



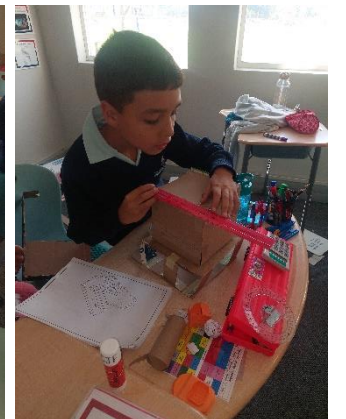
SOMERSET HOUSE  
NON NOBIS SOLUM  
FOUNDED 1948

# REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 1 WEEK 2 (19 APRIL 2024)

## TECHNOLOGY PROJECT – OWL NESTING BOXES

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the first Grade 4 Technology project which was for a Spotted Eagle Owl Nesting Box. Over the past two weeks, pupils delved into the fascinating world of the Spotted Eagle Owl, conducting thorough research on its habitat, nesting habits, and nesting box requirements. Guided by their newfound knowledge, they embarked on the design phase, carefully sketching nesting box designs that met the needs of our feathered friends. Scaling down their designs to 1/4 of the original size, they then brought their creations to life by constructing scaled models using cereal boxes and tape. The dedication and creativity displayed by our pupils throughout this project was truly inspiring, and we are proud to see their hard work culminate in such impressive results. Congratulations to all our Grade 4s on a job well done!



# EMBRACING AUTUMN

The little Ladybirds (Grade 000) have had a wonderful start to Term 2 and have enjoyed learning all about their new theme, "Autumn Colours". They painted their own autumn trees and stamped colourful autumn leaves onto their tree trunks. They marbled-rolled the different autumn colours over a leaf template to create stunning leaf mobiles for the class. They also went on a walk in search of autumn leaves. They enjoyed tearing their leaves up into small pieces to stick onto their hedgehog pictures. The children practiced their fine motor skills by rolling and squishing playdough, and carefully placing little objects onto autumn mats using their pincer grip. They loved looking at, and investigating, all the different toy insects hiding under the wooden discs.



# ROBBEN ISLAND SWIM

In the early hours of the morning on the 21st of March 2024, Liam Allwood, Ben Hingeston, Bobby Savage and Christopher Havinga set out on an exciting adventure to overcome the freezing cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean in a quest to swim from Robben Island to Blouberg Bay.

It was a perfect day for the swim, with mirror-like water and not a cloud in the sky. The boys set out on the boat from the Waterfront, to experience the time of their lives. Despite the beautiful conditions the boys were not prepared for the icy temperature of the water. The water was 13° on the day, making it feel like a polar plunge.

Chris and Bobby started the relay off by swimming through the kelp to touch Robben Island and thus the 8km swim-off. After 20 minutes, Liam and Ben jumped in pushing through the cold. This relay continued for a while until Bobby and Liam got very cold and were forced back into the boat to rest and warm up. The boys had to change strategy and swim individually instead of doubles, which allowed them to warm up in-between legs. This continued until the last 500m of the swim and then they all jumped in and finished the swim together.

They arrived on Blouberg Beach to a warm welcome from friends and family after 2 hours and 45 minutes, surprising the spectators with their speed.

A celebratory lunch afterwards, put the cherry on top of this amazing achievement.

Thank you to all who supported them in this challenge and assisted them in preparing for the great swim. It was a proud day for the boys and the Somerset House community.

(Written by Liam Allwood).



## THE LAST OF THE SUMMER SMOOTHIES.

Last week the pupils and staff enjoyed the last of the “Summer Smoothies” for lunch. The menu changes somewhat as we move towards winter, filled with lots of tummy-warming dishes to keep everybody satisfied!



## TRISTAN TAKES GOLD - LEVEL 3 CLUB CHAMPS

Tristan van Rensburg participated in the Level 3 National Championships in East London during the holidays. He qualified for 8 finals: 400m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 200m Individual Medley, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke and 200m Breaststroke. Qualifying for finals at the Level 3 Championships is a huge achievement as the top club swimmers from all over South Africa compete at this event. Special congratulations too, for not only qualifying for 8 finals, but taking 1<sup>st</sup> place and gold medals in the 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke and the 200m Breaststroke events. Tristan's relay team also swam beautifully winning a silver and a bronze medal. These are fantastic results of which we are extremely proud. Such a champ! Well done, Tristan!



# EXPLORING THE WORLD OF MINIBEASTS: A PURPLE MASH ADVENTURE

In the heart of our buzzing Grade 3 ICT lesson, a captivating discovery unfolded - a journey into the enchanting world of minibeasts. Our young explorers, armed with vivid adjectives, painted these tiny creatures with words, transforming their observations into a kaleidoscope of colour, texture, and movement. As they crafted sentences, our pupils not only delved into the fascinating realm of entomology but also honed their English language skills. Descriptive language became their brush, expanding their vocabulary and revealing the magic that adjectives weave into stories. Within the digital canvas of the 2Publish Purple Mash app, they wove engaging pages, seamlessly blending text, graphics, and design. This lesson was more than a mere fusion of subjects - it was a symphony of ICT, Life Skills, and English, harmonising learning and creativity.



## WELL DONE, DILLON!

Dillon Ishchenko performed at the Cape Town Stadium with the DHL Stormers Dancers in front of a massive crowd before the rugby game this last Saturday. Well done, Dillon! We are very proud of you!



# RUGBY VS SIR LOWRY'S PASS

On Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed rugby teams from Sir Lowry's Pass Primary to Somerset House. It was a great afternoon, with some competitive rugby being played. A special shout-out to our passionate coaches - your enthusiasm and care for our children, is most appreciated. Well done to all our teams, please see the results below:



**Boys U9: Drew 0 - 0:** The U9s had a re-match this week against a strong Sir Lowry's Pass side. Our boys improved so much from the previous weekend's tournament and played very well in their 0-0 draw. They all tackled their hearts out and showed great promise in their structure and attack. Our coaches are very excited for the rest of the season and look forward to working with this talented group of boys.

**Boys U11: Lost 29 - 3:** The U11s faced challenging opponent's and despite the final score of 29-3, showed remarkable resilience and determination throughout the game. Improving in their second half they had many promising moments scattered throughout the game. This includes outstanding set pieces as our line-out and our scrum success rate was 100% including stealing a line-out and some outstanding scrums leading to penalties. This was partnered with excellent individual running and kicking from the back line. This team showed great potential and their future looks bright.

**Warthogs U13 7s: Lost 17 - 0:** Our team had some great moments and opportunities that we sadly were not able to capitalise on this week. We will work hard and make our SH family proud!

**1st XV: Won 14 - 5:** The 1st XV Rugby boys started the season with their annual league match against Sir Lowry's Pass Primary. It was a dream start with loads of brilliant moments to celebrate. The SH Falcons won the match 14 - 5 showing loads of commitment, passion and heart while maintaining a very dominant performance on the field. The coaches are excited for what the season has in store for this team. Well done boys!!



# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BIRDS!

What an exciting way to welcome all our Grade R children back to school for Term 2, as we spread our wings and immersed ourselves in the wonderful world of birds! From exploring the vast structures of nest building, natural habitats and engaging in many group discussions; from the tiniest sparrow to the majestic eagle, our children have been filled with excitement as they discovered the wonders of these feathered friends. They engaged in art activities that allowed them to be creative with colour and patterns, sculpt with playdough and we finished our week off, with a science experiment an egg in vinegar. We used the last two days to observe the changes taking place as the vinegar dissolved the shell. The children were completely fascinated to have "hands on" time learning more about egg structures!



# OAKWOOD MUSIC FUN



Colour and music – what fun it is to enjoy a music lesson in the Pre-Primary!



## 3D SHAPES!

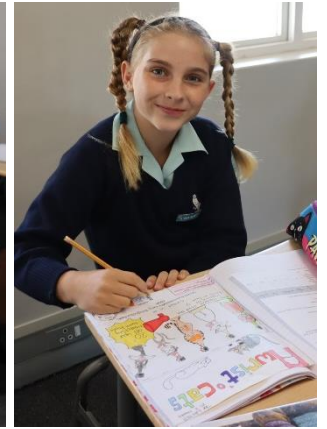
The Grade 3s made 3D shapes using toothpicks and marshmallows.





# ADVERTISEMENTS

In English this week the Grade 5s have been creating an advertisement. We started the module by discussing the different components of an advertisement as well as the persuasive techniques that advertisers use to sell their products. We then practised analysing different print advertisements. Finally, the time came to create their own advertisement which needed to include a brand name, logo, slogan, catch phrase, copy and graphic. They enjoyed the creative process and the final products showcased their understanding of the concepts taught.



## TENNIS NEWS

Olivia Hipkin (U13) participated at the TSA Nationals in Bloemfontein during the school holidays in the U14 age group. Although she didn't have a top 10 finish in either her singles/doubles, she participated in great spirit and with good sportsmanship. Valuable lessons were learned by getting used to playing in a different altitude where the ball also bounces a lot higher. Apart from the losses she also had some great wins and she played her best tennis during her last match which she won in straight sets! Very well done, Olivia!

Nathan and Hannah Sloan also participated in the Junior National Tennis Tournaments in the holidays. Nathan came 9th in the U12 Boys, an awesome results as he wasn't ranked at the beginning of the tournament. Hannah (U11) competed in the Girls U12 division and knew all along that it was going to be a tough journey against the top players in the country. Hannah ended 51st out of 64 players and gained valuable experience along the way.



## WELCOME BACK, GRADE 000 PUPILS!

The Grade 000s came back to school ready for Term 2 with big smiles.



# GRADE 4 CINQUAIN POETRY

---

## **Tristan**

Kind, lovely  
Joking, caring, playing  
A super talented swimmer  
Brother  
*Katelyn Van Rensburg*

## **Dad**

Artistic, intelligent  
Reading, learning, helping  
I love him so much  
Damien  
*Lexi Joubert-Winn*

## **Brother**

Funny, kind  
Loving, playing, helping  
The best sibling ever  
Nicolas  
*Frankie Roberts Meyer*

## **Granny**

Creative, kind  
Loving, helping, knitting  
Supportive of everything I do  
Yaya  
*Izzy Van Straaten*

## **Father**

Fun, cool  
Helping, working, driving  
Best dad on Earth  
Superhero  
*Len Lorenz*

## **Lasagne**

Delicious, cheesy  
Oozing, melting, steaming  
The best dish ever  
Italian  
*Ava Govender*

## **Brother**

Cheeky, kind  
Teasing, playing, reading  
Best little brother ever  
Thomas  
*William Bolton*

## **Ice cream**

Creamy, flavourful  
Melting, dripping, slipping  
The best treat ever  
Gelato  
*Chloe Thomas*

## **Cookies**

Buttery, crumbly  
Crunching, biting, baking  
A divine tasty treat  
Biscuit  
*Alera Jansen*

## **Pasta**

Long, warm  
Slurping, twisting, slipping  
Makes me happy to eat it  
Italian  
*Jenna Parker*

## **Pet**

Playful, kind  
Scratching, biting, licking  
He's my whole world  
Bear  
*Bethany Williams*

## **Mommy**

Pretty, worthy  
Caring, helping, loving  
My favourite person  
Lisa  
*Mila Marais*

## **Burger**

Delicious, crunchy  
Chewing, melting, sizzling  
Most favourite thing to eat  
Roccomammas  
*Daniel Porter*

## **Dog**

Funny, silly  
Playing, running, barking  
He is so adorable  
Ozzie  
*Leah Reyneke*

## **Pasta**

Cheesy, delicious  
Slurping, chewing, stretching  
Favourite Friday night treat  
Italian  
*Eireann Kruger*

## **Brother**

Kind, funny  
Laughing, playing, loving  
Best brother in the world  
Mason  
*Reese Olivier*

## **Animal**

Big, fast  
Scaring, pouncing, running  
King of the Jungle  
Lion  
*Andrew Oscroft*

## **Jess**

Cool, awesome  
Loving, laughing, teasing  
Best sibling in the world  
Sister  
*Daniel Beck*

# BAKING – LEARNING AND FUN!

Baking cupcakes with the Grade 00 children this week was not only a delightful and enjoyable activity but also a valuable learning experience! They had fun while developing essential skills such as literacy, math, science, creativity, fine motor skills, and independence through the process of baking and decorating cupcakes. The reason for baking cupcakes was to tie in with our letter sound for the week – C. They made **C**upcakes, used **C**ocoa powder for the icing, and used different **C**olour jelly tots to decorate the cupcakes with the letter C. Their fine motor skills were challenged when they were given crocodile tweezers to place the jelly tots on their chocolate icing!



# HELDERBERG ZONAL & WP PROVINCIAL TRIALS

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected to represent our Helderberg Zone in their sporting code and are now underway with WP Trials.

AGE	PUPIL	SPORT	ZONE	PROVINCIAL
Girls U11	Zoey Nelson	Netball	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
Girls U13	Lily Herbertson	Hockey	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
	Amber Parker	Hockey	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
	Zahra Staples	Hockey	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
Boys U13	Chris Havinga	Rugby	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
	Ben Hingeston	Hockey	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
	Skyler October	Hockey	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
	Adam Sulaiman	Hockey	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials
	Lee Seloka	Hockey	Helderberg Squad	WP Trials



## THANK YOU, SH FAMILY

Special thanks to our SH family for your wonderful support of our overnight Hockey Equipment drive appeal for Sir Lowry's Pass Primary. With your generosity, we were able to hand over 22 sticks, 4 pairs of shin guards, 3 pairs of shoes and 5 balls to Damian Titus, a past coach of Somerset House. Damian is trying to get boys hockey up and running at Sir Lowry's Pass and we thank him for his efforts and will support him however we can. A number of families mentioned that they still had equipment available and could they still send it in - yes, please do. We will ensure that the kit gets to those in need! Thank You!



# EASTER EGG COLLECTION – REPORT-BACK

Somerset House is committed to supporting our community, which was evident in our distribution of Easter eggs to both children and adults across the Helderberg basin last term. Thank you to everyone who donated Easter eggs for those less fortunate than ourselves. We donated over 6000 Easter Eggs to 13 various organisations, which is incredible! The joy on the faces of grateful children and adults was heartwarming. Thank you, Somerset House for making a massive difference in our community! Non Nobis Solum – Not for ourselves alone!



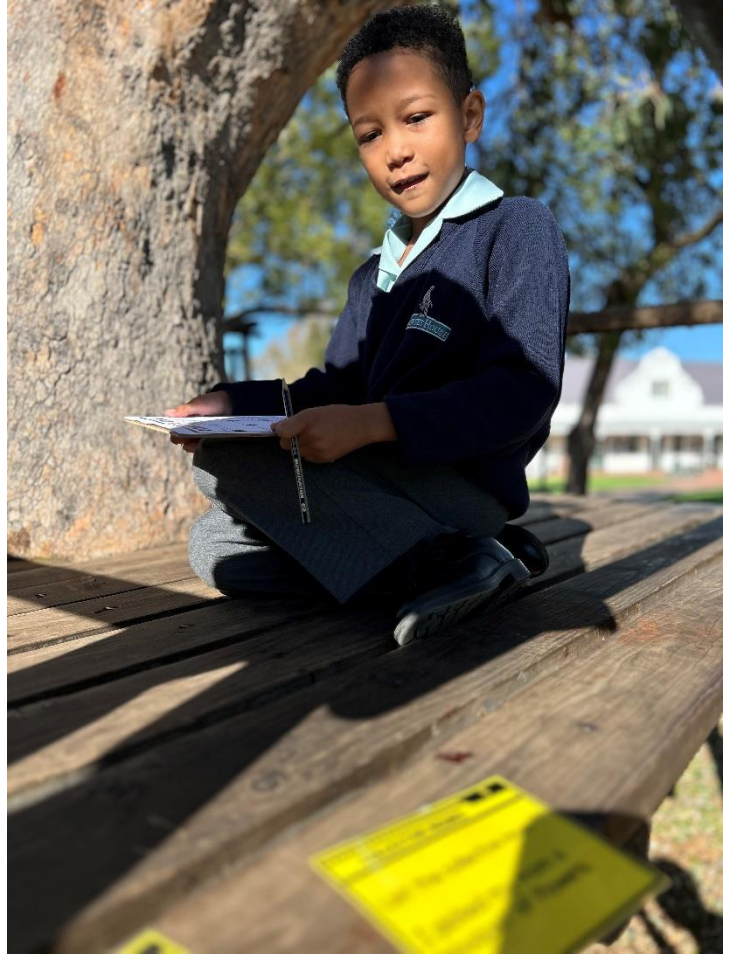
# CHESS VS GORDON'S BAY & CURRO

Somerset House headed off to Gordon's Bay Primary last Friday with an U9, U11 and U13 team. Gordon's Bay Primary are a strong chess school and although our players gave it their best shot, Gordon's Bay beat us overall on the day. Well done to our U9 Team: Jason Griessel, Ethan Hughes, Matthew Scheepers, Liam Fraga and Jackson Gilbey who won their match 4,5 – 0,5. Well done too, to Chloe Thomas and Simon Wiehahn who won their games in the U11 and U13 teams respectively. On Tuesday afternoon, our U11 team played chess against Curro Somerset. Well done to our team: Zachariah Brown, Jean le Roux, Philip Human, Lincoln Massyn, Len Lorenz and Oscar Burger who won 5 Boards to 1.



# COLLECTIVE NOUN HUNTING!

The Grade 3s put on their detective hats and went in search of collective nouns. Much fun was had as they explored campus looking for clues to solve the collective noun riddles.



## FROM THE LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

### ROOTING IN ROUTINE

- The benefits of having a structure at home is synonymous with emotional, social and physical well-being.
- A general outlay of how the week will progress gives a feeling a safety and security to everyone at home.
- For the more visual person a calendar on the fridge or accessible area is a winner!
- Routine is known to reduce anxiety and stress and gives us a framework within which we can grow and action our ideas and creativity.
- We get mini dopamine hits as we achieve these small goals throughout the week/month/term.
- What can we include in our flexible routine?



Work and school obligations/meetings, social and family activities, extra murals, daily exercise, meals, down-time, outings, self-care. Think of it as a warm blanket of security as we move into cooler weather...

Love,  
Zoë



# DECODING WRITTEN TEXT

The Grade 1s love decoding; reading a given sentence and drawing what the text says. This shows that they have a good understanding of the written text.



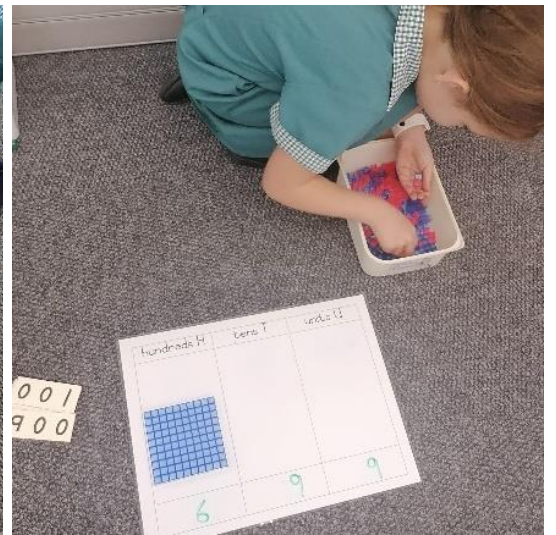
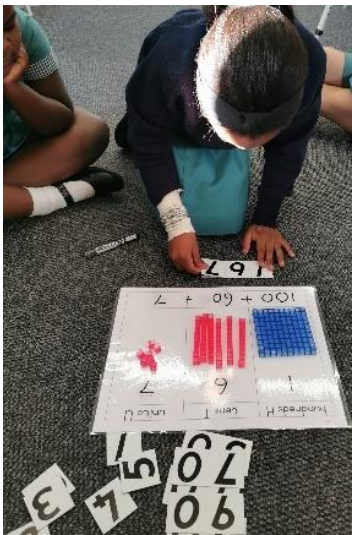
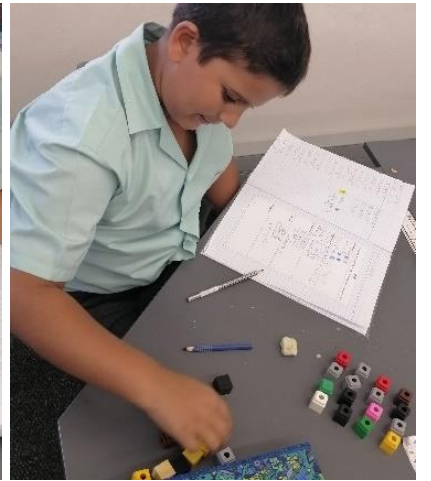
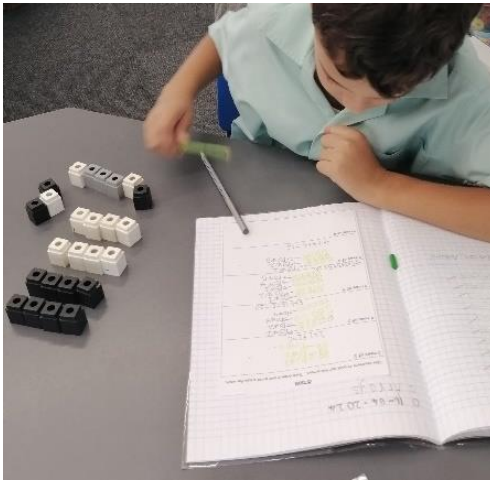
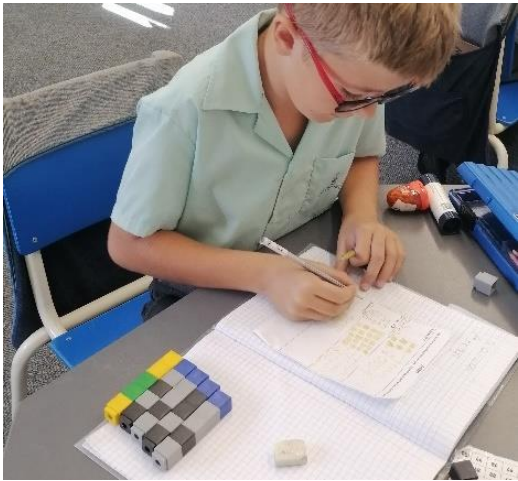
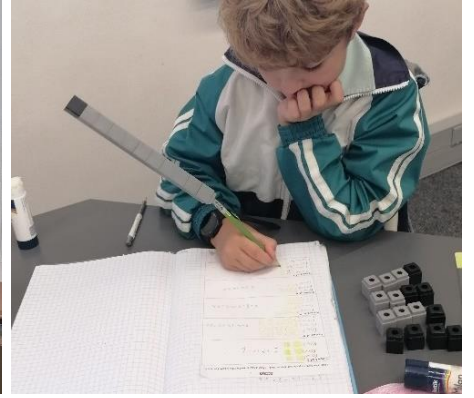
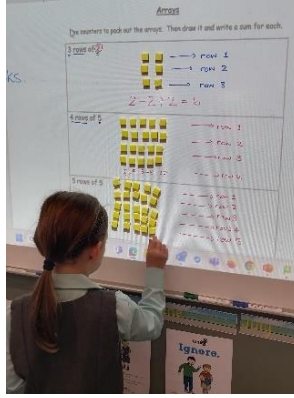
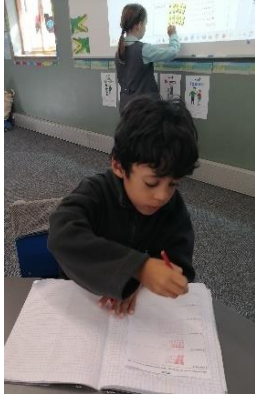
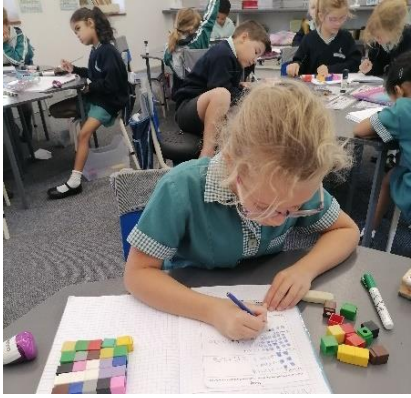
# EISTEDDFOD SEASON IS UPON US!

It is wonderful to witness the creative choices that our Eisteddfod pupils are making in the pieces that they choose to perform. Emerson speaks to making the world a peaceful place, while Thomas lost the rabbit from his hat! The hat and tailcoat that he is wearing belonged to his great, great grandfather. What a privilege to wear them in performance!



# MATHS SKILLS

As part of this week's Grade 2 maths rotation group, the children revisited the concepts; Hundreds, Tens, and Units, using base 10 blocks and number cards to reinforce number building skills. They also learnt about repeated addition and arrays, which are important for understanding multiplication. We are so proud of how well they grasped this concept!



# SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

We never take for granted what a privilege it is to share our campus with lots of wildlife!



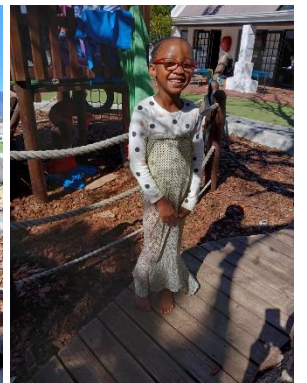
## GRADE 4 ISIXHOSA

Guess what? The Grade 4 pupils had a blast during their isiXhosa class! They got creative and made some awesome puppets. But here's the exciting part—they're not just for show! These puppets are going to be the stars of their lessons as we dive into learning the isiXhosa language. In other words—when the pupils make mistakes while learning to speak, it will be the puppets who will "take the fall", not them! It's all about making learning fun and less stressful. So, get ready to hear all about their puppet adventures soon!



# OAKWOOD HOLIDAY CARE

Here are some pictures from the Pre-Primary Holiday Care programme – there were even some parents spotted getting in on the fun!



# NETBALL VS LORETO & APPLEWOOD

Our netball teams have been busy trying to make up fixtures missed while we were still on holiday. Our teams played against Loreto Primary on Monday afternoon and against Applewood on Wednesday. We are very proud of our girls and their coaches for the great start they have made to the season. The spirit is also fantastic and there is a lovely “gees” around the netball courts. Well done to all our girls and coaches!



AGE GROUP	VS LORETO	VS APPLEWOOD
U7 Falcons	0 – 4	2 – 3
U7 Squirrels	4 - 0	
U8 Falcons	0 – 4	4 – 0 (Combined Team)
U8 Squirrels	0 - 1	
U9 Falcons	2 - 0	4 – 0 (Combined Team)
U9 Squirrels	0 - 0	
U10A	4 - 1	4 – 1
U10B	5 - 0	
U11A	18 – 2	10 – 0
U11B	0 - 2	
U12A	5 - 6	19 – 1 (Combined Team)
U12B	8 - 1	
U13A	18 - 13	19 – 1 (Combined Team)
U13B	6 - 2	



# FOOTBALL VS HOPE & LIGHT PRIMARY

It was great seeing our football teams in action again after a season's break. Our afternoon commenced with our U7 and U8 players enjoying an internal match before our U9, U11 and U13 teams took on Hope & Light Primary. Our teams played with great structure and flair and managed to score some exciting goals. Well done to all our teams on their most successful start to the season. The results from the day were as follows:

AGE GROUPS	RESULTS
U9	Drew 0 - 0
U11	Won 6 - 1
U13	Won 6 - 0

