



REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 1 WEEK 6 (23 FEBRUARY 2024)

INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS



Our annual Inter-House Athletics event took place last Friday morning. Our fields were decorated with lovely, coloured House Camps in red, blue and yellow as the House Captains and Cheerleaders rounded up their troops for this exciting event. Our Junior Prep children were up first and after their team walk-ons, they enjoyed some fun races before getting down to business. There was great excitement all around, especially during the shuttle relays, where double points were up for grabs. The JP event was followed by the Senior Prep and again, the teams entered to their choice of song for their Walk-On processions to the field.

Special thanks to all our Captains and Cheerleaders who did an awesome job throughout the morning. Thank you too, to all the moms and dads that helped to decorate the base camp areas. The support of the Downing family each year, is so very much appreciated. With their assistance, our children are able to be protected from the elements with their beautiful, coloured gazebos, adding spice to our event. It just so happened that these areas became very popular as they offered shelter to both spectators and participants when the heavens opened during the Junior Prep event. Four seasons in one day for sure, as it wasn't long before they gazebos again offered shade from the heat in the Senior Prep event. Thank you so much Richard, we will forever be grateful to you and your team for your support each year.

There was great action on our 200m track all day, but especially when our SP children arrived with records in danger. Congratulations to Daniel Beck who broke the Boys U10 80m record as well as the 150m record. He was accompanied by Nicolas Coolen, who broke the record in the Boys U12 150m event, please see the details below.

- Boys U10 Daniel Beck 100m Old Record 14.97 New Record 14.66
Daniel Beck 150m Old Record 23.99 New Record 22.41
- Boys U12 Nicolas Coolen 150m Old Record 21.89 New Record 21.11

Congratulations too, to all our athletes who accumulated the most points over the course of the various disciplines (Field & Track Events) over the course of the week. Special congratulations to our Junior and Senior Victor and Victrix Ludorums:

- U11 MacKenzie Nelson & Harry Ryder
- U13 Zahra Staples & Lee Seloka

TROPHY WINNERS	
AGE GROUP	NAME
Girls U7	Lenja Geretto
Boys U7	Phen Hardcastle
Girls U8	Trinity Massyn
Boys U8	Nathan Marcovich / Matthew Scheepers / Malakai Leibrandt
Girls U9	Ella Lumsden
Boys U9	Angus MacIntyre
Girls U10	Bella Hare-Bowers / Jameecah Lodewyk / Ava Govender
Boys U10	Daniel Beck
Girls U11 - Junior Victrix Ludorum	MacKenzie Nelson
Boys U11 - Junior Victor Ludorum	Harry Ryder
Girls U12	Charlotte Guy
Boys U12	Skyler October
Girls U13 - Victrix Ludorum	Zahra Staples
Boys U13 - Victor Ludorum	Lee Seloka
Winning House	Peregrine
Spirit Trophy	Hobby

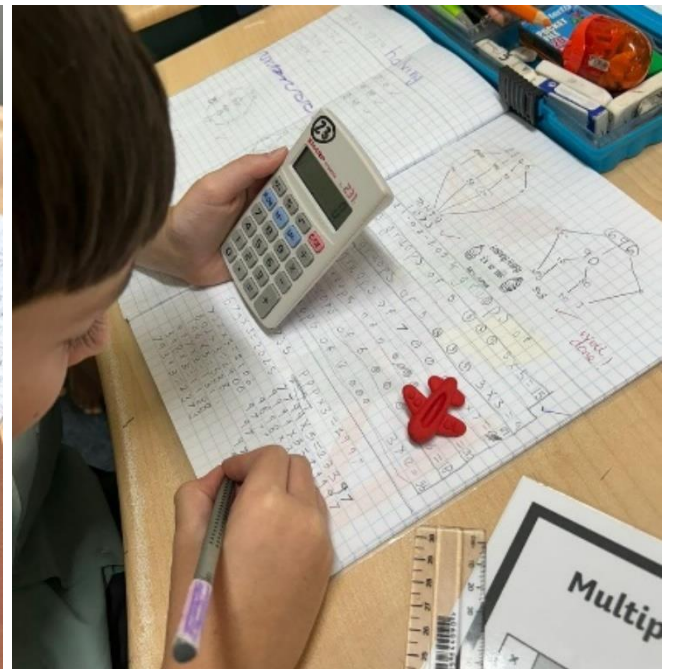
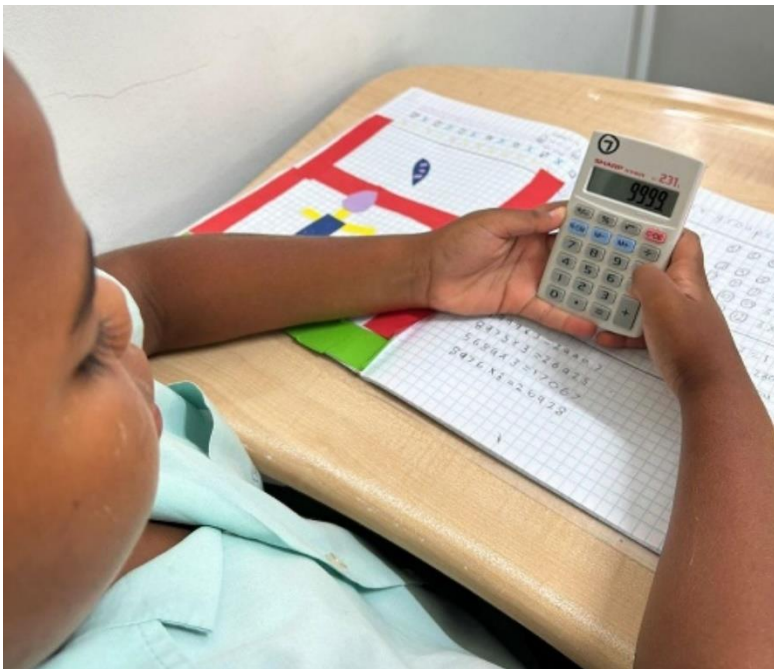


The Senior Prep Event ended with great excitement as some parents took to the track to strut their stuff. Then, finally, the much anticipated Grade 7 Tug-of-War, which was again won by the GIRLS! Well done and thank you to all involved for making this event a super exciting one, despite the astro construction going on in the background. Next year will be a far more spectator friendly setup, however, thank you to those parents who joined us this year, your support and encouragement was most appreciated.



GRADE 3 MATHS!

Mathematics is an integral part of learning and so often the children are grappling with new concepts that require much cognitive input. Imagine the delight of the Grade 3s when they could put aside their brain power and work with a calculator. The shrieks of delight and excitement were wonderful to hear. The children all tried to figure out how to work the calculators to help them solve some challenging sums, but more importantly how to correctly name the large numbers they were creating. Some even figured out how to make reoccurring addition sums and were seeing who could make the biggest number. Keep up the good work, Grade 3s!



Math fact fluency is important as it forms the building blocks for higher-level math concepts. When a child is confidently able to master his/her math facts, the concepts will become significantly easier, and the child will be better equipped to solve them faster. You go, Grade 3s!



POSITIVE SELF CONCEPT IN GRADE 5

This week in Life Orientation we started the theme: "Positive Self Concept". We introduced this theme by discussing our character strengths and the importance of being aware of them. We read through a list of positive personal adjectives which encouraged the boys and girls to think a little more widely. These adjectives included strengths that they may not have thought of before, such as: calm, curious, spontaneous, practical, open-minded. The pupils then wrote down five of their top strengths. They paired up with a partner or a group of three and were each encouraged to share five strengths that their partners possess. It became clear to the boys and girls that they have strengths that others see in them and of which they were previously not aware. The hope was that this would help to build their positive self concept.



SMILE! SHOW US YOUR TEETH

This week the Grade Rs focused on personal hygiene and learnt a lot about teeth! They even used toothbrushes in our art activity to spray the paint onto a tooth template. This was good for strengthening their finger muscles and ultimately their fine motor co-ordination. Cleaning and brushing teeth was an important aspect of our learning and they drew beautiful face portraits and cut out toothpaste and toothbrushes for our posters! Well done to the Grade Rs.

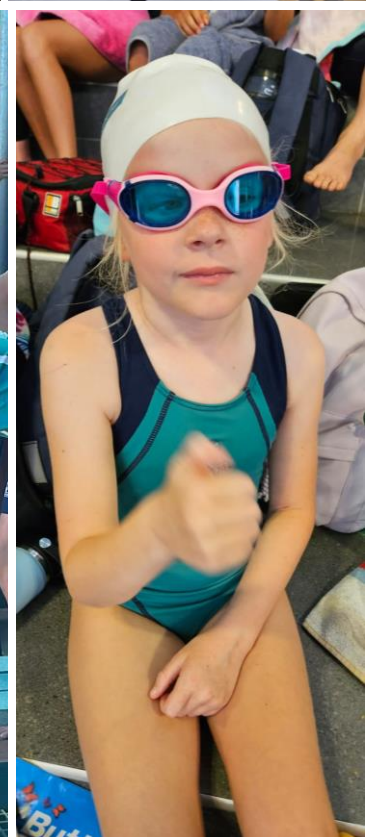
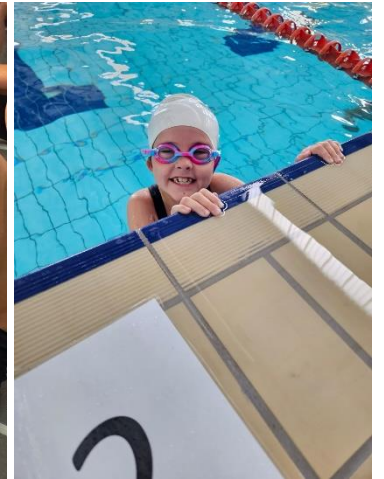


CURRO TRIANGULAR GALA



Our swimmers participated in the Curro Somerset West Individual Events Gala on Thursday, February 15. They performed incredibly well, taking 24 first places, 27 second places and 25 third places of the 60 events. We are proud of our swimmers' performances and delighted with the final results:

1 st	Somerset House	485
2 nd	Curro Durbanville	343
3 rd	Curro Somerset	232
4 th	Generations	129



ROLE-PLAY IN THE 'HOME' CORNER

This term the Grade 00 classes have a 'Home Corner' in the classroom. This type of role-play offers numerous benefits for our children's development. Firstly, it encourages imaginative play, allowing children to explore various roles and scenarios, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills. By mimicking real-life experiences, such as cooking, cleaning, or caring for dolls, children develop social skills like communication, cooperation, and empathy as they interact with peers. Additionally, playing in a 'Home Corner' promotes language development as children engage in dialogue, narrate their actions, and expand their vocabulary. It can also provide a safe space for emotional expression, where children can explore and understand different emotions through role-playing. The most important part though is the FUN! Our Mice classes just love spending time in the role-play area with their friends!



THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for the lovely treats you brought. We could not give it out on the 14th, but we had an Israeli dance group that came to do a performance at Vonke yesterday. We set the table with the eats and treats we received, and everyone enjoyed helping themselves to the lovely sweets after the event. Unfortunately, I was not able to take photos with the residents as they helped themselves as I had another appointment. Please tell the learners they made a lot of residents' hearts happy.



Eureka Haefele
Unit Manager



MINI CRICKET VS APPLEWOOD

GIRLS U7: What a lovely game it has been against Applewood! The U7 girls really built their confidence this week! We lost the toss and Applewood chose to bat first. We did not count any wide balls. We scored a total of 13 Runs and won by 10 runs.

- Best Batter: Jasmyn Carter
- Best Bowler: Abigail van den Heever

GIRLS U8 & U9 COMBINED TEAM: The U8 and U9 combined girls' team had a great game against Applewood. They won the toss and decided to bowl first. In the end Somerset House won by 25 runs. We were impressed with the improvement in bowling and the great fielding shown by our girls, very well done!

- Best Batter: Isla Hardcastle
- Best Bowler: Alice Burger

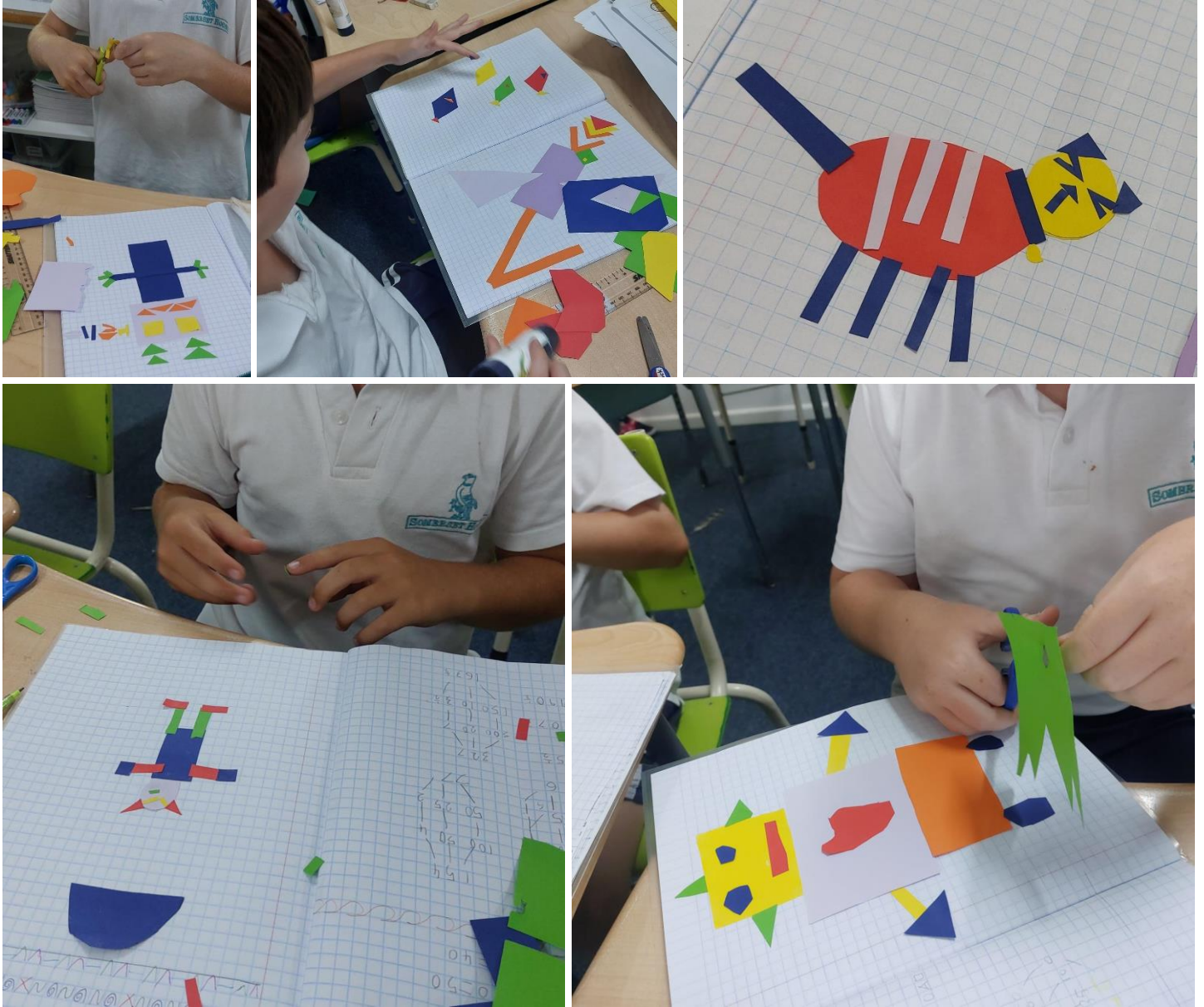
BOYS U9: The U9 boys had a very tightly contested game that came right down to the wire. SH won the Toss and sent Applewood in to bat first, and after a top bowling performance, they managed to restrict their opponents to only 24 runs. Applewood was quite strong with the ball in hand leading to a nail-biting finish. Somerset House managed to pull through and get a win with our last two batsmen, scoring the runs needed. SH won with 2 runs.

- Best Bowlers: Nhloso and Orthniel with -2
- Best batsman: Othniel 8 runs



THE PROPERTIES OF 2D SHAPES

In addition to intricate calculations, the Grade 3s looked at properties of 2D shapes. But what is shape learning without being able to be creative and design characters by only using paper and 2D shapes? The children relished in the opportunity to be creative and were delighted at how their characters turned out.



GRADE 7 GREETINGS

Many of you will see Grade 7s on a Monday morning greeting the other Grades as they walk on to campus. This was an initiative that started last year and has been well received by the Somerset House community. The pupils are encouraged to greet with a handshake, fist pump or high five and it is a wonderful way for everyone to start a new week. The morning greetings also give the Grade 7s a chance to connect with the younger grades which is not always possible during the busy days on campus.



SENIOR CRICKET

CRICKET U11A VS LOCHNERHOF: Somerset House won the toss and elected to bowl first. A good start from Harry Ryder and Leo van Galen saw us in a comfortable position, until Lochnerhof began to pick up the run rate. We continued to fight hard to find wickets, but our fielding let us down. Jessie Thurman displayed a great bowling performance taking 3 wickets in his 4 overs. They ended on a score of 160 for 5. Our batsmen knew they had a large task at hand, and this unfortunately showed in our performance. Losing wickets relatively quickly saw the top order crumble. But a stable innings from Corbin Hilliard-Lomas and Alastair O'Carroll saw us see out the full 20 overs. Ending on 51 for 8 wickets. A tough loss but valuable lessons learnt.

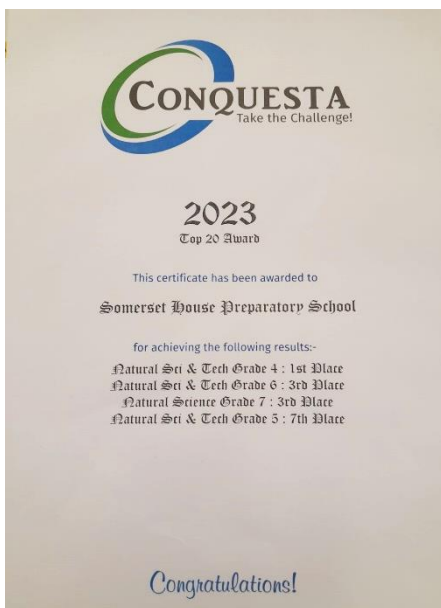


CRICKET 1st X1 vs LOCHNERHOF: Somerset House won the toss and elected to bat first. We had a super start with Chris Havinga and Nathan Sloan smacking 50 in the powerplay. After losing Chris we had a big collapse while Nathan was still trying to hang on and knock the ball around. We ended with 123/9 on the board after 25 overs which was about 40 runs short of our target. We went in to bowl and the extras got the better of us. The batsman really struggled to get the ball away, but we bowled 48 extras which led them over the line in 23 overs. So close, yet so far. Greater discipline with the ball in hand will bring about more favourable results. Nevertheless, a great effort by our team this week.



GOODBYE “MR DENZEL”

Oakwood was saddened to bid farewell to Denzel last week Friday. “Mr Denzel” was a well-known face at Oakwood and worked diligently at keeping us all safe. We wish Denzel all the best as he takes on a new opportunity!



EXCELLENT CONQUESTA RESULTS

We received the very exciting news this week that Somerset House achieved Top 20 in South Africa, for the 2023 Natural Science and Technology Conquesta. Last year, our children were encouraged to enter and participate in this national Conquesta, and they fared so well. This year, we encourage more boys and girls from Grade 4 to Grade 7 to participate again. The final results are as follows:

- Natural Science and Tech Grade 4: 1st Place
- Natural Science and Tech Grade 5: 7th Place
- Natural Science and Tech Grade 6: 3rd Place
- Natural Science Grade 7: 3rd Place

FRIENDSHIP

The yellow bench at Oakwood was sponsored by the Allwood family in the year 2021 (after their family spent 10 happy years at Oakwood making friends). This bench is now being used to connect our pupils on lonely and not so good days. Meaning that when you see a friend sitting on it, you immediately stop, turn and walk towards the friend and invite them to play. Here are a few Oakwoodians standing by Miss Valentine while she's busy putting the words "friendship bench" on it.



OUR FACES

The little Bees (Grade 000) have really impressed their teachers with their stunning paintings of their faces a few weeks ago and have now painted themselves using different colour paint. Painting is a way for children to express emotions, convey a message, use their senses and explore colour and create an aesthetically pleasing piece of work. Well done Bees.



SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

What could be better than sharing some lunch with a bunny friend?



CREATIVITY IN ACTION

Our Drama pupils are using their creativity in many different ways this term. Our main focus for all pupils has been to build their confidence by working on scenes and stories, as well as encouraging our Grade 6 and 7 classes to perform monologues for each other. Look out for the opportunity to register your child for the Western Cape Virtual Eisteddfod in the next few weeks!



RAINBOW-COLOURED BOOKS

In the JP Knowledge Centre, books have been arranged in an array of rainbow colours. This not only adds visual appeal but also makes it easier for children to replace books where they found them. By organising books according to the colours of the rainbow, children can quickly locate the section they are interested in and easily identify where each book belongs. This not only fosters a sense of orderliness and responsibility but also encourages children to independently engage with the library resources.



INDOOR HOCKEY

The Grade 6 & 7 Indoor Hockey League came to an end on Monday evening. We were treated to some amazing action at Somerset House with the girls' playoff matches. Our Grade 5s played against our Grade 6s for 5th and 6th position with our Grade 5s putting up a great fight but going down to a feisty Grade 6 team. Our Grade 7 girls played their semi final against De Hoop. SH scored first and set the tone for a great half with scores level 2-2 at half time. De Hoop were just too strong in the 2nd half with them scoring some fantastic goals and qualifying for the final. We then played against SWPS in the playoff for 3rd & 4th position. SWPS came at us like a wave and dominated play. They created many scoring opportunities and converted a number of them. They were just too strong for us on the day, and we went down 5 – 1. SH ended in 4th position overall. Congratulations to Beaumont who won an awesome final and to De Hoop who came 2nd.



Our Grade 6 boys had a successful match against Somerset College, winning with a strong score of 5 - 0. However, they unfortunately lost to De Hoop in the final with a score of 3 - 1. Despite the loss, reaching the final match is still a commendable achievement, showcasing the team's skill and dedication throughout the tournament. Congratulations to Nicolas Coolen who was the top Goal Scorer of the tournament and Skyler October for the "Most Promising Player", award!

Grade 7 boys faced Beaumont in their playoff match, ultimately losing with a score of 2 - 4. However, they showed resilience and determination by rallying to defeat SWPS with a score of 2 - 1, securing 3rd place in the tournament. This comeback victory demonstrates the team's ability to bounce back from adversity and perform under pressure, earning them a well-deserved spot on the podium. Well done to all our Indoor players, we are proud of you! We wish you all the best for your upcoming outdoor season.



EXCITING ART ADVENTURES UNFOLD!

The past few weeks have been a whirlwind of creativity and discovery in our Art Room! The Grade Rs embarked on a thrilling journey into the realm of texture. Armed with curiosity and enthusiasm, they ventured outdoors to gather an array of nature's treasures. With these natural wonders in hand, they created stunning nature collages, engaging in lively discussions with their peers as they explored the diverse textures they had uncovered.

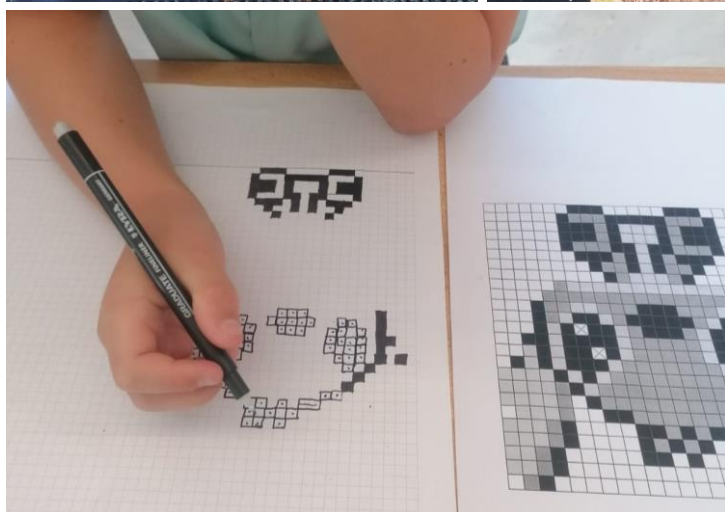
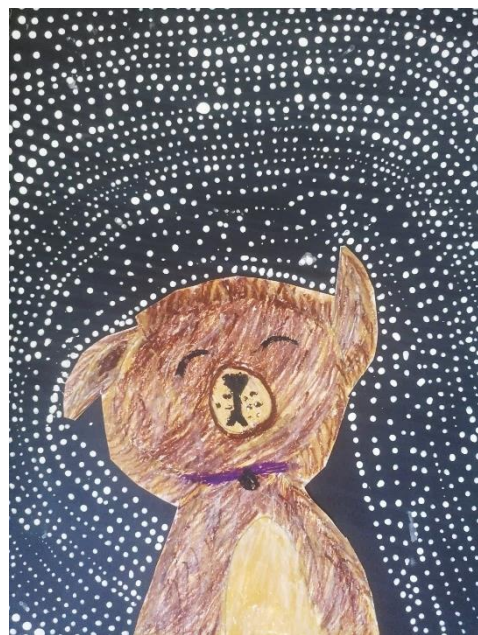


Meanwhile, our Grade 7s have been using pastels, meticulously bringing to life enchanting eyes that captivate with their depth and allure.

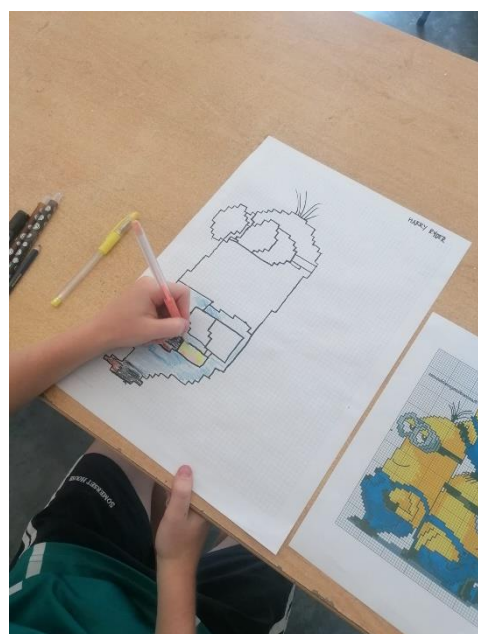
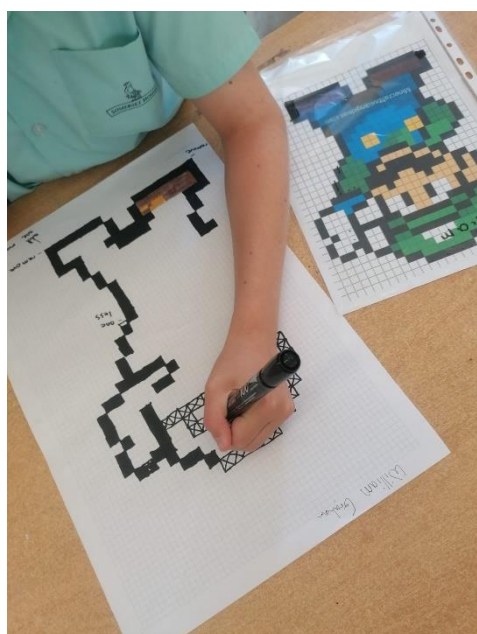


ART CONTINUED.....

Our Grade 3 artists poured their hearts into the creation of adorable shaking dogs. Through carefully placed painted dots, they depicted the playful motion of water, adding an extra layer of charm to their delightful compositions.



Let's not forget our Grade 5s, who have been hard at work crafting intricate pixel art creations. With precision and ingenuity, they navigated the grid paper, meticulously planning and counting each box to bring their visions to life.



As the projects near completion, we can hardly contain our eagerness to share the final results with the school community! Stay tuned as we prepare to unveil the culmination of weeks of hard work, passion, and boundless imagination.

OAKWOOD PARENT SOCIAL

It was lovely to connect with the Pre-Primary Parents at the Oakwood Parent Social this week.



DISTRICT EAST ATHLETICS TRIALS

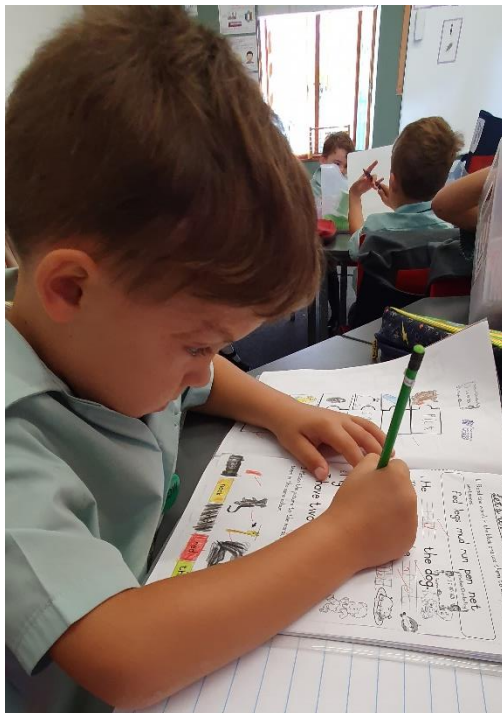
We congratulate nine of our pupils Addison Brown, Lily Herbertson, Harry Ryder, Bobby Savage, Ryder Mitchell, Lee Seloka, Nicolas Coolen and Skyler October, who represented the Helderberg Athletics Team at the Metropole East Trials in Parow yesterday. We are very proud of their achievements and efforts. They competed against the top athletes from Somerset West, Strand, Gordons Bay, Kuilsriver, Bellville and Parow areas.

Special congratulations to Daniel Beck who has qualified to participate at the Western Province Athletics Trials next Wednesday 28th February at Dal Josaphat Stadium in Paarl. Daniel won the 100m and came 2nd in the 80m, brilliant performances, congrats Daniel, these are awesome results, we are extremely proud of you and wish you well for your WP Trials next week!



SPELLING IS FUN!

Our Grade 1 pupils tackled spelling in a fun way! They used picture clues to guess and spell missing words, combining reading with puzzle-solving. Their excitement and teamwork were heartwarming as they connected pictures to words. Keep up the great work, little spellers!



BADEN POWELL'S BIRTHDAY

The Cubs and Scouts proudly wore their uniforms to school today to celebrate their founder, Baden Powell's birthday.

