



Stanford Lake College

25 November 2010

HEADMASTER'S YEAR-END NEWSLETTER

Following a year of many challenges, the College has emerged stronger, meeting most of the targets as agreed upon with the Board of the Letaba Educational Trust. These targets include: best practice in governance, financial stability, efficiency, funding and infrastructure investments, achievements in academics, sport, culture, health & safety and the environment.

The economic outlook at the beginning of 2010 was characterised by many uncertainties. Fortunately, the worst fears of the global economic crisis did not materialise.

In the Educational sector it was a turbulent year. The new Minister of Basic Education announced publicly that outcomes based education is not succeeding in South Africa and that curriculum changes would be implemented soon. It was followed by some of the worst industrial action that we have seen in many years. The teachers' strike continued for several weeks and left many thousands of students stranded and under-prepared for their final examinations.

Independent schools also became the target of the striking teachers. We were fortunate to escape the unrest in our area. In the majority of IEB schools, business continued as usual and students will sit their final examinations well prepared and with the knowledge that standards have not been forfeited.

The FIFA World Cup also impacted negatively on our school. The length of the holidays had a detrimental effect on our educational and sporting programmes.

The untimely death of Annin Snyman was a heavy blow to the Stanford family.

We started the year in January on the back of excellent Gr. 12 results. The Class of 2009 achieved a 100% pass rate, 91% degree pass, an average of 71% per student and 2,01 distinctions per candidate. Three students performed in the top 5% of IEB students.

The Class of 2010 can achieve similar results. They have shown constant improvement since Gr. 10 and achieved the following results during the preliminary examinations: 98% pass, 84,6 % degree pass and 1,6 distinctions per candidate, with good subject averages. We will have to wait patiently until early January 2011 for this year's results.

GROWING TOGETHER FOR LIFE

Po Box 271, Haenertsburg, 0730, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Tel: 015 276 6103 Fax: 015 276 6114,

email info@stanfordlakecollege.co.za.

Website: <http://www.stanfordlakecollege.co.za>
(Ass. Incorpor. ITO 521) 1997/012338/08



Independent
Day/Boarding
High School



It was an excellent year all round for the sporting disciplines. The College has produced numerous provincial athletes and won, amongst others, the:

- Limpopo Independent and Small Schools Athletics meetings
- Limpopo U/15 and 1st XV Rugby Leagues
- Limpopo 1st Boys Hockey League
- Limpopo Independent Schools Gala

We also played in the finals of the Limpopo U/16 girls Cricket League and our girls' Soccer and Hockey had an outstanding season.

In Adventure Racing, Team Ubuntu came second in the SA Championships.

The Mountain Bikers came 12th in the Gauteng League (101 schools). Our team was the second best of the independents schools.

It was not an easy year with regards to our Cultural activities. This can be attributed to the fact that we just have not had the staff to promote Cultural activities amongst the students. Mrs Sarah-Jane Olivier is to be thanked for her tireless efforts in Debating, Public Speaking, Drama Club and the Eisteddfods. Fortunately, we will have various very talented new staff members around in 2011. This situation will improve rapidly.

We were outstanding in Debating and won the Executive Mayor of Polokwane's Debating Society trophy for the first time. At numerous Limpopo Eisteddfods, Stanford pupils shone in all categories.

Thanks to funding from Hillary Construction and Van Rooyen Construction we were able to upgrade the roads on campus.

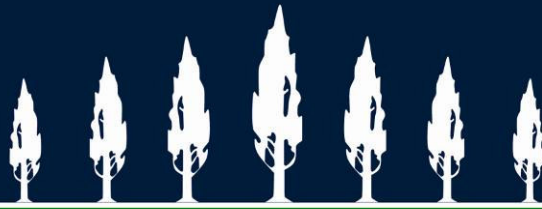
Boarders were able to move into Serala House in January and staff members have a new staff room in the reconfigured Shower House.

We have planned for the building of the new classroom cluster and library in 2011 and have applied to the DBSA for funding. This will be the last big building project for the next few years.

Effective risk management is integral to the attainment of the College's business and educational objectives and thus became a key focus area for the College in 2010. The College has embarked on a risk management framework across all levels of the school.

As the College remains committed to a safe and healthy working environment, another key focus area was to invest in improving all aspect of the Health & Safety standards currently in place. I am pleased to report that all these efforts have yielded positive results.

Stanford Lake College is committed to being an exemplary school in the field of environmental compliance. To this effect, the College has embarked on becoming an Eco School. We have submitted our portfolio of evidence and hope to get the Bronze/Silver award this year.



We have stepped up security with regard to access to the campus.

Stanford Lake College recognizes that our reputation and image is vital to the College's continued success in competing effectively for potential students. It is essential to promote good relationships with all who come into contact with the College, especially those from further afield who are in a position to affect Stanford's image.

The Trustees of the Letaba Educational Trust have accepted the aligned Constitution and Trust Deed and worked diligently in the Board Committees. A new Public Relations Committee has also been constituted to manage external fund-raising efforts and to promote the College and its relationships at every opportunity. Mr. Grant Daly will be the new Chairman of our Board.

In the past year we had more than the expected turnover of staff, but I am very pleased with the quality and skills of our new appointees and I am very confident that we will have an excellent 2011.

It has been a year of great challenges for my family and for Stanford Lake College.

As Chief Executive, I am deeply honoured to have been afforded the opportunity to play a modest role in steering this fine and important institution through the choppy waters of the past year.

I could not have done it alone. I was fortunate enough to have the dedicated support of many colleagues and our parents.

Many thanks to our excellent Gr. 12s who made this such a memorable year.

I would like to thank the Trustees of the Letaba Educational Trust for all their valuable input.

I am deeply indebted to the counsel, support and guidance that I have received from Maggie Baleta, the outgoing Chair of the Board. In this extremely challenging year, it was comforting to have the opportunity to discuss and review issues and receive encouragement from Mrs. Baleta.

Enjoy spending quality time with your families during the holidays.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2011.

Johann Ueckermann
HEADMASTER