



SOMERSET HOUSE

The Weekly Blah

Volume 6 ~ 19 February 2016

Grade 1s – hard at work!



More than a school ~ a way of life.

Siblings and Waiting Lists

Please ensure that all younger siblings have been added to the waiting list. Siblings do have priority, but places can only be allocated to them when the Pupil Application Form has been completed and the R350 administration fee paid. We offer places (particularly Pre-School places) more than a year in advance and siblings who are only registered after the 2017 or 2018 enrolment process has been completed will have to be placed on the waiting list.

SH Bag Update

We are once again in the process of renegotiating prices for our SH Bags (Tog Bags, Hockey Stick Bags and Backpacks). With the material and zips being imported, the unstable Rand and the resultant negative impact on the exchange rate, we have seen a significant impact on the prices in comparison to last year. This has unfortunately resulted in a delay in the distribution of Order Forms, but we are hoping to have the matter resolved and be in a position to send out Order Forms within the next week or so. We would just like to thank you for your understanding

What to do with second hand uniform items...

We ask for your assistance with regards to old uniform items. You may, obviously, pass uniform items to friends and relatives but if not, please donate used uniform items to the school shop. Items in good condition can be sold and items looking a little worse for wear are sent up-country to another little school in desperate need of uniform items. We would prefer articles of the Somerset House school uniform not be thrown out or donated to domestic workers, gardeners etc. Children seen out and about with our uniform are considered ambassadors for the school and so we remind you that even when not at school – the uniform should be worn neatly and correctly. We thank you for your co-operation.

Lost Property

The Lost Property Box is emptied at least twice a week and all lost property is moved to the Finance Building; here it is sorted into marked and unmarked school uniform and non-school uniform items. Unmarked items are kept for 2 weeks, after which they are washed and absorbed into the Second Hand Shop (uniform items) or donated (non-school items). Marked items are kept aside and we encourage you to please remind your children to come and have a look if they have lost something and it is not in the Lost Property Box. Thank you so much for marking your children's items, doing so really does make it easier for them to claim any mislaid items.

Discontinuation of Access Tag System

Due to the security requirements at school the access tag system is being discontinued. Please take note that any fee that was initially paid in respect of acquiring an access tag is not refundable, as was made clear when the access tag was issued.

Message from Arden Scholtz



I am collecting "previously loved" soccer boots for Young Bafana soccer academy. This is a soccer academy that selects children from the local township and give them an opportunity to develop, focusing both on soccer and school work. They do not have any soccer boots so please will you bring any old boots to Mrs Mendes' class. Their feet sizes vary from very small to large so any size would be great. They and I would appreciate that a lot.
Thank you. (Arden Scholtz)

Headlines....

Future Pupil will hear for the first time soon!

When Faye Allwood was born late last year she was tested for hearing and found to be profoundly deaf. The fact that her hearing was tested at birth will give her a chance to reach her potential when she joins Somerset House in 2019. Faye will be undergoing surgery on Monday to insert a microscopic implant into each cochlear which will allow her to hear for the first time when the apparatus is "switched on" on the 4th of March. The 5 to 6 hour operation performed by Dr Derek Wagenfeld, will change Faye's life, just as it changed her sister Kate's life when she had the same operation, also while very young.

Faye's parents, Anthony and Sarah Allwood are hoping that this operation will show the importance of early detection of deafness. They know that Kate would not have been able to make normal progress through school had her condition not been discovered as early as it was. For hearing tests at birth to become standard policy is the desired outcome.

As a school community we will be thinking of Faye and her family on Monday.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

As a school we have to ensure that our emergency evacuation procedures work. When technicians set off the alarm by accident on Tuesday just before home time, we were certainly tested. I apologise for the inconvenience to parents who were on campus. Thank you for your cooperation. The good news is that we improved our evacuation time.

Devices / Bags

On the day of the gala earlier this week many bags, including laptop bags etc. were left lying outside classes. On sport days the campus is considered "open" as we have a lot of visitors and the campus is obviously going to be less secure than in the mornings. We encourage use of the lockers at all times and we ask that you, as parents, emphasise the importance of locking valuables away at school if you have not already done so.

Chris Storey – Headmaster

head@somersethouse.co.za

Soft Toy Alert!

Grade 4 Craig is urgently looking for all those soft toys that you are no longer playing with that are cluttering up your bedrooms. Please drop off at Ms Craig's classroom.



Performer of the Week

Calling all lost "Performer" badges! If you have a performer badge at home or pinned to your jersey or dress, please return it to Mrs Wessels.

Library Books

During the transition from our old library system to our current LIBWIN system, a number of library books were taken out of the library, but have never been returned. Please have a careful look through your children's bookshelves, your kitchen shelves, TV lounges etc. and should you find any of our books, it would be much appreciated if you could return them. In 2014, we had the "Golden Ticket" drive and children were allowed to take home the books they had purchased. Many of these didn't find their way back to school, but you should be able to identify them by their "Golden Ticket" sticker. No fines, no questions asked...just return them please!

Please note: Procedure for Reporting Absenteeism

If a child is really ill then they will not benefit from being at school. In cases such as these, we ask that for the sake of your child and those around him/her, you make arrangements to keep them off school. Please phone the school or e-mail melmcc@somersetshouse.co.za by 08h30 on the day that your child is ill. If a child is required to miss a school day or part of a school day, that request must be made, in writing, to the Headmaster.

Please refrain from asking other parents or children to pass on the message regarding absenteeism, especially through the class WhatsApp groups – these are not an official means of school communication.

Should your child be absent on the day of a test or a deadline, please will you notify the school by telephone call or e-mail, acknowledging that you are aware of the test they are missing and informing us of their condition. We need a written record so as to ensure that we follow correct procedures when marking the work and facilitating other opportunities to assess your child.

If a child becomes ill during a school day, the class teacher or one of the administrative staff may phone you to ask you to collect him/her. You will need to sign your child out of the sick room. All visits to the sick room and all First Aid administered to a child are recorded at school.

If your child returns to school after an appointment – they need to check back in with Mrs McCulley.

If a child is not at school due to any reason – the responsibility to catch up missed work lies with the child. In the case of Grade 1 / 2 children – the parents are to ask for work missed.

On with the Rubbish...

The boys of this morning's Crew were hungry for work this morning! There was much more speed across the car park from the WPDs, as they rushed to deliver the packets of paper to the GIPs. At times it appeared as though the latter had never been fed – or even seen a newspaper before! As the WBDs were tipping their loads and the newspapers came tumbling from the WBs, the GIPs were in there, grabbing the paper almost before it hit the ground. They were quick to file it all in the GIs, gather up the bags – and then they were eager for the next load. Indeed one particular WB was emptied on the

2016	Weds 27 Jan	Weds 3 Feb	Weds 10 Feb	Weds 17 Feb	Totals	Pos
7A					0.0	
7M		13.0			13.0	
7P	8.5	26.2		4.5	39.2	
6B		14.0	18.0		95.3	
6E					14.9	
6R			24.7		24.7	
5B	33.8	1.0	5.5	35.0	90.9	
5F	191.3	63.6	12.8	84.0	384.2	1
4JC	10.8	41.1	15.0	39.6	115.0	
4CC	18.0	19.4	5.5	13.0	69.9	
3R	72.2	3.0	108.4	31.0	297.2	2
3vG	1.0	129.1		8.7	142.3	
2dP	6.6	23.2	14.9	7.8	82.9	
2T	37.8	19.5	56.4	43.1	187.0	3
1 Hawk		48.2	10.2	4.2	62.6	
1 Hug	15.3	50.6	5.0	20.5	91.4	
Weekly Total	395.3	451.9	276.4	291.4	1710.5	

move, before even reaching its destination. A rather un-nerved WBD scuttled back to W&M slightly shaken by the whole experience! The calming reasoning of W&M soon worked, and the WBD recovered...All good rubbish!! Keep it going!

- 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 at registration at 08h00. Please be on time...!!!

Family Fun Day 27th February: Carnival Ride Zone!

Introducing our new Carnival Ride Zone!! You can choose to enjoy each ride individually where the following ticket prices apply per ride: Dizzy Barrels - 2 tickets; Swings, Rocket Parachute and Mechanical Bull all 3 tickets each and Bungee Trampoline 6 tickets. Alternatively, you can purchase a band for R100 (20 tickets), which gives you unlimited rides on them ALL from 2 - 6pm, the choice is yours. Bands can be pre-bought or purchased on the Fun Day from the Ticket Office.



Dizzy Barrels



Swings



Rocket Parachute Simulator



Bungee Trampoline



Mechanical Bull

Sports News

SUMMER INDOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

The results from Monday's Indoor Hockey Matches may be seen in the table to the right. Congratulations to our Girls U12A and B, Girls U13, Boys U12A and Boys U13 teams who have all qualified to play in the semi-finals on Monday 22nd February. A full set of pool results is available on our website.

	OPPOSITION	RESULT
Girls U12 A	Hendrik Louw	1 – 0
Girls U12 B	Somerset College B	3 – 1
Girls U13 A	Hendrik Louw	4 – 1
Boys U12 A	De Hoop	
Boys U12 B	Lochnerhof	1 – 3
Boys U13 A	De Hoop	3 – 0



The girls play-off matches will take place at Somerset House and the boys' games at Somerset College. Monday promises to be an exciting finale to our summer indoor hockey league. We wish all our teams the best of luck and hope they reach the finals. Finals will be played on Monday evening at both venues.



ATHLETICS

Congratulations to Zenade October and Mikey Royden-Turner who have both been selected to represent the Metropole East Athletics team at the Western Province Trials which will take place on Saturday at Blue Downs Stadium. Both Zenade and Mikey came 3rd in the 1200m events, super results against the best athletes in the Metropole East area. Congratulations to both of you and we wish you well for the Western Province Trials on Saturday.



BOLAND WILSON TENNIS SERIES

Two of our pupils participated in the first leg of the Boland Wilson Tennis Series on Saturday. The tournament took place in Stellenbosch. Aidan Hughes played in the Under 9 division and Gordon Morrison in the Under 13 division. Both boys had a great day. Aidan won 3 of his 4 initial pool matches which ensured he made it to the play-off matches. Aidan won both his quarter and semi-final matches. He was delighted to reach the final and although he went down 1-4 to Henré Swart, it was a wonderful achievement to end in 2nd position overall. Congratulations Aidan, we are very proud of you. Gordon won all his 4 pool matches as well as his quarter-final match. He had a tough semi-final and sadly lost this match but came back fighting to win the play-off for 3rd and 4th position, therefore winning a bronze medal. Congratulations to both boys!

BOYS AND GIRLS RELAY GALAS

On Monday afternoon, our boys swam in the Relay Gala held at Beaumont. We had a tough afternoon against strong opposition.



Sadly we also had four disqualifications which certainly didn't help our cause, hopefully lessons learnt all around. We ended up in 5th position overall. We hosted our Girls' Relay Gala on Wednesday afternoon. Participating schools included Beaumont, De Hoop B, Rhenish, Somerset College and Somerset House. Our girls swam well and ended up in 2nd position, well done to the entire team. Special congratulations to our U7s who swam in their first gala for Somerset House. The overall points were as follows:

BOYS' RELAY GALA		GIRLS' RELAY GALA	
De Hoop	136	Beaumont	130
Beaumont	131	Somerset House	100
Rhenish	81	De Hoop B	93
Somerset College	75	Somerset College	87
Somerset House	73	Rhenish	75
Lochnerhof	46	Beaumont B	40



1st XI CRICKET

On Wednesday our 1st XI cricket team played a match against Somerset College at Somerset College. Our captain Josh Cox won the toss and elected to bat first. We made a slow but solid start scoring around 3 runs an over. Our opening pair laid a solid foundation with Josh Cox scoring 38 runs. Arden Scholtz joined Josh midway into our innings and scored a quick-fire 76* runs off 48 balls, helping us to post a very competitive score of 145 in 20 overs. Our bowlers started off well and we managed to restrict their batsmen from scoring at will. Our sustained pressure led to wickets falling at regular intervals; our fielders caught every catch, and a brilliant run-out by Nic Lombard added to the excitement. Cruebelle Diko bowled very well and took 3 wickets for 10 runs in his 4 overs and was ably supported by James Royden-Turner who also took 3 wickets for 14 runs in his 4 overs. We managed to restrict them 108 runs for 7 wickets, resulting in a resounding win by 36 runs. Well done to the boys.

UNDER 11A CRICKET – A RATHER SPLENDID AFTERNOON AT SOMERSET COLLEGE...

It was some 18 years ago when I was one of the cricket coaches at a very young Somerset College. My Under 14 team was the first ever team to play a Home fixture at College and it was on the brand new Siebrits Oval. Hours and hours of hard labour, tender love, mowing and rolling had gone into the preparation of the wicket for this auspicious occasion. I was warned by the wicket's creator, Myles Siebrits, that extreme care needed to be taken on his wicket and that if we messed it up, he would damage me! As it happened, we all survived and we won the match...one of the firsts for College back then.

And so it was very similar yesterday – but in a different way! To be playing my last game as Under 11 coach against Somerset College on the Siebrits Oval some 18 years on, was quite an occasion. Yes the trees have grown, the buildings have sprung up here and there and much has changed – until you turn to look at the mountain. She hasn't changed over the years; craggy faces looking down onto the College grounds, keeping a gently eye on all the goings on. There were no warnings about damaging the wicket, rather a sort of guard of honour from the

players as we strolled out to shake hands with Messrs Bevan and Toro, standing over the very same spot as 18 years ago – very special!

So, what of the cricket? Our Under 11s excelled and were absolutely fabulous! It was an absolute pleasure spending the afternoon with them all and watching them take a very well-deserved victory. All ten players bowled whilst Keanu kept the wicket. A couple of great catches, a hit wicket and two straight bowled were all much enjoyed. At the crease Aidan Norris batted with wonderful timing and flair – stunning to watch. Dion puffed and panted his way to a super 34 and with some help from Mikey and Matt, we finished on top.

It was very much more than just a game of cricket yesterday. It was an occasion, it was a little bit of history – but above all it was jolly good fun, and it was an afternoon in which the team spirit won through. My very grateful thanks to the lady and gentlemen of the yesterday's Under 11 team – thank you!

Week 7 Programme for week ending 27th February 2016

Mon	22 Feb	14h30 from 14h30	Guiding & Scouting World Thinking Day JP Staff Meeting U12 & U13 Summer Hockey League: semis & finals see details below
Tues	23	14h45 14h45 16h15	Cricket Matches v SWPS : U11B (A); 2 nd XI (H) Cricket Matches v Lochnerhof : U11C (H); 3 rd XI (A) SP Staff Meeting
Wed	24	14h00 14h45	Mini Cricket Festivals: Boys (H); Girls (Applewood) Cricket Matches v Beaumont : U11A (A); 1 st XI (H)
Thurs	25	from 14h30 15h00 16h00 16h30 – 17h30 17h30	Tennis Matches Somerset College Mixed Relay Gala (A) Board of Governors' Pre Meeting Governors & Staff Function Board of Governors Meeting
Fri	26	09h00 – 10h30 10h30 13h40 15h00 – 19h00 14h30 – 17h00	Somerset College Scholarship Exam (S/College) JP Assembly (Haydock Hall) SP Assembly (Haydock Hall) SAHA Hockey Coaching Clinic for coaches Senior Choir Workshop (Haydock Hall)
Sat	27	14h00 – 19h00	Guild Family Fun Day Western Cape Athletics Trials (Paarl)

U12 & U13 Summer Hockey League: semis & finals

16h05 – U12 Boys semi: SH Tigers v Beaumont (S/College)
 16h40 – U13 Boys semi: SH U13 v Somerset College (S/College)
 17h50 – Boys Playoff Matches (S/College)
 19h00 – Boys U12 Final (S/College)
 19h35 – Boys U13 Final (S/College)
 20h15 – Boys Prize Giving
 14h30 – U13 Girls semi: SH U13 v Beaumont (S/House)
 15h50 – U12 Girls semi: SH Eagles v De Hoop (S/House)
 16h25 – U12 Girls semi: SH Falcons v Beaumont (S/House)
 18h20 – U12 Girls Playoff Matches (S/House)
 19h00 – U13 Girls Playoff Matches (S/House)
 19h40 – U12 Girls Final (S/House)
 20h20 – U13 Girls Final (S/House)
 21h00 – Girls Prize Giving