



SOMERSET HOUSE

The Weekly Blah

Welcome back Grade 7 Class of 2010!



It was an absolute pleasure to welcome back the Grade 7 Class of 2010! These Matrics enjoyed a tour of the campus (a lot has changed since they left!), some delicious refreshments and the opportunity to spend some time together before their end-of-year madness.

It is very rewarding to see these young adults together as a group before they head off to study, work or travel.

Stay in touch, Class of 2010!

More than a school ~ a way of life.

Grade 2 Practical Measuring Lesson



The Grade 2s did an exciting practical measuring lesson with Miss Marks, a student from the University of Stellenbosch, this week. They moved through 4 stations which gave them various opportunities to estimate, measure, compare and record MASS. They also learnt about different kinds of scales and that just because something is bigger, this doesn't mean it weighs more!



Bargain Books Colouring Competition

At our Dr Seuss Book Day last term, one of our book suppliers, Bargain Books, handed out entries to a colouring-in competition. Congratulations to Tara O'Malley who came first and Emile Smit who was awarded second place. They both received gift vouchers to spend on more books!



Headlines....

Survey Results

We recently conducted a survey of the Grade 7 class of 2014 who are currently in Grade 8 at various high schools in the Western Cape. We do this in order to determine how well our pupils have been prepared for secondary school. The results are very encouraging, indeed, and indicate that our pupils have left Somerset House very well-prepared for all they have encountered this year. The results are available on our website (Letters & Communication page). A link will be sent with the newsletter e-mail today.

Matric Tea

Our class of 2010 (The World Cup Batch!) visited us on Tuesday afternoon for tea. This has been a tradition at Somerset House for many years and is a something which is much-anticipated by our past pupils. It is incredible to hear what many of them will be studying or doing in the years to come. For some of them, this was the first time back since leaving this school and they enjoyed seeing the new buildings and facilities. The highlight though, was to be able to eat something in the Dining Hall and then try and sit in their old Grade 1 lockers! Possible for some, but not all of them!

Congratulations to this group of pupils. We wish them all every success with the remainder of their matric year, and their endeavours beyond.

Absence and school participation

Please note that if your child is absent from school on a day, they will not be allowed to participate in a sporting or other event later in the day.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

Notice to leave Somerset House

Please take note that a full term's notice is required if your child is going to leave Somerset House at any point. This enables us to notify other families on our waiting lists. Although written notice must be received at the latest on the first day of Term 4 (but preferably the last day of Term 3) for children leaving at the end of this year, we would be most grateful to receive notice as early as possible so that we can plan effectively for 2016. We have waiting lists in every grade and would like to be able to give those people some clarity regarding the possibility of vacancies. You are also welcome to give us provisional notice – which lets us know that there is the possibility of your child / children leaving, while you finalise the arrangements. When everything has been finalised on your side – the notice can be formalised.

Your co-operation is sincerely appreciated.

Time to Step Up!

All parents are invited to experience life as a pupil at Somerset House. We are offering you the opportunity to come along and participate in activities that our children do and assessments that they have written. Our pupils do very well when benchmarked against other schools, but what does that really mean and what does that require of you as a parent? Come along and see on the 8th of September! A letter with all the details will be sent out in due course.

Performer of the Week

Congratulations, Cloé! This week Cloé Appollis impressed me in the drama lesson. She has learned her lines for the play and performed with confidence. Keep up the good work.

Mrs Wessels

One GI Short!

No change in the Leaderboard this week – but it is getting closer! Last week's plea to increase the paper coming in was very successful, with an extra 100kgs this week. Mrs Roberts' Grade 3s were far less active this week – must be the results of too many cupcakes last week! Thanks to all for supporting the GI cause... Two new positions were created within The Crew this morning, all to help improve efficiencies and customer service! Supervisor, Samuel Hurd, took up his new role, carefully monitoring the vagaries of the WBs across the car park. He was also alerting the GIPs as to when they could take rest breaks and when they had to be back at their posts. The other new role is our WBW (Wheelbarrow Watchman) – Leigh Japhet. He was in charge of the early bird session, ensuring no cheating or illicit packages being deposited before the opening time of 07h30. As you can see from the photo, our WBW takes his job very seriously and is very much 'on the job'. Yet another wonderful morning – thanks so much to all The Crew...

2015	Wed 19 Sept	Class Totals	Position
7A		21.0	
7M	6.0	10.7	
7R	7.6	14.1	
6C		52.0	
6E	60.0	60.0	
6M	3.0	19.5	
5B	16.0	90.3	
5vG		8.4	
4C	20.0	75.3	
4M	25.8	256.0	3
3P	89.9	227.2	
3R	39.7	343.5	1
2dP	40.7	72.9	
2T	12.4	295.1	2
1B		45.1	
1H	40.2	148.8	
Weekly Total	361.3	1739.9	



Artist of the Week

The Grade 1 classes have been working hard on their “Busy City” 3D project over the past three weeks. They each created a house, tree, flower or traffic sign which we assembled to create a city with roads and grass. It is really beautiful! Well done to all our artists.



Guild Committee Meeting Feedback

Wednesday night, 19th August, saw the termly meeting of the full Guild Committee including the Headmaster, Deputy Head, Department Heads and the Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Treasurer’s Report, as well as reports on activities and teacher training in Oakwood, JP and SP, was discussed. Special mention was made of excellent results in the pilot MATCH benchmarking test written by our Grade 7s in May. Parents, look out for an opportunity on the 8th September to learn more about the process! Both JP and Oakwood are excited about playground upgrades that are underway. This is an ongoing project and Guild funds have been committed to advancing this further in the future. The success of the first Grade 6 and 7 combined tour was noted, with special thanks given for a superb job in organising all the details. Exciting news from the IT department is that a new Fibre Optic Broadband internet connection should be up and running by mid-November, which will treble capacity and alleviate headaches regarding internet connectivity on campus.

The many terrific Guild events planned for the remainder of the year were elaborated upon - with Quiz Night, Haydock Series, Rugby World Cup screenings and a “new-look” family fun run/walk event all receiving mention. A fresh Guild initiative involving raincoats for the children was deliberated – watch this space for more details!

Maths is Fun in Grade 6

On Monday, the Grade 6 Maths students enjoyed a fun Maths investigation. This was our introduction to mass, volume and capacity. We ended off our lesson with a thoughtful reflection and discussion on whether $1\text{ml} = 1\text{g}$...Ask them what the conclusion of the matter was...



Woolworths MySchool Teachers' Day Competition

The Guild Committee would like to draw your attention to a competition being run by Woolworths and MySchool. In celebration of Teachers' Day on the 5th of October, this competition hopes to inspire greater awareness of, and gratitude for, the role that teachers play in shaping the lives of future generations.

Children who would like to enter are asked to write a letter (photos and drawings may be included) about how the nominated teacher has made a positive impact on their lives. Entries can be submitted via email, post or fax, but all must be in before 10th of September. An email with all the details will be circulated via the class reps and we're confident that since we have such wonderful teachers at Somerset House, there are many children who will embrace this opportunity. Fabulous prizes are up for grabs for nominated teachers, pupils and the school itself.

Hooked on Books with St Pauls

Like a favourite book that gets read time and time again, "Hooked on Books" has become a firmly entrenched item on the Somerset House calendar. Our high expectations were more than adequately met, and the entire school was mesmerised by the extracts from books being acted out by the talented and professional presenters! It was again a pleasure to share this event with the children from St Pauls who joined the Grade 6s as part of the MAD (Make a Difference) programme.



Oakwood

The Owl Class has had great fun with the reptile theme this week. Some wonderful works of art were created in watercolour, others using splatter painting as well as a group project to build a very long snake! A few of the Owls found some outfits in the Fantasy Area to dress up in, too!



New Additions in Grade 2!

To great excitement, Bonny, the resident hamster in Grade 2T, gave birth 2 weeks ago to three tiny, pink, furless little hamster pups. Dad hamster was moved into the cage next door for safety reasons! Now, a fortnight old, the babies are cute and furry, and running around the cage!



Grade 3 complete Surveys and Questionnaires!

The Grade 3R children worked in pairs on the Learnpads in the Knowledge Centre. They had to complete a survey about "Class Favourites". The survey was created using a site called Kahoot, which allows the teacher to compile activities based on classwork. The following day they were given some tables practice too, using the same site. They have been learning about the heart and the circulatory system, so in ICT they were able to complete a questionnaire by doing online research. Their concentration and reading skills were put to the test, but in the end, they all felt a wonderful sense of achievement as they were able to find all the answers themselves and work at their own pace



Sports News

CHESS VS SOMERSET WEST PRIMARY

Two of our chess teams played league matches against Somerset West Primary on Friday afternoon. Our players had a great day out and managed to beat Somerset West Primary rather convincingly. The A Team won 5½ to ½ boards while our B Team won 5 – 1. Congratulations to all our chess players.



KENRIDGE PRESTIGE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Last Saturday our Girls and Boys 1st Hockey Teams were invited to participate in the Kenridge Sporting Chance Hockey Tournament which was held at Maties Astro. Participating schools included Kenridge, Gene Louw, Durbanville, Bastion, Beaumont and Somerset House. The standard of hockey played was superb and both our girls and boys gained enough points in the pools stage to qualify for the final against the mighty Kenridge.

In the boys' final, Kenridge scored early, but Somerset House managed to come back with a great equaliser. Scores were level for the most part of the game before Kenridge scored the winning goal and our boys ended in worthy 2nd position.

Our girls' final was rather stressful with both teams failing to take advantage of good scoring opportunities. Scores were level after full time and we went straight into showdowns (Striker vs Goalkeeper). Each team selected 5 players and after the round of 5, scores were level at 3 goals each. We then went to sudden death and sadly Kenridge scored and we didn't. We therefore, like the boys, finished in 2nd position overall. What a final!

We are extremely proud of both our girls and boys teams as Kenridge is a very large school, they have 14 classes in grade 6 and 7 from which to choose their players whilst Somerset House only has 4. A wonderful achievement by both teams! Congratulations to all our players!



WP TOP SCHOOLS CHESS TOURNAMENT

After their great matches last week qualifying as the top U13 chess team in the whole of the Metropole East area, Josh Cox, Kayla Coetzer, Chris Young-Pugh, Jordan Heymans, Daniel Abelson and Sam Chemaly headed off to Palm Park Primary on Saturday to participate in the WP Top Schools Tournament. We are proud to announce that our U13 Chess Team is the 4th best U13 team in the whole of Western Province - an amazing achievement! Congratulations to all players as well as to Mr Taylor, their coach.



NETBALL NIGHT LEAGUE

Our U10 – U13A netball teams took to the court last Monday evening with the start of our Night Netball League. Matches were played against Beaumont with our teams playing very well. Although we never won any matches, our defeats were narrow due to some amazing fighting spirit and skill. Our netball has come a long way over the past few years and we would like to congratulate all our players and coaches. Next Monday evening our teams will play against Somerset College. Matches start from 18:00 and run through to 20:00 in our Simpson Hall. Spectators and friends are most welcome to come along to support our teams.



RUGBY VS BEAUMONT

On Wednesday our boys played rugby against Beaumont. Our junior boys tried very hard, but the sheer size of some of the opposition seemed to intimidate them somewhat. Unfortunately, all the junior teams lost their matches. The highlight of the junior groups, though, was the 1-2 result by our U9 Sharks team, who almost managed to swing the match in their favour.



Our U11A side did not do as well as we would have expected and played a very indifferent style of rugby during the first half, allowing Beaumont to score 17 unanswered points. The half time break was at the right time, as we saw our team come out from the talk with renewed passion and energy. The second half had a more focused approach and we only saw Beaumont score again very close to the end of the match. Well done to the boys on a greatly improved second half.

Our U11B and U13B boys, however, played good constructive rugby, and with a bit of luck, could have won their respective matches. Both teams led for most of the time during their matches, but allowed their concentration and execution to slip, allowing the opposition teams to score late in the match. U11B lost 5-10 and the Warthogs drew 14-14. Well done to our boys. Our 1st XV did not play yesterday, as the Beaumont First XV is currently on tour. We are looking forward to hosting Glenwood House from George on the weekend.



Week 6: Programme for week ending 29th August 2015

Mon	24 Aug		Helderberg Art Eisteddfod – all week (Lochnerhof) Recorder Eisteddfod Netball Night League v Somerset College (H)
Tues	25		Recorder Eisteddfod
Wed	26	from 13h45 from 13h45 14h45	Netball Matches v Hendrik Louw (A) Rugby Matches v Somerset College (A) Health & Safety Meeting
Thurs	27	from 13h45	Hockey Matches v Somerset College (A)
Fri	28	10h30 from 14h00 13h40 15h00 – 19h00 from 18h30	Woodwind Eisteddfod JP Assembly Chess Matches v Christmas Tinto Primary (H) SP Assembly Top Schools Qualifying Hockey Tournament: 1 st XI Girls and Boys Teams: (Maties Astro) Guild Quiz Evening: 18h30 for a 19h30 start (Simpson Hall)
Sat	29	08h00 08h00	Bridge House Netball Festival (A) Rugby 7s Tournament at Hendrik Louw: U11 & U13 (A)