



# Green Gossip

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## GRADE 4 CAMP

I gripped my seatbelt firmly as the school bus went chugging down a stone scattered pathway. I could almost smell the waves of excitement oozing from everyone in the bus. I glanced around me as I realised the high-pitched singing had stopped and eyes were widening in awe. I focused my own eyes on the sight that seemed to have hushed everyone. There below us stood our communal home for the next two days. Lekkeroord was spread before us in luscious green glory and visible in the middle of the vast lawn stood an enormous brick building with a slanting roof. Very soon the hushed silence wore off and everyone began to talk and point. The bus had barely even rolled to a stop when the door was flung open and students poured out glancing around in bewilderment at their surroundings. The rest of the day continued in an excited daze of activities that included, walking around the campsite blindfolded, feeling human guts (not really), enjoying a spectacular lunch and dinner, singing more rhymes and just having fun. When everyone grew tired we were lead to our dorms and told to go right off to sleep or Mrs Brown would put a bug in our bed. This piece of information scared half of the grade to sleep. But of course not me, my excitement wouldn't allow me to close my eyes. The next day as everyone assembled for our final lunch there seemed to be a melancholy feeling in the air as the realisation kicked in that this was our last meal here at Lekkeroord. The end of the camp was fast approaching. Mrs Brown stood in the front of the eating hall and asked everyone to return to their dorms, retrieve their bags and, in an orderly fashion, to assemble at our school bus to be taken back to school.

Tammy

## FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

### Food For Thought: A Tribute to Our Teachers

I thought that it would be good to take a moment to recognise the conscientious, sacrificial efforts of our teachers. What a privilege it is to be able to entrust our children to such diligent, caring people who often go way beyond the call of duty. Clearly, their hearts are in the right place and they can be trusted.

Thank you to the many parents who teach their children to value and respect their teachers and who avoid the temptation to criticise them even when they do err. You are helping to create an effective learning environment which helps to make ours the School Where Happiness and Excellence Meet.

A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others. ~Author Unknown

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. ~Henry Brooks Adams

Good teachers are costly, but bad teachers cost more. ~Bob Talbert

In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years. ~Jacques Barzun

Modern cynics and sceptics... see no harm in paying those to whom they entrust the minds of their children a smaller wage than is paid to those to whom they entrust the care of their plumbing. ~John F. Kennedy

We expect teachers to handle teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, and the failings of the family. Then we expect them to educate our children. ~John Sculley

If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home. ~Anonymous Teacher

Kind regards  
Peter Johnson



## THOUGHTS ON CAMP

Sibahle – What I liked most of all about camp was when we sang songs. My favourite song was "Bring back my Barney (Bonnie)", "Alice the Camel" and more. Mrs Brown, thank you for planning the camp with Beauty.

Tanika – I really enjoyed the Grade 4 camp especially the survival games. I enjoyed the hike to the beach because we had to look for all types of sea creatures and when we got back we all lay down and Miss Marshall pretended she was asleep. My mom came with me to camp. We went to eat supper, played a game and went to bed.

Calista – Do you know the teachers have put in all their effort? We would like to go again but it is hard work for the teachers, especially for Mrs Brown. The game I liked most was the beach game.

Jayde - My favourite part about the camp was the beach. When we were just about to go to sleep the boys played a trick on all the girls.



### PUTTING STIRLING ON THE WORLD MAP

Mrs Dean and her ThinkQuest team have done it! They won the Oracle Foundation's International ThinkQuest Narrative Competition! Tristan, Kai, Mrs Dean, Holly and Ashley along with Mrs Hallowes, Lithemba and Luzuko from Cotswold Preparatory School in Port Elizabeth will be travelling to San Francisco to the prize giving. They will also each receive a laptop computer. Well done, we are exceptionally proud of you! Please go to [http://www.thinkquest.org/library/winners/2009\\_narrative.html](http://www.thinkquest.org/library/winners/2009_narrative.html) to see their entry on the internet.

### UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE UK STUDENTS

We conducted a survey because we wanted to know a little more about our visiting U.K. students. Read on to see what they think of us...

South Africans are strange, because...

Connie: They think its cold when it's 19° C when we think it is hot

Imogen: They say "YO" a lot

Ellie: They eat a lot! Yet they stay slim

What is the weirdest food you have eaten here in SA?

Jeremy: Calamari

Zoe: Biltong

Connie: Those strange twirley lady things! (Koeksusters)

What were you looking forward to on this trip?

Lizzie: The safari trip and the hot weather

Zahra: The animals

Connie: The experience of Africa and a suntan!

Did you have any fears before coming?

Zahra: No! I won't miss my parents

Connie: Not being civilised

Zoe: Big Spiders!

List 3 purchases you have bought so far:

Ellie: Springbok Rugby shirt, African bowl, African cup

Zoe: Beaded lizard, wooden elephant, Earrings

Jeremy: Picture of Table Mountain, Bottle of wine, African Buck

We also found out that they think the exchange rate is good for people from the U.K. but bad for South Africans who go there. They find it a little weird paying for things that seem like a lot of money, but then actually are not when they convert the value to Pounds.

Nicole, Caroline, Tayla

### STAFF NEWS

- Mr Hunter, our ever friendly caretaker is back at school after a recent illness. We are so pleased to have you back.
- We welcome to our new intern, Mr Wulff on staff and know he will be very happy with us.
- We would like to congratulate Mrs Hill on the birth of her grandson, Tyler. His granny recently visited him in London and it was very difficult for her to come back home. He definitely is the apple of her eye.
- Mrs Mildenhall has returned after spending time at home with her new baby. We are very grateful to Miss Haig-Smith for filling in while she was away and wish her well at her new school.



### ROUGH AND READY

Our Grade 1 boys love their rugby sessions - especially when they play practice matches against each other.

### SENIOR CHOIR EISTEDDFOD

On Tuesday the 19 May, our choir participated in the eisteddfod! We were all nervous but at the same time very excited! After arriving at school at about 4:45 we all went to Hudson High School. After listening to smaller choirs sing one piece, it was almost our turn to perform and we started getting more excited. Mrs Clifford did vocal exercises with us to warm our voices up. All of a sudden we were up on stage with big smiles and ready to sing! We sang very well. So well in fact that we received a gold! It was a very unforgettable night. Thank you to Mrs Clifford for conducting us and for believing in us even when we drove you mad and thank you to Mrs Webster for accompanying us.

Shelby

### THE DAY I SPIED ON MY TEACHER!

Grade 2 Hayes

When she woke up...

She had cupacino coffee.-Dylan

She always smiles.- Qilima

She drank a hot cup of coffee and ate eggs and bacon for breakfast.-Keyara

When she got to school

She marked some books and watched the kids.-Tayla

She opened the door and there was a big cake.- Cameron

At break in the staffroom

Our teacher chats with her friends.-Msi

They talk about us!-Sinalo

She eats and talks about the children.-Athi

She had biscuits and coffee and sat in the rocking chair.-Michael

She had a karit cake and tea-Stacey

She talked about the naughty children.-Sheree

My teacher enjoys drinking tea and coffee with Mr Johnson.-Keagan M

When we go home my teacher...

Is very tired from teaching all the children.-Keagan M

Is so tired she falls asleep at her desk.-Cameron

Gos out for a breeze and drinks wine.-Keyara

Says ow I am sso glad those children are gone!-Finn

At night, my teacher likes to...

Lie in the hammock and drink co-co.-Michael

Snore and read books!

### ICT CORNER

An elementary school in Jacksonville, Florida, USA has taken on the challenge to connect via Skype with at least 80 schools in different countries and continents. Kieren, Holly and Lia had the opportunity to chat with them for a few minutes. Please go to the site below to find out more.

<http://langwitches.org/blog/2009/01/03/around-the-world-with-80-schools/>



### LANG ARM

#### AFRIKAANS FOR THE UK STUDENTS

On Wednesday the UK students were given an Afrikaans lesson and a few of the Grade 7s got a chance to show off their Lang Arm dancing skills!! Rooi Rok Bokkie was blaring throughout the school as our travellers were given a real South African education! We then taught them different Afrikaans songs and they then sampled some traditional Afrikaans food (milk tart, koeksusters and ginger beer) What a fun lesson!

Shelby

### MARIMBA MAGIC

On Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of May all marimba students met outside our new marimba room at 10:15. Everyone was excited as we were going to get the chance to perform at Games Day. We played in our groups and made magic. Some groups played *Anti - Gravity* and others played *Jump Down*. The marimba groups were just one of the highlights of our fun filled games day. Thank you to Mrs Malan for teaching us those lovely songs

Tando and Micaela

### PETER PAN

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June Ross' dad Johan brought 'Ice' the Border collie who looked for and found drugs under yellow bowls. Mr Patrick Leach brought Lassie a white Labrador who is an 'Explosive Dog'. She found bullets under a bowl. Her reward was a ball to catch. The highlight of the visit was Lassie singing "woof, woof" when Mr Leach sang 'How much is that doggie in the window.' Ross gave the policeman a big chocolate to share. This was an exciting event for all of us.

Staff members doing some last minute "cramming" before doing their learners for their bus licences.



### FUTURE STARS

The under 9 netball girls are an energetic bunch that keep their coach, Mrs Wiggill, on her toes. They enjoy all their practices and thrive on the competition of matches.



### RUGBY, HOCKEY AND NETBALL PUPILS GO TO HANGKLIP!!!

At 5am on the very cold 9<sup>th</sup> of May, many pupils, parents and teachers gathered at school to board the busses for Queenstown. Our considerate teachers let us buy biltong in Cathcart – this was a needed break from the long bus trip. In Queenstown we discovered that East Londoners don't know what cold is. Queenstown was freezing! Despite the cold weather we did our best and I am sure our coaches are proud of us.

Lihle

### FOUNDER'S DAY

Friday, 28 May marked a very special event on the school's calendar – Stirling Primary School's Founder's Day celebrations. Our school turned 55 this year. This, however, was not the only reason to celebrate. It was also the official opening of the Darrel Weatherdon Mathematics Academy. The guest speaker for this memorable event was Mr Bradley Preston, one of Mr Weatherdon's ex-pupils, who is now a successful businessman in Cape Town. His inspiring speech was followed by the cutting of the birthday cake. Long Service Awards were also given to various staff members. After the assembly in the hall, special guests, staff, pupils and parents proceeded to the area outside the Maths classroom, where entertainment was provided by the Senior Primary Choir and Band. The plaque was unveiled by Mrs Julie Stewart, Mr Weatherdon's daughter. His son Craig and grandchildren Alexa and Connor were in attendance.

The morning ended with the annual cross-country being run by pupils from Grade R to Grade 7. An eventful day was had by all!

Amber



### BORDER BIATHLE CHAMPS

Border Biathle Champs were held on Sunday, 17 May 2009, at the Joan Harrison Pool complex. Although it was a very windy and cold day, GREAT fun was had by all! Faiz and Teagan each won R250 as a lucky draw prize! Excellent results were achieved by our Stirling Biathletes and we would like to make special mention of the Tara and Charnelle who received gold medals, Matt and Brooke who received Silver medals and Tyla who received Bronze medal.



We are so grateful to our moms who are willing to lend a helping hand at school events like the Grade 4 camp. Your children will always value your input too. THANK YOU!



### PADDLING PRO'S

Stirling's Primary's fledgling paddling club took part in their first Guppies race at Chulumna on Saturday. Much fun was had in a strong wind and the budding young canoeists all did well.



### HOLIDAY CLUB

Come and join the Aftercare Holiday Club running for three weeks.

From 29<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July.

R50 per child per day.

Contact Jenny Houzet on 043 735 1174



### FOUNDERS DAY CROSS-COUNTRY

On Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May was the school's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday and we celebrated it with a special assembly and a cross-country race. The results are as follows:

#### **U13 Boy and Girl**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Damian and Nicole
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sibulele and Charnelle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Michael and Inge

#### **U12 Boy and Girl**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ross and Jaimey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Somila and Lihle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke and Giorgia

#### **U11 Boy and Girl**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tristan and Tegan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sango and Kimberley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wickus and Axolile

#### **U10 Boy and Girl**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Zachary and Tara
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Conner and Tyla
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stephen and Brooke

#### **U9 Boy and Girl**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jarred and Sisipho
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Matt and Kayla
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sonqoba and Brittney

#### **U8 Boy and Girl**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bryan and Hannah
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart and Tayla
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Batanai and Jemma

#### **U7 Boy and Girl**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jesse and Anagret
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron and Emma-Jane
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Darreth and Taylor-Shay

In the Intermediate and Senior Phase, Brown House came first with 687 points, Hall house came second with 535 points and Froelich came third with 512 points.

Shelby and Tando

### "OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES"

Children are fickle! Upon first meeting a student observer from Fort Hare, Jess, in Grade 2 announced, "I love her!" (Miss Baker). Mrs Loxton then asked, "How can you love her, you've just met her?" Jess replied, "Because she's prettier than you, Mrs Loxton."

**A NORMAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF A UK STUDENT**

We caught up with Ellie Rees, one of our U.K. travelers, and found out about a normal day in her life. She told us that the average pupil wakes up at 7:30 and has breakfast; school starts at 9:00 (we have already been hard at work for an hour and a half) and finishes at 16:30. Their subjects are English, Maths, History, Geography, Spanish, French, Art, Design and Technology, Games, P.E. Activities and Science. They play in sports after school and they get lunch at the school cafeteria. In Summer they wear Polo's and in Winter they wear shirts. Ellie told us that on a normal day they get lots of work! They are normally 16-18 pupils in each class. The hottest temperature there is 19 - 20 C in summer!

Shelby and Thando

**GRAHAMSTON ART AND DRAMA WORKSHOPS**

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30am a group of tired, groggy faced Art and Drama students boarded our school bus and headed for Grahamstown. The drive there was a long one filled with stories and gossip. The minute the bus rolled to a stop outside the huge Grahamstown Settlers Monument growls of hunger were heard from a number of stomachs so Mrs Marais led us toward the food court. Some of us gazed around at our surroundings in awe. Our first art workshop was led by an energetic imaginative teacher named Linda. Armed with paint brushes and pots of paint we completed the three tasks Linda had prepared for us. When our Art workshop ended, we were allowed some free time to look around and explore before our second workshop. Emma, our second teacher, got everyone's energy levels back on track. In this Drama workshop we were allowed to be imaginative and wild, using our bodies in different ways. Thank you Mrs. Marais for organizing this special day for us!

**FUTURE PICASSO?**

Congratulations to Marco Siebert in Gr1! His picture of people dancing was sent to China and is one of 40 from South Africa that will be representing our country at the 40th World schools art exhibition. This exhibition show cases the best child art in the world. Well done, Marco!



**ADVERTISING SPACE**

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Distribution: 950 copies

**WHAT HAS GRADE R BEEN UP TO?**



This year, as a community service and to teach the Grade R's the value of giving, we have been visiting the residents of Stirling Lodge during their birthday week. Small groups of children take it in turns to visit those who are celebrating their special day, taking gifts of bookmarks and home-made muffins. They sing "Happy Birthday" and give out lots of hugs and smiles to bring joy to our senior citizens. We would like to thank our Mother's committee and, in particular, Nikki Potgieter for undertaking this project on our behalf.



Danny Cat came to visit Grade R to teach the children about road safety.



The Grade R's have also been learning about fire. Look at the impressive fire engine they created.

**CLASSIC COMMENT**

During class discussion time, Mrs Phillip's class were talking about the various changes a caterpillar goes through to become a butterfly. She asked: "Does anyone know what we call this?" A hand shot up and the reply was immediate – "RECYCLING"!!!!

**CHILDREN 4 CHILDREN:**

The collection so far has been amazing. Thank you so much to all the families that have contributed Maize Meal. We have until the end of June and by the looks of things we are going to beat all records!



The Gr2's enjoy reading... in any position! Sometimes we take a break from the classroom and grab a moment in the sun in our old haunt: the grade 1 playground.



**FAREWELL FEVER!!**

Wow! It's already that time of the year and tension is mounting in anticipation of the Grade 7 farewell 2009. The farewell committee has already had their first meeting and it seems preparations towards this exciting event are well under way. The Grade 7 pupils had to post their suggestions for a theme for the party and we are all excited to see what our theme will be ... but needless to say, this is going to be kept top secret!

Nicole

**DRAMA STUDIO RESULTS EASTERN CAPE EISTEDDFOD**

**Platinum**  
Nathina Pakade

**Double Gold**  
Dylan Vosloo, Amber Newton (2), Tsepiso Mbali

**Gold**  
Caylyn Mopp (2), Buncwane Mpakama (2), Charnelle Drake (2), Nathina Pakade

**Silver**  
Tsepiso Mbali, Danielle Cloete, Danielle Smit (2), Jeanne-Clair Bignaut, Dannika Brussow (2), Johan Zachariah, Nathan Ilunga, Amber-Leigh Schoeman

**Bronze**  
S'bongile Fundam, Amber-Leigh Schoeman, Tammy Fray, Kayleigh Pretorius, Jaison Zachariah

**MONKEYING AROUND**

There was great excitement and trepidation when Monkeynastix's big monkey came to visit the Fun @ 4 children. The children were most amused and entertained by his mischievous antics!



**DID YOU KNOW?**

We have 4 German Exchange students visiting us at the moment. They have been helping with PhysEd and swimming lessons. Our pupils have had a lot of fun trying to copy their accents.