



Stanford Lake College

27th November 2009

Dear Debenture Holders, Parents, Staff and Friends of Stanford Lake College

The long summer holidays have arrived at last. The television has been banned in our home, as usual, until the sun goes down. With a daughter in England, one is made more aware of how grateful one should be for the fantastic sunshine here; and I love the power of parenthood!

Stanford has had a wonderful year. The school is fuller than it has ever been and our pupils stand prouder, smarter, taller and more focused than ever before. Final assembly today was a testament to this when you see what the pupils have got up to during the course of the year. It was a privilege to have Mr Tito Mboweni join us on our final morning and his message to the pupils was open and honest. What has stayed with me is his statement that there is no substitute for hard work; if you want to make a success of life you have to work hard and stay honest. Stanford pupils, staff and parents have put in a lot of hard work this year and this has certainly paid off. My sincerest thanks go out to the whole Stanford family for the part they played in collectively making 2009 a good year at Stanford. Mr Ueckermann has led his team to new heights and his energy and belief in the Stanford family is phenomenal. Thank you, Johann.

Valediction is our brag day and this year was no exception. Our small school does have a big heart and the successes attained by pupils locally, nationally and internationally, are proof of their dedication to hard work. Mr Braam Malherbe, our guest speaker at Valediction, re-iterated that nothing is impossible if you have the right attitude. He shared his experience of running the entire length of the Great Wall of China, noting the children he has helped and the people he met on the way. Our sporting, adventure and trekking teams could relate to the 'no pain, no gain' philosophy. His outreach component was an inspiration to the pupils, who participate in our outreach programmes.

The new boarding house is a fantastic new addition to the campus. We will have to be patient and wait until the end of the rainy season to put the final touches on the roads and entrance, but it is all a move in the right direction in accordance with the business plan. In keeping with our plan to become more environmentally friendly, we will be leaving a lot of the steep banks untouched in the future. This might look a bit scruffy for a while, but the move to a 'greener' campus is vital in this day and age. By doing this, we are planning to rehabilitate the slopes and return them to natural grasslands - for which Haenertsburg is so famous.

GROWING TOGETHER FOR LIFE

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Independent
Day/Boarding
High School

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The Letaba Educational Trust, which governs Stanford Lake College, has made changes to the Board. The successful nominees for the two positions of Debenture Holder Representative are Mrs Jane Allison, a dynamic young lady who is leaving behind an exciting career with the company, Accenture, and relocating to the mountain with her family, and Mr Piet Prinsloo, who has served as our strategist in an advisory capacity for the past few years.

The elected Parent Representative is Mrs Marikie Pelser from Polokwane, an industrial psychologist who has years of experience in education through her involvement with Stanford Lake College and Mitchell House. We welcome them to our dynamic team.

The retiring trustees, Mrs Karin Baragwanath, Mrs Cecilia Landman, Mrs Freda Chigumadzi and Mr Jon Hyde have all been enormously valuable team players and Stanford will always be indebted to them for their hard work and commitment during their tenure. Thank you. Freda will continue to serve on the Funding Committee, as she establishes closer ties with funders. Mr Grant Daly, who replaced Mr Ed Hillary on the Board, has proved to be an incredible asset to the Development Committee – thank you, Grant. New blood is a healthy situation on any board and Mr Richard Coetzer, our new bursar, has passed his ‘baptism by fire’ with the successful adoption of the budget for 2010.

The year 2010 could see Stanford in the thick of things if the school is chosen as a training camp for one of the FIFA teams. This will only be announced on the 4th December but it will most definitely elevate our visibility on a global level. Irrespective of whether we become a training facility or not, the Trust is fully committed to using this wonderful international opportunity to not only raise funds but also to increase our visibility in the market place. A Stanford committee has been in place since August of this year and a lot of ground work has been done already. Shall we think about tartan vuvuzelas?

Have a wonderful, blessed and enriching Christmas.

God Bless, Stanford!

Maggie Baleta
CHAIR OF THE LETABA EDUCATIONAL TRUST