



Volume 39

SOMERSET HOUSE

26 November 2009

The Weekly Blah

Oakwood Concert!



Not just a school ~ a way of life



HEADlines.....

Oakwood Concert

What an occasion! The “little people” of Oakwood put on a BIG concert this week. It was easy to forget that the stars on stage were still in pre-school, such was the confidence and poise on display. The message was not lost and we thank the children and Staff from Grade 000 to Grade 0 for an unforgettable Christmas Concert.

Exams

Congratulations to our Grade 6 and 7 children who finished writing examinations on Tuesday. The sessions were managed very well and all the scripts were marked by Thursday morning. My thanks to the Staff who managed this so professionally and completed the marking so efficiently. Well done everyone!

Carol Service

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on Monday evening under the oak trees behind Cloetenburg. The programme is different from last year in that it is not a performance, but rather an opportunity to hear all our voices singing together to celebrate Christmas. Please bring a blanket or cushion to sit on. Please note that this is not a picnic, but a religious ceremony which we wish to treat with due respect.

Handwriting Survey

Our school initiated a hand-writing survey which was sent to over 300 Independent Schools in Southern Africa. The feedback has been interesting and is being used to inform decisions around handwriting policy for the years ahead. My thanks to the Junior Primary Phase for running with this project. They will be providing feedback for the participating schools before the end of the year.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

Recycling Totals

How nice it was to be back in the car park, bright and early, this morning. My thanks to Mr Harley for very ably holding the fort whilst I was man down! All was quiet this morning, but I look forward to a final flurry of newspapers and magazines being brought in next week! Many thanks as always to the crew of keen and eager helpers who brave the traffic and recycling bin on a regular basis!

Class	Weds 10 Nov	Weds 18 Nov	Weds 25 Nov	Class Totals
1D		3.0	20.5	38.5
1R	3.0	6.0		63.5
2P		26.0	13.0	113.3
2T	1.0	5.0		126.5
3S		22.0	78.3	160.8
3P	10.0	13.0	34.0	92.5
4M	33.0	17.0	20.0	163.0
4V	13.0	31.0	43.7	207.7
5B	7.0	3.0	2.5	48.0
5C		5.0		87.1
6D	13.0	25.0	31.5	375.6
6M	10.5	9.0	47.9	187.4
7U	14.0	22.0	26.0	200.1
7W	5.0	37.0	7.7	139.9
	109.5	224.0	325.1	2003.9

Lost Property Sale: Tuesday 1 December

There is a huge number of items in our lost property boxes. The Lost Property team – Ché February, Christiaan Rabie and James Reade-Jahn have sorted through all the items. Anything that is named has been returned to its owner; all that is left are items that are un-named or have a name that is un-identifiable. These items will be on sale from 13h15 next Tuesday 1st December, outside the Grade 5 classrooms. All proceeds will go to the MAD programme. Any items not sold will be given to charity at the end of term.

Music and Assembly under the Oaks

This singing group was snapped rehearsing Christmas Carols under the Oaks this week. It was lovely to hear the music throughout the school grounds. We also had our Assembly outdoors this week.



The School shop will be open during the following times:

Monday 7 December to Thursday 10 December from 08h00 to 13h00.
Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 January from 08h00 to 13h00.

Recycling Takes On New Meaning!

The Grade 5s have been learning about matter and materials as well as recycling and the importance thereof. Michael Burke and Jordan Haantjes came up with these fantastic creations that are bound to take first prize at the 2010 Homemakers Expo.



Ginger-Bread Men!

The Children at Oakwood had great fun baking their own colourful and tasty Ginger-Bread Men this week.



Christmas Hampers

As a gesture of thanks to our Kitchen, Cleaning and Garden staff we would like to present them all with a Christmas Hamper of special treats from the Staff, pupils and their families. If you would like to contribute – please send your donation to the Grade 2 Thöle classroom.

Learning Centre News

Congratulations to Sabrina Potgieter in Grade 5 who was commissioned to create a portrait for the Learning Centre. She created this magnificent black eagle. The inspiration for the picture was derived from an African legend and celebrates the belief that everyone can achieve their



own unique potential. Thank you, Sabrina, for creating a visual reminder of this important message which forms the foundation for the work of the Learning Centre.

Grade 2 Promote Provinces!

This term the Grade 2s have been on a virtual Road Trip around South Africa. Here they are making posters to promote their chosen Province!



Sports News

INAUGURAL BAIL FESTIVAL U11A AND U11B

VS. SOMERSET COLLEGE:

The bail was ceremoniously burnt and the ashes placed delicately into the base of the trophy. The lid was put in place and the new "Bail Trophy" was handed over to Somerset



College – the first winners of the Festival. And what a day it was! The B teams battling it out up on the Siebrits Oval; lots of excitement as wickets tumbled and runs were scored. As always at B team level, everyone was involved and it was very much a team performance. Down below, on the Taberer Oval there was much tension between the A teams. Many of the boys play together at the Club and this was a chance to get even! The College teams played better cricket on the day and they won both games – but the winning, whilst very much part of the day, is not the main focus of the Bali Festival. It is an occasion where all the Under 11s can be the stars and can have a special occasion together without being in the shadow of the older boys. It is their day and the taking part and the fun of playing cricket are the true winners. "Why the 'Bail'?" I have been asked. Simple really – the big players compete for the whole Ashes; we are only little people and we play for the little ashes – The Bail.

LEAPING WOLF ACHIEVEMENT

A number of our children are members of the 2nd Somerset West Cup Pack and were recently awarded the highest award in Cubbing. These children showed great diligence in all they did, carrying out various duties as senior cubs with great enthusiasm and dedication. Their achievement includes a great deal of community service as well as Survival Skills and Scout-Craft. These children have put their feet onto the first rung of the ladder of success and shown that they are potential future leaders of our community. We congratulate the following pupils who have been awarded their Leaping Wolf Badge: Matheu Quinn, Kate and Emma Thöle, Jordon Robb, Joshua van der Merwe and Neil Devine. We are extremely proud of you and admire what you have all achieved.

GRADE 7 GIRLS VICTORIOUS!

Our annual 15 over cricket match between our Grade 6 and Grade 7 girls took place on Tuesday afternoon. Each Grade divides themselves into two teams. The Barbies play on Naburn Meadow and the Angels on the Webb Field. The umpires were amazed with the talent of some of the 'batsman'. Some super catches were also taken. Scores from both matches were added together to decide the winning Grade. The results are as follows:



Teams	Runs	Best Bowlers	Best 'Batsmen'
Grade 6 Angels	38	Imogen Clinton ~ 1 for 4	Ilana Bester ~ 15 * (retired)
Grade 6 Barbies	80	Emma Demes ~ 2 for 14	Ash Rutherford ~ 23 * (retired)
Grade 7 Angels	52	Nadia Williams ~ 1 for 3	Liesl Rabie ~ 28
Grade 7 Barbies	102	Lara du Plessis ~ 2 for 10	Lara du Plessis ~ 41

Congratulations to all our girls! The matches were played in a super spirit and the shield was awarded to the Grade 7 Girls with a winning total of 154 runs to 118 scored by the Grade 6s.



PEREGRINE WIN THE FINAL SPORTING EVENT OF THE YEAR



Yesterday afternoon, all of our pupils from Grade 1 to Grade 7 were involved in our final sporting event of the 2009 calendar, our Inter-House Relay Gala. Special thanks to our House Captains for the wonderful job they have done all year. Pupils competed in various relays including Freestyle, Breaststroke, Medley, Butterfly and Ladder Relays. It was a very close encounter as all three houses were level on points half way through. It was exciting to see that only 4 points separated the teams at the end. Congratulations to Peregrine, who won the gala. The final points were as follows:



- **PEREGRINE** - **90**
- **HOBBY** - **86**
- **LANNER** - **86**



WEEK 9: Programme for week ending 3 December 2009

Mon	30	08h30 12h15-14h15 18h40 19h00	No Sport all Week Orientation Day for 2010 Grade 1s Senior Prep Class Parties Choir to arrive for Carol Service Carol Service: Rev. Tim Hawkridge
Tues	1 Dec	10h10-13h00 12h00	Junior Prep Class Parties Singing Group to Paarl
Wed	2	12h30-13h00 18h00 19h00	Oakwood Christmas Party – Magician & Father Christmas Family Day Lunch Senior Choir to be at school Senior Prep Awards
Thurs	3	10h00 11h15 11h45 18h30	End of Term Assembly: Rev P. Howard-Brown School Closes Staff Meeting Staff Function
Fri	4	09h00-13h00	Staff Working Day