

REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK



TERM 4 WEEK 5 (10 NOVEMBER 2023)

GRADE 7 QUEST



Day 1: The Quest groups departed school and headed for Theewaterakloof. Day 1 was spent doing outreach with a local farm school, The Lighthouse Academy. The children loved the interaction, and they were so grateful for all of our donations. Setting up our campsite on the edge of Theewaterskloof was also a highlight of the day.

Day 2: The morning was spent learning bushcraft skills, life-saving techniques, and swimming in Theewaterskloof Dam. After lunch, the bicycles arrived and were checked ahead of the bike leg. After lunch, the potjie competition preparation started, and the teams were tasked with starting their own fires and following a recipe chosen by each group. The potjie's were phenomenal, and it was very hard to choose a winner.

Day 3: Bike Day was a real highlight of Quest and the 31km route traversed private farmland. Our teams were supported by Justin Mudge and Des Mudge; both old boys of Somerset House. There were a few tumbles on the day, but nothing that kept anyone from getting back on their bikes. 3km from the end, the children were treated to some of the best blueberries in the Western Cape. Once bicycles had been loaded into the truck, the groups were transported by a farm labourers truck to Cape Canopy Tours.

Day 4: Day 4 was a rest day in a sense, and the groups were treated to a day zipping through the cliffs of the Hottentots-Holland mountains. Although this day seemed easy, many children had to overcome fears of heights.

Day 5: Day 5 was our main hiking day, and the groups set off in intervals to cover 13km, ending at Eikenhof Dam. Spirits were high on the trails, and the sight of Elgin Country Club was a lovely site.

Day 6: Day 6 saw team-based activities, which all counted for points and an overall winner was announced at the end of the day. Activities included skills that had been learnt in the prior days and teamwork and collaboration were critical to success.

Day 7: Day 7 was an orienteering day and groups had to navigate themselves along the trails towards Trails End Bike Hotel. Maps and clues were strategically placed on the trails for the groups to find. Upon arrival at Trails End, the groups were taken through a tour of the bike museum followed by a burger and chips. The afternoon was spent relaxing and enjoying the beautiful Eikenhof Dam.

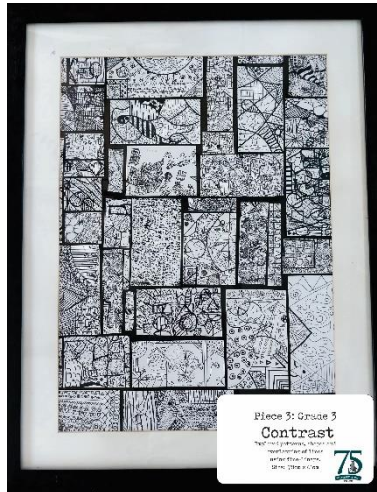
Day 8: All good things must come to an end and day 8 saw pack up of the campsite followed by a short bus trip back to Somerset House.





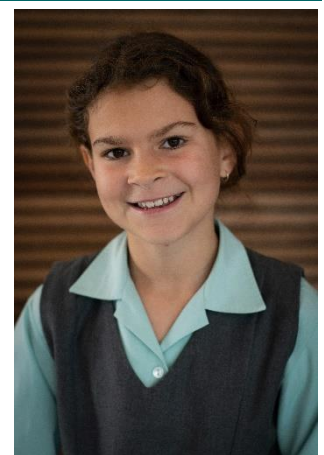
ART AUCTION

Our 75th Birthday Art Exhibition opened on Thursday morning. The ribbon was cut and the Grade 1 to 7 pupils were excited to explore the exhibition to find their pieces. We were treated to a wide variety of art in all mediums. From paintings to drawings, weaving, papier mache and pastels. The colourful display stretched across the Art Room and the Haydock Hall and there was plenty of variety to interest the eye. Special pieces on display were the grade group pieces that were auctioned on Friday night. Joining our exhibition this year were the following local artists, Belinda Arde, Danielle Martyn, Stasa Hlava and Gerhard Theron. Their art works, all so different, were remarkable and such a privilege to see and enjoy. We hope you managed to spend some time on campus, enjoying the exhibition and participating in the interactive stations. Thank you to Ms Valentine and her team of helpers for this labour of love and the hours it took to prepare the exhibition. It was a wonderful display of the talent our children have and the creativity and learning that happens in art lessons.



SOMERSET HOUSE & OLIVIA CASTLEDEN DO IT AGAIN!

This week Somerset House was acknowledged for their achievements in the University Of Witwatersrand Maths Competition. The Middle Primary, Grades 4 and 5 were placed 7th in the country. The Upper Primary, Grades 6 and 7 were placed 4th in the country. Well done to OLIVIA CASTLEDEN who was first in the province, third in the country and best girl overall for the Upper Primary category. We are incredibly proud of these achievements!



FOUNDERS' DAY PARENT SOCIAL

Founders' Day celebrations ended with a Parent Social in our beautiful grounds. The "market-style" evening was relaxed, and the scene was set for chatting, sharing delicious foods, and sampling some local wines. John Ellis kept the mood going with his live music, singing favourite tunes from decades past. The weather played along, and we were treated to a beautiful Spring evening under fairy lights and stars. It was lovely to see past parents, board members, parents from across the school and friends of Somerset House, enjoying a social evening, meeting new parents and sharing time with friends. Thank you and appreciation is extended to all those who helped to make this a memorable evening, especially Sarah Allwood, Robyn Rautenbach, Tim Odendal and his facilities team, staff and patrons. A special mention and thank you also to the wine farms who treated us to a wide variety of their ranges. We were spoilt for choice and their hospitality was tremendous.



MINI CRICKET VS APPLEWOOD

The U7 Girls played a great game against Applewood. They won the toss and chose to bat first, SH bowled well with our best bowler being Cathryn Strydom, our best Batsman was Emma Bernard with the highest runs scored. Well done girls!

Our U7 Boys also played against Applewood on Wednesday afternoon. Although we put up a fight, we need to work on our bowling so that fewer extras are given away. Player of the match was Gareth Coetzer who performed well with both the ball and the bat. Somerset House lost by 12 runs.

The U8 Girls played a great game against Applewood. They won the toss and decided to bowl first. Somerset House batted well, with Sthabile Kayi scoring the highest runs for the team. Our bowling is a work in progress but we fielded well! Best bowler Skylar Robertson!

Our U8 Boys bowled first against Applewood and managed to get 3 wickets. Applewood made total of 46 runs. Somerset House went in to bat and scored 25 runs. Applewood won by 21 runs.

Best Batsman – Raadhi Abass

Best Bowler – Raadhi Abass (1 Wicket for 2 Runs)

The U9 Girls played a really good game of mini cricket against Applewood. SH girls bowled first and Madison Gilbey was the only girl who managed to get a wicket. The best bowlers on the field were Olivia Bind and Mbali Dabula who both bowled 1 wide and the rest for dot balls. Applewood posted a score of 38 meaning SH had to chase a score of 39 to win. Unfortunately we only put up a score of 36 and SH lost with 3 runs. Best batsman was Mbali scoring 8 runs. A great game of mini cricket, well done girls!

Our U9 Boys had a great game against Applewood. We managed to score 50 runs and were disciplined in our fielding and bowling, only allowing them to score 23 runs. Somerset House won by 27 runs. Well done to the entire team for a great game!

- Best Bowler – Daniel Beck (1 Wicket for 0 Runs)
- Best Batsman – Jack Carolin (11 Runs)



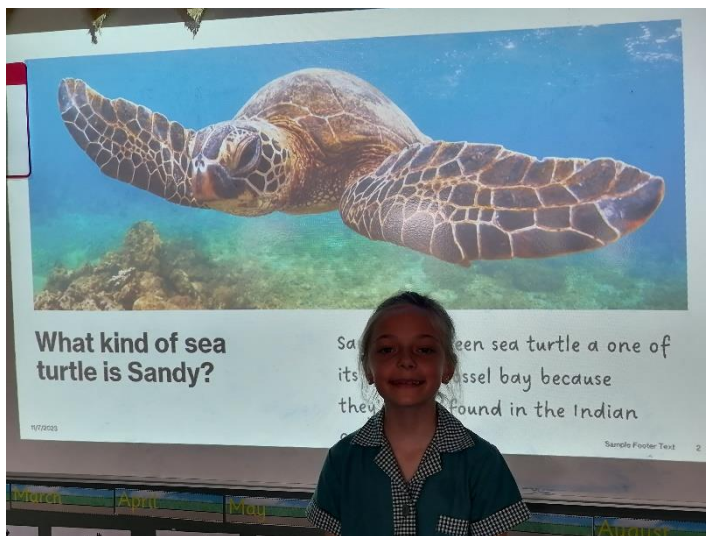
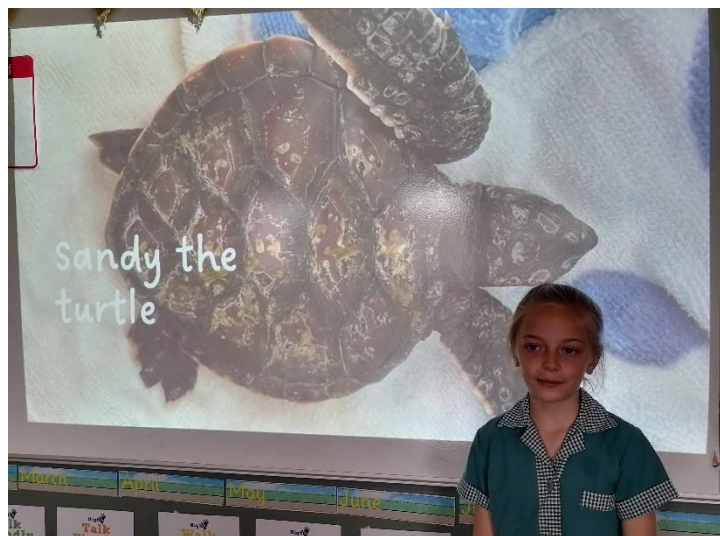
MINI FARMERS MARKET

The Grade 4 pupils are hard at work preparing for their Mini Farmers Market and Farm presentations next week.



TURTLE RESCUE

Caydi Terheidjen shared a heartwarming show-and-tell story this week, recounting the rescue of a rare Green turtle. Found stranded on Boggomsbaai beach, "Sandy", typically found in tropical waters, appeared lifeless at first. Thanks to Caydi and her Mom's gentle care, along with guidance from the sea turtle rescue unit, Sandy showed signs of life. With some room-temperature water and lots of care, her recovery began. Once stabilised, she was transported to the Two Oceans Aquarium, where marine biologists monitored her in their "hospital." Sandy's progress has been remarkable, with healthy eating habits, swimming, and even nipping some of the staff. This was a touching reminder of our role in protecting our environment. Well done, Caydi, for creating a special and meaningful memory through this extraordinary experience!



TENNIS MATCHES

Last Thursday our Girls U14 played tennis against Hendrik Louw Primary. Our girls played very well with Olivia Hipkin, Hannah Ridgway, Rebecca Plewman and Taylin Hilliard-Lomas all winning their matches. We won one of the two doubles games and beat them 5 – 1 overall. Well done girls! Our Boys U14A team played against a strong Lochnerhof team. Congratulations to Alex Coetzee who won his singles match 6 – 2 and to Alex and Kyle Frehse who won their doubles 6 – 2. Our Boys U14B team played against Somerset College and although they lost, Sam Downes put up a great fight to win his singles and Aiden Burger and Sam narrowly lost their doubles match. Well done to all our players! Please see the results below:

TEAMS	OPPOSITION	RESULTS
Girls U14	Hendrik Louw	5 - 1
Boys U14A	Lochnerhof	2 - 4
Boys U14B	Somerset College	1 – 5

U9 HARDBALL VS SOMERSET COLLEGE

Our U9s played a hardball match against Somerset College. We struggled to score off the bat with many wides being bowled. We also lost wickets quite quickly. Congratulations to Aiden Harpur (25) and Hugh Welby-Cooke (9) who were our top batsmen. College then went in to bat and passed our score with relative ease. Well done to Reeve Naidoo, Andrew Ocroft, Theo Erasmus and Leo van Galen who all took wickets. Congratulations to Somerset College who won the match.

CRICKET U12 VS SOMERSET COLLEGE

The U12s played against Somerset College away on Tuesday afternoon. We lost the toss and College elected to bat first. We were very sharp in the field and managed to be very disciplined in our bowling attack. Somerset College scored 110 runs in their allotted 20 overs, with 8 wickets going down. Somerset House had a slow start with the bat but managed to gain momentum with solid batting performances. The end of the match was rather nerve wrecking, however Ryder Mitchell hit an awesome four to take the pressure off slightly and then a couple of extras ensured that we crossed the line successfully with 2 overs to spare.

Man of the match was Christopher Havinga

- Bat: 33 runs of 31 balls
- Wickets : 2 wickets for 13 runs



MINDFUL MOVEMENT

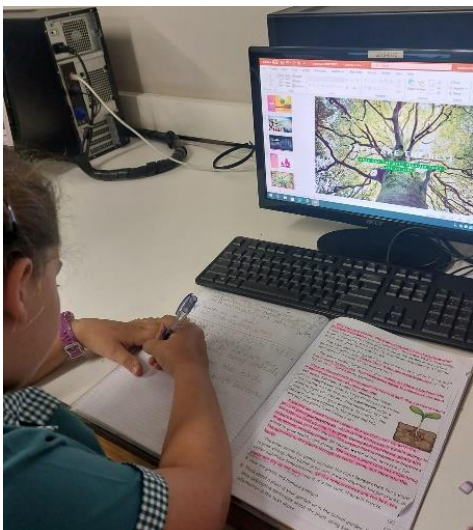
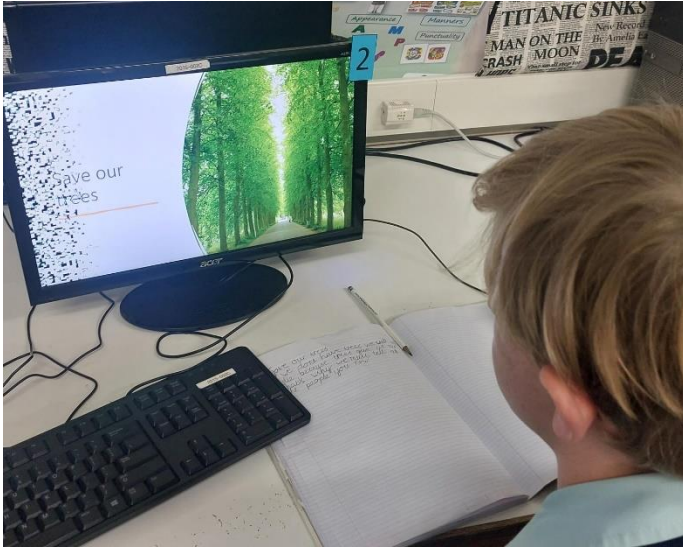
The Grade 1s started the day with some stretching and focused breathing. The children were under the trees on their mats and towels enjoying the early morning quiet. Teacher Zoe spoke about the importance of having a healthy body and exercising. Once back in the classroom their teachers found that they were calm and ready for a days work.



GRADE 3

The Grade 3s are on a mission to save the trees. As part of our theme this term, the Grade 3s are learning about plants and their role on earth. They have had to research and design an argument in order to stand up against a construction company that wants to take down a forest area to build buildings. As they prepare for the oral they need to know some good facts in order to debate and argue the construction company. It has been wonderful to see the passion the children exude when fighting for some thing they believe in.

While working hard is important so is the time to be creative while also working on different skills, such as listening to instructions, motor planning, fine motor skills and careful cutting. The result was beautiful, and the children all created interesting, unique flowers or snowflakes, depending on how the creative juices were flowing, to decorate their spaces at home or in the class.



SWIFT SOUNDS

Our final Swift Concert for the year took place on Thursday, 9 November. We were treated with beautiful items from an array of music pupils, instruments, and genres. Well done to all our musicians for showing such dedication towards their musical journey and for keeping strong with their practicing and preparation as we near the end of the year. We are so grateful to the Music Teachers for their dedication to each individual pupil and their musical journey. Well done to all!





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Promoting Oral Language Development in Young Children

by Audrey W. Prince, M.Ed.

Research tells us that children who have strong oral language skills often have strong reading and writing skills. In contrast, children with oral language problems are at higher risk of reading and writing difficulties (Scarborough, 2001). Educators and parents should encourage oral language even in the earliest stages of a child's development. The following is a list of specific strategies to help promote oral language development in young children.



Talk with Your Children



Educators and parents should talk or converse with their children whenever possible. Children often love to talk about their friends, families, or favorite activities. Try to develop "talking points." Talking points are conversation starters that you can use with a child. Consider writing them on a set of note cards to keep with you whenever you want to promote conversation with a child. Make conversation a game by asking the child to "pick a card" to initiate a conversation.

Get Close & Listen



When speaking with children it is important to get close. The child should be able to see your lips and facial expressions, hear your voice clearly, and make eye contact with you. Making sure that you "get close" helps ensure that the child keeps an interest in what you are saying. Make sure during conversation with your child that you are sending a clear message that you are listening. When a child speaks to you, make comments about what they are saying, nod your head, or add "Mm-hmm," "Really?" or "Tell me more."

Respond and Expand



When a child says something to you, respond whenever possible. After you respond, try to expand the conversation. Add more context to the language even when a child's response is a simple one. For example, if the child says, "I like apples," the teacher/parent might say, "I like apples too. What kind of apple do you like best?"

Talk About What You Are Doing



Daily activities, such as cleaning up toys or snack time, provide many opportunities for language development. Talk with children about what they are doing and what you are doing. This type of talking exposes children to language in general, involves them in learning conversation skills, and helps children acquire and use vocabulary that is important in their everyday lives.

Tell Stories



Tell stories every day about things from the past or things that will happen. The teacher can talk about something the class might do that day or the parent can talk about an upcoming event. During a story, use prompts to encourage storytelling like, "Tell me a story," "What happened next?" and "When did that happen?" or "Tell me what you did at school (Grandma's house) today."



Use Appropriate Levels of Vocabulary



When speaking with children we have to be careful to not use too many new words or too few new words. There is no magic formula for the correct number of words, so teachers and parents must be aware of each child's abilities to figure out if the vocabulary is confusing to the child or if he/she is able to keep up and understand.

Provide Prompts That Promote Oral Language



Include microphones, old telephones, puppets, flannel boards, and even paper towel tubes in your child's play area. Items to play dress-up are big hits with children. Pretending to be someone else encourages children to mimic the vocabulary, facial expressions, and body language that they see and hear from others. These types of prompts encourage oral language interactions. Make them available and encourage children to use them during their playtime.

Resources:

V. S. Bennett-Armistead, *Literacy and the youngest learner*. Scholastic, Inc., New York, NY, 2005.

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BABY BIRD



Tristan Annandale, a budding zoologist, is taking special care of this baby bird that was found this morning. The Grade 3s were enthralled by the bird and enjoyed gathering some worms, to create a similar food pulp that it would normally be fed by its mother. We hold thumbs that it will survive.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We have just heard the exciting news that Skyler October has been selected to participate in the Western Province U11 Regional Cricket Festival. Which takes place on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November at Gene Louw Primary. Congratulations Skyler, this is a fantastic achievement of which we are extremely proud!



A MESSAGE OF THANKS



Happy 75 Birthday
Somerset House

On Friday the 3rd November 2023, the children of 4THE1 in Sir Lowry's Pass Village, celebrated the 75th birthday of Somerset House. A new tradition has been established, since 2020, and we are the humble recipients of the Founder's Day cake. What a joy it was seeing the children gaze at the remarkable cake. Once the cake was cut, it was time to enjoy the delicious treat. This special cake was divided among the 75 children who attended 4THE1 on Friday. A fitting way to celebrate the 75 years that Somerset House has been in existence. Next year, we celebrate our 5th birthday, and we are so thankful to God for our partnership with the School. As you can see from the photographs, the children appreciated and enjoyed each bite! Thank you for sharing your cake with us and for always living out "non nobis solum."

4THE1





GRADE 00 - PRACTICE MAKES PROGRESS

As we near the end of our school year for 2023, we are recapping and repeating a number of skills learnt throughout the year. Repeating an activity builds confidence. Remembering a skill or concept they've learned boosts their confidence in their ability to recall and master the skill or concept. Learning needs electricity to make connections in your brain. The harder something is, the more energy you need to make the connection. Adults have already made lots of connections from doing things over and over again, so they can do things like driving or math without even thinking about it. Our Grade 00 children are still making these connections, so they need to do things over and over again to get better at them.



GEDIGTE!

Die Graad 5's het gedigte voorgedra in die klas en hul vertoning was uitstekend! Ons is ongelooflik trots op hul indrukwekkende prestasies en hul opmerklke kreatiwiteit. Welgedaan Graad 5's!



REFLECTIONS OF FOUNDERS' DAY

- Liam Fraga: First we went to assembly and there were 100 000 speeches. After that, we had break. We had a cupcake with a lollipop and after that we had a scavenger hunt (with the Grade 3s) and then we went to lunch.
- Keira Oosthuizen: On Friday it was Founders Day, it was the school's 75th birthday. I loved assembly we sang a song! I loved watching the candle lighters light the candles. After assembly we went on a scavenger hunt and the Grade 3s were the teachers. It was such an adventure. I had so much fun. After the scavenger hunt it was break time we had cupcakes. And then we got to show our mom's and dad's the art that we did. My mom loved it.
- Jack Bind: On Friday it was Founders Day our schools 75th birthday. I had assembly and then there were awards for sports and then there were speeches. Then at break I had a cupcake. After break I went for a scavenger hunt. For lunch it was Friday treats.
- Tobias Weber: On Founders Day we got ready for Founders Day. We lined up and went to assembly. At Founders Day there was lots of decorations and marimba bands. It was so joyful and fun. The school was 75 years old and I was a candle lighter. At the end of assembly we got cupcakes and lollipops and we did a scavenger hunt. It was fun because we could choose a partner and I chose Thomas. I had a very fun day doing no work at school.
- Jaden Berejena: On Founders Day, my favourite thing was when we had cupcakes. When we had assembly we impressed our parents. The thing I liked most was when we didn't have any homework and we had a very fun day before the weekend.
- Adam Bosch: On Founders Day we went to assembly. At break we had cupcakes and they were delicious. After break the grade 7s went on camp for a week. After that the Grade 3s did something for us, a scavenger hunt, and it was fun.

INDOOR HOCKEY

Our Grade 5 Indoor Hockey League came to an end with exciting playoff matches on Monday afternoon and evening. Our Gr 5 girls beat our Gr 4 girls 5 - 1 in their 5th & 6th playoff, while our boys beat Hendrik Louw 4 - 1 in the semi-final. The team then met a quality Beaumont side in the final. It was a tough match with each team having scoring opportunities. Mason Siljeur was a trooper in goals making save after save. After a brilliant save on his knee, he had to leave the field injured and was replaced by a very keen Harry Downing. Harry also did a fabulous job in goals. After a real ding-dong battle, Beaumont came out on top 2 - 1. Congratulations to both teams! Mason Siljeur was awarded a sportsmanship award, sponsored by Grays Hockey, well done Mason!



SENSORY PLAY

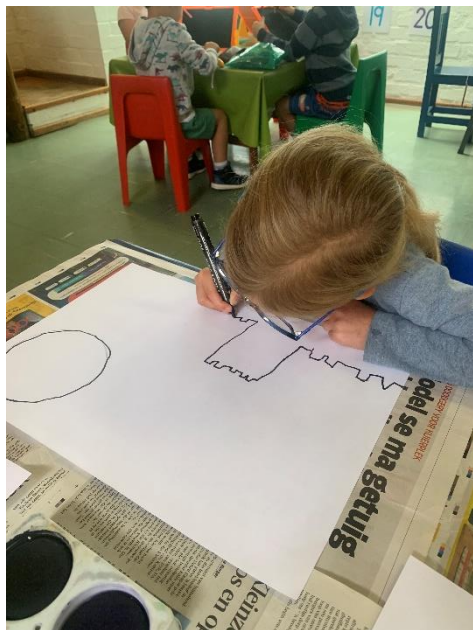
The Ladybirds have enjoyed many different sensory play experiences this week. They have been consolidating concepts through play while working with their friends. They built houses out of sticks in the sand, worked together to build tall towers with the connector toys, they practiced their fine motor skills by threading beads and carefully placing colourful pegs on boards. They loved printing with their hands to start making Christmas trees.



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



This week the Grade R children pretended to be tourists and travelled on an aeroplane to visit China. They learnt about the Great Wall of China and drew a silhouette of the wall behind a big moon. The children had to trace the moon and paint the sky. During their free play, the children built their own version of The Great Wall of China, using our wooden construction blocks. The next stop was the Taj Mahal in India. The concept of symmetry was a part of this lesson because the Taj Mahal is a symmetrical building. Lots of thought went into the drawing of the beautiful Taj Mahal.



INTER-ZONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Four of our pupils recently represented Zonal Tennis Teams in the Inter-Zonal Tournaments. Rijk van Galen represented the East Zone in his tournament and won 5 of his 6 matches, a fantastic achievement. Rijk's team also won the tournament and received gold medals. Nathan Sloan represented the Northern Zone and their team struggled a little with not too much depth in their team. They ended up in 4th place overall. Hannah Sloan represented the East Zone and played very well. Her team ended up in second position, winning silver medals. Olivia Hipkin represented the East Zone and played at No. 2. She played some tough matches and her team ended up in 4th position overall. Well done to all our SH players, we are very proud of you!



A CODING JOURNEY

Our Grade 2 pupils have been on an exciting virtual road trip exploring the wonders of South Africa as part of their theme this term. To blend this theme with our coding activities, we set them a creative challenge this week. The task was to construct multiple scenes, each depicting a magnificent South African backdrop, code their cars to traverse these scenes, and add animated characters to bring them to life. This interdisciplinary approach offers numerous advantages by linking coding activities with our classroom themes. It enhances pupils' understanding of the subject matter, reinforces their coding skills, and encourages them to explore and appreciate the beauty of our country, all in a fun and interactive way.

