



# *The Weekly Blah*

## **Food, glorious food!**



Last Friday Eric, Barnaby, Ben and Robert were the shopkeepers and they had great fun selling their cookies to the rest of the Nursery School.

While learning about the different food groups, Samantha and Damica from the Dormouse Class enjoyed tasting different pizzas.

## Lost Property

The Grade 5s seem to be collecting an ever increasing amount of un-named items of clothing. Please, please do ensure that ALL of your children's clothes and shoes are marked clearly. It really does make life easier! We have the following in our boxes this week...

<b>Anorak &amp; Jersey Box</b>	8 x jerseys 3 x fleece 1 x Anorak	<b>Girls Uniform Box</b>	3 x girls swim costumes	<b>Hat Box</b>	9 x hats
<b>Boys Uniform Box</b>	1 x grey trousers 4 x grey shorts 3 x green shirt	<b>Socks Box</b>	60 x grey socks 9 x white socks	<b>Sport Box</b>	1 x tennis cover 2 x teal shorts
<b>Towel Box</b>	3 x towels	<b>Black Shoes Box</b>	6 prs shoes 4 x odd shoes	<b>Swim Box</b>	3 x goggles
<b>Sports Tops Box</b>	1 x yellow 4 x blue	<b>Takkie Box</b>	5 prs takkies 1 pr Crocs 1pr flipflops	<b>Casual Clothes Box</b>	13 x varied clothes

There are numerous platters, bowls, containers and trays belonging to parents in our kitchen! Parents - if you have sent eats to school at any time please come and have a look if some of these belong to you!

## Artist of the Week

Phumudzo Netshivhongweni in Grade 5 is our Artist of the Week for her imaginative interpretation of 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party'. Her drawing is clear and bold and she has made good use of colour to complete it.



## Individual Photographs

Alexa Ristow will be available to take individual photographs of your children in school uniform on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, after school from 13h00. Please contact her on [alexaristow@iburst.co.za](mailto:alexaristow@iburst.co.za) or 076 687 9476 to make a booking. The photo package contains wallet-size and jumbo photographs for a cost of R40. Please note that children from Grade 3 to 7 can only make bookings from 14h30.

## **HEADlines...**

### **Guild Annual General Meeting**

The Guild AGM that took place on Thursday evening was very well attended when compared to previous meetings. The business items were dealt with efficiently by Chairman John Mattheys. There was also a very informative contribution by Lisa More 'O' Farrell in connection with inoculations and how these are being managed at Somerset House. The contribution by our anonymous guest columnist '*Bystander*' was a fitting commentary of the life of our school, delivered with appropriate aplomb by Mr Cod.

The highlight of the evening was the address delivered by Mrs Sue Gardner, Director of the Independent Quality Assurance Agency. She drew our attention to what really matters in schools. We were challenged to re-evaluate our opinions which are largely based on the experiences we had when we were at school, and accept that times and circumstances have changed.

After hearing Mrs Gardner speak, it is easy to see why the quality evaluation process that she managed here in 2007 was so successful. Indeed, it was used extensively in the formation of the strategic plan that we have used over the last two years.

We are extremely grateful to Mrs Gardner for her contribution and hope that she will visit our school again in the near future.

Please visit the Guild web-page (found under 'Management and Staff') on the Somerset House website [www.somersethouse.co.za](http://www.somersethouse.co.za) for copies of the Headmaster's speech as well as Sue Gardner's address and the contribution from Bystander. Well worth reading!

### **Election of new Guild Member**

Congratulations to Mrs Noleen Bam on being elected to serve on the Guild. The full Guild is as follows:

#### **Guild Committee 2009 / 2010:**

- John Mattheys
- Sandy Venter
- Amanda Derksen
- Stephanie Forbes
- Claire Hodge
- Garth Whaits
- Noleen Bam

**Chris Storey – Headmaster**

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

## **SMALLprint...**

In an effort to minimize costs and paper wastage – we are moving towards electronic school accounts and statements. Please let us know which e-mail address you would like us to use when sending these documents.

**Heidi Westraadt – Bursar**

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

## ***The following contribution from 'Bystander' was read by Deputy Head, Richard Codrington at the Guild AGM:***

### **SOME THOUGHTS.....**

Well here we are again at another exciting Guild AGM, pulses racing, and anticipation at fever pitch. And would, one asks, the school be the same without the Guild? So much is organised by it, like fun days and golf days and a plethora of other activities, all of which raise funds for us and bind the community together. And both from experience and from hearsay it seems that they've all been a resounding success.

But, see, here's the thing – if they've all been so successful why do we still have to pay fees?? – Well, the solution to me seems perfectly clear – more parties!

Still I suppose that all the improvements we've seen - garden works, driveways, fencing and security - have to be paid for. And all of it seems necessary, that is with one possible exception – security. It seems rather churlish to have arranged things such that the chances of any of our little hooligans getting out and escaping is minimised! But seriously, I guess it does feel quite good to know they're safe.

So, anyway, at last the car park got finished and it's new, vast extent, was proudly displayed, its rules explained to all and its objective, happily, completely achieved.

*Traffic chaos on a scale that could only, previously, have been dreamt of.*

– as Mums (and, perish the thought, Dads) scatter their cars with gay abandon, wherever that last, oh so important phone call, takes them. But now at least we have chaos on a scale of which we can be proud and we can hold our heads up high in front of visiting schools. And are we surprised? Not at all, for in our hearts we always knew that the car would instantly overcome any attempts to tame it.

Possibly the bravest of the undertakings so far this year is the partially complete computer upgrade that, when finished, will link children, classrooms, school and home into one organism. At last, for the children, the computer will start to be part of life, not just a subject taught just like many others. It promises the same sort of explosion in the access to knowledge that was heralded by the Gutenberg Bible nearly six hundred years ago. And, of course the opportunity – necessity even – to modify teaching and learning methods. The world's knowledge is theirs like it never was ours at age ten! The barriers reduce, they must just grab!

But beware!! 200 children means 2000 grubby fingers, dozens of bottles of pop, and the inevitability of a crash. Stoicism will be in demand, and so, a comforting Haiku for that day:

**Chaos reigns within.  
Reflect, repent, and reboot.  
Order shall return.**

Or, maybe, the harsh reality: -

**Windows has crashed.  
I am the Blue Screen of Death.  
No one hears your screams.**

In terms of fun, the year started, well almost started, with a splash – actually several splashes as the staff members were dumped, unceremoniously, into a large bath of water. Never had such glee been seen as was patent on the faces of the pupils hurling the ball – that is until a maniacal Miss Mac could no longer contain herself and personally sent the Cod to his watery end.

And for just this one event the Guild has fully justified its existence!

Happily, you can see this theme of fun and the ability to poke fun at oneself throughout the year - at galas, sports days and on nearly every page of the yearbook. And an inclusiveness – sport has become as inclusive as possible and not just sport, even the school family has widened. It's refused to let go of Mrs Waller and Mr Taylor's coaching still pays dividends – and even Moles and Pumba have their roles to play - The one with consummate nonchalance, and the other in a singularly more feisty manner – that is between more sedate interludes – and one has to wonder who their respective role models are?

It's been said that to produce well-rounded people (and here we're not talking about pies, puddings and pop) we need to feed the intellect, the body and the soul. Well the intellectual activity is obviously the bedrock of any school and our results give evidence of those standards. Equally, for the body, sport is fundamental here in South Africa – much more so than in many other countries – and again our results far exceed our size.

But the soul, ah, now that's altogether more difficult. It seems to need a variety of nourishment which thankfully is all here in abundance – the moral guidance, a belief, the art, the music, the drama, the interplay with the wider society, the fun, the humour and all of this set in these magical surroundings. And it doesn't just happen; it's carefully nurtured – naturally by the staff, but also by a whole host of parents and, of course, this Guild. And best of all it's recognised formally and publicly at the prize givings and also in everyday activity and so is deeply embedded, is part of life.

And it shows. It shows in our children's attitudes to each other; it shows whenever you talk with them; it shows in the fact that in the evenings and at weekends you can see children and adults using the school (at six o'clock on a summer's evening "let's go to school dad"! – unheard of in my day) – and here's another thing – the privilege is not abused.

But most of all it shows on their faces. So often, after long days, you'll find, lurking under all that grime and dirt, a glow of fulfilment.

So, if change has helped any of this and if there's more to come – BRING IT ON!!

**Bystander**  
**10 June 2009**

## *Grade 6 Market Day*

*Please support the Grade 6 Market Day*

*on Friday 18 June at first break.*

*All funds go to our Make A Difference Programme.*

*Thank you*

## News from the Owl Class



Ethan and Jana have fun in the Dollies Corner!



Ethan, Sarah and Jaden catching fish with their magnets.



Lara and Georgia talking to each other on their cell phones



Ms Cloete and her girls in pyjamas

## Newspaper Collection:

Many thanks again to all who bring in newspaper and magazines for recycling on Wednesday mornings. As you can see, we have cracked the 2 tonne mark. Congratulations to Grade 2T who yet again brought in the most (but they do have "the man with the van" who helps considerably!) Well done to Grade 5B (not 5C!) who brought in the second most this week.

Class	10 June	Total
7W		15.0
7U	5.3	138.2
6dV		54.3
6M	4.0	69.5
5B	59.5	166.1
5C	12.0	90.4
4M	5.5	153.9
4vN	11.7	157.1
3P	28.3	77.0
3S	13.0	289.7
2P	8.4	155.7
2T	76.3	570.3
1dP	37.3	123.6
1R	38.0	171.3
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>299.3</b>	<b>2232.1</b>

# Sports News

## U11A Rugby vs. Methodist Squirrels

Bloodcurdling Haka\*  
They gave their all. No dance, but –  
We won seven – ten.

\* Wikipedia  
Says Haka; others Hakka  
Does anyone care?

*Bystander*



## Boys 1<sup>st</sup> Hockey Team Tour to Queenstown

We bid our Boys 1st Hockey Team farewell on Thursday morning, as they made their way to Mossel Bay to play a fixture against Milkwood Primary. The team stayed overnight in Mossel Bay before heading off to Queenstown. They will be staying at Queen's College Boys' Primary School where they will participate in a festival against some of the top hockey playing schools in the country. Rondebosch, Dale, Selborne, Queen's College, Grey PE, Somerset College and Somerset House will be participating in some tough matches during the course of the weekend. It is a wonderful opportunity and privilege for our boys to be invited to this festival. They will be playing their matches on astro, which in itself, is a super experience for them. We wish our team the very best of luck and hope that they have a super, safe and successful tour.



## **WEEK 10: Programme for week ending 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

### **MONDAY 15**

14h30-15h30 Supervised Prep: Mrs B Brear  
Normal school day and sport

### **TUESDAY 16**

12h00 **YOUTH DAY – NO SCHOOL**  
1<sup>st</sup> Team Touring Hockey side returns

### **WEDNESDAY 17**

Netball vs Somerset College (A)  
13h30 U7B and U8B  
14h00 U7A and U8A  
14h30 U9B, U10B, U11B, U12B  
15h00 U9A, U10A, U11A, U12A  
15h30 U13B  
16h00 U13A

### **THURSDAY 18**

07h30 MADULTS Meeting  
Inter House Tables Competition  
14h30 – 16h00 Girls' Touring Team practice

### **FRIDAY 19**

**Red Cross Civvies Day**  
**Bring R5 to come in Civvies**  
**All proceeds to the Red Cross Children's Hospital**

08h30 Oakwood Fathers' Day Breakfast (Oakwood)  
10h10 Grade 6 Market Day  
16h30 Grade 3 Sleepover in the Simpson Hall

### **SATURDAY 20**

08h00-16h00 Chess Tournament at Rhenish  
08h30 Grade 3s go home



***Click on this icon on our website homepage for updated information regarding match details and team lists!***

## **School Uniform Shop Times**

Tuesday and Thursday: 07h30 - 08h00 and 13h00 -15h00