

Oakhill Echoes

March 2012

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SNAP!

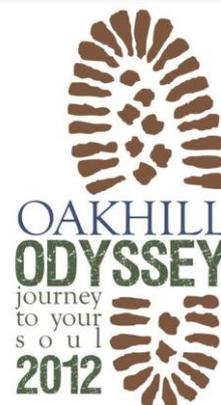


2011 Matrics celebrating year end results - Kathleen Stein, Camilla Grobbelaar, Carmen Cronje, Carly Seager, Tanna Scott, Maren Seydack, Kate Gardy, Harry Maarsingh, Jess Kilian and Jonathan Edwards.

Please visit Oakhill School on Facebook or www.oakhillschool.co.za to view our photo galleries

The Odyssey

A special supplemented edition of The Echoes will be distributed early next term to mark the Grade 10's Oakhill Odyssey. Our students and staff will share their thoughts and images, unfolding their amazing and incredible emotional, social and physical journeys.



"It's not so much the journey that's important; as is the way that we treat those we encounter and those around us, along the way."

— Jeremy Aldana



SNAP!



Prep Athletics Day

- Emma Gibson



On the 7th of February Millwood, Bendigo and Jubilee turned up at the Athletics field, to fight the power. At first the teams shouted at each other by singing lots of different cheers. Bendigo started screaming, but Millwood screamed at the top of their lungs. Jubilee was not showing the team spirit.

Mr Cross started talking into the microphone and everyone went silent. Mr Cross started saying all that welcome parents and stuff. He handed the microphone to Mr Hardick. They started with the U9's, U8's and the U9's did 60 meter races then the 80 meter races. The Gr 4's did their race around the field twice then the scores were announced:

29 to Jubilee, 33 to Millwood and 55 to Bendigo. Millwood was showing the team spirit better than the others.

Right after that the relays started. It was amazing! Millwood were screaming to their heart's content! Jubilee was yelling as loud as they could, and Bendigo and Millwood looked like they were at war! The U12's and U11's were doing the 100 meter race. The U13's were doing the long jump. Bendigo was cheering and cheering but Millwood cheered louder. It looked at that moment that Millwood was going to win the spirit cup! Millwood, Bendigo and Jubilee were doing the long jump.

I'm telling you the scores are going to be tight. The U7's, U8's and U9's went back to school. The tuck shop was crowded; there was smoke everywhere and ice cream. Wonder bars, Tempo bars and Wine gums were flying into people's hands.

Nearly everyone was racing at that moment. Alex Patz was racing every race to earn points for his team. Jubilee had 115 points, Millwood had 163 points and Bendigo was in the lead with 184 points! The mums and dads were sitting sportively (not!) in the shade drinking lots of water. In the corner Alex Patz was practising his shot put. The U13's were doing a race. On your marks... get set... GO! They were off. Lots of thorns were stabbing people in their feet. On your marks... get set... GO! The next group were off. On your marks... get set... GO! The third group were off, that was all the girls. ON your marks... get set... GO!

The boys were off.

The tuck shop was less crowded than before and a lot calmer now too. A new long jump record was made, Neve Canny 5.7 meters. Now the U10's were doing long jump, you should have seen them! The U12's were doing a race which was 60 meters. The next group of U12's were off. The U12 boys were now going and the long jump was doing pretty well, but there were not a lot of people in their houses, and no one was cheering. The U13's did the 100 meter race. No one was at the tuck shop! All the teams shouted as loud as they could for two minutes to try and win the spirit cup, each also did their best war cry. Every one screamed as loud as they could. They announced who won the spirit cup; this is the moment of truth. Mr Hardick picked up the microphone and started saying that... **MILLWOOD WON THE SPIRIT CUP!!**

Scores are in. Jubilee had 257 points, Bendigo had 345 points and Millwood had 385 points and you know what that means... **MILLWOOD WON THE ENTIRE GAME!**

And since that happened guess what was left to do - PARTY! Everyone started dancing to music as a celebration. The End!

"Play like you're in first, but train like you're in second."

- Unknown



Fun at Adventure Land

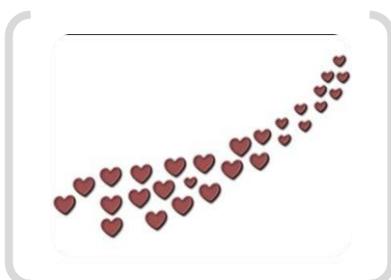
- Michaela Anne Cross

On the 4th of February, some of the children and their families went to Adventure land for a "PTA Fun Day." From ten in the morning to five in the evening, there was non-stop fun! Children and parents alike were running up and down, from one slide to the other.

Many young children braved the tallest slide while others went on the "swirly-whirly" slide countless times. The main point was to have fun and I'm pretty sure that everyone had a fantastic time.



SNAP!



The Valentine's Day Dance hosted by the Grade 11 students was a huge success with a full school hall!

Prep Gala

- Tamara Foyn

On the 27 January 2012, the whole Prep School arrived full of spirit, and colour! Today was the day that the Prep's Interhouse Swimming Gala was to take place. Bendigo, Millwood, and Jubilee were to compete against one another to win the Gala, and the Spirit Cup. The Gala started with the Foundation Phase at 08:30. Spirit was high with everyone cheering for their teams. After the Foundation Phase had finished, half time scores were announced - Jubilee 70, Millwood 102, and Bendigo in the lead with 118.

Yet again the spirit was high, with swimmers

racing across the pool. At the end of the Intermediates' gala, they had the relays, swimmers going back-and-forth across the pool doing all the different strokes. The Gala was finally over. Bendigo won the Spirit Cup, House Captains, Tamara Foyn & Scott Armstrong went up to collect their invisible Spirit Trophy and shake hands with Mr Cross.

The final scores were: Jubilee-206, Bendigo-354, and Millwood winning with 451. Well done Millwood! A big thank you to all the teachers, coaches and support staff.



MILLWOOD



Someone special

4 NEWS

CAPE TIMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012

HOW JO-LI WENT FROM SUICIDAL ADDICT TO STAR PUPIL

Off the drugs ... and on to distinctions

Jo-Ann Bekker

SIX MONTHS ago Jo-Li Kotze, a recovering addict, hated school.

Today the 19-year-old from Knysna's Oakhill School will learn that she passed matric with distinctions in all seven of her subjects. She has been clean for three years but still lives at MoSa-iCo, a treatment facility.

Born in Paarl, Kotze started snorting at the age of seven, drinking at 13, and bunked classes at her Stellenbosch primary school. She suffered from depression and tried to kill herself twice. At 14 she had an 18-year-old boyfriend and smoked cigarettes.

As a child, she witnessed violence but does not want to blame other people for her actions.

Her drug use quickly spun

'We would ...
spray weed
with Doom
and smoke it'

out of control.

"It went from a cigarette one day, to weed the next week, to acid and ecstasy the next month. And then the weed became a couple of times every day."

Midway through Grade 9, she and a friend were expelled. Enrolled at a Strand school, she'd "go surfing and then lie on the pavement outside the school and smoke weed. Or I'd take acid before I went to class".

Later she hung out in pubs

until it was time for art classes.

"My parents would ask where I was going and I would give them whatever story I wanted. My using got worse and worse and my group of friends changed constantly to suit my using habits."

"And then it all went really dirty. I was throwing up every day and every night, mixing weed and alcohol. I started each day with a joint - "wake and bake" - and we would lace sometimes, spray weed with Doom and smoke it."

"Every now and then we went to Jeffrey's Bay for a holiday and when I was using I had no inhibitions when it came to guys. It didn't matter who, what, where. People's parents didn't want me to be around their kids and I wasn't allowed in their homes."

Kotze hated anger because of how she'd seen angry people

behave.

"I sort of suppressed my anger to such a point that I was numb. Drugging helped keep me on a plane of numbness."

She showed the healed cuts and burn scars on the insides of her arms.

"I've been cutting my whole life."

Another suicide attempt resulted in a week in hospital and admission to a rehabilitation centre for children. Kotze snorted a fellow patient's Ritalin and ran away. She was offered beer and marijuana in a bar and passed out at the entrance of the rehab. Days later she was sent to the Serenity Care Centre outside Sedgelyield before being transferred to MoSa-iCo, a treatment facility which promotes integration into society.

Initially Kotze had no desire to resume her schooling.

"They had to force me to go. I'd sit around reading, listening to my iPod. I didn't talk to anybody. I didn't wear the school uniform until matric. Many kids were scared of me."

Oakhill's former drama teacher Jaci de Villiers was her first friend there.

"She lifted everything. She encouraged my questioning and whatever I was passionate about. She showed me that even in the real world there are people who accept your thoughts and feelings."

"Here in MoSa-iCo they want you to share the darkness and lightness in you. But then you go out into the world and it's like no one can see it, and then that brings you back to drugging."

"But Jaci helped me to see there is no such thing as socially inappropriate feelings."

Six months ago Kotze stopped resisting school.

"I suppose I just started loving history. I liked studying the Cold War and the transition period between apartheid and democracy."

"And I'd always loved drama, and English." She became friends with two girls in her class.

When the school allowed her to change to maths literacy, her aggregate soared.

"I sometimes wonder if I would have done as well in a state school, but I don't think so. In the EEB curriculum I can use my emotional experience in the work I'm doing."

Shane Kidwell, headmaster of Oakhill School, was "blown away" by Kotze's seven As in her final examinations.

"Jo-Li realised the opportunity she had been given and influenced all around her for

the good. She has been a wonderful example of determination and self-discipline."

Kotze's challenges haven't ended.

"Addiction is not like the flu. It's like HIV, it's always there. You can learn to live with it without dying, but you can never make it go away. You can learn to take responsibility, but you can never make the darkness go away."

Her plans for 2012 change every week.

"I've been accepted to study drama therapy at Rhodes. I know I want to do something like that, but I don't think this year."

"I want to walk through Lesotho, I love mountains. Or do drama in New York."

"Or do volunteer work and eventually work for the United Nations. But I'm scared to leave MoSa-iCo."



SEVEN OF THE BEST: Jo-Li Kotze, a recovering addict, received seven distinctions in the Independent Examinations Board matric results. Picture: JUSTINE EDWARDS

Jo-li Kotze, our 2011 Matriculant was interviewed by The Cape Times - a captivating story of darkness and light. This story is available on our website.

The Green, The Greener, The Greenest

- Niklas Martin

A Journey to COP 17

Departing from Plett just after lunch on the 30th November, I felt both excitement and anxiety brewing up in me. Our destination - the single biggest environmental gathering in the world, COP17, in Durban. Travelling by bus, it took us a little over eighteen hours to get to our destination, but by sleeping on the floor, I was able to pass at least half of the seemingly never-ending journey.

Driving through the night, with a couple of stops here and there, we arrived in Amanzimtoti at about eight the next day.



This is where we would be staying for the next five nights. The fact that we were overlooking the warm seas of the Indian Ocean suited me well, as I was able to get into the water for an occasional surf when we were given a moment to relax in our flats.

Feeling like a proper tourist amongst the thousands of people from all corners of the world, we made our way through the crowds to view the different exhibits. Taking photos with famous people, looking at the technology that will run our future and following the crowd as Jacob Zuma arrived, were among the highlights of the trip. If only it were Obama, Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie standing beside me!

Amongst the hustle and bustle of the many people, the stands provided us with opportunities to view the environmental ambitions of countries and organisations from across the world.

Day four dawned and it was time for my partner, Asie, and I to present what we had come to do, to share what Oakhill, Percy Mdala and the Knysna Municipality are doing to protect the environment, what our plans for the future are and what we could do to be more environmentally friendly. We had stayed up the night before, working into the early hours of the morning to perfect the 25 minute presentation, to ensure that it would grab the attention of the busy crowd. Rumours were spreading

that the President himself might come and watch our presentations, which added pressure to the situation.

As would have it, and unfortunately President Zuma had to remain in an important meeting and was not able to attend our presentations, however, the people who did, did so with keen interest and left knowing a little more about the Eden District and the activities undertaken in the different municipalities and schools within the region. A nerve-racking experience it was, but one which was absolutely worth the hours and hours which went into strategizing and presenting it.

On the final day we all dressed in green, participating in some of the tourist activities in and around Durban. We ended up going to Ushaka Marine World for the day and experienced going down the single highest water slide in Africa, and then arriving at our flat just in time for a quick surf, I grabbed my board and fins and got some really good waves until the sun set. This is a trip I will never forget, one where I made new friends and experienced more than I could ever have imagined, and as I sit here, entering Plett, I can only be forever grateful to all the people who were involved in giving me this opportunity - Vernon Gibbs-Halls, Deputy Mayor Lionel Esau, Doris Naylor, all my generous sponsors and of course, Oakhill School.

Meet your Mentor

- Sheila Pasio

The sky was clear, the wind abated and the sun set beautifully beneath the new moon! This was the setting for our revamped College Meet and Greet(s).

and drinks and our new parents met the 'old'.

Millwood enjoyed the school pool surrounds; Bendigo played on Thesen Island beach and Jubilee socialized at Bollard Bay. Picnic baskets provided eats

The purpose was achieved: for Mentor teachers to chat to parents and to forge healthy relationships between all parties at Oakhill. Our committed Mentor teachers are eager to work with their mentees and to follow, nurture and encourage their progress in 2012.



*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
To all the people you can,
For as long as you can."*

- John Wesley

Bendigo enjoy their beach meeting.

SNAP!



First day of school 2012.

Mistakes make a difference

- Sheila Pasio



– A PAIRED WRITING PROJECT

By Sheila Pasio, College English Teacher

There is something frightening about teaching English in a small coastal town, but also something refreshing. We are sometimes frightened by the well-staffed, highly articulate, competitive nature of the city schools, and sometimes frightened of the dark, when we proceed by feel and not by sight. Conversely, it is refreshing to have to initiate and formulate and 'energise' our own materials and to enjoy a type of lightness of being, unburdened by competition. We like to believe that this energy and freshness is reflected in the creative thinking of our students.

Needless to say, we are always refreshed, re-energised and inspired through our interactions at the IEB English Conference. This article serves to reinforce the importance of this inter-action and to give credit to those who are willing to share their wisdom and their success stories. In this case, I give the credit to Minky Antrobus and her English Department at Elkanah House, who inspired us with their Shared Storybook Project.

I loved the concept and I knew that it we could use it to bridge the divide between Prep School and College, as they had done at Elkanah. Although we

share the same campus – a small enough one, at that – the College and the Prep School spend too little time getting to know one-another; particularly the students.

This beautiful story involves the creation of stories: a Grade 8 student writes a book for a Grade 3 student. A simple project. But, it is not the project itself, but the process that became a joy. One blue-skied spring morning, and with a spring in the step, we made our way up to the Prep School. Soon, coupled together, the 'senior' was in deep conversation with the 'junior'. This never happens. He, or she, was asking questions and finding out the interesting details of the little person's life. This information became the life-blood of a story, and the child, the heart of it. Where the process of writing, peer-editing, final editing was exciting; the illustrating was exhilarating. Hand-drawn and colourfully painted goblins and cats and little girls on horses appeared. And, the finished products were infinitely wonderful: collated and covered.

On the appointed day, with bright cupcakes, we proceeded again to the Prep School to present the stories. A loud cheer rang out in the Grade 3 classroom and, once again, small huddles formed as the books were opened and the magic of seeing one's person in print and picture was absorbed and wondered at.

Towards the back of the classroom, two boys hung back. There was a problem. They were agitated, one close to tears. 'I can't give this to my partner,' muttered the first, 'it's ugly, I haven't finished it properly!' For this boy, writing is not an easy process, but he had had a bright idea, incorporating his young partner's love of nature parks, but fear of spiders. I knew that he had worked against his difficulties, had created a story and that we had edited it together. He was just unable to finish the project satisfactorily – had run out of energy. Now, when it really counted, he had

let someone down.

The second tall fourteen year-old was devastated. He had not even completed the story and had nothing to give to his young partner. So, one child sat with nothing in front of him, with a brave, but embarrassed expression on his face. The tall boy had never felt so small! He too had let someone down.

In an instant we had to restore the situation. Boy number one had to present his book. We told him it was a brave effort and he offered it and disappeared. He had learned a valuable lesson!

With an arm round his shoulder, we escorted the second boy out of the room, whereupon a flood of tears gushed forth. I took a walk with him and talked about accountability and making mistakes. He agreed that when we are accountable to someone else we just cannot let them down. He agreed that it would have been much better to have faced his teacher and to tell her that he could not, or was not getting to his story. He also learned that when we make a mistake, it is not the end of the world – we simply learn a really valuable life-lesson. It is in the honest owning-up to our mistakes that we can make right, not in trying to bury them. As we talked he gained perspective on the situation and began to feel better: he lifted his head and wiped his tears.

The storybooks were packed away in a pre-camp flurry and we left the Prep School. Most felt proud of a job well done and with hearts full of the act of giving. Our two boys walked with heads up once-again, but with something learned that will last a lot longer in their own life-stories. Real growth will have happened if we observe changed behaviour in a second project, different, but with the same accountability factor.

I am currently seeking ideas for another shared project!

Mistakes make a difference (Cntd.)

- Debbie Nicoll

“There’s more treasure in books than all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”
- Walt Disney

By Debbie Nicoll, Grade 3 Teacher

“I watched the young and impressionable faces of my 2011 Grade 3 class as the Grade 8 class entered. It became obvious that, to them, the other students coming in to their class must have seemed taller than the average tree!”

As a class we had spent the year enjoying a weekly “book club” session, investigating authors, titles, non-fiction, preferences and personal choices. We had chatted about “main ideas”, characters, key-words and had begun to discover the wonderful world of books. We encouraged each other to explore and address our own interests and when Mrs. Pasio came to speak to me about linking her Grade 8 English class with my Grade 3’s we were all excited.

For some just the thought of going off quietly to sit under a tree to “chat” was terrifying but we were soon scattered all over the campus. The interaction taking place, invaluable! The wonder and awe shining in the little eyes obvious! The caring and gentle manner in which the interviewer handled each question, remarkable!

Over the next few days, weeks the question asked was, “when are our books going to be ready?” in eager anticipation of their own life’s story; becoming the “main character” in a printed and meaningful text!

Seeing the joy and wonderment on a class of 9-year-olds as they paged through books bound, stapled, tied and taped, with hand-painted, printed and laminated covers, was truly rewarding.

The class decided that a hand written thank you letter was in order. So we began our second part of the project: hand drawing illustrations and finding out how to spell the “author’s” names correctly.

Placing these special books on display allowed others to benefit from this project but those that benefitted most were the two Grades that through their interaction with each other learnt that “it’s kind of fun to do the impossible” - Walt Disney.

“If you read a lot of books you are considered well read. But if you watch a lot of TV, you’re not considered well viewed.”

- Lily Tomlin



SNAP!



Water polo practice in preparation for the Chukka Festival, Waterfront flags, Dimitri Paggis looks on.

College Athletics Day

- Niklas Martin

The first word that comes to mind as I recap on a day of action packed athletics, is “scorching”. With temperatures bordering on thirty degrees, one would think that the students would have been dropping like flies after running events such as the 1500 meter or sprinting the 100 meters. Perhaps this would have been the case were it not for the fresh south easterly breeze, the cover of the pavilion and the refreshments at the tuck shop.

After a shortened school day, College students made their way down to the Knysna High School field where two police cars, a red taxi and a yellow fire truck set the scene and initiated the excitement for the day. A day where athletes competed in both track and field events. Joshua Pama, Finn Stevenson, Ashleigh Weavers and the usual stars- Athi Magadla , Mikayla Oliver and Anola Walk,

were stand outs, to name a few.

After more than 4 hours of exciting events the day came to an end with the boys' under 19 relay race, in which a team of staff members also featured. In this case the wise out-classed the youth. Millwood were ahead by a fraction and winning the “spirit” cup, they seemed to be the victors of the day. However, with Jubilee only two points behind them and with the high jump looming later in the week, will ultimately decide the true victors. Bendigo felt blue after their results had them finish in last position, with little chance of taking the title!

Will it be the team in Red, Yellow or Blue, who will be crowned the 2012 inter-house Athletics Champions? A question that will only be answered on Tuesday.



Athletics, fun, laughter and super spirit amidst novel entrances by all the houses!

Oakhill vs Point High School - Cricket

- Josh Buchalter

It was a warm summer's day down in Rheenendal, with the most typical conditions for an exciting game of school boy cricket. Point High won the toss and elected to field first. They were able to put Oakhill under pressure early by removing both openers within the first 5 overs of the game, leaving the score at 10 for 2.

Runs were hard to come by and eventually the big shot was played. Unfortunately this ended JJ Strydom's innings, with the score at 22 for 3 after 13 overs.

Finally a solid partnership was formed between Thomas Marrow and Ruan, a borrowed player from KHS. They both were able to find the boundary on a regular basis, which helped increase the run rate.

At drinks, Oakhill were 92 for 3. Shortly after play resumed, Thomas reached his half century, but back to back wickets brought upon 2 new batsmen at the crease. Oakhill

then stumbled along to 143 all out, with 12 overs still remaining.

The second half of the match did not start as we would have liked. Point High openers were running well between the wickets causing much frustration amongst the Oakhillians. After just 4 overs the score was 25 for 0 and then all of a sudden there were 2 quick wickets, removing the openers, which changed the game dramatically. The Oakhill opening bowlers enjoyed wickets in quick succession from there on, coming back on to finish things off soon after their first spells.

Eventually Point High was bowled out for 71, with Thomas picking up 4 wickets and Josh Pieters picking up 3.

A good day's cricket, and a good win for Oakhill by 72 runs!

Oakhill hosts inaugural Water Polo Chukka Festival

- Sean Brodie

On Friday, February 10 2012, saw the first day of the inaugural Oakhill Waterfront Chukka Festival. This annual schools' water polo tournament attracted the interest of many impressive teams from around the region, wanting to play in the first open-water water polo tournament in Africa; we were privileged to play such schools including Bridge House, Camps Bay High School, Fish Hoek High School, Woodridge and York High School.

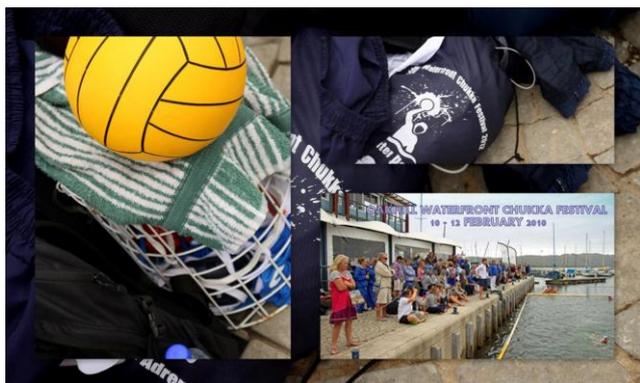
The 7 visiting teams, the 2 host teams, coaches and refs all met for dinner the night before the tournament to get to know the

other players and officially begin the festival. Most of the players had travelled from as far afield as Cape Town to be here for this event; the following morning, the teams began on schedule, in spite of the chilly lagoon water and stern winds.

The quality of polo played over the three days definitely improved, as the teams got used to the cold temperatures. There was fierce competition among the schools from Cape Town, who were in a different league to the other teams. Nevertheless, our teams showed great potential, for at the end of the tournament, in the 1st Boys Oakhill vs. Bridge House match, we were 2-1 up, at one stage. Though, through a lack of fitness we lost a majority of our games.

However, the score is in fact immaterial, as I believe that all the players greatly appreciated the opportunity to play such a thrilling sport in a different atmosphere.

This event would not have been possible without the hard work of the choice, international referees, and the organizing of the coaches and others involved.



Grade 11 Drama Production

- Josh Buchalter

After weeks of rehearsals and having to give up our afternoons to practise, Saturdays and Sundays included, the 2nd of March finally dawned. We were on track for a great performance, and a spectacular performance it was.

The Drama students of Grade 11 performed the "Complete Works of William Shakespeare" (abridged), changing it to create humour and understandable entertainment for our prospective audience. Although some rehearsals were a little shaky, on the night we pulled our weight, creating a

more than extraordinary production; we were even approached to perform it again.

Being part of the production has definitely been one of the highlights of my school career, and I am looking forward to my next opportunity to take the stage!

Well done to all the Grade 11 Drama students and a special thank you to Miss Dreyer for all the time and effort she put into creating this amazing production!

SNAP!



College Students spend a busy day in George at Inter-School Athletics.

SNAP!



Callum and Mom, Debbie Nicoll sport fashionable eyewear; Jess, Holly, Dina and Aimee pause a moment for a friendship photo.



Students prepare for the Hockey and Art Tour to Spain with a wine evening and intense astro practice.

John Benn Art Competition

- Debbie Nicoll

We were invited to a grand celebration and “awarding of prizes ceremony” at Cruise Café.

The honorable mayor presented the prizes and I must commend both Liam Watts (1st prize winner in the 6-9age group) and Mishke Fitzmaurice (2nd prize winner) for their effort and their exemplary manners on receiving their cash prizes.

Due to the fact that we had 2 winners from our school, they won R1 000.00 for Oakhill.



*Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes.
Art is knowing which ones to keep.*
- Scott Adams



Afrikaans is plesierig!

- Loami Koekemoer

Juffrou Hardick het al twee Graad 3 klasse gevat om hulle stories, liedjies en toneelstukkes wat hulle self geskryf het op te voer vir die Graad 12's.

Hulle het baie goeie selfvertroue getoon en die ouer kinders was verbaas oor die standaard wat die Graad 3 leerlinge alreeds beryk het.



SNAP!



The College held an exciting and competitive Inter-House Gala.

Happy 20th Birthday Oakhill!



Happy 20th birthday, Oakhill

Happy Birthday Oakhill

Oakhill turned 20 years old on the 29th of February.

The day was celebrated at the swimming pool. Our headmaster Mr Kidwell made a short speech. Some high school pupils joined us with guitars and we sang the school anthem. Later the Happy Birthday song was blurted out. This was followed by a cup cake and a juice in our classrooms.



Marimba Magic

- Barbie Leibbrandt

"Come quickly, Barbie, our Marimbas have arrived!" So called a jubilant Marelie Viljoen.

I rushed up to the Music Man's (alias Mr Potgieter) classroom to behold packages upon packages, being unpacked and assembled.

There were screeches of delight and beams galore as the instruments were taken out for careful inspection.

I simply cannot wait to hear those beautiful, soft, gentle sounds floating across the Oakhill campus.



Headmaster's Hike

- Logan Tait



My Headmaster's Hike was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I loved the sense of independence we were all given. This awesome expedition started on February 10th 2012.

We hopped onto the bus and drove to Diepwalle in the heart of the Harkerville Forest. When we arrived we were all so keen to begin. After 15 minutes of walking in the forest our shoes and socks were soaked, but still our spirits were high and we were still having fun! We finished our first six kilometres, wet and cold. When we got back to base camp we made a fire and chilled in our dorms. After just killing time and messing about we made dinner.

One of the highlights of the camp and funniest moments was a visit from four drunk, smelly, non-musical

hobos! Mr Hardick came to the rescue and literally kicked them out! After much laughter cheers and ridiculous songs we settled down and went to sleep.

On the second day we woke up and joined the mad frenzy of tidying, sorting, organizing, packing and cleaning. We dumped our bags into the trailer and set off. If I could use one word to describe the second day it would be LONG! We hiked seventeen kilometers in total that day. I loved swimming, eating, relaxing, and taking breaks beside the small mountain streams and rivers. When we were out of the forest we went to the Gents' spectacular farm called Packwood. We swam, had donuts and played on the lawn. When we left their farm we spent the night in a large farmhouse in Fishanthoek with no electricity.

On the third day we packed up and walked through the forest like zombies, not really registering the beauty of the forest due to the fact we were so tired. The most amazing thing was that we found elephant dung! The entire camp and all the hikes were extremely enjoyable and a whole lot of fun. Thank you.



SNAP!



College men's high jump with interesting techniques.

Interactors from abroad

- Rebecca Lamb

On the 6th February 2012, a group of Interactors from Bath, England, came on a tour to South Africa to do some community outreach. As part of their tour they made a stop in Knysna for a week to do some upliftment at a crèche in the township. This was done in partnership with Oakhill's Interact Club, as well as all the other Interact groups in Knysna.

For the rest of the week, every afternoon a group of Interactors from Oakhill School went out and joined people from the other clubs in Knysna and the Bath team to help paint murals on the walls of the crèche and touch it up, adding a bit of colour and cheer to this important place run by the most phenomenal staff that do a lot off good in the lives of the children who attend the crèche.



On the 6th, an introductory braai was held and from each Interact Club 2 members or more of the committee with a member of staff attended, as well as all the Rotary leaders, and of course the students from Bath. This evening was a wonderful opportunity to get to know a bit more about all the Interactors and spend some time with them.

The afternoons were always a lot of fun for those who went, and we always left feeling good, knowing that we were making a difference in the lives of these children. Time was spent with the kids too. It was a wonderful experience for all involved, and it is an opportunity we look forward to again next year.



Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill.
- Buddha

Photos by Nadya Greeff

SNAP!

The Inter-house Gala is always a successful and fun event, this time it was no different, each house participating and following with many cheers. Once the races got underway, all the teams got into their cheering and motivating for the swimmers to do their best, and for every race swum, there was a pat on the back and the V-I-C-T-O-R-Y cheers were unleashed.

And so to the end of a wonderful event when the winning house was announced - well done to JUBILEE!! All swimmers deserve the biggest congratulations; they kept the crowds cheering and all swam so well and with such determination. Well done!



Reporter - Tiffany Barrett

SNAP!



"The Dream Maker" production starring the foundation phase pupils – the costumes, the make-up, the performances, the superb effort by our staff all contributed towards an excellent production! Well done!

Language under the Oak trees

- Niklas Martin

Reading, writing and conversing.

These are just some of the activities which the Grade 11 students participated in during an English and Afrikaans Language Excursion on the 24th February. The termly SRC Coke Race also took part on this day and shortly thereafter; all Grade 11 students jumped onto the bus and made the short journey across Knysna to the Duthie's farm near the Knysna Heads.

A combination of the prosperous environment, the fresh air and the beautiful weather created enthusiasm and excitement which would normally not be evident within the normal classroom environment. At first we were given an activity which was part of the

Afrikaans program and involved piecing a segmented Afrikaans cartoon strip together from start to finish. This was followed by the English program, where activities varied from poetry, creating quotes and communicating deeply with a classmate who one was not very familiar with.

After spending three hours outdoors, overlooking the lagoon and lazing under the ancient oak trees, we returned to school to mark the end of an extremely busy week.

On behalf of the Grade 11 students of 2012 we would like to thank the Duthie Family, Ms Barnard and Mrs Pasio for an exciting and alternate learning experience.



SNAP!



Oakhill Primary host the Water Polo Chukka Festival in cold and wet conditions but with great spirit!



Our under 15 relay 400m winners at the recent Townsmeeting in Knysna. Oakhill came 2nd overall. Five schools competed with their best athletes.



Oh to be like Dad and Mom, enjoying a meal at their favourite restaurant, popping into the local Gym for a workout, drawing some cash at ATM or popping by the Beauty Parlour for a facial and a manicure!

Little Oaks enjoy dressing up as Mom and Dad.

SNAP!

Happy Holidays!

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What? You too? I thought I was the only one!'
- C.S. Lewis



Barbie surrounded by those she loves and those who love her.



The Grade 8 Induction Camp held at Ingwe.



Bon Voyage to our Spanish Art and Hockey tourists!



Happy people!



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

**Travel safely and
Happy Holidays!
School reopens on
11 April 2012**