



# *The Weekly Blah*

## Measuring Dinosaurs!



The Grade R Squirrel Class had great fun measuring how long a Supersaurus dinosaur is as well as how many Grade R feet would fit into a T-Rex footprint. (The answer is 24!)

## Stormy Stories!

The Grade 3s have been working in groups brainstorming and planning awesome stories about storms. They are learning how to do mind maps and use key words.



## Headlines....

### **Knowledge Centre is representative of the future of Libraries**

The Conversation.com recently ran an article discussing the role of libraries in the future and began with the following statement: "South African librarians were shocked in 2013 when one of the top researchers at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology claimed that he no longer needed the library to do his research." This sentiment has clearly been shared by many around the world where libraries are being closed in schools as they are being perceived as irrelevant spaces, mainly due to the fact that more research and learning is being done digitally than through books. This is true, which is exactly why we developed the Knowledge Centre at Somerset House. The article goes on to state that, "libraries are not just collection points for information. The best ones also help create it - and those which embrace this role will flourish in a completely changed world."

In our Knowledge Centre, reading is encouraged, especially through the acquisition of so many amazing new books. The role of the library in this sense has not changed. But this is also a work space and what is dramatically different is that instead of the focus being on finding information, the Centre is a space where information is used and created, too.

The Knowledge Centre is the place where our children are being taught to think and challenge their understanding of the world. If you would like to find out more about this approach to learning, don't miss the opportunity to attend the meeting on 8 September where you will be able to experience this for yourself. Details will follow soon.

### **General Knowledge Quiz**

Good luck to all the teams who have entered for this event! Mr Cod, our quizmaster, has been hard at work preparing for this evening. We know this because he has neglected so many of his other responsibilities!

I know that he is very grateful to the Guild for their hard work in setting up for tonight and I have no doubt that this event will be a cracker!

**Chris Storey – Headmaster**

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## 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 similar activities and assessments that our children complete. 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! An e-mail with all the details will be sent out in due course.

## Spring is in the Air!

What a stunning morning it was on Wednesday! Spring is definitely just around the corner – the mountains were beautiful, the birds singing alongside the choir, the Ladies of The Crew chattering non-stop AND the paper just kept on arriving. A great total this week has ruffled the feathers of some in the leader-board with the Grade 4 classes beginning to put pressure on the Grade 3s and 2s. The overall leader hasn't changed from last week – but competition has arrived! The Ladies were lovely and full of cheer as they completed all the various tasks. Smooth WBDs trundled to and fro whilst the GIPs inspected it all and filled the rattlingly empty GIs. W&M kept it all in order and above board – no hints of corruption or scandal. Lots of fun and lots of banter – well done Ladies!

2015	Wed 19 Aug	Wed 26 Aug	Total	Pos
7A		5.4	26.4	
7M	6.0	4.3	15.0	
7R	7.6	39.9	54.0	
6C			52.0	
6E	60.0		60.0	
6M	3.0	6.0	25.5	
5B	16.0	5.0	95.3	
5vG		20.0	28.4	
4C	20.0	149.0	224.3	5
4M	25.8		256.0	4
3P	89.9	70.9	298.1	3
3R	39.7	29.8	373.3	1
2dP	40.7		72.9	
2T	12.4	50.3	345.4	2
1B		3.5	48.6	
1H	40.2	11.0	159.8	
Weekly Total	361.3	395.1	2135	

## Skype Session

The Grade 2 Du Plessis Class enjoyed a Skype Session with their friend and former classmate, Taygan Sheldon this week. It was all very exciting!



## Maths Festival

Last Friday 11 of our top mathematicians participated in the annual Maths Festival that was hosted by Bridge House. Our students had a fantastic day collaborating with other mathematicians from Bridge House, Rhenish and Somerset College. The Maths was challenging but the afternoon was enjoyed by all! This is what two of our Grade 6 students had to say about the day:



“It was fun drawing on the desks” (Editor’s note: The desks were white-boards so calculations were done directly on the desks). “The problem-solving questions were hard, fun and ingenious. There were lots of teams and my team was called The Human Calculators and we came 5<sup>th</sup>. At the end we got a bag containing a huge crunchie, a muffin, a bottle of water and a prize – mine was a clutch pencil.” (Christopher Young-Pugh)

Bridge House Maths Festival - by Jordan Heymans

- Work with people from other schools
- Fun activities
- Working out was done on the desk
- Seeing other people’s techniques work
- Online, fun maths competition
- My group’s competition name was Awesome 4some
- Challenging maths papers
- Sna  $x + \pi$  were served.



## More news from Grade R

The Grade R Dinosaur is well-looked after by Jana and Bella:



Raphael and Jack really enjoy the baking sessions!



## **Congratulations, Jessica!**

We are proud to announce that talented singer, Jessica Matthews, has been selected as a member of the prestigious Tygerberg Children's choir after having gone through two rounds of auditions where she was one of 25 children from over 100 applicants that made the final cut. We are so proud of her and know she will blossom in this environment. The list of local and overseas awards and achievements of the choir is endless and we wish Jessica well as she starts her journey with the Tygerberg Children's Choir.



## **Past Pupil News**

Congratulations to Michael Burke who has been elected Head Boy for Somerset College for 2016. The following Somerset House pupils have been elected as Student leaders for Somerset College: Jordan Haantjes (Academic portfolio), Daniel Adams (Public Relations portfolio) and Marcus Nel (Spirit portfolio). Congratulations also go to past pupil, Calvin Durr, who has been elected as a Prefect for Paul Roos for 2016.

## **Spotted on the Webb field!**



## **Welcome, baby Abdurahmanova!**

Congratulations to the Abdurahmanova family on their new edition!





## Artist of the Week

Congratulations to Kelly Hogg in Grade 7 for her imaginative and beautiful portrait. I am so proud of you!

~ Mrs Humby

## Performer of the Week

Congratulations to Connor Roman in Grade 3 for being the Performer of the Week! He really impressed Mrs Wessels in Drama this week.



## Sports News

### WP CHESS TOURNAMENT

This past weekend, Nina Smith participated in a Western Province Chess Tournament for girls in Cape Town. She participated in the Girls U9 division and played very well, winning a silver medal. Congratulations Nina!

### SPORT VS GLENWOOD HOUSE

Glenwood House from George visited us last weekend for hockey, netball and rugby matches.



Special thanks to all our Somerset House families who hosted our visitors on Friday evening - your hospitality was most appreciated.



Thank you, too, to all the families who provided a plate of snacks for the pavilion; we really appreciate your support.



The results of the various matches are as follows:

TEAMS	RESULTS
Girls U12 Hockey	Drew 2 – 2
Boys 1 <sup>st</sup> Team Hockey	Drew 0 – 0
Girls U11A Netball	Lost 10 – 2
Girls U12A Netball	Won 12 – 6
Girls U13A Netball	Lost 16 – 7
Boys U11A Rugby	Lost 10 – 7
Boys 1 <sup>st</sup> XV Rugby	Lost 40 - 0



### NETBALL NIGHT LEAGUE

Our U10 – U13A Netball Teams played their night league matches against Somerset College this week. Our U11 team lost narrowly, while our U10, U12 and U13A teams all won their matches. Our netball teams have made super progress this season. Congratulations to all teams and coaches.



## **CHESS VS LOCHNERHOF**

Our chess teams played matches against Lochnerhof last Friday, with our A Team winning 3 ½ boards to 2 ½ and our B Team drawing 3 boards each. Well done to both teams.

## **HOCKEY VS SWPS**

A wonderful afternoon of hockey vs SWPS was enjoyed by all!



## **RUGBY VS SOMERSET COLLEGE**

On Wednesday our boys played rugby matches against Somerset College. Our juniors had a much improved performance and tried valiantly to match their opposition. Our U8 Lions team played their game of the season and narrowly lost 3-4. This match was characterised by end to end running and the boys defended like trojans. Both our U9 teams both had very tough encounters and the boys had to pull out all the stops to score in what were two low scoring matches. U9 Sharks drew 2-all and the U9 Cheetahs won 1-0.



Our senior boys were represented by the Warthogs who played in a 10-a-side match, as College did not have enough boys to fill a full 15-man squad. The boys were on the front foot from the first whistle and did not allow the opposition to dictate any phases. Our defence was spot on and the manner in which we played their rules allowed our team to create front foot ball and maintain it for most of the match. The Warthogs won 20-10.

The U11A boys had their work cut out for them, as they had to claw their way back to get in control of the match when College managed to score a long range try against the run of play. Our boys had to endure and absorb a lot of pressure as the College attack was relentlessly trying to get through our defences. With a few minutes to spare, the match was locked down at 12-all. Our boys produced a good passage of play in which we attacked the College line in waves, but was held back by their defence. Liam McCulley produced a moment of brilliance, breaking through the defence and scoring under the poles. Our boys won 19-12.

The first XV ended the day with probably the most disciplined performance I have seen our teams play in many years. Our boys were in control from the first whistle and absorbed all the pressure that was created by College. We managed to counter every attack they have threw at us. Our boys supported each other brilliantly and we launched our own attacks on the College line.

Our relentless attack eventually paid dividends and we broke through their defences, seeing Josh Knox end off a brilliant team effort with a try in the corner. The match was characterised by great passages of play from both teams, and the match was almost sealed at 19-5 after a good forwards try scored by Jordan Heymans with 5 min on the board. However, College launched a final attack on our line and managed to score very late in the match, leaving us to defend a 19-12 score line with a minute of time on the clock. Well done to our boys for winning with a brilliant display of disciplined rugby!



## WP TOP SCHOOLS QUALIFYING HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Good luck to our girls and boys 1<sup>st</sup> Hockey Teams as they participate in the qualifying tournament this afternoon and evening at the Maties Astros. The top two schools in the Helderberg will qualify to play in the WP Top Schools Hockey Tournament which takes place next Friday (Boys) and Saturday (Girls) at Hartleyvale Stadium in Cape Town. We wish both teams the very best of luck!

### Week 7 Programme for week ending 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Mon	31 Aug	from 18h00	Oxford Maths & English Conference for Staff – Cape Town Netball Night League v Hendrik Louw (Simpson Hall)
Tues	1 Sept	18h30	Spring Music Concert (Haydock Hall)
Wed	2	10h00 from 13h45 from 14h00 from 13h45	Oakwood Spring Bonnet Parade and Spring Tea Outreach U7 Netball Practices Netball Matches v International School (H) Rugby Matches v Sir Lowry's Pass (A)
Thurs	3	from 13h45 14h30 15h30	U7 to U9 Hockey Practices Boys 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Hockey Practice Girls 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Hockey Practice
Fri	4	10h30 from 13h30	SH Arbor Day Casual Day & Oakwood Wacky Dress Day – R10 for PATCH Combined Assembly Chess Matches v Gordon's Bay (H) Boys WP Top Schools U13 Hockey Tournament (Hartleyvale Stadium)
Sat	5		Girls WP Top Schools U13 Hockey Tournament (Hartleyvale Stadium)
Sun	6	17h00	Umhlali Prep School arrive - Hosting