



■ The Pre-Preparatory girls testing the new surface.

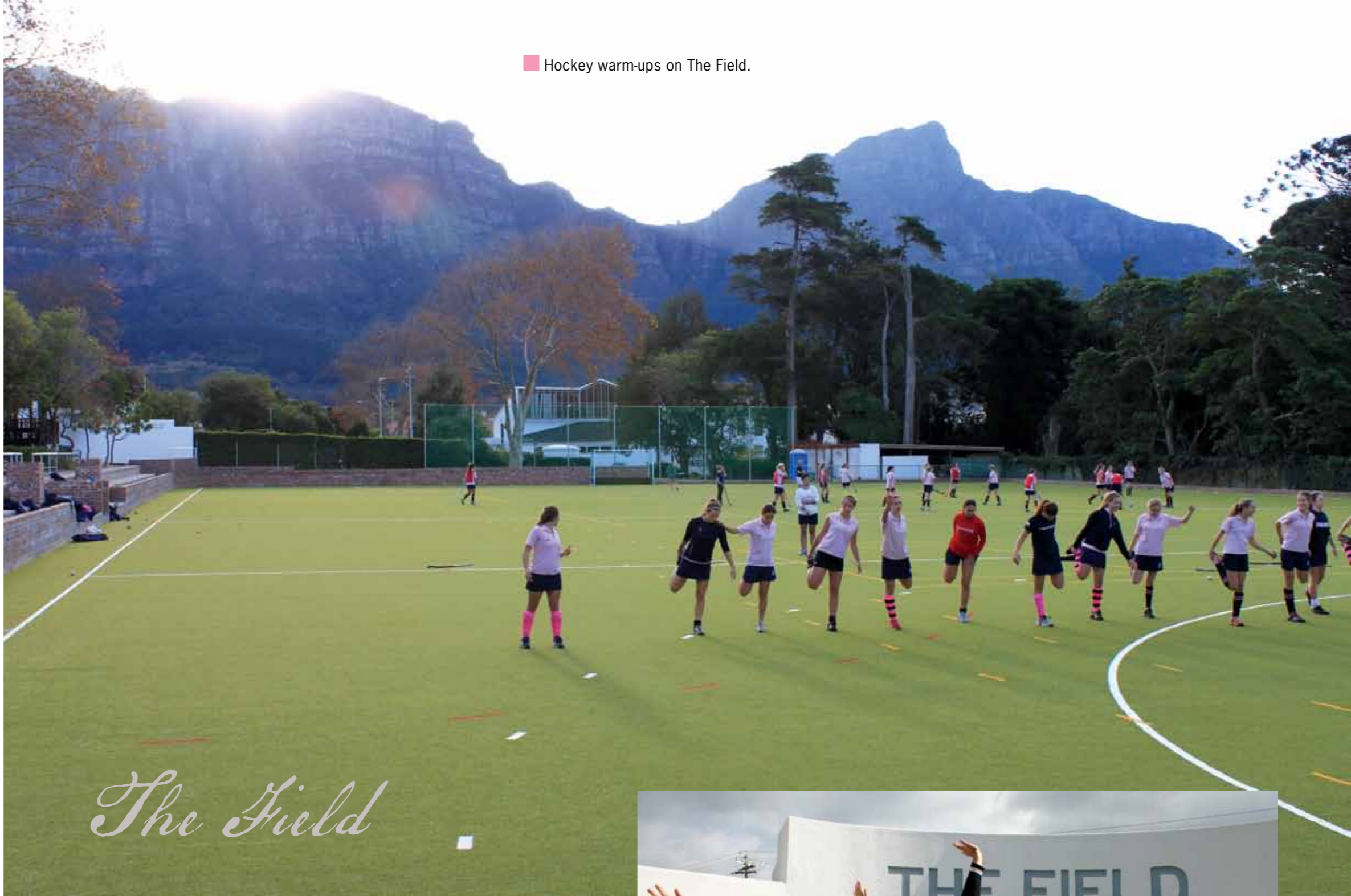


■ **Mr and Mrs Mark Russell** were the winners of the Mini Cooper, first prize in the raffle for The Field.

■ Thanks to modern technology and generous parents and friends of the school, The Field was a dream one day and a reality six months later. One of the greatest benefits of this new facility is that it acts as a link between the Preparatory and Senior schools: the space is constantly filled with girls of varying ages, interacting and playing and it has become a meeting place for parents from both campuses.

Learning to make a difference

■ Hockey warm-ups on The Field.





■ The Grade 3 girls paid a visit to **SARDA** to hand over a donation. They arrived in time to watch a riding lesson and had great fun finding the horses they had been learning about and putting a name to each one. The riders are all disabled young people and the girls were touched to see how much they all enjoyed their lessons.



■ The Grade Four classes visited the **Centre for Conservation Education** in Wynberg. It is the only education museum in the country and we are lucky to have it here on our doorstep. The theme was "When Great-grandmamma was at school" and the girls were asked to dress in some semblance of Victorian clothing. They learned about acceptable behaviour in Victorian times, before being taken back in time and finding themselves in a 19th century classroom, where they wrote on slate boards, played with Victorian toys and sang "God save the Queen".



Dads & daughters

■ The annual Grade 6 Technology evening, where dads and daughters work together to make something constructive, has become a winner with both the girls and their fathers. This year the teams had to design and make a Marble Race. The object of the race was to make the marble travel as far as possible and end with a "Fancy Finish" in a home-made receptacle that also included a buzzer and a light. It was wonderful to see their creativity with the card and paper they were given to use.



■ The Bouncing Bunnies and Busy Bees went to the Cymbidium Farm on Monday. The weather was perfect and the little girls enjoyed themselves very much. They especially had fun feeding the sheep, ducks, a pony, the chickens and tortoises. The fairy walk and the tractor ride were firm favourites.

Learning to make a difference



■ The Grade 3 girls dressed up as birds for their annual **Bird Election**. The eagles won and are now in charge of the bird kingdom of the Preparatory school.



■ There was much excitement in the nursery classes as we voted on 31 May. The girls were voting for the colour they liked the best on the South African flag. The Busy Bees and Bouncing Bunnies were briefed on the voting process and then allowed into our voting booth one at a time. After voting they needed to get a mark on their thumb and a stamp to make their vote valid. The winning colour in both classes was red.

■ The Grade 1 classes went to the **Hout Bay Museum Enviro Centre** for a bug hunt in the forest. The girls enjoyed the illustrated talk and slide show afterwards, but it was the treasure hunt for sweets that ended the day on a perfect note.



■ The Eco-Club took advantage of a day off school on election day, and, in the early afternoon after parents had had a chance to vote, a group of 25 plus numerous dogs set off from Gate 2 of Silvermine Reserve. We walked up the road in the direction of the waterfall, passing well above it and man, woman, child and dog had a splendid time in the fresh air.

■ A group of Herschel Preparatory girls and teachers attended the **Biodiversity Expo** at Kirstenbosch, where many conservation organizations showcased the work they are doing to maintain biodiversity. The expo had a superb interactive nature and the girls had the opportunity to handle snakes and spiders, to stroke a rock-hopper penguin, to look through microscopes at plant materials and miniscule animals, and to view the exhibits.



■ Members of the Eco-Club visited the newly-developed **Green Point Park and Biodiversity Garden**. We were guided around this magnificent site by Mr Stephen Grainger who was involved in the development of what was the old Green Point Common. He explained to us that when approval to build the stadium for the Soccer World Cup was given, it was on condition that the City of Cape Town established a park with free access to all the citizens of Cape Town.





One hundred and eighty excited pupils from St Louis Primary, Kewtown Primary, Rosmead Primary and Capricorn Primary had the time of their lives at a party organized especially for them on the Herschel Girls School campus. The visitors were no strangers to Herschel, as they attend weekly educational programmes at the school. The outreach volunteers included traditional party activities such as egg-and-spoon races and pass-the-parcel into a busy interactive program that left their young guests happily exhausted at the end of the party.

Mr Timothy Vorster from the Cape Town Snake Park had pupils from St Louis School in Langa agog when he arrived at their Mathematics lesson with a bunch of snakes. The Grade 5 boys and girls, who attend weekly lessons at Herschel Girls School, were at first apprehensive, then fascinated by the creatures and all agreed that it was the best Mathematics lesson ever.



Outreach



Shopping for a good cause. The Grade 7 Fair reached new heights this year. The variety and quality of the goods on sale were exceptional. The hall was teeming with delighted shoppers rushing to buy the skirts, fairy outfits, shorts, bags and soaps which the girls had made during Technology lessons. The money which was raised, will be used for all the Preparatory School Outreach projects this year.

Early in June, the Grade 1s donated stationery and books to the patients at Maitland Cottage Home. The Home renders services to physically disabled children in need of paediatric orthopaedic surgery and treatment, as well as medical and nursing care for those children in need of hospitalisation.



The Grade 7 Outreach girls visited Gill House, an Old Age Home run by NOAH in Woodstock. Herschel assisted the NOAH organisation by purchasing compost and plants in order to enhance the garden. The girls gave up their Saturday morning and worked extremely hard to make a difference.



To show our support for the tsunami victims of Japan, Herschel Preparatory collected enough money to donate a shelter box. This box contains all essential items that victims in disaster areas would need, such as a 10-man tent, blankets, pots, pans and medical supplies.



Fifteen girls were confirmed in our chapel by **Bishop Garth Counsell**, the Bishop Suffragan of Cape Town.

Earlier this term, when chaplain **Bob Commin** was leading the final prayers in a chapel service for the Pre-Preparatory girls, one of the girls from Grade R came forward and offered to say a prayer. She sang the traditional version of the *Our Father* prayer, beautifully keeping tune.



The **Herschel Chorale** entered the prestigious **Tygerberg International Eisteddfod** this year and felt honoured to make it through to the final round. The five adjudicators awarded the chorale an average of 90% and commended them on their excellent intonation, well crafted sound and their ability to sing sensitively and expressively, as well as energetically and boldly. The final round of the competition takes place in Stellenbosch during August.



Herschel Preparatory, in conjunction with the **Helen O'Grady Drama Academy**, will be producing the musical, **The Wiz**, during October. The show involves the entire school – quite a daunting task. The lead characters have already started rehearsals and *The Wiz* promises to be a memorable production.

Music and Drama

The beginning of the second term saw the start of our Grade 2 and 5 **Music Instrumental Programme**.

The Grade 2 programme allows pupils to play the violin, cello, recorder and various percussion instruments while the Grade 5 programme focuses on pupils being exposed to, and learning to play the saxophone, clarinet, flute and trumpet. The girls have approached the programme with enthusiasm and are able to play short pieces on their instruments.



The Memory of Water, produced by the Senior school Drama Department, is a poignant, bitterly funny play about three estranged sisters who reunite on the eve of their mother's funeral. The play explores the way in which each sister deals with loss, as well as the effect of that loss on their relationships with the men in their lives and with each other. The cast handled the intricate nuances of the play with maturity and superb acting skills.

The Grade R girls learned a song called *St Ives* during their class music lessons. Their excitement was boundless when they were able to add accompaniment to the song, using xylophones and metallophones. The freedom of musical expression that musical improvisation lends itself to, was perfect for this age-group.



■ **Mikayla Morkel-Brink** is ranked 9th in South African tennis in the Open section.



■ **Chloë Heerden** has been chosen for the South African U17 schools tennis team.



■ For the third consecutive year, Herschel has won the Cape Town Top Schools Squash title and will play against the country's top schools in Pietermaritzburg. **Chanel Erasmus**, captain of the Herschel squash team, shows how it is done.

Sport

SPORTS COLOURS

HOCKEY

Rhoni Gericke (U18A),
Tayla Karsten (U18B),
Talya Cartwright (U16 A),
Clementine Golding (U13A),
Nicola du Plessis (U12 WP Invitation side).

SQUASH

Chanel Erasmus, Inge Rist, Robyn Altman and Natasha Krumbock (U19), Megan Russell & Frances Lees (U16), Nicola Haller (U13) and Chelsea Glynn-Dicks (U11).

TENNIS

Chloë Heerden (WP U18) and South Africa (U17 schools). Mikayla Morkel-Brink is now ranked 9th in South Africa (Open section).

EQUESTRIAN

Stephanie Gees (Eventing and Equitation) and Kate Chaplin (Dressage), will participate in the SA Pony Rider Championships.

NETBALL

Rosie Ritchie-Roux and Rufaro Ndluni (U13). Rufaro was then selected for the Western Cape U13, a team selected from SWD, Boland and WP players.

GYMNASTICS

Honey Osrin, Jemma Morris, Amelie de Villiers, Lucy Miszewski and Theresa Viuff (Level 2) and Gabi Lanfear, Aaliyah Hendricks and Andrea Laubscher (Level 3)

■ **Micaëlla Parker** (Herschel First team) in full cry against Bergvliet in one of the first matches played on The Field. Micaëlla has been chosen for the Western Province U21B hockey side.



Observer photographs by pupils, parents and staff of Herschel



Founded 1922

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