

# REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK



TERM 4 WEEK 3 (27 OCTOBER 2023)

## ECD & PRE-PRIMARY CONFERENCE

On Saturday we welcomed 175 delegates and 14 speakers to our ECD & Pre-Primary Conference for a day filled with staff development, inspiration, networking and treats. Despite the wind and the threat of rain – the atmosphere on the day was that of excitement and anticipation.



# BLOOM



Here is some of the feedback received on Monday:

**From Mike Russel (Independent School's Association of South Africa):**

*A brief but heartfelt thank-you for Saturday's BLOOM seminar. I enjoyed every moment and found the content relevant, interesting and well-presented. I came away with plenty of learning and many contacts which can help enhance what we do in the SW region.*

*Then, on top of that and no less important, were the warmth of the welcome, the attention to the tiniest detail and the hospitality through the day – that brunch was magnificent, so kudos to the catering staff! Your student ambassadors deserve a pat on the back as well – they were “on it” and they were certainly a great ad for Somerset House.*

*Thanks again and well done!*

*Mike*

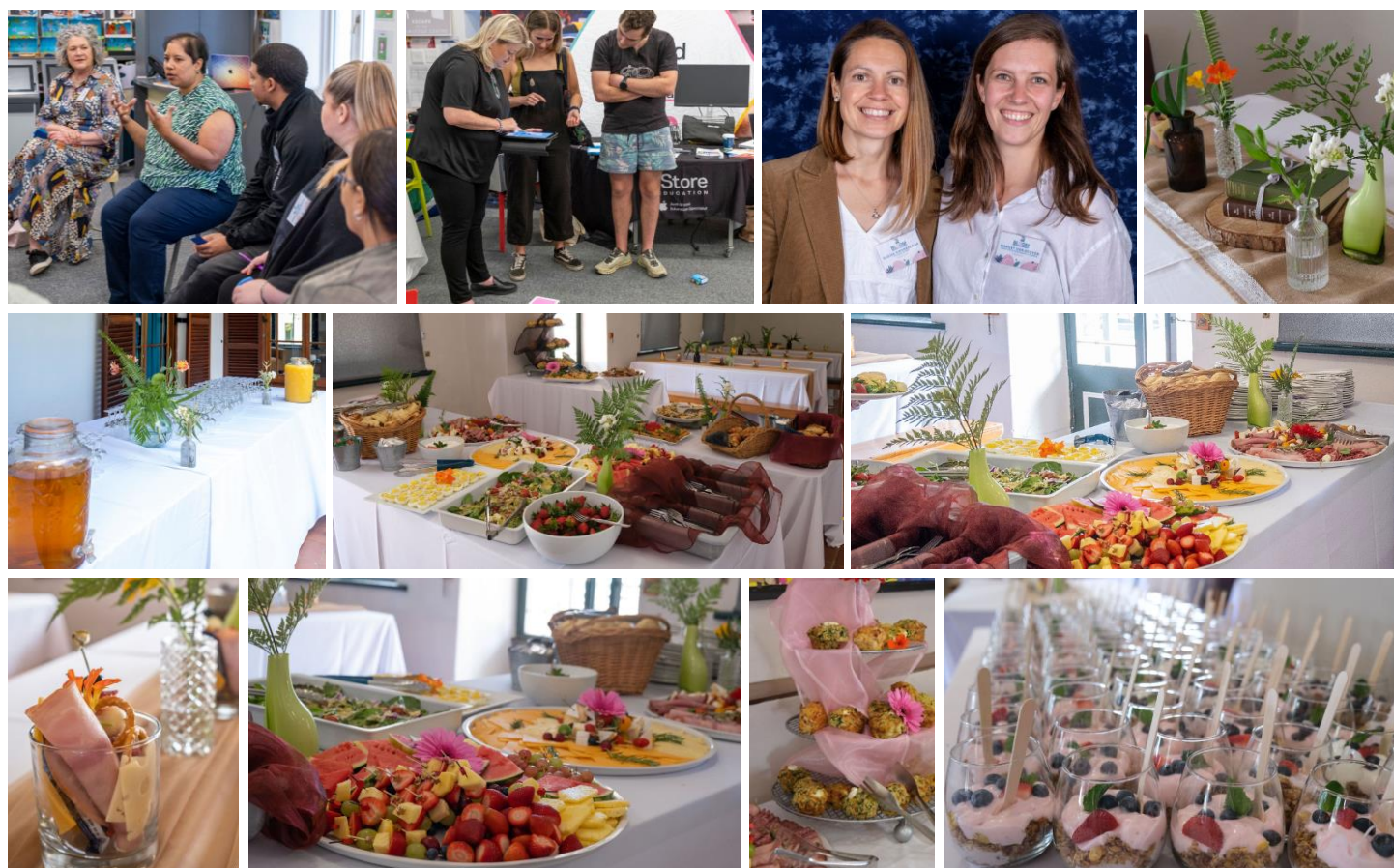
**From Léanne Keet (Masikhule)**

*Once again, thank you and your team for an exceptional day on Saturday. The diversity and inclusivity of attendees was heart-warming to see and the feedback we received from the principals we work with is that they felt inspired, motivated and encouraged. It was also wonderful for them (and us) to feel part of a larger group who share common goals and purpose – stresses and challenges too!*

*The presentations were varied, valuable and meaningful. The conference was extremely well organised, the refreshments and lunch delicious, and you can be commended on hosting a very successful event that left attendees feeling inspired.*

*Thank you too for offering Masikhule complimentary tickets for the principals we work with – such a treat for them all!*

*Léanne*



**Special mention must be made again of the following generous sponsors:**

- **Axis**, who at VERY short notice, with rain looming, assisted us with a stretch tent.
- **PNA**, who sponsored the most generous packs full of stationery for the goody bags.
- **Complete Office Solutions**, for an incredible prize of a laptop.
- **Altron Xerox**, for a wonderful prize donation of an ipad.
- **Merkava**, for sponsoring a delicious coffee for each delegate and speaker!

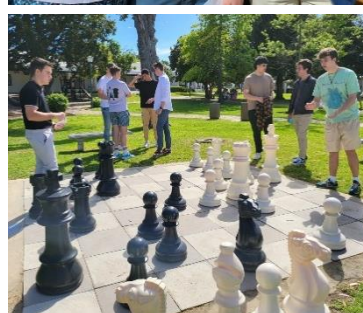






# MATRIC TEA

On a beautiful Saturday morning, the Grade 7 Class of 2018 were welcomed back to their Primary School campus to reconnect with each other, reminisce and reflect on their school journey. They opened letters, written by themselves in Grade 7 to their future selves – with much joy and laughter! Mrs Rautenbach spoiled them with all their favourite Somerset House treats and even juice in the little plastic cups they used to use many years ago. We wish these wonderful young adults all the best for the Final exams and challenge them to make good use of every opportunity presented to them.





# SUPPORTING THE BOKS!



The children and staff aren't the only ones supporting the Boks with Bok Friday each week – even the veggies in the kitchen are in on the action too!

(There will not be any wastage – at the end of the day they will be washed and popped back in their box ready for meal prep next week).

## HOCKEY FIVES

Last weekend, Somerset House was invited to participate in the Beaumont Fives Tournament, a first of it's kind in the Helderberg. The format of play is fast and furious with 4 players and a goalkeeper on the court at any given time against the opposing team. There are no outs as the ball is played off boundary cushions, which makes it quite a tiring format, but super exciting as one can sub players on and off to ensure your team maintains the momentum.

We entered both an U11 and U12 team in both the girls and the boys sections. Our teams played very well with all of them finishing in medal positions. Congratulations to our Girls U12s in particular, who won the tournament.

TEAMS	OVERALL RESULTS
SH Girls U11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Position
SH Girls U12	1 <sup>st</sup> Position
SH Boys U11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Position
SH Boys U12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Position





## GRADE 3 CONNECT

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Last term the Grade 3s were challenged to set themselves a goal and find a way to sustainably reach it. This week Isabella shared some delicious cookies, that she had made on her own, after doing chores to earn money to buy ingredients. What a delicious treat and a good example of how to achieve your goals.



## CONGRATULATIONS, JONTY COOLEN!

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Jonty Coolen spends many many hours in the pool and his hard work has paid off. He has just qualified for the South African Junior Swimming Championships in the 100m Backstroke event. Qualifying for this event is very tough as swimmers have to swim phenomenal times in their events at very competitive galas. Jonty qualified at a gala in Langebeen last weekend.

Jonty swam the 100m Backstroke in 1 min 11.9 sec (converted from his actual Short Course time of 1 min 10.71). The qualifying SANJ time for 100m Back for boys u/13 is 1 min 12.21 sec (Long Course).

He can now also enter for other events at the SANJ champs, provided he meets certain minimum time requirements. SANJ champs is scheduled for the 15-19th of March 2024. We wish Jonty the very best of luck as he attempts to qualify in other events too and prepares for the South African Junior Championships next year.



# MINI CRICKET

## GIRLS MINI CRICKET VS BEAUMONT

Our girls mini cricket teams played their first matches against Beaumont Primary. The matches were played in a great spirit and there were plenty shrieks of excitement from the girls as great balls were bowled, runs scored and wickets taken. Results for the afternoon were as follows:



TEAMS	OPPOSITION	RESULTS	TOP BOWLERS	TOP BATSMEN
U7 Cobras	Beaumont	Beaumont won by 21 Runs	Alice Burger 2 Wickets for 2 Runs	Cathryn Strydom 2 Runs
U8 Cobras	Beaumont	Beaumont won by 3 Runs	Tyrah Joseph Skylar Robertson 0/2 Runs	Lia Parenzee 8 Runs
U9 Cobras	Beaumont	Somerset House won by 8 Runs	Bella Hare-Bowers 0/1 Run	Bella Hare-Bowers 7 Runs



## BOYS MINI CRICKET VS BEAUMONT

Our U7 Cobras won the toss and decided to bat first. They were making good contact with the ball and giving the bowlers a really tough time. However, they did leave a few runs out on the field, but still managed to put together a very good total of 48 runs. SWPS started a little slow, but found good momentum towards the end of their innings resulting in a nail biting finish. SWPS scored 44 runs, so our SH Cobras won by 4 runs. Well done, Boys!

- Best Batsman: Beau Savage (13 Runs)
- Best Bowler: Silas Pietersen (Negative 2 runs)

Our U7 Titans batted first and scored a total of 48 runs. The team is working on their bowling skills to reduce the number of extras with wide deliveries given away. This was a very exciting match with it going down to the wire. SWPS also scored 48 runs and the match was tied. Well done, Boys!

- Best Batsman: Eli Lamprecht
- Best Bowler: Christiaan van Heerden

Our U8 Cobras enjoyed a much improved performance this week. Losing the toss, the opposition chose to bat scoring 34 runs in their innings. SH replied by scoring a solid 50 runs to win the match by 16 runs. Very well done, Boys!

- Best Batsman: Aiden Castleden (6 Runs)
- Best Bowler: Lizwe Mwelase (1 Wicket for 2 Runs)

Our U9 team won the toss and chose to bat first, scoring 32 runs. SWPS managed to score 47 runs, therefore winning the match by 15 runs. Well done to SWPS!

- Best Batsman: Joshua Rowles (15 Runs)
- Best Bowler: Joshua Rowles (1 Wicket for 3 Runs)



## U11B CRICKET VS BEAUMONT

Somerset House won the toss and elected to bat first. We played on a flix pitch in the scorching hot sun making it difficult to score runs with no bounce. The boys fought their way through the full 15 overs of the innings, losing quick wickets, but managed to set a target score of 52/8. Our Top Scorer was Duncan Jones with 8 runs.

The boys came back with good intention in their hearts, but Beaumont's batting lineup was very strong, starting the game off with a few quick boundaries. Our boys fought and gave their best but only managed to take two wickets. Beaumont were able to pass our score after 5.1 overs, very well played!

## 1ST X1 CRICKET VS EIKESTAD

The 1st team match was played at Radloff Park this week. SH won the toss and elected to bat first. Eikestad's bowling attack was exceptionally disciplined on a bowler-friendly wicket and our batsmen found it hard to score. We lost wickets regularly without disturbing the scoresheet all that much. SH were bowled out for only 46 runs. Our bowlers really raised their game and gave it their all. Christopher Havinga was the pick of the bowlers claiming 3 quick wickets. Mr Baines was exceptionally proud of the manner in which our boys held their heads and did not give up. Despite losing by 5 wickets, our boys showed true grit.

- Top Scorer: Noah da Costa (12)
- Top Bowler: Christopher Havinga (3 overs, 3/11)



## 2ND X1 CRICKET VS BEAUMONT

SH won the toss and decided to bat first. We started very well and were controlled with the bat, however we didn't make too many runs, ending on 45 runs in allotted 15 overs. Our fielding and bowling were really disciplined. We managed to take 4 wickets with Ryder Mitchell on a hat-trick. The boys fought hard but Beaumont managed to pass our score in the 8th over.

- Man of the match: Skyler October (Great Batting, Bowling & Fielding)



## QUEST PREPARATION IN FULL SWING!

With a little over a week to go until the Grade 7s depart on Quest; the privilege of spending a week in the wilderness is started to become a reality. The Grade 7s have been busy with kit lists, sorting out tents, and on Tuesday they gave their bicycles a spin around Southey Vines. The Quest route this year incorporates hiking, mountain biking, orienteering, ziplining and lots of team activities. The route promises to take the Grade 7s to areas of the Western Cape that they would have never been before and we cannot wait to embark on this adventure.



## OLIVIA DOES IT AGAIN!

Olivia Castleden has been invited to the Wits Maths Competition Prize Giving to be held on 8 November 2023. We wish her all the best as we wait on the final results to be announced at the event. Somerset House has also been acknowledged for an award!

Good luck and Well done Olivia!

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JOHANNESBURG





# GRADE 3 CAMP!



What an adventure! The Grade 3s eagerly embarked on their first school camp. The opportunity to learn outside of the classroom and away from home is one that many have not yet experienced. The children arrived at Jonkershoek eager to explore and settle in. They loved the freedom to galivant around the site, exploring the river and forest area. Some children chose to play cricket and soccer together without time restrictions. Group activities and challenges were used to help them learn to communicate better, considering others as part of the team, knowing that some are stronger in some areas than others. Collaboration and consideration is a key life skill and the teachers took every opportunity to facilitate and guide

activities and discussions in order to develop these skills.

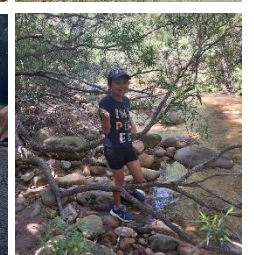
Crab hunting, river exploring, tree climbing, fort building, playing and drawing were real highlights. Sitting around the fire, making "stokbrood" and eating by torch light were a first for many. Despite the busy day, bed time was an opportunity to chat quietly, giggle and read, but by midnight the rooms were quiet and children rested....not for long....by 5:30am the buzz had begun and they were desperate for food and play time. We are so immensely proud of each child for being brave and challenging themselves outside of their comfort zone. This camp will be a first of many school camps and we hope that the experience will help them going forward. Well done to each Grade 3 and a special thank you to the staff who joined the children.

some feedback from the kids:

- Daniel P: Playing and swimming in the river.
- Rees: Activities, like walking together on the planks, moving the ball along the wall and the hoola-hoop game.
- Alyssa: Being with my friends.
- Alera: Swimming in the creek with our friends and being pulled by the current and exploring the bush and making stok-brood.
- Izzy van Straaten: Seeing the place and going to the river, its nice and cool, playing with my friends, trying to sleep.
- Mbali: The river.
- Raph: Drinking hot chocolate around the fire.
- Olivia: Sitting outside by the fire, playing games together, stokbrook.
- Aiden: The big ball, playing hand-tennis with it, and exploring the dorms.
- Hunter: Not doing school work.
- Ava: All the activities.
- Markus: Everything.
- Jack: Arriving when we went down to the river and found frogs.
- Eireann: Swimming in the river and playing with friends.
- Caelum: Going to bed late.
- Violet: Swimming in the river.
- Abby: My fave part was spending time with my friends, drawing and going outside.
- Connor: Going by the fire, making stok-brood and playing with my friends.









# EXPLORING 3D SHAPES: JELLY TOTS & TOOTHPICKS!

In Grade 4 Mathematics, we've embarked on an exciting adventure of exploring 3D shapes. And what better way to learn about the properties of these fascinating objects than with the help of yummy Jelly Tots and trusty toothpicks!

Our young mathematicians dove into the world of vertices, edges, and faces with enthusiasm and creativity. By connecting jelly tots with toothpicks, they crafted a variety of 3D shapes, allowing them to discover the unique characteristics of each shape. They learned that vertices are the corners of 3D objects, edges are the straight lines connecting these corners, and faces are the flat surfaces that make up the shape. Through hands-on activities, our Grade 4s gained a deeper understanding of these essential concepts. Not only did this activity make learning math fun and engaging, but it also helped our Grade 4s grasp the fundamental properties of 3D shapes in an unforgettable way. And of course, we cannot forget the sugar rush afterwards!





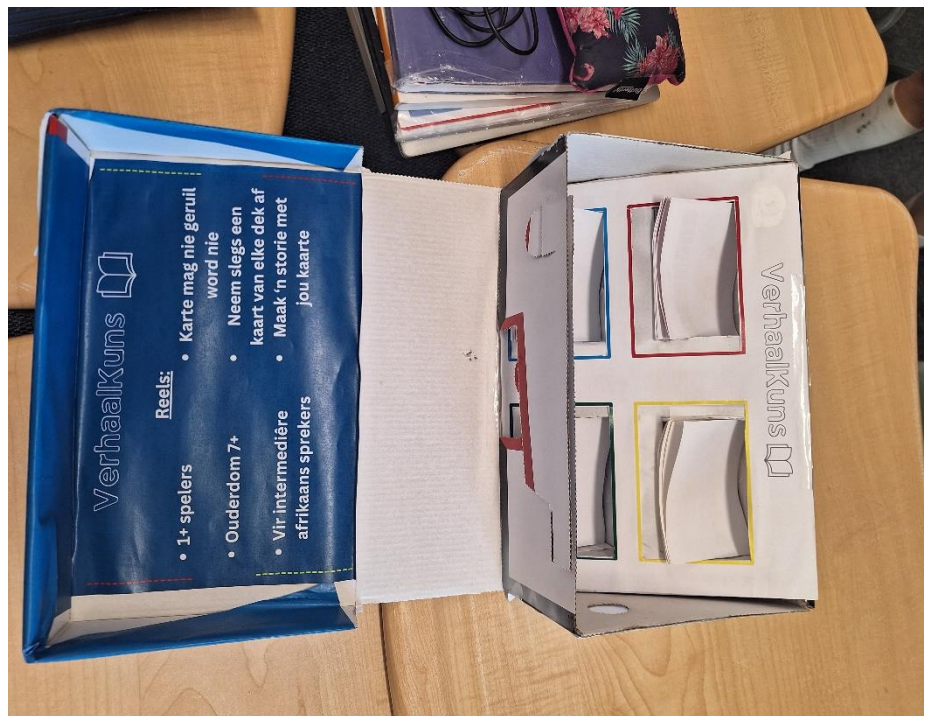
# TUCKSHOP MATHS

In Grade 1 this week, the children learnt about addition and subtraction using real money to purchase the treats available in their classroom tuckshop.



# BORDSPELETJIES!

Die Graad 7s het hierdie week hulle eie bordspeletjies ontwerp. Die doel van die speletjie is om addisionele taal leerders aan te moedig om Afrikaans te leer. Nie net het hulle iets nuut geleer nie, maar dit was pret.





# GIRLS SENIOR CRICKET VS SOMERSET COLLEGE

Our senior girls played their first match of the term against Somerset College. It was a fantastic match with our girls getting stuck in straight away with accurate bowling and awesome fielding. Special congratulations to Mikyla Jordaan who took 4 wickets, including a HAT-TRICK, I believe the first one to be taken by a senior girl at Somerset House. Very well done, Kayla! She was very well assisted by Katelyn Siljeur who took 3 wickets and Hayley-Jade Damons taking 1 too. Somerset House bowled like superstars taking all 10 wickets to see them end on 61 runs. We then went in to bat and went about our task very professionally with our opening batter, Gabi Benvenuti, batting through the innings scoring 13 runs not out, with assistance from Lilly Herbertson with a quick 11 runs, including a four. Charlotte Guy, Daniella Clayton and Ali Cruickshank all contributed to the total of 62 runs to secure a win. Well done girls, this was a great first outing! We were especially impressed with your bowling and fielding skills. Congratulations!



# INDOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

Our Grade 5 Indoor Hockey League continued on Monday evening. Our Grade 5 teams played fantastic games against Beaumont and after a real ding-dong battle with end-to-end excitement, scores ended level, which is probably a very fair reflection of the games. Our Grade 4 teams gave their all against strong Hendrik Louw Grade 5s and managed to hold on and not let them run away with the score. A great fight by our Squirrel teams, well done!



The results were as follows:

TEAMS	OPPOSITION	RESULTS
SH Squirrel Girls (U10s)	Hendrik Louw	1 – 3
SH Squirrel Boys (U10s)	Hendrik Louw	0 – 3
SH Falcon Girls	Beaumont	0 – 0
SH Falcon Boys	Beaumont	4 – 4



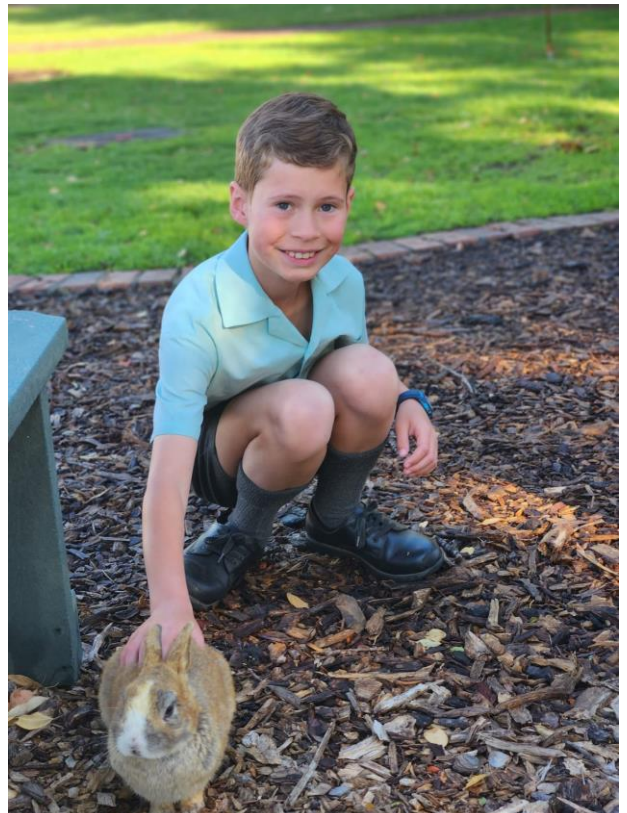
## JOURNEY ON A BUS

Have you been on a bus? The Grade Rs explored what a journey on a bus would be like, by role playing in the BUS home corner. They had to wait at the bus stop, buy a ticket and get on the bus. Being the bus driver is always great fun and negotiating places on the bus. It was a chance to play with money and grow their awareness of South African rands. Lots of social development and life skills were developed. During the creative routines, they took great care to draw and paint a bus.



## SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

It is so wonderful to have these friendly bunnies to share our beautiful campus with!





# SWIFT SOUNDS

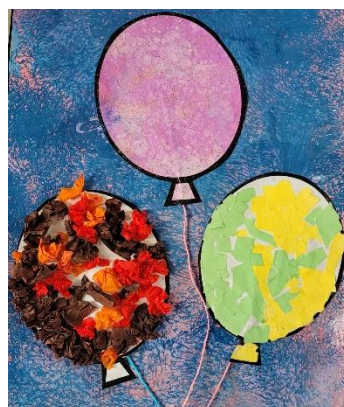
Congratulations to our fabulous Music Staff: Lorna Maralack, Hester Fourie and Eileen Putterill for hosting the first Swift Sounds Series for Term 4. This was a wonderful opportunity for our budding musicians to show off their skills in a small and welcoming environment.





# PARTY PLANNING

The Grade 00 Children held a party for their teddies! Last week, they made invitations for their teddies, while also making decorations for the party. This week we finished off an art piece of balloons which included many skills; tear and stick, scrunch and stick, blow bubbles to paint and painting with a balloon! This week they baked cupcakes and biscuits. On Thursday, everything came together for a wonderful celebration on the veranda, with extra treats!





## A FRIENDLY VISITOR!

Thank you Ben and Bronwyn Graham for bringing Teddy to school, we loved learning more about him! He is a Goldendoodle puppy, which is a cross between a Golden Retriever and a Poodle. It was interesting to learn how this breed of dog sheds less hair than a Golden Retriever, is highly intelligent and a great family dog due to their gentle and affectionate nature. The class agreed that Teddy is the perfect name for him!



## TENNIS MATCHES

Our tennis teams played matches against various opposition on Thursday. Our senior A Teams played particularly well with our Girls 1st Team beating Beaumont 4 – 2, a fantastic achievement. Well done to our Boys U14A who won two of the four singles matches and narrowly lost the doubles. Congratulations to the following players won their matches:

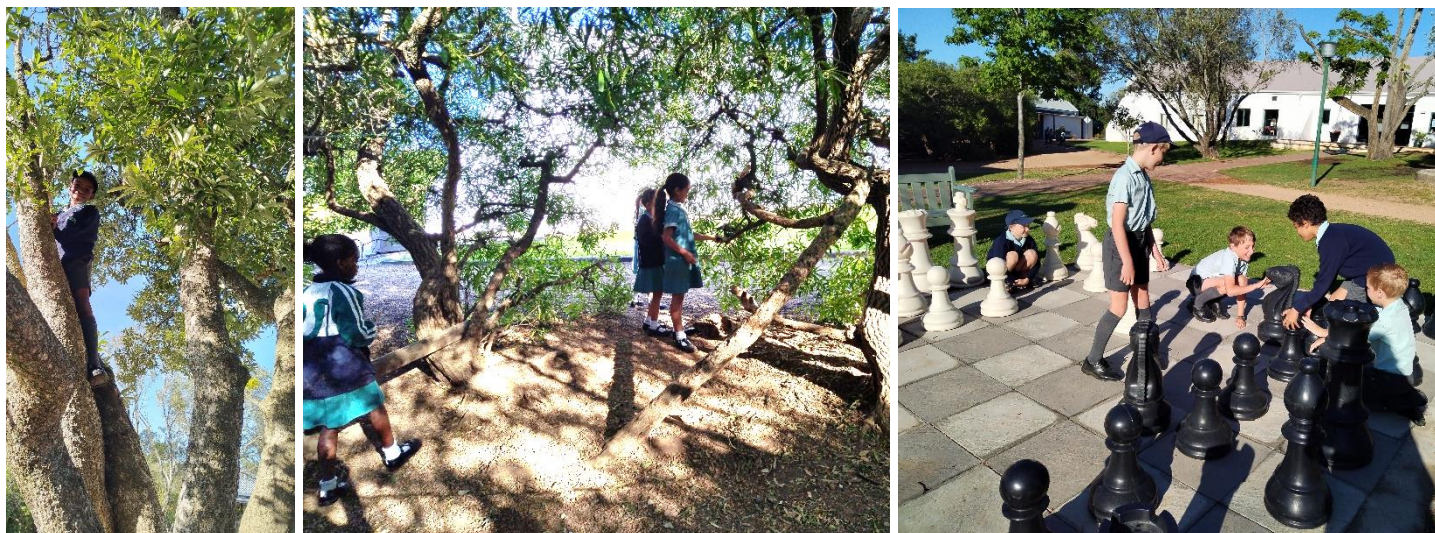
- U11 Nathan Sloan and Hanna Sloan
- GU14 Olivia Hipkin, Hannah Ridgway and Zahra Staples
- BU14A Kyle Frehse and Alex Coetzee

Please see the results below:

TEAMS	OPPOSITION	RESULTS
Boys U11	Rhenish	Lost 4 – 2
Girls U14	Beaumont	Won 4 – 2
Boys U14A	Somerset College	Lost 4 – 2
Boys U14B	Lochnerhof	Lost 3 – 1

## EARLY MORNING ACTIVITIES

Some of the best moments on the campus happen before the day has even started. The children are enjoying the early-morning sunshine and fresh air.





## GRADE 6 ORALS

The Grade 6 English pupils rehearsed their Orals outside in the lovely gardens of Somerset House. Despite some pupils finding it trickier than others; they kept us riveted as they taught us about the grit and determination of Famous Inventors.



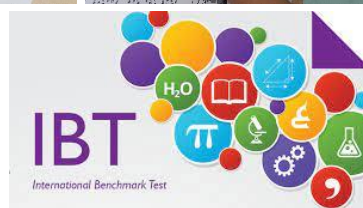
## GRADE 3 ENGLISH IBT TESTS

The Grade 3s have had an exceptionally busy few weeks and, on the day before heading out for their first ever school camp, they diligently set about writing their English IBT tests. These tests help us to remain relevant in our curriculum offering while also allowing us to see how our children do both locally and internationally. We look forward to the results in early 2024.



## GRADE 6 ENGLISH IBT TESTS

Our Grade 6 pupils completed the online International Benchmarking English Exam a world-class, skills-based diagnostic assessment designed by a global expert to help improve learning in our school. IBT is an Australian based assessment and does not follow any single curriculum, allowing pupils from all countries to be compared fairly. In English the skills assessed are locating information, inferring, predicting, drawing conclusions and reasoning. We wish our pupils all the best as we await the results!





# KLIPPIE BRIEFIES

Die graad viers het "Klippie briefies" in die klas gemaak. Dit was baie pret!





## LEGO ROBOTICS WRO IN-HOUSE CHALLENGE

This term Lego Robotics was introduced into the extra-curricular program. Last week several pupils engaged in the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) 2023 In-House challenge Explorer Lite category. The 2023 challenge theme was "Connecting the World". We extend our congratulations to Sara Sawant, William Harper, Ryan Witjenburg, Max Witjenburg, Philip Human, Aiden Harpur, Andrew Oscroft, Marcus Vonbun, Lincoln Massyn, Sebastian Massmann and Reese Olivier for achieving bronze certificates in the Lego Robotics In-House Challenge.

Lego Robotics encourages innovation and develops creativity and critical thinking skills. Chasing an external challenge during the early stages of our season has been a catalyst for growth and further learning, offering a valuable challenge for our team. Robotics challenges cross multiple subjects, therefore, pupils learn and apply their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, math, and basic programming. The children have fun, work in teams designing, building, and programming robots to meet the challenge requirements.



## U9 HARDBALL CRICKET

Our U9 hardball team played against De Hoop Primary on Tuesday. De Hoop played an exceptional innings, scoring 99 runs, we then went in to bat and only managed to score 50 runs. De Hoop won by 49 runs, well played to them.

- Best Batsman & Bowler: Leo van Galen





# NURSERY RHYMES

The Grade 000s have loved learning all about Nursery Rhymes and acting the different rhymes with their friends while using props. During the last week, lots of fine motor activities were set out on the tables where the children could practice and strengthen their skills. They stretched elastics into shapes, and made rainbow patterns on peg boards. They loved finding and picking Incy Wincy spiders out of pom poms, and they carefully placing buttons onto pattern boards. They impressed us with finding the letters of their names too.



# A VISIT FROM A DOCTOR AND A DENTIST!

Mrs E arranged a visit from a Doctor and a Dentist for the Grade 1 this week. Dr Philene, the dentist, taught the children about the importance of oral hygiene and correct teeth brushing. Dr Pam discussed the importance of having a plate filled with a variety of food to give us energy, building blocks and ninja cells. The children thoroughly enjoyed the talks and went home with toothbrush, toothpaste and a treat. We are grateful to our visitors for taking the time to educate us.

