



The Weekly Blah

Western Province Champs!



We did it! On Friday evening our Girls 1st Hockey Team made history when they won the Western Province Championships. This means that they are the top girls' team within the entire Western Province for 2010. This is an achievement which has never happened before at Somerset House. Our girls have had an amazing season, winning the Somerset College Indoor League in the 1st term, our Waltons Tournament at the start of the 2nd term, winning 13 matches and drawing one whilst on tour in Kwa-Zulu Natal, winning the Kenridge Day / Night Tournament in Stellenbosch, crowned the top team in the Helderberg at the Helderberg Top Schools Playoff and now, the best of all Western Province Champions for 2010!

Well done everyone!

Public Speaking Competition

Last week 20 excited, enthusiastic and very nervous Grade 7s gathered in Cloetenburg Dining Room for this year's Public Speaking Competition. Two adjudicators, Patricia McNaught-Davis and Wilga du Plessis, parents, Staff and friends listened intently to the children as they spoke with confidence, expression, emotion and, most of all, sincerity. The speeches were in both English and Afrikaans and were inspired by book titles. Congratulations to Ash Rutherford who won the English speaking section and Sinead van Eeden who was runner up, as well as to Mirella Bradshaw who won the Afrikaans speaking section and Amy Sedgwick who was runner up. It was a wonderful evening! Well done to all speakers, you can be very proud of yourselves.



The Ladybirds enjoy Spring at Oakwood!

Spring comes to Oakwood and the Ladybird class have really enjoyed being out in the sunshine and fresh air - making the most of the trees and fantasy play with the Dinosaurs and tree fairies!



Parents' Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets every Thursday at 08h00 in the Archives Room.

HEADlines...

ISASA and SAHISA Conference

I have just returned from the above-mentioned conferences after a week of what seemed to be a never-ending stream of input, aptly compared by one speaker to “drinking from a fire hose”! Our Chairman of the Board, Mr Andrew Ribbans, was on hand in Johannesburg for the ISASA component. We were addressed by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga. This was followed by Professor Adam Habib, Advocate Gilbert Marcus, Professor Crain Soudien and our very own ex-pupil Mrs Nicky Newton-King, who delivered a superb address on the effect of the global recession on our country and schools. With over 300 of South Africa’s top schools represented, it was great to see a picture of our own school gracing the cover of the conference programme, testimony to the special place that our school is. The SAHISA conference focuses more on the issues faced by Heads of schools and the programme was varied and full. Lucas Radebe, former captain of Bafana Bafana, made a guest appearance. My thanks to the Board of Governors for the privilege of attending these conferences.

Tattybogle is here at last....

Our Junior Primary production is ready and will take place on Monday evening. The work, effort and creativity that has gone into this production is enormous. From the stage set which Mrs Humby has put together to the music and acting which will be on display. We look forward to seeing the results of their labour and wish all our young actors and actresses well with their BIG night!

Hockey Excellence

Our U13 boys and girls are almost at the end of their final season in Prep School, and what a season it has been. Our boys played at an extremely high level and managed to compete in the WP Champs. Our girls have had an exceptional season and finished on top of the pile as WP Champs. This is not a random event, but the result of an enormous amount of commitment and skill on the part of both the players and their coaches. Congratulations to all concerned for the magnificent results and thank you for the way you have entertained all those who have been fortunate enough to see the games. We are proud of you all.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

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Come and visit the

‘From Scratch’ Market Day

On Wednesday 22 September
At 10h10 (First Break)
Outside Cloetenburg

The Grade 4s and 5s will be selling their home-made wares.
Children must please bring ONLY coins.

This project is being organised by Grade 7 pupil, Emily Dyssell, as part of her Organisational Task section of the Leadership programme.

Newspaper Collections – The collection team!

One more week to go...next Wednesday is the last chance this term...



Class	Weds 1 Sept	Weds 8 Sept	Weds 15 Sept	Total
7M	5.5	33.0		105.7
7W		23.0		835.2
6C	63.5		92.5	146.1
6W		17.0	6.0	317.3
5B	37.4	8.2	26.5	324.5
5K	31.9	3.0	39.4	169.2
4M	9.2	20.0	4.5	202.4
4vN	12.4	29.5	50.6	248.5
3P	14.9	3.0	12.6	194.1
3U		2.9	7.0	397.3
2P	32.9	29.7	26.6	1317.7
2T	180.0	154.3	15.1	117.6
1dP	16.0	3.0		152.7
1R	6.3	35.7	16.0	105.7
Weekly Total	410.0	362.3	296.8	4665.8

The Grade 5 Wheelbarrow drivers, loaders, Mr Weights and Measures, scribes and checkers.

News from The Bee Class (Grade 000)

Children from the Bee class find the most interesting places to play and on rainy days they spend time doing puzzles.



Contribution from Bystander – Parents’ Hockey

It started well enough really. No sparkling sunset this time, only grey clouds and an ominous foreboding in the air, but at least the rain held off while the first half of the programme unfolded on the Simpson Field.

And, as ever, the parents played with care and sensitivity – with the littles, not against them – after all it’s meant to be fun – isn’t it? Sport is not about winning, now is it? At least not in Primary School. It’s about taking part, learning to work as a team, having fun and possibly working off that extra bag of Flings that we crunched our way through last night! Sportsmanship and Magnanimity abounded. We could bask in the glow. And so into the Hall for the second half of the tournament.

They say a week is a long time in Politics, but in Parents’ Hockey the world changed in minutes. By the time of the second girls Under 12 match the veneer was slipping. Of course it was only in jest (we could see that by the grin on his face!) that the Headmaster attempted to trip one of the girls with his stick! And of course it was mere coincidence that the totally unbiased member of Staff, refereeing, oh so professionally, unfortunately failed to notice the blatant infringement. Certainly there could not possibly have been the slightest hint of match fixing when the final score was called as 5 all, – when it was, in fact, a 6 – 4 win to the children.

By the time it came to the boys Under 12 the mask had slipped totally. Teeth were bared, perspiration flew, pacemakers raced. As one Grade 3 child, wise beyond her years, perceptively commented to Bystander “She’s vicious, isn’t she?” Mr Lang was officially declared a parent in order to assist and bravely scored a couple of goals to try and level the score – but to no avail as the boys grimly hung on to their lead to the end.

Then we came to the second Under 13 game – 4 each, then 5 – 4, then 6 – 4, and Bystander isn’t talking about the score he’s talking about the numbers on each side! As the boy’s score mounted, so Mr Lang was again spirited onto the pitch to defend the goal. And then, when not even that move stemmed the tide, Mr Harley was added to the Parental fire power.

And so we moved to the last event of the evening when the Staff, faces tense with determination, had to face the boys! And played their last Trump Card. Blistering speed, deft stick work, fearless use of their superior body weight all paid off, and the staff ended the evening victorious. And the trump card? Mr Wiles’ socks of course! Now how could anyone concentrate with those flashing across the pitch! Even from the touch line Ray-Bans were of the essence.

Still, seriously, the children can rejoice over two things. First their teachers are seriously good at the game themselves and their play was, like, Random! Secondly they can be in no doubt that the Parents will be paying a high price today, aches, strains, liniment, crutches and seriously depleted Medical Aid funds!

One is reminded of Alex Ferguson’s famous remark “Anyone who thinks the game’s about winning simply doesn’t understand just how serious it is!”

Helderberg Art Eisteddfod: Prize Winner

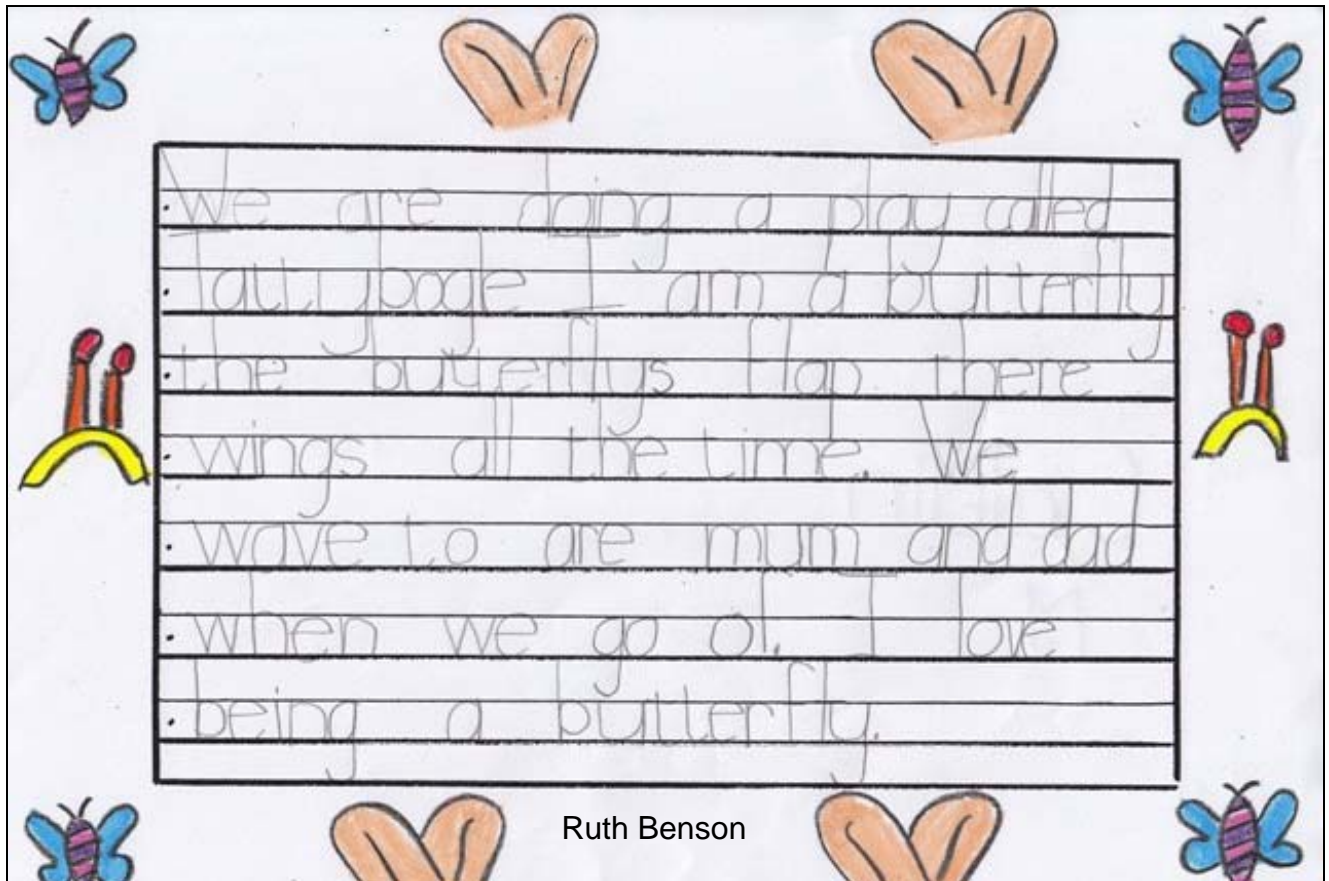
It was with great excitement that we received the news that one of our pupils has received the overall award as the best artist in their age group for the Helderberg basin. Well done **Jaden Bouah** in Grade 1 for this wonderful achievement, we are very proud of you! Jaden’s “Cat” picture, for which he received a Cum Laude, can be seen in the foyer of the Simpson Hall.

Artists of the Week

The Grade 4s have been looking at kites this term and we have spoken about flying a kite and the sense of freedom it gives you. They have built up multi-media pictures with drawings, pastels, dye and collage which try to evoke that feeling of space and freedom. Well done to Hannah Chemaly and Chloë Morris for being chosen as our Artists of the Week. Their pictures are lovely!



Tattybogle fever hits!



Grade 0s 'draw' inspiration from our old Oaks!

The Grade 0 Botha class spent some time drawing outside – using our old Oak trees as inspiration for their works-of-art.



Aftercare children make music!

Michael, Joshua and Ty had great fun making music at Aftercare this week.



Sports News

WP HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

The team played 5 pool matches at WP Champs before ending top of their pool. They then played against Springfield in the semi-finals, who have been undefeated all season. Our defence certainly stepped up and managed to absorb a great deal of pressure before an attacking move paid off with Maria Small-Smith scoring the winning goal. We won the semi-final 1 – 0.



We then played against a physically powerful Eversdal team in the final. This was another tough game and a real ding-dong battle with the ball travelling great distances from one side of the field to the other. Ashley Smithers made some great saves in goal and our defence again kept the ball out. Our strikers came to the party when Emily Dyssell scored the winning goal from the left wing position.

What an amazing season - I doubt that it gets better than this! The entire team played with passion and desire all season and were dedicated and committed to each other and to the team. The senior players led the team well and encouraged the younger players to express themselves. Slowly but surely they gained confidence and the team as a whole played with creativity and flair. The team was commended by a number of people for their attractive style of play. Congratulations to Ash Rutherford (Captain) and Natasha Furness (Vice-Captain) for their phenomenal leadership skills and to the entire team: Sinead van Eeden, Emma Demes, Maria Small-Smith, Emily Dyssell, Sophie and Bella Gebers, Ashley Smithers, Katya Schulte, Sarah Wilmans, Anne Turner and Ingrid Badenhorst. They certainly are a Dream Team and remain undefeated all season! 47 Matches played - 42 won - 5 drawn with only 5 goals being conceded. Way to go girls, mighty mighty proud of you all! ☺ Miss Mac

INTER-HOUSE NETBALL, RUGBY, HOCKEY AND CHESS

This week saw Hobby, Lanner and Peregrine teams doing battle both on and off the field. On Monday afternoon our netball and rugby teams competed against each other. On Tuesday the fields were brightly coloured and, despite the cold, wet and windy weather, we managed to complete all our hockey matches. Our final inter-house matches for the term took place on Wednesday afternoon when our chess teams took to the battle fields. Special thanks to the guild for our stunning score board which we were able to use for the first time!



Peregrine	60
Hobby	70
Lanner	58

Inter-house Hockey

Lanner	73
Hobby	70
Peregrine	68

Inter-house Netball and Rugby

Congratulations to all those who participated. The final points for the term will be announced next Thursday in final assembly.



CHESS

Our chess season came to an end this week with some exciting inter-house matches on Wednesday afternoon. There will be no early morning chess lessons next week as Mr Taylor is away. We thank him for his passion for the game and for teaching our children valuable skills. Our league teams performed exceptionally well this season and we congratulate all team players.



PARENTS VS CHILDREN NETBALL & HOCKEY MATCHES

We would like to thank all the Moms and Dads who took time out from their busy schedules to join our pupils for their netball and hockey matches. I think it is safe to say that great fun was had by all and that this is always a highlight on our sporting calendar. Well done to all who participated!





ATLANTIC SEABOARD NETBALL MINI-TOUR

On Friday afternoon, a very excited group of netball players left for Sweet Valley Primary School in Tokai. On arrival, our hosts were waiting for us and we played our first games in windy and cold conditions. The U11A girls won their match 8-4 and the U11B team lost 12-1. The U12A team lost 12- and the U12B lost 15-5 to Sweet Valley.

The “updated” version of the U13s played fabulously and won their game 7-3. We arrived at our Bed-and-Breakfast accommodation in Silver Palms, Noordhoek, and settled in before spending some quality time in the Long Beach shopping mall, just across the road from our Bed-and-Breakfast. This was only possible as it was an all-ladies tour and most of us share a passion for shopping! We were treated to a lovely supper and an equally delicious breakfast the next morning. We left for Parklands Prep in Tableview at 08h30 on Saturday morning. The weather was glorious and the setting beautiful. Matches were played in a good spirit and a very festive mood prevailed. The U11A girls won their second match beating the opposition 10-3. The U11B girls played well and were narrowly beaten by 3 goals to 2. The U12A team beat Parklands College 10 – 9. Unfortunately the U12B lost 12 – 1 to CBC. The U13s faced some tough opposition and narrowly lost to CBC’s U13As. Thank you to Miss Mac for arranging this special treat for our girls. It was indeed a lovely way to wrap up our netball season!



CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID!

At the SAS Colours Awards Ceremony held at Royal Cape Yacht Club last Friday, David Wilson in Grade 7 was awarded following Colours for his performance in the 2009/2010 Sailing Season:

- South African Sailing Youth Colours
- SAS Western Cape Youth Colours
- SAS Western Cape Team Colours

WESTERN PROVINCE GOLF

You may have read a couple of months ago that Jordan Haantjes had done really well in a number of Western Province Junior Golf Tournaments which were played at various courses. The points the players earn at the various tournaments are added together to get an order of merit. We are very proud to announce that as a result of Jordan's great form, he has been selected for the Western Province Junior Golf Team. This is an amazing achievement and Jordi will now be in action during the September holidays. He will be participating in the South African Junior Golf Championships which takes place at the Clovelly Country Club. The tournament will be played over 54 holes (3 rounds) from Monday 27th through to Wednesday 29th September. We wish Jordi the very best of luck!



Winter Sports Photographs

A reminder to all that we will be taking our winter sport photographs on Tuesday 21st September. Please ensure that your child has their correct uniform with them as they will not be allowed in the photo if they are dressed incorrectly. Please see times on weekly programme. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** If the weather is unfavourable on Tuesday, we will postpone the photos as we don't want to have to take them in the hall. We will place a message onto the website and Sports-line by 12h15, if this is the case.

Trophies

All trophies awarded at the end of 2009 must please be returned to Mrs Kirsty Jardim in the Administration building as soon as possible. The school will arrange for all engraving to be done on these trophies.

Week 10: Week ending 17 September 2010			
Mon	20 Sep	14h30-15h30 14h30-15h30 14h30-16h30 18h00	No sport for Grades 1 – 3 U10 and U11 Boys – Cricket (Field) U10 – U13 Girls – Soccer U12 and U13 – Cricket (Nets) Junior Prep Play
Tues	21	08h00 13h10-14h00 14h15-15h15 15h15-16h15 15h00	Talk on Diversity and Transformation by Mr Sandile Ndaba (Somerset College) Winter Sports Photos – No other sport practices U7 and U8 U9, U10 and U11 U12 and U13 Tennis AGM (Somerset College)
Wed	22	10h10-10h30 12h30 14h30 15h15 14h30-16h30	Oakwood Letterland Day Grade 4 and 5 Market Day Durban Girls College Touring Team Arrives – Hosting Netball vs Durban Girls College (H) – Girls 1 st Team Hockey vs Durban Girls College (H) – Girls 1 st Team Boys U12 and U13 Cricket (Nets) No other sport practices
Thurs	23	08h00 10h00-11h00 11h15 11h45	Durban Girls College Touring Team Depart Final Assembly School closes Full Staff Meeting

School Shop

The School Shop will be on Mon 4 October from 08h00 to 13h00.