



# *The Weekly Blah*

## **Welcome to Oakwood!**



Saying good-bye to someone you love, learning to share and making new friends is difficult at any age, so spare a thought for the new Grade 000 children, who at 3 years of age are just beginning to learn how difficult change can be. However, they are all putting on a brave face and starting to enjoy themselves in their new classes!

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*Not just a school ~ a way of life*

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Having to change classes and teachers can be quite daunting when you are only 4 or 5 years old. Matthew Lowe, Daniel Kleinhans, Dion Claassens, Genevieve Le Grange and Emily van Steenberghe have had great fun dressing up and meeting new friends as they settle into their new classes.

# HEADlines.....

## Parking

We are appealing to all parents to please not park in the “Drop and Go” spaces at the Dickens Avenue parking area during peak times, especially in the morning. There is overflow parking available on the grass beyond the parking area if you need to park and leave your vehicle.

## New Parents Welcome Function

Thank you to all the new parents who attended the function on Wednesday evening. It was a good opportunity to get to know you better as well as an opportunity to get to know each other. We trust that you are all comfortable with how the school works and that if any more information is required you will be able to source the answers from Staff or other parents.

## Calendar 2011

The dates for the 2011 Somerset House calendar are available elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that because of the timing of Easter in 2011, there will be a week-long holiday in April. We have decided on these dates as otherwise there would only be 2 school days in that week, namely the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of April. We have worked these lost days into the calendar elsewhere so that we have enough school days in the year. Overall we have 8 days less than the state schools.

Friday	22	April	Good Friday	National School Holiday
Saturday	23	April		
Sunday	24	April		
Monday	25	April	Easter Monday	National School Holiday
Tuesday	26	April	School Holiday	National School Holiday
Wednesday	27	April	Freedom Day	National School Holiday
Thursday	28	April	Somerset House Holiday	
Friday	29	April	Somerset House Holiday	
Saturday	30	April		
Sunday	1	April	May Day	National Holiday
Monday	2	April	School Holiday	National School Holiday

Chris Storey – Headmaster

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

## Launch of the Clubs programme

There was a real sense of excitement on Wednesday when the new Club Programme for the Senior Primary children was launched. Fourteen very varied Clubs are on offer for the children – all of them are activities that are not normally available during the school day. The Staff introduced their Clubs and it was a joy to see the very obvious enthusiasm along with the ooohs and aaahs as each activity was described. The children have all made their first, second and third choices and the lists will be available shortly. Clubs will start on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> after lunch. Clubs on offer are as follows:

Number Games  
Grade 7 Singing  
Backgammon  
Marimba Band  
Art & Craft

Kite Building  
Grade 4 Science Club  
Scrap Booking  
Digital Photography  
Crosswords

Miniatures  
Card Making  
Card Skills  
Kite Building  
Dancing

## Request

We need any number or money games e.g. Monopoly or Rummicub for Number Game Club. Please mark them clearly and send to Mrs van Niekerk's classroom. They will be returned at the end of the Term.

## Appeal to all Scrapbookers...

We still need scrapbooking stock (paper, off cuts, embellishments, etc) for the scrapping club this term. All contributions are welcome, and will be used in our scrapping club this term.

~ Mrs Martin

## Colourful Grade 3!



The Tree behind my house is brown and green. My big, tall house is red. My dog's kennel is orange My door is brown. The windows of my house are blue.

(Julia Robb)

My house is a two storey with a brown roof and red and blue curtains. There's a brown door and a brown fence. There's a red telescope in my left bedroom window. There's a big oak tree in my back garden.

(Nicholas van der Merwe)



## ***Music at Somerset House***

We are very excited that so many Somerset House children are learning a musical instrument! We have managed to fill all our spaces/vacancies, but this is not the end of the road for those who would like to learn an instrument in the future. We offer the following in the Music Department:

**Choir** (Everyone is auditioned.)

- Junior Choir (Grade 1 – 3) Grade 1's join in Term 2
- Senior Choir (Grade 1-6)
- Grade 7 Singing Group (CLUB)

**Class Music Programme** (Grade 1-7: all children attend 1 lesson per week)

**Individual Instruments**

- Piano, Keyboard, Violin Individually (Grade 3-7)
- Guitar Groups, Flute Individually (Grade 4-7)
- Recorder Groups (Grade 2-7)
- Recorder Individually (Grade 3-7: Subject to availability)
- Flute Ensemble and Mixed Ensemble (selected children)
- Orff/Marimba Band (Club)

Please approach the Music Department or School office for an application form and we will put your child's name on the waiting list. We will let you know as soon as a place becomes available.

## ***New Beginnings***

With more than 50 new beginners, the Music Department is buzzing with happy sounds of music. It is with great excitement that our budding musicians are taking their first steps into learning the language of music and producing 'beautiful' sounds!



## Quiet Time in Grade 2



Some children in Grade 2 Thöle were caught on camera enjoying their new readers!

## Recycling

What a wonderful start to this year's newspaper recycling. Just over half a tonne, a new group of determined and enthusiastic collectors and lots of smiles early in the morning at the car park! Thanks to all who dropped off paper – and a huge thank you to all who helped fill the orange bins. A reminder that this is a class competition, based on the weight of newspapers (and magazines, books etc) collected. On Wednesday mornings from 07h30 to 08h00 the recyclers will be in the main car park to receive your newspapers. Please attach a slip to the box or bag of newspapers which clearly has your child's class and the weight of the newspapers, in kilos, on it. The recyclers will collect the slips, deal with the newspapers and a weekly running total will be announced. A prize for the class which collects the most newspaper will be awarded at the end of term.

Classes	Weds 20 Jan
7M	4.7
7W	22.0
6C	24.7
6M	10.0
5B	83.8
5K	21.0
4M	60.3
4vN	11.8
3P	51.2
3U	6.5
2P	50.8
2T	97.6
1dP	64.3
1R	18.3
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>526.9</b>

# Sports News

## INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS

There is great excitement around as the House Captains prepare their teams for our annual Inter-House Event. Pupils are reminded to report to their classes at 15h30 to get their stickers, before the walk-on parade which takes place at 15h40. The first events will start at 16h00. Parents are reminded to bring along a picnic and enjoy the evening with us.



The Pavilion will be available for the sale of cooldrinks and boerewors rolls. No alcohol will be sold from the Pavilion during the athletics meeting, however, they will do so after the event.



## ATHLETICS FIELD EVENTS

Congratulations to all our children who participated in the Field Events this week. It was super to see so many children giving their best efforts and the spirit was amazing. Well done, too, to all our winners. A number of records were broken in the Shotput events. Congratulations to Erin Williams, Sarah Wilmans, Luke Stephens, Chris-Jan Kruger and Luke Theron. The results for the Field Events are available on our website.



## ATHLETICS PHOTOS

A special thank you to Alexa Ristow who took some amazing photos at our Field Event Finals and will also be snapping special moments at our Inter-House Athletics Meeting later today. A full CD containing photos from both Athletics events will be available at a cost of R30. Please place orders and payment with Kirsty Jardim in the Admin Block before the end of next week.

## JUNIOR PRIMARY SWIMMING

A letter has been sent home with all Grade 1 and 2 pupils regarding swimming squads for the year. Grade 1s will be assessed during the course of next week and will be notified by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January, as to which squad sessions they should attend. A full set of swimming time trial results may be viewed on our website.

## SPORTS INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE

Please check our website ([www.somersetcollege.co.za](http://www.somersetcollege.co.za)) for all up to date news and information regarding sporting fixtures and events. Swimming Trial Results are also available for your interest.

## WESTERN PROVINCE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ash Rutherford recently took part in the Western Province Open Water Swimming Championships which were held at Ashanti Dam, Paarl, during the holidays. She won gold (1<sup>st</sup> place) in the 1km event – U13 age group in a time of 14 minutes 36.23 seconds. Ash's previous time for the same event was 15:15.80, a great improvement. Congratulations Ash!



## **WEEK 3: Week ending 29 January 2010**

Mon	25 Jan	18h15-18h45 18h45-19h15	Normal Sports Programme begins Somerset College Indoor Hockey League - Boys vs SWPS - Girls vs Lochnerhof
Tues	26		
Wed	27	07h30 07h45 14h10-16h00 14h45	MADULTS Meeting Executive Committee Meeting U12 and U13 Boys Nets Cricket Practice Junior Prep Staff Meeting
Thurs	28	08h15 19h00	Class Reps Tea with Headmaster Guild Meeting (Cloetenburg)
Fri	29	14h15 14h15	Senior Prep Staff Meeting Senior Choir Sleep-over in Simpson Hall
Sat	30	08h00 09h00	WP Swimming Trials Senior Choir to go home

## **TERM DATES 2010**

Term 1:	Wednesday	13	January	-	Friday	19	March
Term 2:	Monday	12	April	-	Friday	11	June
Term 3:	Tuesday	13	July	-	Thursday	23	September
Term 4:	Tuesday	5	October	-	Thursday	2	December

## **TERM DATES 2011**

Term 1:	Wednesday	12	January	-	Wednesday	23	March
Term 2:	Monday	11	April	-	Friday	24	June
Term 3:	Tuesday	19	July	-	Friday	30	September
Term 4:	Tuesday	11	October	-	Wednesday	7	December