



# *The Weekly Blah*

## **Welcome to Somerset House 2009**



The first day of "Big School" is always a special one that will be remembered for a long time. We are very pleased to have our new group of Grade 1 children with us and we know that they are in for an exciting time. Welcome Grade 1's!

*Not just a school ~ a way of life*

## ***Oakwood – First day at Somerset House!***



It did not take long for some of our brand new Ladybirds and Bees (Grade 000) to get down to the serious business of play! Exploring the Oakwood environment and making new friends was the order of the day. A special welcome to all the 'little people' who have started their educational journey with us this week!

## ***Western Province Swimming Champ – Well done Ash!***

Ash Rutherford had to put her holiday on hold for a little while as she prepared for, and participated in, the Western Province Swimming Championships. These took place at the University of the Western Cape from the 11th - 16th December.

All the hard work paid off as she swam a brilliant Championship, winning 6 gold and 4 silver medals for individual events. She was also awarded the trophy for the Top Junior Female Swimmer as she attained the most points at the event. What a wonderful way to end off a very successful 2008 year for Ash. This is an amazing achievement of which we as a school are extremely proud.



## ***Class Mums and Dads morning tea with the Headmaster***

The class mums and dads are invited to tea next Thursday 22 January for tea and a chat about the school and the direction it is taking. This is an important opportunity to communicate and parents are encouraged to talk to their class mums or dads about concerns or issues requiring clarity that can then be discussed at the meeting. It will take place from 08h00 to 09h30 at Cloetenburg.

### ***Uniform Shop Hours***

The uniform shop will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 07h30 to 08h15 in the morning and from 13h00 to 14h30 in the afternoons. Mrs Noleen Jansen will only be available at those times

## ***HEADlines...***

### **Welcome to our 61<sup>st</sup> year!**

It was so good to hear the laughter and chatter of children back at school on Wednesday. Teachers all reported happy classes and that work started on Day 1. I am confident that an exciting and meaningful year lies ahead for all our children and I am grateful to the staff for the preparations that were carried out during the holidays.

### **Welcome to New Staff**

Mrs Robyn Rautenbach has taken over from Mrs Waller and is in charge of catering. We look forward to the many meals that she will prepare along with her staff.

Mr Neil Fergusson, who has already worked very hard during the holidays to ensure that our school is in good shape, is our new Facilities Manager. He is responsible for all of our outsourced services as well as for grounds and buildings. Thank you, Neil, for all you have already done to ensure that our campus is ready for the year.

Miss Caroline Mockford joins us as our new Drama teacher. She works at Somerset House on three days of the week and offers Drama to all our children from Grade 3 to Grade 7.

Mrs Judith Hanekom has replaced Mrs Hitchman who retired at the end of last year and is our new bookkeeper. She has been ably assisted by Margaret over the first week of the term before the arrival of the children and Mrs Hanekom will be available for fee related issues.

I wish you all a warm welcome and hope that your time at this special school will be both rewarding and enjoyable.

### **Good bye to Mrs Lubbe**

Mrs Lubbe will be leaving the school at the end of the first term to take up a new teaching post in the UAE in April. This is something she has been considering for some time and the right opportunity has now presented itself. She has been such an asset to Somerset House over the years and we wish her well with her last term at our school.

### **Access to property**

A new access control system has been installed at the school to complete the process of upgrading security at the school. Details pertaining to after-hours access to the property will be available soon. There are some legal details which require finalisation first. The good news is that we have managed to dramatically reduce unauthorized access to the property which increases the security of people and assets in the school.

### **Condolences**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr Delf Amm, his family and the whole Somerset College community this week after the tragic accident which claimed the life of his wife Margie. Mr Amm is the Facilities Manager at the college.

**Chris Storey – Headmaster**

[head@somersethouse.co.za](mailto:head@somersethouse.co.za)

## ***Sports News***

### **TROPHIES**

All pupils who were winners of either Athletics or Swimming trophies in 2008 are kindly requested to return them to school by Tuesday 20th January. The swimming trophies are needed for our Championship Gala which takes place next Friday afternoon at 15h00. Our Inter-house Athletics Meeting takes place on Friday 6th February at 16h00.

## **SOMERSET HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP GALA**

Our annual Championship Gala takes place next Friday, 23rd January from 15h00 – 17h30. Swimmers who have been placed in the top 6 within their age group in the various strokes, will participate at this gala. It promises to be a very exciting event and we wish all our swimmers the very best of luck. Family & friends are invited to come along and support.

## **SPORTS PROGRAMME - WEEK 2**

Although our official Sports Timetable only starts on Monday 26th January, we are well underway with various activities. Please see the attached schedule for next week's details. We are concentrating on Athletics next week with our field event trials taking place on Wednesday (Girls) and Thursday (Boys).

## ***House Captains - 2009***

Congratulations to the following children who were elected by their peers as house captains or cheerleaders this week. We look forward to seeing some tremendous inter house competition and spirit this year.

	<b>CAPTAIN</b>	<b>VICE-CAPTAIN</b>	<b>CHEERLEADERS</b>
<b>HOBBY GIRLS</b>	Jana Huysamer	Nicola Sloane	Vicky Young-Pugh; Manga Sililo
<b>HOBBY BOYS</b>	Chris Hawkridge	Johnathan Sloane	Michael Churchman; Kyle Evans
<b>LANNER GIRLS</b>	Frances de Villiers	Paige Stephens	Alexis Wellman; Rose Moens
<b>LANNER BOYS</b>	Garth Turner	Marc van der Merwe	Sven Hailwax; Dylan de Haas
<b>PEREGRINE GIRLS</b>	Lara Schulte	Lara du Plessis	Klara Kleinhans; Esna Venter
<b>PEREGRINE BOYS</b>	Jesse van der Merwe	Jeremy Ryall	Pierre du Plessis; Liam Kirby

## ***WEEK 2: Programme for week ending Sat 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009***

### **MONDAY 19**

13h10-14h00 Grade 2 Girls & Boys - Athletics  
14h30-15h30 U/9 Girls – Athletics  
14h30-16h30 U/10 to U/13 Girls – Athletics  
14h30-15h30 U/9, U/10 & U/11 Boys - Cricket  
14h30-15h30 Supervised Prep: Mrs P Roberts  
14h30 Library Committee Meeting  
15h30-16h30 U/12 & U/13 Boys - Cricket

### **TUESDAY 20**

13h10-13h45 Grade 2 Girls - Swimming  
13h45-14h15 Grade 2 Boys - Swimming  
14h30-15h30 U/9 Boys - Athletics  
14h30-15h30 Supervised Prep: Mrs J du Plessis  
14h30-16h30 U/10 – U/13 Boys - Athletics  
14h30-15h30 U/9 & U/10 Girls - Swimming  
14h30-15h30 U/11 Girls - Tennis  
15h30-16h30 U/12 & U/13 Girls - Tennis

### **WEDNESDAY 21**

07h30 Board of Governors' Executive Committee Meeting  
14h00-15h00 U/9 – U/11 Boys - Cricket  
14h00-15h00 U/9 Girls' Long Jump Trials  
15h00-16h00 U/12 & U/13 Boys - Cricket  
14h00-16h30 U/10 – U/13 Girls Field Event Trials

### **THURSDAY 22**

08h00 Class Mums' & Dads' Tea  
13h10-13h50 Grade 2 Boys - Swimming  
13h40-14h30 Grade 2 Girls - Swimming  
14h30-15h30 U/9 Boys Long Jump Trials  
14h30-17h00 U/10 – U/13 Field Event Trials

### **FRIDAY 23**

15h00-17h30 ASSEMBLY: Mr J Harley  
Somerset House  
Championship Gala

### **SATURDAY 24**

09H00-12H00 Library Monitors' Training Day