



REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 2 WEEK 8 (31 May 2024)

JUNIOR PREP ELECTIONS!

The Junior Primary participated in a highly efficient and well run electoral process on Tuesday. A few Grade 3s campaigned for their cause. The pupils made personalised ID cards so that they were prepared for the process. Headmaster Mr Huggett was the official Electoral Marshal who was tasked at overseeing and verifying the children's IDs and the process as a whole. The pupils had to vote for one of the following: Crazy Hair Day, Crazy Sock Day or Slipper Day. After casting their vote, they received the official mark on their thumb and are looking forward to the results of the elections. Relevant learning in action!



SENIOR PREP ELECTIONS

As South Africa geared up for the 2024 National Election, so too did Somerset House! The contenders for the Senior Primary school vote were the Grade 7 children who completed an election project representing the cuisine of a particular country to be enjoyed for a lunch meal during the last week of term. Working in groups, the children created “political parties”, identified and researched their country and its culinary delights, strategised and analysed methods of attracting voters, and created a party name, logo, election poster and promotional video.

In time for the South African National Election, the eight Grade 7 “political parties” were resurrected and embarked on their campaign trail in the hopes of winning the school vote. The countries represented were:

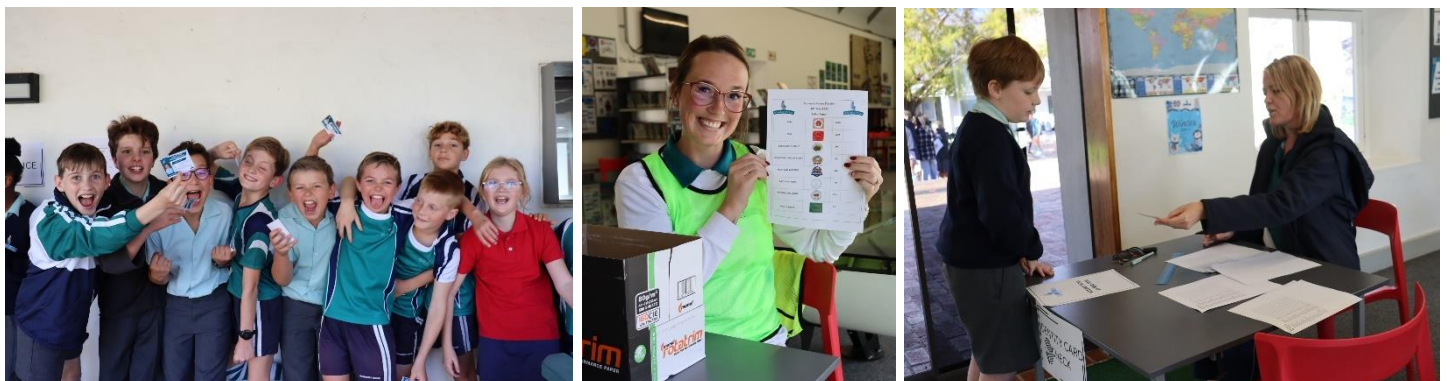
- South Africa
- India
- USA
- Mexico
- Greece
- Great Britain
- Italy
- China



Plenty intense campaigning, some possible attempted bribing and very passionate party representatives put their “manifesto” forward to the Senior Primary classes via their campaign videos. Posters representing the parties were also on display throughout the day. Thankfully the Independent Monitors and the Staff Electoral Commission were on hand during the process so that the democratic principle of holding ‘free and fair elections’ prevailed in the Knowledge Centre on Tuesday!

Eager children presented their ID documents, had their names marked on the voter’s roll, received their indelible thumb nail mark and participated in the secret ballot on voting day.

After the vote count, Vetkoek Vol Vrede came out on top and so, the whole school will enjoy a delicious traditional South African meal during the last week of term. Viva democracy!





HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS YET?

"Music of the Heart" is a touching story about a village's quest to help a man named Groucher rediscover his ability to hear music. To achieve this, a brave group of children - Liam Allwood, Kia Coote, and Rebecca Plewman - must follow the Oracle's (Talia Pretorius) clues to find the solution. Their journey is obstructed by the very mean Groucher and his accomplices, Growl and Grizzle, played by Ryder Mitchell, Amber Parker, and Thomas Niehaus. Will the village succeed in opening Groucher's heart so that he can hear the music again? Join the Grade 6 and 7 pupils as they bring this enchanting story to life, suitable for all ages, with live performances by our talented Music Department.

Tickets for next week are selling fast, don't miss out!



JUNIOR PREP SHOWCASE

Thank you to all the parents that popped into the Grade 1 to 3 classes on Tuesday or Thursday morning. The children love to show you their work, and we hope you are as proud of them as we are! We are grateful to Merkava Coffee for their provision of warm beverages for parents and staff on these mornings.



GIRLS 1ST HOCKEY TEAM VS GORDONS BAY

Our Girls 1st Hockey Team played their first astro match of the season on Wednesday afternoon against Gordons Bay Primary. Our girls appeared to be far more comfortable on this surface and put up a much better performance than the last two league games on grass. They were able to put exciting attacking opportunities together while absorbing a few waves of attack from Gordon's Bay Primary. Our girls came out on top and won the match 3 – 0. Goals were scored by Rebecca Angus, Zahra Staples and Lily Herbertson. We look forward to having our own full-sized astro soon, where we will be able to watch all our age groups develop their hockey skills at a far greater pace. Well done to our Girls 1st Team and special thanks to Strand High School for the use of their astro.



CONGRATULATIONS COACH LUKS AND MR NCAPHAYI

Coach Luks and Mr Ncaphayi recently completed the Level 1 FIFA Football Referee's Course. Both candidates passed the course and have met the requirements to now be official LFA Match Officials. Congratulations to Mr Ncaphayi and Coach Luks, we are proud of you! Thank you for taking the time to enrich your skills for the benefit of our pupils.



LEADERSHIP PROJECT FEEDBACK: NIGHT RIDE

On Friday 24 May, I organised a Full Moon Night Ride for the Morningside neighbourhood. It was a perfect evening, there was no wind and the moon was shining bright. So many people arrived, because at the last minute I added a walking option for those who didn't want to ride bikes. The ride was 5 kilometers and took us about 30 minutes. There was a leader car (which my mom was driving) with hazard lights on the whole way to alert other cars that there were a group of riders on the road. After the ride, we all enjoyed boerewors rolls and hot chocolate, which was a perfect way to end the night. The purpose of the ride was to thank our neighbourhood patrollers for keeping us safe. It was a very festive and fun ride, with my dad playing music on route. I really enjoyed organising this event. I met lots of my neighbours and saw how happy everyone was. I also learned some new skills, like using Google Forms to get RSVPs. Thanks to everyone who came and made the night amazing. I can't wait to plan more fun events like this!

(Liam Allwood, Grade 7)



LEADERSHIP PROJECT FEEDBACK: SWIM SAFETY



We completed our organisational task on Friday 24th May supporting the Darcy Sunshine Foundation by packing 254 bags - with help from some Grade 7 and Grade 5 pupils. Each bag contained a yellow towel, swimming cap, swimming costume and two books. We are so happy to support the Darcy Sunshine Foundation as its main aim is to teach every child to swim and the importance of water safety - which is so important to us. We hope to encourage more people to support The Darcy Sunshine Foundation just like we do. *(Bobby Savage, Chris Havinga and Ben Hingeston)*



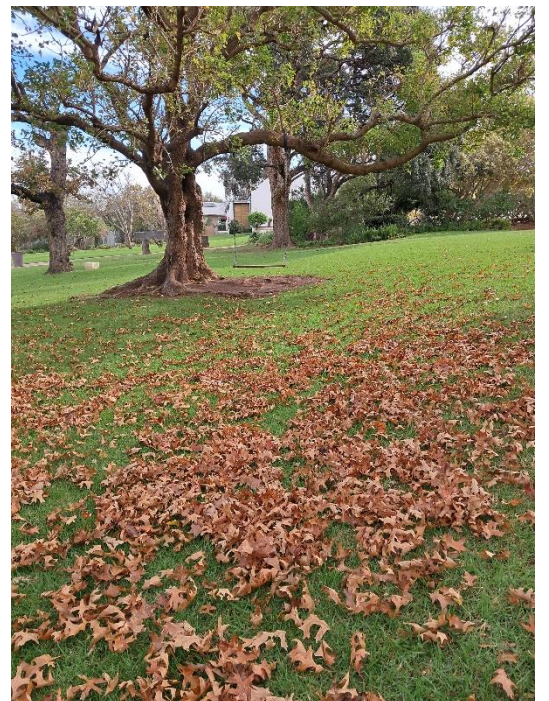
LEADERSHIP PROJECT FEEDBACK

When I decided to share some of our amazing music and drama from Somerset House with the Frail and Dementia care residents at Vonke House as part of my Leadership Programme, I never imagined the lessons that we would all learn and how much our visit would make such a difference in their lives. We had an overwhelming number of residents join us for the concert where some of the Grade 7s volunteered to perform music pieces on the piano and violin, drama monologues and poems and even some of the Grade 7 marimba band. I left grateful for the opportunity that the Leadership Programme created for me but also determined to host another concert before the end of the year which will hopefully be a Christmas version in Term 4. Many of the residents don't get the opportunity to leave, due to mobility or health issues and some no longer get visits, so taking my love of music and drama to them is a moment this year that I won't forget. Thank you to Mrs le Roux, Mrs Johnson-Petersen, Mrs Frehse for the support and for joining us at the concert and to Mr Odendal, Mr Appollis and Mr Davids for helping to move the marimbas on a Friday afternoon - I am so proud to be part of #1Team. *(Ryder Mitchell, Grade 7)*



SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

How lovely is it to see the change of season in all it's glory?



GRADE 1 CLASS MUSIC

The Grade 1s learned to dance this term. Here they are showing off their moves when dancing like sea animals. There were jelly fish, puffer fish and sea turtles. Such fun!



FROM LEARNING SUPPORT

The benefits of using visual schedules for better executive functioning:

Provides structure and predictability	Supports literacy development
Reinforces and supplements verbal instructions	Available for referencing throughout the day
Teaches responsibility and planning	Teaches time concepts and sequencing
Builds self-esteem	Provides independence
Allows change to be introduced more easily	Plays to the strength of visual learners
Reduces anxiety	Eases transitions



The Learning Support Team



DIALOGUE-WRITING

The Grade 4s practised their dialogue writing skills in English this week. They used the main characters, Johnny and Lizziebeth, from our class novel "Kaspar" and created a scene from the book. We were then treated to impromptu presentations.



MAGIC MILK EXPERIMENT

The magic milk experiment was a fun activity for the Grade 2s. By adding dish soap to milk, the children saw how soap molecules break up fat molecules; a process made visible with food colouring. This simple experiment demonstrated a scientific concept, sparking much excitement!



EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS

The Ladybirds (Grade 000) made the most of the beautiful weather, and enjoyed exploring the outdoors with their friends. It is amazing how much confidence they have gained when climbing and balancing on the outdoor equipment.



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

On Friday, 24 May the Cross Country athletes took part in the event that was held at the Macassar Sports Grounds. The competition was tough, and it was a challenging course. Congratulations to Leah Steyn, Matthew Scheepers and Guillaume Theron for competing. (Results were not available at the time of going to print).

TSA TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Our Western Province Tennis player, Olivia Hipkin, participated in another TSA Tennis Tournament last weekend; this time in George. Due to school commitments, Olivia has missed a few tournaments and practices recently, however still managed to have a successful tournament ending in 3rd position overall. Congratulations, Olivia! We are very proud of you!



METALLIC MOMENTS

As the Grade 00 children continue to explore a variety of materials, this week they focused on metals! They learnt about how tin foil is made and were given the opportunity to paint on foil; "This feels so cold and my paint brush just slides all over the foil!". They also had the opportunity to investigate the magnetic property of certain materials. They spent time in the classroom construction site, using magnets to discover which items were magnetic. Finally, they played with many metal toys including small metal cars and trains!



WELL DONE!

The Abacus Maths Regional Competition took place this last Saturday. We are very proud of the pupils of Somerset House that competed:

- Chloe Thomas – Grade 4 (Book 8) - Bronze (10 + 8)
- Luc Jones – Grade R (Book 6) - Silver (5 + 6)



PAST PUPIL NEWS: ENGLAND U21 HOCKEY SQUAD

Congratulations to one of our past pupils, Mikey Royden-Turner who matriculated at SACS in 2023. After a most successful IPT at U18 level and making the SA U18 squad, Mikey received an invite to attend England's U21 Hockey Trials and headed over to England. This sure was serious business as they trained hard for a number of months through the trial process! Mikey is still young in terms of his fellow competitors in the U21 setup, but managed to impress the selectors and subsequently earned his spot in the English U21 squad. Mikey and his team took on Wales this past weekend and came away with an awesome 3 – 0 victory. We are extremely proud of you Mikey, very well done!



KREATIEWE SKRYFWERK

Die Graad 5 leerlinge se kreatiwiteit het behoorlik gevloei! Ons het begin met beplanning en dinkskrumsessies. Elke groep moes 'n verkorte weergawe oor hul gunstelingfiek skryf. Sommige het hulself selfs uitgedaag en hul eie storie geskryf. Die resultate was fantasties en het hul verbeelding en vertelkuns ten toon gestel! Hou die spasie dop!



SOUTH AFRICAN MATHS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday, 22 May, 40 Senior Prep pupils wrote the Second Round Paper for the South African Mathematics Challenge. A lot of time and effort went into preparing for this round and the pupils are commended for their commitment and diligence. We now wait in eager anticipation for their results to see who has made it through to third and final round in September.

Grade 4

Ava Govender
Kayla Jeffrey
Andrew Oscroft
Daniel Porter
Jack Carolin
Lincoln Massyn
Isabella Van Straaten
Madison Gilbey
Chloe Thomas
Marcus Vonbun
Alera Janson
Sebastian Massmann
Reese Olivier
Leo Van Galen
Len Lorenz
Grace Overmeyer

Grade 5

Robert Terheijden
Oscar Burger
Malachi Lamprecht
Philip Human
Mackenzie Nelson
Zachariah Brown
Zoey Nelson
Emma Wever

Grade 6

Nicolas Coolen
Sophia Castleden
Harry Downing
Duncan Jones
Tristan van Rensburg

Grade 7

Thomas Niehaus
Mia Steyn
Simon Wiehahn
Carla Hodges
Ava Schreuder
Sara Sawant
Amber Parker
Ryder Mitchell
Sienna Vonbun
Liam Allwood



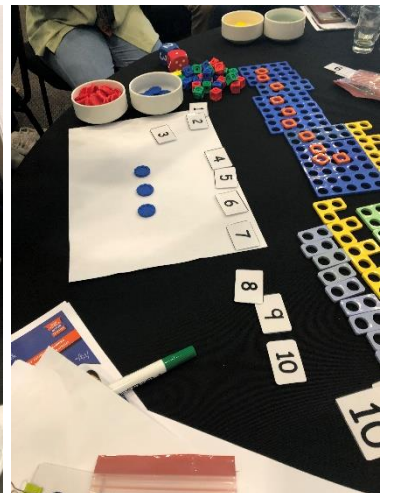
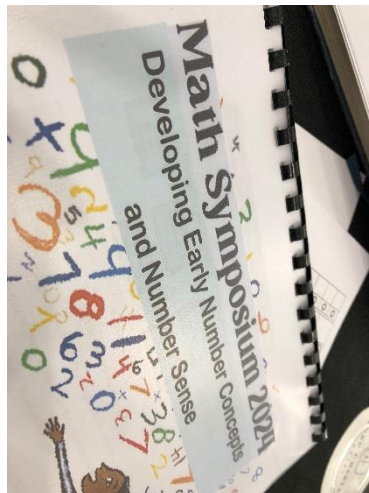
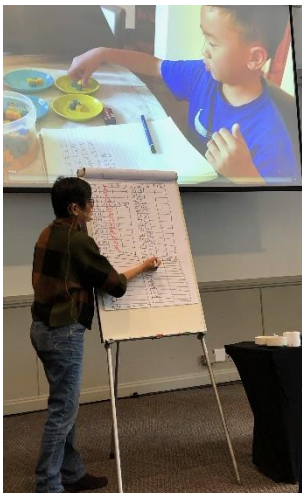
MOUNTAIN BIKING LEAGUE

Seven of our cyclists participated in the Western Cape Cycling League race at Spice Route in Paarl on Saturday. The course was exciting but challenging at the same time. It involved some steep hills, narrow corners and single tracks and a challenging pump track to end each lap. Our cyclists all had to do two laps. The juniors completed the short course and Emma Wever, our only senior cyclist, had to complete two laps of the longer course. Well done to all our cyclists!



SINGAPORE MATH SYMPOSIUM

This past week, Mrs. Kock attended a three-day Singapore Math Symposium facilitated by Peggy Zee from Singapore. This conference was aimed at enhancing knowledge of how to teach Singapore Math, the methodology behind how we introduce mathematical thinking to children, as well as advancements in the Singapore math curriculum and how we use mathematical language from a very young age. The conference was aimed at Pre-Primary methodology, but also allowed for conversations about how mathematical knowledge is scaffolded up into higher grades. Attending this three-day conference was a privilege. It was wonderful to meet teachers from other schools and discuss number sense and sensibility. Mrs K is looking forward to sharing what she learned with the Oakwood and Junior Primary teachers.



PAPIER IS PRET!

Die Graad 4 leerders het fantastiese mondelinge aangebied oor "Papier is Pret!" Hulle het ons geboei deur verskeie kreatiewe maniere te deel om ou koerante en papier te gebruik. Ons is ongelooflik trots op hulle vir die moeite wat hulle in hul uitstaande aanbiedings gesit het.



A SAFARI ADVENTURE!

How fortunate we are to have access to such incredible grounds and space for children to explore and learn outdoors? This week, the Grade Rs learnt all about big mammals, with a specific focus on African wildlife. They embarked on an outdoor adventure, transforming into Safari explorers. The children searched for hidden wild animals among the trees and bushes scattered in various spots on campus. The only clue they were given was an animal track, which they had to match to pictures of the animal's skin. They carefully considered colours and patterns, before matching each track to the correct animal. Then, they embraced the challenge of observational drawing, requiring them to closely observe each animal and draw what they could see. Utilising our environment, where exploration and curiosity are nurtured, while still covering the necessary skills that need to be developed, is one of the most effective ways for concrete learning to take place! The children loved every minute of this activity.....the only question they had beforehand, would they find "real" wild animals or just "pretend" ones.



GRADE 4 SCIENCE INVESTIGATION: TOUGH / FRAGILE

Our Grade 4 pupils recently explored the toughness of everyday materials. Using a plastic container, elastic bands, and a metal teaspoon, they tested newspaper, photocopier paper, wax paper, tin foil, and plastic wrap by dropping the teaspoon from increasing heights until each material broke.

Key Findings:

- First to Break: Newspaper
- Last to Break: Plastic wrap
- Least Energy to Break: Newspaper
- Most Energy Absorbed: Plastic wrap

This fun experiment taught our young scientists about material properties and the concept of toughness. Great job, Grade 4!

