

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 14 of 2020 - 08 May



Matters of Principal

Another week has meandered by, with our campus still very much in slumber mode. The trees are ablaze; magnificent in their brightly colored autumnal leaves and the ground is carpeted by those that have fallen. Whilst the physical campus itself rests, the rest of our school most certainly doesn't. The online lessons continue at full steam, with staff working their fingers to the bone and pupils burning the midnight oil as they come to terms with our new reality. Productivity levels are high and our pupils' academic studies are progressing. We still wait for clarity from a national level as to when schools will return. Until we have a legally gazetted date, our planning cannot be initiated. The SMT have been hard at work preparing policies and protocols for when we can return. As soon as we have finalized the policies and ratified them at board level, I will share them with the community.

We cannot allow times of difficulty to derail our journey. This is a tough time for all... but the world has faced worse and triumphed. Humans are resilient and we will pull through, and whilst some of our dreams may be on hold, it is time to dream new dreams and find new ways of writing our stories. I'll never forget how, as a young man finding my way in what was a scary and uncertain world, my late mother used to continually encourage me to dream big and to aim high, to not to allow challenging circumstances to prevent me from trying to reach my goals. My mum was an educator. She dedicated her entire life to teaching and she recognised the value of a good education, emphasising in particular the value of reading. She would have relished these challenges. She was an extraordinary woman who left us all far too early. Sunday is Mother's Day. I wish all the strong, committed mothers out there the most amazing day. I know despite the fact that our children don't always show it, they appreciate all that their mums do. Whilst our current circumstances dictate that we may not be able to celebrate Mother's Day with flowers from the florists or a restaurant meal, I am sure that all our mums will be appropriately spoilt. I thank our mums for the love and care they show our children and again wish all those special ladies out there a truly blessed day.

When I Think About My Mum - Abi T Alabi

When I think about my mum,
I just can't help but smile;
The beauty of her loving heart,
The easy grace in her style.

She lovingly instilled in me,
Those values that made me strong,
And never stops being there,
My best friend since I was young.

When I think about my mum,
I just can't help but smile;
She's been an angel from the start,

Gentle, wise and versatile.
She always seems to know,
When things aren't going too well,
Even when I try to pretend,
Just a glance and she can tell.

When I think about my mum,
I just can't help but smile;
Her own troubles she'd set apart,
To go for me an extra mile.

She sometimes worries too much,
I guess it's just the way mums are.
If she doesn't, well, who will?
That's why she's my superstar.

God Bless,

Alan Redfern
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BAKING FOR A PURPOSE FEEDING THE FRONTLINE

Grade 10 pupil, Tanatswa Murasiranwa, who hails from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, decided to forego receiving gifts for her 15th birthday recently and instead asked for baking supplies to make cupcakes for people working on the frontline. On the 29th April, Tanatswa celebrated her birthday in a rather unusual way and set about baking 150 cupcakes to be delivered to 11 medical institutions near to where she lives. She says, "I decided to do this because I thought of how, whilst the pandemic of the corona virus was keeping most of the country, including my family, at home from work, some were still continuing with their daily duties and most of them not by choice. Whilst they were at work they were also placing themselves in danger of the virus itself."

Tanatswa went on to say, "I have had the great blessing of growing up in a family that has taught me the true nature of giving and compassion - that it is better to give than to receive." She says the cupcakes were well received and the medical professionals were appreciative of the fact that they were being recognised.

"It made me feel that I can make a difference in this world, one cupcake at a time, to people who are doing so much work in this world, no matter how small, and are hardly appreciated or noticed. There is a large amount of giving towards the affected people rather than to those who give large sacrifices of their time, energy, health and safety," she said.

Tanatswa hopes to study medicine when she matriculates from Stanford and then go on to specialise in neurosurgery, where she too, will be on the frontline one day.

Her words of motivation for her fellow Stanfordinians during this difficult time are as follows, "Your cupcake can make a difference. I encourage you to think about ways of supporting others in our communities in any way you can. This phase will surely pass and so we should all just be strong and hold each other through these tough times."

Well done, Tanatswa, we are very proud of you!



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PARTY FOR POINTS

Did you know you can earn house points by having a little private party at home?

The Sports Department made three different dances on the sports Google Classroom last week. We are reaching out to all pupils to get to know the moves and give one of them a go. Here's a step-by-step (excuse the pun) of how to dance for house points!

- 1 Film yourself busting the moves and send it to your house captain before 17:00 on Sunday 10th May.
- 2 The captains of each house will choose the best video and submit it to the school.
- 3 The top Orvis, Loomis and Fenwick videos will be uploaded to the school's Facebook and Instagram pages on Monday morning.
- 4 The video with the most likes or interactions by 17:00 on Wednesday 13th May will be announced as the winner.

Each house will be awarded points depending on whether they come first, second or third.

So, get on those dancing shoes and show us your moves!

PEDALLING AGAINST THE PROS

Earlier this week, Herman Fourie, Gunther Katzke and Jarryd Gosling raced against the pros in a Category A virtual cycling race using the app, Zwift. There were three professional racers in the event, which consisted of eight laps of a 2km course.

Zwift racing is said to be harder in some ways than outside racing as it has fine tactics. One needs to save as much power as possible for a sprint finish at the end and there is no time for recovering during the race, one must work hard from start to finish.

Herman managed an incredible sixth place (beating one of the pros!) in a time of 18 minutes. In a tightly packed field, Gunther and Jarryd finished 39th and 40th respectively in a time of 21 minutes. Well done, lads!

A trip down memory lane... by Lauren Strever (was Blight)

When Stanford Lake College opened in 1998, we, the then Std. 8 class, were the senior class of the school and maintained this title for three years. There were 64 of us in the first year and, as unusual as the experience was, it is possible that we never fully realised we were making history. Naturally, we moved on to become the first Matric Class of Stanford Lake College. The class of 2000! We paved the way for the years that would follow and we did so with pride. Looking back, I wonder if there was a conscious sense of trepidation, for the risk that was taken by each parent, teacher and scholar? This brand new school had to prove itself and we were the ones to make it happen. Which we did.

We were lucky to make our 20-year reunion because the National Lockdown was announced the very next week. Those that could make it are extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to reconnect with each other and to revisit a very special chapter of our lives. Our 20-year reunion was a time of great reflection.

We had a beautiful, small dinner at The Mountain Café on the Friday night. There were only 35 of us; the group was made up of old class mates, some from the years below us, our parents, our headmaster Gavin Scholefield, and co-founder and chairman of the board, Howard Blight. (All our teachers and board members were invited but many could not make it). Gavin gave a moving speech, walking us down memory lane in great detail. He told us he was proud of us. We shared many laughs. It felt surreal to share a dinner table with our old headmaster as adults, each of us forging our way through life.

Our Head Girl, Georgina Smit, who flew up from Cape Town to make the event, brought the 1998, 1999 and 2000 yearbooks along and gave us a good laugh during her heartfelt speech. Howard said a few words too, he congratulated our group on becoming well-established adults and for making the school proud. Howard included a warm toast to the late Ed Hillary, an original board member and close friend of the school.

We met up again on Saturday for a lovely lazy lunch at Zwakala Brewery. Those of us who are local, brought our kids along. Nothing reminds you of how much time has passed like your school friends' kids playing with your own kids! Finally, on Sunday, we gathered at the school for the WIK Memorial Triathlon. We marveled at how much the school has developed since our time. We loved visiting the school again, loved reliving memories and spending time with old, special friends. During the weekend, some of the best memories that came up were: naming The Hatchery Concert, sending the new Std.6s into the forest at night during orientation week, many secret forest forts, planting the grass on the field, bridge club, Ken Shuter, hockey games, runs in the forest, the DISCOS, midnight swimming in the lake, ordering pizzas from Tzaneen on our last night in boarding school, adventure challenges, science with Mr Perkins and the Debs ball. We were a unique group, joined in arms through a spirit of pioneering.

Thank you to Shelley Hoets for initiating the event and for doing much of the organising and to Sarah for designing the invitation and hosting some of us at Cheerio. Thank you to everyone who travelled from far and for making it so special.

