



SOMERSET HOUSE
NON NOBIS SOLUM
FOUNDED 1948

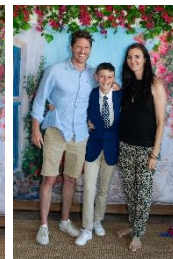
REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 4 WEEK 9 (4 DECEMBER 2024)

LEAVERS' DINNER

The Grade 7 Class of 2024 was treated to an unforgettable, authentic Mamma Mia! experience at their Leavers' Dinner. Thanks to the dedication of our Grade 6 parents, Haydock Hall was transformed into a charming Greek taverna, adorned with vibrant décor that set the perfect backdrop for the evening. Mamma Mia! - a light-hearted, romantic musical comedy with its stunning scenery, catchy soundtrack, and familiar cast, was the ideal theme for this special event. The central message of the film – taking chances and risking everything to pursue one's dreams – resonated deeply with our Grade 7 pupils, who are about to embark on new journeys filled with goals, aspirations, and opportunities for fresh beginnings. The evening's heartfelt tone was set by touching speeches from our Grade 7 pupils, Parent Danny da Costa and daughter, Daniella, as well as Mr. Huggett, our Headmaster, as they reflected on their time at the school and looked ahead to the future. Mrs. Rautenbach and her team prepared a delicious meal, followed by a delectable dessert that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The celebration continued with Mr. Presence, who entertained the pupils with a lively selection of tunes, keeping everyone on the dance floor into the night. A huge thank you to our Grade 6 parents for their hard work in creating such a memorable and meaningful evening for the Grade 7 class. Their effort made this event a fitting farewell and a lasting memory for our pupils.

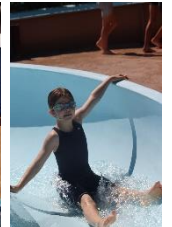




JUNIOR PREP CLASS PARTY

What better way to celebrate the end of a successful school year than with a day filled with sunshine and water slides? Last week, the Junior Primary children headed to Water World for their much-anticipated end-of-year class party, and the day did not disappoint! Our children revelled in the excitement of the water slides, swam in the paddling pool, and explored the obstacle course. The outing was a perfect reminder of the bonds formed throughout the year and a lovely way to celebrate the hard work and growth of each child. A big thank you to our dedicated staff who helped ensure the day ran smoothly. As the school year winds down, we cherish moments like these where our children get to make lifelong memories with their friends and teachers. Here's to a wonderful holiday season and many more adventures in the year ahead!

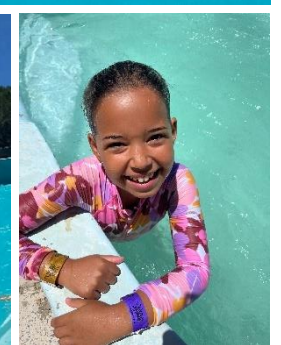




SENIOR PREP - WHAT A SLIDE-TASTIC DAY!

On the 29th of November, the Grade 4 - 7 pupils and staff had the adventurous opportunity to visit Wiesenhof to celebrate a fantastic year. The day was packed with exciting water slides, delicious ice cream, popcorn, and endless jumping fun. To top it all off, Mrs. Rautenbach supplied the lekkerste food and snacks, ensuring no one went home hungry. Even the teachers joined in the fun, laughing like kids as they zoomed down the slides! It was a day to remember, with smiles, laughter, and memories made that will last a lifetime.





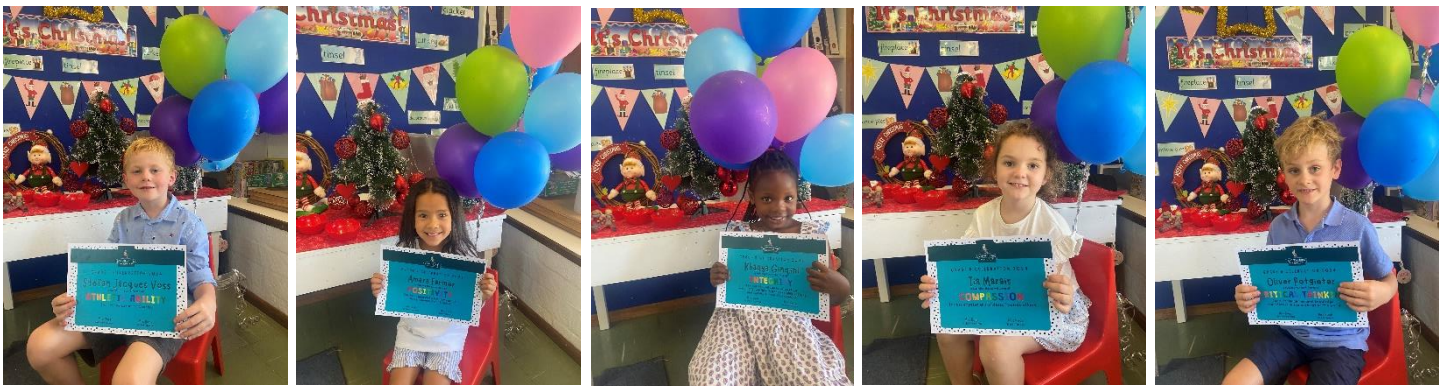
GRADE R CELEBRATION

The last year of Pre-School is a bittersweet milestone, marked by growth, learning and discovery. It's a time when little hands grow more capable, curious minds take bold leaps, and friendships blossom into lasting bonds. We joyfully celebrated all of our children, reflecting on their time in the Squirrel and Owl Grade R classes. It was so special, to honour and acknowledge their unique strengths, each one as special as the child it belongs to. We are so proud of you, Grade Rs!

- **MacKenzie Tarling:** Independence - For managing her day and tasks both independently and effectively.
- **Sophie Edwards:** Diligence - For her commitment and dedication to all that she does both in the classroom and playground.
- **Amara Farmer:** Positivity - For her happy and warm demeanour, always cheerful and helpful.
- **Avah Steyn:** Loyalty - For standing by her friends and supporting them.
- **Alice Steyn:** Collaboration - For her calm, playful and positive demeanour.
- **Aliyana Crous:** Enthusiasm - For her beautiful attitude towards school and others.
- **Timothy Scheepers:** Playfulness - For his love of life, games and people.
- **Luke Merriman:** Humour - For his love of life, sharp mind and easy laughter.
- **Emelia Heydenrych:** Perseverance - For always giving of her best and never giving up.
- **Aria Pereira:** Problem-Solving - For her spirited and dynamic nature and managing situations smartly and independently.
- **Carter Buys:** Originality - For initiating fun activities and making independent decisions.
- **Catalia Symes:** Versatility - For her super sporting involvement and her outstanding Literacy and Numeracy skills.
- **Hudson Heward:** Curiosity - For his interest and care towards nature and natural curiosity about the environment.
- **Oliver Potgieter:** Critical Thinking - For outstanding general knowledge and interest in the workings of the world.
- **Khanya Ginqini:** Integrity - For her strong sense of justice, being responsible in her everyday actions and making thoughtful choices.
- **Dario De Jonge:** Adventurer - For his eagerness to experience new challenges.
- **Lemuel Plaatjies:** Joyfulness - For his love of discussions, sharing ideas and joyful laughter.
- **Alexa O'Dea:** Confidence - For believing in herself and embracing challenges.
- **Tia Marais:** Compassion - For her empathy and kindness towards others.
- **Alek Biezanek:** Non nobis solum - For his selfless, kind and caring heart.
- **Stefan Jaques Voss:** Athletic Ability - For his dedication to Sports.
- **Eoin Salemink:** Helpfulness - For his considerate nature and willingness to always step in and help.
- **Hannah Sinclair:** Creative Imagination - Her ability to think creatively, dream big and for allowing her imagination to shine.
- **Dylan De Jager:** Creativity - For his original designs and keen interest in building and construction.
- **Mikaeel Abass:** Independence - For managing his daily routine and tasks independently and effectively.
- **Mené Adendorff:** Diligence - For her commitment and dedication to all that she tackles.
- **Sophia Dirkse:** Positivity - For her happy and warm demeanour, always cheerful and helpful.
- **Troy Dorfling:** Loyalty - For standing by his friends and supporting them.
- **Charlie Gervais:** Collaboration - For his calm, playful and positive demeanour.
- **Kate Hughes:** Enthusiasm - For her beautiful attitude towards school and others.
- **Luc Jones:** Playfulness - For his love of life, games and people.
- **Asher Krüger:** Humour - For his love of life, sharp mind and easy laughter.



- **Isla Lamprecht:** Perseverance - For always giving of her best and never giving up.
- **Isabella Laurie:** Resilience - For her spirited and dynamic nature.
- **Shiloh Leibrandt:** Problem-Solving - For managing situations smartly and independently finding solutions.
- **Thavha Makhado:** Originality - For initiating fun activities and making independent decisions.
- **Gogontle Moumakoe:** Versatility - For outstanding Sporting, Academic and social skills.
- **Lexi Oosthuizen:** Curiosity - For her interest and care in the world and others.
- **Nicholas Parrington:** Critical Thinking - For outstanding general knowledge and interest in the workings of the world.
- **Luca Potgieter:** Creativity - For her wonderful designs and creations.
- **Luke Rowles:** Integrity - For his strong sense of justice.
- **River Simpson:** Adventurer - For her eagerness to experience new challenges.
- **Ellie Taylor:** Joyfulness - For her love of discussions and joyful laughter.
- **Jordan Terblanché:** Confidence - For believing in himself and embracing challenges.
- **Eligh Van der Sandt:** Compassion - For his empathy and thoughtfulness towards others.
- **Will Van Zyl:** Non nobis solum - For his selfless, kind and caring heart.
- **Cody Wills:** Athletic Ability - For his dedication to Sports.



LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Somerset House offers all our Grade 7 pupils the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Programme. The programme is designed to extend, challenge, empower and develop our pupils' leadership skills. To lead is a privilege and should be seen as an opportunity to understand and serve those in our community. Non Nobis Solum - not for ourselves alone, is our ethos at Somerset House and the underlying principal of this programme. We seek to develop leadership skills by engaging in our community and serving those in need of assistance and support. We also encourage personal growth through challenging our abilities and setting goals for ourselves. The programme has 4 aspects that drive the process:

- Service
- Physical Challenge
- Community Outreach and support
- Learning a new skill

Each one of these demands time, planning, organisation, effort and commitment. The pupils are encouraged to communicate independently of their parents and to engage with organisations and seek opportunities for development on their own. Whilst guidance and support is given, it is rewarding to see the growth and the maturity with which the children interact with members of outside organisations. This year, 20 Grade 7 pupils completed the programme. They are:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Amber Parker | • Jessica Beck | • Ryder Mitchell |
| • Ava Schreuder | • Lee Seloka | • Sienna Vonbun |
| • Ben Hingeston | • Liam Allwood | • Simon Wiehahn |
| • Bobby Savage | • Mia Steyn | • Talia Pretorius |
| • Carla Hodges | • Noah Da Costa | • Thomas Niehaus |
| • Dale Hobbs | • Rebecca Angus | • Tiago Pereira |
| • James Moss | • Rebecca Plewman | • Carstens |

Together they completed an astounding 1299 hours of service. More than 20 local organisations benefitted from their time and support. More importantly, they volunteered to help others showing compassion, kindness, empathy and authenticity. This service to our community is priceless and we are richer for it.

Organisations that benefitted from our pupil's service and outreach:

Soup Kitchens, Heartlands, 4the1, Darcey Sunshine Foundation, Sencit, Gabriella House, Vonke Huis, Anna Foundation, Family and Homeless Persons Shelter, PAWS, Hart, Blisters for Bikes, Carel Du Toit Centre, Nomzamo Orphanage and Mr Ncaphayi's Football Club. Our pupils organised football clinics, winter clothes drives, book collections, Bingo, Chess tournaments, Music and Drama Concerts, Easter Celebrations, Bike Rides and Beach Clean ups. The spread was varied and the impact far reaching.

Learning a new skill can be challenging but the sense of accomplishment is worth it. This year there was a wide variety of new activities mastered: Sewing, diving, skiing, cooking, crocheting, knitting, various languages, first aid, sports, musical instruments, photography and music compilation. The requirement is a minimum of ten hours, however most pupils spent far longer practising their skill and finding confidence in themselves.

The **physical challenge** component is always a triumph of mental and physical strength. At first the task should seem daunting, almost impossible, but with training, determination and time, the goal is achieved. This year we had a record number of 8 pupils complete the Robben Island swim to Blouberg. An astounding display of mental strength, bravery and resilience. We had several children compete in Trail Run events and road races. Cycling events like the Cape Town Cycle Tour, again attracted a number of our pupils. It's through these activities that we realise we are more able than we think. Well done to all who succeeded in achieving these physical goals.

Growing great leaders needs to be intentional. At the heart of a great leader is a servant. In the mind of a great leader are the needs of others and an understanding of the people. In the soul of a great leader is empathy and connection. Non Nobis Solum.



VONKE HOUSE CONCERT

As part of my Leadership Programme earlier this year I organised a music concert at Vonke Huis. The concert had a profound impact on me, and I think on everyone who attended it. I quickly realised that that by doing something for someone else, even if it was small, it could really make an incredibly difference in their life. When I left the concert in June, I made a promise that we would try and return before the end of the year. On Monday morning, the Grade 4, 5, 6 and 7 Marimba bands along with the Pop Band walked down to Vonke Huis and once again filled their dining room with beautiful music but this time with a Christmas theme. Together we sang Christmas carols along with the residents and we could truly see in their faces how much they loved it and how much it meant to them. Thank you to our amazing Music Department of Mrs JP, Mrs Frehse and Mrs le Roux for supporting me on my promise and Mr Odendal and his team for helping us to once again touch their lives. (Ryder Mitchell)





MATHS AWARDS

After receiving a PLATINUM result for the Living Maths 2024 paper, Max Basson and Aidan Castleden were challenged to the Grade 4 paper. The boys worked together and achieved a GOLD result. Max and Aidan both show an excellent mathematical intelligence, and they can be very proud of their maths achievements this year.

CONGRATULATIONS DAVA AND CATALIA

Dava and her sister Catalia Symes, participated in a private squad gala last weekend and swam exceptionally well. Dava won Gold in Backstroke and Breaststroke, Silver in Butterfly, Freestyle and Individual Medley. The IM was an U13 event, so this is a fantastic result, well done, Dava! Catalia is currently a Grade R pupil and joining us next year in Grade 1. She was the youngest girl in the gala and swam against the U7s. Catalia won a gold medal for Backstroke and a silver for Freestyle. Both girls medalled in all of their races. These are fantastic results, congratulations to Dava and Catalia. We are very proud of them.



WELL DONE, AIDAN

Aidan Castleden participated in the Jiu Jitsu African Championship last week-end. He finished 2nd overall in his weight class. We are proud of you, Aidan!

GRADE 4 – 6 CELEBRATION EVENING

Somerset House recently held its Grade 4 - 6 Awards Celebration, a special event dedicated to acknowledging the remarkable growth and progress each pupil has made throughout their learning journey in 2024. This celebration was an opportunity to recognize not only academic achievement, but also personal development, perseverance, and the commitment demonstrated by every pupil. Throughout the year, our pupils have shown tremendous dedication, and it was a privilege to highlight their individual successes and milestones. The event served as a reflection of their hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning. Each pupil's growth, both inside and outside the classroom, was celebrated, reinforcing the values of continuous improvement and striving for excellence. Congratulations to all our Grade 4 - 6 pupils for their achievements in 2024.



GRADE 7 GIFT TO THE SCHOOL

Today marks a significant milestone in our lives. It is with a mix of excitement and a touch of sadness that we stand together as a grade for the last time before moving onto high school. This assembly isn't just a farewell; it's a celebration of our journey and the memories we've created together. For some of us, it has been a shorter journey of only a year or two, for others this is where they started school at Oakwood 10 years ago. But no matter how long we have been at Somerset House, we've all grown and learned so much about ourselves here. We've faced challenges and celebrated victories. We've shared laughter, and yes, sometimes tears. Through it all, we've learned the value of kindness, the importance of hard work, and the power of teamwork. These lessons will stay with us as we take our next steps into high school and beyond.

Consider the significance of a circular shape. It's magical. And not only in architectural terms. In most, if not all indigenous cultures, social gatherings and councils took place in circles around a focal point. Usually a warm fire. Dialogue and storytelling is easy in a circle as everyone is included, and the warmth and energy is shared around the group, flowing naturally. There is no-one 'at the end' or 'in the corner.' Everyone is grounded, literally.

On behalf of the Grade 7 families of 2024, we would like to present the school with "The Boma". The Boma sits proudly alongside the Grade 7 classrooms and this incredible setting will provide a beautiful circular gathering space for future Grade 7s to relax, socialise and appreciate the majestic background of the Helderberg Mountain. (The Grade 7s of 2024)



GRADE 7 E-DAY

The recent E-Day at Somerset House was a resounding success, showcasing the spirit of generosity and community that defines our school. This initiative brought together three worthy organizations - Cape Mental Health, Heartlands Baby Sanctuary, and Somerset West Night Shelter - each of which benefited from the overwhelming support of our parents and pupils.

E-Day raised R9 989,00 which was shared between the organizations, each who play an essential role in providing care, support, and resources to those in need. We are incredibly proud of how our Grade 1-7 pupils and parents came together to support these organizations, and we look forward to continuing this tradition of service and giving in the future. Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in making this event a meaningful and impactful success. Your kindness and generosity have truly made a difference.



CELEBRATING COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK 2024

As part of the global Computer Science Education Week held annually each December, our pupils enthusiastically participated in the Hour of Code. This worldwide initiative, aimed at demystifying coding, is celebrated in over 180 countries. The theme for the 2024 CSEd Week, Looking Back Leaping Forward highlights the importance of computational thinking, creativity, and problem-solving in preparing for the tech-driven world.

One of the highlights was the Music Lab Jam Session. Pupils had the opportunity to remix tracks from popular artists. While having fun creating their own music, they also mastered essential coding concepts such as sequencing, functions, and even explored AI-driven beat creation. The children's excitement was evident as they experimented with different sounds and beats. This interactive experience not only sparked their creativity but also boosted their confidence. By the end of the session, students were proud of their custom tracks and the coding skills mastered. Computer Science Week has shown them that coding is not just about writing lines of code, but also about expressing themselves and solving problems in innovative ways.



A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT OAKWOOD



Excitement and festive spirit filled the air as Oakwood hosted its annual Christmas class party. The children, dressed in red and white, were eager to celebrate the season with their friends and teachers. This year's event was a lively and memorable occasion, full of fun and festive cheer. A talented magician set the tone for the day, captivating the children with an engaging performance. Their wide-eyed amazement and enthusiastic chatter made it clear the show was a hit. Outside, jumping castles offered endless entertainment as the children laughed and played together, making the most of the lovely cool day.

The festivities continued with party packs, each filled with goodies for the children to enjoy. Sharing snacks with friends added a relaxed and joyful moment to the day, giving everyone a chance to wind down after the excitement. The highlight of the celebration came when Santa Claus made his entrance in style. Riding on the back of the Somerset House bakkie, driven by Mrs Rautenbach dressed as Rudolph, Santa's arrival sparked cheers of excitement. Each child received a gift, creating a special memory to carry into the holiday season. A big thank you to the teachers and staff who worked hard to make the day such a success. The party was a wonderful way to wrap up the year, bringing all the classes together and celebrating the joy of the season. Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful holiday. Here's to more great moments in the year ahead!



CHRISTMAS COOKIES!

The Grade 4s celebrated the end of term by decorating Christmas cookies.



WESTERN PROVINCE TENNIS

Three of our Somerset House pupils, Tyler Bothwell, Hannah Sloan and Nathan Sloan participated in the Western Province Tennis Trials this past weekend. All three of them had a fantastic weekend and have been selected to represent the Cape Town Tennis Teams (Western Province) for 2025. An exceptional performance of which we are extremely proud! Huge Congratulations to Tyler, Hannah and Nathan.



FAREWELL, MRS ELBRINK

On Monday, Oakwood celebrated Ms Elbrink's retirement after 24 years of working at Somerset House. The morning started with a special assembly with the children, present and past colleagues, friends and family. Caron Botha gave a meaningful speech about Lucy's sunny disposition and the wonderful years she has spent with all the different Grades. This was followed by a heartwarming video presentation with photos of Lucy's years. During her years at Oakwood, Lucy has taught in all three Grades, as well as at the preschool and prep school aftercares. The children sang one of Lucy's favourite songs, 'It's Love', and the staff handed over a beautiful hamper and orchid. The morning ended off with Lucy enjoying a lovely tea with her special guests, catered by Mrs Rautenbach.



ENDING THE YEAR ON A SWEET NOTE



Thank you, Mrs Rautenbach and the Catering Team, for the delicious waffles served for lunch on the last full day of school.



SANTA SHOEBOXES – GRATEFUL RECIPIENTS

There was so much joy to behold as the Santa Shoeboxes lovingly prepared by Somerset House families were distributed to their worthy recipients. Thank you, once again, Somerset House for your generosity and care.



GAME DESIGN

The Grade 3 pupils have recently completed an exciting project in Coding, where they created their own chase games using Scratch. This project was not only about making games but also about learning the fundamentals of programming in a fun and engaging way. Each pupil designed a unique chase game that included a variable to keep score, showcasing their creativity and technical skills. They personalized their games by adding extra elements, making each game a unique experience. The classroom was filled with excitement as pupils played each other's games. This project has highlighted their ability to be creators, not just consumers and develop programming skills within a fun experience.



GRADE 7S VS STAFF FOOTBALL MATCH

Our final sporting event of the year was the much-anticipated football match between the Grade 7s and the Staff. Four teams took to the astro to settle any outstanding challenges for the year. Our Grade 7 girls put up a great fight with limited numbers, our Grade 7 boys used their speed and skill to get the upper hand, our Grounds' staff team were quick and skilful, but the winners on the day our Teachers! Congratulations to all who played, it was a great day out and a lovely way to wrap up the year.



GRADE 4 - DERBY

The Grade 4s enjoyed their day in civvies and their sweet treat – a just reward for placing first in terms of all forms returned (4C) and most money raised (4T) in our recent go-cart derby fund-raiser.



WATERPOLO NEWS

Thank you to Mr Chevallier and Coach Josh for a fantastic water-polo season. We look forward to 2025!

