



The Weekly Blah

Hockey teams tour Knysna!



We departed from Somerset House on Wednesday 24th June in rather wet and wild conditions. We made our way to Milkwood Primary in Mossel Bay where we were very fortunate to have dry weather and were able to get both matches played before dark. We spent the evening in their beautiful clubhouse. During the night, the cold front, which we had left behind in Somerset West, caught up with us and we experienced a rather wild night. We awoke to a water-logged field. The timing of our matches had been perfect as we wouldn't have been able to play them on the Thursday. After packing up, we headed to Knysna for their annual U13 Hockey Festival. We stayed in wonderful accommodation, Knysna Hollow, where our children enjoyed the company of a room mate in a cute chalet. We spent the day wondering whether the weather would allow any hockey to be played in the next few days. Our prayers were answered as we awoke to overcast, but dry conditions. Both the 1st and 2nd teams played 6 matches on Friday, 5 matches on Saturday and 3 matches on Sunday. Unfortunately the weather turned on Sunday and the matches were played in the rain. This however did not dampen the spirit of our girls and they thoroughly enjoyed this experience. Participating schools included Somerset House A and B, Rhenish A and B, Rustenberg, St. Cyprians, Herschel, Springfield, Micklefield, Eversdal, Oakhill, Clarendon, Uplands, Monte Vista, Grove, Sun Valley and Knysna Primary.

Matches lasted 20 minutes, one way only, so teams didn't have too much time to get settled into the games. Although our 2nd team had a rather tough time, playing against 1st teams, except for Rhenish B, they gained valuable experience and will certainly benefit from this tour once their usual league matches get underway this term.

The 1st team had an amazing time with some super results. As this was not a tournament but rather a festival, scores were not kept and therefore no winners were announced. Never-the-less, Somerset House and Eversdal were the only two schools who never lost a game. We shared the same results with them and it was quite fitting that the last game of the festival was played against them, in the rain. This was a tense game with exciting moments throughout. Time ended with the scores at 0 – 0. Somerset House ended their touring stats. having played 15 matches, won 11 and drawn 4. Special congratulations to Jana Huysamer and Frances de Villiers (1st Team Captains) and Esna Venter (2nd Team Captain), for the superb way in which they led their teams. The 1st team top goal scorers were Nicola Sloane and Ash Rutherford.

Our teams also had the privilege of visiting the Knysna Elephant Park. This in itself is a wonderful outing. This was topped by the fact that we got to see the new 5 day old ellie, which made this an experience the teams will never forget. We also enjoyed a boat trip to the Knysna Heads where we learnt much about the wildlife, eco-systems and history of the much-loved estuary and heads.

Special thanks must go to our parents for making this experience a reality as well as to the many families who joined us in Knysna. Their support and encouragement was amazing and our teams really appreciated it. Somerset House had the largest supporter group by far. Go Somerset House, Go Go Go, Go Somerset House! Special thanks once again, to the Huysamer and Du Plessis families, who sponsored our lovely warm tops for the tour. They definitely came in very useful and were hardly off our backs. Thank you too, to the Raats family who donated very special award-winning wine, which was handed over as gifts to staff of the various organising committees for both the boys' and girls' tours. Your support and generosity is much appreciated.

All-in-all this was definitely a worthwhile experience for our children. Our 1st Teams do a Natal Tour every 2nd year and the Sports Festival will probably become a bi-annual event on our calendar. Please see a summary of our results below:

	1ST TEAM	RESULT	2ND TEAM	RESULT
Wed 24 th July	vs Milkwood	1 - 0	vs Milkwood	0 - 1
Fri 26 th July	vs Oakhill	2 - 0	vs Rhenish B	2 - 0
	vs Grove	3 - 0	vs Oakhill	1 - 2
	vs Herschel	3 - 0	vs Uplands	0 - 3
	vs Clarendon	0 - 0	vs Grove	0 - 2
	vs Micklefield	2 - 1	vs Monte Vista	0 - 0
	vs Rustenburg	1 - 0	vs Herschel	0 - 1
Sat 27 th June	vs Rhenish A	2 - 0	vs Springfield	0 - 4
	vs Rhenish B	3 - 0	vs Clarendon	0 - 2
	vs Monte Vista	0 - 0	vs Sun Valley	0 - 0
	vs Uplands	1 - 0	vs Micklefield	0 - 5
	vs Springfield	1 - 0	vs St Cyprians	0 - 2
Sun 28 th June	vs Sun Valley	4 - 0	vs Rustenberg	0 - 3
	vs St Cyprians	0 - 0	vs Eversdal	0 - 8
	vs Eversdal	0 - 0		
SUMMARY	WON	11	WON	1
	DRAWN	4	DRAWN	2
	LOST	0	LOST	11

HEADlines....

Welcome back to school for Term 3

I hope that this will be a brilliant term for everyone.

Staff Strategy Session

Our last strategic plan was put in place early in 2007 and has run its course. Almost all of the objectives that were set have been met. It is therefore time to start a new process which will inform our actions over the next three to four year period. This process begins with our staff today. Thank you for collecting your children earlier today so that the staff could make an early start on this Strategy Session. It is greatly appreciated.

Swine Flu

I am sure that everyone knows that swine flu has appeared in South Africa and has affected some schools in Gauteng. Cases have been reported in the Cape and so I urge you to be vigilant and extra cautious if your child is ill. According to the Department of Health, swine flu is an airborne disease that spreads in the same way as seasonal flu, through coughing and sneezing. Symptoms include aches and pains, fever, fatigue, a runny nose, sore throat, vomiting and diarrhoea. People suffering from asthma, diabetes and compromised immune systems should be particularly careful.

It is treatable with antiviral medication, which is available in South Africa but may only be used under a medical doctor's direction. People who are suffering from the symptoms, and have recently travelled to areas that have swine flu, should see their doctor.

Student Teachers at Somerset House

We are always happy to host student teachers at our school as a way of putting something back into the profession. They will be with us for the whole term and I wish them a happy and meaningful stay at our school.

Welcome Lynn Brazer

Mrs Brazer, our new Director of ICT has taken over the teaching of ICT in our school as of this term. She is also responsible for our new network and the smooth running of all computer equipment. I wish her everything of the best as she embraces her new tasks and becomes part of our school family.

Dickens Avenue Pedestrian Gate Code Changing

Please note that the small pedestrian gate in Dickens Avenue will no longer work on the original code. We introduced the disc system last year and this has worked well, but unfortunately unauthorised access to the property is still happening through this gate. Please use the main vehicle entrance to gain access after hours by using your school disc. If you require a disc, these are available from Mrs Hanekom in the finance department.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

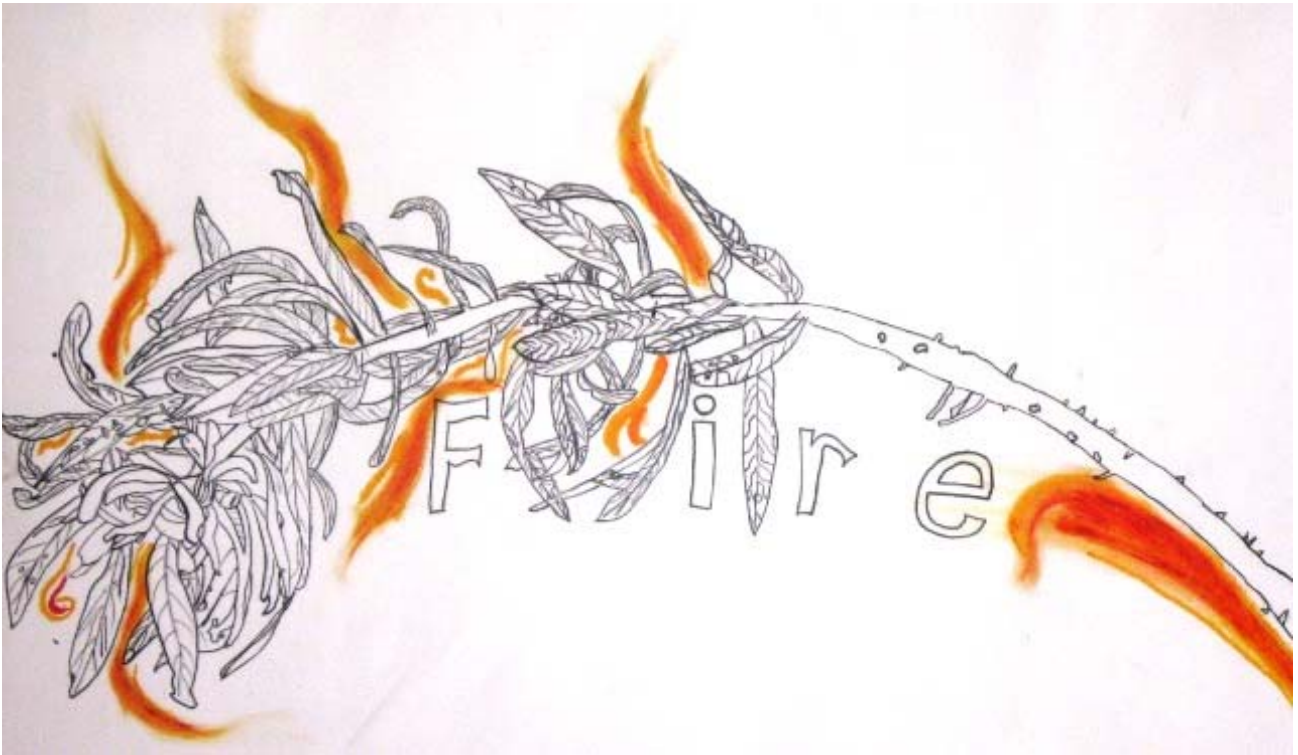
head@somersethouse.co.za

Cups and Trophies

We would like to start collecting in all the trophies and cups that were awarded for both academic and sports awards last year as well as any cups that have been awarded so far this year. If you have a cup or trophy at home, please will you bring it back to school and hand it in to Mrs Jardim as soon as possible. We will then organise the engraving of your name onto the trophy and start the preparations for this year's Prize Giving. Many thanks.

Artists of the Week

Manga Sililo and Michael Churchman in Grade 7 are our Artists of the Week for their beautifully drawn “Fynbos and Fire” pictures. They have both observed the shape and detail of the Fynbos really well and drawn them with sensitivity. Their use of the pen and ink medium is good and they have combined it effectively with the pastel “flames”. Note the way in which the word “fire” has been incorporated in one drawing.





Towers of Hope

On Saturday 5 September, some children from Somerset House will be participating in the **5c Towers of Hope Fundraiser** at Waterstone Village. This is to raise money for PATCH, which is the Helderberg Child Abuse Centre.

The children will be collecting 5c coins from the rest of the school on a weekly basis. These will then be used to build the tower. There will also be a prize for the child who brings in the most 5c coins each week.

We look forward to seeing how many coins the school will bring in and we will keep you updated.

Please come and see the tower at Waterstone Village on 5 September between 09h00 – 13h00.

Newspapers keep coming in....

A new term and it is great to see the enthusiasm bubbling early on a Wednesday morning in the main car park. Despite the lack of the creaking wheel barrow, we collected in a huge 330.9kgs of newspaper and telephone books. Our very own "White Van Man" was back and his contribution helped to put Mrs Thöle's class well on the way to the top total – again. Many thanks to the regulars who help contribute and collect – it is making a difference!

7W	2.9
7U	0.0
6dV	20.1
6M	10.5
5B	19.4
5C	14.7
4M	17.3
4vN	43.1
3P	12.0
3S	1.9
2P	17.8
2T	111.0
1dP	37.9
1R	22.3
Weekly Total	330.9

Lost Property

Term Three has started and the Grade 5s have collected a huge amount of un-named items of clothing. Most of these have been in our boxes for a number of weeks and have remained un-claimed. These items will be sorted and priced this week and will be sold by the Grade 5s as part of their EMS programme. The sale will be on Thursday 6th August at 12h30. Further details will follow. The following items are in our boxes:

Towel Box	2 x towels	Hockey box	3 x hockey socks 1 x shin pad	Hat Box	9 x white hats 3 x beanies 3 x peaks 1 x casual
Uniform Box	3 x grey trousers 4 x grey shorts 3 x green shirts	Socks Box	53 x grey socks 16 x white socks	Sport Box	1 x teal shorts 2 x white vests
Anorak & Jersey Box	9 x jerseys 2 x fleece 1 x rain jacket 3 x scarves	Black Shoes Box	6 pairs shoes 3 x odd shoes 2 pairs sandals	Swim Box	3 x goggles 2 x girls costumes 1 x second skin
Sports Tops Box	1 x yellow 3 x blue 1 x red 1 x white	Takkie Box	2 pairs takkies 1 pair Crocs 1 pair flipflops	Casual Clothes Box	17 x varied clothes



Grade 1 hard at work!

The children in Grade 1 Roberts were hard at work on the first day of term revising their bonds of 6!

Charlotte Bridge



Travis Norris and Shani Carstens

Sports News

Sports Information and Team Lists

We remind all our families that letters containing team lists will no longer be given out to pupils. All the U7 – U9 information can be found on their new sports notice board (between the two Grade 2 classrooms), U10 – U13 (Bailey Board), as well as on the website www.somersethouse.co.za . We started this system in the higher end of the school last term and it seems to have worked very well. Sports cancellations will be placed on the Sportline (079 861 7245) by 12h45 as well as on the website. We hope the junior's parents will find the above system as user-friendly as our other parents have.

Keegan Ekermans – Mirror Worlds, Wales

Keegan left on Saturday 18 July for the Mirror Dingy World Sailing Champs in Pwllheli, Wales. They flew to Dubai then Manchester and spent Sunday night in a hotel in Manchester.



They then took a 7 hour bus trip to Pwllheli. On arrival they unpacked the container of the boats, gear and food (it went by sea on 16th June) and then they took part in the UK Mirror Nationals which is at the same venue this week as the training for the Worlds. The Mirror Worlds start on Sunday 26th and go to Friday 31st July. There are 8 boats from South Africa each with a crew of 2. There are a further 6 support crew making a total of 22 team members. They arrive back in Cape Town on Monday 3rd August at 16h25. Progress can be followed on Facebook at this address:

<http://www.facebook.com/p.php?i=522050361&k=Z5GT6665WW3FUEDIYD6TTP>

~ Mrs Ekermans

Congratulations, David!

David participated in the African Sailing Championships in Richards Bay in the holidays. He trained in Simonstown for the first week before travelling to the venue in Kwa Zulu Natal. Tough conditions of 2m swells and 18 to 20 knot winds made his task both difficult and daunting. RSA finished second to Algeria and David finished 24th in Africa in conditions that were not ideal for him. The event was televised and will be on air from the 5th of August on various DSTV sport channels. Well done David. It is good to have you back in one piece!

Congratulations, Greg!

Greg de Vink took part in an Inter-Provincial Cycling Championship (Eric van Enter competition) held at the Gariep Dam, during the holidays. The race was well attended, with about 30 boys from all over the country (including Namibia) participating in his age category. Greg again participated in the U12 category although still U11. He had a fantastic Inter-Provincial - winning both the 1km hill climb (by 8 seconds) as well as the criterion race. What a fantastic achievement Greg, we are extremely proud of you!

Netball vs. Rhenish

- U10: Both teams played well despite slippery conditions. The pace was quite slow to avoid sliding all over the court. The A team lost 2 – 1. The one goal scored by Meg McEwan was nothing short of spectacular! The B team scored 3 goals Rhenish's 5.
- The U12 A netball started the term on a high note with a superb performance on Wednesday beating Rhenish by 16 goals to 12. They made use of their opportunities and all team members worked hard and played with enthusiasm. Their perfect timing, as well as excellent shooting and attacking skills contributed to an exciting match. Well done, girls! The B team tried hard but unfortunately were beaten by 1 goal, with the score on 4 – 5. We intercepted many balls but struggled to get the ball in the circle. Keep on working hard, girls.
- The U7 Anteaters lost 1 – 3 and the U7 Badgers lost 0 – 1

Programme for Week 2 of Term 3

WEEK 2	Mon	27 July	14h30 14h45	Library Committee Meeting Junior Prep Staff Meeting
	Tues	28		
	Wed	29	08h10-12h00 14h00	Vaccination Day Netball vs Hendrik Louw (H) Rugby vs Marvin Park (H)
	Thurs	30	10h30-12h30 14h30	Grade 4vN – Design & Technology Day MAD Outreach Hockey vs Somerset College (A)
	Fri	31	09h00-12h00 13h30-14h30 14h30 14h30-16h00	Vaccination Day (2) Chess vs Lochnerhof (A) Music Entertainment Eisteddfod (Lochnerhof) Inter-Zonal U13 Hockey Tournament Senior Prep Staff Meeting
	Sat	1 Aug		Gordon's Bay Primary Junior Prep Sports Day – Rugby & Netball U7–U9

School Uniform Shop Times

During Term time the Shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 07h30 and 08h00 and between 13h00 and 15h00. Please use the designated times only.