

Oakhill Echoes

April 2011

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Writing without thinking

- Luthando Kolwapi

Our teacher asked us to write without thinking. I mean, what is she thinking? I am sure she is not thinking at all because how is that possible, but I did as I was told and put ink to paper. As I am writing I am trying so hard not to think but it's a bit of a challenge.

Today is such a warm day. I am feeling so weird being at school. It feels like a dream, the school is buzzing with excitement and the smell of new stationery and loud voices, people wanting to tell their stories of what happened over the holidays and all the love scandals etc. Well, now I have totally lost my concentration because Mrs Viljoen just stepped into the classroom.

It's amazing how one can lose his or her concentration so fast, I mean one minute you're on a role and just little things can distract the whole brain, taking all your

attention from everything. Paul just clicked his pen and that distracted me. I'm wondering to myself, what is the date because I'm so used to not caring what the date is or what the time is because of holidays. I mean in the holidays you barely even know what day it is, the only day you know is planning for tomorrow.



SNAP!



Preparatory Production - Miranda and the Magic Sponge

Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.

Bollard Bay Visit



The Foundation Phase went to Bollard Bay to get to know one another better, playing team games and sports. A lovely morning was enjoyed by all.

Cricket with a view

- Stefan Weyers

On Saturday, 29th January, Oakhill Prep School hosted a mini cricket festival. With the view of the Heads in the background and under the watchful eye of their dedicated coaches and encouragement from parents and friends, the boys demonstrated that South African Cricket has a bright future.

Glenwood, Holy Cross, Montessori, Stepping Stones and Oakhill all battled it out, but in the end there could only be one winner - Cricket!



Happy Birthday Oakhill!

- Tiffany Barrett



Happy Birthday to Oakhill!

*If you train hard,
you'll not only be hard,
you'll be hard to beat.*

- Herschel Walker

The day was spent well, with civvies, laughs, doughnuts and juices, filtering off into a long weekend. Thank you Oakhill for all you do, and the happiness you bring to the students.

We all look forward to the BIG BASH next year for Oakhill's 20th.

Sports Reports

U13 Boys Cricket :

On Wednesday, 23rd February, the Oakhill U13 cricket boys went to Wittedrift to play Knysna Sports School. We unfortunately lost by five wickets and the man of the match was Jake Turner.

Reporter: Leila Turner

U7 Boys Cricket :

The Oakhill U7's played their first cricket match against Knysna Primary U7's on Tuesday 22 February. In very hot conditions, we batted first and scored 53 runs for no wickets. Knysna hit 18 runs for 7 wickets. Oakhill won the match by 35 runs!

According to Mr Bantom, the whole Oakhill U7's team was declared 'Man of the Match' as it was their first match and all the boys did really well! Congratulations to all the boys in the team, you made Oakhill really proud!

Reporter: Amy Lupton



Sketch by Louis Maarsingh

Inter-schools Water Polo Tournament :

In February the Oakhill U13 boys and girls water polo teams called the Hammerheads, travelled by bus to Reddam House, Cape Town, for an Inter-schools tournament.

The Oakhill team members were hosted by Reddam families and played matches on Friday and Saturday. The boys were up against the very strong teams of Bishops, SACS, Rondebosch, WPPS and Reddam and unfortunately didn't win any matches.

The girls lost 3 matches against Reddam U13A, Springfield and Sun Valley but they won 4 matches against Rustenburg, Reddam U12A, Reddam Select and Groote Schuur! Well done, girls!

On Friday morning, before the tournament, the Hammerheads went on a boat cruise to Seal Island in Hout Bay, which they really enjoyed despite the windy conditions. On Saturday afternoon, after the tournament had ended, the Hammerheads went

off again, this time to Muizenberg for surfing lessons and, by all accounts, had a wonderful time. After a very busy, but most enjoyable weekend, the bus departed for Knysna on Sunday morning after the teams had said thank you and goodbye to their host families.

The Hammerheads would like to thank their coach, Mr Stefan Weyers, for organizing the tour and whose boundless enthusiasm and energy prepared the teams well for the tournament. A big thank you must also go to Grant Ferguson for assisting in getting the teams fit and prepared for the tournament. Thank you to Mr Lwando Bantom who also accompanied the team to Reddam.

The tour was a great success and Oakhill is very proud of all the players that took part in this tournament.

Congratulations Hammerheads!

Reporter: Amy Lupton



Water Polo

- Niklas Martin

The 24th of February was an anticipated day for all Oakhillians. It was the first day of the short half term break and for the four water polo teams, it meant the beginning of a weekend that would certainly be remembered.

Shortly after Oakhill's 19th birthday celebration, forty-one excited students and four dedicated teachers departed for the Mother City, for Oakhill's first ever water polo tour.

The accompanying staff included: Ms Rijpstra, Mr Claassen, Mr Langman and Mr Raynor.

The tour kicked off with a long yet entertaining seven and a half hour bus trip, followed by supper at Panarottis and the check-in to our temporary homes, the N1 Road Lodge. After the excitement had faded off, and fatigue was setting in, it was time to go to bed to get the needed sleep for day two's activities.

Luckily, day two started with a late rising time of 07h30, followed by breakfast in the lobby. Then it was off to the day's first activity; the Topless Bus Trip through Cape Town City Centre and its surrounds. Of course it was the bus that was supposed to be topless, however a group of us took the subject literally and ended up swimming topless in some of South Africa's fresher waters!

Prior to that, the trip took us to South Africa's oldest building, The Castle of Good Hope built by the Dutch between 1666 and 1679. Canon fire, amazing art and dangerous dungeons were only some of the things that we experienced there. The bus then took us

through Cape Town's party capital, Long Street, up and past the cable cars and down the meandering course to Camps Bay. Here many enjoyed refreshments, whilst others chose another form of refreshing - a dip in 10degree water. The trip continued up the coast past the mansions of Clifton, the Green Point Soccer stadium and straight to McDonalds where we enjoyed a quick lunch.

After a filling meal it was time to head back to the Road Lodge in order to prepare for our first water polo game against Somerset College. Arriving at Somerset College's beautiful grounds and Olympic size water polo pool was intimidating on its own, and after all four teams had played their respective games, one thing could be said; we had learnt a lot!

Despite our losses, the staff kept Oakhill spirits high by awarding a Man of the Match for each age group. That was not all; each staff member had thought of clever and special awards to give to standouts of the day. These were not necessarily awarded for performance. Mr Claassen's Biggest Dummy award went to Olivia Gardy and Rhys van den Handel, Mr Raynor's award went to Gabi Orzechowski, who collected her prize via the famous Baywatch Run. Ms Rijpstra's award went to the person who spent the most time under water and this went to Adam Oosthuizen and Inge van Standen. Mr Langman's Biggest Perve award went to Paul Wallington for checking out the opposition's coach.

Much laughter followed as the award winners showed off their new costumes at

The Waterfront. After the team dinner and some shopping it was time to head back to the Road Lodge for much needed sleep.

Day three kicked off with an early six o'clock rising followed by fresh croissants, orange juice and muffins in the lobby. This would provide the energy required to play against Mr Langman's ex-students at Bridge House College. All of our teams showed off great improvement from the previous day's learning experience, to our surprise guests, Mr Kidwell and his family.

The results included a win by the U16 girls' team and a hard-fought draw by the U15 boys' team, whilst the 1st team suffered another defeat and improvement was clearly visible.

After friendly conversations with some of his ex-pupils, Mr Langman awarded the Biggest Perve award to Chelsea McMillan, for pinching our surprise guest's butt. She would also receive the Mr Raynor's award for attempting to pinch a second staff member's butt. Once again award winners would show off their hilarious costumes until we returned back home that evening. This included a shopping trip to Canal Walk and the highly anticipated live Super15 Rugby encounter at Newlands Rugby Stadium. This encounter would display a rugby experience of a lifetime between The Lions and The Stormers, a first for many.

Taking up an entire block, all forty-five of us in our white water polo t-shirts screaming for the home side, the DHL Stormers. Although a weak

start was shown by the supported team, spirits were still high. These were raised even more on the 32nd minute when the entire Oakhill water polo team got about ten seconds of fame on international television. Oakhill spirits seemed to have boosted the Stormers' performance as they narrowly defeated the Lions 19 to 16. All pumped up, we walked the stretch to the bus and headed back to the Road Lodge. With all the adrenalin pumping through our veins, we slowly settled into bed and drifted off into deep sleep.

Day four started with laughs and splashes, as some of the team members ganged up against Mr Raynor, using syringes as their weapons to have him end up sopping wet. We were soon off to our last game of the water polo tour against Herzilia. The U15 girls gave the opposition a good run for their money, narrowly losing 4 to 5. This was echoed by the girls' first team who also narrowly lost although playing with new tactics, receiving their fouls and passing the ball around well.

As for the two boy's teams, the opposition proved too strong and we found ourselves being outplayed. Despite these defeats, spirits never sank, as we prepared for the long trip home.

Arriving close to eight o'clock that night, we were all exhausted, after a tour that seemed so short, yet meant so much. A sincere thanks to all the people who were involved, all of your efforts are highly appreciated.

Reporter : Niklas Martin

Water Polo touring team

Oakhill water polo students supporting their rugby team and getting claim to fame on television (see previous article)



Adventure Racing

James Stewart of Team Penny Pinchers asked Nicholas Cuthbert to accompany them to Lady Grey for the War Trail Race. He helped second for the team over this three day stage race. Team Penny Pinchers is a professional Adventure- Racing team and James, who has recognised Nick's potential, feels that it will be very beneficial to see how the pros do a serious race.

Well done, Nick!



Miranda and The Magic Sponge

– Julie Stevenson

What a night of quality entertainment we had at Oakhill! The play, 'Miranda and the Magic Sponge' was directed by Beatrix Hardick and performed by children from the Intermediate Phase of the Junior School. Good organisation and training by Beatrix ensured an extremely polished performance on both nights of the 16th and 17th March.

The play is about a young girl, played by Holly Andrews, who lives with a nasty uncle near the sea. While searching for fish for supper she happens upon a sea creature, Peter Polyp, who gives her a magic sponge which enables her to breathe under water. Under the sea a competition is being prepared for, to establish which of the three nasty sea witches is the most beautiful. Intertwined in this story are a rogue actor (Kenhardt Scheepers), a director (Alex Patz) and a policeman (Jake Turner) who keep interrupting the story making hilarious contributions with acting skills which belie

their age. The happy ending with a little moral lesson is a good conclusion to the story.

I sat entranced throughout the entire play. It is fast moving and cleverly involves the audience at times. The highlight of the play for me, was the little insert of a movie clip which was filmed on the lagoon showing the nasty uncle (Liam Sofianos) speeding along in the boat with some bullies, Sven Botha and Callum Nicoll. (The bullies are paid by the uncle to help after intimidating Miranda with a baseball bat and skillful circling on a jay board earlier in the play.) They are searching for Miranda whom they know is under the sea. As the uncle dives off the boat on the screen, the sharks, who form an integral part of the nastiness going on under water, are on stage and snap at the uncle's heels, who makes quick work of jumping on board again!



Tyrone Minnie

Cntd.

Miranda and The Magic Sponge (Cntd.)

- Julie Stevenson

The backdrop for the beach scene at the beginning of the play was painted simply, impressionist- style of dunes, blue sky and seagulls. The underwater scene was gaspingly beautiful with a black background and bright sea creatures and rocks drawn and made by the art club. Streamers of tinsel and green and blue shiny material give it an aquatic feel with a clever touch of helium balloons for a bubbly effect.

The costumes and make up were outstanding. Our three queens, Morgan Watson, Jade Wolf and Isabella Fulford, equally beautiful in their different coloured long gowns were all breath taking in their talents and appearance. Each queen was carefully decorated to fit their theme of coral, pearl or seaweed.

The shiver of sharks were dressed in grey with slits cut into their shirts to give an impression of gills. Their faces were realistic with huge teeth and impassive eyes. Their acting was excellent with their dry humour and collective nasty sniggers.

Our funny group of life savers were chosen with a sense of humour. Amy Lupton was the leader who controlled (or attempted to control) her inadequate troop with commanding authority in her voice. Nathan Austin and Steven Henderson had everyone in fits of laughter at their deliberate inadequacies and clumsiness. Bella Stevenson added to the quirkiness of the group by continuing to act with her crutches and broken foot!

Poor Peter Polyp, Louis Maarsingh, had an emergency appendectomy the night before the first performance and our very talented director and actress Beatrix Hardick had to step in and play the part. To everyone's delight, Louis managed to perform on the second night. Young Luc van den Handel played the wicked Octopus in his fantastic eight legged outfit. The witches' hairdressers, Nicole Meyer and Tyrone Minnie were hilarious in their panic when all three witches arrived for their appointments at the same time.

SNAP!



I have not mentioned all our talented young actors and actresses by name, but all the fishermen and women, all the sea weed and all our backstage crew worked together to create a marvelous show.

Well done and congratulations!

Reporter : Julie Stevenson



Scholarship Exams

- Amy Lupton

On Friday 11th and Saturday 12th March 2011, Grade 7 students from Oakhill as well as other schools around the Garden Route, sat the Oakhill Scholarship Exams.

The Scholarship students were divided into different groups and participated in various programs which included a Mathematics exam, an English exam, an Art practical, Public Speaking and a Music Workshop.

Parents of the students attended a cocktail evening held at Oakhill on the Friday evening where Mr Shane Kidwell, the headmaster, spoke of the ever-increasing importance of a good education today and how education had changed over the years and would continue to do so.

The results of the Scholarship process will be announced before the end of the first term.

Reporter: Amy Lupton



With special love on Grandparent's Day

"Oh what a beautiful morning, Oh what a beautiful day", and I bet many of you will recall those words. And so it was at Oakhill on Friday morning when Grandparents from near and far, gathered on the Oakhill campus to soak up the love of their grandchildren.

There were smiles of delight, tears of joy and treats galore as grandparents enjoyed their grandchildren's performances on stage and then gathered in classrooms to view their works of art and thereafter were able to spill out onto the verandah to enjoy a cup of tea, delicious snacks and chat to one another about the loves of their lives!





With Special Love on Grandparents' Day

*It's our turn today to treat you with cheer,
To remind you all that you're especially dear,
Sit back, relax and let us fill you with joy,
That's why you're here, amongst Oakhill girls and boys.*

*With songs and rhymes we'll sing out loud,
We'll make you smile, we'll make you proud,
We'll tell it just the way it is,
You're the love that makes for hearty happiness.*

*We wish you blessings with sparkles galore,
With sunshine warmth and heaps of more,
These are our wishes for you and you,
You're that blend of all that is good and true.*

*So without further ado and no more wasting time,
Let me remind you, that I'm glad you're mine,
Forever as a song in my heart,
Whether we're together or miles apart.*

Barbie ~ March 2011

SNAP!



Grandparents Day



Sketch by Louis Maarsingh

Earth Hour 2011

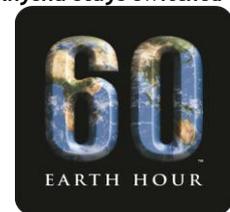
- Penny Lamb

A few Oakhill children took the opportunity to join us on our Earth Hour walk in Pledge Park. What a beautiful evening it was! A spectacular view of Knysna, but sadly, no visible sign of people joining the lights out challenge from 08h30 – 09h30.

Come on Knysna – next year!



Knysna stays switched on



Toronto switches off



Time and space - time to be alone, space to move about - these may well become the great scarcities of tomorrow.

- Edwin Way Teale, *Autumn Across America*, 1956

Prep Hockey Tour to Grahamstown

- Tamara Foy

On Friday the 25th March 2011, the U13 boys and girls' First Hockey teams set off for Grahamstown to play in a mini hockey festival hosted by Kingswood College, playing against a whole lot of other schools.

We said goodbye to our parents and friends and loaded our bags onto the bus. Our spirits were high during the journey!

When we arrived, we went straight into the bathrooms to get changed. After that we practised hockey for an hour or two and then everyone had to go up to the astro so that we could meet our host families.

And then it started! The Oakhill boys and girls teams both played very well, with the girls winning all their matches! It was very cold that evening and we were pleased to get into warm beds.

On Saturday the 26th March 2011 we played several matches and won some, drew some and lost some. It was exciting though and lots of fun.

That evening most of us went to the social at Kingswood and the Oakhill girls made a good impression, all dressed in matching tops.

On Sunday the 27th March 2011, we climbed aboard the bus and set off for home. It seemed like a very long trip. When we got back to school we were all very pleased to see our parents.



Reporter – Tamara Foy

Goal!



SNAP!



Prep Sport Awards

York Easter Festival

- Joshua Buchalter

Oakhill School entered their first team in the York Easter Festival for the 10th time this year. It is a very well supported festival with many well recognised hockey teams involved from all over the country.

There were high expectations from the Oakhill first team, knowing that playing together for two seasons could give us the upper edge.

We arrived early on the first day, warming up as a unit and started off with a 2-0 win over Durbanville. This was followed by wins against Edgemead and Pinelands both 1-0. The second day we continued our perfect start with wins over Camps Bay and Port Rex both

resulting in 5-0 thrashings. This was followed by our toughest game against almighty Grey College from Bloemfontein, who had sent their second team to participate. We did well to end the game as a 1 all draw, coming from behind. The final day, we ended off with the cherry on top, overcoming a strong St Dominics team 2-0.

So a great start to a new season with 6 wins and a draw, scoring 17 goals and only letting 1 past our keeper. We all will be looking forward to taking our momentum from this festival into the rest of the season.

Reporter – Joshua Buchalter

Please visit the Oakhill website for an in-depth report on the Hockey Tour by Peebee



Proudly Prep Helmets

- Stefan Weyers



With the instruction to construct a helmet for space travel from recycled material, Oakhill Grade 5 Design and Technology students really let their imaginations fly, creating spectacular helmets with movable visors and all manner of electronic gadgetry that NASA would have been proud of! With calls of, "we come in peace", they proudly displayed their creations around the campus.

Spotlight on education around the world : Japan

The Japanese educational system was reformed after World War II. The old 6-5-3-3 system was changed to a 6-3-3-4 system (6 years of elementary school, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of senior high school and 4 years of University) with reference to the American system.

Most schools operate on a three-term system with the new year starting in April.

Except for the lower grades of elementary school, it is usual to average 6 hours of school a day on weekdays, one of the longest school days in the world. Even after school lets out, the children have drills and other homework to keep them busy.

Vacations are 6 weeks in the summer and about 2 weeks each for winter and spring breaks. There is often homework over these vacations.

At public elementary and junior high school, school lunch (kyuushoku) is provided on a standardized menu, and it is eaten in the same classroom. Nearly all junior high schools require their students to wear the school uniforms (seifuku).

Juku (Cram schools)

The pressure of the education system in Japan is great, and so much of a child's future depends on going to the right school and university that from a very young age (in some cases from before ten years old) a child's school day does not end with the school bell. After the piano or violin lessons, the basketball or football, kendo or judo, archery or English, Maths or Art or any of the dozens of other

clubs that are organised at school most children also attend cram schools called "Juku". These have extra lessons, which may be used to push bright students further or to help others catch up to the crowd. The classes may run until late, and a 12-hour day is not unusual for the Japanese high school student, before homework.

While this system has produced one of the most impressive levels of literacy and highest standards education in the world, there are those who now question the impact of such pressure on students from such a young age.



SNAP!



Little Oaks enjoying the outdoors



Matric students visiting the KKNK



THE JOY OF LEARNING

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*Thanks to all our contributors for photographs,
news and snippets.*

Happy Holidays!
School reopens on
Wednesday 4th May 2011

