



# The Weekly Blah

## All about me!



In the Grade 4 Afrikaans class the children have been busy writing about themselves in Afrikaans. Here are Ester Pedro, Hisha Prag, Catrin Jennings and Rebecca Japhet proudly displaying their well-presented written work.



## **Artists of the Week**

Christopher Klopper, Lara Hartmann and Sarah Jones in Grade 2, are the Artists of the Week. They have created colourful and imaginative bird and butterfly masks out of papier-mâché. Well done to our budding artists!



## **40 Days of Prayer**

Week one of eight weeks: Pray for the pupils of Somerset House.

- For sportsmanship
- For positive peer pressure
- For the bullies and those being bullied
- For the children living with difficult situations at home
- For each child to reach their full physical, emotional and spiritual potential.

Pray with us!

*See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in Heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in Heaven. Matt 18:10.*



## **Please help Matheu and Helderberg Hospice!**

As part of my leadership programme I am asking for donations of all your unwanted CDs. I will in turn pass them on to the Helderberg Hospice who will sell them in their shops in order to raise much needed funds for Hospice. Collection will run daily from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> August outside the dining room from 07h30 until 07h50. Thank you for your support and please remember that Helderberg Hospice is always there when you need them so let's be there now when they need us!

~ Matheu Quinn (Grade 7)

# Headlines....

## Guild AGM

It was good to see a large turnout of parents for our Guild AGM which took place on Wednesday evening this week. The presentation by **dhk Urban Concepts** informed all present of the consideration that is being applied to the new building project. Priority is being given to restoring the historical buildings to their former glory while new buildings or upgrades will be built in such a way as to honour the heritage of our site whilst adding a new dimension to our school. The building team will now be focussing on the actual building specifications and these will be communicated in due course.

Congratulations to the new Guild Committee members, Prof Lisa Thompson, Mr Smuts Louw, and Mr Richard Lord who were elected onto the Guild. We look forward to seeing the Guild playing an active role in the life of Somerset House during the next four terms.

My thanks to the outgoing members of the Guild Committee for their time and commitment. We greatly appreciate the many hours spent assisting the school.

## Hockey and Rugby Tours

Please take a moment to read about the exploits of our sporting children who represented our school last week in the Eastern Cape and Garden Route. I am very proud of our Sports Department and the effort that was made to ensure that as many children as possible could experience the excitement of a sports tour. Both an A and B team for hockey and rugby were selected and the children had a marvellous experience.

## Alternative programme

The pupils who remained behind were nicknamed **The Locals** and were treated to an amazing array of learning experiences. The insert in the Blah provides details. My thanks to Mr Cod and his team of teachers for their enthusiastic delivery of this superb programme!

Chris Storey – Headmaster

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## Newspaper Collections

Two weeks completed – and already a tonne of paper in the bins!! Competition between the classes is also hotting up, but Grade 3U have a clear lead – long way to go yet!!! The girls of this week's wheelbarrow team were all unlicensed – and there were some very close misses with kerbstones, each other and the odd car!! However, the almost 600kgs were transported with speed, some "capsizing" and much mirth and merriment. Nicola and Ellie continued to organise the "Weights & Measures" section extremely efficiently and the Grade 5 and Grade 2 helpers were stars. Another great morning!!!

	Wed 20 July	Weds 27 July	Total
7M	7.5	33.5	41.0
7W	3.5		3.5
6C	47.2	37.4	84.6
6W	4.4	19.4	23.8
5B	22.5	144.2	166.7
5K	24.1	63.8	87.9
4M	6.8	15.8	22.6
4W		4.1	4.1
3P	5.4	10.7	16.1
3U	206.9	27.4	234.3
2P	25.3	157.7	183.0
2T	2.6	47.4	50.0
1dP	12.0	4.4	16.4
1R	169.5	28.0	197.5
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>537.5</b>	<b>593.8</b>	<b>1131.3</b>

## Sports News

### GIRLS' 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM HOCKEY TOUR

Our Girls' 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hockey Teams have just returned from their tour to the Eastern Cape. A total of 28 girls and 3 staff members made up the touring party. We played matches against Milkwood Primary (Mossel Bay), Woodridge College, Collegiate and Clarendon Park (Port Elizabeth), Oakhill and Glenwood House (Knysna).



Although the weather was rather chilly and very wet at times, we were fortunate enough to play all our matches. The standard of hockey in Port Elizabeth is very high and both Woodridge and Collegiate have their own astro turfs. Astro hockey is a whole different game and it was wonderful for our girls to have the opportunity to play on this surface. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Team played with loads of passion and never gave up in any of their games, despite absorbing a lot of pressure from their opposition. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Team had mixed results and although they only won their match against Milkwood and the tournament at Oakhill, they were only narrowly beaten 4 – 3 by Woodridge, 3 – 2 by Collegiate and 1 – 0 by Clarendon Park. All of these games were competitive with Somerset House fighting until the bitter end. We were delighted to play our final matches of the tour on Oakhill's little astro turf. The whole concept worked brilliantly and although not a huge surface, the 7 a-side matches were fun, skillful and competitive. Somerset House managed to win the Barbie Trophy along with the Glenwood House 1<sup>st</sup> Team. There was a super atmosphere and playing on astro allowed us to continue with the matches despite the heavy rain that had fallen. Our girls also swam in the indoor pool at the ATKV centre in Hartenbos, visited the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Port Elizabeth and shopped till they dropped at the Billabong Factory Shop in Jeffrey's Bay. Sadly, as a result of the weather, they were not able to enjoy the lagoon boat trip in Knysna.

Thanks to the parents for your wonderful support and for allowing your daughter/s to enjoy the whole tour experience. Every Grade 7 pupil who plays hockey was invited on tour and this makes Somerset House the special place that it is. Special thanks too, to the parents who contributed extra funds for the purchasing of hockey stick bags and tour sweatshirts. Our kiddies absolutely loved their extra treats and we received many compliments on their neat appearance and good manners. The day before we were due to leave we received the generous donation of a backpack for each member of the touring team. This was a lovely surprise and very much appreciated. We were also most grateful to the parents who came along on tour. Thank you for your wonderful support. We really appreciated it.

Hopefully the memories our children have of this tour will be with them for some time. Looking back, one realizes how important it is to give our pupils this opportunity and wonderful experience and we thank Mr Storey for allowing us the time off to go on tour!





## OSTRICH RUGBY TOUR 2011

Last week our U13 rugby boys embarked on the Ostrich Rugby tour to Mossel Bay, George and Oudtshoorn. We visited old friends Milkwood Primary and Glenwood House and new friends at Erica Primary School in a township neighbouring Mossel Bay. Our matches against Van Reede Primary in Oudtshoorn, were cancelled due to the heavy rainfall. Although our



teams did not win all their matches, we had a very productive tour, as our boys managed to grasp the very important concepts of playing and touring together as a group. All the team members were totally supportive of each other, and there were no personality clashes at all. Our boys received many compliments on their behaviour and dress. Our tour unofficially started on Wednesday with a Clinic at our school as well as at Pieter Langeveldt in Stellenbosch. At Pieter Langeveldt, our boys hosted a training session for all their U7 to U9 boys, focussing on the correct execution of the laws and ball retention, distribution and defence. Our boys were then joined by Brendan Venter in a combined clinic with their U13 boys. Our boys developed an understanding of the



challenges these boys endure both on and off the field.

We were told by one of their boys that this has been one of the best practice sessions they have ever had. The opposition teachers and coaches were also very grateful for the time spent with Brendan Venter and the input he gave during the sessions. We are very fortunate to have someone of his calibre helping our boys to develop a love for the game. We are also very grateful to Rob Smailes of Indigo Spur at Waterstone



Village who donated a Spur burger to each of our opposition players at Pieter Langeveldt.



After our first mishap of the Tour on Thursday, when our boys played at Milkwood, (the boys got off the bus but their commitment was still snuggled up in their comfortable seats on the bus) our boys managed to get their act together and played a quality match against Erica Primary School. Our boys where switched on and played with a hunger which I have not yet seen in this group of boys. They are now developing into a squad with a sense of togetherness, willing to put their bodies on the line for each other. The final score was 0-17 but most of their players were physically bigger, stronger and faster than our boys. Well done boys! Our next matches were played at Glenwood House in George, where our Warthogs played their second match of the tour against the U13A side of Plettenberg Bay Primary School. The boys built on the

foundation created in the previous two days and they managed to play a very constructive match, given that the opposition was an A side. Unfortunately the Warthogs lost by 0-17 as well. Our First Team came out with a bang and everything happened just as planned. We created the pressure and capitalised on the errors; our passes went to hand; tackles were made first time and all our players managed to do their bit for the team. We managed to starve the opposition from any possession for probably 85% of the match and when we did allow the ball to be turned over, thumped the players with big, hard tackles and great rucking. The tackle of the day must have been the one made by Marcus Nel on the opposition lock (who was nearly as tall as Mr Harley).

Liam Wrightson scored a hat-trick of tries and this came as a result of our forwards winning the ball on the front foot and allowing our backline and big players the opportunity to run at the advantage line, breaking through with well executed passes and kicks. Our boys managed to win by 22-0. Great stuff boys! This is the way we know you are able to play. The boys also enjoyed some off the field fun and had many outings to interesting sights and places. In Mossel Bay we visited the Dias museum complex which hosts a shell museum, a 500 year old post tree and also a maritime museum, where they all boarded the life-size replica of the Dias Caravel.

The boys also had the opportunity to test modern technology, by sending an SMS or BBM to someone in their family, and at the same time sending a postcard making use of snail mail at the historical post tree post box. Needless to say that the SMS got there first, but many boys received a call from their parents to tell them that the post cards arrived on Monday. After the museum outing our boys tested their driving skills at the local Go-Kart track and we are very relieved that the driving of our bus was left up to our very capable and ever-helpful driver, Gert. On Sunday we had a day of teambuilding at Wilgewandel Outdoor Education Centre and we enjoyed many teambuilding activities, such as an Amazing Race. The boys also did a short hike in which they learned a lot about the natural vegetation associated with the Cango region. Unfortunately the long-awaited camel-rides were not possible due to the dangerous conditions underfoot. What a jam-packed fun-filled place to visit. After Wilgewandel we visited the Cango Caves and the boys were all amazed at the wonderful stalactites and stalagmites, columns and drop formations on display. On Monday we had first-hand experience of the cold winter chill, -1 °C during the early morning hours, but the warm down duvets of the Backpackers Paradise in Oudtshoorn ensured that all our boys were all nice and warm.



Our boys visited the world renowned Cango Wildlife Ranch and were taken on a guided tour of the Cheetah and Crocodile sanctuary. Our final morning took us to the Safari Ostrich Show farm, where we were disappointed not to be able to ride the ostriches, but at least had the opportunity of sitting upon Africa's biggest bird.



Date	Opponents	Match Result
Thurs 21 July	Warthogs vs Milkwood 2 <sup>nd</sup> XV 1 <sup>st</sup> XV vs Milkwood 1 <sup>st</sup> XV	Lost 0-17 Lost 0-42
Fri 22 July	1 <sup>st</sup> XV vs Erica Primary School	Lost 0-17
Sat 23 July	Warthogs vs Plettenberg Bay Primary 1 <sup>st</sup> XV 1 <sup>st</sup> XV vs Milkwood 1 <sup>st</sup> XV	Lost 0-17 Won 22-0
Mon 25 July	Warthogs vs van Reede 2 <sup>nd</sup> XV 1 <sup>st</sup> XV vs van Reede 1 <sup>st</sup> XV	Matches abandoned due rain.

### KUILSRIVER ZONAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

We wish Katya Schulte, Marcus Nel, Cassius Vlok, Michael Burke and Liam Wrightson the very best of luck as they represent the Helderberg Zonal Hockey Team today at the Inter-zonal Hockey Tournament which takes place at Hartleyvale in Cape Town. Here they will be competing against other zonal teams within the greater Cape Town area as well as the WP Invitational Team, of which Moya Smith is a part. Good luck to all of you! ☺

### CHESS DISTRICT PLAY-OFFS

Our U11 and U13 chess teams will be battling it out today against teams from the Metropole East which includes schools from Durbanville and Bellville areas. Our U9, U11 and U13 teams have all played exceptionally well this season and have ended up in the top two positions within the Helderberg Basin. These achievements have earned them the right to play at the District play-offs. Somerset House will be hosting tomorrow's tournament. After tomorrow's tournament the top two schools will go through to the WP Top Schools play-off on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August. We thank Mr Taylor for the wonderful work he has been doing with our chess players. We wish them the best of luck!

### SOUTH AFRICAN JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Janka Scholtz and Luke Eames recently took part in the South African Judo Championships. Both of them did extremely well! Janka won 3 medals: Gold for Kata, Silver for Randori (Individual Fighting) and Bronze for Team Fighting. Luke won 2 medals: Bronze for Randori (Individual Fighting) and Bronze for Team Fighting. Well done to both of you. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of you!



## WEEK 3: Programme for the week ending 6 August 2011

Mon	1 Aug		Oakwood Parents' Interviews to Thursday Helderberg Speech and Drama Eisteddfod – all week Normal Sports Programme resumes
Tues	2	10h00 - 10h30 10h30 - 12h30 15h00	Karate Demonstration (Grass in front of JP Classes) MAD Outreach with St Paul's Primary Staff Forum Meeting
Wed	3	08h15 from 13h00 from 13h30	Oakwood Support Group Workshop with Maureen Fell (Staffroom) Rugby v Danie Ackerman (A) – U7, U8, U11 x 2, U13 Netball Matches v Temperance Town (A)
Thurs	4	08h00 09h00 – 13h15	Guild Change-over Meeting Trinity College Music Exams Hockey Matches v Hendrik Louw and Macassar (H)
Fri	5	08h10 12h30	Senecio "Feet for Fun" Day Joint Music Assembly – Grades 1 to 7 Family Day Lunch Normal School closing times
Sat	6	08h00-17h00	Regional Intra-Zonal Hockey Tournament : 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> August (George) Junior Boland Tennis Series (Somerset House)