

Oakhill Echoes

September 2012

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SNAP!



Our beautiful campus where people tread softly and happily.

SNAP!



Happy Birthday Dear Madiba! Joyful singing rang out on the Oakhill campus on Wednesday morning 18th July as the whole school gathered to wish Madiba a Happy 94th Birthday.

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

Tyres & Takkies 2012



SNAP!

MATRIC DANCE 2012



Partner and Tiffany Barrett, Ivan van der Sijde and Partner, Partner and Liza Combrinck, Michael Schutz and Partner, Partner and Rosey Finn



Jason Sherwood and Gabi Orzechowski, Partner and Nina Orzechowski, Jason Sherwood and Stephanie Perkins, Partner and Anya Damonse, Brandon Willcocks and Nicola Giliomee



Partner and Sandra McRae, Partner and Nicole Scheepers, Partner and Maya-Rose Torrao, Partner and Tyla Katz, Steyn de Klerk and Talia Lifson



Partner and Jessica Gannon, Partner and Stephanie Perkins, Luthando Kolwapi and Partner, Partner and Kaylee Pearman-White, Cristian Vitali and Partner

67 Minutes for Madiba

Oakhill students participated in giving 67 Minutes for Madiba. Here were a few of their activities:

JUBILEE

Hannalie Viljoen

We will be visiting the Missionary School at Vineyard Church and spending time there at the end of their break and then handing over some much needed stationery supplies and books by the mentor girls.

Dawie Botha

My mentor group are making sandwiches and a lady who is looking after Street Children in Hornlee will come and collect the sandwiches on Thursday.

Hannette Bouwer

We will be spending 30 minutes with the residents of Garden Gates Retirement Centre. They have tea at 10.30.

Sheila Pasio

Half of the group are making soup the night before and half are making sandwiches. We will walk down town to deliver soup to those in need – the unemployed and homeless.



BENDIGO

Amy Nuttall

My group would like to make sandwiches and give them to the people waiting at the hospital.



Lee Raynor

My group is going to take fruit, read and play with the kids from Joyful Noise Crèche in Nekkies.

Sue Carver

My mentor group will be going down to Little Oaks to spend some time reading, painting and playing music for the Pre-Primary children. We

will also take cake to share with everyone, including teachers.



Olga Schoeman

My group will each give me R20. With that money I am going to buy biscuits.

Iqraa will write out personal invites to the College housekeepers and maintenance staff.

We will all assemble at the staff room during break.

All of us will make them sit down and relax. We will make tea / coffee for them serve them and chat to them during break. We will express our thanks to them.

After break we will take up their duties for the duration of that period, in other words, whatever they would have done, we will do.



MILLWOOD

Andrew Meintjes

The group will prepare sandwiches in class during the 67 minutes on Thursday.



Juliet le Fleur

The group will prepare gift packs, cupcakes and ball-games for the children at Dorothy Broster, during class time. They will then take the treats there at 2:15pm, and spend an hour interacting with them.



Interact Induction

Ina Thompson, Knysna Rotary President, and Lesley Satchel, Chair of the Rotary New Generations Committee, were welcomed by Headmaster, Shane Kidwell, to College assembly on Tuesday morning.

Lesley introduced Ina, who thanked outgoing Interact President, Kristi van Staden and her team of Interactors for their service to the community and their involvement with the Interactors from Bath and presented them with a certificate award. She then congratulated incoming Interact President, Robyn Seager, and her committee, wishing them a productive, meaningful term of office.

As is custom, the chain of office was handed over by outgoing President to incoming President, with smiles all round.



In Robyn's words: "As Interact President, I hope to help wherever I can and touch the lives of people everywhere. I have so many ideas swirling around in my head, as to how, we as a school, can make a difference. I encourage more of the student body to get involved. I would love so much for my fellow peers to feel the self-fulfillment and personal growth that goes hand in hand with the projects that we will be doing plus the pure enjoyment of helping others.

Join me, in lighting up the world, in touching the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves and enjoying one child's smile at a time."

We wish Robyn a successful year ahead!

Calling back the past

- Barbie Leibbrandt

It was an honour and a privilege to have our founding Headmaster, Allan Graham, and his gracious wife, Dal, visit us on Friday.

They were greeted warmly by House Captains, Leo Thesen and Emma Horn and were treated to some valuable time on the Oakhill campus – sharing with Mr Kidwell, enjoying a conducted tour, more refreshments and meeting with Founder Parents and Founder Staff members, more strolling and engaging with staff and students and finally a visit to the new

proposed land.

It is eight years since their last visit to Oakhill, so you can imagine their delight and surprise at the vast number of changes - old buildings refurbished, extensive new buildings, beautiful gardens, a heated pool, a mini astro – it was just such a pleasure and a proud moment to be able to share again with them the joy that exists on the Oakhill campus.



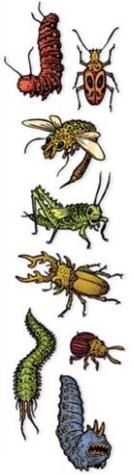
Trish Griffin and Elna Brown; Emma Horn, Dal Graham, Allan Graham and Leo Thesen; Shane Kidwell, Dal Graham and Allan Graham

Ugly Bug Ball

- Caroline Payton

There has been much preparation for the Grade R's annual Ugly Bug Ball over the past few weeks and today the children got to perform for their Parents, Grandparents and the Grade 00 and 000 classes. Their costumes were beautiful, the face painting transformational and the children sang and danced with great enthusiasm and enjoyment.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the show. Well done Grade R's and thanks to Music teacher, George Potgieter, and dance teacher, Cheryl Wolf, for co-ordinating this wonderful production.



SNAP!



A fun-filled and busy day of cycling, running, food and play at the Tyres & Takkies event hosted by our PTA at Sassenheim.

Another 67 Minutes for Madiba

- Neve Canny

For Nelson Mandela's birthday the Grade 5's spent their 67 minutes selling hot chocolate to the IP phase and to teachers as well.

They were doing all of this to help buy Mr Bee's soccer team their new Team T-shirts, and maybe even some soccer boots.



The Grade 5's made in total R581.00 towards helping Mr Bee's team. All that effort is worth doing because it is making someone else happy and this is a wonderful thing.

We hope that we can sell more hot

chocolate at another time to earn even more money for Mr Bee's team.



Neve Canny – Prep Echoes Reporter

A Sad Farewell

- Justine Edwards



Celia pictured with Holly at a Mother's Day Celebration

A heartfelt and sad farewell to mother, Celia Andrews who recently lost her battle to cancer, one of those life experiences one hopes happens elsewhere and not so close to home. Yet everyone I have spoken to who knew Celia was immensely impressed and slightly envious of the full life she lived and how she, without trepidation, went places, experienced life's offerings and all without much bother – so many remarkable traits!

Celia was an active parent and served on Oakhill's School Board on the Sport Portfolio. She was instrumental in the addition of our beautiful school

swimming pool, a personal passion of hers.

Both Jonty and Holly were students at Oakhill during their Prep years and there was many an occasion as Celia shouted in excitement and beamed her beautiful smile at their performances at school galas. Celia is survived by husband Mark, who assures that his family will continue to travel and explore the world, as Celia had wished.

Oakhill School and the Board of Governors gave the Andrews family a beautiful Fever tree in loving memory of Celia.

Matric Dance 2012

- Barbie Leibbrandt

Beautiful young ladies and dapper young men stepped forth on Friday evening, to be welcomed and cheered by proud, adoring parents, excited siblings, peers, friends and teachers lining the corridors of the College quad to glimpse and enjoy and celebrate and share the special moments of another pre-dance cocktail function.

annual gathering is certainly one of them.

That was just the beginning, a taste of what was to come. Imagine their excitement as they boarded the school buses to be transported away to an unknown destination, to start all over again, to be spoilt, to be waited upon, to dance the night away!

And back to school on Monday, to reminisce and share those magical moments all over again. Next stop – Prelims!

“Growing up happens when you start having things you look back on and wish you could change.”
- Clary Fray

SNAP!



Partner and Gill Jones, Partner and Cara Nicoll, Jesse van der Byl and Partner, Leo Thesen and Georgie Ovenstone, Athe Magadla and Partner, Partner and Claudia Robbertse



Partner and Kristi van Staden, Partner and Nadya Greeff, Partner and Monika Pichler, Luke Bell and Gabi Orzechowski, Sasha Benjamin and Nicole Scheepers, Partner and Talia Lifson



James Boomer and Partner, Partner and Jake Read, Partner and Cicely Ashley, Partner and Rebecca Lamb, Sasha Benjamin and Natascha Minnitt, Joshua Pieters and Partner

MATRIC DANCE 2012

Little Oaks visit the Vet



Dr Lamprecht at the Knysna Veterinary Clinic is visited by Little Oaks who share a morning of looking at lion's blood under a microscope, meeting Lola the friendly Labrador and watch Dr John using a dart gun at the box Zebra!



SNAP!



The SRC Food Evening and Interact Fashion Show was a huge success with many highlights including teachers sporting the latest fashions!



Oakhill Rugby makes History

- Josh Buchalter

“One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.”

- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar



The 28th July 2012 will now go down in history as the day that Oakhill School's first ever 15 man team competed in a school boy rugby match, with the first ever opponents being Knysna High School.

Rugby was brought to the school back in 2009, but as it was a new sport to most people at Oakhill, there were only enough players to make up a 7's team. Much growth has taken place within the team since then and rugby is now developing into one of the more popular winter sports that Oakhill has to offer.

The 15 Oakhill Champs lined up beside the field and a great feeling of accomplishment was felt before kick-off had even taken place, as each individual knew that the fact that this fixture was even a possibility was an achievement on its own. The game started and a physical battle began with the Oakhill forwards making every tackle, clearing every ruck and stealing every ball on offer. Fifteen minutes into the game and the scores were still locked at 0-0. Eventually, after numerous phases of attack from Knysna High, they were able to get over the line to score the first try of the match. Oakhill gave the perfect response, winning the ball from the kick-off deep inside Knysna High's twenty two, with Mazi Myo crashing over the try line to score Oakhill's first ever try in this format of the game.

The teams went into the break with the scores at 5-5. The second half proved to be just as physical as the first. With Knysna High on continuous attack, forcing Oakhill to make tackle after tackle; it was just a matter of time before Knysna High was to score. And although Oakhill weren't giving much away, Knysna High was able to score a further try. But Oakhill stuck to doing the basics right and were deservedly rewarded with a try that started after a turn over and well executed counter attack, where 80 meters of ground was gained on the field, with Josh Nel eventually scoring in the corner.

With the score at 19-10 with just a few minutes left on the clock, Oakhill kept faith and kept attacking. But the Knysna High defense held strong and left the Oakhill backline frustrated after giving it their absolute all.

Despite the loss, the Oakhill boys, the coaching staff and every supporter were ecstatic with a very solid performance where not much might have been expected from the freshmen to the sport. Both the Knysna High and Oakhill teams got together after the match and celebrated the occasion in high spirits. A very entertaining and memorable day of rugby was experienced by all who were there to witness Oakhill stamp their names in sporting history!

The Oakhill players and Coaches who made history and who deserve to be saluted :

Players: Godwin Toby, Matt Fermor, Mazi Myo, Danny Pfeiffer, Rhys van den Handel, Josh Nel, Josh McCaw, Aidan Dunlop, Josh Bennett, JJ Strydom, Josh Kilian, Josh Buchalter (Captain), Sean Brodie, Burger van Niekerk, Julian Noble, JP Ribeiro
Coaches: Gerhard Claassen, Riaan van Straten, J P Strydom

Joshua Buchalter – College Echoes Reporter

SNAP!



Rugby players compete against Knysna High School in a historical match.

How far will you go?

- Danielle Laure-Smith

A Tyres & Takkies Review

How far would you run for charity? Quite far, when it comes to Oakhill School! There was an amazing turn-out on Saturday, the fourth August at nine am. Hundreds of people were there - pupils, parents and teachers alike, all volunteering valuable time for the benefit of others. Everyone was ready to either take a nice, long walk, a brisk jog or an exhilarating cycle in a wonderful forested area, namely Sassenheim Estate, in the vicinity of Harkerville.

sat out to cheer your team on!

The course itself led through a variety of terrains, from a gorgeous country field to clambering over rocks and log-bridges in a dense, beautiful forest.

Most of the events started up pretty early in the day, to make the most of the cool weather. People lined up in their respective groups and after a short introduction from Mr Pryke, we were off! You could bring your dogs along, and simply walk if you wanted to, so there was no pressure to hurry up. It was an enjoyable walk, although many takkies were pretty soon covered in mud!

After reaching the halfway-station where you were offered a much appreciated respite of water and orange quarters, two log bridges had to be crossed and a couple more muddy areas had to be traversed. Eventually, the finish line came into sight, where everyone was cheering you on! A high-five was given as you crossed the line. Now how about another lap? If you wanted to, you could, but I was tuckered out!

Many thanks to all the Oakhillians who made this wonderful event possible, for getting people out of bed and into the forest, and for making a madly fantastic splash of a day, where all could have fun, whether it were Dad having a beer after his cycle and watching the "footie", or Mom enjoying a massage and then strolling around to admire the many craft items on sale, and of course the little ones, having fun in the supervised play area. This definitely was an event for all!

Danielle Laure-Smith – College Echoes Reporter



Philip Stewart & Dave Pryke stop for a smile



There were a series of events to choose from, be it a nice stroll with children, a quick 5km jog, or (if you were feeling up to it) a four lap course of 5km a lap! It's amazing that everyone did something, even if you just



The picturesque surroundings of Sassenheim Estate

SNAP!



Tyres & Takkies moments

SNAP!



Nicholas Wright and Partner, Tyler Tranter and Partner, Caspar Lee and Partner, Partner and Happiness Xhonti, Partner and Emma Horn

MATRIC DANCE 2012



Partner and Christa Benson, Nicolo Cox and Partner, Greg Austin and Partner, Partner and Lauren Smith, Partner and Amy Phillips

Penny Pinchers Spring Adventure Race

- Jason Campbell



Team: Oak Warriors - Oakhill u19 AR Team
 Jason Campbell (Captain & Navigator)
 Amy Williams
 Alex Fulford
 Kevin Redman

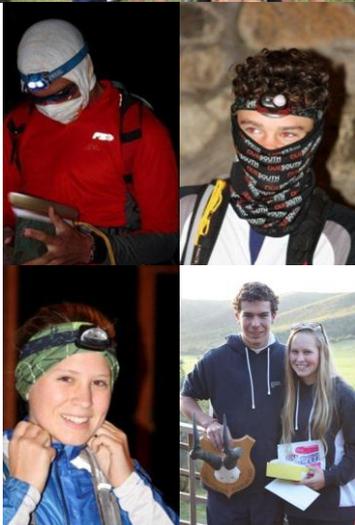
Race started at 6am in the dark, with strong winds and rain pouring down at the Buffalo Hills Game Reserve, starting with a 7km run involving some tough orienteering through mountains and valleys and full on bush. Then into transition, where we set off on a 32km cycle involving map reading and some big hills on tired legs, having to carry and push bikes up the hills and climb over fences.

In the last 10km there was a river crossing where we had to get 2 bikes and 2 people on one canoe and get across the river with some strong winds coming down the river pushing us into the reeds on the side.

After that we had to climb over a fence and up a hill onto the road back to transition. At this stage we were leading the race in the schools and 4 person team division; we then set off on the final leg, involving an 18km hike through a valley, up a very steep bush hill with no pathway to the farmlands, then a long circle around the farms, where we then started the descent back into a valley and down to the river; we then had to cross the river and zig-zag our way back to the campsite, where we crossed the line in first place in the schools and 4 person team division and 6th overall. Ahead of us were the pair teams, all adults, and there was some tough competition. We were one of the two, 4 person teams, to complete the full course, finishing in a time of 9 hours. The winning adult mixed pairs team finished in 7 hours.

Had lots of fun, awesome race, was enjoyed by all.

Jason Campbell – Team Captain





Music in the Blue Outreach

- Kristin Groenewald



Delighted faces experiencing musical talent at Music in the Blue Community Outreach

On Tuesday, 14th of August 2012, a select range of songs from Oakhill's "Music in the Blue", were performed as an Outreach to an appreciative audience. In attendance were folk from the Vermont Old Age Home, Loeriefhof, Garden Gates, Epilepsy South Africa, Die Werkwinkel in Hornlee, Hospice and Formosa Garden Village.

A number of talented, energetic College students, performed musical items that evoked a kaleidoscope of emotions. From songs that brought smiles as radiant as the rising sun, to deep, awe-inspiring pieces. I was blown away by the sheer talent under one roof. Some students gave us a glorious, enigmatic taste of something new and fresh, such as the Spanish guitar and percussion sibling performance, to original songs written by the performers themselves and phenomenal vocal capabilities. When I saw students in my own school, that I wave to in the corridors, sit with at break times, share conversations and friendships with, sing and play the piano simultaneously, and added to this, play a variety of other instruments, I realised the depth of talent that exists amongst the students at Oakhill School.

The performances were a testimony to the beauty of the Arts. Some even showed that we are never too old to tackle something new, taking that leap of faith, discovering yourself in a whole new light along the way. It was amazing to see teachers fully supporting the performers and inspiring the youth to use their gifts, something that is an invaluable part of Oakhill. It was

extraordinary to be sitting in that audience and feeling the reality of the Joy of Learning. You could feel the pain, jubilation, hope, sassiness, frustration, desperation, anger, joy and excitement, as if the passion doesn't just run, but sprints through their veins, and is transferred into the beauty of their voices. The students touched the hearts of the audience from start to finish.

After the concert, many of the audience gathered in the College quadrangle to enjoy some sunshine and tea, coffee and delicious snacks. There were those who were mentally or physically handicapped or exceptionally frail, and they remained seated in the hall and were served by the caring Oakhill Interactors.

When I asked them afterwards, if they had enjoyed the show, their answers made my very soul smile. In caring to share we had lifted their simple and sometimes lonely existences and inspired excitement and happiness amongst them. It was truly remarkable to see the youth using their talent, love of creativity and self-expression to make the day of so many special people.

"Music in the Blue" is an amazing Oakhill event. It is a reminder of the magic within us all. Every single Oakhill person in that hall on the 14th August 2012, could say, without a sliver of doubt, that they were indescribably proud to be Oakhillians.

Kristin Groenewald - College Echoes Reporter

SNAP!



Spring is definitely in the air at Oakhill!

Oakhill Spring Fling 2012

SNAP!

MATRIC DANCE 2012



Paul Wallington and Partner, Nicholas Cuthbert and Partner, Jess Broesicke and Partner



SNAP!



The joy of performing was so evident on Friday and Saturday evening as the audiences were treated to the flow of the talents of the Prep Musicians. There was joy at every turn, in their singing, in their instrument playing, written on their faces as dreams were realised for Mr Potgieter, for the musicians and for proud parents and teachers.

Arbour Week

- Iqraa Daniels



Restoring the Wealth of the Wetlands

After completing an exigent Science and Biology standardized test, we started comparing garden tools and changing into gumboots and farmer-style shorts. My personal favorite was Ben Giliomee, who unashamedly sported rainbow shorts, cute gumbooties and a pink shovel! Spades in hand, we braced ourselves.



Ben Giliomee taking a breather

Oakhill has a belt of wetland that circuits the Preparatory School. Alien grass was planted all around this environmentally delicate area. The grass had overtaken the wetland, preventing the flow of the stream that had once graced this area, as well as suffocating all the indigenous flora and fauna. To acknowledge and celebrate Arbour Week, the Grade 9's were to dig up this alien grass to expose the marsh. The following day the Grade 8's would place stones in the area to re-create the marshlands.

Gingerly, we avoided the oozing mud-coloured dribble as we tried to hack through the armour of roots and army of green blades. Then, we forgot about cleanliness and just 'got down and dirty'. Like a Biology dissection, we removed the first layer of grass to reveal the innards of our wetland; a teeming life of massive crabs and other pincer creatures as well as millions of spiders, earthworms and

miniature frogs sheltered by the mud. It was astonishing to observe the clandestine myriad of eco wealth this world still possesses. The continued survival of these creatures was encouraging; we too often forget the joy of simplicity and life in the face of naysayers.

As the day progressed, it became hotter and hotter, until, for many guys, the only solution was to 'strip down'. They clothed themselves in mud instead, engaging in a colossal mud fight. Aidan Dunlop emerged fully clothed with this brown substance which had an annoying tendency to find one's hair and stick there! Someone had a bright idea of muddying the all-too-clean teachers, Ms Carver in particular. Advice to future Grade 9's, do not antagonize her – she happens to be very good at self-defense by means of the humble spade!

Sipping guava juice from paper cups, we looked down on our work. We had cleared of grass an entire section of wetland. More than that, Oakhill proved that humans CAN undo our environmental mistakes and allow life to flourish as it naturally would. By this action, we hope to ignite hope and inspire action in the Knysna Community and the world at large.

A heartfelt thank you to Ms le Fleur and Mrs Boucher for organizing this event.



Aidan Dunlop, Luché Janse van Veuren and Amy Williams in need of some water!

*"It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth. I put up my thumb and shut one eye, and my thumb blotted out the planet Earth. I didn't feel like a giant. I felt very, very small."
— Neil Armstrong*



Students giving a hands-up and Jonathan Pfeiffer snapping away at the action.

SNAP!



Little Oaks host their annual Teddy Bears Picnic under a beautiful warm sky, with activities, eats, games, a magical show, lots of play time on the swings and face painting to keep on forever!

Independent School's Golf Festival

- Melanie Cloete



In spite of the coldness of the weather, nothing of the golf festival was frozen. It began explosively aboard the John Benn on the lagoon; one of our many tourism icons in Knysna.

This opening was followed by two, jam-packed days of golf, developing friendships and a little golfing rivalry between Reddam House team 2, who ran away with the competition, and the other competing teams. The Reddam House team was awarded the "yellow caps" to indicate the leading team for the day. Needless to say, all the teams began aiming for yellow caps on day two.

We played on two different courses – Ou Baai and Goose Valley - which offered tricky greens; long fairways and an obstinate and cooling wind – gusting on and off. The scores were impressive. Over the first two days, we won a "closest to the pin" with Stephanie Perkins virtually achieving a hole in one; while Michael Schutz battled with Martin Schouten of Bridgehouse for the longest drive. Michael

won this dual on one of the two days.

On the Saturday, we changed the pace and went to explore Plettenberg Bay and its environs. We explored Monkey Land and Birds of Eden: laughing at the antics of the various monkeys and gasping at the strong colours of the Loeries and the powerful beak of the Toucan. The flamingo's teased a few of the visiting group and we all left with great photos of the many birds.

The tour ended with a final round of golf at Goose Valley. The wind played as well and carefully moved balls both left and right of their desired landing point. Reddam House 2 won the overall festival with Bridgehouse 1 team ending on the best gross scores and Chesterhouse playing the most golf. Another great achievement was an albatross scored by Tiaan Strydom of Bridgehouse in his opening game.

The festival was a resounding success and another is already being planned for next year. Our sincere thanks to Chris Holden from SWINGFIT for his help in planning the event and managing the results for each leg of the festival.

I know I am getting better at golf because I'm hitting fewer spectators.

- Gerald Ford



SNAP!



The Matric Dance was held at the beautiful Plettenberg Bay Game Reserve with rich décor by the Grade 11 Dance Committee members.

SNAP!



Prep Hockey action – Oakhill vs Sedgfield



Prep Derby Day vs Holy Cross

SNAP!



Candid Magic Matric Dance Memories

"While we try to teach our children all about life, Our children teach us what life is all about."

- Angela Schwindt



First Team Prep Hockey players looking smart and fit – time for a warm-up girls!

It's the holidays so....



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

Travel safely and Happy Holidays!
School reopens on 9 October 2012



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