme GO WILD (Wellness, Inspiration, Leadership and Discovery). It was an opportunity for both professional development and enrichment but also an opportunity to network and socialise. Time to interact with colleagues and friends, make new friendships and renew old.

The quality of the presentations was excellent with each one having their own take away. The two themes that ran most strongly through the programme were those of staff and pupils' wellness and the need to embrace and integrate AI into our teaching.

I was encouraged to note that we are well ahead of the curve as far as embedding wellness into our programme, whilst we still have plenty of work to do, we have made an excellent start and our staff and pupils are being empowered to take responsibility for their wellness.

From the point of view of using AI in our classrooms and embracing it, we are in a similar position to the majority of schools represented at the conference. We have a cohort of staff who are embracing the technology, some who are learning to do so and a few who are down-right petrified by the pace at which this technology is moving into schools and society as a whole. One thing is for sure, we cannot ignore it and have to use AI as a positive tool in education and business.

I return refreshed, inspired and enriched. I look forward to sharing with the staff some of the learnings, re-enforcing what we are doing well and inspiring our staff to continue to acknowledge that whilst times in education are tough, we are not alone and that at Stanford we continue to do world class work.

I wish you a blessed weekend.



### WANTED: Two (2) Debenture Holders for positions on our Board



FOR OUR BOARD This year we invite debenture holders to nominate two representatives for the 2025 Board. To qualify for nomination:

- (a) The nominee must be the registered owner of a fully paid debenture
- (b) If they have children enrolled at the College, their school account must be current.

All nominees must be prepared to accept the responsibilities of a Trustee. (A booklet setting out the roles and responsibilities of Trustees is available at the College.)

You need to briefly motivate your nomination on the nomination form that will be provided, stating why you think the person is suitable and what role you would like them to play. You are also requested to provide a brief curriculum vitae of the nominee, to assist voters in making an informed

#### **DATES**

- Notice to Debenture Holders: 13 September 2024
- Nominations close: Friday, 18 October 2024
- Electronic Ballots issued: Monday, 21 October 2024
- Close for elections Friday, 25 October 2024 at 7.00 am.

Votes will be counted at 10.00 am on Friday, 25 October 2024.

If you have any questions please contact Inge-Marí Kotzé, bursar@slc.co.za, at Stanford Lake College.



## Limpopo Schools XCO

This past weekend Stanford Lake College took part in the 4th and final round of the Limpopo School XCO Mountain biking series at Louis Trichardt High School. The event had its highest number of riders in four years with 450 riders. SLC had the following riders participating: Hana McMillan, Britta Göbel and Katje Göbel in the Youth Girls category. In the Boys categories we had Richard Niemann, Benjamin Terblanche, Lefika Motswanareng and Deegan Davis in Sub-Junior Boys; Matthew Pullinger, Judah Leher, JC Els and Robert Noel in Youth Boys and then Gordon Noel in the Junior Boys. Special mentions go out to Katje for finishing in the top 10 and Richard for his 8th position. Robert was pushing for a podium finish but a broken back derailleur ended his race, despite all the effort from the mechanical team in the tech zone! Gordon was once again a machine on the bike and it looked like he was out on a training ride. With that, he still won by over 4 minutes! He is just in a class of his own. Regardless of the results it was a great day out for the Stanfordians.

Gordon made the Limpopo team that will be going to Nationals during the first weekend of the holiday but we received great news on Monday evening - Robbie Noel received a 'Wildcard' invitation to also go to Nationals! Well done to the brothers for the outstanding result and good luck with Nationals. Well done to all the riders that competed throughout the season. It was great to see some new faces on the track and it is heartwarming to see our mountain bike numbers picking up again.

Thank you to all the parents for their support during the season as well. We are all super proud of you.



Gordon Noel



**Robert Noel** 

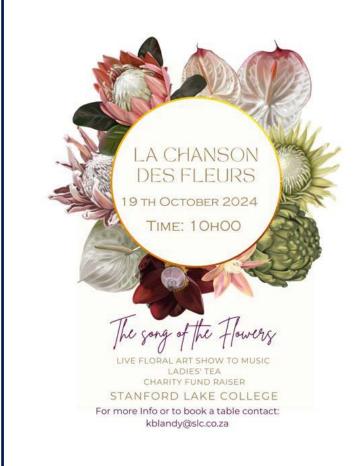


Richard Niemann



Deegan Davis





## GRADE 9 EXPEDITION

On the 29th of August all the Grade 9s jumped on the bus to Louis Trichardt for the start of their last expedition. This expedition is a self-guided expedition where the students do their own navigation in the mountains. Navigational exercises were done in class in preparation for this expedition!

The bus dropped the students off in Louis Trichardt. Here they got their first set of maps and briefings and then the fun started! The students hiked plus/minus 13km in their groups to their first camp. That evening they received their second set of instructions to get them to the Base Camp. Problem solving and Group work was very important here.

Later that afternoon in Base Camp group 1 received their briefing for their self guiding mountain section. They had to plot the points on a 1:50 000 topographical map and work out their planned routes to get them to their camp sites. They spent 3 days guiding themselves in the mountain and a lot of problem solving was done during these days. Group 1 only managed to find 2 of the 7 check points on day 1 but this was due to bad weather and a modified route.

Group 2 stayed at base camp and were involved in activities like bush craft and caving as well as an obstacle course. The abseil was cancelled due to unsafe weather conditions but they did get the opportunity to abseil on their last afternoon. This was all followed by a 24hr SOLO experience! We experienced nice nippy Soutpansberg weather the first day or two but the weather improved as we went on.

After three days the groups swopped – group 1 came in from their mountain section and started with the activities and their SOLO experience while group 2 was doing their self navigating mountain section. Group 2 had the opportunity to complete the abseil that was cancelled earlier in the week. The last afternoon we had a review session and then the groups had to perform their songs that they practised throughout the week, for a reward – fire and a wors braai. Eventually the whole group was invited to join the braai.

While sitting around the fire we had a small prize giving ceremony where the students had to elect a boy and girl that they thought benefitted the most from this expedition. The group chose Naledi Moagi (girl), and JJ Naude (boy). We left on Thursday morning to finish the expedition at Schoemansdal. Well done to everybody for completing this challenging but fun expedition!

A big thank you to the parents that sponsored the wors braai for the group and those that brought everything in to the group. The students enjoyed it and can't stop talking about it. Thank you also to the staff for all their help and assistance to make this a memorable experience for all!

















## PARENT ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Parents and Guardians we'd love to hear more from you and have shared a link to a survey that will help us understand how you can be more involved at our beautiful school. If you haven't participated please Ido so here: https://forms.gle/GCJeze5kePbXnuH2A

### NEWS FROM THE CREASE

This week saw our girls' cricket team play two matches. On the 9th of September, Stanford 1st Team Cricket girls faced PHS in a thrilling match. After winning the toss, Stanford elected to bat first, posting a solid total of 130 runs in 20 overs. Special mentions go to Carmen Veldsman, who scored 44 runs from 44 balls, and Nina Schulenburg, who contributed 40 runs from 43 balls.

However, during our bowling innings, things didn't go as planned. We gave away several extras, which ultimately impacted the game. Despite the tight contest, PHS needed just one run from the last ball to win, and sadly, we couldn't hold them off. It was a close and intense game, but the team fought hard until the end.

On the 11th of September, the team played against Louis Trichardt. After winning the toss, we opted to bowl first. The team's bowling showed noticeable improvement compared to Monday's performance, with Paityn Landsman delivering an outstanding spell, taking 4 wickets in her 4 overs. Chasing a target of 112 runs, our batting lineup struggled to build momentum. Nina Schulenburg and Carmen Veldsman both contributed 11 runs, with Nina facing 25 balls and Carmen 20. Paityn Landsman added 7 runs from 14 balls. Unfortunately, the batting order faltered, and we fell short by 43 runs, losing the game. While our batting let us down, the team's improved bowling performance was encouraging.

#### The following photos will be taken: Maths Olympiad (Jnr and Snr) • Geography Olympiad • Netball U14B • Leadership Team 2024,2025 Junior and Senior Athletics • Sports House Captains 2024 • Fly Fishing Swimming Adventure Racing Mountain Biking • Marimba and Djembe band Sophia Town Production cast Sound Crew Debating (Senior & Junior) Programming Olympiad • Dance Cricket teams (team kit) · Soccer teams (team kit) • Squash (team kit) • Tennis (team kit) Please contact marketing@slc.co.za with any questions

### **ALUMNI NEWS**



Zoë Burman (dux of our 2022 matric class) has just completed her first year of study for a BSc in Econometrics and Operations Research, Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. She was placed top out of 167 students in the course and was freshman of the year.

Keep flying the Stanford Lake College flag high Zoë!

Zoë is pictured above second from the left

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## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our amazing community for supporting our fundraiser! Your generosity and kindness will make a real difference in a child's life. Together we can create a brighter future for all! -The Service Committee-

Together we can change the world!



SMALL ACTS BIG IMPACT

