



Matters of Principal

Whilst I count myself blessed to work in the profession that I do, not all aspects of this job are enjoyable. The issue of discipline in schools is always a contentious one. It is very easy to pronounce on big disciplinary issues when one does not have all the facts and one is not fully apprised of exactly what has transpired. As educators, we are faced with balancing the needs of the organisation with the needs of all parties involved in the disciplinary incident. We have a clearly laid out Code of Conduct and a thorough disciplinary process, which serve as guidelines for pupils and educators. The Headmaster of St Andrew's College, Mr Alan Thompson, recently wrote in one of his newsletters and I quote:

"And when confronting a disciplinary issue there are two narratives that can emerge at the extremes of the debate – that of the "rotten apple" and that of the "rotten system". Neither of these extreme narratives are helpful, for they both serve to abdicate responsibility – one from the individual and one from the school."

In dealing with disciplinary issues, I assure you that the school will adopt a firm but fair approach; that we will listen carefully to each side

of the story; that we will consider all the facts in front of us. Most importantly, when determining sanction, we will take into consideration the particular context of each case. We will be methodical and transparent in our processes and in doing so, ensure consistency. Precedent is a very dangerous concept in the educational disciplinary context as no one set of circumstances are the same as the next and in serious cases there is never a simple solution. The process is always seen as part of learning and eventually growth. Accountability is essential but equally so, the process cannot be used to serve retribution.

That all said, I would like to believe that our pupils will continue to make good decisions, do good things and be good people. This requires positive leadership at all levels of the organisation. The role played by our pupil leadership cannot be underestimated. Positive messaging around behaviour and what is and is not acceptable is essential. They will, however, from time to time make poor choices which may well have serious consequences. I encourage you to continually engage with your children on this topic, giving them guidance on what is acceptable behaviour and what will not be tolerated. If we are to continue to grow a happy productive school and to teach our pupils to become good citizens, we have to continually send them the right messages and the appropriate adult role modeling. This is a partnership between parents, pupils and staff in raising young adults.

Have a good weekend.

CATCH UP WITH THE GRADE 8s

The Grade 8 pupils enjoyed a soggy Hatchery weekend last week. They braved the elements to race in Kaskars and build shelters in the forest, as well as enjoy a spirit evening. At the end of the weekend, the Matric pupils delighted in throwing flour all over our already soaking wet Grade 8s. The smiles from everyone showed that they had fun.

This week, the new pupils have been taking it in turns to have dinner with the Headmaster. An opportunity for everyone to get to know one another a little better.



MEET THE CLASS OF 2021

JOSH FAIRHEAD - DEPUTY HEAD BOY

1 What are your hopes for Stanford Lake College as you lead the school in the year ahead?

By the end of the year, I hope to see a school that is dynamic and able to adapt easily to unusual and taxing circumstances. I believe we have functioned very efficiently in the last year despite the pandemic, and I see this adaptation as a major step in growing the school and developing a system that will cope with any other curve balls that are thrown our way in future. I hope to see a school that is home to students that carry themselves with pride, who show the utmost respect to others and to themselves.

2 What is your proudest accomplishment?

Earning a role as a leader of Stanford Lake College through the trust and faith that so many of my fellow students, and teachers, have put into me.

3 Share a memorable moment during your time at Stanford Lake College...

I started learning to roll a kayak a couple of months before Grade 9 Water Trek, and it took me a really long time to get right. I distinctly remember the moment I managed to roll up out of the water for the first time - my hands and cheeks numb, my nose hurting from snorting water, and my kayak half-sunk due to a missing plug. The feeling of accomplishment at finally learning to pull off a key move in whitewater kayaking, which had been my goal for so long, was absolutely exhilarating. I have not stopped practising since that day, and at this point rolling is as natural as walking. The experience emphasized for me the value of hard work, persistence, and practice.

4 What are your hobbies?

I am passionate about whitewater kayaking; in fact, I discovered it through Stanford. I'm an avid reader, and I enjoy cinematography and video editing.

5 If you could share a meal with any 4 individuals, living or dead, who would they be?

Dane Jackson, James Hitchins, Paul Burger and Dave Rogers

6 What's your favourite movie?

It has got to be between Interstellar and Once Upon A Time In Hollywood. Both amazing films; the former incredibly thought-provoking, and the latter packed with symbolism.

7 What's the most daring thing you've ever done?

Becoming a student at Stanford. During my Hatchery experience, I was absolutely terrified and frantic at not having any real plan to follow. I have come so far since those anxiety-filled first weeks of Grade 8, and I look back at the experience knowing that I have since grown into an almost different person. I now realise that worrying gets me nowhere - it's sometimes best to just go with the flow.

8 If you had to describe yourself as an animal, which one would it be?

A giraffe.

9 Where do you see yourself in five years?

If everything goes to plan, I will be studying at a university in the USA. I will have tried many new activities and greatly expanded my list of hobbies, and will have traveled to many different places. I will be guide-kayaking during my studies.



LIBRARY UPGRADES

The library received new bookshelves, bean bags and funky seating this week. We hope the bright colours attract more pupils to the space.

BEFORE



AFTER



SNAP SHOT

Stanford Lake College
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VISIT FROM A FOUNDER

Mrs Maggie Baleta, a founding member of Stanford Lake College, paid a visit to the campus this week. We were proud to show her the upgrades and changes since she last visited five years ago. Did you know? The founding Board members debated long and hard about the colour of the bricks used for the buildings. The “red-brick brigade” led by Mrs Maggie Baleta did not go down without a fight and in deference to her wishes, you can find a single red brick in the wall overlooking the lake, next to the computer room.

DUE SOUTH



After 37 days and 3478km, Casper Venter, Head Boy 2019, made it to Cape Agulhas by bicycle. He started his journey on the 5th January at Beitbridge. Well done, Casper!



A FEW REMINDERS...





GIRLS

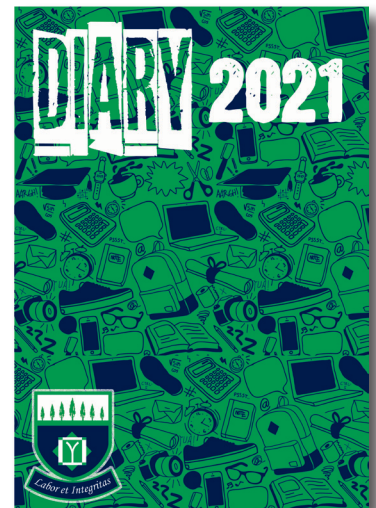
| | TUES, WEDS & THURS | MON & FRI |
|---|--|--|
|  SUMMER (terms 1 & 4) | White short-sleeved shirt, Skirt, White ankle socks No tie (jersey optional) | White short-sleeved shirt, Skirt, White ankle socks, Blazer No tie (jersey optional) |
|  WINTER (terms 2 & 3) | White short-sleeved shirt, Skirt and blue stockings OR blue slacks with white ankle socks, Tie (school scarf, puffy jacket & jersey optional) | White short-sleeved shirt, Skirt and blue stockings OR blue slacks with white ankle socks, Tie, Blazer (school scarf & jersey optional) |

Athletics for U/14 & U/19 will now take place on Saturday 20th February



BOYS

| | TUES, WEDS & THURS | MON & FRI |
|---|---|---|
|  SUMMER (terms 1 & 4) | White short-sleeved shirt, Grey longs with black leather belt and blue school socks OR regulation grey shorts with black leather belt and blue school socks to the knee, Tie, (jersey optional) | White short-sleeved shirt, Grey longs with black leather belt and blue school socks OR regulation grey shorts with black leather belt and blue school socks to the knee, Tie, Blazer, (jersey optional) |
|  WINTER (terms 2 & 3) | White short-sleeved shirt, Grey longs with black leather belt and blue school socks, Tie, (school scarf, puffy jacket & jersey optional) | White short-sleeved shirt, Grey longs with black leather belt and blue school socks Tie, Blazer, (school scarf & jersey optional) |



The 2021 School Diary is available to purchase on the ALLXS system under “Merchandise”. It is compulsory for all Grade 8 and Grade 9 pupils to use a diary! This year’s diary includes notes on policies, a school map, school values and the school anthem. The daily layout has also been designed especially for the pupils with sections for homework notes and upcoming cycle tests.