



Under the Oaks

PREPARATORY SCHOOL NEWS

2 S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 5

Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that this term is drawing to a close! From a personal point of view, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Somerset College Preparatory School and I look forward to seeing this special school grow and build on what has gone before. Like any building development, it is the foundation which is most important and central to the success of the future of the building. The foundation of this school is solid and built on Christian principles. It is now our corporate responsibility to add to these foundations and grow the school into a leading co-educational independent school. In order for us to do this, relationships and partnerships need to be forged amongst all constituents as we live out a common vision. Part of our common vision has to be to ensure that 'our' children are adequately prepared to enter an ever-changing and tough society where they can stand on their own two feet, make a difference and add value.

Closer to home, I have enjoyed getting to know the boys and girls in the Prep. I try as much as I can to walk around the school and pop into classrooms in order to build relationships with the children. I see this as a vital part of my role and it is something I do strive towards. As a result of these walkabouts, I have noticed the following areas in which I believe we need to work together in raising the bar towards striving towards excellence:

➤ **Work Ethic**

I have looked at several books across the grades and am pleased to notice how beautifully some children work. Their books are well presented, neat and up-to-date. That said, I have also noticed books that are not neat, contain missing

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work and untidy writing. Please could I ask parents to look at your children's books on a daily basis and to support the teacher's comments and recommendations. This is an example of teachers and parents working together towards a common goal in nurturing and supporting your child to greater heights. Part of this conversation with your child is to talk about key life skills such as perseverance, not giving up, rigour, determination and speaking to the teacher if there are concerns.

➤ **Greetings and Manners**

This is an interesting topic as I have conflicting feedback. Many boys and girls are excellent at greeting adults, be they staff or parents, while other children completely ignore adults walking past them! I am strong in my conviction that this school has no excuses for a lack of manners. It is non-negotiable and I will be firm on children who do not display exemplary manners. I have also noticed children barging through doorways as an adult tries to enter it. Again, we need to all speak to 'our' children to remind them of their manners and the importance of eye contact, a firm handshake and speaking clearly as they greet.

➤ **Behaviour**

It saddens me that there has been some poor behaviour of late in the Prep. I have seen and heard of several cases of bullying, disrespectful behaviour and selfish behaviour. This is not tolerated at Somerset College. Further to this is the emergence of social media bullying and the horrendous impact that has on children's lives. I would like to strongly encourage all parents to have this discussion with your children as this negative behaviour is currently most prevalent in our senior grades. It is very important that we as teachers and parents are on the same page and that we are not sending the children mixed messages. It is unacceptable for someone to bully and demean another person - be it verbally, physically or in an online forum. I am looking into our senior grades receiving some input along social media lines and the new legalities which are currently in place. Please do talk to your children about the dangers and implications of social media platforms.

➤ **Extra-Curricular Programme**

The extra-curricular programme will be interrogated so as to ensure that it is running smoothly and with efficacy. I have spoken to many parents about sports concerns and I would like to assure the parent body that I am looking in-depth into the programme we offer. Please note that this will take time. I am confident that through conversation and debate, we will streamline what we offer. Our sports philosophy is also under review.

➤ **Barefoot after Break**

Please also note that the “Barefoot after Break” rule has been abandoned and that children are expected to put their socks and shoes back on their feet after break time in the winter terms. I believe it sets a tone and a standard and that if we look smart, we work smart. We need to keep the pride in our appearance and work alive.

Staff News

Miss Jacqueline Dippenaar in Grade 1 has resigned from Somerset College for personal reasons. We would like to thank Miss Dippenaar for her contribution to Somerset College and we wish her well in her new ventures. To ensure a smooth transition, Mrs Tarryn Frost will be taking over from Miss Dippenaar at the beginning of next term and she will continue in Grade 1 on a permanent basis. Mrs Debbie Kitching will remain in Grade 3 with her class so as to negate further disruption to the Grade 3 class. Finally, Mrs Bresler has withdrawn her resignation and will remain with Grade 1 for the foreseeable future.

May I take this opportunity to wish each and every family a wonderful holiday period. I urge you as parents to make the most of the holiday time to connect with your children in conversation. We all know the term is so busy and that we are mostly running from pillar to post. Use the holiday downtime to chat to your children, ask questions, go out on a date with your children and most importantly - have fun! This is something I aim to do with my own children.

Mr Craig Verdal-Austin

Head of the Preparatory School

c.verdalaustin@somcol.co.za

Chaplain's Corner



Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. (Philippians 3:3-4)

Humility is doing the right thing without drawing attention to ourselves. On Friday in Chapel, we heard a story about a humble penguin, saw Mr Verdal-Austin practise humility (ask your child/children!) and read about Jesus' act of ultimate humility. Despite being God, he came to earth and lived a life of humble service and obedience which led him to a criminal's death on a cross, and as a result of his obedience, God raised him to the place of highest honour. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, encourages us to have the same humble attitude that Jesus had.

How can we show humility this week, as individuals, as a family and as a community? How can we do the right thing without drawing attention to ourselves, but rather to others and, ultimately, to God? A good place to start is to pray the prayer of St Francis, alone or with your family:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Mr Patrick Cordery
Chaplain
p.cordery@somcol.co.za

Sports News

Mr Alwyn Brink (Deputy Head) – a.brink@somcol.co.za

General enquiries and sick notes for sport – sport@somcol.co.za

That good deed on the sports field ...

It is a Wednesday afternoon at the College, Rugby Match Day. The dads, and mums, are collecting on the side of the field as their sons are about to run out and start a show-down against the visiting team, who just always seem to have a collection of boys bigger than ours. The boys stand on opposite sides of the halfway line and size each other up, gesturing to each other to hold their lines, close gaps and even selecting their opposite number to 'crunch', mouth guards being chewed on, scrumcaps oversized – you know the scene.



The whistle blows and nothing is going to hold these youngsters back from each other now. So much hinges on those first tackles made; are they lasting impressions for the next 20 minutes? No one wants to let their side down, so all go in hard, dads cheering and cajoling their sons and all team mates on to tackle, run hard, run straight, pass, pass, pass ...

These little guys might be learning the game, but it is tough out there, not sparing each other an inch. Then, your son, after taking a 'hospital pass' from the scrumhalf, is mowed down. You cringe and instinctively want to run onto the field but don't (rightly so) as you fear the worst. The referee blows for time, and the medic. You spot a tear in your son's eye and a grimace on his face, but you also notice how one of the boys in the visiting team kneels down beside your son and asks him if he is ok, offering him a hand-up. Your son takes his hand and is helped up, swallows his pride and some of the medic's magic water, and the game goes on.

We all know what happens next: the game finishes and the side lines are deserted as we all head home in different directions. Regardless of the score line, war stories are swapped about the toughest game ever and who tackled who and what was done and said and who scored the tries – one for the record books, but also one for the experience. However, within all of that there was a most valuable lesson for

the boys, one of sportsmanship, a good deed that should not go unnoticed at this early developmental stage of a youngster's life, as it could well be a lasting impression that builds character in future years.

Scenes similar to this are unfolding every day all around the world in all forms of sport, and one can only hope that the adults who are caring for their young charges are nurturing them to ensure good values remain in the foreground of competitive sport.

Are we encouraging our sons and daughters to greet and welcome 'opposition' on our campus, shake hands after matches, offer them ice-bites and cookies before we tuck in, thank the referees, have a brief chat with the opposition and strike up a healthy friendship or two maybe (after all they will most likely be seeing each other on opposite ends of the field at least twice a year for many years to come), show them where the bathrooms are, the tuck shop is? Some of this might seem small and menial, however, you cannot believe how poorly it is often done, and might I add, 'enforced' by adults!

Regardless of the level of competition or where you might find yourself playing sport one day, the above is only a small sample of the hidden 'feel good factors' that become 'the right thing to do', something that eventually is ingrained in one and speaks volumes for who you are and who you represent.



Mr Quentin du Toit
Head of Hockey
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Rugby

On 26 August we enjoyed hosting our local rivals, Somerset House. As expected, the games were tightly contested. Our junior teams were victorious in most of their matches and the senior teams lost by a narrow margin. I enjoyed all games as the boys fought right to the end. These matches marked the end of our league fixtures and we look forward to hosting a few tours for U13, and the Bridge House 7s Rugby Festival. It was a great season and we would like to thank all the parents, coaches and facilities staff for their support.

Western Province Preparatory School : Winelands U13 Tour

Our U13A and B boys played against Western Province Preparatory School (Wetpups) on Friday 28 August. This is a traditional tour to Somerset College to which Wetpups bring their B and C teams. It was good to see 67 points being scored by both teams in the first match, with Somerset College winning the game 37-30. The final match saw our U13As being clinical in all departments of the game and coming out on top with a commanding 29-10 victory. A special vote of thanks is extended to all the parents for hosting Wetpups boys and for making their tour such an enjoyable one.





Mr Hilton Toro
Head of Rugby
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Hockey

The hockey club has enjoyed a successful two weeks of hockey since my last report. Interestingly, all league fixtures this term have been at home and I would like to thank and commend everyone involved in making Thursday match days the success that they were. From the Facilities team, who enhance the already beautiful setting, to the catering teams, parents, coaches and players - well done on receiving our guests so well! We can be proud that we are able to field so many teams each week, allowing for a range of skills and abilities to be on display and for our children to enjoy healthy competition and sportsmanship.

On 20 August, we hosted Beaumont and Rhenish. We played 44 matches during the afternoon - half of them on astro. Both our U13B teams, who played cracking matches, drew both games without a goal being scored!

Last week we welcomed Somerset House. Once again our boys and girls were on top form, enjoying the healthy rivalry that exists between our two schools. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the U13A boys' match that ended in a 1-1 draw. Both teams played their hearts out, giving the spectators much to enjoy on the sidelines. Well done!



Silver at the Paarl Boys' Tournament

Last Monday, our U13A Boys travelled through to Paarl as defending champions of the Paarl Boys' U13A Boys' Tournament. We played seven short games; winning three, drawing three and only losing one. This meant that we finished in second place behind hosts Paarl Boys.



Top Schools Qualifying Tournament

Our U13A boys' and girls' teams played in the Western Province Top Schools Qualifying Tournament on the two astros at Maties in Stellenbosch last Friday afternoon and evening. All the schools from the Helderberg basin were present and competing for the top two positions which would get them through to the final this weekend at Hartleyvale.

Following their pool matches, our girls narrowly lost out on a semi-final position on goal difference. Our boys did very well, playing with intensity and purpose in the 20-minute-long games. After winning their pool, they played Beaumont in the semi-final. The game ended in a draw. We did, however, win the show-downs (alternate one-on-ones with the keeper) thanks to superb keeping by Robert Jansen van Rensburg. We wish the boys well for this coming Friday's Top Schools Tournament!

Mr Quentin du Toit
Head of Prep Hockey
g.dutoit@somcol.co.za



The U13A Netball team after a fun evening of Netball against Somerset House

Cricket

Cricket season is around the corner and we encourage all the boys to start their pre-season training. We are excited to have the new Indoor Cricket Centre. It has been great to have our U11 and U12 boys practising indoors and preparing for their tours in September/October. There will be trials for U11 to U13 (Grade 4-7) players in the last week of school (15 and 16 September) from 14:00-15:30. We are doing these trials in order to get all our teams ready for the fourth term, as we cannot do them in the first week of Term 4 because the children will be away on camps.

Cricket Coaching Clinic

Somerset College and Coach Kyle will be running a coaching clinic from 29 September to 1 October at our Indoor Cricket Centre. The coaching clinic is aimed at teaching basics and giving the children a head-start for the season. This will be a fun, energetic clinic for boys and girls from 6-13 years old. Please contact Kyle kyle@coachkyle.co.za or Mr Toro h.toro@somcol.co.za for more information.

Mr Hilton Toro
Head of Prep Cricket
h.toro@somcol.co.za

Gymnastics

Josh Messina competed in the South Zone gymnastic competition held in Oudtshoorn last week. He did very well and, out of all the Districts in the Western Cape, came second in the mini trampoline section. He also obtained a bronze medal for tumbling. We are still awaiting results for his other events. Two other Grade 3 children also participated:

- **Matteo Keppke** received a bronze medal for artistic gymnastics and came 6th for black top trampoline.
- **Lisa Linkov** received a gold medal for artistic gymnastics.

Well done to our students who have not only done well for themselves but have also done well for Somerset College!



Procedure for Cancellation of Sport

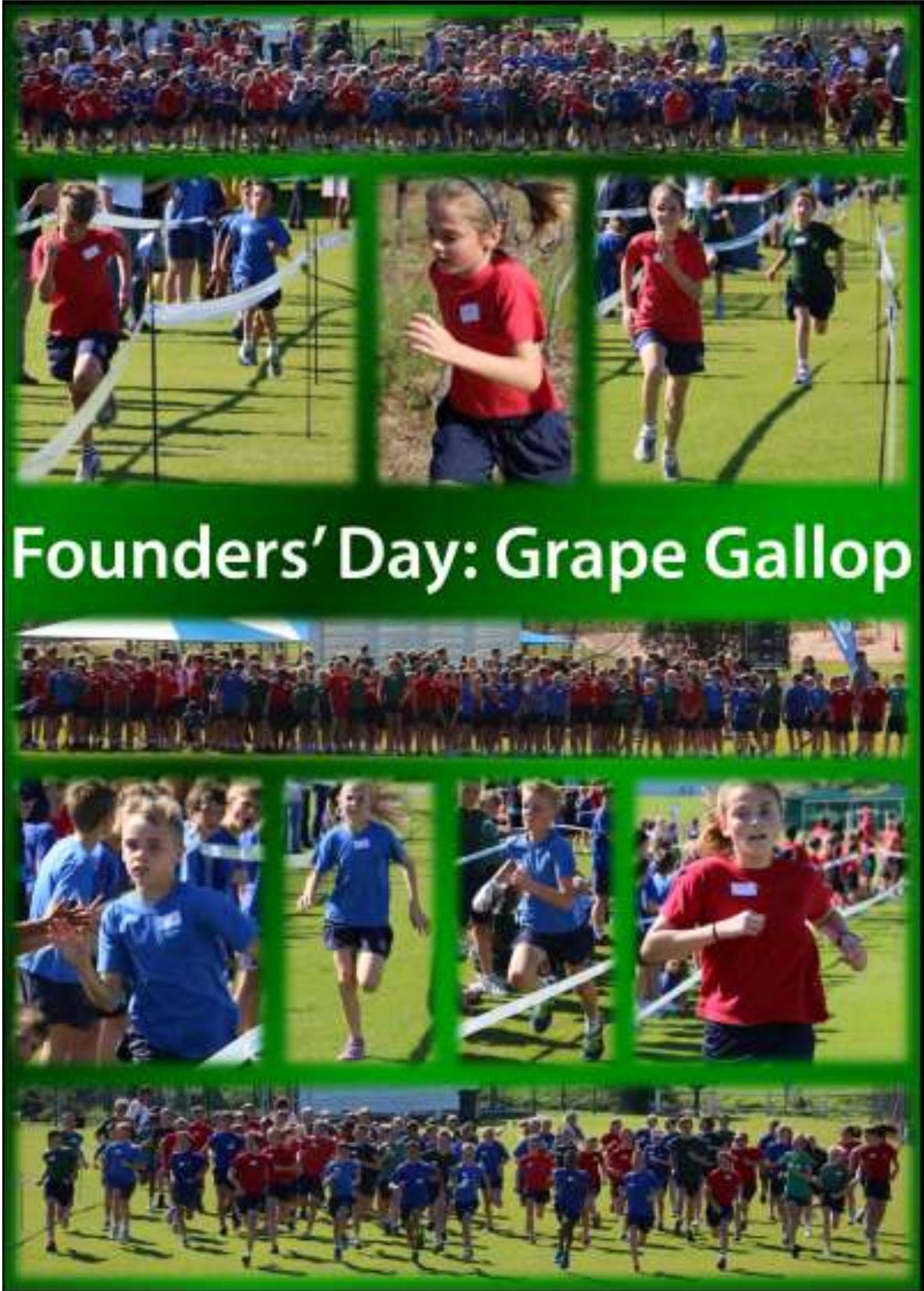
In the event of sport being cancelled from Grade 3-7, you may collect your child at 14:00. If the pupils are not collected by 14:15 they will be sent to the supervision classes until 15:15. Parents may collect children from this class at any time. Please remind your children that if you are running late they may not wait out in the cold. This is for their safety and allows you to find them immediately. We will not accept any excuses from children.

Mr Alwyn Brink

Deputy Head: Sport and Outdoor Education

a.brink@somcol.co.za

Grape Gallop





Grade 3 Outing - Rococoa



Grade 5 Outing

On Friday 21 August, the Grade 5s had the privilege of going to the international Tutankamun Exhibition at Grand West. This exhibition reveals the treasures left behind by Tutankamun. His tomb was the first tomb that has ever been discovered by archaeologists which was untouched by tomb robbers.

We were all given audio devices to use which gave us information on each exhibit as we walked around. We saw how the Egyptians mummified people and learnt a lot about their beliefs and the way the Egyptians lived way back then.

Mrs Karen Roberg

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Mrs Margie Joachim

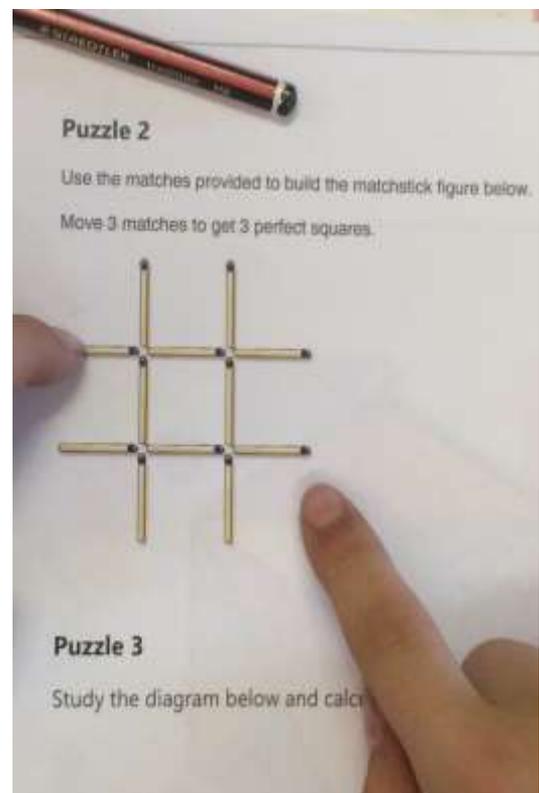
m.joachim@somcol.co.za



Maths Festival at Bridge House

Six of our top Grade 6 and 7 mathematicians were invited to a Maths Festival at Bridge House in Franschoek on Friday 21 August. The children were put in groups together with children from the other participating schools and within minutes, their competitive edge had kicked in. The children were engaged and mathematically challenged for a full hour and a half. The competition ran in categories and certainly had our cogs turning. The children left with a lunch pack having had a fun-filled afternoon of Maths. We most certainly look forward to this event again next year.

Mrs Ruth Evans
Head of Mathematics - Senior Preparatory
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Golf and Boules Day

PREPARATIONS FOR OUR ANNUAL
GOLF & BOULES DAY HAVE BEGUN.

SOMERSET COLLEGE GOLF & BOULES DAY

Date: Friday 23 October 2015

Venue: Erinvale Golf Club

Shotgun start at : 11h30
(Registration from 10h00)

Cost: 4-Ball R6000
(includes Cocktail Function)

Individual entry: R1500

Boules: R1800 per team of 3
(includes Cocktail Function)

Individual entry: R600

Starting time: 14h00
(Registration from 12h30)

Boules theme: Mad Hatters
Tea Party



ANYONE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, SPONSORING A HOLE, DONATING PRIZES OR HELPING ON THE DAY, TO PLEASE EMAIL CHARLO VON STEIN AT golfday@somcol.co.za CLICK OR VISIT SOMERSETCOLLEGE.ORG/GOLF-BOULES-DAY-2015/ TO BOOK.

Trinity Singing Results

August 2015

We are pleased to announce the following Trinity Singing Results:

Grade 4:

Georgina Wraith: Pass with Merit

Grade 3:

Michelle Juncker: Pass with Distinction

Mira Smuts: Pass with Merit

Michay Winter: Pass with Merit

Grade 1:

Siobhan Kennedy: Pass with Merit

Daniele Francis: Pass with Merit

Angela Scott: Pass with Merit

Isabella Phillips: Pass with Merit

Grace Burgess: Pass with Merit

Sadie Geard: Pass

Alulla Schoeman: Pass

We wish to congratulate all the students for their hard work and dedication. Well done, we are very proud of you!

Mrs Ronel Viljoen

Music Teacher

r.viljoen@somcol.co.za

“Looking Back to Yesterday”



Weekly Planner

Week 8

Week 8		Start time	End time	Title	Location
Mon	07-Sep			Somerset College Soccer League Starts	
				Winter Sport Photographs - during sport slots	Prep Hall
		07:40	08:10	Grade 1 - 7 Assembly	Prep Hall
		08:30	12:00	Outing to Eagle Encounters - Swallow Class (AH)	Spier, Stellenbosch
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
		15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex
		15:20	17:00	Phase Meeting (Staff)	Staff Room/Prep Hall
		15:30	17:00	Senior Tennis Squad Training	Tennis Courts
Tue	08-Sep	07:00		Sandwich Spread	Prep Hall
		08:30	12:00	Outing to Eagle Encounters - Coot Class (JW)	Spier, Stellenbosch
		11:00	13:00	Grade 3 Chocolate Fair	Prep Hall
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
		15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex
		15:30	16:30	Junior Tennis Squad Training	Tennis Courts
		18:30		Grade 2 Camp Information Evening	Prep Hall
Wed	09-Sep	08:30	12:00	Outing to Eagle Encounters - Owl Class (JB)	Spier, Stellenbosch
		10:30		Junior Preparatory Assembly	St Matthew's Chapel
		11:15		Junior Preparatory Choir	St Matthew's Chapel
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
		15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex
		18:30		Grade 3 Camp Information Evening	Prep Hall
Thu	10-Sep	07:30		Senior Preparatory Choir	Prep Hall
		10:00	11:00	New Parents Tea (By Invitation)	Prep Hall
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
		15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex
Fri	11-Sep	07:00		Chess practice	Prep Hall
		07:40		Chapel Service	St Matthew's Chapel
		12:30		No FRIDAY FOOD SALE because of Choc fair earlier in the week	
		13:30		PA Lost Property and 2nd Hand Uniform Sale CANCELLED	Prep Hall
		13:30	14:55	9th Annual Facilities vs Academic Staff Football Match	
Sat	12-Sep	08:00		Cross Country- Nationals (selected Pupils)	Free State
		08:00		Bridge House 7s Rugby Festival (U9 - U13)	Bridge House
				Hockey: Top Schools - U13A Boys	t.b.c
Sun	13-Sep				

Weekly Planner

Week 9

Week 9		Start time	End time	Title	Location
Mon	14-Sep	07:40	08:10	Grade 1 - 7 Assembly	Prep Hall
		14:00		Grade 1 and 2 School Day Ends Normal Time	Sport Programme continues
		14:00		Grade 3 - 7 School Day Ends at 14:00	Usual Supervision
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
		15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex
		14:15		Staff Meeting	Staff Room
Tues	15-Sep			Grade 1 - 7 Parent/Teacher Meetings (By Invitation)	Classrooms
				Pre-Preparatory Parent/Teacher Meetings (By Invitation)	Classrooms
		07:00		Sandwich Spread	Prep Hall
		08:00		ICAS TESTS- English (Selected Pupils)	Prep Hall
		13:00		Staff vs U13 Netball Teams	Netball Courts
		14:00	15:30	U11 and U13 Cricket Practices	Cricket Nets
		14:00		Grade 1 and 2 School Day Ends Normal Time	Sport Programme continues
		14:00		Grade 3 - 7 School Day Ends at 14:00	Usual Supervision
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex		
Wed	16-Sep			Pre-Preparatory Parent/Teacher Meetings (By Invitation)	Classrooms
				Grade 1 - 7 Parent/Teacher Meetings (By Invitation)	Classrooms
		08:00		ICAS TESTS- Science (Selected Pupils)	Prep Hall
		10:30	11:15	Junior Preparatory Winter Sports Celebration	St Matthew's Chapel
		11:15		Junior Preparatory Choir	St Matthew's Chapel
		13:00	14:00	Senior Preparatory Winter Sports Celebration	St Matthew's Chapel
		14:00		Grade 1 and 2 School Day Ends Normal Time	Sport Programme continues
		14:00		Grade 3 - 7 School Day Ends at 14:00	Usual Supervision
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
		14:00	15:30	U11 and U13 Cricket Practices	Cricket Nets
15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex		
		18:30		PA Quiz Evening - POSTPONED	Prep Hall
Thu	17-Sep			Pre-Preparatory Grape Stroll	Vineyard
				Grade 1 - 7 Parent/Teacher Meetings (By Invitation)	Classrooms
		07:30		Senior Preparatory Choir	St Matthew's Chapel
		08:00		ICAS TESTS- Mathematics (Selected Pupils)	Prep Hall
		07:40		Senior Preparatory Assembly CANCELLED	St Matthew's Chapel
		12:30		Pre-Preparatory School Term 3 Closes at 12:30	
		14:00		Grade 1 and 2 School Day Ends Normal Time	Sport Programme continues
		14:00		Grade 3 - 7 School Day Ends at 14:00	Usual Supervision
		14:00	15:15	Grade 3 - 7 Supervision Class	IT Centre
		14:30		U12A Girls Hockey vs Elkanah House	Somerset College, Astro
15:15	16:00	Grade 3 - 7 Homework Class	Library Complex		
Fri	18-Sep	07:40		Arts and Culture Assembly	St Matthew's Chapel
		10:00		Final Assembly	Prep Hall
		14:00		Grade 4 - 7 Assessment Summaries	Available on the College Portal
		11:00		School Closes for the Term 11:00	
		11:15		Staff Meeting	Staff Room
Sat	19-Sep				
Sun	20-Sep				
Mon	21-Sep				
Tue	22-Sep			U11 Cricket tour to Knysna departs	Knysna
Wed	23-Sep				
Thu	24-Sep				
Fri	25-Sep			U11 Cricket tour to Knysna returns	Knysna

Cake Sale 2015

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Come and join the fun and laughter
in the Prep Hall, both breaks and
between 1 and 2 pm.

