



SOMERSET HOUSE
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REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 3 WEEK 10 (13 SEPTEMBER 2024)

CAPE TOWN SCIENCE CENTRE OUTING

The Grade 3 children experienced a day off campus on Monday when they travelled by bus to the Cape Town Science Centre. The morning was divided into hands-on workshops focusing on science, maths as well as technology concepts and activities. The **Bubbleology** workshop was a fun filled session - you are never too old

to find the joy in making and popping bubbles! Whilst in the auditorium, the children were on the edge of their seats when one of the scientists treated us to some exciting experiments involving flames and smoke! A highlight was the **Light Room** and great excitement was experienced learning how light is made. The Grade 3 teachers were proud of all the children's behaviour and engagement levels throughout the morning.



SOMERSET HOUSE CHOIR FESTIVAL 2024

This past week, the air was filled with melodies and the joyful sound of young voices as schools from across Somerset West gathered for the much-anticipated Somerset House Choir Festival. Held at the beautifully decorated Simpson Hall, the event was a dazzling showcase of youthful talent and musical dedication. The festival brought together choirs from Curro Somerset West and Somerset College, each bringing their own unique flair and enthusiasm to the stage. From the moment the first notes were sung, it was clear that these young performers were not just showcasing their vocal skills, but also their dedication and love for music. The repertoire ranged from American Spirituals, traditional African, French and Afrikaans songs to contemporary pop hits, offering a diverse array of performances that kept the audience captivated throughout the evening.

Apart from the Junior and Senior Prep choirs, Somerset House also showcased their ensembles, including the String Ensemble and the Grade 5, 6 and 7 Marimba Bands, entertaining the audience whilst the choirs rotated to perform. The evening culminated in a grand finale, Wake Me Up! by Avicii, with all five participating choirs coming together on stage to create a unified and vibrant sound that resonated through the hall. The Somerset House Choir Festival was more than just an evening of music; it was an inspiring reminder of the power of youth and creativity. It provided a platform for young singers to shine, fostering a love for music that will hopefully stay with them for years to come.

(Joanne Frehse)





GRADE 4 TECHNOLOGY: MARBLE RUN PROJECT

Our Grade 4s have been hard at work on an exciting new Technology project - designing and building their very own Marble Run games! Working individually or in pairs, their goal is to create a "marble run" where the marble takes the longest possible time to travel from start to finish. The pupils have been exploring concepts like potential and kinetic energy, experimenting with different materials to control the speed of the marble's descent. Using their knowledge of joints and support structures, they've sketched designs, selected materials, and built their marble runs on a 0.4m x 0.4m upright cardboard baseboard. This hands-on project has challenged our Grade 4s to think creatively, problem-solve, and apply their understanding of energy in a fun and engaging way. We look forward to seeing whose marble run keeps the marble rolling the longest, and which designs stand out! Stay tuned for the announcement of our winners!



SH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS



Our top 4 chess players in the Junior Prep (Grade 1 - 3), Middle Prep (Grade 4 and 5) and Senior Prep (Grade 6 and 7), participated in our annual Chess Championships on Monday afternoon. Both semi-finals and finals were played.

Pupils were treated to pizza and refreshments during their breaks which ensured that they were energised and gave of their best in the matches. Congratulations to all players for their wonderful efforts this season and to our top 2 players from each division.



	JUNIOR PREP Grade 1 - 3	MIDDLE PREP Grades 4 & 5	SENIOR PREP Grades 6 & 7
1	Jason Griessel	Daniel Porter	Simon Wiehahn
2	Ethan Hughes	Lincoln Massyn	Thomas Niehaus
3	Max Osterloh	Jean le Roux	Travis Wills
4	Milan Porter	Philip Human	Mason Siljeur



MAGICAL MOMENTS

We are always amazed at the magical moments that each of our plays produce at Somerset House. They usually appear unexpectedly and in the strangest places, but each time we feel the thrill of theatre creating the opportunity for this to happen. During 'The Lost Thing' production earlier this term, we found ourselves falling in love with a quirky puppet made almost entirely from an umbrella. It was hard to fold it away and say goodbye, but luckily, an unexpected piece of happiness surfaced in this adorable 'Meet-Cute' between our lead, Mabel, and Tia, one of our pupils from Oakwood later in the term. Isn't this what theatre is really about? (Mrs le Roux)

The Lost Thing inspires!

Last week my mom met a lady who overheard her mention my name. The lady asked, "Are you Mabel's mom, the one from The Lost Thing?" She said her daughter, Tia, from Grade R, in Oakwood, came and saw the show and they both really loved it! Tia likes to dress up as my character, the Key Collector from the play, and even got her mom to buy a green umbrella, so that they could act out the play together. Tia's mom shared photos of Tia dressed up as my character and she looked exactly like me with her boots and jumpsuit on. This made me so happy, and it was great to see that The Lost Thing could inspire Tia to act.



*Talented and very cute.
Inspired by the Lost Thing
Amazing actress.*

(by Mabel Savage)

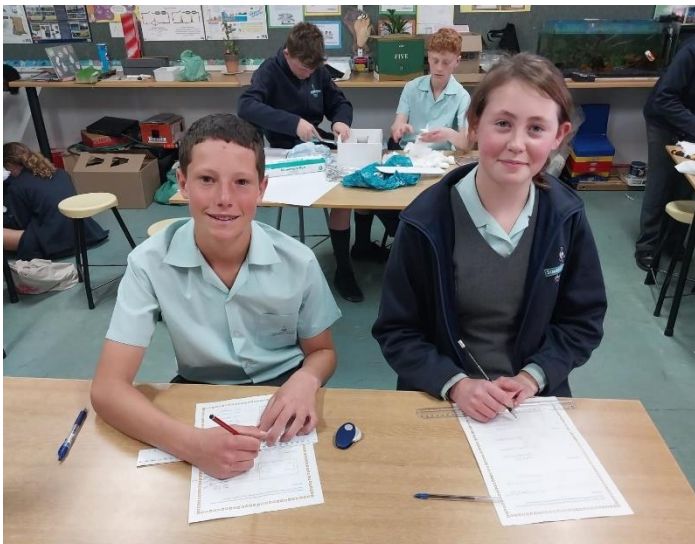
AUTHOR VISIT

The Junior Prep pupils were visited by book author Refiloe Moahloli this week. She shared her love of reading and some of her journey to being an author with the children, and then read from one of her books. Her challenge to the pupils was to spread love – start a love-quake!



SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

The Grade 7 pupils were tasked with a partner-project to design, make and evaluate a model of either an insulated house to conserve energy or a model of a solar water heater. They had to apply their knowledge and skills acquired through learning about Energy and Change, to design and then create their model. The children used white paint and tinfoil to reflect heat energy and slow down the transfer of heat energy to their homes in order to keep them cool in the sunshine. Other features included overhangs, ventilation, ceilings, insulation, roof pitches - but they can tell you more, if you ask! The children who designed and made solar water heaters had to consider how they could best optimise heat-gain in their models. They painted their systems black to absorb heat energy, created maximum surface area for the pipes to absorb heat energy and then apply the principles of heat transfer through radiation, conduction and convection to effectively heat the water in their models. Finally, they got to test their model and record their investigation with an experiment write-up, which included a line graph to reflect their observations. What a fun way to conclude and consolidate their learning!



GROWTH IN NATURE

This term, the Grade Rs have been exploring the concept of growth in nature, and over the past two weeks, they've taken a detailed look at their personal growth. Conversations centred around the theme of "when I was little," with the children eagerly bringing in their baby photographs and albums to display on the main table and use for Show and Tell. They measured each other and explored concepts of height and length, drew self-portraits using mirrors, and painted their hands and feet to incorporate into their art pieces. It has been so much fun for them to reflect on their own growth and development and share it with their peers!



AMAZING HELDERBERG ART EISTEDDFOD RESULTS

- Jenna Parker: Highest mark in Grade 4 - 92%
- Imogen Massmann and Daisy Dawson: Highest mark in Grade 6 - 96%



WE ARE SO PROUD!

We are thrilled to announce that some of our talented instrumentalists, dramatists and ensemble members have received special awards at this year's Helderberg Eisteddfod! Their dedication, hard work, and passion have truly shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments. These awards not only highlight the exceptional abilities of our pupils but also reflect the supportive environment that nurtures their musical growth. A huge congratulations to all the performers for their outstanding achievements, and a heartfelt "thank you" to their teachers for their guidance and commitment. We look forward to celebrating even more success in the future.

Ben Graham: Award for an outstanding performance in Piano: highest average in the Foundation Phase - 93%.

Zachariah Brown: Award for the best achievement in Piano 10 years for the Modern and Own choice categories - 94%.

William Graham: Award for the best achievement in Piano 10 years for the Baroque and Classical categories - 90%.

Alec Hobson: Award for the best achievement in Piano 11 years for the Modern and Romantic categories - 90%.

Jewel Buys: Award for the best achievement in Contemporary Music 11 years , instrumental solo - 91%.

Alastair O'Carroll Best achievement in the Saxophone category, 10 years - 90%.

Nicolas Coolen: Award of Excellence for an outstanding achievement in the Wind Instrument category in the Intermediate Phase with the highest average - 92.5%.

Nicolas Coolen: Award for the best achievement in the Saxophone category 11 years - 93%.

Grade 5 Marimba Band: The best achievement in the Percussion category, 10 years - 93%.

Ryder Mitchell: Award for the best achievement in the Grade 7 Drama Monologue category – 96%.

Jenna Parker: Highest mark in Grade 4 - 92%.

Imogen Massmann and Daisy Dawson: Highest mark in Grade 6 - 96%.



WELL DONE, RYDER!

Ryder Mitchell, Grade 7, participated in the recent Helderberg Eisteddfod for Piano – the "New Skill" portion of his Leadership Programme and achieved an amazing Gold+. He also entered the Helderberg Eisteddfod Drama category privately, and achieved the following results:

- English Drama Monologue – Cum Laude
- English Drama Poetry – Gold

Well done!



JP CONCERT REFLECTIONS – GRADE 1

- At the concert I wore puffy pants, a blue cap, a star on my face, a white vest and green suspenders. I was a break dancer. On Friday, my grandpa, grandma, my aunty Mary and my mother came. (Owen)
- I was a ribbon dancer. I wore a skirt. I enjoyed the ribbon dancing. I was happy to stand outside before it was my turn on stage. (Emily)
- I did a concert and was a ribbon dancer. I loved it when my mom and dad came to watch me. (Jasmyn)
- I wore a black T-Shirt, I was excited. My brother and sister watched me in the show. I was a weightlifter in the show, and I got a haircut. (Luke)
- I enjoyed that I was a weightlifter in the concert. I wore a black t-shirt and black pants; the people were clapping. I had fun on the stage. (Tristian)
- In the concert I was a break dancer. I wore a white t-shirt and suspenders over my T-shirt. Then I had a blue T-shirt over the white one. I wore green shorts and a green cap, with a blue star on my face. I enjoyed it when my mom and dad clapped for me. It was very fun, and I really enjoyed it. (Sienna)

JP CONCERT REFLECTIONS – GRADE 2

- Last night I was excited, when my mom looked at me, I smiled. (Trinity)
- I felt very excited to be on stage, I was a little bit nervous. I was a hobby-horser and I enjoyed saying my line. (Emerson)
- When I saw my mom I was in joy. (Christiaan)
- My mom loved the show and I was so happy that she could make it. I was nervous but I had my friends with me. (Asia)
- When we did our show I was scared, I had summersaults in my stomach. 200 people where watching us. (Lula)
- I had fun, I was nervous. My favourite part was fencing. I loved the music. (Nicholas Harpur)
- It was scary and fun. I knew that God was with me. I tried my best and that is all that matters. I was a hobby horse and it was fun. (Cathryn)
- I worked very hard to make this happen. I am a synchronized swimmer, I wear a pink sparkly cozy and I can't wait! (Zoe)
- In the school play I was in the fencing dance. The play was about the Olympics. In the play I wore a white costume with a white second skin under a shield with white pants and swords with duct tape and white takkies that get dirty very easily. (Liam)
- In the school play I was in the fencing dance. The name of the play is the Olympics. The fencers had long swords. (Janru)
- My play is about the Olympics. I was in the synchronized swimming dance. Our leotards are very pretty. I felt happy. My favourite part was watching everyone do their dance. (Hayden)

ADVERTISING TECHNIQUES

During English lessons, Grade 4s have been learning about advertising and all the different techniques advertisers use to persuade, inform and remind their customers. They have had great fun analysing and interpreting adverts and looking at the ones they think are effective. Pupils also had the opportunity to design their own adverts and present them to the class. There are some budding advertisers, for sure!



GRADE 7 SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

What a pleasure and privilege to be able to spend time in our very own Sustainable Garden. After a busy few weeks focusing on exams, our Grade 7s spent the day clearing beds and preparing for new seedlings and flowers to be planted. There was even time to have a snail race which added much excitement to the morning.



SPRING IS IN THE AIR!



The Grade 00 children have been enjoying the wonderful, sunny weather and discussing the changes that take place in nature during Spring. They paged through a variety of magazines to look for pictures of flowers and plants to cut out and create a collage. They worked very carefully with their scissors and the magazines, which resulted in beautiful collages! As we near the end of

the term, they have been playing a lot of revision games to consolidate their letters and numbers. They enjoyed playing with giant domino blocks to consolidate numbers 1 - 6 and identify matching numbers.



RUGBY 10S TOURNAMENT AT SWPS



The SWPS Prominent Paints 10s Rugby Tournament saw the spirited participation of the U11 and U13 boys teams from Somerset House. The format of the game presented a challenge, requiring players to make crucial tackles and defend larger spaces than usual. Despite this, both teams showcased determination and heart throughout the tournament. While victories were elusive against some agile opponents, the boys delivered solid performances, demonstrating their growing skills and teamwork. Ultimately, the tournament proved to be a positive and enriching experience for all involved. Well done boys!



KENRIDGE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The 2nd Team Hockey Boys played in the Kenridge 2nd Team tournament on Saturday. These were the last games of the season. Playing against some of the top schools in the Cape, they were determined and fought really hard. Notable mention goes to Robert Terheijden for his goalkeeping efforts. The results were as follows:

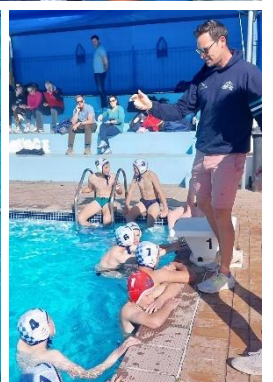
- 0 - 3 Loss vs SACS
- 0 - 3 Loss vs Kenridge
- 0 - 4 Loss vs Paarl Gimnasium

Coach Seb



WATERPOLO VS SOMERSET COLLEGE

On Tuesday our U13 teams had some pre-season games against Somerset College. The games were tough but it was great to be back in the water again. Our players can be very proud of the way that they played and we look forward to a fun, successful season ahead.



CPL HOCKEY

VA number of our hockey players were selected to represent various CPL (Cape Town Premier League) Hockey Teams in the CPL Tournament last weekend. Teams are made up of players from various schools in Western Province. Congratulations to the following players for being selected for various teams and to those whose teams won the tournament.



PLAYERS	TEAMS	RESULTS
Harry Downing	U12 All Stars Cup Team	4 th Place
Mason Siljeur	U12 All Stars Cup Team	4 th Place
Rijk van Galen	U12 Cup Royals Team	2 nd Place
Nicolas Coolen	U12 Cup Royals Team	2 nd Place
Corbin Hilliard-Lomas	U12 All Stars Plate Team	4 th Place
Charlotte Guy	U12 Raiders Bowl Team	5 th Place
Liam Allwood	U14 Royals Plate Team	1 st Place
Ben Hingeston	U14 All Stars Plate Team	5 th Place
Zahra Staples	U14 The Heat Cup Team	2 nd Place - (Undefeated)
Lily Herbertsson	U14 The Heat Cup Team	2 nd Place - (Undefeated)



SPRING DAYS!

The Ladybird Class (Grade 000) have loved the warmer Spring days and playing outside in the sun with their friends. This week they produced the most stunning flower paintings and drawings, and have worked hard consolidating many concepts learnt this term.

