



The Weekly Blah

Grade 7 Orientation Sleepover



The Grade 7's started their year off with some hard work during the week and followed this with a sleepover on the school lawn on Friday night. The activities included 'attempts' at pitching tents, games with Mr. Cod (where a shepherd's job has never been so tough), sport, a braai and hot chocolate.

The main aim for the sleepover was to introduce and encourage children to take part in the Leadership Programme. This aspect was covered by Mr. Storey and the children seemed really excited about the programme. The Grade 7s went home tired, but enthusiastic about the year ahead!

Aims of the Leadership Programme

- To encourage the development of leadership by allowing individuals to take initiatives which will impact on both their own lives, as well as on the lives of others.
- To live out the values of our school by being of service to members of both our school and to the wider community, in a generous, open and honest manner.
- To allow individuals to develop to the point where that which was previously thought impossible, becomes achievable.
- To develop role-models in our school environment which will encourage younger pupils to learn from, and respect, senior pupils.



HEADlines...

Class Mums and Dads

Thank you to the class mums and dads who attended our tea this week to discuss the school and to share information. There was 100% attendance and a lot of enthusiasm to ensure that we have a great year. Please use your class mums and dads if you require information about how things work at school, or for the discussion of concerns. We hope that they will all have a fantastic year representing their respective classes.

New Staff – continued...

I did introduce new staff last week but omitted a very important member of our team, namely Miss Zelda Penny who is a class teacher in Grade 2. Zelda is an experienced teacher and joins us from Curro in Durbanville where she was the head of the JP Phase. We are delighted to have her at Somerset House and wish her a happy and long stay at our school.

Leadership Programme

The programme has started up again this year with 21 Grade 7s already “signed up”. Participation is voluntary and is based on the initiative of the individual. These Grade 7 pupils are choosing, amongst other things, to each assist the school with at least 40 hours of service. You may see them on break duties, in the Library or helping with homework in Aftercare. The extent of the projects they are choosing to undertake outside of the school is quite staggering and I look forward to hearing them tell us more about these in assemblies through the year. Good luck to all those that choose to participate.

Grade 7 Orientation Camp

Thank you to the Grade 7s for their enthusiastic participation in the camp that was held last Friday. I have a sense that this group of Grade 7s mean business and I look forward to them launching their ‘manifesto’ for the year. Thanks are due to the teachers who all supported the event. Mr Wiles, Mrs Underwood, Mrs de Villiers, Mrs Brear, Miss Micklewood, Mr Cod, Miss Mac and Mr Harley. Thank you.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

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Artist of the Week

This beautiful self-portrait is the work of Sinéad van Eeden in Grade 6. It represents the two halves of each person: the one half based in reality and everyday experiences and the other half based in fantasy and imagination. Sinéad’s drawing and her use of shading and colour is very accomplished. Well done!

The Owls enjoy swimming with Miss Mac!



Georgia, Miss Mac, Kealla, Bridget and Sarah



Anke, Lauren, Erin, Kealla, Ethan



Grade 6 plant seeds

The Grade 6 children brought soil from home to plant seeds. Soon they will see which soil is the best or who has green fingers!



Our new Grade 1 children settle in nicely!

Quote of the day (one morning, over breakfast): *"Mom, books are so cool! They don't get stuck like DVD's - you just keep on turning the pages!"*

Maya Williams, Grade 1



Grade 1 Swimming

On Wednesday the Grade 1 children enjoyed their first 'Big School' swimming lesson. With much excitement and splashing – everybody had a wonderful time.



Mom's Prayer Group

This is a group at 08h00 on a Wednesday morning in the staff room. Newcomers are welcome!

Grade 5 Reading Friends start the first chapter of 2009!

There was much excitement under the oaks on Wednesday afternoon as the parent 'Reading Friends' met with their groups for the first time. The aim of the project is to give the children an opportunity to talk about books. Ideas were exchanged, books discussed and introductions made. We all look forward to the weekly Grade 5 book-club. A sincere thank you to all the parents - Mr Reade-Jahn, Mrs Kim Storey, Mrs Linda Vlok, Mrs Phil Thole, Mrs Ursula Badenhorst, Mrs Sonnia du Plessis, Mrs Caroline Gelderblom, Mrs Dianne Nel, Mrs Charmy Haantjes and Mrs Sandy Venter - who are involved in this wonderful and worthwhile project.



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

Sports News

Sports Timetable

The full sports timetable gets underway as from Monday 26th January.

We remind our Grade 1 parents that, although we would love them to get involved as soon as possible, sport is not compulsory for them for the 1st term. We understand that some children may take a little longer to settle in. Once you feel they are ready, they may join the various practice sessions.

Athletics

Our athletics sprint and field event trials are now a thing of the past and pupils will have next week's PE lessons in which to practise the various events. Our Inter-House Athletics Meeting takes place on Friday 6th February from 16h00 – 19h30.

Although sprint finals have been finalised, all pupils may enter the longer distance races. There will also be Fun and Games for our Grade 1 - 3 pupils, tug-of-war for our seniors and an exciting new event ~ a house relay which involves every pupil in the school. Parents are invited to bring along a picnic supper (no alcohol please), while enjoying the many races. The pavilion will be open for the sale of cooldrinks and boerewors rolls.

Phys Ed. Lessons

We remind all pupils to bring along their PE clothes as well as swimming costumes for their PE lessons. PE takes place on the following days for the various grades:

- Monday Grades 2 and 7
- Tuesday Grades 0, 4, 5 and 6
- Wednesday Grades 1 and 3

100 Club

Thank you to all those families who have sent in 100 Club forms. The entries are currently being processed. We still have space available for those who would still like to register. Please return forms to Miss Mac. in the Admin block as soon as possible. Extra forms are also available in the Admin block.

Week 3: Programme for the week ending 31 January 2009

MONDAY 26

Normal Sports Programme begins
14h30-15h30 Supervised Prep: Mrs L Lubbe
18h30-20h00 Indoor Hockey Practice for invited Girls (Simpson Hall)

TUESDAY 27

10h00 Grade 00 Class Tea
14h30-15h30 Supervised Prep: Mrs Z Penny
18h30-20h00 Indoor Hockey Practice for invited Boys (Simpson Hall)

WEDNESDAY 28

08h00 Mom's Prayer Group (Staff Room) – Newcomers welcome
10h00 Grade 0 Class Tea
18h30-20h00 Indoor Hockey Practice for invited Girls (Simpson Hall)

THURSDAY 29

17h30 Grade 7 Braai (Pavilion) – Parents & Children

FRIDAY 30

Assembly: Mr W van Graan
10h00 Grade 000 Class Tea
17h30-18h30 Scout Swimming Practice

SATURDAY 31

WP Swimming Trials