



# *The Weekly Blah*

## **Oakwood Christmas Concert!**



What a wonderful way to end the year at Oakwood! The Christmas Concert - all about the journey to find the new born king by the old woman, Baboushka – brought together all the children in Oakwood. From the little mice to the gorgeous, big camel, to the beautifully costumed skaters to Mary and Joseph – all the children rose to the occasion. All the hard work and long treks to the Simpson Hall were worth it. Thank you to our mothers for all their work on scenery and costumes and to everyone else involved. It was a beautiful concert and the children really enjoyed the morning!



# HEADlines...

## Jenny Wates

We recently received the news that Mrs Jenny Wates will be leaving Somerset House at the end of the first term of 2011. She has accepted a position at Rustenburg Girls School where she will be involved in the Library section of the school. This is a bit of a change from her role here and represents an opportunity for her to do something different. We wish her every happiness in this new role. Jenny set up the Educational Support Unit at Somerset House, something for which we as a school are very grateful.

## Term 1 - 2011

Our Termly Calendar will be finalised by the end of Week 1 of next term. There are however a few important dates to be aware of in advance:

- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January Term starts
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January Parent Information Evening for JP (Grades 1 - 3) 18h00  
Parent Information Evening for SP (Grades 4 - 7) 19h30
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January Cocktail Function for New Parents 18h30
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January Inter-House Athletics 16h00
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February Triangular Athletics Meeting with Somerset College and Bridge House at Somerset House 14h30

## No Aftercare next Thursday

Please note that all the Staff will be finishing early on the final day of school. There will therefore be no Aftercare next week on Thursday. We thank you for your understanding.

## Carol Service

My thanks to Mrs Martin and the Grade 7 pupils for hosting the Carol Service for us on Wednesday evening. Thanks to the Music Department for the musical accompaniment too. It was a beautiful evening and the message of Christmas was delivered very well in spite of the wind! Thank you so much.

## Award Ceremonies

Our award ceremonies take place next week. These are formal events and all children in the respective grades will be expected to attend. Our Junior Primary will be having their first evening function as this was requested by parents at the beginning of the year. It is going to be an exciting event. Please note that if siblings are going to attend they must be seated with their parents. We hope that you will enjoy the ceremonies where we acknowledge excellence in all spheres of school life.

**Chris Storey – Headmaster**

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

## Newspaper Collection

What a morning! The total collected on Wednesday was all the 5s - **555.5kgs**, pushing the grand total to just over 3 tonnes. The South Easter was howling that morning, helping sort the papers - but not over constructively! Mudgey was driving the wheelbarrow; it was overloaded and he crashed, letting loose a good amount of paper in the path of the Cape Doctor. He rebalanced; the Weights & Measures department got things right and the loading crew were chastised for their bad loading. The "Paper-putter-inerers" did well; not much spilt and all done by 5 to - another 5! One week to go and Grade 5B are running away with it at the moment - but was that the reason for the sudden tennis staff meeting that morning??!! Do we need the auditors??!! Well done to all who contribute to the light hearted banter that is the car park on a Wednesday!

Class	Weds 6 Oct	Weds 20 Oct	Weds 27 Oct	Weds 3 Nov	Weds 10 Nov	Weds 17 Nov	Weds 24 Nov	Total
7M	13.0	13.6			18.0		<b>20.0</b>	64.6
7W	9.5			6.0	3.0	8.5	<b>63.7</b>	90.7
6C	176.0	38.0	5.4	8.0	3.0	5.0	<b>20.0</b>	255.4
6W			17.9		18.0			35.9
5B	53.1	14.9	317.5	20.2	35.2	115.9	<b>261.2</b>	818.0
5K	17.0	62.7	6.0	43.7	30.7	16.5	<b>14.9</b>	191.5
4M	50.0	13.5	50.0	10.0	25.0	13.0	<b>19.5</b>	181.0
4vN	50.8	18.6	17.3	8.0	25.7	26.7	<b>5.0</b>	152.1
3P	12.6		14.8	43.1	33.0		<b>13.0</b>	116.5
3U	14.2	3.4	15.0	31.2	63.7	9.0	<b>7.0</b>	143.5
2P	19.0	12.4	24.0	11.2		148.8	<b>42.1</b>	257.5
2T	62.3	185.4	66.8	38.8	175.6	24.7	<b>32.1</b>	585.7
1dP	6.9	33.5		22.6		1.5		64.5
1R	1.0		15.6	21.7		40.0	<b>57.0</b>	135.3
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>485.4</b>	<b>396.0</b>	<b>550.3</b>	<b>264.5</b>	<b>430.9</b>	<b>409.6</b>	<b>555.5</b>	3092.2

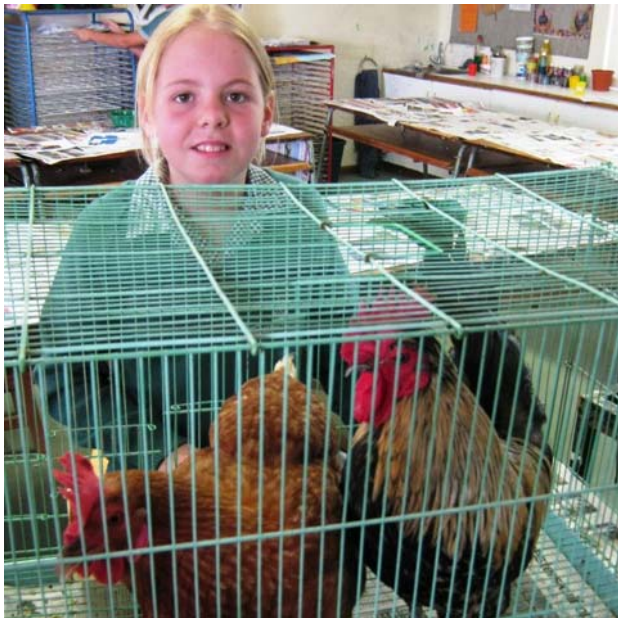


## Mad Christmas Party

There was an air of excitement as the Grade 6 children and their special MADults prepared their tables for the Christmas Party. When the children from Little Angels, Horizons School, Tereo and St. Paul's School arrived at Somerset House, the level of excitement was heightened as they spent their last time together playing games, singing and just having fun. Mr. Rank, Mr. Steinhage, Mrs Mabumbulu, Mr. Norman and Mr. Lange were a special treat for the children and they played soccer, tug-of-war, cricket and the flower game. All of a sudden there was frantic hooting as Father Christmas arrived with all the gifts for the children. This was a very special Father Christmas as he was in no hurry to give other children early Christmas presents and he spent time playing with the children while his elves got on with the hard work.

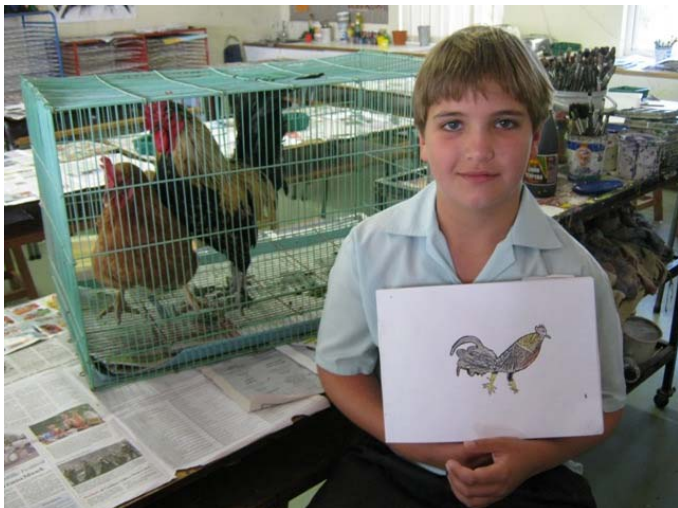
Sad farewells ended the amazing morning and sadly life returned to normality but we can all look back on this special year with fond memories, thanks to some very special mums and dads who were willing to give up their time to make each outing a special one. Thank you to Suzanne Robb, Linda Vlok, Ron and Christelle Reade-Jahn, Florene Burke, Di Nel, Marguerite Wahl, Jan Raats, Monica Durr, Anel Devine, Lily Masson, Sonnia du Plessis, Claire Hodge, Kim Storey, Susan du Plessis, Heather and Richard Lord, Sharon James, Loretta Tunnicliffe, Sandy Venter and Caroline Gelderblom for making MAD a success this year.





## **Art: KFC and Spike visit the Art Room**

Victoria Matthews in Grade 4M brought her chickens in a cage to the Art room on Wednesday. The class listened as she explained about the chickens and their habits and then they settled down to do their chicken drawings, with very good results. It helps to have live models in the class! We were very amused when after some time the chickens settled down enough for Spike the rooster to start crowing. Later K.F.C. laid an egg, but unfortunately stepped on it..... Thank you, Victoria, for bringing us this wonderful eggsperience!



## **Horizon School needs new premises.**

Our Make-A-Difference Outreach Programme (MAD) has for many years supported The Horizon Remedial School. They are desperately seeking new premises to rent – a building with at least 5 separate rooms. A large number of their pupils are abused, abandoned or orphaned children that live in safe houses and cannot attend mainstream schools because of language or learning difficulties. If you are able to assist them in any way please phone them on (021) 852 1732 or 078 123 0609.

## ***Buddy Party***

The Grade 1s and 5s had a wonderful party to end the year! The Grade 5s went all out to ensure a special morning with a variety of exciting activities to entertain the Grade 1s.



## ***The Human Brain***

The Grade 7 children were treated to a presentation by Dr. Small-Smith. He brought in a human brain and the children were able to see from close up what the grey matter looks like, seeing that the different areas of the brain are used for various functions. Dr. Small-Smith then showed them some photographs from his own surgeries where he has removed tumours. This informative lesson will long be remembered by all. Thank you for giving up your time to talk to the Grade 7 classes.



## Photos

If you have taken photos of Somerset House children during the course of this year in any part of their school life we would be most grateful to get copies of those photos for possible use in our school magazine as well as for marketing and archiving purposes. Photos can be given to Tracey du Toit on flash disc, CD or DVD. Photos can also be e-mailed to [info@somersethouse.co.za](mailto:info@somersethouse.co.za) but please send them in small groups and in the highest resolution possible. Many thanks!

## Knockout Spelling Competition 2010

The Inter-House spelling competition was held earlier in the year and we have now completed the different rounds of the Knockout competition. Congratulations to the following top spellers...

- Grades 6 and 7 - Marcus Nel
- Grades 4 and 5 - George Huysamer
- Grade 3 - Ziggy Schulte
- Grade 2 - Carel Mans

## Clothes and Props from the Attic

All clothes and props. from the Attic must please be returned by Monday 29 December.

## School shop

The School Shop will be open during the following times:

- 2, 3 and 6 December from 08h00 – 13h00.

## Sports News

### NO SPORT

Our sports programme for the year has come to an end. There will be no sport for all grades next week.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Simoné Malan and Kayla McCulley who recently passed their Grade 2 Dancing exam with Distinction.

### QUAD BIKING

Well done to Brodie Jacobs who has been involved in a number of Quad Biking races this year. Brodie (12 years old) competes in a division where he is up against 14, 15 and 16 year olds. Despite this, he has done jolly well. He came 5<sup>th</sup> overall nationally and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Western Province. The annual prize giving was held last Saturday and we congratulate Brodie for winning the following trophies:



- WPATV Off-Road Championships - Junior Sportsman - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- WPATV Robertson Off-Road - Junior Sportsman - 1<sup>st</sup> Place

## THE BAIL FESTIVAL: U11A, B AND C VS SOMERSET COLLEGE: SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2010



The Bail Festival is an opportunity for the Under 11 cricketers to be stars for the day without the older boys taking the limelight. "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. It is an occasion where full participation mixes with excellence; it is where we can have 12-a-side and "wides" being a top scorer, along with an unbeaten 51 and 2 wickets being taken for 11 runs off 5 overs; it is where we can have the Under 10s playing alongside their Under 11 peers - it is a real mix of all that is good about our cricket.

The College grounds looked fabulous on the day and the B team had the honour to be the first opposition team to play on the brand new Vineyard Field - history being made. After an introduction to the story of the Bail, the teams took to the fields and play began.

The C team - the Dream Machine - batted first and amassed a mighty 72 runs, with Liam Ahern scoring 6 and William Hall 7 - "wides" and "no balls" were top scorer at 43. Some tight fielding from our boys and wickets for Martin Louw, Keegan Lord and Don Fontini kept College at bay until the fourth last over when they hit the winning runs. 1 - 0 to College.

On the Vineyard Field, captain Callum Smith took to the field and his team played very well. Richard Ribbans took 2 wickets in 3 overs for 1 run and Nick Williams 3 wickets for 7 runs in his 3 overs. There was tight fielding and College were held to a total of 52 after 20 overs. Kieran Wrightson led the attack, scoring 18 run not out, assisted by Richard Ribbans with 9 not out. Our batsmen proved too much for the College and we scored the winning runs in the 12<sup>th</sup> over. 1 - 1 the score.

On the Taberer Oval, George Huysamer led his team into the field. There was some superb bowling from Francois Harley who kept the opening batsmen pinned down. Migali Giagas bowled wonderfully, taking 2 wickets for only 11 runs. Dylan Ribbans floated the ball into the batsmen, causing a good deal of concern from those at the crease. The fielding was tight and we managed to limit College to a score of 128 off their 30 overs. A confident Zac Fagan and George took to the crease and very quickly set a very rapid run rate. Zac was caught, Antonie played on and then Migali worked with George magnificently.

Their running between the wickets was, again, exemplary and soon the target was very much in sight. The other games had, by this stage, finished, so a huge crowd was enjoying the moment. Josh Raats scored quickly, running singles brilliantly which rattled the fielders. Francois Harley came in and hit out; he played the good balls and he walloped the bad ones - and we were there! George was unbeaten on 51 - a real example of a captain's innings and a fitting end to his Under 11 season. 2 - 1 to House.

The Bail Trophy is now here; the original ash from the first bails used in the festival last year still in it and Under 11 cricket and sportsmanship are the true winners. Thanks to College for being very much part of this trophy and for helping to make this day the very special day that it is!

Mr Cod.

## PSI HOCKEY

Last Saturday, a number of our pupils who were selected for the Boland PSI Indoor Hockey teams, participated in the All Stars Tournament in Wynberg against teams from Western Province. Both the girls' and the boys' PSI Foxes teams won the tournament. Congratulations to Che February, who was top goal scorer in the boys' section. At the end of the tournament, PSI Puma teams were selected to participate at the National Tournament from 13 – 17<sup>th</sup> December in Paarl. These teams will play against teams from Kwa-Zulu Natal, Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Namibia. Our Somerset House pupils once again did us proud with the following players being selected for the Western Cape Puma Teams: Katya Schulte, Ingrid Badenhorst, Anne Turner, Megan McEwan, Che February, Michael Burke and Liam Wrightson. Considering that each team consists of 10 players, this is a wonderful achievement. Congratulations to all of you and all the best for your National Tournaments.





## INTER HOUSE RELAY GALA

Our Inter-House Relay Gala took place yesterday afternoon. It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils from Grade 1 through to Grade 7 participating. There was a fantastic atmosphere and spirit around as teams cheered their team mates along. Special thanks to the House Captains and Cheerleaders for their enthusiasm. This was the final inter-house event of the year and we congratulate Lanner who won the gala.



## **WEEK 9: Week ending 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010**

Mon	29 Nov	19h00	JP Awards Evening No sport this week.
Tues	30	08h30 13h00 10h30 14h30	JP depart to Beach for Class Parties JP return from Beach - Home SP depart to beach for Class Parties SP return from Beach - Home
Wed	1 Dec	10h30-12h30 12h30 19h00	Oakwood Christmas Party Lwandle Crèche visit JP – Tea & Lunch Family Lunch SP Awards Evening
Thurs	2	10h00 11h15	Final End of Year Assembly School closes
Fri	3	08h30	Full Staff Meeting and Work Day

### **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.