

Oakhill Echoes

March 2013

SNAP!

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Happy 21st Birthday to Oakhill! The whole school gathers on the prep field to stand in celebratory unison. In the centre are Allan Graham, Oakhill's Founder Headmaster and Shane Kidwell.

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



Founder Oakhill Headmaster Allan Graham flanked by wife Dal Graham and Shane Kidwell

**21 Years
and
growing
strong!**



SNAP!

Oakhill Celebrates 21 Years!



Many days of wonderful celebration in all corners of the Campus!

Just play. Have fun. Enjoy the game.

- Michael Jordan

Prep Inter-House Athletics

- Emma Gibson

On the 25th January, the Prep inter-house athletics was held. It was overcast, but that didn't bring down the yellow, red and blue colours.



Neve was running for her life, but Tessa won the race. Millwood kept trying and it looked like Jubilee were a bit glum. Relays were at the end. After the final races the scores were:

Millwood 1st with 360 points
 Bendigo 2nd with 357 points
 Jubilee 3rd with 282 points
 The "Spirit Award" went to Bendigo - woohoo!

Jubilee was screaming for all they were worth as Bendigo and Millwood were busting with dance moves. Grades 2 and 3 were called to the field. Millwood tackled Bendigo and came first. There was so much happening – shot put, running races and long jump. Millwood is coming last and Bendigo first. Cheers were loud when Cayla came 1st. Millwood were overjoyed. Julia came 2nd. Bendigo were fascinated. Emma came 3rd. Millwood were so happy.



Jubilee supporters making themselves heard!



Everyone started buying goodies at the tuck shop which by now was nearly out of everything.



SNAP!



First day of school with brand new uniforms, parents close by for hugs, some quiet time to ponder, leaving mom not so easy and sheer happiness to see your best friends again!

I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion.

- Mia Hamm

Ready, Steady, Go...!

- Barbie Leibbrandt



Taking a break, Amanda Barnard and Shobana Moodley enjoying the staff get together before the year commences.

It wasn't a matter of "hats off to 2013", but rather "you can leave your hat on" as all Oakhill staff enjoyed some camaraderie and a delicious dinner at Portland Manor on Friday evening.

departmental meetings and ended the afternoon, splitting into teams and participating in the "Great Race".

Oh yes, we're ready, steady, go for 2013!

Friday got under way as all staff gathered in the hall to prepare for another happy and productive year at Oakhill. Headmaster, Shane Kidwell challenged us to think about ensuring that we prepare our pupils for the 21st Century by engaging them technologically and experientially. Oakhill's campus is geared for 21st century learning and thinking and the delivery of our latest tablet computers in both the Preparatory School and the College will catapult us further into ensuring that we prepare kids for the world beyond school.



Joanie van Straten, Jeanette Motsoane, Shobana Moodley and Barbie Leibbrandt share the good fun and laughter.

This was followed by guest speaker, Sue Swain, director of BioWise sharing a meaningful and informative talk about Biomimicry and the relevance thereof in our community and then it was off to the recently purchased land to enjoy a picnic lunch in the fresh country air.

We returned to school to attend

Certain defects are necessary for the existence of individuality.

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

SNAP!



Our eye-catching buses displaying past students and their proud achievements.

SNAP!



Valentine's Day photos are available at Foto First in Knysna - please support our Grade 11 fundraiser.

Sweat and Camaraderie

- Iqraa Daniels

Dozens of tri-coloured students marched down Hospital Hill, clutching their yellow balloons and hand-painted boards sporting their house colours, either red for Jubilee, yellow for Millwood or blue for Bendigo. Imagine this swirl of primary colour mingled with Friday excitement. Add to the eclectic mix some curious war cries and still more curious bystanders. Add to this a heap of Oakhill Spirit and you have the basic recipe for the beginning of Oakhill's Inter-house Athletics.

Noteworthy happenings included a cute blue and smurf-like grade 8 boy on a unicycle, Bram running for all he was worth to win his race and deafening vuvuzelas throughout the event.



The winner of the inter-house athletics this year was red-hot Jubilee, while Bendigo, who won the Spirit trophy, proved that being blue is the opposite of misery. Sweat saturated, we watched the helium balloons drift upwards as we gloried in the collective spirit and camaraderie that is Oakhill.



When we arrived at the field, the palette parted to reveal separate colours. After a few announcements which no-one listened to, the "games" began. Off shot the very athletic, while the less athletic supported their houses by walking the 1500m. Sand flew with a speed matched only by the athletes as long jump and javelin was completed. Towards the end of the day, parents joined the yells, powered by sugary cakes and free coffee.



SNAP!



The new land changes daily with earthworks clearing the ground for exciting developments!

Know your Town

- Kristin Groenewald

On the 24th January 2013, I, Kristin Groenewald and 3 of my peers, Cosima Schunke, Luke Mincione and Amy Williams were accompanied by Rotary members and other students from various schools in the Knysna area, to attend a 2 day program called "Know Your Town".



The entire point of the excursion was to show the youth of South Africa how sectors of our country and the world as a whole, work. Sometimes people become so wrapped up in their own lives, they forget that the world is so much bigger than just an "us", our schools, our friends and our activities. To help change the world and to make a difference, we need to first understand how it functions.

Firstly, we sat in on a Town Council Meeting. We listened as members of the Democratic Alliance, the African National Congress and our own Mayor of Knysna, discussed important issues surrounding our province. It was absolutely amazing to be sitting in a room where we were listening to a discussion involving important decisions that were being analysed right in front of us. The session started with a prayer, then became formal; all cell phones were switched off.

The minutes from the previous session were revised to check for validity and accuracy of the statements made. After each meeting, a report with additional information is available from the Mayor on request. New members were introduced, the tourism agreement, financial reports and responsibilities, repairs and maintenance, investments and problems with service delivery were discussed. The members talked about the importance of progress and driving their projects with motivation rather than just managing them. Problem areas were not brushed aside, but brought to the fore with a focus on improvement. During intermission, it was interesting to see how the tension was suddenly much less and the political figures simply became people. People with voices, who wanted to have their side heard and to take care of our town. The debate was complex and intense, but critically important and fascinating.



We then visited the Court. We met the Head Prosecutor who explained to us how a legal case is set up. We were then taken into a Court room. He showed us the layout of the room; the gallery where the people sit quietly and watch the proceedings, where the accused

stands, where the witnesses stand, where the judge sits and where the guards are situated. He explained how a rape case would be treated. Where the victim can sit in a room separate from where the accused is, as they may not be able to be in the same room with their attacker. The victim listens to, watches and responds to everything via a monitor. We were then taken in to an actual case. This was a surreal moment. Outside people were going on with their daily business and literally an arms-length in front of us was a man who received a sentence of six years for theft, alcohol and drug abuse. He was shackled as he had escaped twice already. We truly got to witness the importance of justice.

Later, at the police station we were reminded that for every action there is a reaction and for every decision we make, there are consequences that people must face, as we were shown around the cells. Perhaps if more school children were shown what we saw that day, the crime rate would be substantially lower. It was incredible to have time with the police officers, to ask questions and to share momentarily what their jobs entailed. The officers were amazing and so approachable. They just wanted us to understand and learn as much as possible.

We saw a display of how fingerprints are collected. They showed us the special white powder that is dusted over a crime scene and the light that is shone over it, out of what looks like

Getting to know you

- Caroline Cross

The Grades 1, 2 and 3 pupils and their teachers enjoyed a “Getting to Know You” excursion at Adventure Land at the start of the term.



What a lot of fun was had in the land of slides, water and sun!



SNAP!



Grade 6 Headmaster’s Hike

- Neve Canny & Cole Battell

Report by Neve Canny :

The Grade 6 hike was great fun, with the hiking and sleeping.

Nobody could forget how bitterly cold the rivers were. We saw so many different creatures, like toads, rain spiders, snakes and even a scorpion. On the second night I think everybody had two minute noodles for dinner. We were so glad that we got back before it started to rain cats and dogs. There was thunder and lightning as we tried to get some sleep.

On the last day of the hike we were so fed up, that we just wanted to be back home and to see our families again.

Report by Cole Battell :

Wack! Whoop! Josh is smacking the ferns with a thin stick.

“Stop smacking the ferns!” I say.

“Why?” he asks.

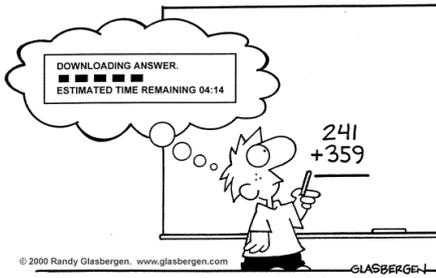
“Because the fern didn’t do anything to you, did it?”

“I suppose not,” he says, but still carries on.

“Ruben, RUN!” That is all I heard. Ruben ran and Ricardo told us that there was a boomslang on the path. He stayed calm and told us to move carefully around it. It was eating a chameleon. It started slithering away into the trees when Mr Schoeman arrived. He said we were really lucky to see a snake eating a chameleon. They were trying to take photos of it, but it was too hard to spot in the camera.

I think that was all we spoke about for the rest of the hike.





Continued from page 6...

a torch, but instead of a white light, a blue light shines forth. We shared an activity which was like broken telephone, but with movements, instead of sounds, to show how information changes as it is passed from person to person and how data is not always reliable. You cannot always believe everything one witness claims to have seen.

We saw a wide range of firearms at the police station; those taken from murder or attempted murder scenes, confiscated guns and those handed in. Then we took a trip to the morgue and were shown where the bodies are taken for autopsies. The specialist working there showed us the various equipment and instruments used. The gloves they use are called steel or chain gloves. They look like normal gloves except they have chains all over to protect the forensic specialists from injuring themselves while they are determining the cause of death. There was even a scale and a white board used for measuring and recording the plethora of lengths and weights of organs. This was really interesting.

Lastly we visited the library, a haven of knowledge. We were shown how to utilise the resources available there to gather the information we may need

Know your Town (cntd.)

- Kristin Groenewald

for our school work and projects.

On Friday, the 25th January 2013, our first port of call was the Knysna Provincial Hospital. It was wonderful to see the renovations and improvements being made to our local provincial hospital, where state patients will benefit greatly from these changes. We visited the dark room, where x-rays are developed, the orthopaedic ward, the maternity ward, the trauma ward. It was incredible to talk to the people who save lives on a daily basis.

Next on the list was a visit to the fire station. We thoroughly enjoyed this part of the tour. We got to see everything, from the enormous fire trucks to the incredible Jaws of Life, the different methods of extinguishing fires, for example, fires caused by oil spills cannot be put out with water, as oil is lighter than water and so simply floats on top of the water and so a special foam has to be used. Some of us even got to hold the fire hose and feel the astronomical pressure of the spray. It was an honour to have the opportunity to interact with such noble people. These firemen and women risk their lives to protect and rescue others. They do not get paid large sums of money and are actually not appreciated nearly as much as they should be. To meet people who are so dedicated, passionate, unselfish, caring and inspirational was a privilege and a moment I will never forget.

The second last part of our amazing excursion was a visit to SAN Parks - South African National Parks. Here we met people, who are those rare individuals, who can wake up in the

morning and know that they are making a difference in this world. Here, the leaders explained to us all about the plethora of projects that they design and are involved in to help contribute to saving the environment and working towards a greener future for everyone. We were taught about the importance of treasuring and protecting the biodiversity of our country, how the environment around us functions, how everything we do, makes an impact and how we can create a change for the better, as the youth of South Africa. Not just for ourselves, but for future generations. We also caught a glimpse of a Knysna treasure, the Knysna Seahorse.

To end our final day, we paid a visit to the NSRI - National Sea Rescue Institute. We looked at their boats and emergency equipment. We truly grasped the immensity of what these brave warriors, as volunteers do when they showed us a room with 21 life jackets set up in honour of the 21 lives lost during the process of saving others in the gargantuan waves over time.

The whole tour was an experience beyond finding the right and appropriate words to use – a most meaningful experience beyond words. We got to meet some of the best people. People who make our country and the world we live in a better place, simply by doing their jobs. It was an eye-opening adventure. Our perspective and views on life were really broadened. I learnt so much and would recommend this mini-journey to as many people as possible.

SNAP!



The high jump at the Inter House Athletics is always coloured with an assortment of moves!

Grade R visit Radical Raptors

- Caroline Payton



A visit to Radical Raptors was arranged so that we could learn more about birds of prey. We were welcomed by Janet and Dennis. The children were given an opportunity to hold the owls and a falcon, as well as watch birds hunting and catching rats (pretend ones). The last bird we were introduced to was a vulture called Mr Bones. Although he caused much excitement, he was quite intimidating with his very noisy approach as well as the mere size of him. We eventually asked Dennis to put him back in his enclosure! After a lovely picnic at the Heath we returned to school to have Aidan sell us ice lollies for tuck. "The best day ever!" the Grade R's told me.



Outeniqua Athletics Challenge

- Dave Pryke

Outeniqua Challenge: Athletics Meet versus Glenwood House and Curro

The final results were as follows:

- 3rd: Curro with 152 points
- 2nd: Oakhill with 564 points
- 1st: Glenwood with 747 points

Oakhill attended the annual Outeniqua Athletics meet held at Van Kerval in George on Thursday 7th February. Oakhill continues to produce some most amazing results from some extremely impressive athletes.

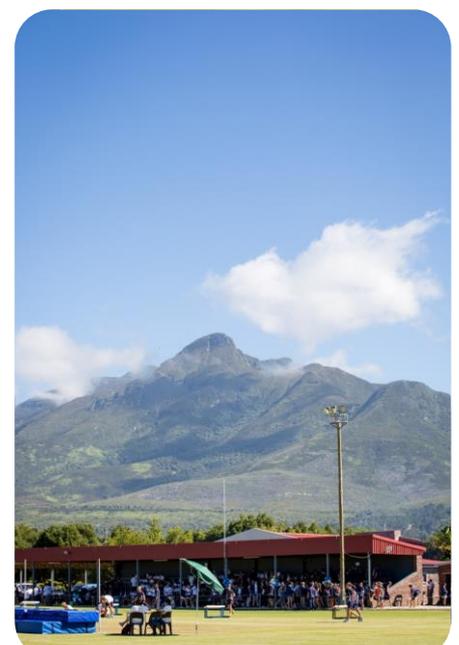
Oakhill is tremendously proud of this achievement as we continue to narrow the gap on our competitors. Although we do not have a full-time athletics programme we do provide an opportunity for our athletes who wish to excel, by providing them with professional coaches. Our coaches are:

There were notable performances by Kathryn Hemmes in shot put, Bianca Mincione in all her events and Ashleigh Weavers in 200m sprints, not to mention the efforts of Robert Edwards, Luché Janse van Veuren, Isabella Fulford, Julia Lamprecht, Morgan Watson, Christopher Watson, Steven Campbell, Jason Campbell, Matthew Fermor and Cosima and Emil Schunke.

- Charmaine Gayle: Junior world record holder (high jump) and Olympic athlete
- Rheta van Niekerk: Provincial athlete and multiple record holder for field events
- Marlett Watson: 3rd in the world for Heptathlon
- Hannalie Viljoen: Provincial field athlete and MIC Athletics



Special mention to:
 Junior Victrix Ludorum: Caitlin Quinlan
 Senior Victrix Ludorum: Anola Walk



Birthday Blue

- Kristin Groenewald

The 22nd and 23rd of February saw an Oakhill event that can only be described as “nights of magic”. Birthday Blue was held at the Barnyard Theatre in the Craggs. Walking into the venue, one could almost feel the excitement in the wooden structures. The energy and jubilation was palpable, almost tangible.

Birthday Blue was a magnificent Oakhill event. The amount of exceptional talent was mind-blowing. Sitting in the audience, I was honestly thinking that any number of the performers could be on T.V, their songs could be playing on the radio or I could be in the shops buying their CDs. Guitar, piano, the cello, drums and incredible vocals were some of the highlights. Every performer, from the breath-taking Charn, a pupil in

Grade 10, to the sensational Carmen Micic, to the gorgeous Spanish guitar brother-sister duo, Carla and Fransu Myburgh, brought something special and truly beautiful to the stage.

This year, the College and the Primary Schools performed on the same night to create a variety of culture and intrigue. There was not a person in the theatre who didn’t have chills running down their arms, legs and backs when Luyolo Mvimbi performed “You Raise me Up”. It was amazing to see the level of confidence and talent that exists at Oakhill amongst our pupils and the joy that music can bring to both the audience in pure appreciation and to the performers in action.

Birthday Blue was an event that allowed our school to truly showcase the extraordinary talents of our students. It allowed young people to give joy to other people through doing what they love and have worked so hard at.

Thank you and sincere congratulations to all the teachers involved and to each and every performer as well. Thank you for your dedication and determination. You were brilliant. I was so proud and honoured to have witnessed such a kaleidoscope of inspiration, sassiness and creativity.

Birthday Blue 2013 in three words:

A Roaring Success!

SNAP!



The Outeniqua Athletics Challenge showed superb talent, fierce war cries and lots of laughter from our school mascot ‘Allan’.

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Little Oaks share a special day with Grandparents. Songs in the hall and big hugs in the classrooms!

Chesterhouse Derby Weekend

- Dave Pryke



During the weekend of the 1st to the 3rd February Oakhill hosted Chesterhouse for a Summer Derby weekend where all Chesterhouse staff and students were hosted and a fun-filled weekend was had by all.

The swimming gala was a fantastic ice-breaker and the science of the wet T-shirt race will have publication produced shortly and maybe even appear on Discovery Channel. The Talent Show blew everyone out of their seats! The Chess was fiercely competitive with Chesterhouse coming up trumps, together with the Softball. Oakhill

may have taken the honours in the rest, but this was not a weekend of results... and needing to win... it was a weekend of having fun, enjoying competition, loving Knysna and its surrounds, networking, seeing how another like-minded school "rolls", but most importantly forming new friendships that will last for a lifetime.

It was all summed up for me whilst trying to get the Chesterhouse pupils onto their bus to depart - we had to untie them from their hosts... tears galore! When parent hosts say: "When can we do this again?", then you know, it has been a resounding success.

Thank you to all parents who generously opened their homes, and a special THANK YOU to Chesterhouse for travelling all the way to Knysna to share this special experience with us. A number of our parents were so impressed with the manners and behaviour of the Chesterhouse pupils and this is a credit to a lovely school.

The good news: We will see you in the 3rd term for the Winter Derby weekend in Cape Town!

SNAP!



Birthday Blue - our students were simply enthralling! In the words of Kristin Groenewald - Birthday Blue in three words : A Roaring Success!

SNAP!



Our new land - moving earth with a shovel and a spade and then the big machines rolled in - down to serious business!

Oakhill students donate to PAWS



Three Oakhill students showed their entrepreneurial flair when they participated in the Grade Seven Valentine's Day Market at the school last month. All the Grade Seven students were encouraged to show their resourcefulness by working in teams to produce products to sell, such as gifts, sweets, drinks, flowers, cookies or games to play.

Luc van den Handel, Joe Bruwer and Samuel Orsmond came up with a proper business plan to sell Slush Puppies at the market and their excellent teamwork resulted in a handsome profit of R500. The boys then decided to donate their income to two charities, one of which is PAWS. The boys presented their donation to the PAWS kennel manager, Tracy van der Bijl

and also enjoyed meeting some of the dog beneficiaries of their kind gesture.

Well done to these budding young business brains! The boys will be encouraging other students to explore similar projects.



Students Samuel Orsmond, Joe Bruwer and Luc van den Handel

SNAP!



Old Oak Alistair Pott comes "home". Alistair treated us to a wonderful assembly and then we treated him with a visit to the new land, accompanied by Mr Kidwell and the SRC... on his branded bus!

Chukka Water Polo Festival

- Dave Pryke



Oakhill took on Water Polo as a school sport some three seasons ago and have directed the province's fixtures and administrative structures ever since. The George schools have "come to the party" in a big way and improved considerably to ensure that the competition between all four schools, namely: Outeniqua, York, Glenwood House and Oakhill, is healthy and exciting.

College Festival and two pools running simultaneously, the hive of activity at the Knysna Waterfront was an experience not to be missed. This brought a huge number of feet to the Waterfront and benefitted local business to a large extent, together with placing Oakhill firmly on the Water Polo map.

In recent weeks, Glenwood Boys got one up on Oakhill 1st Team by beating them 5-4, with the Oakhill Girls going up 7-4. York Girls are a strong unit and won convincingly earlier in the term (16-4) with the Oakhill 1st Team Boys winning (5-1) – Oakhill u15 Boys won 11-6 and u15 Girls won 13-1. Oakhill took all four Water Polo teams to Woodridge last weekend and performed extremely well. Results: 1st Boys: Alex Road 2nd: Won 6 – 2; St Georges: Won 5 – 3; Woodridge 2nd: Won 7 – 2. 1st Girls: Alex Road 2nd: Won 5 – 3; Alex Road 3rd: Won 9 – 2; Woodridge 1st: Lost 9 – 2.

A number of Cape Town schools participated, together with the local "big four", in what is an incredibly unique Water Polo Festival. It is the only such permanent, open-water facility in Africa and possibly the only such schools' festival in the world. There may only be half a dozen like facilities world-wide. So, for any young Water Polo player, it is an incredibly special experience. Oakhill will continue to endeavour to grow this festival for next year, as we embark on our third year of hosting this extremely impressive event.

We had a number of top class referees officiating at the festival, led by none other than Ian Mellier, international, Olympic and World Championship referee, together with three other highly qualified referees.

Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records.

- William Arthur Ward

Following three days of Water Polo in the Knysna Quays, the Oakhill hosted Chukka Water Polo Festival was a resounding success. With 14 teams taking part in the

SNAP!



An action packed Chukka Festival with stiff competition from all teams.

Little Oaks Dress Up Day



Our Little Oaks sport clothing for the working class on their Dress Up Day.

SNAP!



21 Years of Oakhill Art at the Knysna Mall during our birthday weekend celebrations.

SNAP!



Happy people! Happy school!



Closed for the Holidays!



THE JOY OF LEARNING

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Part of the 21st birthday celebrations was the 'Harlem Shake', organized by our SRC President Lulu Read and the video created by Matric student Thomas Marrow. Please visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-L_LhqTOL9o to view in full.

The Harlem Shake is an Internet meme in the form of a video in which a group of people performs a comedy sketch accompanied by a short excerpt from the song "Harlem Shake". As a meme, the video was replicated by many people, using the same concept, and this rapidly led to it becoming viral in early February 2013, with thousands of "Harlem Shake" videos being made and uploaded to YouTube every day.

- Wikipedia

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

**Travel safely and
Happy Holidays!
School reopens on
9 April 2013**