



# *The Weekly Blah*

## **Grade 3s experience numbers!**



The Grade 3s were practising their tables and counting in groups of 4 with beans to get the practical and concrete experience of number.





## ***The Princess Club***

Our Grade 7 girls were treated to an informative talk on skin care by Robin Green from 'The Body Shop' in Stellenbosch. To add to the fun, she showed the girls how to apply makeup, and then they had the opportunity to practise their new-found skills on each other. It was wonderful to hear their laughter and pure enjoyment as the girls played with creams and potions, taking turns to be 'The Makeup Artist'.



# Headlines....

## Examinations

Our Grade 6 and 7 pupils started writing their examinations yesterday in the Simpson Hall. They have all been working hard to prepare for these examinations and there was a mixture of nerves and excitement as the process got underway. I do wish to emphasize that this is a process and that the outcome is not always the most important part. If a child makes mistakes or manages a question poorly, the important thing is to learn from the experience rather than fret over the lost marks. We can help our children by placing the emphasis on 'doing your best' rather than 'achieving top marks'. A legitimate question after the examination would therefore be, "Did you do your best and reach your potential?" If not, the second question should be, "Do you know where you went wrong and do you have a plan to learn from this experience?" This is supportive and does not place pressure on the child.

My thanks to Mr Cod for the well planned organisation behind the examination process. The venue is working very well and everything has worked according to plan.

## Congratulations!

Mrs Ayola Mabumbulu, our Xhosa teacher, and Mrs Monica Kentani, our Oakwood assistant, have both achieved their B.Ed. degrees from UNISA. They proudly wore their robes to school on Monday! This represents an important milestone in their careers and is the result of much hard work under circumstances that have at times been anything but easy. Very well done!



Chris Storey – Headmaster

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

## Parent Information Session with Maureen Fell

Play Therapist, Maureen Fell will be hosting a Parent Information Session in the Staff Dining Room on 8 June at 08h15. All Grade 000 –1 parents welcome. Please come and join us!

## Photo Competition!

We are always looking for good, high resolution photographs of our school and children. As you can see from the School Magazine that was sent home last week – this record of a year at Somerset House is compiled from a vast number of photographs that convey the feel and atmosphere of the school. For this reason we have launched a Photo Competition open to all pupils at Somerset House. The theme for the competition is: **Working Somerset House**. We are looking for photographs of Somerset House in action - pupils doing what they do best – learning, playing, discovering and having fun! The details are as follows:

- Pupils may submit a maximum of 3 photographs for consideration.
- Photographs must be submitted to Ms Louw (ICT) by the last day of this term.
- Photographs must be taken in a high resolution.
- The photograph must have the Pupil's name (followed by a number if more than one is submitted.)

## Platters

If you have brought eats to school for whatever reason – please come and collect your platter from the kitchen! We have no place to store all these - no matter how beautiful!

## ***Artist of the Week***

The Willow pattern, with their story of star-crossed lovers, has served as inspiration to our Grade 5 Art class. Restricted to using only blue, white, purple and black paint it was a challenge to create as many colours and shades from these to paint an interesting picture. **Alisa Vaassen** has succeeded admirably and has created a vibrant and original artwork in a circular format. Well done, Alisa!



## ***News from the Owl Class***

The boys in the Owl Class kept busy with tower-building during the cold, rainy days!



## Newspaper Collections

The Early Act Team of Secretaries, Nicola Carter and Ellie Viljoen, were on task early this morning – and what a tight ship they run! Bags were weighed, results noted and an efficiency that has not been seen before was all around. The Grade 5 workers were supplemented by an ever increasing band of Grade 2 helpers and the transport and filing of the paper were also extremely efficient. A drama did occur and to quote from the Grade 2 voice that echoed loudly across the car park: “Look...The wheelbarrow has capsized!” Well, the capsizing was not quite true, but a rooky unlicensed driver did cut a corner and lost his load! Luckily the team rallied round, got him and the barrow the right way round and re-loaded – and all was fine!! Smiles, fun and lots of chatter make Wednesday mornings in the car park – it’s great!

	Weds 13 Apr	Weds 20 Apr	Weds 4 May	Weds 11 May	Weds 25 May	Weds 1 June	Total
7M	13.5		18.6	10		20.0	62.1
7W			14.4	14.6	2.5	52.0	83.5
6C	58.5	10.0	20.0	39	42.7	11.0	181.2
6W	32.0	48.5	24.0	6.5	22.4	6.8	140.2
5B	23.1	21.0	54.1	11	20.0	20.2	149.4
5K	108.1	36.7	60.2	61.5	12.5	37.0	316.0
4M	25.7	13.0	11.5	9.4	7.9	43.0	110.5
4W	2.0	10.5	7.0	0	5.2		24.7
3P	3.4	28.1	49.3	7.9	16.3	12.4	117.4
3U	34.7	82.5	69.8	6.1	72.3	45.0	310.4
2P	43.0	93.3	68.1	20.3	74.5	48.0	347.2
2T	16.2	16.7	10.5	18.3	33.2	16.2	111.1
1dP		4.0	2.0	2.6	13.8	7.0	29.4
1R	37.8	15.6	39.0	1	2.2	1.2	96.8
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>398.0</b>	<b>379.9</b>	<b>448.5</b>	<b>208.2</b>	<b>325.5</b>	<b>319.8</b>	<b>2079.9</b>

## Are you MAD?

The MAD programme, which is driven by the Grade 6 classes every year has taken a different focus from the beginning of 2011. Having looked at what we believed MAD stands for – Making A Difference, we needed to ask the question: Are we making a difference? As a result of our evaluation of this programme, MAD now focuses on one school at a time (St Paul’s and Sir Lowry’s Pass Schools only).



The children work on a one-to-one basis with a child from one of these schools. No longer is the focus on entertaining the children for 2 hours but rather on co-operative learning. The children are excited about MAD and are building relationships with their friends in a constructive manner.

Alongside this programme we have our special mums who have kindly offered up one day from their week to work together with the Grade 1 and 2 teacher (it is a combined class) at St. Paul’s School in Faure. As we are all aware, the two first years at ‘big’ school are crucial and so having to learn in a combined class means that the opportunities are limited.

The mums who go to the school either take the Grade 1 or 2 children out of the class so the teacher can focus purely on the one grade. Having spoken to Sandy Ribbans, who heads up the mums' groups, we both feel that we could do more if we opened this up to other mums in the school. So if this appeals to you, please send me an email and we can set up a meeting time for you to find out more. It will require a two hour time slot, once every second week to help. In so doing, we are all reaching out to the greater community to make the Somerset West a richer and better place for all. I look forward to hearing from you!

Tracy Wiles - [trawil@somersethouse.co.za](mailto:trawil@somersethouse.co.za)

## Sports News

### HOCKEY VS SW PRIMARY AND GRABOUW

We had another fun afternoon playing hockey matches against Somerset West Primary and Grabouw. Our junior teams did particularly well winning 9 of the 10 matches played from U7 – U9 and only drawing 1 game, well done!

- Matches Played: 25
- Matches Won: 19
- Matches Drawn: 3
- Matches Lost: 3
- Goals Scored: 81
- Goals Conceded: 29



Team	Score	Comment
Girls U7 Squirrels	6 - 0	An excellent game! The girls are learning to switch well from attack to defense and their positional play has also improved. A brilliant win - well done!
Girls U7 Acorns	3 - 0	The team took a while to score and find space to move, but as soon as they pulled the ball out of the middle bunch, they played lovely hockey. A well-deserved win. Congratulations to all
Boys U7 Squirrels	3 - 1	A very exciting game with some super hockey played. The team managed to dominate the play and score some super goals.
Girls U8 Squirrels	6 - 1	Wow, what a game! Good team work and great defense. The girls are really starting to understand the game. Keep up the great work! ☺
Girls U8 Acorns	8 - 1	The girls played hard from the start of the match. There was a bit of bunching in the first half, but this improved as the game progressed. Some super goals were scored. Well done girls - we are proud of you!
Boys U8 Squirrels	5 - 2	A convincing win with some great hockey skills and positional play displayed.
Boys U8 Acorns	5 - 0	The boys played extremely well and held their positions which led to some fantastic goals being scored. Well done to all!
Girls U9 Squirrels	6 - 0	Girls played excellent thinking hockey with good passing. Lovely working together as a team. Proud of you!
Girls U9 Acorns	2 - 0	Teams were evenly matched but our girls were determined to get the ball in the box with great success! Well done!
Boys U9 Squirrels	3 - 3	A real ding-dong battle. Well done to the entire team.

## NETBALL VS SOMERSET WEST METHODIST

Special congratulations to our U7 netball team who played their very first match against SW Methodist Primary on Wednesday afternoon. The team played very well and managed to pass to their teammates, which is a huge bonus at this level. A great team effort resulted in Karolina Hjalmer and Damica Te Roller, the two shooters, successfully scoring on a number of occasions. Somerset House won this very friendly encounter 5 – 0.



Team	Score	Comment
Girls U7 Squirrels	5 – 0	The girls had a successful first match and played very well. They all had great fun.
Girls U8 Squirrels	1 - 4	The team tried hard and enjoyed the match, but unfortunately their passing, catching and shooting weren't as good as usual.
Girls U9 Squirrels	4 – 2	After an interesting start to the match, where we found ourselves playing against the Under 10's, our girls were sufficiently warmed up and went on to win their game. Well done on excellent position play, playing down the line.
Girls U10 A	4 - 4	The teams were fairly evenly matched, but they had some tall defenders. I think our girls were unlucky not to have won because they played hard.
Girls U10 B	1 - 8	I think the cold weather put this team into slow motion! Unfortunately they were outplayed although they improved in the second half.
Girls U11 A	4-12	Unfortunately the team was intimidated by the cold weather and their feisty opponents who made use of every opportunity to score. Better luck next time, girls!
Girls U11 B	5-3	This was a good display of team work which resulted in success for this team. Passes were far more accurate. Well done, girls. Keep up the great effort!

## HELDERBERG ZONAL HOCKEY TEAM



Congratulations to Katya Schulte, Marcus Nel, Michael Burke, Liam Wrightson and Cassius Vlok who were all selected to represent the Helderberg Zonal Hockey Teams. This is a fantastic achievement, especially to have 4 boys selected in a squad of 14 players from schools all over the Helderberg area. The teams will now compete in an Inter-Zonal Tournament against zones from the Cape Town area and in an Inter-Regional Tournament in George against zonal teams from Western Province, Eastern Province, Border and South Western Districts.

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS MOUNTAIN BIKE LEAGUE

The first cycle ride starts next week Friday 10 June with a number of rides thereafter. (29 July, 19 August, 2 September, 23 September and 14 October).

- Time: Registration 14h30, Race starts at 15h00
- Venue: Helderberg Farm on the R44
- Categories: U7, U9, U11 and U14
- Cost: R20 per rider

Should you require any further information please contact Jennifer Cilliers on 082 600 7384 or Lyn Meissner on 082 492 1001.

## **WEEK 9: Programme for the week ending 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Mon	6 June	14h35	Exams for Grades 6 and 7 JP Staff Meeting Parent/Music Teacher Meetings – all week	No sport for Grade 6 and 7
Tues	7		Exams for Grades 6 and 7	Normal sport for Grade 6 and 7
Wed	8	08h15	Maureen Fell Workshop (Cloetenburg) Oakwood Eye Tests Oakwood Teachers Workshop in Cape Town Netball v Beaumont (A) – U7 to U13 A and B Teams Rugby v Raithby (A) – 1 x U8, 1 x U9 and 1 x U11	
Thurs	9	07h45 15h00 16h15 19h00	Exco Meeting Hockey v Beaumont(H) – Girls 1 <sup>st</sup> Team (3 x 20min Practice Match) Hockey v Beaumont(H) – Boys 1 <sup>st</sup> Team (3 x 20min Practice Match) Wine Thieves (Pavilion)	
Fri	10	10h00-12h30 13h30 14h15	SABISA Quarterly Meeting Chess v Macassar(A) - tbc SP Review	
Sat	11			