



Volume 02

30 January 2015

SOMERSET HOUSE

The Weekly Blah

Welcome new Grade 000s!



More than a school ~ a way of life.

The new Grade 000s have settled into their new classroom routine beautifully!



HeadLines...

Thank You

Having lost my mother on Tuesday morning, I feel that I am brilliantly qualified to write about how important mothers are in our lives. I have experienced such a range of emotions this week, but overwhelmingly, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for being privileged enough to have had my mother. I have taken her for granted for most of my life. She was simply always there for me. I am also profoundly proud of a person who lived an amazing life through very hard times and was an agent for change in our country - a very quiet and unsung heroine who led through example and never faltered in her belief in what was right.

I am so grateful to the Somerset House family for the support given to me over this week. Thank you.

Parent Meetings

My thanks to all parents who attended the parent information sessions. There are many new initiatives under way and it was good to be able to communicate our thinking behind what is happening, directly to you. I am grateful to all the staff, and especially the heads of departments, for their thorough preparation before school started which has enabled such a smooth and effective start to the year. Thank you.

Tragic events at Somerset College

We extend our condolences to the staff and pupils of Somerset College who are currently dealing with the tragic family murder that occurred earlier this week. It is a very difficult thing to come to terms with in a school environment, and we wish to express our support to Mrs Fargher and her staff, and all the families that have been touched by this event.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

Advertisements and Marketing

In everyday life we are bombarded by advertising, whether it is on television, billboards, phones or calls from companies. At Somerset House we try to limit this as much as possible, and we are therefore prescriptive about the advertising that takes place at the school - anyone wishing to advertise a service or product are welcome to advertise in our fortnightly 'Advertiser'. Please e-mail advertiser@somersethouse.co.za for more information. Furthermore, we ask that no flyers are distributed and no posters are displayed without the school's written permission.

Newsletter Hard Copies

Just a reminder that you will only receive a hard copy of the weekly newsletter if you have sent an e-mail to info@somersethouse.co.za to specifically request this.

Address Lists and Confidentiality

We will be sending out address lists to parents so that you will be able to contact one another. It is very important that this information is not used for any other purpose. We do not allow the data to be used for advertising or business purposes and we ask that this is respected

Rubbish from the Green Igloos

The Annual Newspaper Race started with a bang on Wednesday, with a new all-boy Crew, a flattie on one of the WBs and almost half a tonne of paper to deal with. Training was very much “on the job” – W&M quickly settled to some extremely neat and accurate recordings, the WBDs trundled across the car park, at times close to capsizing, and the GIPs were kept very busy. The Crew was quick to learn the skills and tactics of the tasks – it was an impressive performance from all. The girls will Crew next week and have the excitement of running the show.

There was some evidence of possible cheating spotted by an eagle-eyed GIP; a solid silver-coloured padlock was discovered adding weight to a package! There was no key to it. It is one of those round heavy ones and is now in Mr Cod’s office looking for a home.

2015	Weds 28 Jan	Class Totals
7A	5.7	5.7
7M	26.8	26.8
7R		0.0
6C	78.6	78.6
6M		0.0
6O		0.0
5B	10.3	10.3
5vG		0.0
4C	95.8	95.8
4M	29.1	29.1
3P	14.7	14.7
3R	21.9	21.9
2dP	36.2	36.2
2T	153.6	153.6
Weekly Total	495.5	495.5

For those of you new to the weekly Rubbish that details all that happens in and around the GIs, and also as a refresher for those who avidly follow this column, here is a list of some of the abbreviations used in the Rubbish...

GI – Green Igloo; GIP – Green Igloo Packer; WB – Wheelbarrow; WBD – Wheelbarrow Driver; W&M – Weights and Measures Dept; TPB – Tiggsy Poo Bag.

Please, please, please label your packages with the HOME ROOM CLASS and WEIGHT (kgs). Those with no name or weight cannot be added into the totals.

Please also do not drop off packages after 07h55. It is too late then to process them and we have to be down at Cloetenburg at 08h00. Please be on time...!!!

REMEMBER, YOUR LOCAL GI NEEDS YOU!

Aftercare News

These boys were snapped having loads of fun building a domino chain.



New Buddies!

The Grade 1s were introduced to their Grade 5 Buddies this week who will be their personal *mentor* and *buddy* for the year! Each Grade 5 pupil is paired up with a Grade 1 pupil. The function of the senior pupils is to guide and help the Grade 1s with their transition into 'big school'. The Grade 5s will visit the Grade 1s during break times and on special occasions organised by the teachers. We wish them all the best for their exciting journey ahead!



Grade 7 Activities

The Grade 7s started their year as leaders with a 3 day Leadership Orientation Programme which involved various workshops, discussions, a service activity in the Nature Reserve and the making of a debut movie. They camped on the school field, enjoying this time to bond with new peers and have fun in their beautiful school surroundings. This year will involve a service programme, seeing our Grade 7s serve the school and lead by example. They are a motivated and enthusiastic group of children, ready for the challenges that lie ahead. Well done Grade 7s for the fantastic start to your year!



News from the Dormouse Class

It was all smiles in the Dormouse Class during the first week and a half of the school year – especially at lunch time!



Clubs

A wide variety of Clubs have been made available by the Staff for the Senior Primary children this term. There was considerable excitement as the Staff described their particular Club – and a good deal of fun too!!

On offer this term are...Eisteddfod Poetry, Cards and Crafty Things, Beautiful Boxes, Wacky Photos, Dream Catcher Construction, Bird Watching and Feeder Making, Dance, Sewing, Marimba Band, Movie Soundtrack Creations, Beanie Knitting, Lip Syncing, Mad Science, Movie Making and Pop Band.

We look forward to seeing and/or hearing from these Clubs as the term progresses. Many thanks to all the Staff for their enthusiasm and creative ideas!

Artists of the Week

Grade 7 Group Mandala: During their orientation week, the Grade 7 classes participated in an art workshop. Issues discussed were creativity, gratitude and how each individual is able to contribute to the whole and make a stronger, more cohesive and vibrant product. Well done Grade 7s!



The Attic

The Attic is a place where all the costumes and props are kept from various concerts and plays. These costumes and props can be borrowed by the children for various events such as Inter-House competitions, drama class, oral presentations and even dress-up parties. The Attic is only open on a Tuesday at 10h10-10h30 and 13h10-13h40 which is during break times and our children are very fortunate to have this access to all these costumes and props. In order to provide this service, we need volunteers to assist the children find suitable costumes and sign them in and out. Volunteers will only be required to help out during one of the Tuesday break times once or twice a term. If you are interested, please contact Mrs McCulley as soon as possible. Grade 7s that have signed up for the Leadership Programme may also volunteer to assist.

Giga Sanders (073-462-5883 or sanders@liftpart.co.za)

School Shop

Should you wish to place an order from the school shop, you may now do so electronically by e-mailing shop@somersethouse.co.za. The cost will be added to your school account. You may either collect your order or request that we send it home with your child the following day. If you would prefer to come into the shop, the school shop hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 07h30 to 14h30.

Family Lunches

You will have spotted "Family Lunch" scheduled on the Calendar, but this is not a lunch for parents! It is a time for the new Grade 7 "parents" to meet for lunch for the first time this year with their new families. The Grade 7s take on the role of "parents" of these groups, which are made up of children from Grades 1 through 6. The new Grade 5s are in the same family as their new Grade 1 buddies and this first meeting allows children from across the grades to meet up, get to know each other and find new friends. The Family Lunch takes place on a number of occasions during the term and the Grade 7 "parents" will be looking after their families, ensuring all is well with them!!

Sports News

ATHLETICS

Our children and staff have had a busy week this week with our Inter-House Field Event trials taking place on Monday and Tuesday and the finals taking place on Wednesday afternoon.





Special thanks to Andy Whaits and Alexa Ristow who captured some special moments on camera for us. We also had the pleasure of watching our long distance athletes in action on Thursday morning. Competition has been tight this year and the points status has changed a number of times. After the Field Events and Long Distance Events, the points were as follows:

HOBBY	109
LANNER	114
PEREGRINE	105

But then we added the participation points for all the athletes who stepped out of their comfort zones to represent their house in the long distance events and things changed. The total points before the start of today's Inter-House athletics are as follows:

HOBBY	149
LANNER	149
PEREGRINE	159

A lovely lesson learnt for all our pupils! Participation made the difference, so well done to everyone who competed in the heat on Thursday morning!



INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS

Our Inter-House Athletics takes place today, 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. This is a compulsory event 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, hamburgers 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 13h00 today for all pupils, and the children must please return to school and meet their teachers at their classrooms at 15h40 to get their name stickers, after which they will meet their house captains and cheerleaders near the bell.

The first events will start at 16h00. The Grade 1 – 3 athletes who have not qualified for the 200m events, may go home or sit with their parents after the 100m finals. 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 an exciting event.

ATHLETICS PROGRAMME FOR NEXT WEEK

Mon 2 nd February	07h00 – 07h40	Relay practices for all SH Team Relays
	14h30 – 15h30	Girls' SH Team Field Event Practices
Tues 3 rd February	07h00 – 07h40	Relay practices for all SH Team Relays
	14h30 – 15h30	Boys' SH Team Field Event Practices
Wed 4 th February	15h00 – 18h00	Inter-Schools Athletics Tri-Angular (Bridge House)
Thurs 5 th February	14h00 – 19h30	Circuit 12 Track Trials at HHH (Invited Athletes)
Fri February	14h00 – 18h00	Circuit 12 Field Event Trials - Beaumont (Invited Athletes)

1st TERM EXTRA MURAL PROGRAMME 2015

The full programme starts on Monday 2nd February. Please see the programme for full details. Athletes who have been selected for the SH Athletics Team to participate at Inter-Schools must please excuse themselves where necessary and attend the athletics practices.

SUMMER LEAGUE HOCKEY

Some of our Grade 6 and 7 pupils will be participating in the Summer Hockey League which starts on Monday 2nd February. Eight schools will be participating in the league. The girls will be playing matches on our Astro and the boys will be playing indoors at Somerset College. Please see the weekly programme or website for match details. We wish our teams the very best of luck!

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	

Week 3: Programme for week ending 7th February 2015

Mon	2 Feb	07h00 – 07h40 from 13h45 14h30 – 15h30	SH Team Relay Practices Summer Sports Programme starts SH Team Field Event Practices – Girls U12 & U13 Summer Hockey League starts: 16h00 – U12 Girls v Gordon's Bay (S/House) 16h00 – U12 Boys v Beaumont (S/College) 16h30 – U13 Girls v Gordon's Bay (S/House) 16h30 – U13 Boys v Beaumont (S/College)
Tues	3	07h00 – 07h40 14h30 – 15h30	SH Team Relay Practices SH Team Field Event Practices – Boys
Wed	4	08h00 15h00	New Class Rep/Class Mums Meeting – Prep and Oakwood (Cloetenburg) No normal sports practices for U9 – U13 Inter-Schools Triangular Athletics Meeting (Bridge House); Bus leaves at 13h00
Thurs	5	14h00 – 18h00	Circuit 12 Athletics Championships – Track Events (HHH)
Fri	6	08h00 10h30 14h30 – 16h00	SP Assembly JP Assembly Junior Choir Fun Afternoon Circuit 12 Athletics Championships – Field Events (Beaumont)
Sat	7	08h30 08h30 – 16h00	Cricket v Milkwood : 1 st XI (H) Hosting Cub & Scout Gala