

REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK



TERM 3 WEEK 10 (22 SEPTEMBER 2023)

EXCEPTIONAL MATHS ACHIEVEMENTS

We are elated about the recent results of the UCT Mathematics Competition. The UCT Mathematics Competition, established in 1977, is an annual event for **HIGH SCHOOLS** in the Western Cape, with invitations sent to more than 400 high schools. Each school can enter five individuals and five pairs per grade, and over 7500 pupils take part each year.



This year one of our current pupils, Olivia Castleden (Grade 7) as well as three past pupils: Makai Mitchell, Carl Schaefer and Luca Schreuder (all Grade 8) were invited to the prizegiving for the Top 10 candidates in this competition. To have 3 pupils (current and past) in the Top 10 of the competition is an incredible accolade for the Somerse House Maths Department. The results were as follows:

- Olivia Castleden: 1st Place and Top Girl
- Jonty Coolen: 13th Place
- Makai Mitchell and Carl Schaefer: 1st Place – Pairs



BOYS 1ST HOCKEY TEAM WIN BRONZE MEDALS AT THE WP TOP SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Friday the 15th of September will go down as "the day of days", when a small school nestled in the Helderberg basin would step up and be counted amongst the top 10 schools in the Western Cape. A day when 14 boys would participate in an epic tournament to play against the best hockey schools in the Western Cape and bring pride and honour to their school. On this day, they would play against and draw 0-0 to SACS and Kenridge, before beating Durbanville 1-0, to see Somerset House placed second in their pool. Regardless of the outcome against a mighty De Hoop, who beat us soundly, Somerset House were into the round robin play-offs. It was a hard play-off against Bishops, who would go on to secure second place overall. This meant that the 1st XI boys would need to draw on all their experience, resilience and teamwork to face a strong Panorama Team, whom we met in the quarter final play-off for 3rd and 4th place. However, determination and teamwork were the order for this game, and putting aside aching legs and tired bodies, we held the Panorama team to a 0-0 draw.



A finger biting duel of striker against keeper would see "Showdowns" to determine Bronze medals. "Cometh the hour, cometh the man", Aiden Burger stepped up to make two crucial saves, whilst Liam Hughes and Sam Downes had made certain to put the ball in the back of the opponents' net, putting the Panorama team under pressure. We were sitting in a dominant position with 2 goals and two saves, with the "Golden goal" to seal the outcome. Up stepped Liam Hughes, who ran to the right, spun back onto his reverse stick side to tuck in a "cheeky finish, to seal victory on the backhand with a little flip" and send Somerset House jubilant into third place.

What an amazing experience for all involved, and what a team! Thank you, Mr Rank and Mr Royden-Turner for your support and input to contribute towards the success of Somerset House. I am incredibly proud of this band of brothers!

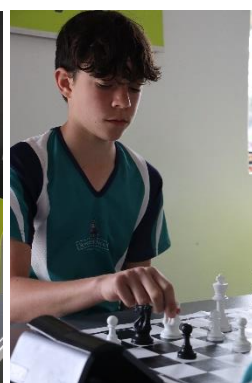


CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Our top 2 chess players in the Junior Primary, Middle Prep and Senior Primary faced each other in the Chess Championship Finals last Thursday afternoon. The format of the final was best of 3 matches. Congratulations to the following players who came out on top and are our SH Chess Champions for 2023



	JP	MP	SP
RUNNER UP	Daniel Porter	Corbin Hilliard-Lomas	Nicholas Roberts-Meyer
CHAMPION	Jason Griessel	Jean le Roux	Thomas Niehaus



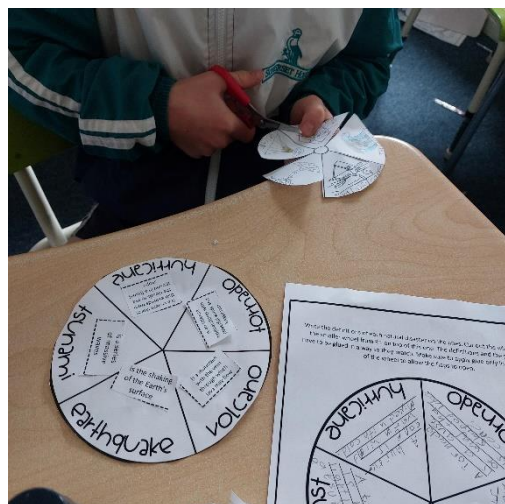
LEARNING LIFESKILLS

The Grade 4 girls had a session with our school counsellor, Zoe Douglas. They had an opportunity to do relaxation techniques as well as an exercise looking at “their confidence cloud.” They discussed some of their negative “ant” thoughts that invade their thinking and the “butterfly” positive thoughts that we need to replace these with!



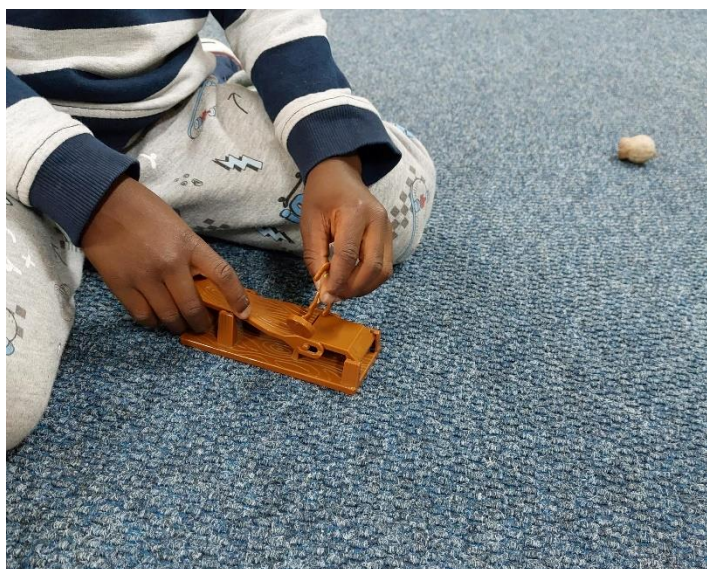
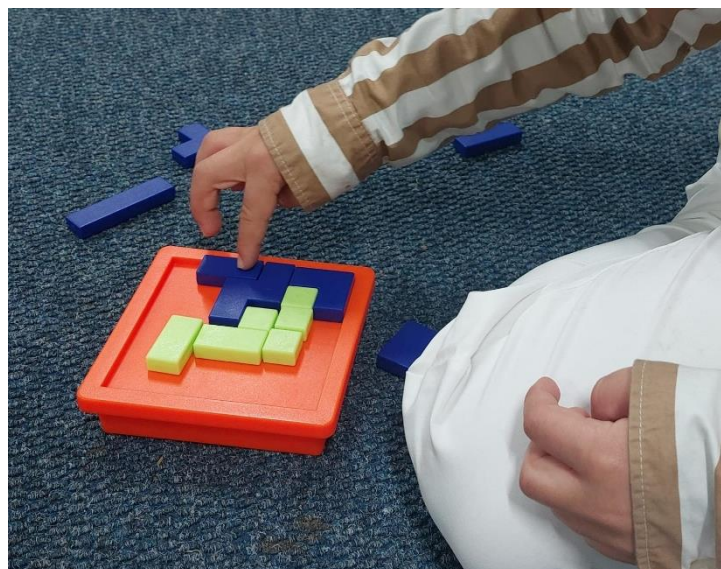
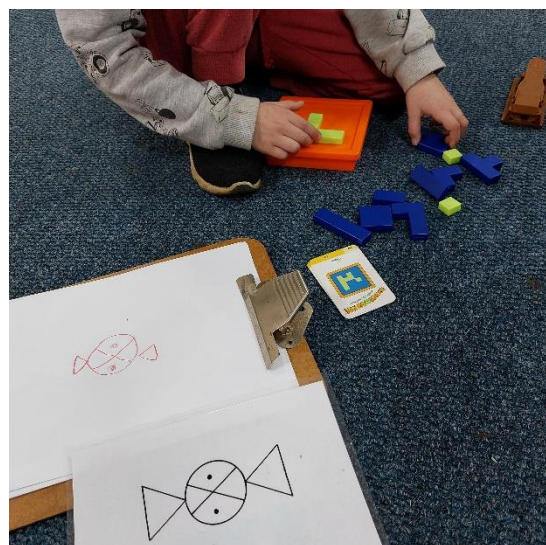
NATURAL DISASTERS

Grade 3s continued their theme of Natural Disasters, discovering more about how these disasters take place and the impact on humans. The discussion that was had was thought provoking, with the next generation challenged by how they can learn to prepare and predict disasters and protect others from harm in the future. The children developed infographic wheels, learning about headings and definitions. Our Grade 3 "Meteorologists" have worked diligently on weather patterns in the Western Cape, weather reports, cloud identification and natural disasters this term - well done!



GRADE 1 2024 - CHECK IN

Somerset House is slowly readying itself for the Grade 1s of 2024. As part of the process, time is spent with every child, both from Oakwood and new applications. It is so wonderful to spend time with every prospective Grade 1, getting to know them, introducing them to the Junior Prep spaces and determining their school readiness skills. This process is used to best support children as they transition into "big school". We can't wait to see you in Grade 1.



MCKENZIE CUP WATER POLO TOURNAMENT

This past weekend saw the U13 Girls Water Polo team travel to Reddam House Constantia to play in the McKenzie Cup. The tournament had 12 teams in the U13 section and the pool matches were played over two days. Considering the limited pool time that our girls have had in the past few months, we produced some wonderful results. These stand out performances sent us through to the quarter finals which saw us play Reddam House, who are currently the best team in the country. The girls played with heart and grit and they flew the Somerset House flag high. Sunday saw the play-off games, which had our girls playing St Cyprians for 7th and 8th place. We finally ended in 8th place and we cannot be prouder of the determination that the girls showed over the three days. We are so excited to see this sport grow at Somerset House and we look forward to the season ahead.



DERBY 5 MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE

A number of our cyclists braved the cold, wet and windy conditions to participate in the final mountain bike race of the term which took place at Bloemendal. The route was challenging enough without the extra mud and puddles, but I guess these conditions make the children enjoy the event even more. Congratulations to all our cyclists, we are very proud of you! DCS Academy will continue to run on Friday afternoons in the 4th Term.



#SAVETHEBABYRHINOWITHHUNTER

It was very special to welcome Hunter Mitchell (Grade 7 2020) back to Somerset House to share his incredible journey in rhino conservation, that started when he was only 8 years old! From small starting steps of donating his pocket money to an orphan rhino, to raising awareness globally as a youth advocate for the plight of rhinos; we are immensely proud of all he has accomplished. Our Grade 5-7 children enjoyed an interactive presentation from Hunter, sharing his journey and answering a variety of questions from the Somerset House children. You can follow all things rhino that Hunter is involved in on social media #raisethebabyrhinowithhunter.



GRADE 000 EXPLORATION

The little Ladybirds and Bees are getting so grown up and are enjoying exploring our beautiful campus. They went for a fun walk to Mrs du Toit's office to hand over their money boxes. On the way back, we stopped for a play and climb in the cat bush.

