



The Weekly Blah

Welcome new Grade 1s!



There was such excitement when the new Grade 1s arrived looking very smart for their first day of "Big School". This is a very special occasion for them as it marks the beginning of the next exciting chapter in their lives. We hope that they all enjoy a wonderful Prep School career at Somerset House!



HeadLines...

Start of Year

We have experienced a smooth start to our year thanks to all the preparations that were made by our staff. There were some tears at Oakwood which dried up as soon as activities started. Some of our Grade 1 children were featured online on NEWS24 for their first day of school. Our seniors were back at work as well this week with the Grade 7s making the most of their Orientation Programme, especially enjoying breakfast at the Nature Reserve this morning after their night spent at school - a solid start to what we hope will be our best year yet!

Stationery

It is important to note that stationery is ordered and supplied by the school and you will be billed for the stationery that is supplied. There is no mark-up, but by doing it this way, we can secure the best prices of all the required items.

Birthdays

We would like to ask that birthday treats be dealt with after lunch so as to ensure that children eat a proper meal first. We try hard to eliminate junk-food from our school, and thus ask that no fizzy drinks, sweets or chips are brought for this purpose. A cupcake or something similar is probably the best choice. Staff will assist with making sure that this is consumed after lunch.

Miss Orlopp

Miss Orlopp will be leaving Somerset House to take up a new post from the start of the second term. We are unable to name that school as announcements still need to be made there. However, we felt that we needed to announce this as soon as possible as we need to move quickly to replace her. I am confident that we will do so and I look forward to being able to make an announcement as soon as possible in this regard. We thank Julie for her contribution to our school and wish her well with her final term.

Thank You

I am grateful to the staff who worked hard to prepare so well for this year. There are many new initiatives under way, designed to improve teaching and learning. Thank you, staff, for making this possible.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

News from the Green Igloos...

The weekly newspaper race starts again in earnest next week! The New Crew are yet to be appointed and have yet to undergo training – but they will be ready to collect all your newspaper, ready to do battle for Mrs Cod's cupcakes!!

Newspaper must be in tied in bundles, or put into plastic bags; the total weight of the bundle must be in kgs and must be easy to read, and the class must be written clearly so as to try to be accurate with the totals! No cheating and definitely no rocks wrapped within the bundles please....!!

This all happens from 07h30 on Wednesday morning up in the main car park off Dickens Avenue and it's quite a lot of fun!!!

REMEMBER, YOUR LOCAL GI NEEDS YOU!

2015 School Terms

TERM	DATES	HOLIDAYS WITHIN TERM-TIME
1	21 January to 27 March	
2	13 April - 26 June	Monday 27 April - Freedom Day Friday 1 May - Workers' Day Monday 15 June - School Holiday Tuesday 16 June - Youth Day
3	21 July - 2 October	Monday 10 August - Public Holiday (Sunday 9 August Women's Day) Thursday 24 September - Heritage Day Friday 25 September - School Holiday
4	13 October - 9 December	

2016 School Terms

TERM	DATES	HOLIDAYS WITHIN TERM-TIME
1	13 January - 18 March	
2	5 April - 24 June	Wednesday 27 April - Freedom Day Thursday 28 April - School Holiday Friday 29 April - School Holiday Monday 2 May – (Sunday 1 May Workers Day)
3	19 July - 30 September	Thursday 16 June – Workers' Day Friday 17 June – School Holiday Monday 8 August - School Holiday Tuesday 9 August - Womens' Day Wednesday 24 September – Heritage Day
4	11 October - 7 December	

Newsletter Hard Copies

Just a reminder that everybody will receive a hard copy today but as from next week – you will only receive a hard copy if you have sent an e-mail to info@somersehouse.co.za to specifically request this.



Grade 5s cool off!

The Grade 5s enjoyed some time in the pool this week!



Applications for Senior Choir

We would like to invite all aspirant singers from Grade 4 – 7 to apply for the Senior Choir. There are exciting performances happening this term and a solid group of good singers is what we need to make this happen. Please apply by completing the Senior Choir Application form sent by e-mail today. All new applicants will be invited for an informal audition. Senior choir rehearsals take place on Thursday mornings from 07h10 – 08h10 in the Haydock Hall.

GROUPS FOCUSING ON DEVELOPING EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (open to Grades R-3)



- The **goals of the group** are to facilitate and support learners in a controlled and nurturing environment with the following focus areas in mind:
 - **Identifying and managing emotions in a healthy way**
 - **Impulse control**
 - **Anxiety management**
 - **Gaining confidence**
 - **Facilitating healthy adjustment**
 - **Social skills and healthy peer relationships**

What is Emotional Intelligence? Emotional Intelligence is an important tool in human development and how we conduct ourselves in life. As we are well aware, self-confidence carries us through every aspect of life from the classroom, playground, as well as significant relationships. When a person is out of touch with their own emotions they cannot deal with the emotions of others and they find it overwhelming. This can manifest in being the class clown, controlling behaviors, anxiety, isolation, shame and blaming behaviours.

The **interventions in the group** will range from group discussions, learning how to communicate feelings, expression through drawing, clay, balloons, relaxation techniques, games and stories. The group dynamic allows a safe place to explore new behaviours and orientations to be taken outside of the group into the classroom, home or play-ground with confidence. Please contact me (Zoë) for further information.

- Limited space per grade
- Applications confirmed by 28th Jan.
- Groups start week of 2nd Feb. (facilitated during school hrs.)



Zoë Douglas
Registered Counsellor
PRC No:12084
zoe.skillsforlife@gmail.com
(0822244260)



BACK TO SCHOOL
WIN R5000
TOWARDS SCHOOL FEES

MySchool
MyVillage
MyPlanet

Swipe your MySchool card at any Woolworths, Waltons, Toys"R"Us or kalahari.com before 31 Jan and **stand a chance to win R5 000 towards your child's school fees.**

Every Swipe Counts!



www.myschool.co.za 0860 100 445 Ts & Cs apply



Staff Drumming

The Somerset House staff started the term on the right note with a fun drumming session!



Sports News

INTER-HOUSE CAPTAINS AND CHEERLEADERS

We kicked 2015 off by voting for our Inter-House Captains and Cheerleaders. Congratulations and best wishes to the following pupils who have been elected to lead the Hobby, Lanner and Peregrine teams this year:

	CAPTAIN	VICE-CAPTAIN	CHEERLEADERS
HOBBY GIRLS	Stephanie Bihl	Yvonne Huysamer	Mikayla Boettger Tannah Spooner
HOBBY BOYS	Munnik Huysamer	Andrew Whaits	William Christmas Mathias Smith
LANNER GIRLS	Maya Williams	Dhania Schultz	Charlotte Bridge Dani Blythe
LANNER BOYS	Daniel Louis	Travis Norris	Maanda Netshivhongweni Jarrod van der Poll
PEREGRINE GIRLS	Hannah Ernstzen	Natasha Hodge	Gabi Callow Tino Mpofu
PEREGRINE BOYS	Josh Knox	Carel Mans	Ethan Gouws Jason Shaw

ATHLETICS

Please see the Athletics Schedules very carefully and take note of the following important dates:

- Monday 26th January - Girls' Field Event Trials
- Tuesday 27th January - Boys' Field Event Trials
- Wednesday 28th January - Field Event Finals (Girls and Boys)
- Thursday 29th January - Long Distance Finals (U9 – U13 During School)
- Friday 30th January - Inter-House Athletics
- Wednesday 4th February - Inter-Schools Athletics @ Bridge House (Franschhoek)

INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS

Our Inter-House Athletics takes place next Friday, 30th January. Parents and friends are invited to come along and picnic on the banks of the Simpson Hall while you enjoy the action on the field. Attendance is compulsory for all pupils and they must please wear their house shirts for this event. Should you prefer not to picnic, you could support our Guild who have kindly offered to sell boerewors rolls and cooldrinks at the event. Parents are encouraged to wear their child's house colours and are also invited to compete in the parent's race - entries will be taken on the day.

School closes at 13:00 on Friday for all pupils and the children must please return to school to meet their captains near the bell by 15:40. The first events will start at 16:00. The Grade 1 – 3 athletes who have not qualified for the 200m events may go home or sit with their parents from approximately 17:30. The team for the Inter-Schools Triangular against Somerset College and Bridge House will be selected after the Inter-House event. This team will be e-mailed to parents over the weekend. All athletes for the Inter-schools event will have practices on both Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd February. We are looking forward to a short, but exciting athletics season.

WP TENNIS TEAMS

A number of our pupils participated at the 2015 WP Tennis Trials which took place at the end of the term last year.

We are delighted to announce that the following pupils have been selected to represent Western Province Tennis Teams this year. We wish them the very best of luck for their training clinics and up and coming tournaments.

TEAM	PLAYERS
WP U11 B	Connor Morrison Nic Cilliers
WP U12 B	Gordon Morrison Yvonne Huysamer Kayla Coetzer



Week 2: Programme for week ending 31st January 2015

Mon	26 Jan	13h45 – 14h30 14h00 – 14h40 14h40 – 17h00	Athletics Practice – Grade 2 Athletics Practice – Long Jump Trials : Grade 3 Girls Athletics – Field Event Trials : Girls U10 to U13
Tues	27	07h45 13h45 – 14h30 14h00 – 14h40 14h40 – 17h00 18h30	FinCo Meeting Athletics Practice – Grade 2 Athletics Practice – Long Jump Trials : Grade 3 Boys Athletics – Field Event Trials : Boys U10 to U13 SP Parent Information Evening (Haydock Hall)
Wed	28	13h45 – 14h40 14h40 – 16h45	Athletics – U9 Long Jump Finals : Girls & Boys Athletics – Field Event Finals : U10 to U13 Girls & Boys
Thurs	29	07h45 08h15 – 09h30 18h30	ExCo Meeting Athletics – U9 to U13 Long Distance Finals Oakwood Parents Information Evening (Haydock Hall)
Fri	30	08h10 10h30 13h00 16h00	SP Assembly (Haydock Hall) JP Assembly (Haydock Hall) School closes Inter-House Athletics
Sat	31		