

REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK



TERM 4 WEEK 9 (6 DECEMBER 2023)

GRADE 7 LEAVERS DINNER!

On Saturday evening, our Grade 7 pupils went back in time to the disco dancing decade. The 80s was the theme for their Leavers' Event and it was a fantastic evening for all. Our Grade 6 parents got to work creating a beautiful setting in the Haydock Hall and by Saturday morning, it was transformed into an electric eighties dance hall. Mirror balls, giant rubik's cubes, pac-man and slinky's all made a come back and set the tone for a fun filled evening.



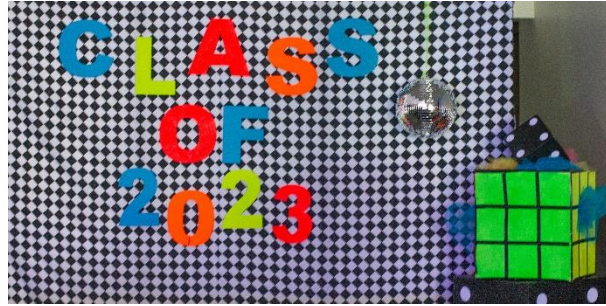
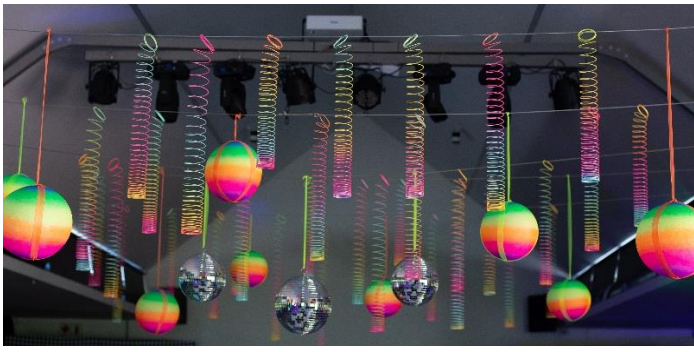
The Grade 7s arrived dressed to impress and soaked up the ambience of our beautiful campus. The parents and children were treated to delicious canapes in the garden before moving into the hall for a trip down memory lane.



Yara Rhoda spoke on behalf of the pupils and shared her journey at Somerset House. Shelley McMeeking and Mechelle Rhoda, parents who have had a long-standing relationship with Somerset House and are now leaving with their Grade 7 pupils, shared valuable insights into their time here over the years, the development of the school, the values, culture and special

community they have experienced. Once the parents left, the children hit the dance floor and did the decade justice. The familiar tunes from years ago were celebrated and shared as they danced the night away.

It was a fun filled evening, enjoyed by all. Our thanks and appreciation go out to Mrs Rautenbach, Chantal Annandale, our Grade 6 Parent committee and our staff for a fantastic evening.



JP AND SP FUN GALAS

We were blessed with a lovely warm day for our Junior and Senior Primary Inter-House Relay Galas. Every pupil had the opportunity to participate in this fun event. Relay Races included the following: Kickboards, Marshmallows, Underwater, Tubes, Balls & Ladder Relays. Special thanks to all those parents who also participated on the day. Great fun was had by all. The final points were as follows:

	HOBBY	LANNER	PEREGRINE
Junior Gala	39	30	40
Senior Gala	48	49	49
Overall Points	87	79	89



SACS CRICKET

The cricket season came to a close as 5 Grade 6 and 3 Grade 5 boys combined to form an U12 side to represent Somerset House at the annual SACS U12 Cricket festival. The format is 7 overs per innings, where each player, except the wicket keeper is required to bowl one over. Any batsmen who reaches 30 runs in an innings must retire to make way for another batsman. Our boys played 4 games, walking away out and out victors in the opening game. Despite brave efforts, we fell short in the other three games. The junior boys learnt a great deal about what to expect next year, and the senior boys got a taste of what to expect as the senior members in the open side. Congratulations to Christopher Havinga, Lee Seloka, Ben Hingeston, Adam Sulaiman, Bobby Savage, Caleb Hare-Bowers, Nicolas Coolen and Skyler October for being excellent ambassadors of Somerset House and the great game of cricket. I wish these boys well for the upcoming season.



WESTERN PROVINCE TENNIS

Four of our Somerset House tennis pupils were invited to attend the WP Trials which took place last weekend. Hannah Sloan, Nathan Sloan and Olivia Hipkin were all in action. Sadly, with an injury to a ligament in Rijk van Galen's ankle, he was not able to participate.

Congratulations to Nathan, Hannah and Olivia, who have all been selected to represent WP Teams, with Nathan qualifying as the number 2 seed in his division and Hannah as number 7. There is a chance that Rijk will receive a call up based on his performances throughout the year, as the Inter-Provincial Tournament, only takes place next year.

We are exceptionally proud of all our players, this is a fantastic achievement. Their hard work has paid off and we wish them well as they prepare for the Inter Provincial Tournaments next year.



Nathan Sloan



Hannah Sloan



Olivia Hipkin



Rijk van Galen

GRADE 7 E-DAY MONEY DONATED

The Grade 7s made a profit of R8,500 at their E-day and decided to share the money between four worthy causes. The contributions went to:

Halli Trust – an NPO who operates in the Helderberg Area. Halli Trust has three focuses: community involvement, educational involvement, and the rehabilitation and caring of animals. They have been consistently active in neighbouring communities like Macassar, Lwandle, Nomzamo and Zola for 11 years.



Heartlands
baby sanctuary

it's every child's birthright to belong

Heartlands Baby Sanctuary, based in Somerset West, Western Cape, is a temporary residential safe care facility for 25 children at any given time. They provide individual specialised care and support to children in desperate need of care and protection from birth to 6 years. Children are placed with a valid court order from the Children's Court. These are children who have been

abandoned, abused, neglected, orphaned, who are disabled and or are sick. In the past 8 years, they have cared for over 360 children.

Rape Crisis Helderberg is a non-profit organization committed to help survivors of rape and abuse overcome their trauma through caring counselling amongst all the people in the Helderberg basin and surroundings.

The final contribution went to purchasing a square metre of Astro Turf from the GRADE 7 CLASS of 2023!

Thank you to all parents who contributed generously to make E-Day such a success!



INTER-HOUSE SOCCER

On the 1st of December, the much-anticipated inter-staff football match unfolded between Somerset Stars and House of Falcons, setting the stage for an exciting clash on the field. The game proved to be closely contested, with both teams displaying skillful maneuvers, strategic plays, and a fierce determination to claim victory. As the final whistle blew, the scoreboard reflected a hard-fought 1-1 draw, leaving fans on the edge of their seats and players exhausted from the intense battle. Amidst the sea of talented athletes, one player, Patrick, emerged as the standout performer, earning the prestigious title of "Man of the Match". Patrick's steadfast defence, pivotal plays, and unwavering dedication showcased his prowess on the field, making him the celebrated hero of the Derby football showdown.



JUNIOR PREP CLASS PARTIES

The JP classes concluded the year with a fantastic celebration at Strand Water World. The weather cooperated, providing the perfect backdrop for a day filled with excitement. From thrilling slides to joyful moments on the jungle gyms, the children relished every moment. They engaged in spirited games of soccer, enjoyed super tubing, and shared laughter with their teachers and friends. Ending the year with such a vibrant celebration not only creates lasting memories but also provides a wonderful opportunity for the children to unwind, bond, and celebrate their achievements together.



GRADE 4 – 6 CELEBRATION

This week we acknowledged the progress of our pupils at the Grade 4-6 Celebration Evening. As we reflect on the achievements of our pupils, it's fitting to acknowledge the profound theme that guided us through Eureka Week 2023: "The Wheel Turns." This theme encapsulates the essence of progress, reminding us that the wheel of time never ceases to spin. It encourages us to consider the remarkable advancements in technology that is shaping our world with the use of Artificial Intelligence and, more importantly, underscores the constant cycle of growth and development we experience as individuals and as a community.

Over the course of this academic year, we've witnessed our pupils embark on a journey – a journey marked by perseverance, dedication, and a thirst for knowledge. We've seen them overcome challenges, embrace opportunities for growth, and evolve into the bright, capable individuals. Each rotation of the wheel brought with it new lessons, friendships, and experiences that have contributed to their holistic development.



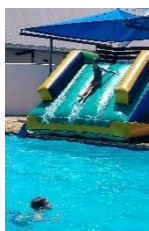
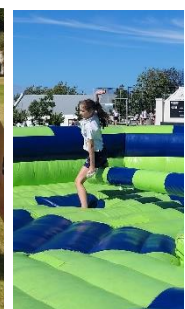
We celebrated the achievements of our pupils, recognizing that this is not merely the end of a school year but a milestone in their lifelong journey of learning and development. May the lessons they've learned, the friendships they've forged, and the accomplishments they've achieved propel them forward.

Congratulations to each and every pupil for a year well-lived, and here's to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead as the wheel continues to turn. Let our guiding principles of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, Unselfishness and Determination continue to inspire us in all we do.



SENIOR PREP CLASS PARTIES

Our Grade 4 - 7s took time out on Tuesday, to celebrate, what has been an awesome 75th year. We enjoyed the following activities on our beautiful campus: Lawn Bowls on the astro, Wipeout, Huge Slide, Karaoke, Bubble Balls and slide at the pool, learning the Cup song, Waterslides, Obstacle Courses and Football. Our kiddies were also treated to some delicious treats, including waffles and ice cream for lunch. It was a fabulous celebration and great fun was had by all. Special thanks to all our staff and service providers who ensured our kiddies safety while they had loads of fun. An awesome day to wrap up a very busy, but most successful and incredible year.



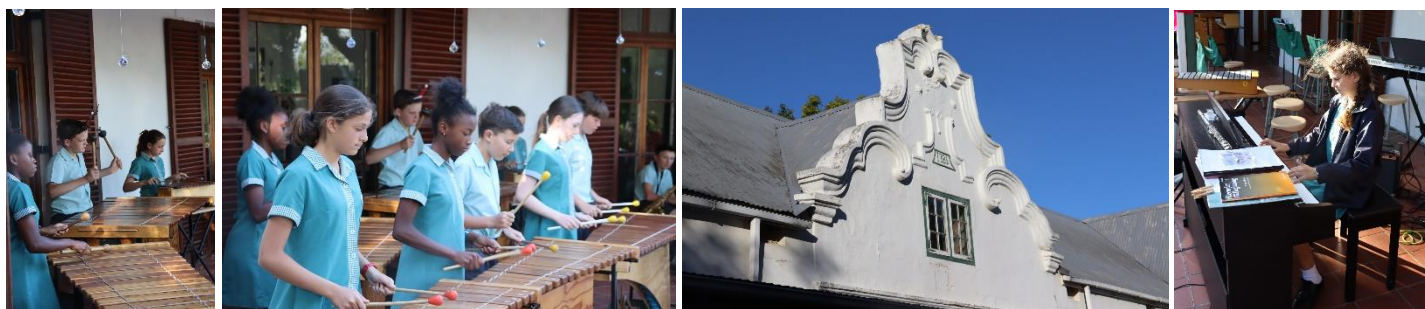
OAKWOOD CLASS PARTIES

It's difficult to believe that another year has come to an end and that our youngest pupil's are getting ready to move on to a new year and new teachers. On Tuesday, we celebrated our Oakwoodians by hosting a Christmas themed class party for them to acknowledge all the hard work and play they have put in this year. The children arrived dressed in red and white and were ready for a day of fun on the jumping castles. They were also treated to an amazing magic show that inspired a lot of laughter and shouts of glee! The highlight of the day, however, had to be happiness that exploded from the preschool when the children heard the announcement of the arrival of the one and only Father Christmas aka Santa Claus aka St Nick! Each child was presented with a special gift, picked and wrapped with much love! It was a magical way to end the year. The Oakwood team would like to thank our parents for the continued support and collaboration in creating another incredible year filled with learning love and laughter. We wish all our Somerset House families a happy festive season.



CAROL SERVICE

Despite a blustery evening we held a very special Christmas Carol Concert last night. Our talented musicians had been hard at work on cheerful Christmas items and our JP and SP choir gave stunning performances that were enjoyed by so many. Parents and children got to enjoy their Christmas picnics while enjoying readings by pupils from each grade and our orchestra added that special touch to the group items. A big thank you to Wendy Angus, Louisa Cruikshank, Lorna Maralack and Sandy Hawkridge for their tireless work as part of this committee. We also applaud our talented Music Department and send out a huge thank you to Bea Geldenhuys for the incredible decorations that added a sparkle to this event. Wishing you all compliments of the season!



JUNIOR PRIMARY ART AND CRAFT CLUB DAY



The Junior Prep hosted a delightful Art and Craft Club day on Tuesday, bringing together Grade 1, 2, and 3 pupils for a creative extravaganza. The children had the freedom to choose two crafts from a diverse selection that catered to every artistic inclination. From crafting snowflake suncatchers and adorable stuffed plushies to engaging in games and creating charming snow globes, there was something for every budding artist. The cross-grade integration not only promoted camaraderie and shared experiences but also provided an opportunity for older pupils to assist and bond with the younger ones. Engaging in arts and crafts not only sparks creativity but also nurtures fine motor skills, imagination, and collaboration, making it a delightful and enriching experience for all participants.



GRADE 4 ROCKET SCIENTISTS

In a thrilling science project, the Grade 4s eagerly embraced the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Straw Rocket Project. Following the provided design brief, the budding scientists crafted rockets using a template, tape, paper and straws. Fueled by curiosity, they launched their creations with a straw, competing to see whose rocket could traverse the greatest distance. Laughter filled the room as the rockets took flight, showcasing the unique designs each student had put into practice. Beyond the thrill of friendly competition, the project not only honed their problem-solving skills and understanding of aerodynamics but also kindled a sense of wonder and curiosity about space exploration, leaving the Grade 4s with lasting memories of a hands-on learning adventure that blended science and creativity with a touch of NASA magic.



GRADE 4S - FESTIVE MAGIC WITH SUGAR COOKIES

In a lively Grade 4 class, pupils spread holiday cheer by decorating sugar cookies with Christmas-coloured royal icing. Laughter filled the room as they transformed plain cookies into festive works of art, sharing tips and smiles. It was not as easy as one would think, but the Grade 4s managed to produce some stunning designs. It was a fun way to wrap up the year.



THANK YOU!

Somerset House donated R959.96 worth of Pick and Pay points to Rescue Animal Drive, an animal relief organization based in Grabouw which assists township animals. The money was used to buy dog and cat food and RAD expressed their sincere thanks to Somerset House for their support.



SPECIAL MEMORIES

The Grade 000s have had a amazing year full of special memories, and have made long-lasting friendships. They finished off the year on a high note with a Christmas party and celebrating together.

