

OAKHILL ECHOES

December 2013

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Interhouse Quiz

Kristin Groenewald

On Wednesday the 16th of October, the entire College filed into the Hall for Round 3 of our Interhouse Quiz. This is something we all look forward to: the battle of the brains. Student representatives from Grade 9 and up, coupled with a house teacher, are given questions with a varying range of difficulty and content. Mr Meintjes is in charge of setting up the questions and we think he secretly takes extreme joy in making them extra tricky, or not so secretly.

From being played snippets of songs and having to identify the artists to naming countries according to flags, from recognising elements on the periodic table to identifying the names of government ministers, general knowledge, worldly awareness and intellect is tested, earning points for either the blue, red or yellow banners. This is a truly wonderful event because even though the contestants take on the questions in their little teams, all the students take part and answer the questions in their heads or in hushed whispers so the competitors can't hear. Amidst outbursts of "Oh, I know this one" and "Come on, that's so obvious" or "Um, wow, I have no idea", students and teachers get to have fun and broaden their frame of mind. We learn a lot all together.

This round, Jubilee was victorious, closely followed by Bendigo and then Millwood. Get ready, get up to date on all things current to earn points for the honour of the crimson, golden or navy houses! Next round is sure to be a cracker!

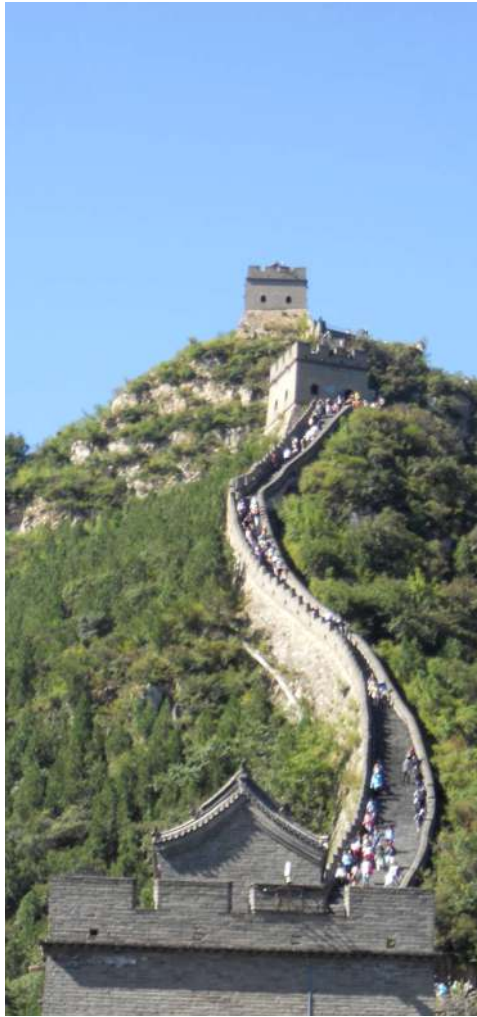
Mr Meintjes



Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to change
the world."

Nelson Mandela

Oakhill China Tour



Jubilee REDLOVE Project

Michaela Millar

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 16th of August, Jubilee and a group of eager students from the other houses and the Prep 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 Straten

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!

Jubilee House hard at work washing towels for the Jubilee REDLOVE Project



Thanksgiving

Grade 10 fundraiser

Michaela Millar



Illustration of the first Thanksgiving 1621 by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris

The task of raising money for the matric dance of 2014 has commenced!

The second fundraising event was a thanksgiving sale, for the Prep School to say thank you to those whom they loved.

The Grade 10's set up tables with a variety of gifts between the price range of R10 - R50 for the Prep School to come look at and buy.

This event was pure profit and was fun for both the Grade 10's and the Prep School.

It is therefore recommended...
to set aside Thursday the 18th
day of December next, for solemn
thanksgiving and praise, that with one
heart and one voice the good people
may express the grateful feelings of
their hearts and consecrate
themselves to the service of their
divine benefactor.

Samuel Adams
First Official Thanksgiving Proclamation

Matric Final Tea



Matrics celebrating and being celebrated at the Matric Farewell Tea for all their hard work through the year. They were treated to a 'story time' by Mrs Nuttall. Well done Matrics of 2013!



Odyssey - from a student's perspective

Kristin Groenewald

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 we should expect, you would 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 make it. We had good, healthy food. We were always safe. If you make the decision to be closed minded, you will 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, even for a moment, Odyssey will 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 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 we get the chance to just escape? Escape and go find ourselves. 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.



Kristin Groenewald writes about her and her peers perspective of Odyssey.



Marrow Brothers make HISTORY

Mr Dave Pryke

For the first time in Oakhill history we have siblings attending the Coca-Cola Khaya Majola Cricket week, which is to be held in Durban from the 16th – 20th December 2013...and yes...it is none other than Thomas and Christopher Marrow.

Chris played for the SWD u19 Team last year at the Coca-Cola Khaya Majola Week in Potchefstroom and Thomas played in the u17 Provincial Week, where he was the top run scorer for SWD. As a result, both brothers made the SWD 3-Day Team which convincingly beat Border at Buffalo Park last year. What does this mean for SWD as a province? In the past, the Warrior's Franchise chose their players from Eastern Province, Border and South Western

Districts.....and probably in this order. With SWD beating Border, this strategy may need to change. As Thomas and Chris attend their Provincial weeks, they will aim to gain National Selection or even selection for the Warrior's Cubs Team to play in CubsWeek.

Thomas has also achieved an Oakhill first, in that he has the prestigious honour of captaining his province this year against the best cricketers in South Africa. Chris will be attending both the u19 and u17 Provincial weeks (6th – 10th December in the Boland) as he qualifies for both. This is also part of a Cricket South Africa strategy to prepare our young Cricketers for the u19 World Cup which will take place in the UAE in

December 2014. Chris has been in prolific form with the bat, guiding Oakhill 1st XI to victory against Outeniqua in a T20 match earlier this month.

Both brothers have been training extremely hard and are peaking at the right time. With the Provincial weeks just around the corner, it has come at a good time for them both. We, at Oakhill, would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best for the challenges that lie ahead.

Thomas and Christopher Marrow making history in the cricket circles



Matric Final Assembly

Kristin Groenewald

Writers, musicians, body board champions, academics, adrenaline junkies, fashion designers, actors, you name it, you will be able to find it in the Matric class of 2013. On the 18th of October 2013, the College said goodbye to one of the most diverse and multi-talented group of Oakhill students.

This year, the Matrics managed to hold a record-breaking long final assembly as each teacher was given an award for their funniest, craziest, kindest or most memorable personality trait. Stories were told of the most hilarious classroom moments. From our Drama Teacher receiving the Tabasco award for her impassioned,

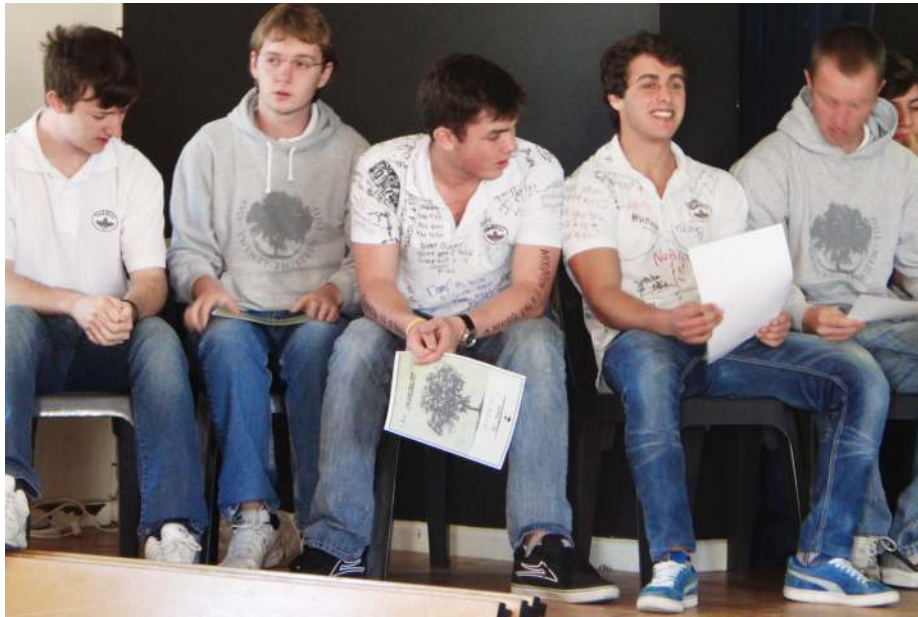
frustrated directions on stage to Maths Teacher Mr Claassen being dubbed "Papa G" to Mrs Boucher's (Biology) unique dance moves to Mr Pryke's (Sport) repertoire of positions during conversation, tears of joy, laughter and nostalgia were brought about as the most famous 'Remember when' were reminisced.

It is Oakhill tradition that 'The Brick' is awarded to the student who is seen as the glue of the school: the student who keeps everyone together. And so the actual, heavy, red brick was handed to Jake Owen of the Matric class who passed it on to Finn Stevenson. Tradition dictates that the younger student must beg for the brick in

order to earn it, but this year, Jake explained that Finn was more than worthy. This is but a small representation of what the new leaders from the Grade II class will bring for 2014. As a school, we cannot wait to see what the new guidance will bring and the exciting endeavours we will experience together.

A photo slide show of each Matric's baby photo, funny photo and fancy photo concluded the assembly with laughs and smiles. To the Matrics: we wish you all the absolute best for the future, no doubt we will be soon be hearing of all your successes and achievements. You will be missed, you will be remembered.

Matrics handing out awards at the Matric Final Assembly



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.

Bye-bye to the Bluest of Blood

Kristen Groenewald

On the 17th of October 2013, Bendigo bid adieu to our beloved Matrics as they entered into their final exams. We experienced a very emotional house meeting. In order of grades, any member of Bendigo House was free to stand up and say what any of the Matrics meant to him/her, what they added to the house and the Bendigo experience for them. Many funny stories and precious memories were shared and relived from the wonderful, prominent spirit of our Matric newcomer, Andrew Hyde, to the fantastic guidance of Kathryn Hemmes and Luka van Schoor, our house and vice captains respectfully. Whether they had only joined our smurf family in 2013 or had been sporting the blue badge since the days of jungle gyms and Marie biscuits, each and every Matric added a special essence to the Bendigo family along the way. Who could forget the towering spirals of free baby blue candyfloss handed out by Fransu Myburgh, a kinder Bendigo brother one can surely never find. To our future leaders from Grade 11, may you bring as much love, spirit and camaraderie to our house as the class of 2013 managed to do throughout

the years. We look forward to another great year jam-packed with excitement and team work, especially the continuation of the annual Bendigo 'Pimp my Crèche' project, an incredible event that makes such a difference. To Mr Langman, our House Master, as much as we are happy for you that you are getting an amazing opportunity to grow as a teacher, we will miss you indescribably. You have given so much to our house in such a short time. From countless inside jokes to everyday hysterical moments, you have brought so much joy to our lives and have always been one of the kids at heart. Thank you also for all your dedication and commitment. We love you and we will miss you. Some of our Grade 12's, were said goodbye to not only from a school point of view, but a farewell out of the country, as students are travelling as far as England and France to take on their various adventures and future plans. To each and every one of them: you will be missed, you will be remembered and we wish you all the absolute best for everything life holds for you. Come visit soon!

Fransu Myburgh



Andrew Hyde



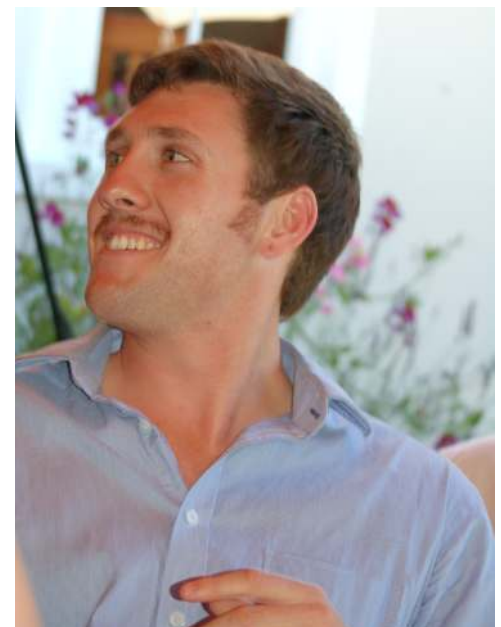
Kathryn Hemmes



Luka van Schoor



Mr Kyle Langman





Oakhill School Interact Club visiting Knysna Epilepsy SA

Interact 2013

Kristin Groenewald

Oakhill School's Interact Club consists of a group of students, all the way from Grade 8 to Matric, that dedicate themselves to organising and carrying out a myriad of community service and outreach projects. Throughout the year, we have had many wonderful projects such as taking part at the wheelchair races in George where a group of students and volunteers partake in a friendly competition where people in wheelchairs are pushed along a course to raise funds for the disabled. We had such fun and met amazing people. A day of loaves, butterknives, ham, jam, peanut butter and tin foil will surely be remembered when a bunch of students went around town giving sandwiches to those who truly needed it. So often we hear how we do not appreciate how fortunate we are, but looking into the eyes of someone so hungry and in such a desperate situation that giving them

something as simple as a sandwich gave them profound hope, reminded us just how blessed we are. It reminded us of how quick we are to complain, but there is always someone worse off than ourselves. To raise funds for these types of projects, we hosted the annual fashion show organised and carried out by the students to raise money which was a great success. A giant thank you to everyone involved in making the night what it was. Special thanks to Heather Mayne and Mrs Lifson for all their hard work and dedication. Our major outreach at the moment and one that is very close to my heart, is our weekly visits and interactions with the residents at Epilepsy South Africa. Every Wednesday, a group of Interactors go down to Epilepsy SA. I paint the ladies nails, we do art and maths with them and play any number of games from Uno to Dominoes. Many of these people only get to see

their families approximately every 2 years. Just spending time with them, talking to them, applying some luminous colours to their fingernails and simply showing genuine care means so much to us and them. Personally, I have been visiting these residents for more than a year and a half now and I am constantly in awe of their sweetness, gentleness and innocence. The ladies told me that they look forward to us coming, the entire week. It is the highlight of their day to wake up in the morning and know that they will be seeing us that afternoon. I cannot describe the joy one feels after spending an afternoon with these men and women. Many of them have been diagnosed with not only epilepsy, but Parkinson's Disease too and so they frequently get injured in these episodes. The more episodes they have, the more their health and mental state is impacted. Yet, I have never met people quicker to laugh or

embrace new faces. The stories they tell make you smile more than you can imagine. With all the difficulties in life and with all the hurt, brutality, trials and tribulations of this world, a little kindness makes such a difference. I encourage each and every Oakhill student to consider joining Interact. It really allows one to grow in indescribable ways. We have so much fun in truly helping others. This project will be continuing in 2014 and as well as many others. Please come and join us!

Interact means the world to me. It provides us, the youth, with an opportunity to create change and impact the lives of others in a very positive way. It allows us to give of ourselves to truly help others. What could be more important?

It is my absolute passion to help others and as 2013 Interact President I am extremely excited to announce a project I will be starting next year. There is a man by the name of Dr. Bill Vicars, a professor, who teaches sign language. I have downloaded his courses: a very interactive and easy to learn set of videos which teach sign language from the very basics and beyond. A specific day after school, which is still to be decided upon, a group of students will meet and learn sign language together. Anyone is more than welcome to join and I urge you all to come along. Once we have gained some of these skills, we will be able to interact with deaf communities in organizations in our area, which will be such a special experience. We will have so much fun learning together and it is such a worthwhile and fascinating skill to acquire. Look out for more info. I will be announcing meeting times in assembly. We will also be starting many more projects involving Animal Welfare, orphanages, soup kitchens and crèches.

I would like to take this opportunity to give an enormous thank you to Robin Seagers, the 2012 Interact

President, for all her efforts and hard work. From using her amazing fashion design talents to raise money for our wonderful causes, to the daily, consistent organising of events, your care and dedication is immensely appreciated and will be remembered. On behalf of all the Interact members, thank you for everything you have done. We wish you all the very best for your future and all the exciting adventures that lie in store. To the Rotarians who we work hand in hand with, a giant thank you. You always manage to offer endless support, encouragement and advice without ever controlling the projects in place of the students. Your wisdom and hard work is very much appreciated.

To Mrs Lifson: you have been Interact's mom. You have driven us to events, to town to buy materials, you have planned and perspired for this group. You have always shown such generosity and dedication. I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work, encouragement, advice and love. While I am very excited for you that you are moving on to new and wonderful adventures in your life and are continuing to help others, I cannot bring myself to say goodbye. And therefore, I won't. I know I will still see you and you will still be involved and helping in many ways. You will never not be a part of Interact. Thank you for everything and we send you all our love.

To all the Interact members, thank you for a great few terms and I am so excited for all we are going to do next year and all the people we are going to help. To all the Oakhill students, please come and join! Have a hand in changing the lives of others and making a true difference.

- Study hard and you might grow up to
- be President.
-
- *George Bush*
-

Mikayla Oliver

Oakhill has their own Superwoman & Sportswoman of the Year 2013

Mr Dave Pryke

It is not only the achievements of a young athlete that determines their future success, but more so their character. Qualities like deep internal desire and determination, humility, sincerity and patience. Mikayla Oliver has it all, and more.

If you have any doubt, read this resume for a start:

In 2004 Mikayla earned Western Cape Colours in Swimming, and again in 2006, 2009, 2010 and 2011. For all 5 years she took part in SA Nationals and lastly in 2011 at Senior Nationals.

In 2007 Mikayla was in the SWD Hockey team, a feat she repeated in 2008, 2009, 2010 and in 2011. She was Vice Captain of the provincial team in 2007 and 2011 and Captain in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Mikayla earned Western Cape Colours for Athletics in 2007 and 2008.

In 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Mikayla earned provincial colours for Biathlon.

In 2008 she started Biathle' and earned provincial colours, and again in 2009. Mikayla was selected in 2009 to represent South Africa at the World Biathle' Championships held in Monaco where she came 10th in the World.

In 2009 Mikayla started Adventure Racing for her School and in 2010, at the age of 15, was in the u19 team of three boys and one girl to win Gold at SA National Adventure Racing Championships. In 2011 she won the Ladies Division of the Merrell Eden Duo, a gruelling 150km extreme adventure race at the age of 16.

In October 2011 Mikayla started Cycling and decided this was what she wanted to focus on and make a future career out of. Early in 2012 Mikayla was chosen to represent South Africa at the World Cross Country Mountain Bike event held in Pietermaritzburg where she came 4th. She went on to race several races throughout the year, for the various disciplines - marathon, cross country and road. She has been in the top 3 junior girls in the country for the past year for all 3 disciplines.

In December she was introduced to Track Cycling by Corne Bence (SWD Cycling and also selector for CSA) who spotted her talent. After being very new to the discipline she attended SA Nationals in March and came away with 2 Gold medals, 4 Silver and 1 Bronze, earning herself the National Jersey for Track Cycling. After attending National training and selection camps she was selected to represent South Africa at the Junior World Track Cycling Championship in Glasgow, Scotland in August of this year.

After returning from Scotland, she dedicated herself to her studies, although found time to train and race in a several local races where she obtained many 1st places. As a result, Mikayla has been selected to represent South African (yet again) in the Junior Ladies Road Racing Team taking part in the African Champs in Egypt from 30 November to 6 December 2013.

This latest achievement rounds off her education and achievements at Oakhill as she "leaves the nest" and flies to even greater heights. We, as a community, would like to wish her all

the best for her trip to Egypt and will be watching this space with keen interest.

This young lady is going to make it....she just needs to decide on which discipline. Oakhill, keep some space open on your busses....there is a star in the making!

As a result of all her achievements this year, in her Matric year, Mikayla Oliver, has been awarded the Schools Sportswoman of the Year!



Little Oaks End of Year Concert

