

SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College

ISSUE 27 of 2020 - 11 September



Matters of Principal

“We’re losing social skills, the human interaction skills, how to read a person’s mood, to read their body language, how to be patient until the moment is right to make or press a point. Too much exclusive use of electronic information dehumanizes what is a very, very important part of community life and living together.”

Vincent Nichols, Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church

Covid-19 has influenced our lives in ways that stretch beyond just health, wellness and economic well-being. It has influenced so many different facets of our lives at school. We have actively moved education online and incorporated technology into our teaching in ways that we never imagined seven months ago. As we start to return to a more normal approach to teaching, it is important that we evaluate what it is that we have achieved.

It is clear that online learning has played an essential role in allowing us to navigate this pandemic and ensure that we offer our pupils a quality education; but is this the “new normal” we want? Do we want sedentary teenagers sitting for hours on end in front of computer screens learning through the Zoom platform? Do we want to create a generation of pupils who only communicate with one another online? Whilst the social media platforms offer many wonderful opportunities for networking and learning, there must be a limit to its use. This morning as I was walking up from the staff meeting, I passed numerous groups of pupils standing around (socially distanced, of course) all with their phones out typing away madly... and I had a sense of them being “together alone”. Very little verbal exchange was happening as they posted, re-posted, liked and followed what was trending online. This is most certainly not a new phenomenon, but it is one that we, as educators, need to be acutely aware of. If this pandemic has taught us nothing else, it has reminded us of the fact that we are social beings. Schools are so much more than simply places where children come for lessons and to earn grades. Schools are about educating the whole person, creating a healthy mind, soul and body. And this can only be done through human interaction.

I do not wish to minimise the role that the technological revolution has played and will continue to play in our lives and, in particular, in education. But we must not lose sight of the fact that it is away from this technology, that so much more growth and learning takes place.

Have an excellent weekend.

FOOD PARCELS

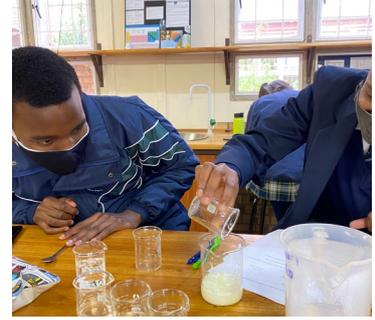
Over the course of the next term, we will be putting together food parcels for the support staff of Stanford Lake College (grounds, kitchen and laundry teams). A letter will go out soon to all parents. Pupils are asked to bring the required food items to their tutors.



WHY DOES IT ALWAYS RAIN ON ME?



The Grade 10 pupils enjoyed a lesson on precipitation in Ms Nel’s Physical Sciences class.



NOTICES & IMPORTANT DATES



All Grade 9 parents are invited to join Ms Nel for a discussion about subject choices for next year via the Google Meet platform. Details have been emailed but the discussion can be joined by the following link (must log in with a gmail enabled email address):

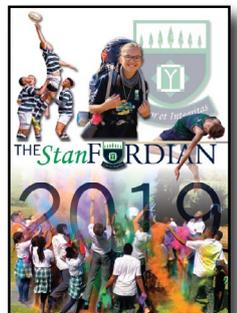
[GOOGLE MEET LINK](#)



Official school photographs will be taken during the course of the afternoon of Tuesday 6th October. Due to COVID-19 regulations, we will not be able to take group photos. Only individual head and shoulders shots will be taken. Further details to be sent to all parents. Please note that all pupils will be expected to be in FULL formal uniform.



The 2019 Stanfordin Magazine is hot off the press and is available to purchase on the ALLXS system. The bumper 108-page colourful edition encapsulates all the wonderful memories of 2019. The cut-off date for purchasing the magazine is Friday, 30th October. The magazines will then be distributed to the pupils who have bought a copy during the month of November.



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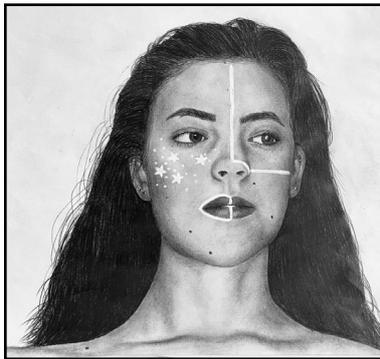
Grade 9 portraits

The Grade 9 pupils have created some beautiful self-portraits in their art classes recently! The artists are as follows:

Top row left to right: Clara Werhahn, Joel Mushambavanhu, Jordan Skordi.

Middle row left to right: Lana Otto, Langa Sithole, Laura-Anne Muller.

Bottom row left to right: Luke Fairhead, Owen de Witt, Skylar Stevens, Zoë Koster.



LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

A number of female pupils attended an online Service in Leadership event hosted by Roedean School on Saturday 5th September as part of Roedean's Girls' Leadership Summit. Here is what they had to say about the experience:



Malaika Mohlaba

“ The summit was lovely. What stood out most to me was the emphasis put on the “inter-linkedness” of things - like how you can't have racial justice without climate justice etc. My 'favourite' speaker was the Former President of Liberia Ellen Joseph Sirleaf because of what she said about our survival as humans being based on our solidarity with each other. It was just really good to be in that space and hearing so many powerful women speak and realizing how relatable and not so different from you they are. ”



Anke Spies

“ Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was the first female head of state and the talk she gave was very inspiring; about all the challenges she faced to get to her positions as well as everything Liberia accomplished when she was president. ”



Amu Ngobeni

“ The summit was extremely educational. It was wonderful to hear from so many amazing women. My key takeaway was the brief story that the former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, shared with us. She was the first elected female head of state in Africa and she explained the hardships that she faced because she was a woman aiming for such a position. Her story showed me that anything is possible if you work hard and never give up. I admire her courage to do such an unthinkable thing at the time and I feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to hear her share her journey. ”



Hloni Mangena

“ The summit was extremely informative and inspiring. It has really inspired me to strive to do more and start thinking of ways in which I can be a more active young person in our country and help others. It showcased how students at Roedean utilise their privilege to help a number of different causes which really showed me that I can and should start doing more and that choosing to make a difference in someone's life who can't choose their circumstances is essential. ”