



The Weekly Blah



Grade 6 Camp

On Wednesday, 25 February, the Grade 6's left the smoky haze of Somerset West and headed for the hazy, sea breeze of the Parmalat Enviro Centre, near Kommetjie. There they learnt about birds and reptiles, tested their endurance on the obstacle course and sand dunes, and learnt more about Slangkop lighthouse which was built before World War I. The climb to the top of the lighthouse yielded a magnificent panoramic view of the bay. They could see Table Mountain, Hout Bay and the campsite from the top. The day ended with a splash in the tidal pool where they watched the sunset and experienced the waves crashing over them as the tide moved in. This was a great time of refreshment after a gruelling day on the obstacle course where they tunneled their way through small spaces or climbed up ropes. The night hike was a treat and those who felt they were fit enough, tested their endurance by hiking up the dune and then running down again. It was a fantastic camp and enjoyed by all! It was with mixed feelings that the Grade 6's returned, but they are glad to have the memories of this time together.

Family Fun Fair

It is nearly Fun Day and, as you can see, Grade 4 Minnaar are gearing up for their activity ~ *Fear Factor!* Look out for them and test your 'fear levels' – you are sure to have fun!

Only one more sleep until the Fun Day!

There is a great deal of excitement about our Fun Day and there are a few things that we would like you to remember:

- Picnic blankets and chairs
- Costumes and towels
- Comfortable clothes and sun protection
- Some extra cash for the private market stalls
- Remember there is NO set time for the Amazing Race and those that have paid already may collect their tickets at stall No. 7
- For those planning on attending the cooking demo. by Vergelegen the time has now moved forward from 6pm to 4pm.



I know that a lot of you have been waiting for a final list of activities for the afternoon and here they are!

Fun Photo Booth
Gory Details
Fear Factor
Cave of Horrors
Amazing Race
Pony Rides
Sea Island
Neverland
Electric Cars
Slam Dunk
Cupcake Land
Sand Art
Beat the Goalie
Waterworld
Lazer Quest

Rugby at Newlands
Obstacle Course
Jumping Castles – (no-charge activity)
Climbing Wall
Parachute Simulator
Candypan
Ice Land
Biltong Bar
Lebanese Delights
Wonky Wines
Ocean Basket
Pasta
Wraps
Raats Wines

Sushi & Champagne
Burgers
Chipsticks
Tuck Shop
Skinkidz
Mondeor Garden & Life Stall
In Touch Beauty
Ritzwood Cottage
Sequoia Jewellery
Magical Candy
Green Fingers
De Vine Oils
Elgin Valley Roses

Vergelegen Cooking Demo. (NB now at 4pm and NOT at 6pm as previously advertised!)

DJ - Steve & Rhys: 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Riverboat Jazz Band: 5pm onwards – main stage
Jimmy Long Legs: 4.00pm – amphitheatre
Snake Man: 5.00pm – amphitheatre
Fire man: 7.30pm – amphitheatre
Competition announcements: 7.00 pm – main stage

As you can see there is a great deal to keep you busy! Please enjoy yourselves and remember the emphasis this year is on having fun and spending time with family and friends.

Kind regards – The Guild Committee

HEADlines...

Welcome back Mrs Thöle – New Grade 2 teacher

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mrs Phil Thöle will be replacing Mrs Lubbe as Grade 2 teacher next term. As is always the case, a full recruitment process was followed and we are delighted that Mrs Thöle came out as our top candidate and now joins the school as a permanent, full time-member of staff.

Miss Penny

Miss Penny has been offered a very exciting opportunity to work with a team of educators to produce learning materials for multigrade classes. She will also be involved in training educators for the challenges of teaching these classes. Part of her training will involve a two-week trip during the holidays to the Netherlands where she will receive first-hand experience of how these educators implement their curriculum in monograde as well as multigrade classes. We are proud of her achievement in being selected for this work and look forward to hearing more about education in the Netherlands on her return.

UMALUSI

UMALUSI is the statutory body which is responsible for the accreditation of private and independent schools in South Africa. They focus on issues of compliance to ensure that independent schools:

- Are suitable and adequate in terms of standards and qualifications
- Adopt quality management systems for learner achievement
- Deliver quality teaching and assessment
- Make progress and improvement according to a set strategy

Somerset House was the subject of a site visit on Monday after having satisfied the demands of a “paper audit” last year. Although we have not received our formal report yet, UMALUSI was very happy with our school and the innovative work being done. I would like to thank all the Staff, Board and Guild members for their contribution to making our school the place it is. It was a pleasure for me to present our school and have such positive feedback.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

Thank You

I wish to extend a big thank you to Robyn in the Kitchen for responding to my advert in the *Somerset House Advertiser* for donations of much-needed baby items for a young lady I know from Zimbabwe. I will be placing the advert again in the hope of receiving more donations. – **Rome Zurnamer**

ADD/H in Adults: Accept the Challenge

The next quarterly meeting of the Helderberg ADD/H support group discusses “***ADD/H in Adults: Accept the challenge***”. The guest speaker will be Charmaine Louwe, researcher and educational psychologist (University of Stellenbosch). She will address the challenges of adult ADD/H, as well as the various relationships within a family of ADD/H sufferers.

DATE: **Tuesday, 17 March 2009**

TIME: **18:30 for 19:00**

VENUE: **De Hoop Primary School (Hall), Old Stellenbosch Road, Somerset West**

ADMISSION: **R 10-00**

MORE INFO: <http://www.HelderbergADDH.co.za/> or ET AL THERAPY CENTRE -
Tel: 021 852 0845



Argus Survivors

Six Somerset House pupils - Richard Corder, Jordan Venter, Garth Turner, Paige Stephens, Marc van der Merwe and Greg de Vink survived the gale force winds and challenging route of this year's Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour. This 109 km route is enough of a challenge without the gale-force winds with which riders had to contend. It would have been easy to opt



out of the race, given the fact that many cyclists were blown over before even reaching the starting line, however, all five of our Grade Seven pupils hung in there and achieved their goals of completing this race. They may not have ridden the times they had hoped for; however, just finishing in those conditions was a mammoth achievement on its own. MASSIVE congratulations to each and every one of you. You certainly all proved you have what it takes when life gets tough!

Grade 5 Class Music

In Class Music the Grade 5's have been investigating the musical genre, 'rap music'. Each pupil had to compose a rap and perform it for the class.

Here is Jordan Hantjes performing his rap in true rap artist style:

*'Hi, my name's Jordie, I'm a hippie and I like chilling with Jay-z.
You'll never see me, ho! 'cause I'm racing in my Lamborghini,
With the spider seats, you'll never see me...'* (Jordan Hantjes)

Eltanin James composed the following rap:

*'Everyday we see the homeless
laying out in the street
It makes be bleed to see the hurt and the weak.
The men stand on the street corners
and go on their knees,
and plead for a job, some bread and some cheese.
If everybody just has a little to give,
we can help these people find out
what it's really like to live.
Peace...!'*



Recycling for Art

Thank you to everyone who has been helping me collect materials for Art. I now have enough plastic bottles but still need lids, especially large ones, Styrofoam trays (the mushroom ones are ideal), toilet rolls and egg boxes.

Over the page you can read all about the meerkats from 'down under' visiting Grade 2. Here Nick van der Merwe gets involved.



Artists of the Week

Natalie Gelderblom in Grade 1 is the artist of the week for her portrayal of herself on her first day at 'big' school. Her picture is well drawn, with lots of detail and she uses the space in her picture really well. Congratulations, Natalie. Well done!



Marvelous Meerkats!

Grade 2's had a great surprise organised by Mrs Annette van der Merwe (mother of Nicholas) – in the form of a visit from a real live 'meerkat'. The children then created their own delightful meerkats out of clay!



Sports News

Splendid Afternoons

There may be no Long Room, no clubhouse, no steady rumble of red double-deckers constantly rolling past, but instead there's food for the soul – and plenty of it. Tuesday: bright, blue sky, no wind and, at last, no ash, no lurid smoke, our mountains back and the air smelling almost clean again. Just the day for a trip to the country! This time to Raithby with its idyllic setting and friendliness that greeted us as soon as we arrived. This is a community with identity – and even a marching band –with sports fields right out of a tourist brochure. Farms can be glimpsed between statuesque trees, the Helderberg towering over us, with, from this side, no scars from its recent ordeals and the Dome looking – well, ... quite domish. As play started, high above, a fish eagle floated and as we piled on runs at a record rate excitement was running high – could we win this one?

Packets of chips were being downed faster than wickets were falling, and faces were shining. But then, sadly, a mid-order collapse, saved only by an heroic final partnership by Richard and Timon who survived to the bitter end leaving us with 73 for 7 wickets. So, to the second half, in which Raithby started more slowly but accelerated as their supporters found their voice. The sheer exuberance, gusto and humour of the home support worked its magic and slowly the result became doubtful – and then it was all over, with Raithby 75 in 18 overs. This time we almost made it and, despite the disappointment, faces told of another afternoon of fun.

-- An occasional contribution from 'Bystander'

WESTERN PROVINCE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Liam Wrightson and Nick de Villiers headed off to the University of the Western Cape last Saturday for the Western Province Athletics Championships. They both earned 4th places overall, Nick in the Long Jump and Liam in the 100m. We congratulate them on their performances, and also for the way in which they dealt with trying circumstances. Well done guys. Once again, you have displayed true Somerset House character!

SOUTH AFRICAN SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last weekend, Megan McEwan, Antonie Small-Smith and Ash Rutherford represented Western Cape in Germiston at the SA Aquatic National Championships. Both Megan and Antonie competed in the 50m Breaststroke events ~ Meg was placed 11th and Antonie 8th overall. Both swimmers achieved personal best times against the best juniors in South Africa. Ash came 6th in the 200m Individual Medley, 7th in the 100m Backstroke, 8th in the 50m Backstroke and 11th in the 100m Breaststroke. Ash was also a member of the Western Cape U12 Medley Relay Team which swam a super race, winning gold for the third year running. Congratulations to all of you!



RHENISH RELAY GALA

On Tuesday afternoon, our full swimming team headed off to Rhenish to compete in their Relay Gala. Both girls and boys participated in a Medley and Freestyle Relay. Participating schools included: Rhenish, SWPS, Beaumont, Eikestad and Somerset House. Our team swam very well and at times shared the lead. Unfortunately we were just pipped at the post by Rhenish who beat us by a few points. Congratulations to the entire team.

ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GALA

Our final gala of the term takes place next Wednesday at Beaumont. This is the Zonal Championship Gala which, in effect, will determine the top swimming school in the basin. We wish our team the best of luck!

PSI HOCKEY

Last Sunday, Jana Huysamer, Georgie Day, Frances de Villiers, Lara Schulte, Nicola Sloane, Jeremy Ryall, Pierre du Plessis and Ian Weber participated in the PSI Indoor Hockey Tournament which was held at Hottentots Holland High School. Players were divided into various teams and then played in a round-robin tournament. Two of our pupils won prizes for special achievements on the day: Frances de Villiers for Sportsmanship and Georgie Day for Spirit. Talented players are also identified on the day and selected to play in the Western Cape All-Stars Series at UCT in April. Congratulations to: Jana Huysamer, Frances de Villiers, Jeremy Ryall and Garth Turner (Boland A Team). Nicola Sloane, Georgie Day, Lara Schulte, Ian Weber and Pierre du Plessis (Boland B Team)

BOLAND SURFING

Luke Eames recently competed in the Boland Surfing Trials which were held last month. This is the first time that he has competed at a competitive level. We have just heard that Luke has been selected as the Boland U8 Representative for the SA Grommet Games which takes place in Port Elizabeth over the Easter weekend. Congratulations, Luke. We are very proud of you and wish you the very best of luck!



BOLAND BIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Esna and Brendan Venter competed in the Boland Biathlon Championships which were held at Boland Park in Worcester last Wednesday afternoon. Athletes from all over the Boland Region participated in this event. Brendan had to run a distance of 800m, followed by a 50m swim, while Esna ran 1000m followed by a 100m swim. Brendan won Gold in the boys U9 section and Esna came 7th overall. What a super achievement! Congratulations! We are so proud of you both.

U13A BOYS TENNIS

The U13A boys drew 3-3 to Somerset College in stifling heat. Johnathan and Pierre beat their opponents in their singles and doubles matches. Well done boys! Unfortunately the heat did not help Marc and Garth in their matches. This was a good attempt. Well played boys!

U13B BOYS TENNIS

The U13B boys had an even contest vs Beaumont with our boys: Nicholas Trafford, Cameron Arnold, Kesley Kaps and David Wilson winning their doubles matches. After the single matches the score was even and we are proud of our boys. Thank you to Ms Mac for providing some shade and excellent refreshments. It certainly was appreciated!

-- Mrs L de Villiers.

BOYS REACH THE FINALS!

Last Monday was an exciting evening for Somerset House as the girls beat Lochnerhof 3-1, then our boys U13B team had the game of their lives, nearly beating Somerset College's U13A Team. Somerset House scored first and managed to absorb the pressure while still taking advantage of scoring opportunities. The scores were levelled at 2 - all for quite some time, before Somerset College just managed to edge ahead. Congratulations to the B team for a superbly entertaining match and for nearly causing an upset. The boys U13A team then displayed a slick performance against De Hoop, with classy hockey being played by each member of the team. Some super goals were scored, which were created way back in our defensive territory. Somerset House was just too strong for De Hoop, beating them 7 - 1. We wish our A Team the best of luck for the final.



CRICKET – 1st XI TEAM

On Wednesday our 1st XI team played a match against Gordon's Bay Primary. We lost the toss and were asked to field first. This was a good decision, as our bowlers dominated the batsmen from the very first over and they never recovered. We managed to bowl them all out for 58 runs with Richard Corder (**4 overs, 4 wickets for 21 runs**) and Dylan de Haas (**3.2 overs, 4 wickets for 13 runs**) both taking four wickets. Our batsmen came out and kept the pressure going reaching their total in the 13th over. Good batting performances by Pierre du Plessis 16*. Well done to the boys.

UNDER 9 A CRICKET VS. STRAND MOSLEM: 11 MARCH 2009

Somerset House: 44 runs for 5 wicket = Nett 34

Opponents: 28 runs for 5 wickets = Nett 18

Somerset House won by 16 runs.

Batting: The main contributors were Joshua Raats 8, Greg Bolus 7, and 6 each from Nicholas Williams and Liam Ahern. Bowling: The wicket takers, with 1 wicket each, were Maita Mutsai, Nicholas Williams, Solomon Johnson-Hill, Liam Ahern and Greg Bolus. Once again this was a good performance from the team. It is pleasing to see that the skills learned at practice are coming through during the matches. We still need to work on avoiding unnecessary wickets.

TENNIS RESULTS

Somerset House

U11A Girls	vs	Somerset House B	Won	3 - 0
U11B Girls	vs	Somerset House A	Lost	0 - 3
U11A Boys	vs	Lochnerhof A	Lost	1 - 2
U11B Boys	vs	SWPS (A)	Won	3 - 0

The U13A girls beat Somerset College convincingly in the sweltering heat last Thursday. Well done to Nicola Sloane and Sinead van Eeden for playing like true champions!

WELL DONE, SAM UYS!

6 year-old Sam Uys (in the Squirrel Class) completed 10kms at the Boschendal Argus Cycle Race



SOMERSET HOUSE CRICKET U/10B AGAINST DE HOOP PRIMARY – 4 MARCH 2009

- De Hoop batted first and scored 173 runs in 15 overs.
- Somerset House replied with 65 runs all out.
- De Hoop won the match by 108 runs.
- Best bowler: Richard Milton (2 overs, 1 wicket, 17 runs)
- Best batsman: Francois Harley (50 runs not out, off 27 balls)
- Best fielder: Kai Heiman with 2 run-outs (two fantastic direct hits!)
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WEEK 10: Programme for Week Ending 21st March 2009

MONDAY 16

14h30-15h30 Supervised Prep: Mrs D Underwood
Indoor Hockey:
18h30-19h00 Somerset House Eagles vs De Hoop (Boys 3rd and 4th Place)
19h40-20h15 Somerset House Falcons vs S College Oaks (Boys' Final)

TUESDAY 17

14h30-15h30 Supervised Prep: Mrs L Lubbe
14h30 Cricket vs De Hoop – U/10A (H) & U/13B (A)
vs Lochnerhof – U/11B (A) & U/13C (H)
15h30-16h30 Netball Practise – U/13A

WEDNESDAY 18

08h15 Moms' Prayer Group – all welcome
10h10 Beginners' Music Concert (Simpson Hall)
14h30 Cricket vs De Hoop – U/10B (A) & U/13D (Radloff Park)
vs Strand Muslim – U/11A (H) & U/13A (H)
15h00 Zonal Swimming Gala (Beaumont)

THURSDAY 19

07h30 MADULTS Meeting
14h30 Zonal Tennis Trials – players will be notified on Monday
14h30 Cricket vs Cheam (UK) Touring Team – U/13A
Netball vs Cheam Touring Team – U/13A
17h30-19h00 Post March Braai for Players and Parents

FRIDAY 20

08h00 Assembly: Mrs L de Villiers
14h30 Cricket vs Milkwood Touring Side (H) - U/9,U/11A & U/13A
17h30-19h00 Post Match Braai

SATURDAY 21

Strand High Sports Day – U/13A Netball & U/13A Rugby

SUNDAY 22

07h00 Grade 7's depart for the Orange River

PLEASE NOTE!

The orchestral performance on Sunday 15th March at 6pm is to take place at **Backsberg Wine Estate** and not at Bridge House as stated on last week's programme.