

The International School of Hout Bay Newsletter

Issue 39

08 December 2011

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents

The year has ended on a very high note with Prize Giving held for both the Senior Primary and the High School. These are wonderful occasions to celebrate the teaching and learning that takes place in our school, and those students whose love of inquiry and contribution to the school can be acknowledged. The Year 6s have returned safely from a camp on the Breede River that was action-packed! They have rafted on the river, climbed on ropes courses and had fun, made friends and laughed together. Last week's Nativity play was excellent and there is a broad consensus that it was the best yet. I never cease to admire the skill of the teachers in getting so many four, five and six year olds to sing, dance and act together. The High School students have spent time undertaking their Science projects, exploring Orangethloof in the mountains and a lively beach sports day. The Senior Primary market day was well organised and supported and I was, as always, impressed by the range of ideas and products on offer. It was a pity that the weather was not kind to us and that the parents' picnic did not happen (although there was a resolute group who brought out their baskets, undeterred)...

Our focus for 2011 has been that of consolidation. We had, at the end of 2010, finished preparing our first group of International Baccalaureate Diploma students for their final examinations and awaited their results. The Primary School had received their PYP authorisation. Looking back, we have done an excellent job. The second group of IB Diploma students, and their teachers, approached the examinations this year with greater confidence, built on sound planning and a clearer sense of what to expect. In the Primary School we have spent a good deal of time consolidating our curriculum planning and benchmarking. The staff began this year with a two-day workshop that focussed on assessment, presented by an International Baccalaureate



te create authorised teacher and trainer from Germany. We have developed clearer structures, are undertaking academic and whole school planning in greater detail and have used research more effectively to make decisions. An example of this is the series of language choice surveys which have enabled us to make our curriculum planning decisions with greater clarity and confidence. Our performance in the Conquesta Maths and English examinations was reassuring, showing that we are well on track with schools in Australia and New Zealand.

Each year we seek to be better than our previous best. For 2012 it is our aim to be 'the best of Hout Bay, and the best of international.' We want to celebrate our Hout Bay roots, culture and values while ensuring that the standards and philosophy of our education is firmly rooted in International Baccalaureate best practice. We will be seeking to tighten up on how we run our school, while not losing sight of the creativity that is at the heart of education.

STAFF NEWS

We welcome Mrs Tamlin Bird to our Primary School office: she will succeed Mrs Susie Acheson and has been in the office undertaking a hand-over process this week. In Early Years we have appointed Ms Zanele Nyanga to fill Mrs Chung's post.

I hope that you will have the opportunity during the holidays to spend some quality family time together, to relax, refresh and rejuvenate.

I hope that you have a blessed Christmas season and a prosperous New Year.

Andy Wood
Principal



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Primary School News

Curriculum Corner

We have finally arrived at the end of the school year for 2011!

I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work and support this past year. Their passion and professionalism is inspirational. We really do have an A-team!

It is with great sadness that we say good bye to Catherine Slabber. Catherine has been a real asset to the team and we will miss her and wish her all the best for the future. Ben Kriel has only been with us for two terms but it feels as if he has been with us forever. We wish him all the best for next year.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be part of Abigail Simpson's teaching career, right from her first year when we taught Year 3 together. Abigail is to be congratulated on her achievements and we wish her all the best for her future career. I know that she will be making a positive impact on many children through her work.

The office has been a hive of activity this last week as Susie and Tamlin work through the hand-over process. It is with great sadness that we will be saying good bye to Susie - she has been an invaluable asset in our team but I do wish her well on her new adventure back in England. Beth and I look forward to working with Tamlin in the future. I would like to thank the parents of the International School of Hout Bay for your support during the past year. It is a very special privilege and pleasure to work with our children and I look forward to being part of their continued progress and growth in the New Year.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday, safe travels and a peaceful festive season.

Denise Michel



Second Hand Uniform Shop

Galia Kioufi will be available during the school holidays if you would like to purchase second hand uniform. Please call her on 082 925 0677 to make an appointment.

From the Sports Desk

Primary School Sport

This year was packed full of fixtures and good results for our Senior Primary. We started off with the Inter-House Athletics in February – always a big hit with the children and once again the weather played along and delivered a stunner for the day. In term 1 our cricket teams did phenomenally well, not losing a single match fixture. The U11s carried on with this winning streak right until their second to last match, which they lost narrowly with a few balls to spare. The U10s had a tough start to the second half of their season, but ended things off with a nice win. Looking back this must have been one of our most successful years of cricket yet and we will miss our Yr6 boys when they leave us to embark on their High School career but we look forward to starting with some new teams next season.

Winter sports always brings the most challenging fixtures with our school competing in numerous winter leagues in the area. We had two netball teams who showed consistent improvement throughout the year, pitching their skills against some really tough competition. The 4 soccer teams (U9 x 2; U11; U12) had many fixtures throughout terms 2 and 3, bringing in good victories and taking some solid beatings. Our U12 team in particular had a tough time competing in the U13 league against schools of 600 and more pupils - all a year or two older than our boys. Our school is finally being taken more seriously especially when we received 2 invites to local soccer tournaments and achieved some fantastic results at these tournaments.

The girls hockey team played a few fixtures and they recorded wins wherever they went – something I hope we can grow on for next year's league.

At the Inter-IES Winter Sports Day in Somerset West our school was represented by 7 sports teams who all did phenomenally well.

I look forward to next year with the addition of some good talent into the Senior Primary and the challenge of some strong opposition once again from all the other schools.

Outdoor Education

This year's Outdoor Education saw us complete the first HBH5 Challenge. This challenge requires members to complete 5 hikes with the club, all to peaks and mountains surrounding Hout Bay, in search of another great view of our small village from up high. Only 3 children managed to complete the challenge this year – Emma Kramer, Katya Davison and Holly Robinson. Emma Kramer also won the annual Outdoor Education award for diligent attendance and being a risk-taker when she proved to us she really loves this club, by only missing one adventure all year and attending more events than any other club member. Emma also received this award last year.

Next year we look forward to teaching a fresh batch of Year 5s the ropes to face the challenges we present to them with the second HBH5 Challenge and hopefully provide many, many more adventures.

Holiday Cricket Clinic

During this holiday break Mr. Stofberg and a number of coaches will be hosting a cricket clinic here at Swan Cottage.

There will be two days for Mini-Cricket and two days for cricket with the hard ball.

Please see the attached advertisements for more information regarding this or email Kobus on cricket@commongrounds.co.za

Dates to Diarise

Wednesday, 18 January

- Term 1, 2012 begins

Monday, 23 January

- Clubs Start

Tuesday, 24 January

- Parent Information Evening
EY & JP @ 18h00
SP @ 19h00

Primary School News - Celebrating Year 6

FIELD TRIP TO ST. JAMES BEACH

As part of their final Unit of inquiry and, to help them to prepare for their Exhibition, the Yr 6 students visited St James beach to carry out a "hands on" inquiry into the biodiversity of the inter-tidal zone and the surrounding areas.



The students had great fun collecting a variety of specimens from the rock pools and discovering the important role that each of them played in ensuring sustainability within its ecosystem. The experience really helped them to understand the concept of "Biodiversity" and how we, as humans, play a vital part in maintaining the sustainability of ecosystems.



EXHIBITION

On Tuesday, 30th November, the Yr 6 students celebrated the end of their Primary Years Programme by presenting their various, in-depth research projects for the PYP Exhibition. This was the fourth Exhibition to be presented since we joined the Primary Years Programme in 2007 and each year has seen the standard of achievement improve on the previous year and this year was no exception.

The trans-disciplinary theme for the Exhibition was "Sharing the Planet". The students devised their own central ideas based on the concept of the importance of maintaining sustainability within ecosystems. They spent five weeks researching diverse topics, which included; "Maintaining biodiversity in the Disa River"; "The co-existence of man and sharks"; "The affects of perloemon poaching" and "The endangered leopard toad", to name a few.

The Exhibition was a show case of the attributes of the Learner Profile and Attitudes. It was also an opportunity for the students to display how well they had developed the required skills of the PYP e.g. research, communication, self-management, social and thinking skills. What was so impressive was; the quality of the students' research; the confidence with which they arranged and carried out interviews with a variety of "experts"; the competence with which they delivered their oral presentations and the extent of the knowledge they had gained.

At the annual Prize-giving this week Mr Wood spoke of the Exhibition as being "truly inspirational" and indeed it was. Congratulations to the students for the wonderful enthusiasm and commitment they displayed throughout the Exhibition process. They did a wonderful job!



YR 6 LEAVERS' DINNER



On Friday, 2nd December, the Yr 6 students, their parents and teachers attended the annual Leavers' Dinner, which was held at the Silvermist Estate in Hout Bay. This was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to celebrate the end of the students' journey through the Primary School.

A delicious three-course meal was enjoyed by all and was interspersed by speeches from Mr Wood, Mrs Michel, Gregor Bell, Daniela Paioni and a poem written and recited by Mrs Fisher and

Mrs Slabber. Andy Davisson, on behalf of the students, parents and teachers thanked Glynis Bell and Aubrey Davies for organizing and raising funds for the event as well as all the other parents who helped to set up the venue on the day.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation, to the students, of a beautiful Year Book which was organized, with great appreciation, by Estelle Burger. Everyone then put on their dancing shoes and let their hair down to music played by DJ Connor Thompson from the High School.

A great end to a fantastic year!



END OF YEAR CAMP

As has become a tradition, the Yr 6 students attended their end of Primary School camp at Bundi on the Breede River earlier this week. On arrival, the students were put into groups and had to decide on a name for their group and design a group banner.

Lots of fun was had by all as the groups participated in a variety of activities which included; a climbing wall, high ropes, swimming in the river, a talent contest and a half day of paddling, again on the river.

The facilitators at the camp complimented the students on their enthusiasm, cooperation, confidence and their willingness to take risks.



High School News

Academic Reports

Just a reminder that reports will be available after midday on Tuesday, 13th December. Any reports not collected by 4:00pm will be mailed to the respective families.

Text Book Returns

Thank you to everyone who has returned their text books. All outstanding text books have now been invoiced and these amounts will be deducted from each student's deposit if he /she is leaving the school. For those students returning in January no new text books will be re-issued until all outstanding books are returned.

Mountain Day 2011

Traditions have to start somewhere and what better place than in one of the most picturesque, unspoilt areas of the Peninsula. Oranjekloof is right in our back yard as it were and home to some unique flora and fauna, coupled with beautiful views and interesting history!



The whole school met at Constantia Nek bright and early on Tuesday morning for our first "Mountain Day". An opportunity to get out of the classroom, enjoy the fresh air, learn something new about our local environment and take advantage of our unique location. With the guidance and support of Mark Hawthorne and Erik Kiderlen of Sanparks we explored the Oranjekloof valley and only got lost once, or twice. We saw puff adders (THIS BIG!), drank from mountain streams, explored the

headwaters of the Disa River (Ryan Reaper went swimming), wore daisies in our hair (Ryan again) and generally had a lovely time. We will certainly look to make this a permanent feature of our summer term's activities.

Beach Day 2011

The CIA programme ended on a high note this year with the 2011 Beach day for all the students of ISHB. We gathered on Hout Bay beach on Wednesday morning and although the weather seemed to threaten a damp day we set up shop for a day of volleyball, touch rugby and relay races. First order of business was then to take the gazebo down again before it and the four students holding gamely onto the guy ropes were blown away and deposited somewhere on Chapman's Peak.

The competition began in earnest with the first round of volleyball and touch rugby. The level of play made up in enthusiasm for what it lacked in skill and with supporters from Taragona and Penzance vying for who could make the most noise. Despite several requests to make the game full contact and some overly enthusiastic "touches" we managed to avoid any serious injuries in the touch rugby. Evidently we have a number of very skilled players, both girls and boys and some great demonstrations of speed and agility made for really exciting matches. Hillcrest was the most successful team, winning all three of their matches!

On the volleyball court things were more evenly matched with each house claiming at least one victory and the wind conveniently decided to slack off after its efforts to remove our gazebo. With the volleyball and touch rugby concluded after five intense rounds we broke up for a brief respite before the running races. We reconvened, having collected various strays who could not help themselves when presented with the opportunity to build sand castles (perhaps next year we should include a sand castle building round - just a thought) and each house chose their four best runners. At the far end of the track we placed eight stakes and the runners had to claim one to stay in the competition. As

each race was run, the number of stakes was reduced until only Stuart, Reuben, Ryan and Aidan remained, with Stuart Brown claiming final victory. The last event of the day was the relay race with eight runners for each house in which Hillcrest established themselves as the swiftest team.

The final results of the day saw Hillcrest victorious, followed by Taragona, Rhodes and Penzance. These results will be added to the 2011 House Cup competition, the winners of which were announced at Prize Giving. Congratulations to Hillcrest House!! Thank you to all those who competed and to the staff for their support in making the day successful.

Daniel Landi

Director of Student Affairs.

Downhill Speedboarding!!

In the 2011 National Downhill Speedboarding Championship held on 27 and 28 November, a number of our students showed their mettle and extreme courage! The junior category had grown to fifteen riders, all kitted and ready to race with Adam Lincoln-Lewis (IGCSE1) the top qualifier from Saturday's group, making it into the finals with Samuel Jakins (IGCSE1), James Jager and No.2 qualifier Nicholas Hook (IBDP2). It was a tight race to the finish and Adam kept his form from Saturday to win the junior finals and thus winning his first SAGRA race. Wow! What a race!

JUNIOR SKATEBOARDERS:

Adam Lincoln-Lewis

Samuel Jakins

James Jager – home schooled

Nicholas Hook

The next event is this coming weekend which is the International IGSA 2011 World Cup and our boys are participating. We wish them every success!!



High School News

Cape Town Pro Cantu Youth Choir



Founded in 1997, internationally acclaimed Pro Cantu Youth Choir is proud to provide an opportunity for young South Africans to sing in a choir of the highest standards whilst delivering a moving musical experience to its audiences. Pro Cantu is based in Cape Town and draws their members from all over the Cape Peninsula. Choir membership is open to anyone between the ages of 16 to 28 who have passed the audition. Since its inception in 1997, Pro Cantu has proven itself in South Africa and on the international stage.

- Some of the highlights are:
- * 2002 Winners of the "Choir of the World" title at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in Wales
 - * 2006 Winners of a gold medal at the 4th World Choir Games in Xiamen, China
 - * 2008 Crowned as a "Champion of the World Choir Games" by winning the *Musica Sacra* category at the 5th World Choir Games in Graz, Austria
 - * 2011 Winners of two gold medals at the 2nd Grand Prix of Choral Music in Austria, Graz.
 - * During international tours Pro Cantu has sung in Carnegie Hall (New York, 2008), Salisbury Cathedral (2008 and 2011), St Paul's Cathedral (London, 2008), *Grosse Aula* (Salzburg, 2011).

Stuart Brown (IGCSE1) recently passed the audition and started his journey as a member of the Pro Cantu Youth Choir.

Most recently, he was invited, along with a few other Pro Cantu members, to participate in the voice recording and the filming for a 2-part BBC TV mini-series called *Labyrinth*. He has spent long days and late nights at Cape Town's newest film studios near Somerset West perfecting the Psalm 23 score composed by Trevor Jones. The series stars Tom Felton who played the role of Draco Malfoy in Harry Potter.



Pro Cantu choir in the recording studio for Labyrinth



Advertising

The International School of Hout Bay does not endorse the products or services advertised in this newsletter.



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Fri 9th Dec 17h00 till late: Bring a friend and share a glass of bubbly, delicious snacks and handmade chocolate and be the first to purchase these exclusive items.

Sat 10 Dec 10h00 - 18h00: Open day - pop in at your leisure to shop for some truly unique garments and accessories from this range plus other designers too.

Showroom: **31 Luisa Way, Hout Bay**

Payment: cash or EFT on the day (paystation available), we regret - no credit cards.

Can't wait to see you there!



Adventure in Sport

4 DAYS OF CRICKET IN JANUARY

Mini-Cricket (7-9 yr olds) Monday 9 & Tuesday 10 09:00am-12:00pm	Cricket (9-12 yr olds) Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 09:00am-12:00pm
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DATES: Jan 09&10—Mini Cricket
Jan 11&12- Cricket

VENUE: International School Hout Bay
Valley Rd, Hout Bay

TIMES: 9-12

COST: R180/child for 2days

Batting; Fielding; Bowling; Match Play

Everybody welcome! Not exclusively for ISHB learners.

cricket@commongrounds.co.za



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