



Volume 4

SOMERSET HOUSE

5 February 2010

The Weekly Blah

Clubs in Action!



Not just a school ~ a way of life

The new Clubs period on a Wednesday afternoon has generated lots of excitement and creative activity!



HEADlines.....

WCED Visit

The Department of Education is keen to develop closer ties with Independent Schools as we are producing good results in spite of no subsidies. An official from the Department visited Somerset House this week to check on the programmes that we are running and the curriculum delivery at Somerset House. The meeting went well and we look forward to further positive interactions with the Department.

School Shop

Mrs Kirsty Jardim is going to be running the School Uniform Shop from now on. Our Administration Department is overhauling the ordering process and stock system of the shop and so this was an ideal opportunity to institute this change. We are grateful for all the time and effort that Mrs Noleen Jansen has put into the shop over the years.

Messages to children

We are increasingly being given messages to relay to children during school time. This may not seem like a difficult issue, but it does involve Mrs Jardim, Mrs du Toit or Mrs Jansen tracking your child down to convey the information. When this happens with 4 or 5 children it becomes impossible for them to do any other work. Please try to make arrangements at home. Your co-operation in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

Coffee with the Headmaster

Thank you to the parents who attended this event yesterday. I really do think that the opportunity to discuss issues directly helps establish greater clarity.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

Birthday Treat

We realize that there is always great excitement around birthdays and they are very special days in the lives of our children. For this reason, we are introducing a new ***Birthday Treat***. As from Monday 8th February, children may wear ***civvies*** to school on their birthdays. Children, whose birthdays fall on a Saturday, may wear civvies on the Friday and those who celebrate on a Sunday, may wear them on a Monday. We haven't forgotten about those who have already celebrated their birthdays this year. They will be allowed to wear civvies to school on Monday 8th February.

Supervised Prep

We have made some changes to the Supervised Prep arrangements. Instead of being in the Dining Room, Supervised Prep will take place in the ICT room, in the Senior Prep Quad. The ICT room will be open from 14h30 to 16h00 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and from 14h00 to 16h00 on Wednesday. Children in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 who have "a gap" between sports must attend Supervised Prep rather than be unsupervised around the grounds. This is a great opportunity to be able to complete any homework or project work using the ICT facilities.

Message from Gary-Paige Mattheys, Grade 4

Thank you to all the people that phoned to say sorry for my accident, especially Claire Hodge for helping me to stop the bleeding and for phoning my father. Thank you to the teachers for the sweets and 'get well' messages, to all my friends who never stopped phoning me and to those who visited me.

Love Gary-Paige Mattheys.

Classes	Weds 20 Jan	Weds 27 Jan	Weds 3 Feb	Class Totals
7M	4.7	53.3	47.0	105.0
7W	22.0	7.0	2.0	31.0
6C	24.7	62.5	80.2	167.4
6M	10.0	28.3	25.0	63.3
5B	83.8	73.2	39.1	196.1
5K	21.0	85.0	50.9	156.9
4M	60.3	8.5	25.8	94.6
4vN	11.8	15.4	11.1	38.3
3P	51.2		6.2	57.4
3U	6.5	13.8	8.8	29.1
2P	50.8	75.6	168.3	294.7
2T	97.6	79.1	56.0	232.7
1dP	64.3	2.0	9.9	76.2
1R	18.3	7.0	1.0	26.3
Weekly Total	526.9	510.7	531.3	1568.9

Recycling

Another record-breaking Wednesday morning in the Main Car Park!

Our merry band of helpers was wonderful at driving the wheelbarrow, collecting papers, filling the orange bins and recording the weights – thanks team! We've done 3 weeks and we have collected a tonne and a half; Mrs Penny's Grade 2s are in the lead! I am sure that there are some classes that are going to bring in tonnes next week. Thanks to all concerned!

News from the Guild Committee

Fun Day:

We would like to thank the class parents for the enthusiastic way they have embraced the Fun Day this year. We have limited time to get ready this year and the Class Representatives have definitely hit the ground running. We would like to encourage you all to support the hard work of your Class Moms and Dads. Information regarding the Fun Day activities will be sent out from next week. Keep an eye out around the school - you should see the class Fun Day posters shortly.

Dickens Avenue Parking

Parking in the main car park (Dickens Avenue) has been a little chaotic so far this year. We would like to remind you that the parallel parking on the island is strictly a DROP and GO area. Please don't park there and then walk your children to class as this obstructs the free flow of this area. Please remember that there are small children crossing over the speed bumps - slow down and keep an eye out for them. If possible, try not to double-park as this again stops the flow of the parking area. Rather use the overflow area next to the Simpson Hall.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We are desperate for stock for the second hand uniform shop. We encourage all parents to donate their second hand uniforms to the school so they can be resold. From now on all unlabelled and unclaimed lost property will be filtered into the second hand shop at the end of each term. Uniform donations can be dropped off with Mrs. Jardim at the Administration building.

We hope your new year at school is going smoothly and that the children have all settled in nicely. Should any of you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at guild@somersethouse.co.za.

John Mattheys
Guild Committee Chairman

School Shop News

The Boys' size 32 shirts are now in stock at the school shop.

News from the Ladybird Class

The children in the Ladybird class were so excited to receive a wonderful donation of a super wooden castle, from Mr and Mrs Smith, who have a child in Grade 5. They could hardly wait to get the box open and set out the walls and turrets, as well as organise the knights and soldiers. This is going to give many hours of pleasure, for both girls and boys in the Pre-school. We are very grateful to the family for their very kind donation.



(Left) Blake Shearer, Harry Paine and Joshua Human getting very involved with setting out the soldiers and horses.



Science

The Grade 5 children mixed solids and liquids together to create some interesting pizzas. They looked at the chemical and physical changes of the various ingredients. The one very important lesson they learnt was that different solids melt at different temperatures... and that maybe chocolate, salami and chutney chips are not a great combination on a pizza!



Grade 00 Dormice

The children in the Dormouse Class have settled in nicely to the Grade 00 routine!



Keanu, Joseph, Ethan, Lyle



Natalie, Emilie, Sita, Emilie, Anna and Chiara



Sebastian, Nicolas, Tom, Ty and James



Damian, Damiel, Allen and Keagan

From Bystander - Cricket

You know, cricket is, still, despite the superficial lure of other more hectic sports, the ultimate spectator experience. Still the only one that allows space and time to drink in the surroundings and let one's mind roam free. And so it was this week, sitting under the shade of the trees by the Simpson Hall looking down on gentle activity unfolding below.

And that's when I noticed it – the rope that is. The most beautiful, white, shiny rope, curled elegantly, completely around the field and basking, slothfully, in the sunshine. And, of course that's when I started to muse – as one would.

Now, armed with a towering geometric ability (matched only by modesty) and the ability to project forward from the great Babylonian Solar Eclipse of May 18, 603 BC (you know the one – surely!), I was able to estimate the length of the rope at approximately 249 metres. Which, of course, got me thinking, now what if

Say about a half a metre for each child, including Oakwood, each Teacher and not forgetting Moles and Pumba Yes it should just be possible! Surely if we can mount a 106 X 50 metre relay race, we could mount a 2 X 250 (ish) tug-of-war? But here's the thing. All those tough little, and some not-so-little, people (not to mention their more weighty mentors) would develop a pull of well over 15 tonnes. Which is precisely the problem – whilst the rope may be languid and elegant, the question has to be asked, has it the fibre? One can but wonder.

So anyway, back to the cricket

Bystander (4 February 2010).

Sports News

WESTERN PROVINCE SWIMMING TRIALS

Congratulations to all our swimmers who took part in the Western Province Swimming Trials last Saturday in Bellville. It was a long day and our swimmers competed against the very best swimmers in the Western Province. Special congratulations to Ash and Megan who won a number of their events. We are still awaiting the official results to see who will be invited to participate at the Western Cape Trials next Saturday. The following swimmers earned top places at the trials:

Girls U13	Ash Rutherford	1 st Place - 200m Individual Medley 1 st Place - 100m Breaststroke 1 st Place - 200m Backstroke 1 st Place - 100m Backstroke 1 st Place - 50m Backstroke 1 st Place - 400m Freestyle
Girls U12	Megan McEwan	1 st Place - 50m Breaststroke 1 st Place - 100m Breaststroke
Boys U11	Antonie Small-Smith	2 nd Place - 100m Breaststroke 3 rd Place - 50m Breaststroke
Girls U12	Joselyn Brazer Dara Steingaszner	3 rd Place - 50m Backstroke 3 rd Place - 100m Breaststroke

This was a wonderful opportunity for our swimmers, some of whom have not swum in a 50m pool before. Most of our swimmers took seconds off their best times and we are proud of their achievements.

HELDERBERG ZONAL ATHLETICS TRIALS

A number of our athletes from U10 – U13 who earned 1st places at our Inter-House Athletics Meeting were invited to participate at the Helderberg Sub-Zonal Athletics Meeting today and tomorrow at Somerset West Primary School. Our athletes will be attempting to earn a ‘top 3’ position and an invitation to compete at the Zonal Athletics Meeting which takes place at Strand High School next Saturday. We wish the following athletes the best of luck: Rochelle Roos, Greg Bolus, Megan McEwan, Luke Stephens, Zac Fagan, Kally Venter, Katya Schulte, Liam Wrightson, Jordan Robb, James Reade-Jahn, Emily Dyssell, Ashley Smithers and Chris-Jan Kruger.



WELL DONE, FRANCES!

Frances Storey (Grade 6) participated in the first sprint canoeing race of the season and came fourth overall in her age group. The 200m, 500m, 1000m and 2000m all count for points. She will be working towards improving her ranking over the coming weeks so that Somerset House can possibly be in the medals at the Western Province Championships.

INTER-SCHOOLS TRIANGULAR ATHLETICS MEETING: FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY

The Somerset House athletics team has been announced. All athletes should have received a letter this week with all the details. Information may also be seen on our website. The team will be participating at our 3rd Inter-Schools Triangular meeting with Somerset College and Bridge House. The pressure is on this year as we attempt to win the shield for the 3rd consecutive year. Our teams depart from Drama Street car park at 13h30 and make their way by bus to Somerset College. The official 'walk-on' parade takes place at 14h30 with the first events starting at 15h00. Prize giving should take place at approximately 18h45. Our athletes have been practicing during their PE lessons this week and will continue to do so next week. Two morning practices have also been scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday from 07h00. All athletes who are able to attend these sessions, must please do so. It gives us great pleasure to announce our cheerleaders for 2010:

- Maria Small-Smith and Bella Gebers
- Bradley Roberts and Yanga Ndayi

They will have the task of motivating and encouraging our athletes during the Inter-schools events. We wish our team captains ~ Emily Dyssell and Nic de Villiers, our cheerleaders and the entire team the best of luck as they prepare for this exciting event.

INDOOR HOCKEY

Last Monday evening our Girls' indoor hockey team played a match against Rhenish Primary. The team kept their momentum going and played a far more constructive match this week, creating a number of scoring opportunities. Bella Gebers also had a super game in goals, making some great saves. The team played well and we congratulate them for their 4 – 0 victory. Next week's match is against Somerset West Primary.

On Monday the Boys' Indoor hockey team played a match against Lochnerhof. The boys played beautifully and were 2-0 up in the first few minutes. Lochnerhof replied and put the pressure back onto us with some hard goals. We went into the break 3-2 up with all to play for. The second half was a nail biter with Lochnerhof scoring again, followed by Somerset House. Lochnerhof managed to squeeze a goal in just before the hooter, resulting in a 4-4 draw. Well done to Nic de Villiers (3) and Liam Wrightson (1) for scoring some top goals and the rest of the team for showing heart and character.

WEEK 5: Week ending 13 February 2010

Mon	8 Feb	17h45-18h15 18h15-18h45	Somerset College Indoor Hockey League Somerset House Boys vs Beaumont Somerset House Girls vs SWPS
Tues	9	07h00 14h30	Athletics Practice – SH Inter-Schools Team Cricket vs Rhenish B – U10A (H) and U13B (A) vs De Hoop D – U11B (H) and U13C (A) vs Gordon's Bay B – U11C (A) and U13D (Radloff Park)
Wed	10	07h30-08h00 13h20 14h20 14h15 14h15 15h00-17h15	MADULTS Meeting Mini Cricket vs Lochnerhof (A) - U7 and U8 x 2 Teams each - U9 x 2 Teams Cricket vs Eikestad A - U11A (A) and U13A (H) Junior Prep Staff Meeting Grade 0 – Grade 3 Mini-Athletics Meeting (Beaumont)
Thurs	11	07h00 14h30 15h00	Athletics Practice – Somerset House Inter-Schools Team Tennis Trials Zonal Championship Gala (SWPS)
Fri	12	12h30 13h30 15h00	Family Day Lunch SH Athletics team departs by bus to Somerset College Triangular Athletics at Somerset College
Sat	13	08h00 08h00	Western Cape Swimming Trials Helderberg Zonal Athletics Meeting (Qualification 5 and 6 Feb)