



REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

FOUNDERS DAY – SPECIAL EDITION

FOUNDERS' DAY – GUEST SPEAKER, KAMITA PRAG

“Good morning, Mr Huggett, esteemed educators and staff, guests, proud parents and, most importantly, the bright young minds of Somerset House.

It is truly an honour to be here today on Founders' Day, as your guest speaker and past pupil. I often reflect fondly on my time here and the invaluable lessons which laid the foundation for my journey. I would firstly like to give thanks to Somerset House and all the teachers, some of whom are still here today. I am tremendously grateful for the grounding that this school has given me.

I started my schooling career in 1998, in Miss Hodge's Dormouse class, in Oakwood. I remember my first day of school. I was so afraid of leaving the comfort of my parents' nest and stepping into the unknown. Miss Hodge comforted me tenderly but also firmly encouraged me to come out of my shell and embrace my early school days.

My memories of Somerset House are idyllic. I cherished the hand-made birthday crowns and birthday book and was very excited to cut the Founder's Day cake with the school's headmaster at the time, Mr Taylor. I remember lying on the grass under the oak trees during break-times and watching the clouds with my friends. I remember how Miss Mac so kindly took time out of her busy schedule to give me diving lessons after hours, so that I could participate in the school galas. I remember the challenging hike up to the top of the Helderberg Mountain in Grade 3. Persevering our way up, we reached the summit. It was extremely rewarding to experience the sweet feeling of accomplishment afterwards, especially when admiring the mountain from in and around Somerset West in the days to follow.

There are many aspects of Somerset House that make it so uniquely special. The teachers are inspirational leaders that go the extra mile. The smaller classes allow the talents of each individual to be nurtured. The school slogan, "...more than a school, a way of life", encompasses the healthy lifestyle one should strive for with balanced meals, compulsory sporting activities and the wearing of sun-hats when outdoors. The moral values of integrity, respect, determination, unselfishness and team spirit build character and facilitate transition into larger secondary schools.

Non Nobis Solum – not for ourselves alone. It is this motto that inspired me to pursue a career in medicine, driven by passion for knowledge and desire to make a difference in people's lives. I am currently working as an Emergency Medicine doctor at Vergelegen Mediclinic, here in Somerset West. It is rewarding to be able to be of assistance in a crisis and I think it is through my job that I have had the privilege to meet some of you sitting here before me, aiding you in your time of need.

I was delighted to meet Mr Huggett last week and take a walk around the campus and although so much has changed structurally since the gravel roads and barn style classrooms, what remains the same is the wonderful sense of community.

To the pupils of Somerset House... As you stand on the brink of your own journeys, I want to share 3 pieces of advice with you:

1. Embrace Curiosity: I'm sure your teachers have told you that there is no such thing as a silly question. Explore new ideas and never stop learning. The world is vast, and there is so much to discover.

2. Be kind and Value Teamwork: Whether on the sports field or in the classroom, the ability to work well with your peers is invaluable. Remember that collaboration often leads to greater success. It is between these walls that some of the greatest friendships are formed.

3. Be Resilient: There will be challenges along the way like perhaps you didn't get the marks you were hoping for in a test or your team didn't win the sports match despite you playing your heart out on the field. It's okay to stumble. In defeat, you can learn valuable lessons on how to do better next time. What's important is to rise again, learn from and grow in your experiences, and keep moving forward striving to be the best version of yourself.

Now to our Grade 7s... When you leave this school, you will figuratively carry a backpack through your journey into the real world. What you choose to fill it with, or the decisions you make, will either weigh you down, or add value to your life. Carrying the burden of heavy rocks in the form of bad decisions will tire you, however precious diamonds in the form of good decisions will bring you great joy and wealth. Going forward, you will choose what you put in your backpack and the trajectory of your future really is in your hands and in the choices you make.

Today, as we celebrate the legacy of Somerset House, remember that your time here is just the beginning. You have the potential to achieve great things and to contribute to our world in meaningful ways and it starts with you believing in yourself. I encourage you to dream big."

Mrs Hawkrige, retiring at the end of the year after 22 years of service to Somerset House, thanked Kamita and, assisted by Minnie Fourie, presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Thank you to the musicians who shared their talents with us on this special occasion.



CAKE CUTTING

The cutting of the birthday cake is always a special occasion and the honour this year went to the youngest pupil in our Pre-Primary, Harlow Braaf (accompanied by her father, Past Pupil Gideon Braaf), the youngest pupil in the Prep School, Annebelle Cilliers, and the eldest pupil in the decade of Grade 7 pupils in Grade 7 (10 years' service to Somerset House), Noah Da Costa (pictured here with Deputy Head, Sinéad Mendes)



The cake was donated to 4The1 organistaion for the children of Sir Lowries Pass to enjoy.

The children of 4The1 stood in wonder once again as they gazed at the creativity of the beautiful Founders' Day cake. They enthusiastically sang Happy Birthday to Somerset House and joined in on the celebrations of 76 years! We would like to thank the School for our ongoing partnership and for your generosity in expressing Non Nobis Solum. We are most grateful for your kindness to us. Thank you! (Tracy Elliott – 4The1 Founder)



CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

In the Founders' Day Assembly we observed the lighting of candles by children in each class, a tradition that symbolises the connection of pupils across the grades and links the pupils of our current year with those of decades past through this poignant ceremony.



CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

Congratulations to the pupils who received these prestigious awards:

Cultural Falcon for Individual Music:

A Falcon Shield for Culture is awarded to a Grade Seven pupil who

- Shows a keen interest in their music, art or drama classes and works conscientiously during lessons and at home
- Displays integrity, respect, determination, unselfishness (Non Nobis Solum) and team spirit
- Contributes meaningfully to any one of the following: General Music, Instrumental Music (per specific instrument), Drama and Art classes
- Participates actively and enthusiastically in lessons, clubs and ensembles excels in any of the following: External Exams, Festivals, Eisteddfods, and Concerts
- Participate and contributes to activities and opportunities beyond the curriculum and classroom
- Shows a desire to develop their skills further

Jessica Beck - Individual Music

Amber Parker - Drama

Falcon shields for Sport are awarded to Grade Seven pupils who:

- Show excellence in a particular sporting code
- Exemplary skill, continued effort and valued participation in school-based Festivals and Tournaments
- Demonstrate a positive attitude and show commitment to the sport
- May have achieved provincial / zonal representation or maintained a very high standard during one or more seasons.

Christopher Havinga - Cricket

Ben Hingeston - Cricket

The Full House Falcon is a new Falcon Award being introduced for the first time this year to a Grade 7 pupil who has in their Grade 7 year achieved an Academic, Sport and Cultural Falcon.

This award recognises the commitment, service, dedication and effort that the pupil has put into achieving excellence in all three aspects of school life. Well done and congratulations to our first ever recipients:



Amber Parker



Ryder Mitchell



Sienna Vonbun



Thomas Niehaus

Lion Award

A Lion Award is made to a child in Grade 7 who

- Through diligent effort and application in class, a contribution to the cultural life and sport at the school, as well as being a caring and reliable citizen, has made a special contribution to Somerset House.
- Lives out our motto of Non Nobis Solum – putting others before self and caring about others is central to the awarding of Lion Shields.



Ryder
Mitchell



Ben
Hingeston



Chris
Havinga



Liam
Allwood



Lee
Seloka



Sienna
Vonbun



Amber
Parker



BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES

Thank you, Mrs Rautenbach and your team, for the delicious owl-themed cupcakes we all enjoyed celebrating this lovely day.



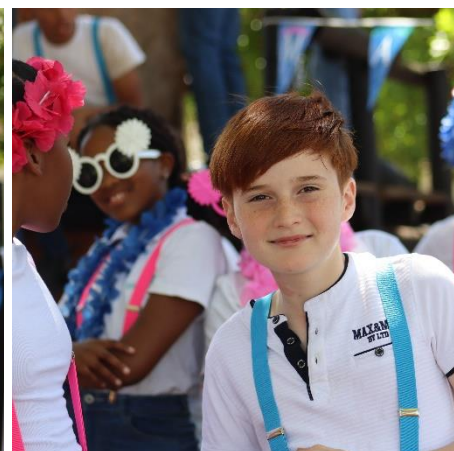
A SPECIAL TEA

Thank you, Mrs Rautenbach and Team, for the beautifully presented Tea for our Parents and special guests – the home-made Christmas cake is always an absolute treat!



GRADE 7 LEAVERS' DINNER INVITATION HANDOVER

Through a rousing rendition of Abba's "Mamma Mia", the Grade 6s created the perfect atmosphere for the Grade 7s to receive their passports and boarding passes to Greece!





BOARDING PASS		GRADE 7 LEAVERS DINNER			PASSENGER NAME: AVA SCHREUDER		
		FROM: SOMERSET HOUSE TO: GREECE		DATE: 30/11/2024			
		GATE: HAYDOCK HALL DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL		BOARDING TIME: 16:30 SEAT: 7C		FROM: SOMERSET HOUSE TO: GREECE DATE: 30/11/2024 GATE: HAYDOCK HALL BOARDING TIME: 16:30 DRESS CODE: SMART CASUAL	
		PARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN FROM 16.30 UNTIL 18.30		COLLECTION TIME: 21.30			

THANK YOU, OAKWOOD!

Thank you, Oakwoodians, for entertaining us with your wonderful rendition of "Waka Waka" in our Founders' Day Assembly.



FUN GALAS

Thank you to the Sports Department the fun Junior Prep and Senior Prep galas – at this time of the year it is very important for us all to get our “ducks in a row” and “just keep swimming”! Thank you to the Parents and Staff that braved the water too. The children loved seeing you all participate.



MAJOZI CONCERT

On the evening of Founders' Day – with the most beautiful weather – we welcomed Majozi to Somerset House for the perfect family picnic-style concert to conclude a day of celebrations. Generations of current and past pupils, parents, special guests and staff gathered under the Oaks, entertained by the incredibly versatile and engaging musician, enjoying music that spanned many decades. Thank you, Majozi, for a truly wonderful evening!

