

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 14 OF 2024



Matters of Principal

Organisational culture is generally understood as the collection of a company's beliefs, values and attitudes and how these influence the behaviour of its employees. Culture effects how people experience an organisation. School culture is very similar. It speaks of how things are while the process of education is being performed. It includes beliefs, norms, expectations, values and a host of other factors. I've always said you can walk into a school and, within a very short period of time, get a sense of what the place is about. Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of following our sports teams around the province and visiting other schools for various reasons. As an educator, I am very conscious of trying to get a sense of the culture of the schools I visit and it is often apparent in the small things like dress, manners, how pupils interact with one another and with their teachers and even more importantly, visiting adults. I must admit I have had mixed feelings in many of the schools I have visited.

This week, I made a conscious effort to analyse our school culture. We started our week with an assembly launching our Transformation and Diversity Week, which essentially focused on the need to be kind and accepting of others. The aim was to celebrate our diversity, acknowledge difference and embrace it and to channel our talents positively. The assembly was hosted by the senior pupils. Mondays are a formal day and our pupils are required to come to school in formals. The school was dressed impeccably (apart from a few boys who could do with an introduction to the art of polishing shoes). We paid attention to the small details: hair tied up, blazers with buttons and a general sense of pride in the uniform. The pupils

"Culture, more than products or services, is what differentiates an organisation from competitors, both in the minds of customers and of employees."

- Joe Tye

were attentive and responsive to the message. They participated appropriately and the tone was excellent.

Later on that day, I interviewed a potential new pupil and her parents from Botswana. It was wonderful to hear that one of the reasons that they had chosen us was that a friend of theirs had sent her child to us three years ago and every time they interacted with this child when he was home, he was confident, polite and far more articulate than any of their other friends' children. The dad also mentioned to me that he was blown away by the fact that during his tour, every child he walked past stood and greeted him and his family. I watch the manner in which our staff and pupils interact in the corridors and on the sports field and I get a sense of mutual respect. I hear the giggles coming from classrooms and I know that good stuff is happening. The Transformation and Diversity Week was twinned with a Spirit Week and culminated in a braai on the top field last night. The energy and sense of comradery was tangible. When I look at all of these things, I know that our school is in a really good space. The pupils are positive and the staff are focused and committed. Our culture is a good one.

We have an exciting weekend ahead of us and I look forward to sharing it with you.

God Bless

APRIL RECYCLING STATISTICS

MATERIAL	KILOGRAMS
MIXED PLASTICS	620 KGS
CARDBOARD	102 KGS
PAPER	357 KGS
ALUMINIUM CANS	250 KGS
GLASS	63 KGS
SUBGRADE STEEL	85 KGS
TOTAL WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL	1477 KGS

BADGER OF THE WEEK

Emma Imrie has shown tremendous commitment to both netball and swimming. She attends all netball practices, plays her heart out during matches and also makes sure to attend every swimming practice including early morning sessions. Emma never gives up, shows true badger spirit and shows consistent effort in everything she does.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

CHOIR

The Choir took part in the Ben Vorster Choir and Dance Festival on Thursday 9th May. Other schools from the area such as Unicorn, Duiwelskloof Primary and Ben Vorster also took part. The Stanford Lake College Choir delivered an incredible performance of Shosholozza and Diamonds On The Soles Of Her Shoes, receiving many compliments from attendees.



XCO



This past weekend the Limpopo Open XCO Finals took place at Hanglip Conservancy in Louis Trichardt. Stanford Lake College was represented by Gordon Noel, also riding for the Insect Science Kings of Neon Academy. Gordon, just coming off the back of the SA XCO and XCC Champs, had a very successful race, showing his tremendous skill and power, as he has done throughout the series. He won the Junior Men's category on the day and thus also secured the Limpopo Open XCO Junior Men's series title. Well done Gordon!

GOLF

On Monday of this week, the third round of the Schools' Golf League took place in Phalaborwa. The course played long and most of the golfers had a long day in the bush and in "the bush"! Joshua Khosa joined the team for the first time and made the best round on the day with 30 points. Matthew Allison with 21, Tristan Brett with 20 and Giano October with 19.

CHESS

Last weekend, several chess players entered an open chess tournament held at Laerskool Tzaneen. There were over 200 participants and the Stanford students represented the school extremely well, finishing in 12th 13th 15th and 16th positions.

On Tuesday, the Chess Team participated in the first league fixture of the year against Southern Cross (the top rated school in Limpopo for chess). For many of the junior team, this was their first competitive match. Stanford really held their own but, unfortunately, both teams lost. They enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to the next fixture.

DEBATING

The Debating Teams competed in the Turfloop Debating League on Saturday 11 May at Mitchell House. The Senior Team won two of their debates and lost one. Alessio Calokechi made the top 5 speakers and was awarded a gold medal, while Alisha Calokechi and Kayla Makhomisane were ranked in the top 10 speakers and were awarded silver medals. The Junior Team were victorious in all their matches. Miano Tshivhula, Ruby Fair and Joshua Joynt were ranked in the top 5 speakers of the day. Overall the Junior Team scored the most points and they secured the Turfloop Debating League Champions title.

The second round of Polokwane Mayor's Cup took place on Wednesday this week at Flora Park Comprehensive High School. The Junior Team proposed the motion "South Africa should adopt predictive policing to combat crime," against Dendron Secondary School and unfortunately lost the debate by a small margin. Ru Ngwarai, Ruby Fair and Teya Zanetic were the speakers.

CELEBRATING OUR STAFF



Congratulations to Miss Rammutla who recently graduated with her second Honours degree! She previously gained her Honours in BSc Honours in Microbiology and this time in BSc Honours Environmental Management.



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HOCKEY NEWS

On Monday this week, the Girls' Teams played against Ben Vorster. The U/14 game was well contested. The Baby Badgers scored first through a penalty corner in the second quarter of the game, but it did not take the visitors much time to reply with an equalizer just 3 minutes later. The half-time score was 1 - 1 and it remained the same right until the end of the game when the visitors got two lucky breaks and converted both to win the game in the dying minutes by 3 - 1.

The U/16 girls looked by far the stronger team as the game started; they strung well-worked passes and great runs in attack. Unfortunately, Ben Vorster defended with everything they had to make sure the home team would not score. This was the narrative for the first half. The Stanfordinians managed to get the ball over the goal line early into the third quarter to take the lead. However, so many more chances went begging to be finished but it was not to be. Ben Vorster managed to pull off an immaculate comeback in the last quarter to draw the game.

In the 1st Team match, the Badgers were off the mark early into the game as they scored the first goal through a well-worked break-away. However, a lapse in concentration allowed the visitors to get a quick equaliser even though momentum was leaning more towards Stanford's side. The first half was a nail-biter as both teams hassled to try and take the lead. In the third quarter, Ben Vorster managed to score as momentum shifted their way and they kept attacking relentlessly. Fortunately for the Badgers, Carmen Veldsman's performance was outstanding in the goal and denied the visitors what should have been a bigger goal margin. The final score was 2 - 1 to Ben Vorster.

On Wednesday, the Boys' Hockey Team played against Hoërskool Pietersburg. The U/14 boys played first. At the beginning of the game, the boys were overly nervous as they gave the home side way too much respect than they deserved. They quickly realised they were the better team and soon enough momentum had shifted as the boys started playing well-structured hockey. Unfortunately, once again, the boys could not score regardless of their absolute domination of the game. Right at the end, PHS broke away and scored a goal, which broke the hearts of the Baby Badgers as they had played a much better game but just weren't able to score.

The 1st Team Boys played in a well-contested game, the first quarter was very even as both teams controlled the game well and created a few scoring opportunities each. The hosts managed to

square two quick goals through defensive lapses from the Badgers. In the third quarter, the Badgers fought on but could not find any scoring opportunities. The hosts managed to score a brilliant penalty corner to end the third quarter 0 - 3. The Badgers fought on and were rewarded with a goal through Amon Negogogo but unfortunately, it was too late and they lost 3 - 1.



VS.



On the 14th of May, Stanford's netball teams played their final league matches against Kings Court. The U/15 A team showcased their remarkable progress with an impressive 29 - 4 victory. The 1st Team also demonstrated significant improvement, securing a dominant 32 - 9 win. Both teams have shown tremendous growth and development throughout the season, reflecting their hard work and dedication. These victories are a testament to their continued improvement.

The Stanford teams have made it through to the league playoffs which will take place in June.

