

# REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK



TERM 1 WEEK 2 (24 JANUARY 2025)

## ATHLETICS FIELD EVENT & LONG-DISTANCE FINALS

Congratulations to all our pupils who participated in the Field Event and Long-Distance Athletics Finals this week. They braved the scorching temperatures to give of their best and we are super proud of their performances. Competition was tight between the three house, Hobby, Lanner and Peregrine with Hobby just pipping Peregrine in both the Field Events and the Long-distance events. The Inter-House Track events news and photos will follow in next week's newsletter.





## HIGH JUMP RECORD SMASHED

Congratulations to Skyler October who not only broke a 31-year-old record in the Boys U13 High Jump event, but smashed it. The old record stood at 1.58m and Skyler sailed over this long-standing record height, on his first attempt. He then proceeded to push the bar up at intervals until setting the new record, a full 7cm higher than the old one. Skyler's new High Jump record of 1,65m is a height that will be well respected in Athletics circles, and we look forward to seeing him in action at the Helderberg Zonal Athletics Trials taking place next Friday afternoon at Strand High School.



# SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

It has been lovely to see the children enjoying the new mural in the archway leading to the Grade 1 and 2 classes. This mural took over 200 hours to complete!



When life is busy – our campus provides some beautiful spaces to take a moment of pause – to reflect, to connect, to share a moment and to appreciate the beauty of the world around us. How fortunate are our pupils to be surrounded by such beauty?



# GRADE R SELF PORTRAITS

The Grade R Owls and Squirrels worked well in Art this week drawing themselves and including detail to their self-portraits. They are becoming more independent as they move to the various art stations, experimenting with textures and exploring their creativity. Besides having a lot of fun it benefits their development by enhancing self-awareness, boosting confidence, improving fine motor skills, providing a means of emotional expression, and helping them understand their body image and spatial awareness; essentially acting as a tool for self-exploration and communication.



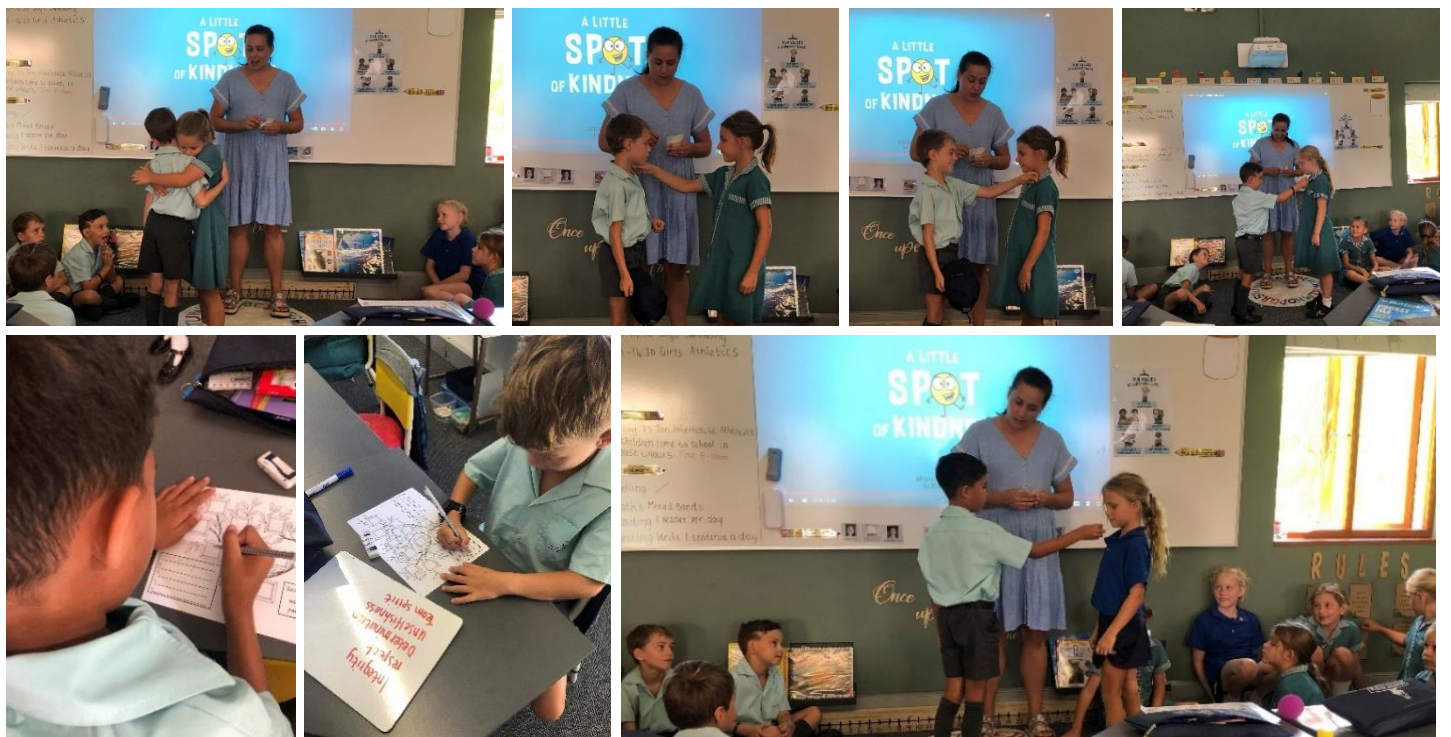
## JP LEGO



Excitement has been buzzing in Grade 2 with the introduction of the new LEGO tables. LEGO, a perennial favourite in the Junior Phase, offers a fantastic outlet for pupils to unleash their creativity and imagination. Some of the Grade 2 boys have demonstrated remarkable ingenuity by constructing intricate space rockets. This collaborative space has become a hub where pupils not only build their own models but also exchange ideas and inspire one another.

## SPREADING KINDNESS

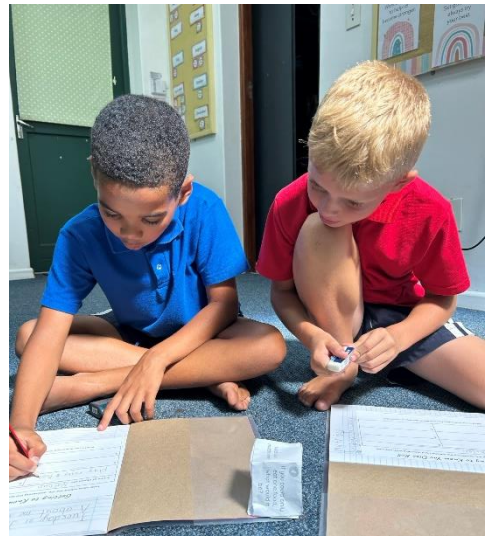
During the first Life Orientation lesson of the week, the Grade 2s delved into Somerset House's core school values. The Grade 2 teachers were deeply impressed by the children's thoughtfulness as they shared ideas and carefully selected meaningful words to add to the Values Tree. The lesson concluded with an engaging story about a Kindness Spot, spreading kindness wherever it went. Following the story, the boys and girls took turns expressing kind words to a classmate standing opposite them, then placed a kindness spot on their peer's school collar, fostering a heartwarming atmosphere of care and connection.



## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Whilst settling into Grade 3 this week, the children made their own question dice to get to know each other during their Life Skills lesson. Our theme is "All about Me" and great fun was had when rolling their own dice to answer questions about each other. Some of their answers are as below:

- Maymay's secret power is flying.
- Olivia's middle name is Lee
- If Emily could only eat one food it would be mango.
- Emerson likes to read books for fun.
- If Ali could only eat one food it would be mac and cheese.
- IF Evie could be an animal it would be a Pegasus.
- Elizabeths magic power is flying.
- Rebecca's middle name is Charlotte.



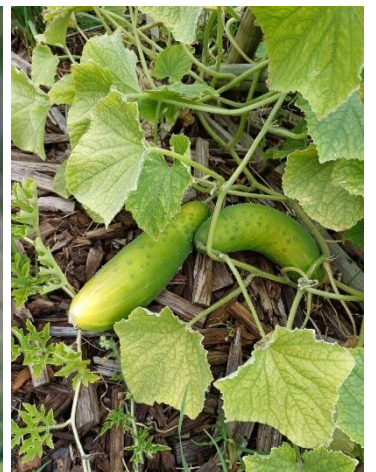
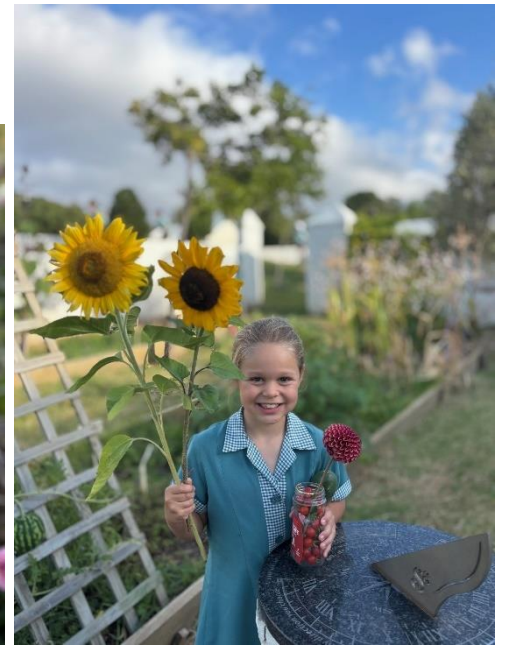
## BEGINNER VIOLIN

Some of our Oakwoodians have started violin lessons – how exciting!



## GRADE 2 HELP IN THE GARDEN

With campus being closed for a large portion of the holidays, the Sustainable Garden had the opportunity to grow 'Wild'. The grass and weeds could not dampen the spirits of the garden, and it is amazing to see the variety of plants and vegetables that are thriving. Some of the Grade 2s took the time to harvest vegetables and flowers for the SH kitchen. We look forward to further growth in the garden this term.



## MUSIC NEWS

The music department is alive with activity as individual music lessons have kicked off for the year! We're thrilled to welcome many new pupils and celebrate the return of familiar faces. This year, we've seen a record number of applications, highlighting the growing enthusiasm for music among our students. Interested in joining the fun? Click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/LwBxBTzh5D5bg6QK9>



After the long holiday, Hannah Arkell enjoyed a wonderful trumpet lesson and is looking forward to a great year of music!



Alison Fuller had her first violin lesson this week, and it was a fantastic start to her musical journey!



Zoey Nelson had an exciting start to her violin journey this week, enjoying her first lesson and celebrating her first performance as she welcomed visitors to the session!



Mené Adendorff had her first violin lesson this week - an exciting milestone!

## MUSICAL MUNCHKINS PRE-PRIMARY EXTRA-MURAL

Here are the Grade 000 pupils enjoying their Musical Munchkins demonstration - what a fun time they had!





# GRADE 4 ISIXHOSA

The Grade 4s had an exciting isiXhosa class today as they began exploring the beauty of the vibrant isiXhosa culture. In today's lesson, the children learned about traditional isiXhosa clothing, gaining insight into the rich heritage and significance behind the attire. They also discovered the meaning and purpose of traditional face painting, which is often used for cultural ceremonies and celebrations. Many of the children were fascinated by the colourful designs and even expressed interest in having their faces painted, inspired by the pictures displayed during the lesson. Exploring new cultures in such an interactive way made the lesson both educational and fun.



# GRADE 3 STEM ACTIVITY

The Grade 3 children took on a STEM activity during Maths this week. They had to work in pairs to collaborate their ideas. We were very impressed with their thinking skills and their team work as they produced well-constructed rainbows. Who knew learning about geometric patterns could be such fun?



# GRADE 4 BIO POEMS

The Grade 4's wrote beautiful Bio Poems in English this week as a way of sharing a little bit more about themselves. It has been wonderful getting to know this super group of children.

## Angus

Loving, grateful, happy and joyful  
Brother of Giorgia and Ben  
Lover of gaming, sushi, rugby and hunting  
Who feels safe and appreciated  
Who needs love, food and reading  
Who gives joy, smiles and love  
Who fears being alone in the dark  
Who would like to see me having a successful job  
Resident of South Africa  
MacIntyre

## Aidan

Smart, sporty, kind and truthful  
Some of Peter and Tammy  
Brother of Bailey, Sophia and Olivia  
Lover of comics, drawing and swimming  
Who feels grateful for family, food and clothes  
Who needs sleep, food and love  
Who fears spiders, horror movies and breaking bones  
Who would like to see happiness, joy and kindness in our world  
Resident of Cape Town, South Africa  
Castelden

## Milah

Positive, caring, wild and kind  
Daughter of Natalie, sister of Alek  
Lover of horses, outdoors and sport  
Who feels grateful for her family and friends  
Who needs love, friends and my teddy  
Who gives cuddles, smiles and energy  
Who fears spiders, wasps and the dark  
Who would like to see myself having an animal sanctuary  
Resident of Somerset West, Cape Town  
Biezanek

## Caydi

Smart, organised and energetic  
Sister of Robert and Josh  
Daughter of Robbie and Tarina  
Who loves her family, Jesus and my cats  
Who feels grateful for her brothers, her house and her dogs  
Who needs love, happiness and Jesus  
Who gives kindness, love and support  
Who fears untidiness, spiders and sharks  
Who would like to see Ariana Grande and happiness and safety in my country  
Resident of Cape Town, South Africa  
Terhiejden

## Harper

Funny, sweet, messy and happy  
Daughter of Jamie and Mary, sister of Hunter  
Lover of animals, candy and dogs  
Who feels thankful for having a dog, my dad and a happy family  
Who needs hugs, lots of food and cuddles  
Who fears the dark, being alone and getting timed  
Who would like to see the Statue of Liberty, China and Paris  
Resident of South Africa  
Garner

**Max**

Sporty, musical, creative and energetic  
Brother of Ella, son of Rick and Nicole  
Lover of football, comics and dogs  
Who feels greatly for my family, Liverpool and my friends  
Who needs comfort, friends and fresh air  
Who gives laughs, company and annoyance  
Who fears drowning, baboons and getting lost  
Who would like to see Anfield Stadium, England and also South Africa winning three world cups in a row  
Resident of Cape Town, South Africa  
Basson

**Matthew**

Sus, crazy, loving and kind  
Son of Paul and Katherine  
Lover of Jesus, pizza and Minecraft  
Who feels glad that life is good and great love for my mom, dad, grandpa and grandma  
Who needs food, love and sleep  
Who gives facts, jokes and love  
Who fears claustrophobic spaces, swimming lessons and being alone  
Who would like to see myself as a scientist who science would change the world  
Resident of Cape Town, South Africa  
Barker

**Tobias**

Kind, humble, strong and energetic  
Son of Stefan and Waldi  
Brother of Gideon and Emma  
Lover of Jesus, cycling and my family  
Who feels greatly for family and Jesus  
Who needs sleep and security  
Who gives hugs, love and kindness  
Who would like to see myself in a uniform piloting in the RAF  
Resident of Cape Town, South Africa  
Wever

**Jason**

Sporty, funny, creative and kind  
Brother of Freyja, son of Zoe and Jason  
Lover of football, pizza and Xbox  
Who feels greatly for his family, friends and food  
Who needs fun, entertainment and love  
Who fears darkness, being hated and heights  
Who would like to see fun, happiness and football games  
Resident of Somerset West, South Africa  
Griessel

**Othniel**

Sporty, respectful and loving  
Brother to Lemuel and Thalia, son of Chris and Odette  
Lover of cricket, pizza and water  
Who feels loved by my family and Jesus  
Who needs smiles, friendship and advice  
Who fears growing old, breaking a leg and heights  
Resident of Cape Town, South Africa  
Plaatjies

**Jack**

Energetic, positive, sporty and messy  
Son of Karen and Matt, brother of Liv  
Lover of chicken strips, football and running  
Who feels happy with his dogs and family  
Who wonders what will happen when you die  
Who fears sharks and getting lost  
Who would like to play professional rugby one day  
Resident of Cape Town  
Bind

# A MESSAGE FROM LEARNER SUPPORT:

Happy 2025!

As we enter the school year our attentions and energies need to expand, and it can feel busy!

Here are some ideas for staying connected:

Instead of asking “How was your day?” Think S.O.C.K.

- Specific
- Open-ended
- Creative
- Kid friendly



Some examples to get started:

- **For feelings:** If your mood was a type of weather what would it be now – sunny, rainy, windy, stormy, calm? Something else?
- **For teachings:** Can you tell me about a story you heard or read today?
- **For friendships:** Who is someone you had fun with at school today?
- **For interests:** If you could be a teacher for a day – what would you teach about?

STAY CURIOUS!

Love,

Zoë @ Learner Support

(Registered Counsellor, TRE Provider, Play therapy interventions)

## PAST PUPIL VISIT

Mr Huggett thoroughly enjoyed spending time with 3 Past Pupils from the 1960s this week – Cliff Beard, Rozanne Hartmann and Elizabeth Mudge. They toured the campus and shared recollections of their special memories from their days at Somerset House. We welcome visits from Past Pupils and hosting reunions on campus.



# SSSSS-SUPER LEARNING!

The Grade 00 children have explored their first letter sound of the year! They started with letter sound /s/ and explored the shape of the letter sound through playdough and sensory trays. They cut strips of grass with scissors and coloured in a slithering snake! To further enhance their experience of the colour red, they used red playdough this week and combined a variety of media into one collage: paper, tissue paper, stickers, glitter, paint, and more! We are proud of our children who have made it through their first full week of Grade 00! They are settling into the new routines and environment, and we look forward to another happy week at school!



# ALL ABOUT ME

The Ladybirds (Grade 000) have had a wonderful first full week, and enjoyed learning and exploring the different activities set out for our theme, All about Me.



# AMAZING RACE

On International Day of Education, Somerset House pupils came together to celebrate the power of learning under the theme "Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation," as identified by UNESCO. Embracing the challenge, Grade 4-6 pupils participated in an exciting Amazing Race that put their problem-solving, creativity, and emotional intelligence to the test. Working in mixed-age teams, they collaborated to tackle various tasks that highlighted the importance of teamwork and human connection in an increasingly automated world. The event not only sparked critical thinking and innovative ideas but also emphasized the essential role of human agency in navigating the future. It was a morning of learning, collaboration, and celebration of the power of education to shape a meaningful future. Thank you to all staff who made this experience possible!





# SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

A special message was spotted on campus this week. The Boma – donated by the Grade 7 Class of 2024 has already become a favourite hang-out spot for many children. With a view like this – who can blame them?

