



# REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 4 WEEK 7 (22 NOVEMBER 2024)

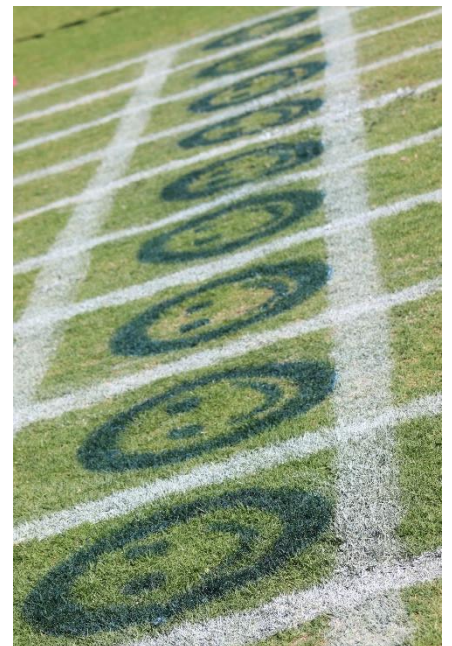
## OAKWOOD PRE-PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Last Saturday, Oakwood celebrated its annual Sports Day. This is always such a fun event where we get together as an Oakwood family and celebrate our children's sporting abilities and growth. Our Oakwood Sports Days are more than just fun – they also play a big role in helping our children develop in many important ways! Here's why Sports Day matters and how it helped your little one:

**Physical Development:** Running, jumping, and playing games during sports day helps children build strong muscles, improve coordination, and develop balance. These activities also encourage a love for being active, which supports healthy habits as they grow.

**Social Skills:** Sports days are all about teamwork, sportsmanship, sharing, and cheering for friends. Children learn how to take turns, follow rules, and celebrate each other's successes – valuable lessons for building friendships.

**Emotional Growth:** Trying new activities and working toward goals, like finishing a race, helps children build confidence and resilience. Even when they don't win, learning to keep trying and have fun is a big step in emotional development.



We want to thank all the family members and friends who joined us. The weather was perfect, and your support means the world to us. We would also like to thank Mr Odendal and his incredible team for setting up a world-class track and space for us. We would also like to thank Miss Mac, Mrs Loots and Coach Kim for their dedication to our children's gross motor development and their love and support on the day. Miss Mac kept the day going with her wonderful microphone skills. Thank you to Mr Rank and Mr Presence for setting up our sound and giving us some good vibes to listen to while we cheered our children on. Thank you to Mr Huggett and Mrs Mendes for their support on the day. We could also not have had such a successful day without our Senior Primary volunteers and siblings, they are truly role models for our Oakwoodians. Lastly, we would like to thank our fantastic children for their bravery, perseverance and positivity and our teachers for being so encouraging and such good sports.

See you at our next Sports Day!





# FAREWELL ASSEMBLY FOR MRS HAWKRIDGE

On Friday 22 November the children of the Junior Prep, the Junior Prep staff and some special guests bid Mrs Sandy Hawkridge well as she retires at the end of this year. The surprise assembly and tea was more than just a farewell; it was a celebration of a remarkable journey. For 23 years, Mrs Hawkridge has been more than a teacher; she has been a mentor, a guide, and source of inspiration for countless pupils and colleagues. Haydock Hall was filled with gratitude, admiration, and bittersweet emotions as we came together to recognise their invaluable contributions. Zinny Hinrichsen (past pupil and now Mrs Hawkridge's colleague), Amelia du Toit (past pupil) and Caron Botha (friend and colleague) shared their experiences of her personal qualities - kindness, patience, and unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds. The children of the Junior Prep entertained Mrs Hawkridge with a song and a poem and their beautiful portraits of Mrs Hawkridge adorned the hall. This occasion reminds us of the profound impact one individual can have over decades of service, leaving a legacy that will echo for generations.



Pictures of Mrs Hawkrige done by Grade 1 pupils:



# GRADE 7 E-DAY

On E-Day at Somerset House, fourteen dynamic pupil groups showcased their innovative skills by launching their very first start-up companies. From food stalls to creative product ideas, each team demonstrated the power of creativity, collaboration, and innovation – skills that will serve them well in the future. The event transformed Somerset House into a vibrant marketplace, where children had the opportunity to put their entrepreneurial ideas into action. Well done to The R10 Store, Fizzy Floats, Snack Shack, Sweet Smash, Viva la Quasite, Baker Boys, Dux, Sunset Island, Slush, Cotton & Pop, Island Girls, Cookie Dough Co, Snowy Sips, Five Guys, and The Moo & Munch for turning their passion and hard work into a successful showcase of young talent. Entrepreneurship education empowers our pupils with the skills to think creatively, work collaboratively, and tackle challenges head-on, valuable traits they will carry with them throughout their lives. Congratulations to all who participated and made this event a remarkable success!



# NEWBERRY TRAIL RUN



Last Friday afternoon, 53 of our Somerset House pupils headed to Lourensford Farm to participate in the Newberry House Trail Run. The start and finish were just above a dam and the scenery and surroundings, were absolutely exquisite. A number of our athletes ended up in the dam to cool off after their races. We are super proud of our children with a number of them receiving top 3 finishes. Well done to all who participated.



# ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS

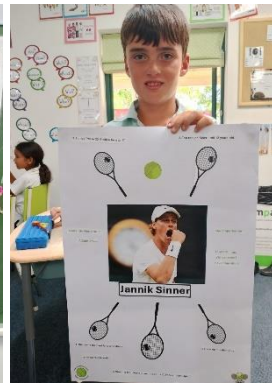
The Grade 00 children are already getting excited for Christmas! We began the week with a discussion around the Nativity story and spoke about different traditions we have with our families on Christmas morning. We have made many Christmas crafts; tear and stick baubles, painting placemats, dying coffee filters to turn into trees, and we even baked and decorated Christmas cookies!





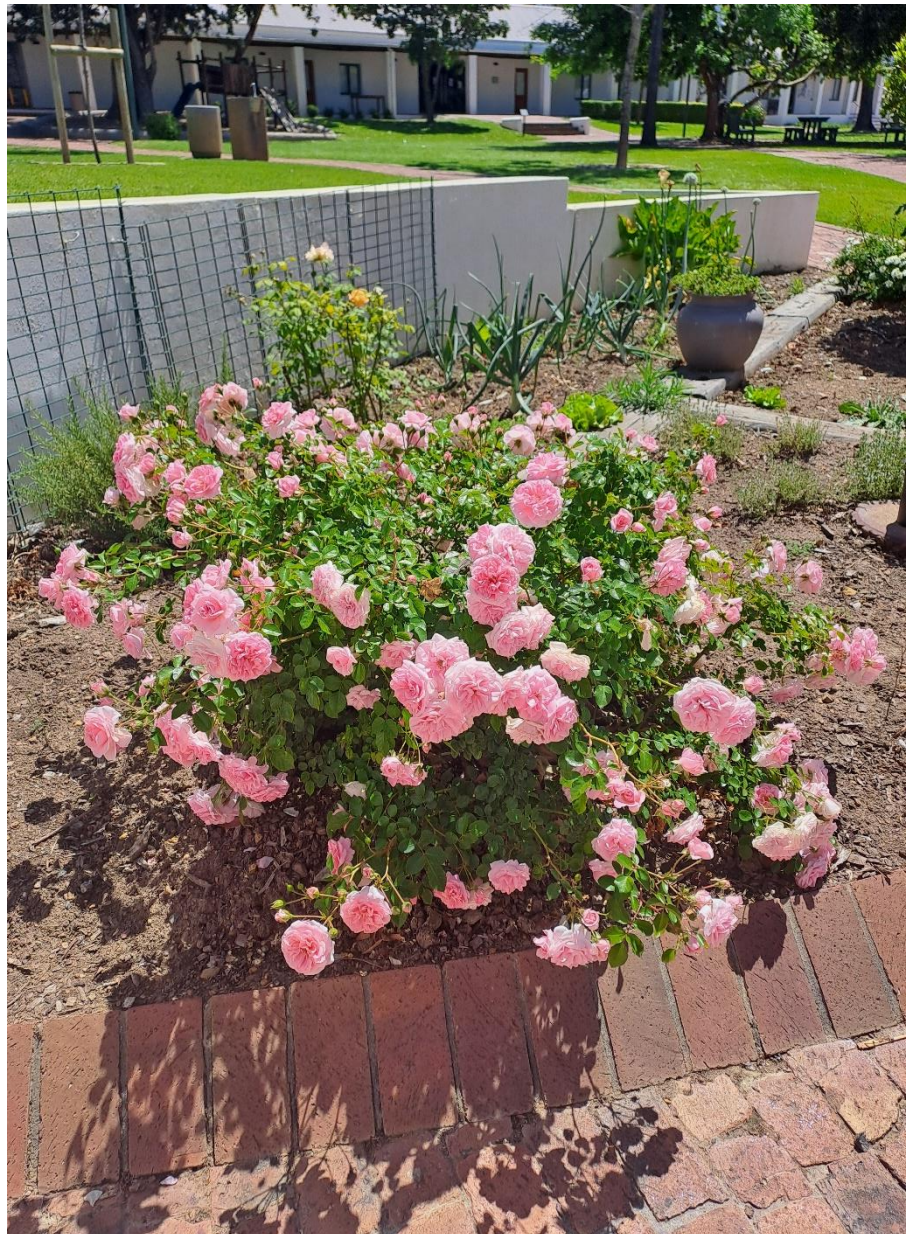
## ROLE MODEL ORALS

The Grade 3s spent some time thinking about who their role models are and presented it in an oral for their class. There were a range of role models ranging from no other than a mom or dad, granny or grandpa to famous sportsmen like Cristiano Ronaldo, Sadio Mane and Jannik Sinner to authors such as Cressida Cowell and the famous Wright Brothers and Nelson Mandela. The children put a lot of thought into their presentations and spoke with confidence and enjoyment. Well done to our Grade 3s, we are so proud of your efforts.



## A ROSE SO SWEET

This miniature rose bush was much loved by Mrs Anna Waller (Somerset House Catering Manager, Cleaning Supervisor and Craft Teacher from 1981 to 2008). On her retirement, she asked current Catering Manager, Mrs Rautenbach, to please take care of the rose bush. 16 years later, it is its most magnificent in November.





# FOOTBALL MATCH VS GENERATIONS



Our Senior Prep Girls played their final football match of the term on Tuesday afternoon. The match was played at home on our beautiful astro. Our team were on a mission, and it wasn't long before the first goal was scored. Momentum kept us going as our team displayed great skill, and determination. Congratulations to Lily Herbertson, who scored a hat-trick. The final score was 6 - 0. Well done to our girls, a great team effort. You have impressed us this term and we have loved watching you have fun!



# JP SHOWCASE

It was so lovely for the Junior Prep children to share their bookwork and classrooms with their parents during the Showcase mornings. We hope that you are all as proud of these children as we are

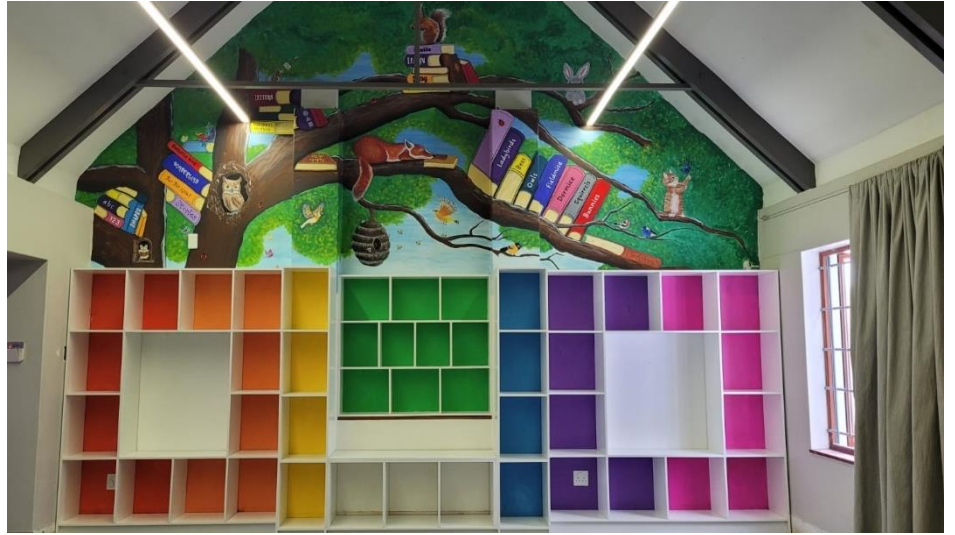


# OAKWOOD LIBRARY



We are so excited to share the news about the brand-new Oakwood Library in Oakwood Hall – a special place for our youngest pupils to read, learn, and have fun! The library is bright and colourful and will be easy to navigate for the children. Each coloured section holds a category of books, and each book has a correlating-coloured sticker. This will help children (and teachers!) to keep books in the right place! The shelves have some special spots for the children to sit on and we are busy having foam pillows made and covered. These will be installed soon, so keep an eye out for this addition and some exciting others! We cannot wait to complete the transformation of this space into a welcoming and warm book haven. We want to say

a HUGE thank you to Mrs Bryoni Botha for all her hard work in making this library a reality. And an extra big thank-you to the amazing class moms and grandmas who helped sort and wrap all the books to get them ready for the shelves. It has been a massive job, and you've made this space magical! Stay tuned for further updates!





## OWLETS

We are thrilled to welcome two new additions to Somerset House! One of the owlets is very shy and likes to hide behind his sibling.



## PITCH & PLAY

Our final Pitch & Play Hockey session took place on Thursday afternoon, and we were delighted to see so many pupils and parents attend. These sessions will continue next term, so please join us for a fun hour of hockey with your child. All fitness and skill levels welcome.



# MINI FARMERS-MARKET

Grade 4 pupils have been learning all about farming in social science. We ended off the theme with a mini-farmers market! Pupils researched and visited various farms, from strawberry to wine farms, as well as honey, vegetables, and citrus. They then presented their information as well as delicious taste testers to the grade. We had a fun-filled day learning and eating! Well done Grade 4!



# DADS VS LADS

Our 1st Team Cricket Boys and Grade 7s in the 2nd Team were invited to participate in the Dad's vs Lads annual cricket match. This is always a wonderful event and very well supported by parents. The match took place on Wednesday afternoon on the A Field at Radloff Park, what a wonderful way for our Grade 7s to end their Primary School Cricket careers.

The boys batted first and put up a respectable score of 106 from their 15 overs with Chris Havinga scoring 24 before retiring. Stand out performance was from Dan da Costa who got a hat-trick to knock over 3 respected batsmen. There were a few interruptions with thunder and lightning around, but this didn't dampen the spirits of the players as they took to the field again and created their own electric atmosphere. The dads went about the total in a disciplined way and although they lost a few early wickets, they managed to steady the ship and tick away at the total. There were some fine batting performances from Kino October (20), Chris Morrison and Sam Moss. Kino and Glen Mitchell scored a respectable 20 runs each. All 3 ensured that the extra overs bowled by the boys, were beneficial. Mr O' Brien snuck in at the end to deliver some hefty blows to get the dads over the line. Cricket was the winner on the day.



Special thanks to Coach Ettienne van Zyl and Coach Liam McCulley for their support and passion this season. We thank all our Grade 7s for a wonderful season and wish them all the very best of luck as they start their high school careers.



# SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

How lucky are we to share our campus with creatures big and small?



# WE ARE READY TO ENTERTAIN YOU!

The orchestra and choir are working tirelessly in preparation for the highly anticipated Carols Concert, scheduled for Friday, 22 November. Their dedication and enthusiasm promise an enchanting evening filled with festive melodies and harmonies. We invite everyone to join us for this special occasion, where beautiful music will resonate under the majestic oaks, creating a truly memorable celebration of the season.



# LOST PROPERTY

The end of the term is drawing near, and we have a lot of unmarked items. Kindly come to the shop and see if any belong to your child.



# Spelling With Kids BINGO



Use gel pens

Write on a white board

Build words with Scrabble tiles

Write with outdoor chalk

Build with magnetic letters

Trace the word on your back.

Play Hangman

Paint the words with finger paint

Use glass markers. Write on windows.



## GARDEN VISITORS

As the Sustainable Garden continues to grow, it is attracting some beautiful creatures. This little guy was spotted on Thursday morning and we hope that he continues to frequent this beautiful space. Next time you are passing the garden, pop in as you might just spot him.



## E-DAY MATHS

The Grade 2 pupils arrived at school buzzing with excitement for the much-anticipated Grade 7 E-Day! They began the day by exploring different South African notes and coins, laying them out on their tables and comparing their values. The pupils worked collaboratively to discover



various ways to represent R50, using magnetic money on the board to visualize their ideas. The fun continued with a shopping experience, where they practiced spending and receiving change. Afterward, the pupils created detailed mind maps, illustrating what they bought and how their money changed with each purchase. They also learned about the security features and watermarks that keep our currency safe. This practical activity tied together their South Africa theme, lessons about money, and the excitement of E-Day, creating a meaningful and enjoyable learning experience for everyone!



## FINAL SQUAD SWIMMING PRACTICE



Yesterday marked our final senior squad swimming practice with our senior swimmers, and the coaches decided to let the seniors take charge of the swimming program for the day. The swimmers created some interesting sets for the team, and when the coaches announced free time afterward, the excitement was electric! They enjoyed every moment of it. We also handed out swimming racing caps as prizes to Ryder Mitchell and Sienna Vonbun for their consistent support at galas, helping junior swimmers stay calm

and focused at the blocks. Talia Pretorius and Bobby Savage were recognized for their dedication and integrity. We are incredibly proud of both our Junior and Senior swimming squads. Despite being a small school with athletes participating in multiple sports, we've had a year full of competitive galas, showcasing exceptional sportsmanship and impressive results.



# MINI MUSICIANS



This week, our Mini Musicians delighted everyone with their Christmas-themed showcase! These talented Grade 00 and Grade R children proudly displayed the musical skills they've learned, performing festive songs with percussion instruments and singing beautifully. The highlight of the event was when the parents joined in for the final song, creating a joyful and memorable moment for all. Well done to our Mini Musicians for spreading holiday cheer through music!

## AS WE APPROACH THE HOLIDAY...

“Our younger kids (from about 8 years old onwards) and of course their bigger siblings love Minecraft for most of junior school. How to do it safely, even a game as apparently bland as Minecraft, sets the tone for all future gaming. There are two ways to sign up for Minecraft. Minecraft and Minecraft Realms. Minecraft Realms offers several advantages over regular Minecraft. Think about your child only being able to invite his or her friends that s/he know in real life, for a \*PRIVATE\* multiplayer experience. This means the biggest advantage to signing up for Realms Minecraft is that your child really does play ONLY with four of his or her friends as opposed to an open player experience where anyone (think at best of grown 25 year olds who will out-skill your child every time to, at worst predators loving a platform filled with innocent young kids) It costs a little to subscribe but totally worth it for the safety, lack of predator experience. Also, Realms offers:

- **Easy Setup and Management:** Realms simplifies creating and managing private servers without needing third-party hosting, making it accessible for all skill levels.
- **Always Online:** Unlike typical Minecraft worlds, Realms servers stay active 24/7, so friends can log in anytime, even if the other friends are offline. ie your child can carry on building alone even when the other three aren't online -an advantage and perhaps a disadvantage.
- **Automatic Backups:** Realms automatically saves world data, allowing players to restore worlds in case of accidents. Kids find this very reassuring as they put a lot of time and effort into a world creation and if one kid forgets to save it can be a social disaster!
- **Access to Minigames and Maps:** Realms provides exclusive mini-games, adventures, and maps that are regularly updated by Minecraft developers. This is just a fun add on but a good one wrt life skills like map reading

Overall, Minecraft Realms offers a much more secure, hassle-free way to enjoy Minecraft when more than one person is playing, especially for small groups and/or if your child is young. This is a little peace of mind offering in a world that really can be overwhelming when our kids are just starting out online.

KLIKD verdict: Grab it!  
Stay Connected,  
Sarah and Pam

P.S. If you are looking for ways to answer some tough questions around gaming (How much time is enough time, How can I claw my way back now that I have allowed 'too much' gaming already', When do I give them an Xbox, How do I say no when everybody else's parents' are saying yes - feel free to download our DAMN THIS DEVICE mini workshop - listen under your duvet, in the car, in a hot bath - all in your own time. 4 fun, fifteen-minute modules. Done and Dusted. <https://klikd.co.za/mini-workshop/>

