



# Stanford Lake College

## Director of Culture's Newsletter



It is amazing to see how 2011 has hurtled by at break-neck pace. It feels like only a month has passed since my welcoming into the staff room. It has been a frenetic ride, but also an exceptionally enriching one for us all at Stanford Lake College. I thought it apt to use this newsletter to reflect on the many

activities that we have enjoyed on our campus, celebrate our successes, acknowledge areas of weakness, and briefly look into the crystal ball that is 2012. Hopefully this is the first such communication of many.

The year 2011 has seen a plethora of cultural activities. The proliferation of culture at the school is a vital component of ensuring the delivery of the holistic education that we offer at the College. We aim to create an environment where every individual is offered an opportunity to fully engage in their interests and to grow and develop new skills. Culture at the College allows each person to express their individuality and also find identity within the Stanford family. This is a blessed place.

The choir is growing steadily in stature and we have a record number of students attending individual music lessons. A well of hidden talent in the school has been unearthed and the fruits of this will be seen in years to come. We enjoyed a most successful music tour, had some performances and the music eisteddfod saw several entrants despite the coincidence with the school holidays. It is my true belief that we will see great things coming from the musical exploits of our students.

GROWING TOGETHER FOR LIFE

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Speech and drama have been alive and well at the College. We had the drama club gala evening at the beginning of the year and this was a resounding success. The sheer interest that was shown by our students was overwhelming with us unfortunately having to turn many keen and budding actors away. This bodes well for the future. The speech and drama eisteddfod saw Stanford Lake College coming away with outstanding results. All our entrants displayed a very high level of performance and were subsequently rewarded with very high accolades and a range of awards from gold to double diamonds.

The debaters and public speakers have also had a very successful year. It is amazing to think that our debaters are currently enrolled in no less than a whopping 10 debating leagues. This is a great demand on our students and they have stood up to the challenge handsomely. We find ourselves placed in the top 3 positions in 7 out of the 10 leagues. This is remarkable. Our public speakers have also registered fantastic results. Having entered 3 tournaments, we had SLC students winning each one of these tournaments.

The introduction of a Cultural Period in the school day has provided a much needed opportunity for our students to get involved in various cultural activities while still being fully involved in the academic and sporting programs. This program has been a most useful tool in identifying many hidden abilities in many of our students. The campus has been buzzing with French club, film club, scrapbooking, photography, dance, chess, music, and so much more. 2012 will see us implementing a new uniquely tailored cultural program that is at the cutting edge of modern education.

We staged our biannual school production in September of 2011. This was an amazing production in that it was an adaptation written by our students, directed and choreographed by our students and was in the format of a living script. This means that our student actors, under the guidance of some of our very talented staff, had the opportunity to write their own lines and engage themselves in a lot of improvised acting. The result was a very emotional and intriguing performance incorporating some very vivid acting, dance and song. The cast was exceptional. Their ability to interpret an old story and bring it alive in their own world was moving. We keenly look forward to what this group of exceptionally talented artists can achieve in the near future.

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Looking back at this year, it feels like it has been a rollercoaster ride. The pace has been frenetic and the demands placed on our students have been high. Our learners are phenomenal. Their ability to adapt, stretch themselves and fully engage themselves in every opportunity is amazing; and all in good spirits. This is an amazing place. We are truly blessed to have such opportunities and in this picturesque environment. We ought to be grateful.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the members of staff who give so much of their time and energies to making the cultural programme a success. Their generosity is in no small way linked to the success of our students. They give of their time, skills, passion, and heart. It is them who make Stanford truly great.

2012 will see us embarking on a new and very adventurous journey of Culture at the College. We have a wealth of talented and passionate staff who have pledged to share some of their passions with our students to establish Stanford Lake College not only as a place where many Cultural activities take place but rather to affirm the College as a cultured place that produces students who are well rounded and groomed global citizens. I look forward to sharing the many successes of this program with you in future newsletters in the next year.

May you experience God's richest blessings in the holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all again on our beautiful campus in the new year.

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