



The Weekly Blah

Athletics Day!



There was great excitement last Friday afternoon as the house captains led their respective teams onto the field for our annual Inter-house Athletics meeting. A lovely atmosphere was created with parents picnicking along the banks of the Simpson



Hall whilst the Guild prepared boerewors rolls and sold cooldrinks. Our children enjoyed both fun and more serious events on the track. As you are all aware, we had a new track setup this year which brought the action closer to the Simpson Hall. This was an improvement and a few points have been noted in order to make it even more successful next year. We thank those parents who e-mailed comments through to us. We do value your opinions. A full list of results can be viewed on our website.



Special congratulations to our top achievers of the day:

ATHLETICS DAY 2010: TROPHY WINNERS	
AGE GROUP	NAME
Girls U7	Ruth Benson and Lauren Venter
Boys U7	Ethan Hindmarch
Girls U8	Cailin Roberts
Boys U8	CJ Slabbert
Girls U9	Julia Robb
Boys U9	Tehgan Hindmarch
Girls U10	Rochelle Roos
Boys U10	Greg Bolus
Girls U11: Junior Victrix Laudorum	Megan McEwan
Boys U11: Junior Victor Laudorum	Zac Fagan
Girls U12	Katya Schulte
Boys U12	Michael Burke
Girls U13: Victrix Laudorum	Emily Dyssell
Boys U13: Victor Laudorum	Nicholas de Villiers

Thanks again to Alexa Ristow for capturing special moments for us during both the Field Event finals and our Inter-House event on Friday evening. These photos may be ordered from Mrs Kirsty Jardim at a cost of R30. All the photos are on a CD. Please place your orders by Friday 5th February.



HEADlines.....

Class Representatives Meeting

All the new class representatives met with me yesterday to discuss their role and the year ahead. We are privileged to have such an enthusiastic group and I am certain that they will do a great job this year. Thank you for making yourselves available for 2010.

Money Collection by Class Representatives

At the meeting held yesterday it was suggested that some consistency be introduced to how monies are collected and managed by the class representatives. It was decided that it would be easier if all parents paid R50 for the year instead of being hassled for money on different occasions. It was agreed that the easiest way of doing this would be to debit school accounts. It was also agreed that this would not be a compulsory payment. It is important to note that should a parent feel that they would like to do more for a teacher on their birthday or on any other occasion, they are free to do so. This is simply a way of providing a more consistent and tightly managed process, which avoids the necessity for cash to be brought to school.

Collections for Family Fun Day

It was decided at the Guild Meeting that the cost of hiring equipment for the Family Fun Day would come out of the proceeds instead of parents paying for this before the time unless, of course, sponsorship can be found. We want to have parents spending money on their families at the Fun Day rather than spending money on the equipment set-up. My thanks to the Guild and Parent Representatives who have already worked so hard to ensure that this event will be a success.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

News from the Bee Class

The little ones from the Bee Class (Grade 000) have settled in nicely to the routine of Oakwood and are enjoying all the activities on offer.



Inter-House Athletics

It was against an overcast greyness that the balloons floated skywards, a silent salute to the cheering and singing, the banners and bunting, the skirts and war paint that heralded the start of another athletics evening. And it was a start with a difference. The eggs bouncing out of their spoons, balls rolling off bats, hula-hoops whirling and sacks writhing as the flushed, excited faces of the Oakwood littlies dashed importantly hither and yon, delighted to be on full centre stage. No more waiting impatiently for that afterthought of a race when all the glory had already been doled out, when little heads were nodding and little eyes drooping.

Yet it was not really the start. That had also been an unsung event under clear blue skies and the most perfect white fluffy clouds nuzzling up against our Hottentots Holland. Wednesday had seen the battles of the field events unfold before a much smaller band of dedicated parents. They had cheered the leapers leaping and cannon balls (for that is the nature of shot) sailing merrily around the field. Then also had the victors basked, deservedly, in their moments of glory and then had started the tally of the all-important points.

So, back to the track above where the parties and picnics were spreading out, where corks were popping, beers were bubbling and kilogram upon kilogram of goodies were being shovelled down ever-eager throats. And this, surely the most festive sporting event of the year, was truly under way.

And what an evening it was, with the house lead swinging backwards and forwards right up to the end. What's more, the excitement was carried into so many of the key events, where the tried and tested favourites found themselves pushed to the very limit by unexpected and spirited challengers who would simply not give up. The star spangled performance even went so far as to the officials, and Bystander is sure that all readers will agree with the Headmaster's judgement, that this year's Starter from England added a certain 'something' to the proceedings – although what exactly is somewhat obscure.

So the evening wore on and as it did so, the skies cleared and we were bathed in golden horizontal light, streaming across us from the setting sun, clear and crisp and sharp as ice. It washed against the greyness of the Hottentots and lit them up till they positively glowed amber beneath the fringes of those fluffy clouds that were again hugging them. And in this perfect beauty we came to the end of the events, the gorgeously quirky relay, the tug of war, the announcement of the results, the prizes and more, much more, excitement.

Bystander (23 January 2010)

Recycling

An excellent second week of collecting – thanks to all who brought paper in this week! Please make sure that your bundles are labelled with the weight (in kilos) and the correct class. This week there were a sizeable number of bundles with no class label – so the Grade 5s will get credited for these “anonymous bundles”. The Grade 5 newspaper crew are doing a stunning job sorting all the paper – so they deserve the credits!! We've collected a tonne already – let's now really get on with it!

Classes	Weds 20 Jan	Weds 27 Jan	Class Totals
7M	4.7	53.3	58.0
7W	22.0	7.0	29.0
6C	24.7	62.5	87.2
6M	10.0	28.3	38.3
5B	83.8	73.2	157.0
5K	21.0	85.0	106.0
4M	60.3	8.5	68.8
4vN	11.8	15.4	27.2
3P	51.2		51.2
3U	6.5	13.8	20.3
2P	50.8	75.6	126.4
2T	97.6	79.1	176.7
1dP	64.3	2.0	66.3
1R	18.3	7.0	25.3
Weekly Total	526.9	510.7	1037.6

Leadership Programme Launch

Take an excited group of teenagers, add fantastic weather, some 'fishy games', and buckets of spirit, and you'll get the Grade 7 Leadership Launch for 2010. It was fantastic to watch the Gr7s interact so positively with one another, and you could hear a pin drop whilst Mr Storey outlined the much-awaited Leadership Programme to them. We wish the seniors of our school all the best in their endeavour to face personal challenges in their pursuit to serve the broader community.

Aims of the Leadership Programme

- To encourage the development of leadership by allowing individuals to take initiatives which will impact on both their own lives, as well as on the lives of others.
- To live out the values of our school by being of service to members of both our school and to the wider community, in a generous, open and honest manner.
- To allow individuals to develop to the point where that which was previously thought impossible, becomes achievable.
- To develop role-models in our school environment which will encourage younger pupils to learn from and respect senior pupils.

Another Knott!

Wally Knott came to Somerset House to coach soccer in 1988. In the magazine of that year he was quoted as saying, "Personally, it was a very pleasant experience for me and I enjoyed the season immensely as well as the atmosphere." So much so that he stayed for another 22 years! During that time he was always enthusiastic, always willing to help, and when coaching became too onerous for him, he was to be found in his other role of spectator and general handyman. So it was almost a given that his grandson, Aidan Knott, who has now joined our Academic Staff, would walk in his shoes.



Grade 3s are Smarties!

This theme, currently being explored in Grade 3, was introduced as a tangible and tasty one when we used Smarties to see how "smart" they were at plotting graphs in Maths. Not all graphs accurately represented the original number of Smarties brought to school but a positive, mathematical experience was had by all!



Grade 0

Being a Squirrel is such fun - look at our wide smiles!



Reading Buddies 2010

The Grade 5 Reading Buddy session started with much excitement and enthusiasm on Monday afternoon. Reading groups sat huddled quietly on picnic blankets in the shade, at the amphitheatre and even on the Jungle Gym! With session one out of the way, the pupils can hardly wait for the next session. Thank you to Susanne Baur; Judy De Haas; Sharon Fagan; Daphne Hansen; Kate Hooper; Georgina Huysamer; Amoure Kruger; Dot Milton; Susan Mudge; Annette Small-Smith; Lesley Smith; Kowie Smith and Stephanie Giagas for volunteering to motivate and nurture our young readers.



Sports News

GRADE 0 ATHLETES STRUTT THEIR STUFF

Not to be outdone by the Prep. school children's excitement at Sports Day, our Grade 0s from Oakwood enjoyed their first official sprints on an athletics track during their PE lesson this week. The boys were so excited about the swim which was to follow, that they chose to run in their swimming costumes. A picture of innocence, displaying pure strength and determination!



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GUILD

Special thanks to the Guild for their fantastic support in the upgrading of various sporting facilities around the school. The following projects have either been completed, or are already underway:

- The purchase of 6 new Gazebos
- New Cricket Scoreboard
- Wall border and re-fencing of our Astro play area
- New announcer's structure in our swimming pool area
- New Cricket *Flicx* on Webb Field

We are indeed very fortunate to have both the financial and emotional support of our wonderful Guild. We really appreciate all the support you give to our Sports Department. Special thanks, too, to Nouleen Bam and Amanda Derksen for the wonderful job they do in the pavilion.

WESTERN PROVINCE SWIMMING TRIALS

We wish the following swimmers the best of luck as they compete at the Western Province Swimming Trials in Bellville on Saturday 30th January: Gary-Paige Mattheys, Moya Smith, Francois Harley, Antonie Small-Smith, Megan McEwan, Dara Steingaszner, Joselyn Brazer and Ash Rutherford.

100 CLUB

We have had an overwhelming response from both parents and friends of the school for our '100 Club'. A total of 130 tickets have been sold and no more entries will be accepted this year. We thank our parent body for their wonderful support. The January and February draws will take place at our Championship Gala on Friday 19th February.

INDOOR HOCKEY

The Somerset College Indoor Hockey League got underway last Monday evening. Our boys played their first match against Somerset West Primary, winning 1-0. Our girls came up against a physically strong Lochnerhof team and managed to beat them 4-3. Congratulations to both teams for a successful start to the Indoor Season.

JORDAN TAKES THE TITLE

Jordan Haantjes recently took part in a number of Western Province Junior Open Golf Championship Tournaments which are held at various courses around the province. The top U12 golfers in the whole of Western Province compete at these tournaments and Jordan has done extremely well. Please see his results below:



- Simonstown Junior Open: 5th
- Helderberg Village Junior Open: 2nd
- Durbanville Junior Open: 8th
- Somerset West Junior Open: 1st

Golfers accumulate points from tournaments and Jordan has certainly done himself proud, being selected for the Western Province U12 Squad. Congratulations!

WEEK 4: Week ending 6 February 2010

Mon	1 Feb	17h15-17h45 20h45-21h15	Somerset College Indoor Hockey League - Somerset House Girls vs Rhenish - Somerset House Boys vs Lochnerhof
Tues	2	10h00 14h30	Grade 0 Class Tea Internal Cricket Matches - U11B vs U10B - U13C vs U13D
Wed	3	10h00 14h15-16h15 14h00	Grade 00 Class Tea Junior Prep Staff Meeting - Mimio Training Internal Cricket Matches - U11A vs U10A - U13A vs U13B
Thurs	4	08h15 14h30 19h00	Headmaster's Coffee Morning Tennis matches Grade 7 Parents' Evening (Dining Room)
Fri	5	10h00 14h15	Grade 000 Class Tea Senior Prep Staff Meeting Somerset West Athletics Meeting (Field Events)
Sat	6	09h00-17h00	Cub and Scout Gala (SH Swimming Pool) Somerset West Athletics Meeting (Track Events)

Lost

2 deckchairs went missing after the Athletics on Friday. If you know where they are – please contact Tracey du Toit on (021) 851 7164 or info@somersethouse.co.za