

Oakhill Echoes

September 2013

SNAP!

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Tyres & Takkies | 1 |
| 67 Minutes for Madiba | 3 |
| Oakhill take Cape Town by Storm | 4 |
| Pimp my Crèche | 5 |
| Girls are, Oh So Fabulous | 6 |
| 2013 Chinese Competition | 7 |
| Jubilee Red Love Project | 8 |
| SRC Food Evening and Interact Fashion Show | 11 |
| Spring Fling | 12 |
| Howzit China! | 14 |



Mark Davies and partner, Mirren Sharp and partner, Jack Duthie and partner.

Our Matric students celebrate their Matric Farewell at Quinta da Montanha on a beautiful evening. Thanks to the Grade 11 Committee for making the evening a real special one! See more photos throughout this edition.



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

Tyres & Takkies

- Justine Edwards

Although the weather was quite a challenge (very cold and windy but thankfully no rain), there was still a magnificent turn-out of keen runners and cyclists at our Tyres & Takkies held in Rheenendal. Young and not so young competed on foot and by pedal with super prizes awarded to competitors after a fun filled day.

Fun activities, delicious food, a stunning tea garden, a truly beautiful setting and extremely fresh air made this a highly successful event. Thanks to our tireless parents, staff, students and co-ordinators who made this such a special day.

Looking forward to seeing you all next year!



Headmaster Shane Kidwell enjoying the ride.



Grade 10 students Amy Williams and Luche Janse van Veuren at the SRC Food and Fashion evening.

SNAP!

A very sad farewell was made to two Oakhill legends: Sheila Pasio and Barbie Leibbrandt; both having served many years at Oakhill. Sheila, an impressive 20 years and Barbie close behind on 18 years. Very emotional goodbyes for these special ladies.



Students line up to give this gentle lady a heartfelt hug.



Hugs galore and so well deserved! The pathway lined with parents, staff and children to show love and appreciation for Barbie.



Sixty Seven Minutes for Madiba

- Barbie Leibbrandt

The Oakhill Prep School has been abuzz with their “67 Minutes for Madiba” this morning. Each grade chose to do something different for Madiba and each chosen activity embraced a life value.

The Foundation Phase invited Staff and little ones from the Paula Whitney Crèche to join them. On arrival they were treated to cups of hot, homemade soup and fresh sandwiches that the Grade 1s and 2s had prepared themselves with the help of their kind and thoughtful teachers. With full tummies, they then created their own beautiful rainbow. It sparkled with love! Mr Bantom, Mrs Nicoll, Mrs Koekemoer and the Grade 3s told stories to the children and then it was time for some outdoor play, touched with holding hands and sharing love.

Tired, but happy, the little ones and their Teachers climbed aboard the Oakhill bus at 12h15, each with a bag of treats, which included snacks and juice and crayons and a lovely colouring booklet that Rebekah Lamb (Matric 2012) had created. It read: “I am glad I am me. I have my own smile. I have my own special talents. But one thing makes us all the same We’re all part of this beautiful rainbow nation and make it special in our own little ways.”

As I strolled about, I continued to be warmed by the love and care that abounded on our campus today. The Grade 7’s were sharing with the Little Oaks, engaging in all sorts of fun

activities with them and as I watched their interacting, I was amazed at how comfortable some of our youngsters appeared in dealing with the tots at Little Oaks. There are definitely some budding teachers amongst them! I then strolled up to the outdoor classroom, to find groups of Grade 4s making mountains of delicious sandwiches, which they delivered themselves to the Out Patients at the Knysna Provincial Hospital. Such amazing thoughtfulness! As I turned to move on, I bumped into some busy bees with cups of hot chocolate – Grade 5s this time serving cookies and lemonade and hot chocolate and in so doing raising funds for the Knysna Child Welfare. They had also been busy in the area with a litter clean-up and something else that caught my eye, they were selling tickets, enticing staff and pupils to tackle some “slack-lining”, a similar concept to tight rope walking! I couldn’t find the Grade 6s! Where on earth were they? Well, they had climbed aboard the Oakhill bus and had made their way to the Animal Welfare shelter, where they paired up, worked out the personality of a given dog and decided what sort of a home it should be assigned to. Then they were given an opportunity to walk their hounds around the Knysna Sport School field, amidst wagging tails and happy barks!

A refreshing morning, to say the least. I know that Madiba would have been proud of our Oakhill pupils, and even better, I know that they enjoyed serving their 67 Minutes for Madiba.



SNAP!



Love and care for our Little Oaks from the Grade 7's - 67 Minutes for Madiba.

Oakhill take Cape Town by Storm!

- Dave Pryke



Oakhill embarked on a Derby Weekend of monstrous proportions last weekend, taking 143 Oakhill students and staff to Cape Town for the weekend. This is part of the sporting strategy, where we take all our sporting teams to compete against opposition to create a festival atmosphere and teach them life skills like in no other way possible.

The pupils were involved in an array of disciplines (Hockey, Rugby, Soccer, Netball and Chess) and cultural activities (Battle of the Bands and musical items) and also participated in a number of team building and interactive games and competitions. The weekend culminated in a fantastic social with a theme, "Fire and Ice" where they danced the night away and were able to socialize with their competitors and hosts. All students and staff were hosted – 143 people in total – a massive achievement by Chesterhouse and El Shaddai. Our pupils were exposed to all the life skills of team sports and interacting with peers of similar age from different academic institutions. Being hosted is one of the greatest life skills that you can learn and a big thank you to those of you who were hosted on your own.....I believe you got spoilt rotten!

Although we arrived in stormy weather, all the fixtures remained as per itinerary except for the Netball being moved indoors, a lovely experience for our players, and the Mountain Biking was moved to the Saturday. Those who were able to take part in the Mountain Biking raved about the course which was very

technical and one of the toughest in the country. The competition against our opposition (from similar sized schools) was a great match with most of the fixtures being a true test for us. For this reason and many others e.g. like-minded schools, fantastic people, polite students and many other compatibilities, this fixture will become an annual event, taking part on a home and away basis. In 2014 Oakhill will be the hosts.....please start with alterations on your houses with immediate effect.....we need to accommodate the masses!

I would like to thank all Oakhill staff who gave up their weekend to provide this fantastic opportunity for the Oakhill pupils and especially to thank all hosting families. However, a very special mention must be made to Sonya Adams (Chesterhouse) and Peter Sawyers (El Shaddai) who arranged the entire weekend.

At Oakhill we must be doing some things right and this quote from a Chesterhouse mother speaks volumes for the type of families we have at Oakhill. "Just wanted to say what a lovely group of well mannered, pleasant boys we had for the weekend. It was an absolute pleasure! I hope my kids would behave like that if they were guests in someone else's house!"

Thank you for an amazing weekend.....it was a special experience for all involved.



SNAP!



Our rugby players and students looking happy despite the adverse weather at the Cape Town Derby weekend!

SNAP!



67 Minutes for Madiba - lots of activity and care from our students for the little ones from the Paula Whitney Crèche.

Pimp my Crèche

- Kristin Groenewald



This term Bendigo House had our annual Pimp my Crèche Event. In all our blue glory, we jumped into buses and arrived at the Solukani Crèche in Nekkie. The plan was to neaten the outdoor area so that the children could have a place to safely play out in the sun.

Inside, the walls were painted with the most joyful illustrations from Tigger to Dumbo to a wall full of handprints. With the help of an omnibus of paintbrushes, wheelbarrows and a beautiful shelf and supplies generously donated by Penny Pinchers, the crèche was transformed into a place where children could be educated in class and comfort.



This was an incredible day that reflected the essence and spirit of Bendigo House. The youth and our teachers came together to help those truly in need. It was a day where love was expressed. We had so much fun while making a difference to the lives of the future of our country. A huge thank you to all involved.

It was a day to remember, a day that made an impact on a myriad of lives. I think I speak for all when I say we look forward to many more years of these projects. Oakhill Interact and Bendigo House intend to come together and make the interaction with this crèche more permanent in terms of visiting multiple times per month. This is such a worthwhile and exciting opportunity and I encourage all Oakhill students to get involved.



A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside.

- Denis Waitley



SNAP!



A number of Oakhill supporters - Staff, Parents and Students - braved the blustery conditions in Plettenberg Bay recently to support the Oakhill Expo held at Market Square. The hot chocolates made up for the chilly morning!

Girls are, Oh so fabulous!

- Joanie van Straten



On Monday, 22 July, Oakhill welcomed 6 schools to our annual u13 Girls' Mini Hockey Festival on the Astro. This year the theme took on the feel of "Girls are, Oh so Fabulous!" And this rang true, as the standard of hockey played was simply amazing. Dressed with imagination and filled with true spirit and excitement, our Oakhill team stood tall and proud as they battled against some very strong sides.

We were very happy to welcome Somerset House to the Festival, as part of their tour through the Garden Route and trust that the relationships built will last forever. Well done girls!

SNAP!



Matric Farewell students Stephen Cameron and partner, Caitlin Tearle and partner, and Joshua Pama and partner enjoying a night to remember.



Kristin and Mrs Hu on their travels to Cape Town

2013 Chinese Competition

- Kristin Groenewald

On the 20th of July 2013, I, Kristin Groenewald, Mrs Hu, my Mandarin Chinese teacher and our Vice Principal, Mr Botha, travelled to Cape Town to attend the 6th annual Chinese Proficiency Competition at the Cape Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology.

It was a stunning adventure. This year we only got lost for a brief period on the way to the school and arrived with time to spare. We were greeted by welcoming students and educators.

First on the agenda was a written language proficiency test. The test consisted of questions based on various aspects of the Chinese culture and heritage such as rivers, historical landmarks, cuisine and music. The test was entirely in Chinese, with not a word of English. Next was a speech. I wrote the speech myself and Mrs Hu helped me by translating it. I spoke about the benefits of learning Chinese. It is a rare and special opportunity that not many people get to experience in South Africa. I then recited a poem in Chinese. It was a beautiful poem which translates to: Facing the Sea with Spring Flowers Blossoming, which was written by a poet who was a genius. He attended the top university in China at the age of 15. He isolated himself from the world and then discovered that he had missed out on the wonders of the world and the human experience. The poem always uses the concept of "tomorrow". How he will reconnect with his loved ones tomorrow, how he will find

happiness tomorrow, as he hadn't today.

We drove down to Cape Town on the Friday, the competition was on Saturday and we then drove back early Sunday morning. This allowed us to enjoy and share the beauty of our country with Mrs Hu. We stayed so close to Table Mountain, we were almost under it.

I received a prestigious award at the competition: a gold certificate and a small gift. The winners were two girls from the Pretoria Chinese School which is one of the only schools in the entire country that teach Chinese like we learn English and Afrikaans at Oakhill, on a day to day basis and from a young age.

And so, I feel the competition was an amazing experience. I learnt so much and got to embrace the beauty of a different culture. We got to immerse ourselves in diversity and creativity. We were even treated to a show that could only be described in one word: world-class. It consisted of performances from masters of kung fu and jujitsu, Chinese opera and exquisite Chinese dancing. To see the grace, elegance and respect of the Chinese people was wonderful, as was sitting in a room full of young people who believed in the beauty of learning something new and challenging and valuing the importance of unity. It is incredible to be involved in something greater than ourselves.



20 Years of Dedication

- Barbie Leibbrandt

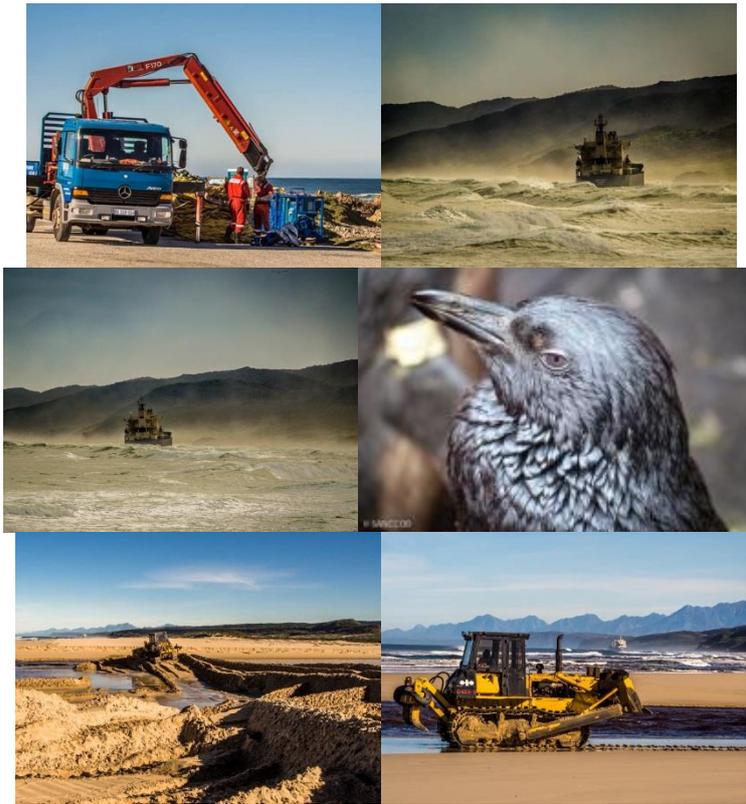


Thank you to Sheila Pasio for 20 years of dedicated service to Oakhill. There have been numerous occasions during the past week, where Sheila Pasio, aka Mrs "Pas", M'am, Mom, has been cheered and hugged and thanked, amidst smiles and tears and the sharing of countless memorable moments. A lot can happen in 20 years!

We salute you dear Mrs Pasio and wish you God speed and happy landings wherever you may roam.

Jubilee RED LOVE Project

- Michaela Millar



The shipwrecked Kiani Satu at Buffalo Bay earlier in August.

Jubilee to the rescue! A boat stranded near Buffalo Bay unfortunately leaked oil and much of the sea life in the area was affected. The Knysna citizens and those of the surrounding areas were asked to donate towels, gloves and soap to help save the penguins affected by the oil. On the 16 August, Jubilee and a group of eager students from the other houses and the primary school all came together to wash towels that were drenched in oil.

During the week prior to the cleaning of towels, Jubilee ran a drive collecting many items that the volunteers were in desperate need of. With music blazing and an anonymous person from Plett buying pizza for all who helped, spirits were high despite the wretched smell. With towels washed and the sun lowering, Mr Van Straaten piled his car high and delivered all the supplies to the volunteers who were still working late into the night. Thank you to all who helped, it was an incredibly successful RED LOVE project!

SNAP!



Our Little Oaks hosted their Ugly Bug Ball amidst delighted parents and grandparents with proud teachers giving support and a few helpful directions here and there!

SNAP!



Happiness is never stopping to think if you are.

– Palmer Sondreal



Tyres & Takkies - a windswept and chilly day but lots of warmth in spirit, exertion, food, coffee and rewards.

SNAP!



Matric students Mazi Myo and partner, Jessica Ghantshi and Tessa Collins, Joshua Buchalter and partner and Mirren Sharp and Adam Oosthuizen celebrate at the Matric Farewell.



What an amazing celebration of talents and passions were shared at "Music at the Quays" recently. Three cheers to our Oakhill Musos!

SNAP!



Our Little Oaks enjoy performing in their beautiful costumes at The Ugly Bug Ball.

SRC Food Evening and Interact Fashion Show

- Michaela Millar



The Interact Fashion Show and SRC Food Evening started off with a bang and ended on the same note. At 5 'o clock on Friday evening, students from different grades made food from different countries around the globe to feed the masses. The students themselves manned the stalls, producing Mexican wraps, pasta, curry and rice, wors rolls and pancakes.



The SRC Food Evening is an event that was well enjoyed by everyone who attended and all monies raised will be used to make Oakhill a better place. As the food evening came to a close, the Interact Fashion Show got underway, with Niklas Martin and Joshua Pama generating many laughs whilst being the MC's of the night.



It is safe to say that Kristin Groenewald, along with the rest of the Interact Committee and Mrs Lifson, pulled off a spectacular evening and that everyone looked stunning. Character of the night goes to Mrs Nuttall, the truly nuts art teacher whose presence was unexpected, but made a large impact on those who attended! Thank you to all involved in both events, it was truly a night to remember.



Our staff, College students and Little Oaks enjoy a fabulous evening with so much tasty food to eat!

Spring Fling

- Michaela Millar



Spring is in the air and the grade 10's started it off with a bang! Throwing the annual Spring Fling for the grade 5,6 and 7's from Oakhill and the surrounding schools in Knysna.

The Grade 10's of 2013 did an amazing job decorating the school hall, with DJ Dru playing his mixes all night long, photo booth sponsored by Petra Quinlan and a tuck shop run by the grade 10's. The night was incredibly successful with all attending having a good time and wanting to stay longer.



A large amount of money was raised for the matric dance of 2014 and many fundraisers are to come, the next dance will be the Valentines dance, an event all the grade 5,6 and 7's look forward to. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the night and the teachers that gave up their time to ensure the safety of all pupils.

Spring Fling photos are now available at Foto First on Main Road, Knysna - please support our Grade 10's with their fundraising effort!

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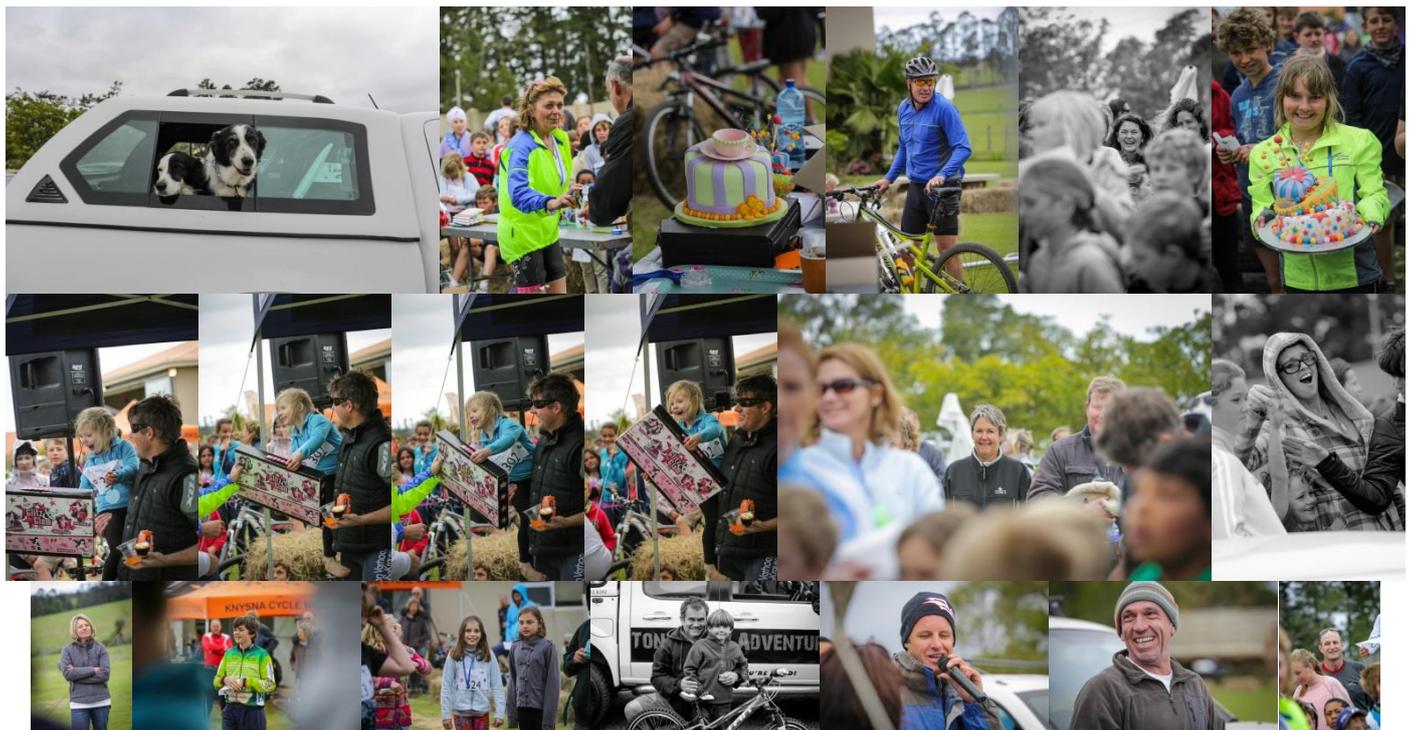


So many goodbyes to make for Barbie on her last day at Oakhill. Barbie beside one of the trees planted at the new sports grounds, a special tree of remembrance for celebrating 18 years of loving service.

SNAP!



The Interact Fashion Show had our hall jam packed! Students and teachers were dressed by local outlets and Matric students showed their beautiful gowns and smart suits.



Tyres & Takkies - prizes were a-plenty and there were many happy faces with a newly won bicycle and other sweet winnings!



The Forbidden City

Howzit China!

- Justine Edwards

A very excited group of 27 travellers will depart this holiday to visit China and take in the splendour of this giant country with so many fascinating sites to see. The send-off function held at Wu's in Knysna got the group in the mood for some delicious Chinese food and to get on the road!



The Great Wall of China - 8,850km of stone, brick, rammed earth, wood, and other materials.

There is a Facebook page: – Oakhill School – China Tour 2013, which will be updated during our travels. A report back on the tour will be in the next edition of The Echoes.

Interesting Facts on China :

- *One-fifth of the world's population lives in China.*
- *More bird species live in China than any other place in the world.*
- *Fingerprinting was used in China in 700 A.D.*
- *The majority of Chinese drink polluted water.*
 - *China averages 274 protests per day.*
- *China has cultivated tea for over 2000 years.*
- *Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world.*
- *There are 40,000-plus characters in the Chinese language. An educated adult will only get to learn 5,000 of them. You need to know 900–2,000 Chinese characters to be able to read a Chinese newspaper.*



Delicious food at Wu's.

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."

- Augustine of Hippo



SNAP!



Our travelling students enjoying a taste of China at the send-off at Wu's Restaurant at the Waterfront.

SNAP!

Our Matric students in celebration of their final year-end farewell :



Robyn Seager and partner, Calvin Dias and partner, Niklas Martin and partner, Godwin Thobi and partner



Jenna-May Kaschula and partner, Jonathan van der Merwe and Ashleigh Weavers, Thomas Marrow and Penelope Ceillier, Amber Le Roux and partner, Andrew Hyde and partner



Ronald Nel and partner, Margeaux Zonnestein and partner, Fransu Myburgh and partner, Burger van Niekerk and partner



Micaela Pretorius and partner, Kathryn Hemmes and partner, Margeaux Zonnestein and Luka van Schoor, James Wallington and partner, Taylia Meese and Adam Helberg



SNAP!

More Matric Farewell moments :



Cameron Hunt and partner, Julian Noble and partner, Ross Eyre and Chelsea Hawley, Brandon Willcocks and partner



Danny Pfeiffer and partner, Lulu Read and partner, Luka van Schoor and partner, Jake Owen and partner



Fun moments together with great friendships.



Parents and students join together at the cocktail function for family photos.

SNAP!



Kate sits happily on mom Jo Tanner's shoulders at prize giving during Tyres & Takkes.



Our Bumble Bees Angelique Myers and Rachel Matejek are buzzing with excitement before their performance at The Ugly Bug Ball.



Closed for the Holidays!



THE JOY OF LEARNING

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Happy children, teachers and parents end off the third term on a positive note.

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

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.

- Stacia Tauscher

**Travel safely and Happy Holidays!
School reopens on 8th October 2013**