



The Weekly Blah

Grade 7s study World Population



The Gr 7s are currently studying World Population in Social Studies. We played a game using jelly babies to investigate important concepts about world population.

The children co-operated really well in that they did not eat any jelly babies **during** the game – which would have affected the outcome of the game! Well done, Grade 7!

Proudly South African Day at Oakwood!



Walking through Oakwood on Friday morning brought back memories of a similar patriotic vibe of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. All the South African flags were flying high and the children's clothes and faces represented the pride that they feel for their country. A huge South African flag was hung from the trees and the Gr Rs gathered to sing Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. What a wonderful way to raise money for Tekkie Tax Day, as well as to increase the patriotism among the children for our beautiful land.



HeadLines...

Parent Survey Results

I am very grateful to all of you who completed the online survey that was conducted two weeks ago. We registered an 87.5% return which shows the commitment of our parents to these important processes. Many parents took the opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns. I will be talking to the results at the AGM which will be held next week in Haydock Hall on Tuesday, 9 June at 18h30. I am happy to respond to questions at this point too. We will be publishing the results after the AGM and sending this information to all parents.

Visit to Zimbabwe

I was invited by Ruzawi School in Marondera, Zimbabwe to talk to heads of schools in both Harare and the Marondera District about some of the initiatives we have taken at Somerset House. I was also asked to conduct staff development workshops with the staff of Ruzawi. They were particularly interested in Project Based Learning and BYOD that we are currently using mainly in Grade 6 and 7. Thinking Skills is of interest across the globe, and they wanted to know more about how we manage this at Somerset House. Lastly, our Leadership Programme was a talking point as they were seeking to adopt a system which could develop initiative and inspiration based leadership rather than power based leadership.

It was a privilege to be hosted by such amazing schools and people. The quality of the staff and the facilities was exceptional. I look forward to being involved in more interactions with these schools in the future as I learnt so much from my hosts during the time spent there.

Beanies at school

We have noticed a few children wearing beanies to school. Please note that beanies do not form part of the school uniform and children will not be allowed to wear these items.

Drinks to school

We are very happy for children to have water at school in bottles. Please do not allow your child to bring hot chocolate, juice or the like to school.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

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The Rubbish Returns...

Perhaps it was the widely anticipated and talked about rain that kept the rubbish away on Wednesday morning - it was extremely quiet in the car parks and at the GIs! Mrs Pienaar's Grade 3s brought in the most this week – but it is still the Mrs Roberts' class who are in pole position. The Crew enjoyed time at the GIs, practising their mountaineering skills and conquering the summit of the GIs themselves. Three more collections for this term, so it should all be action packed!

2015	Weds 20 May	Weds 27 May	Weds 3 June	Class Totals
7A	1.2		4.6	27.3
7M	12.2		3.8	95.0
7R	4.0	17.4	8.0	105.2
6C	9.7			16.0
6E				41.7
6M		58.4		96.7
5B	55.5	20.0	8.0	311.5
5vG		23.0	54.2	102.5
4C	49.0	37.7	6.5	140.2
4M			4.2	105.7
3P	3.3	26.7	60.2	276.0
3R	25.2	225.3		411.5
2dP	3.7	6.0		29.6
2T	35.0	7.0		147.4
1B	32.9	13.8	48.4	128.6
1H		18.9		38.5
Weekly Total	231.7	454.2	197.9	2073.4

Drama Performers of the Week

The performers of the week are Jemma Boettger (Grade 4C) and Chiara Da Costa (Grade 4C) for the effort they put into choreographing three dances for the SP play. The girls were very creative and have taken the time to teach their classmates the steps.

Musician of the Week

Congratulations to Reece Simpson! Well done on your beautiful performance!



Grade 3 Afrikaans!

The Grade 3s have had great fun dressing up as Wip Wip Japie while learning this Afrikaans Poem.

Tekkie Tax: Almost R4 400 donated to Child Welfare

Many thanks to all the parents and children who participated in the Tekkie Tax initiative! Almost R4 400 was raised for the Helderberg branch of the Child Welfare Organisation. The representatives from this organisation have extended their sincere thanks and appreciation for the generous support.



Artist of the Week

Well done to Andre Coppoolse for being chosen as the Artist of the Week for his colourful and vibrant interpretation of his 'Fantasy/Reality Self-portrait'. We are very proud of you, Andre!



Somerset House Dr Seuss Book Day

The sun did not shine.
It was too wet to play.
But that did not stop us
All that cold, wet day.

We had chosen our books
So the world had to wait
It was Book Day at last
We left work at the gate.

Fancifully dressed
Our books became real
To liven the day
With a fantasy feel.

We will first buy our tickets
And then choose great books
To place later on shelves
Or little, reading nooks.



WHO: All children from Somerset House

WHEN: 12 June 2015

WHAT: Dress up as any **book** character

HOW: Purchase tickets by completing and returning the tear off slip of the letter sent home on Wednesday.



IEB MATCH Assessments

Our Grade 7s took part in a pilot primary school assessment initiative last week. They wrote two papers, which have now been couriered up to Johannesburg for external marking. Watch this space for feedback on how our pupils did.

Some background information on the IEB and MATCH:

IEB stands for the Independent Examinations Board. It is an assessment body that is responsible for quality assurance for schools. The IEB also provides additional assessments that complement teaching and learning in schools at other levels. The IEB has just introduced a pilot programme aimed specifically at Grade 7 learners. This programme, called Match, is intended to provide primary schools with an independent assessment of their Grade 7 learners' preparedness for high school in terms of both academic proficiency and the necessary skills base needed for continued success at high school. While MATCH is rooted in the CAPS requirements, it also aims to test learners' understanding of key concepts and their ability to apply these concepts in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts. It is intended to be a true assessment that focusses on the skills and application of knowledge and attitudes required by a 21st Century learner.

SP Play – A Thousand Cranes

Tickets for the Senior Prep (Grade 4 to 7) Play, A Thousand Cranes, will be on sale from the **Archives Room** at the following times:

- Thursday 11 June: 07h30 - 08h30 and 13h30 - 14h30
- Friday 12 June: 07h30 - 08h30 only
- Wed 17 June: 07h30 - 08h30 and 13h30 - 14h30
- Thurs 18 June: 07h30 - 08h30 and 13h30 - 14h30
- Friday 19 June: 07h30 - 08h30 and 13h30 - 14h30

Please note the following:

- Unfortunately, as we are asking you to select your seats, you (or your representative) will have to sign for the tickets. We cannot accept bookings by phone or e-mail. If you are not able to get tickets during those times, you may send another parent or family member on your behalf.
- The Knowledge Centre will be open during performances for those parents who do not necessarily want to watch the play multiple times, and who would prefer to rather just wait for their child.
- If you would like to attend multiple performances, we ask that you limit your initial ticket purchases, so that all parents can be accommodated. As the Grade 6s and 7s have bigger roles, it would be lovely if those parents were able to have better seats.
- There will be children “setting the scene” with various activities and performances from 18h15 to 19h15 with the formal part of the play starting at 19h15. You are invited to browse through the displays from 18h15 and be seated between 19h00 and 19h15.
- The cost of the tickets will be R65 each and you (or your representative) will be asked to sign a slip acknowledging receipt of your ticket. The cost will be allocated to your school account.

Performances:

- Tuesday 23rd June at 19h00
- Wednesday 24th June at 19h00
- Thursday 25th June at 16h00
- Thursday 26th June at 19h00

Guild AGM

Just a reminder that the Guild AGM will take place on **Tuesday 9 June at 18h30**, in Cloetenburg, and will be followed by wine and snacks. Mr Gerhard Smit, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Mr Chris Storey will address the meeting.

The school has experienced an exciting and productive year and feedback will be given on some of these aspects. You are invited to take this opportunity to ask questions or raise any comments that you may have with regard to our school. The AGM serves as an opportunity to report back on the past year’s activities as well as to elect the new Guild Committee. The Guild acts in a supportive role at Somerset House, promoting communication and co-operation between the parents and the teachers and raising funds for the benefit of the school. The Guild would like to encourage all parents to attend the AGM as it is an opportunity for you to give your feedback to the school and be heard on any issues of concern. Attendance of the AGM will assist to facilitate better communication and maintain transparency between the parent body and the school.

Thank you Kitchen Staff!

The Grade 5s showered Mrs Rautenbach and her staff with love last week with a huge "Thank You" card for all the meals prepared every day. Each child in Grade 5 wrote their thanks on a little card and all were collated to make one giant card of thanks. The staff were extremely touched and would like to extend their thanks to the children and their teachers for the beautiful gesture!



Brand new computers for our ICT lab!

Our ICT centre has 26 brand new computers – thanks to the consistent, hard work of our Guild Committee as well as parents' generous support of Guild events. Every child from Grade R to Grade 7 will benefit from this acquisition! Thank you!



Royal Schools Music Exams

Stefani Human (Music Grade 2), Cáit O'Malley (Music Grade 2), Ruth Benson (Music Grade 3), Lara Hartmann (Music Grade 3) played their respective Graded Violin exams on Wednesday in Stellenbosch. They were examined by an Examiner from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in London. I would like to congratulate them on their hard work and the way they conducted themselves during the exam. They made us extremely proud. Well done, Somerset House Violinists!

Busy Bees!

The Bees have been very busy learning about the sound "N" and have had great fun building and playing with nuts, printing on newspaper and enjoying picking up sticky noodles with tweezers and chopsticks. While learning about South Africa, they had great fun making their own flags, using different material.



Sports News

NETBALL COACHES CLINIC

Well done to the SH netball coaches for starting a Level I Coaching Clinic presented by Netball South Africa. All candidates completed the 9 hour theoretical component and 10 hours of coaching/practical sessions thus far. Two hours of practical assessment under the supervision of an accredited, qualified coach appointed by the Director of Coaches must still be completed. Well done to the ladies for their commitment!

HERMANUS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT ~ SATURDAY 30TH MAY



Four senior teams braved the dark, the cold and the rain early on Saturday morning to board the team bus, and headed off to Hermanus for their annual tournament.

Somerset House had a girls' and a boys' team playing in both the A and B tournaments. Matches only lasted 14 minutes, so teams therefore had to get stuck into business early. All four teams gave their all, generally playing against some pretty tough opposition.

The boys' 2nd team narrowly missed a place in the semi-final, despite not having lost a game in their pool matches. They just struggled to finish off and sadly failed to take advantage of scoring opportunities; nevertheless, they played well. The 2nd Team girls also came third in their pool. The 1st Team girls did not concede a single goal during the day! They played magnificently and thoroughly deserved their victories and their gold medals. The Boys 1st team won their first two pool matches; their second game was especially good – the interplay between the boys was particularly sound.



A slight lapse in concentration resulted in a couple of drawn matches meaning the fifth game was a 'must win' game. The boys stepped up and earned their place in the semi-final which was another superb performance, where the boys gelled and won 2-0. The final against Gene Louw was a closely fought encounter, with our boys deservedly winning their gold medals.

Results:

	Pool Matches	Semi-final	Final
Boys 1 st XI	v Worcester: 1-0 v Overberg: 1-0 v Gene Louw: 0-0 v Gericke: 0-0 v SWPS: 2-0	v Edgemead: 2-0	v Gene Louw: 1-0
Boys 2 nd XI	v Worcester Primary C: 2-0 v SWPS: 0-0 v Gene Louw: 0-0 v Hermanus B: 0-0 v Kenridge: 1-0		

	Pool Matches	Semi-final	Final
Girls 1 st XI	v SWPS: 2-0 v Gene Louw: 2-0 v Swartland: 2-0 v Overberg: 1-0 v Worcester: 2-0 v Bridge House: 2-0		v Gericke: 3-0
Girls 2 nd XI	v Overberg: 0-0 v van Riebeck: 0-1 v Girls High: 0-0 v Eversdal: 0-0 v SWPS: 4-0		



RUGBY VS PAARL BOYS JUNIOR

On Saturday our U8 and U11B boys played rugby matches at Lochnerhof against teams from Paarl Boys School. Our U8 side started the day off right in the middle of a downpour of rain. Our boys did not allow this to deter them from the task at hand and they managed to starve the opposition from ball possession. Our boys ran hard straight lines and we even had the odd offload or two, helping our boys to build momentum. We managed to score 10 tries against 0.



Our U11B side also played on the day and they started off in a similar vein and managing to apply a lot of pressure on the opposition. It was evident though that our boys were not very accustomed to playing in the rain and it took some of them a while to realise that it would be ok to fall and land into the muddy spots on the field. The forwards laid a very solid foundation, by keeping the ball close and protecting it, before sending it wide to the backline. Our final score was 20-5 to Somerset House.

Week 9: Programme for week ending 13th June 2015

Mon	8 June		Biokinetic Screening Tests
Tues	9	14h30 – 15h30 18h30	Biokinetic Screening Tests Orchestra Practice Guild AGM (Haydock Hall)
Wed	10	from 13h45	RSM Music Theory Exams Rugby Matches v Dr Joubert (Home) No Netball Matches
Thurs	11	07h30 – 08h30 10h30 – 13h10 13h30 – 14h30 from 15h00 19h00	SP Play Ticket Sales (Archives Room) SP Play – Full Run Through SP Play Ticket Sales (Archives Room) Hockey Matches v Rhenish (Home): U10 & U11 A teams (Boys & Girls); 1 st XI (Boys & Girls) Wine Thieves
Fri	12	07h30 – 08h30 08h10 12h30 13h00 13h10	Book Day SP Play Ticket Sales (Cloetenburg Dining Room) Play Make Up Workshop (Archives Room) Family Lunch School closes SP Review (Grade 7)
Sat	13		