



Stanford Lake College

HEADMASTER'S NEWSLETTER, 13 April 2011

Dear All,

Welcome back after the April holidays.

The next 3 weeks will be a bumpy ride before we get back into a good rhythm. The Easter weekend will complicate matters further. I had a shock when I scrutinized the calendar for the second term. We have only 29 teaching days! I told the students and staff yesterday that they will have to make them count, especially our Gr. 12s, who have the midyear and preliminary examinations just around the corner. I would like to request that all our parents respect this fact and not take their children out of school unnecessarily.

We start with a bang, with a full cultural programme that will include Drama Club performances and the Easter celebrations. You are all invited to attend this special assembly on Thursday, 21 April at 07:45 in the Barnyard. Over the weekend we will have our first winter sports league fixtures in Musina and Polokwane.

Please note that we will have a daily culture slot on the extramural programme directly after lunch. Sports practice will commence at 15:30 and the day scholar bus will leave at 17:00. This will enable us to spend equal time on cultural and sporting activities.

On Monday 21 March, we celebrated Human Rights Day. It coincided with our annual regatta and was well attended by our students and their parents.

Students reminded us of the painful struggles we had to wage to establish a new society based on the values of human dignity, equality and freedom. Celebrating the day also helped us remember *our* long walk to freedom, which gave us a new constitution in 1996.

I am fully aware that many of us are familiar with the rights provided for in our very progressive Constitution. The Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, has recently pointed out that it is a worrying fact that many people, young and old, do not pay much attention to the fact that every right we enjoy comes with a corresponding set of responsibilities and obligations.

She launched the Bill of Responsibilities for the youth of South Africa on 23 March in Cape Town. This Bill is a practical document outlining the responsibilities and obligations corresponding with the Bill of Rights found in Chapter 2 of the Constitution, which is the supreme law of the RSA. It calls upon us as students, staff and parents to work together to inculcate a culture of responsible citizenship in our schools.

I attach a copy of the Bill of Responsibilities for your perusal.

Please remember to return the Parent Satisfaction Survey to the school.

Kind regards

Johann Ueckermann
HEADMASTER

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Day/Boarding
High School