

Oakhill Echoes

June 2013

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| The SciFest | 1 |
| Glenwood Derby Day | 3 |
| Grade 4 Camp | 4 |
| People caring for People | 5 |
| Caring to share | 6 |
| Move to the beat | 7 |
| Grade 5 Hike | 7 |
| Another busy day | 9 |
| Cabaret | 10 |
| Little Oaks Children of the World | 11 |
| A Clean Sweep | 13 |
| Our own Provincial Fisherman | 14 |
| A virus ate my Homework | 16 |
| Oakhill Odyssey 2013 | 17 |

SNAP!



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



Ciara Mayne, shortly before performing on her bagpipes for our Little Oaks on Children of the World Day.

The SciFest

- Ethan Watts

We climbed aboard the bus and drove all the way to Grahamstown, but before we reached our destination, we stopped twice. We stopped at Storms River to grab a bite to eat and sometime later we stopped at a farm store where we had lunch - yummy.

Once we reached Grahamstown everybody met on the field and after supper we all went to bed and slept till six the next morning.

When everyone was ready for the day, we went to SciFest Africa. Our group went to Imaging the Moving Earth. I'm not going to mention everything, but we built micro-rockets and it was awesome-epic. We built

micro cars and my car was the second fastest which was pretty fun.

On the last day we went to a laser show which was the most fantastic, epic thing I have ever seen in my life. Thank you for reading my report.



SNAP!

What a wonderful, interactive World Book Day at Oakhill!!

*It started with a letter from the Grade 3's, wishing me a wonderful South African World Book Day and in the words of Dr Seuss :
"The more that you read, the more things you will know! The more that you know, the more places you'll go."
Yes, Dr Seuss, how right you are!*

And then the Grade Sevens read stories to the Little Oaks and the Grade Fours read stories to the Grade Ones. The Grade Sixes read stories to the Grade Threes and the Grade Fives read stories to the Grade Twos and everyone was so happy!

"THE BODY ACHIEVES
WHAT THE MIND
BELIEVES"



Glenwood Derby Day

- Dave Pryke

Oakhill travelled to George last Saturday to take part in a Derby Day with Glenwood House. This annual Winter Derby is always a fantastic experience for the pupils and staff. It displays all the attributes of competition, fun, friendship and relationships.

The sporting disciplines include Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Tennis as well as Chess. This year was a particularly evenly contested affair with the spoils being evenly shared between both schools. If all the matches are evenly contested then it leads to a successful Derby Day.....and this year was exactly that.

The results for Oakhill are as follows:

Hockey: 1st XI Boys: lost 0 – 1; 1st XI Girls: lost 1 – 2; u16 Boys: won 2 – 0; u16 Girls: won 4 – 0
2nd XI Girls: drew 0 – 0; u14 Boys: won 1 – 0;
u14 Girls: drew 0 – 0

Netball: u18 Girls: lost 4 – 10; M.O.M: Lauren Perkins; u16 Girls: lost 8 – 10; M.O.M: Sarah Frost

u14 Girls: lost 5 – 15 M.O.M: Bianca Mincione

Rugby: u16's lost 5 – 17; u18's lost 7 – 32

Tennis: Doubles results: drew 1 match each

Chess: drew 16 games each

To all the players and coaches, a massive thank you for your tireless commitment and dedication to sport at Oakhill. This will be the Derby that we will assess ourselves to see where we are at!

Good luck for the Winter Sports Programme!



SNAP!



Amy Williams recently took part in the Kammanassie mountain bike race in Oudtshoorn. She achieved a 1st place in both the Woman's and Junior categories. Amy has recently earned a kit sponsorship from BMC.

We are so proud of her achievements!

Grade 4 Camp

- Richard du Plessis



Grade 4 Camp
by Richard du Plessis
13 April 2012

On Friday we got on the bus to go to Millwood. It was one heck of a long trip until we got there. When we got there we went on a hike to the Bendigo Mines. When we got to the Bendigo Mines we went to a tunnel. We put our lights on when we went into the tunnel because it was dark. When we got out of the tunnel we went to swim. The water was ICE COLD!!! Only a few swam because it was so cold. When we finished swimming we went and joined the other groups and then we walked to where we were going to sleep. The next day the bus took us to the next hiking spot. After the hike we ate hot dogs and played after that the bus took us back to school and then went home.

The day that the Knysna Elephant was spotted by Richard du Plessis, Liam Watts, Josh Kidwell, Diego Pires and Thando Rolisisu.
See www.knysnaplettherald.com for the full story.



Our Grade 4's enjoyed their camp to Millwood with exploring and many fun activities.
Article by Richard du Plessis.

**SNAP!**

Our new land is leveled for our cricket pitches. Image taken 11 April 2013.

SNAP!*Beautiful and creative artwork from our Little Oaks.***People caring for people**

- Caroline Pichler

What a wonderful start for the "It's about People" group at Oakhill, who enjoyed their very first interactive drive with many more to come. We started off by giving heaps of cosy blankets, donated by the high school pupils at Oakhill, to the Paula Whitney Crèche, since it is going to be a very cold winter. There were in excess of 50 blankets and I cannot explain how grateful and happy the little ones were when they received them.

We spent an hour playing with them and just giving them lots of love on Friday afternoon. It is our mission to help and care for people and to make a difference in their lives. We are already considering our next project.

Our sincere thanks to all who supported the "Blanket Project". They went a long way in bringing smiles of joy to many little children.

Visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Its-About-People/147733805383342



Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.

- Margaret Mead



SNAP!

Our cricket pitch with planted grass starting to sprout and our staff assisting with the aesthetics. Image taken 6th May 2013.

Caring to Share

- Barbie Leibbrandt



The cast of "Dear Edwina", comprising grades 4 to 7 pupils at Oakhill, sang their way into the hearts of the audience this morning; there were those who had joined us from Garden Gates, Leisure Gardens, Sanel and Vermont Service Centre, to enjoy the dress rehearsal of Oakhill's first musical production. What a special show!

The guests were served and treated to tea and cookies after the performance, sitting on the benches outside the hall, enjoying their treats, sharing the joys of the show and soaking up the warmth of another beautiful day in Knysna.



Some of their thoughts - Margaret Owen from Garden Gates shared : "I thoroughly enjoyed it and appreciate the work behind the scenes. The children had such

wonderful expressions."

Brenda du Plessis, also from Garden Gates, had the following to say: "I loved it. I loved listening to Luyolo sing. What a talent."

Rosemary McKenzie, also a resident at Garden Gates, and who has attended many community outreach shows at Oakhill, said simply: "What great fun."

lives of others.



Beryl Forster, who resides at Leisure Gardens, thought it was a marvelous performance and Daphne Solomon from the Vermont Service Centre thought it was very beautiful.

Perhaps the best of all, was the opportunity to share our joys and talents with the community, sparking smiles and making a difference in the





Move to the beat

- Luc van den Handel

On the 15th May 2013 the Prep pupils of Oakhill watched a show in their hall by the Drumtree - O. They played some awesome songs as well as involving the audience in a jam with pipes, sticks and shakers. The audience also learned about beats, different kinds of music, groovin', jazz and a dance off to the wonders of funk. It was amazing!



Grade 5 Hike



Grade 5's hiking in our beautiful forest.

When we started the hike we walked down the road in the forest, after 1km we saw two trees - an elephant had knocked them down to eat and it was fresh.

I had a little biltong before we continued our hike. When we came to a huge tree we stopped for a photo.

We came to a lovely clearing with long green grass and had lunch. When we continued the hike we came to the river where Mr Bridge broke his finger last year and we swam. After about an hour we walked to the road.

On the second day my dad hiked with me. Nothing interesting happened except for finding a very tall mushroom and discovering that I had hiking stamina.

- Deanna Smith

On the 12 April at 12 o clock we packed the bus and left for Diepwalle. It took a while to get there but when we did we unpacked the bus and went for the first hike, the White Elephant Trail. It was 8km. It was fun walking with our friends and swimming with them.

When we finished we were tired. We made a fire and had supper. After

supper we were running around like a child should. But then we were tired and went to bed. Except for us boys who were talking and laughing and then BAM we were asleep!

Next day we were woken up by the beautiful sunrise. Then we had breakfast which to us was a bowl of cereal.

Many parents came for the hike. Then we were off on the Red Elephant Hike! The forest was amazing! But the hills were a pain in the

Poor Mr Bridge had a migraine and had to leave. When we came to the 7km (sigh) sign we were finished and we all left for home.

- Richard Cross



DEAR MOM

Dear Mom:
 How do we love you? Let us count the ways ...
 Your bangles that jangle, sparkle our days.
 Your caramel cookies, your toasted cheeses,
 They're top of the menu, as real crowd-pleasers!

Dear Mom:
 Some Moms are schick, some Moms are thin,
 Some Moms wear faces that are ever so prim.
 Our Mom is different, a little bit round,
 With a smile that shines as her love abounds.

Dear Mom:
 Thank you for your love so sweet,
 Thank you that you're so upbeat,
 You're a Mom in a million from every which way,
 It's you we cherish, for you we pray.

Dear Mom:
 Go north, go south, go east, go west,
 Our Mom is a legend, never stopping to rest,
 She kicks her heals and goes out of her way,
 To support her Family, each and every day.

Dear Mom:
 You may not be a lady fair,
 But you're one fine Mom, with a gentle flair,
 A flair for kindness, for sharing your touch,
 That's why we're blessed and we love you so much.

Dear Mom:
 Your beauty shines through from day to day,
 You touch our lives in a special way.
 You're an amazing homemaker and so much more,
 We think about you daily with love galore.

Dear Mom:
 It's that time of year to celebrate with meaning,
 To show our appreciation with sincerity and feeling.
 To make it known that you're an absolute gem,
 It's you we treasure with a loud Amen!

~ Barbie | May 2013

OAKHILL
 1992 2013
 THE JOY OF LEARNING

Mother's Day



The special people in our lives who love, share, care and bring boundless joy to our world - our special mums!



Father's Day Soccer



Our Prep fathers were in for a tough time playing football against their energetic sons and daughters.

Another busy day!

– Barbie Leibbrandt



There is never a dull moment on the Oakhill campus and today was no exception. Joyful learning and love abounded in every corner of the campus.

Whilst the Oakhill Interactors spread love generously, the Little Oaks celebrated "Children of the World", the Matric Drama students shared their amazing talents with the College teachers and students, the band practised for this evening's Matric dance fundraiser, the Grade 4's spent time outside learning about the power of the sun, the Grade 2s sang happy, happy birthday to Jade, the Grade 3s presented orals and then shared their delicious food tasting experience with anyone who was wise enough to be in the right place at the right time ... and that is not all, just a taste of another busy day at Oakhill!



There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.

-Walt Streightiff



Our Little Oaks and Grade 3's celebrate Children of the World

Cabaret

- Michaela Millar



It was entitled "The Seven Sins" and funny was its best quality. This dramatic, yet hilarious drama production written by Miss Dreyer made everyone laugh till their stomachs hurt. Characters, such as James Cooney and Bram Thorpe brought the house down with their hilarious accents and costumes.

Everyone involved in the production was excellent and suited their characters perfectly. On the final night of the production, as thanks were being given to Miss Dreyer by her cast, someone commented, "A job well done", to which Miss Dreyer replied, "and I controlled Bram!" which was the last laugh of the night.

The Cabaret was a splendid production. Many thanks to Miss Dreyer and her cast for all the laughs.

SNAP!

Oakhill Musicians joined forces with Steeler last Friday evening. A Grade 11 initiative to raise funds for the 2013 Matric Dance. A festive atmosphere, topped with amazing talents, made for a successful evening.

SNAP!

Our Prep students played inter-house touch rugby at Bollard Bay on another beautiful afternoon in Knysna, whilst parents cheered them on.

Little Oaks celebrate Children of The World

- Caroline Payton



This is certainly one of the highlights at Little Oaks every year. All three classes spent two weeks learning about different countries from all around our world. To end this theme, we celebrated by having a special Children of the World party. The children came to school dressed as children from other countries and we had Chinese, Serbians, Spaniards and French to mention but a few. Our day started with a parade to the music, "It's a small, small world."



Luca Nigrini proudly shows his karate costume.



The children were then entertained by belly dancers from Egypt and dancers from Rome and Russia. Our Mandarin teacher demonstrated the art of paper folding and cutting. Our deputy head of school played his piano accordion and we ended this session by following the bag pipe player from Scotland around the garden!



We were then treated to the taste of foods from all over the world and although not everyone was prepared to be adventurous, the food was enjoyed by all. Our sincere thanks go to all who assisted and particularly to Cheryl Wolf, parents, teachers and college students, whose hard work and contributions made this day such a success.

SNAP!

Mother's Day happened to fall on Barbie's birthday so double bonus for Barbie - hugs, flowers, treats and most importantly - love from everyone on the Oakhill campus!



Little Oaks share a morning of song, activities and creativity with their Moms on a beautiful Mother's Day.

SNAP!



Mikayla Oliver recently took part in the SA National Track Cycling Champs held at the Bellville Velodrome. Considering this is only the 2nd time Mikayla has been on a track she did exceptionally well. She won 2 gold medals, 4 silver and 1 bronze medal in the individual events and 2 silver for the team pursuit. She was asked to stay on to attend a track training camp being held by Australian coach Ian Melvin, Queensland Academy of Sport, Cycling Head Coach.

A Clean Sweep



A successful and action packed hockey weekend!

Oakhill Boys' Hockey put up their hands over the weekend to win all their matches against Outeniqua, a school ten times the size of Oakhill. The u14 Boys set the scene with a committed 3-0 win, with captain Scott Armstrong leading from the front and converting some strongly hit short corners. Sam Mvimbni impressed, together with Ben Pama and Dimitri Paggis. However, the strength of

this unit lies in the commitment of the rest of the team who have bought into the vision and have transformed this team into a formidable unit. The u14 Boys were awarded the Team of the Week.

The u16 Boys have gone unbeaten, albeit having certain u16's playing for the 1st XI and an injury to Steven Campbell. A closely contested encounter saw Oakhill come up trumps with some brilliance from Jake Turner and yet another solid A clean sweep for Oakhill Boys' Hockey against Outeniqua

Oakhill Boys' Hockey put up their hands over the weekend to win all their matches against Outeniqua, a school ten times the size of Oakhill. The u14 Boys set the scene with a committed 3-0 win, with captain Scott Armstrong leading from the front and converting some strongly hit short corners. Sam Mvimbni impressed, together with Ben Pama and Dimitri Paggis. However, the strength of this unit lies in the commitment of the rest of the team who have bought into the vision and have transformed this team into a formidable unit. The u14 Boys were awarded the Team of the Week.

The u16 Boys have gone unbeaten, albeit having certain u16's playing for the 1st XI and an injury to Steven Campbell. A closely contested encounter saw Oakhill come up trumps with some brilliance from Jake Turner and yet another solid performance from Man of the Match Nic Thomson. Once again the rest of the team came to the party and must take

credit for the 2-1 win.

The 1st XI Boys produced their performance of the season. The back four were as solid as ever, Caleb Bell controlled the game and Thomas Marrow was clinical in front of goal. Jono van der Merwe was "Mr Consistent" making very few errors. The team has clicked under the astute leadership of Stephen Cameron and coach, Chicco Ponela. Congratulations on a fantastic result. Final results: an emphatic 5 – 1 win.

Although the Oakhill Girls' teams lost their matches, credit must go to the Outeniqua Girls who are a well-organized outfit. Oakhill Girls' Hockey has been hugely impressive this season with some fantastic results. What summed up their courage and determination was the fact that the 1st XI, after going down to Outeniqua, were able to pick themselves up and draw with NMMU 1-1, one of the strongest teams in the Women's League.

Results: u14 Girls lost 0 – 2; u16 Girls lost 0 – 1; 2nd XI Girls lost 0 – 4; 1st XI Girls lost 0 – 4; 1st Girls Women's League vs NMMU drew 1 – 1 results. What summed up their courage and determination was the fact that the 1st XI, after going down to Outeniqua, were able to pick themselves up and draw with NMMU 1-1, one of the strongest teams in the Women's League.

Results: u14 Girls lost 0 – 2; u16 Girls lost 0 – 1; 2nd XI Girls lost 0 – 4; 1st XI Girls lost 0 – 4; 1st Girls Women's League vs NMMU drew 1 – 1.

- Dave Pryke

Our Own Provincial Fisherman

- Dave Pryke



Oakhill has caught its very own Provincial Fisherman!

Franco Duminy has been doing for years, what many of us can only dream of ... catching fish! And to add to this, he does it properly, often, and reels in all shapes and sizes!

Getting up at 03h00 in the morning, being wet and cold for most of the day ... there is certainly a whole lot more to fishing than just casting and catching!

Selection is usually worked on points (for quantity and size) of fish caught over a three year period. Franco has done it his way; he has received his provincial call up for points accrued in a matter of only two years.

Following the Summer League season, Franco has fished for the Knysna Rock and Surf Club. In the C League, his team came

second and received silver medals. Albeit that Franco is only 17, he has achieved a second place in the u21 age group in the Southern Cape League, and this includes the entire Knysna, George and Still Bay area.

For his consistent results, Franco has been selected to represent the Provincial u21 Team (only 6 per team) to take part in Nationals in Struisbaai at the end of the year.

We wish you luck, Franco, we ask you please to take photographs of the fish you catch and ... please do not let the big one get away!



Franco Duminy

SNAP!



Gabriella Lubner and her pony, Billy Bob, were selected to represent the Eastern Province in the forthcoming South African Pony Championships to be held from June 29 through July 7 in Port Elizabeth. It is her birthday on Thursday, so a beautiful gift to celebrate her special day!

SNAP!

A beautiful way to share Children of the World with our very special Little Oaks. See page 11 for the full story.

A virus ate my homework!

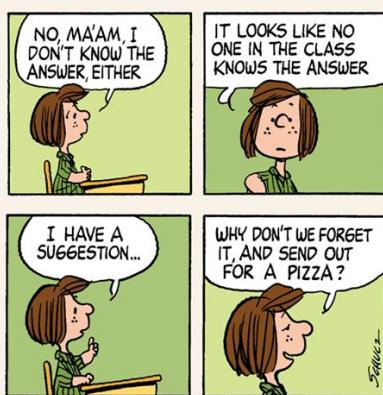
- Iqraa Daniels



Phillip Mangiza wheels in technology.



The Computer on Wheels.



The long awaited Computers on Wheels arrive at Oakhill!

For two years our weary ears were subjected to our Headmaster's speeches on advancing Oakhill technology. He grandly proclaimed that by 2014 we would all be working on devices such as laptops or iPads, rather than in crumpled exam pads. I was one of the many skeptics. How would it be feasible for over two hundred students all to have 'a device'?



COW is an acronym for Computers on Wheels. These 30 laptops use Windows 8 and are stored in a portable 'box' on wheels. Teachers book online and the COW is then wheeled to whomever has booked it and the students then have access for the duration of one lesson. This was all hearsay to me, as I had not experienced using these wonders myself.



On our return from Odyssey (that is the Grade 10 group), we heard about a mysterious COW creature that had taken up a spot on the campus, making lessons fun and even more informative with access to the internet. One could type quickly, rather than scrawl on scraps of paper. Filing was suddenly easy, even to the most disorganized student, as work was stored on flash drives or in a 'cloud' and with access to our work from anywhere. One could listen to music on these devices, enhancing concentration.

Computers came to us! We no longer needed to waste time by trooping to the slightly musty IT Center. It sounded unbelievable; a futuristic utopia amidst young oak trees.

Last period of the day - Afrikaans. Everyone was bored and fidgety, daydreaming of a 20 kilometer hike on the beach with our Odyssey group. As suddenly as a wave slapping our feet, our teacher informed us that we would be using the COW for the period. After experiencing it, I can truly say that it was as efficient, fast and absorbing as advertised on stage in assembly. It is thrilling that Oakhill has taken this step forward and technology will be integrated into our curriculum as surely as it will be integrated into our various careers and future. A great thank you to everyone involved in allowing the student body to experience this privilege.

Now, I'm wondering, should 'My dog ate my homework' change to 'A virus ate my homework...?'

SNAP!



Matric Drama students took the College quad by storm - what a fantastic performance!

Oakhill Odyssey 2013

Odyssey 2013 - from a Student's Perspective
21 days, 450 kilometres, cycling, hiking, canoeing, a plethora of terrains...



That's thirty thousand, two hundred and forty (30 240) minutes or one million, eight hundred and fourteen thousand, four hundred (1 814 400) seconds and 45 000 000 centimetres or 450 000 000 millimetres. If you were to ask the grade before, the very first group of individuals to go on Odyssey, what should be expected, you would only hear whispers. Whispers of the horrors of unshaved legs, advice to bag as many packets of two minute noodles as possible, keep dry, avoid baboons and the shoes, oh, the shoes: your most valuable possession.



Allow me to explain something very important: Odyssey is what you made of it. It's that simple! We had good, healthy food. We were always safe. The choice was yours – be negative and you would not enjoy it. As with everything in life, if you allow negativity to rule you, you won't achieve what you are capable of. But if you just let it, Odyssey could and would change your life.



Yes, I won't lie and say that it was not difficult. It was probably one of the most physical and exhausting experiences of our lives, but that is the point. If it was easy, it would be an ordinary camp; it wouldn't test you. Life isn't easy and one

day we might just wish our biggest problem was climbing a mountain. Odyssey teaches you the meaning of strength, how to deal with conflict in difficult situations, how to make decisions and take responsibility for your actions, whether the consequences are good or bad. We are growing into the people that we will one day become. We have to make sure we want to be that person.



Odyssey allows one to understand what camaraderie really is, compassion, unity, teamwork. If your friend doesn't make it to camp, neither do you. It teaches you to truly be there for one another, through the wonderful times and the impossible times. Odyssey allows you to see what you are capable of. You surprise yourself, how extraordinary you really can be. On Odyssey, there is no technology, no distractions. It is a time where you can learn about yourself, make unforgettable memories with your friends, uncover the most amazing or surprising traits about the people around you, grow close to someone you never even considered part of your "crowd". Odyssey allows you to go on an indescribable adventure to witness the most magnificent parts of our country. There were times when I literally stood in awe of my surroundings, wondering if I'd stepped into a postcard. This phenomenal experience teaches you priceless life skills and teaches you to remember that you cannot allow your circumstances to define who you are, but the choices you make.

I asked my peers if they would ever consider doing Odyssey again. I got a myriad of colourful answers, but the general response was: yes. One of my friends even said she'd leave today if she

- Kristin Groenewald

could. To all the future groups that will head out, I know you'll be nervous, not knowing what to expect. We all were. Embrace it! Even if you feel you hate it at the time. When you are there, home is still somewhere you can go, but when you are home, you can't go on Odyssey again. Appreciate every millisecond, because how often can we say that we get the chance to escape? Escape to a place just for you. You will learn so much. Odyssey is a testimony to the human spirit. It shows the very essence of humanity's ability to endure, transform and love.

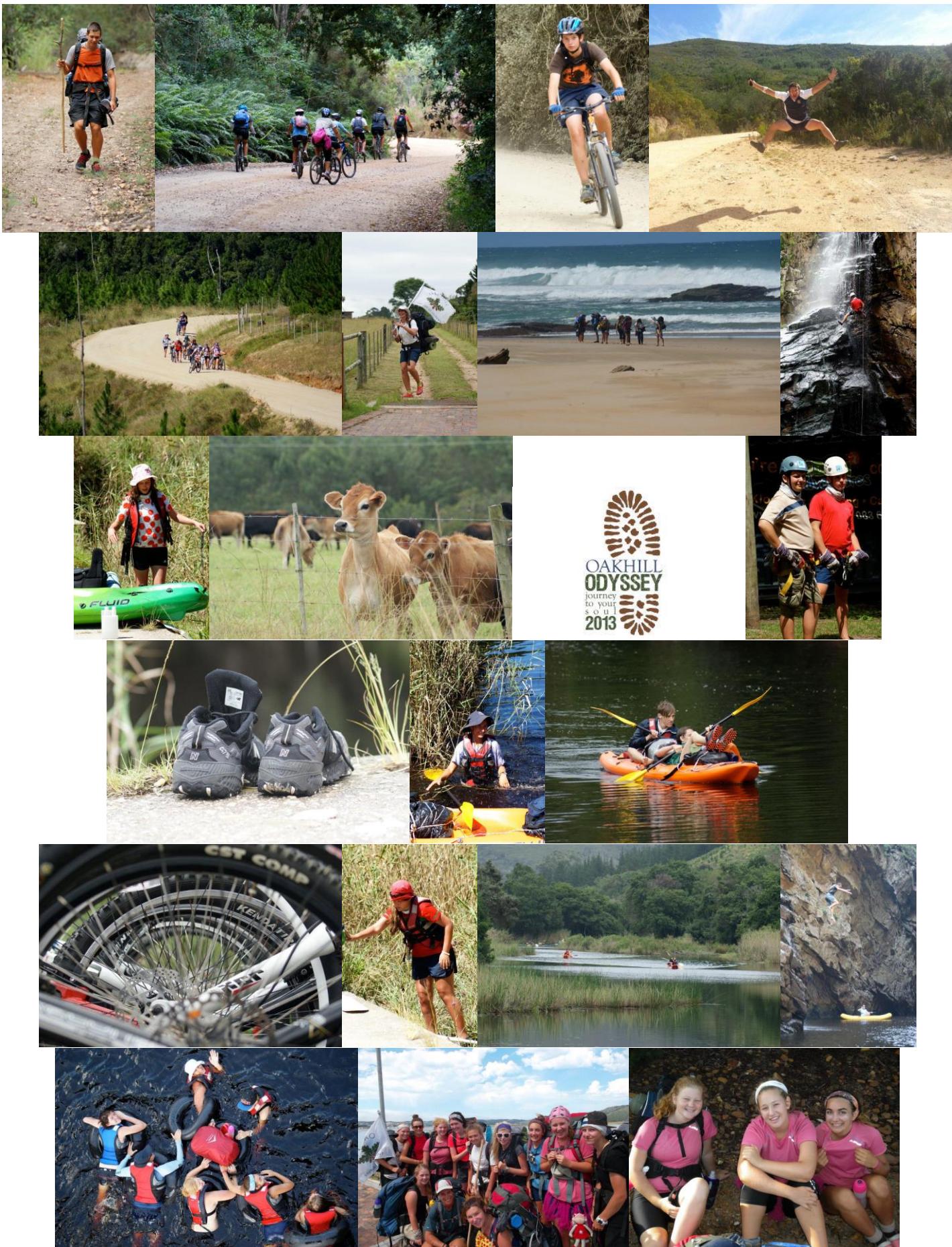


To every single teacher involved, we cannot thank you enough and a special, gargantuan thank you to Mr van Straten. Without him, this adventure could never have been possible!



Oakhill Odyssey 2013

- Riaan van Straten



SNAP!



Niklas Martin, Adam Oosthuizen, Joshua Pama; Jessica Ganthsi, Micaela Pretorius, Margeaux Zonnestein and Luka van Schoor - our Matric class of 2013.



Lulu Read, Kathryn Hemmes, Jonathan van der Merwe, Ashleigh Weavers, Thomas Marrow, Penelope Ceillier and The Matric Class of 2013 celebrate special times.



Closed for the Holidays!



Our fathers participate in a fun-filled morning with their children in celebration of Father's Day.



Oakhill School

Uitsig Street
Heuwelkruin
Knysna, 6571
South Africa

Phone:
+27 44 382-6506

Fax:
+27 44 382-5753

Oakhill Echoes E-mail:
oakhillechoes@oakhillschool.co.za

www.oakhillschool.co.za

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

My father gave me the greatest gift
anyone could give another person;
he believed in me.

- Jim Valvano

Travel safely and
Happy Holidays!
School reopens on
16 July 2013