

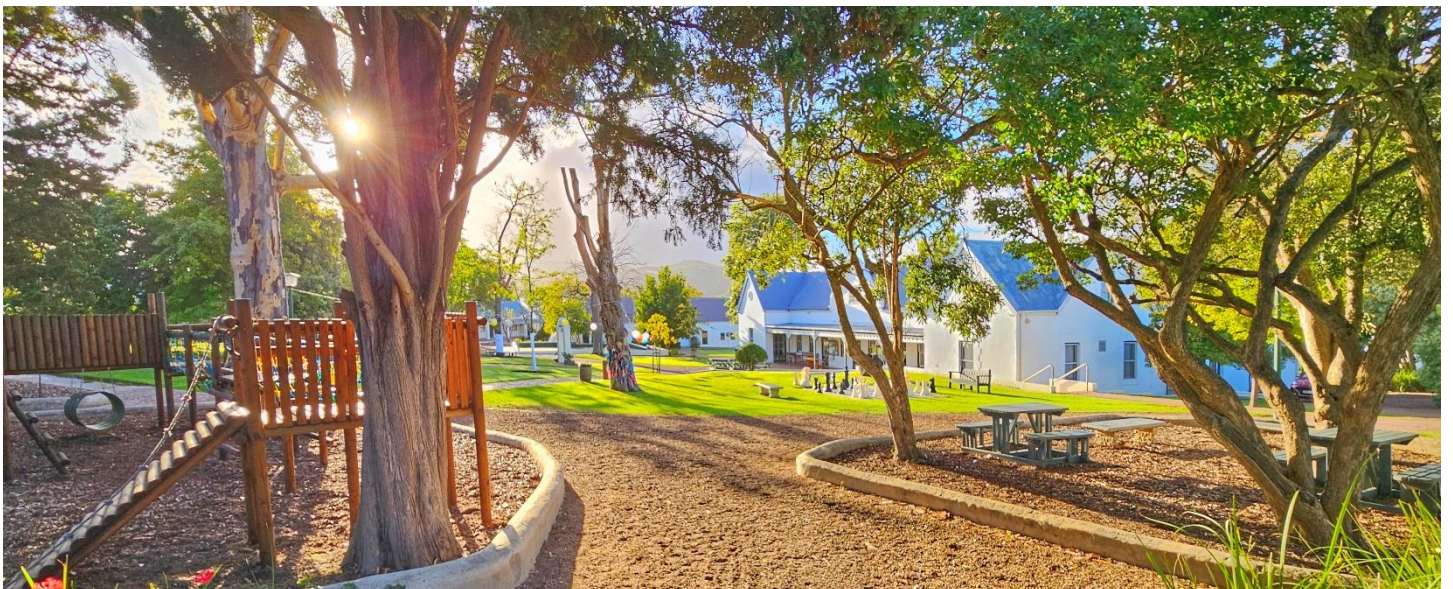


REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 4 WEEK 4 (1 NOVEMBER 2024)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SOMERSET HOUSE

Please look out for a special edition Reflections document next week, capturing the magic of our 76th Founders' Day.



RURAL RAMBLE

Thank you to all our SH families and friends who joined us for our Rural Ramble at Vergelegen Estate on Saturday morning. We had a total of 415 registered participants, and it was great to see so many families up and about, enjoying this beautiful farm on our doorstep. We were also blessed with the most amazing weather which just added to the beauty of the day. It was also awesome to see so many of our past pupils at the event, I believe that it was the most recorded, to date.

Well done to those who won fancy dress prizes:

- Sadie Munitich and Hannah Sloan Hopping Bunnies
- Olivia Bind and Kayla Jeffrey Thing 1 and Thing 2
- Athina and Sophia Dirkse and Family Unicorns & Rainbows

Special thanks to Sue Steenkamp and her team at Vergelegen for allowing us to host this exciting event on their beautiful grounds.

Thank you too, to FoSH Co-ordinator, Karin Hilliard-Lomas, for all her assistance with this event, and to all our SH staff who were officials on the day, much appreciated. We look forward to another exciting event next year.

Congratulations to all those who won medals on the day and to our top 3 senior girls and boys, past pupils and parents, who all completed the longer route, we are proud of your performances.



	GIRLS	BOYS	PAST PUPIL GIRLS	PAST PUPIL BOYS	MOMS	DADS
1	Lily Herbertson	Lee Seloka	Isabella Herbertson	Joshua Johnson	Michelle Maree-Hodges	Jonathan Oscroft
2	Rebecca Angus	James Moss	Ashley Hingeston	Matt Weyer	Vicki Hingeston	Chris Thurman
3	Sienna Vonbun	Ryder Mitchell	Sarah Downing	Ryan Tucker	Vicki Herbertson	Owen Hodges





GO-CART DERBY



The annual Soap Box Derby last week was a fantastic day packed with fun and excitement! The energy was high as classes competed to complete as many laps as possible in just 30 minutes. With pupils sponsored per lap, the thrill of the competition was even greater, and everyone is eagerly awaiting to see which class will raise the most funds for the “civvies day” prize! Each class dressed up in creative themes, adding to the festive atmosphere. The weather was also perfect, which made the day even more enjoyable! A huge congratulations to Grade 3M for completing the most laps in the JP phase and to Grade 7C, who took home the trophy in the SP phase. This event has become a highlight in our calendar and the pupils are already looking forward to the next one, with much excitement! A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who came to count laps and for those who came to cheer on the racers - your enthusiasm and support made the day even more special!

The classes results were as follows:

Oakwood:

Both grade R classes: 45 laps

JP Phase:

1E: 55
1H: 52
2M: 56
2A: 55
3M: 63
3B: 61

SP Phase:

4C: 66
4T: 69
5O: 73
5E: 71
6A: 74
6B: 73
7C: 81
7H: 77





GRADE 3 CAMP

The excitement was in the air as our Grade 3 students embarked on their first sleepaway camp, a trip that brought adventure, learning, and memories to last a lifetime! The journey began with an eager bus ride to Polkadraai Strawberry Farm where the children got to pick fresh strawberries straight from the field. Buckets brimmed with bright red strawberries, and many couldn't resist tasting their picks. Strawberry-stained smiles were the order of the day! We then enjoyed a scenic drive through Stellenbosch and made our way to SCAS Eiland in Jonkershoek. Once unpacked the children enjoyed exploring the grounds and then headed to the river for a swim and the highlight of the trip – a water fight! Before the sun went down Mrs Odendal taught the children how to make 'stokbrood' a first for many; the smiles on the children's faces when they mastered the perfect roast was priceless! The day ended with a night walk guided by Mr Ncaphayi, a delicious dinner, S'mores and a night in the dorms, where tired campers settled in for their first night away. Though some were nervous at first, whispers and giggles filled the rooms as everyone shared their favourite parts of the day before drifting off to sleep. The Grade 3 sleepaway camp was a fantastic experience for our young adventurers, sparking confidence, independence, and friendships that will last well beyond the school year. Here's to many more adventures ahead! A big thank you to our amazing staff who made this camp possible, we appreciate you!



GIRLS' RELAY GALA AT SOMERSET HOUSE

Somerset House proudly hosted the Girls' Relay Gala on Wednesday, where our talented swimmers faced off against strong opposition from De Hoop, Beaumont, Somerset College, Bridge House, and Rhenish. Despite the tough competition, our girls showcased exceptional sportsmanship, supporting one another and giving their all in every race. Finishing in fourth place, just 7 points short of third, they demonstrated remarkable teamwork and determination. Special congratulations go to our U13 girls – Sienna Vonbun, Talia Pretorius, Grace Lavin, and Jessica Beck – who made their final primary school gala truly memorable by excelling against strong opponents. We are incredibly proud of all our swimmers for their hard work and spirit! Well done to the following girls receiving third place in their events. Girls U7 Freestyle and Medley Relay. Girls U9 Freestyle, Butterfly and Medley Relay. Girls U8 Breaststroke Relay. Girls U12 Butterfly and Medley relay, and our U14 Girls Butterfly relay. There is always room for improvement, and we hope to push for a 3rd place next time we host this gala in the 1st term. We can do it, girls! (Mrs Loots)



GRADE 7 PUBLIC SPEAKING

On Tuesday, the Grade 7s held their annual Public Speaking Competition. From the exceptional quality of the Afrikaans and English speeches delivered to the entertaining performances from our Grades 5, 6 and 7 marimba bands, we were treated to a very special morning. Every Grade 7 was tasked with putting a speech together and delivering their speech in front of the class, before the top 5 English and Afrikaans speakers were selected to battle it out for top honours!

This year the English topics were:

- Everyone should learn to play a team sport.
- Is a pillow just a pillow?
- Will Artificial Intelligence help or hurt the world?
- Do what is right, not what is easy.
- Choose an inspirational quote that resonates with you and base your speech on this.

The Afrikaans topics were:

- Skooldae moet later begin.
- Onderwysers moet, soos leerlinge, geassesseer word.
- Kompeterende sport kan goeie leenslesse inhou.
- Om gaaf te wees is beter as om eerlik te wees.
- Watter nuwe sport moet deel van die Olimpiese Spele wees?

We were grateful to have some wonderful judges join us on the day too. Thanks go to Mrs Eagle (Somerset House's Head of English), Ms Kunneke (who has been involved in competitive public speaking, or redenaars, for over 20 years, both in judging and speechwriting) and Mrs Jacobs (retired educator who spent her final years of her teaching career in the English department at Parel Vallei and mom of our own Mrs Johnson-Petersen!).

The Afrikaans section finalists were:

Lee Seloka, Mia Steyn, Amber Parker, Olivia Hipkin and Chris Havinga.
Congratulations to Amber Parker on winning the Afrikaans category for 2024!

The English section finalists were:

Liam Allwood, Ava Schreuder, Thomas Niehaus, Ryder Mitchell and Simon Wiehahn.
Congratulations to Liam Allwood for winning the English category for 2024!

The "Masters of Ceremony" were Talia Pretorius and Zahra Staples.

Thanks to the English and Afrikaans Departments for organising the event, Mrs Rautenbach on the catering front, Mrs Du Toit for her admin assistance and Mr Odendal and his facilities team for setting up our venue.



GRADE 000 MARKET DAY

Last week the little Bees enjoyed their very first Market Day by selling their yummy treats. They spend the day before making their treats to sell to all their friends in Oakwood. Delicious cupcakes, doughnuts, choc-chip biscuits, flamingo biscuits, cake pops, sweets and many other treats were brought in to sell. Well done Bees! This is what the little Bees thought of Market Day:

- I loved gathering all the money. (Summer)
- I loved selling my cupcakes. (Bailey)
- It was fun selling my sweets. (McKenzie)
- I loved selling my flamingo biscuits and getting the money. (Bailey Rose)
- I loved calling all my friends. (Alex)
- I loved selling my cakes. (Ella)
- I loved making my cake pops. (Jett)
- I loved eating them. (Callum)
- I loved eating the cupcake. (Wande)
- I loved making them. (Ollie)
- I loved selling my biscuits. (Flynn)
- I loved selling my sweets. (Indya)
- It was fun. (Katerine)
- I loved making my cupcakes at home. (Rachel)
- I loved making my cake-pops at home and counting the money at the end of the day. (Rich)
- I loved selling my cupcakes. (Kayla-Rose)



MUSICAL MUNCHKINS

The Grade 000 Musical Munchkins had a blast playing Pirates during their music lesson.



WELL DONE, SOMERSET HOUSE SCIENTISTS!

This is the third consecutive year that Somerset House has participated in the national and international Natural Science Conquesta Olympiad. I am super proud of the progress that we as a school are making in this learning area. In 2022, our school average was 73%. In 2023, we improved to 74%, and this year, we improved again to achieve an average of 75%. I am so proud of the 100 children that participated in this year's Olympiad. Special mention must go to the following children who achieved a Diamond (76 - 84%) Platinum (85 - 100%) result:



Grade 4:

- Reeve Naidoo (Diamond)
- Chloe Thomas (Diamond)
- Alera Janson ((Diamond)

Grade 5:

- Christian Steyn (Diamond)
- Robert Terheijden (Platinum)
- Emma Wever (Diamond)
- Zachariah Brown (Platinum)
- Oscar Burger (Platinum)
- Jesse Thurman (Diamond)
- Jack Goldsmith (Platinum)
- William Graham (Diamond)
- Brodie Holford-Jones (Diamond)
- Philip Human (Diamond)
- Max Wijtenburg (Diamond)

Grade 6:

- Safaa Abass (Diamond)
- Caleb Hare-Bowers (Diamond)
- Nathan Sloan (Diamond)
- Eshan Wood (Diamond)
- Sophia Castleden (Platinum)
- Nicolas Coolen (Platinum)
- Amber Cowley (Diamond)
- Harry Downing (Diamond)
- Luke Goldsmith (Diamond)
- Alec Hobson (Diamond)
- Imogen Massmann (Diamond)
- Chelsea Clayton (Diamond)

Grade 7:

- Jessica Beck (Platinum)
- Hayley-Jade Damons (Diamond)
- Liam Davies (Diamond)
- Lily Herbertson (Diamond)
- Olivia Hipkin (Platinum)
- Thomas Niehaus (Diamond)
- Bobby Savage (Diamond)
- Emily Scholtz (Diamond)
- Ava Schreuder (Platinum)
- Simon Wiehahn (Platinum)
- Liam Allwood (Platinum)
- Christopher Havinga (Diamond)
- Carla Hodges (Platinum)
- Ryder Mitchell (Diamond)
- Sara Sawant (Diamond)
- Sienna Vonbun (Platinum)
- Jonathan Voortman (Diamond)
- Lia Gabrielides (Diamond)

Well done, Somerset House Scientists!

OAKWOOD GOES WILD!

We are thrilled to announce that our pupils and staff have been working tirelessly to bring our exciting production, Oakwood Goes Wild, to life. Rehearsals began in Term 3, and this week, our talented performers had the opportunity to dress up in costume, apply makeup, and star in a video recording. Oakwood Goes Wild tells the story of five children listening to African Tales by Oupa Frikkie. The narrative follows four adventurous lemurs who travel from Madagascar to South Africa, planning an unforgettable summer dance party. Along the way, they meet a variety of fascinating animals, including tortoises, hares, wild dogs, and many more, who join the festivities. We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their dedication and enthusiasm. Oakwood Goes Wild promises to be an unforgettable experience, showcasing our children's talents in music, dance, and performance. We look forward to sharing this special event with our school community and watching our students shine on stage.



3D SHAPES

The Grade 4s had a blast building 3D shapes using Jelly Tots and toothpicks! With plenty of laughter and teamwork, they got hands-on experience creating cubes, pyramids, and prisms, which helped bring geometry to life in a fun, tasty way. The activity was more than just building – each shape taught them about vertices, edges, and faces while letting them figure out how to make their structures stand up. It was a great way for the pupils to see math concepts in action, all while enjoying a colourful and creative lesson.



CONGRATULATIONS, AIDAN

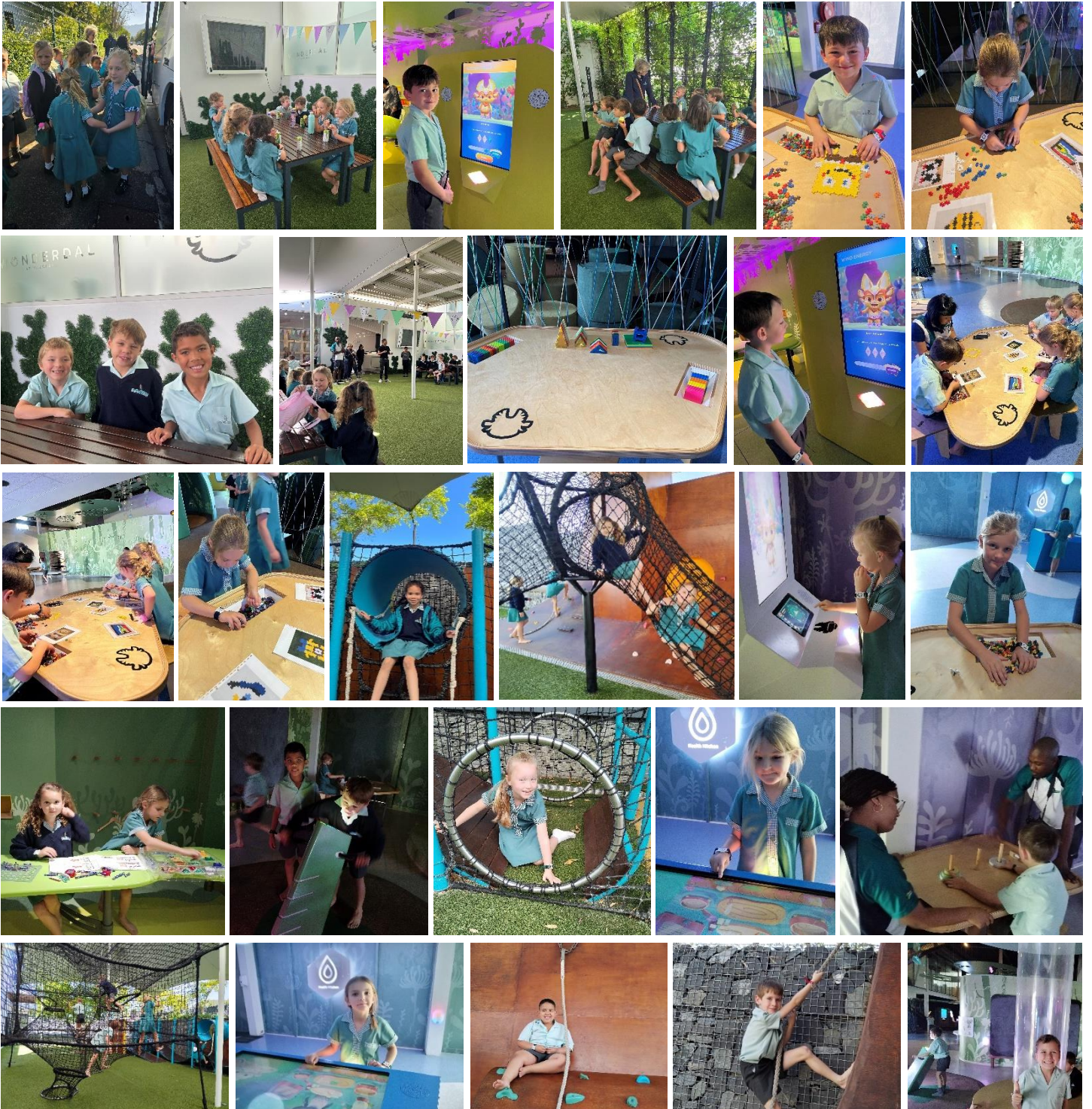
Aidan Castleden participated in the Apex Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in-house tournament. It was a knock-out format, and he won all four of his matches, earning him a gold medal in his weight class. Well done!



GRADE 1 OUTING TO WONDERDAL

The Grade 1s' excitement was evident as they got onto the bus for their first outing, an experience new to many of them. Their destination, Wonderdal, promised an exciting day of exploration and discovery. When they arrived, the children were eager to dive into hands-on learning activities. They discovered the importance of healthy eating habits and learned what plants need to grow, all through engaging, interactive play. From creating their own electric circuits to learning how energy flows from positive to negative. Pupils were captivated by the activities and concepts, bringing science and health lessons to life in a fun, approachable way.

With countless games and building stations, Wonderdal offered a unique environment that combined education with entertainment, leaving the children spoilt for choice. The play area was carefully designed to encourage exploration and climbing, all within a safe environment and under close supervision. Our pupil's excitement and curiosity soared as they navigated the different play zones, building confidence and enjoying every moment. Thank you, Wonderdal, for providing a memorable day full of laughter, learning, and adventure for our young explorers!



PIZZA MATHS!

The Grade 2 classes have had a fantastic hands-on practical maths lesson, learning all about fractions. Each child was presented with a square margarita pizza, which was lovingly prepared by the kitchen staff. The pupils were introduced to the concept of whole, halves, quarters and eights. They then cut their pizzas into equal parts, identifying which fraction they had created before enjoying a delicious early morning snack.



FROM THE LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Welcome To Holland

By Emily Perl Kingsley

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I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability – to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this.....

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip – to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide-books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The flight attendant comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland." "Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay. The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So, you must go out and buy new guide-books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.

CRICKET VS STRAND MOSLEM PRIMARY

After losing the toss, we started off in the field. Our bowling was below par and, unfortunately, we gave away too many extras, which added significant runs to the opposition's total. However, we did manage to take wickets at regular intervals, and our fielding was solid throughout. In the end, we bowled them out for 78.

Our batting was somewhat inconsistent, with a few players making starts but struggling to convert them into substantial scores. Nonetheless, we managed to chase down the target in the 16th over. Micah Macun and Nicolas Coolen stood out as the top batsmen, showing solid technique under pressure. Plenty of areas to improve on, but we'll take the win. (Ettienne van Zyl)

GRADE 2 SHOW AND TELL

The Grade 2 Teachers have been impressed by the preparation, confidence and effort the pupils have put into their Prepared Show and Tell presentations this week. It is no mean feat standing in front of a class, sharing facts you have prepared, and doing so with great confidence. It makes the teachers so proud to see how much the pupils have developed and seeing them take a few more steps towards starting Grade 3.



JUNIOR BIOLOGIST COURSE

Written by Duncan Jones (Grade 6)

When Mr. Angus posted the opportunity for a Junior Biologist course at the Two Oceans Aquarium, that is offered to Grade 6 students around the Cape area, it was quite thought provoking. So I decided to try it out!

I had to commit to going for four Saturdays from 8am to 1pm. You got to go to the back end of the aquarium, the back end of the tanks and a classroom – almost like a science lab.

On the first day we sat in the classroom and learnt about the rock pools found in the Cape oceans and what creatures you find there. We also learnt to navigate the back of the aquarium. On the second Saturday we had quite an adventure. We first had a lesson about what creatures we might see. We went on a boat ride around the harbour and outside into the open ocean, we saw a lot of seals, we saw a big shark and a few jelly fish.

On the third Saturday we went to the Moulle Point rock pools where we saw a lot of creatures including big star fish, octopi and cuttle fish. We learnt about types of wetlands (seasonal etc.) in Greenpoint park.

On the final day, we got to walk with the penguins around the aquarium, we then saw the top of the main tanks that hold the turtles and sharks. We were able to see the two big turtles and we saw the cute turtle hatchlings.

I am not only inspired to learn more about the ocean and how to protect it, but I also made many good friends along the way. It was a great experience, and I would do it again if I could. I highly recommend that the Grade 6s of 2025 consider this learning opportunity.



POP BAND NEWS

The Pop Band is gearing up for an exciting performance at the Carols Picnic on November 22nd! With great enthusiasm, they have been diligently practicing their song, and it's clear their hard work is paying off. This year has been especially rewarding for the band, as they've enjoyed participating in two music eisteddfods, achieving fantastic results and showcasing their talent. We can't wait to hear them play at the picnic and at the Final Assembly. Their passion for music and teamwork truly shines through in every performance. Mark your calendars and come support our talented musicians!



FINDING PERIMETER

Grade 3 took their learning outside for their maths lesson when learning about perimeter this week. The children worked in pairs to find the measurements of their pencil cases, rubber, two bricks outside of their classroom, the handball court, the water fountain and a tile from Cloetenburg veranda. Awesome collaboration was overheard as the pairs discussed their findings.



CONGRATULATIONS OLIVIA

Olivia Hipkin has had a hectic tennis schedule lately and has played in a number of TSA (Tennis South Africa) Tournaments. She played in the Eden Mini 5 Tournament in the U16 draw, although still U13, from 6-8 September in George. She came fourth in the singles and won her doubles match.

Olivia also played in the Eden Mini 6 Tournament this past weekend in George and Hartenbos, again in the U16 draw and came 3rd after facing some tough U16 opponents. Playing up in these older age groups has been most valuable for Olivia. She has another busy weekend ahead of her as she participates in the trials for U15 inter pro this weekend for the High School Winelands Team and we wish her the very best of luck!



READING TOGETHER



Grade 6 is finding their novel, 'Holes', a riveting read, and they enjoyed the wonderful weather to read together. Reading aloud in pairs is a powerful way to boost reading skills, combining the joy of shared stories with active learning. When pupils read together, they build confidence, practice fluency, and engage with the rhythm and expression of language. This practice also enhances listening skills as each partner follows along, providing support and feedback. Through shared reading, they gain a sense of accomplishment, improve pronunciation, and deepen comprehension by discussing the text. Reading aloud in pairs fosters a collaborative learning environment, making reading a

shared adventure and reinforcing the importance of both speaking and listening.



GRADE 5 INDOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

The U11 Indoor Hockey girls faced two challenging games this week. They held Lochnerhof to a 0-0 draw and played with determination in a nail-biting match against Beaumont, narrowly losing 0-2 in the final moments. The results don't fully reflect the heart and spirit these girls poured into each game. Their energy and passion are fueling our excitement as we head into next week's playoffs. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller. (Mrs Theart)

Monday 28th October saw the final round of our round-robin hockey matches. The Grade 5 boys raced from a gala to be in time for their first match against Lochnerhof. The rush and fatigue was evident in the first half that saw us concede two goals. A re-gathering of the troops and moral, helped the boys to put up a more resilient fight to draw the second half, nil - nil. We lost 2 - 0 when the final whistle blew. Our final match saw us take on Beaumont, who always seem to pose a mental obstacle. Again, we conceded two goals in the first half. However, being more determined to execute the basics in the second half, resulted in us levelling 2 - 2, with two fantastic team goals. Beaumont managed to squeeze a third goal in, through a set piece, despite the valiant attempts to defend it. It was a very exciting game. I am proud of the determination and grit, the boys displayed. Now, we need to start next week with that same determined spirit and teamwork, to ensure that we put up a more valiant fight. Good luck boys - I know you can do it! (Mr Angus)



BOYS RELAY SWIMMING GALA AT BEAUMONT

Somerset House participated in the Boys Relay Gala on Monday, facing strong competition from well-established swimming schools. These schools have a depth of talent and many swimmers who also compete at club level, giving them a significant advantage. Despite these challenges, our boys gave their all, supporting one another and even swimming in higher age groups to complete some relay teams. Our U10 and U12 boys faced a tough group but were undeterred, securing second place in their relay! For the U13 boys, Chris Havinga, Bobby Savage, Ben Hingeston, Liam Allwood, and Ryder Mitchell, the gala was both joyful and emotional, marking their last competitive event in their primary swimming careers. Known for their undefeated relay streak over the past six years, they continued their success by getting second place in the 4x25m Freestyle and 4x24m Individual Medley Relay, and 1st place in 4x 25m Breaststroke and 4x 24m Butterfly Relay. These results are outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of our boys for swimming like champions and representing Somerset House with pride. (Mrs Loots)

