

# April Edition

## CAMPHILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### Editorial

Only five minutes ago, everyone arrived back at School after the Christmas holidays, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. A whole new year lay ahead, with all the possibilities of new beginnings. Now, suddenly, here we are in the fourth month of the year!

And what a busy and exciting term it has been: there have been comings and goings of learners and staff members, fund-raising events, visitors, and never-to-be-forgotten outings. In between, school has, of course, carried on. Looking back to this time last year, we are seeing quite remarkable progress in some of the learners and we are all so proud of our very special children.

For them, one of the highlights of the term was the first School Sports Day. Every child in the School participated with great gusto and for the onlookers, it was a joy to witness the excitement and the courage and determination with which some of our most challenged pupils took on the task of crossing the Finishing Line. Another high point for the whole School was a visit to the Aquarium in Cape Town, after which, the classes were awash with drawings of various fishy characters.

Another momentous event for the School was the official opening by the Mayor of the Overstrand Municipality of our

brand new, state-of-the-art electronic security gate at the entrance to the School and the Farm. The fence surrounding the entire property is currently being erected with the money that was donated by so many generous Hermanus residents last year. We will all feel much more secure when it's in place.

In this edition of the Camphill School newsletter, you will be able to read more about these events and many others. Enjoy this glimpse into the life of this wondrous Place of Hope.

Elaine Davie



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

The first term of 2014 was a busy one at the School. Many of the activities will be reported on in other contributions to the newsletter. We now have 60 learners, the highest number ever, with more applications still coming in. The School continues to grow and flourish.

Jeanne-Marié Botha, our previous Head of Finance, Administration and Public Relations was promoted to the position of Deputy Principal, with effect from 1 January 2014. She deserves this promotion and we want to congratulate her and wish her the very



best in this new, important position.

We are also happy to announce that teacher Michele Lorton has been promoted to the position of Head of Department: Curriculum Delivery. She has already proven to be a great asset to our community.

In other staff news, our previous House Parent, Brenda Shepherd, left us during the December holidays and we promoted our previous Assistant House Parent, Corrie le Roux, to this position. She is a real mother to our children and co-workers and we are very grateful that she could take up this key position. An Assistant House-mother, Irene Erasmus, has been appointed as from 1 May.

Sadly, kindergarten teacher, Jeanne-Louise Taljaard left us in March

to start a family. She is a great loss to the School. However, we were fortunate to be able to welcome Karin Sinclair, an experienced kindergarten teacher, to take her place. Two new drivers, Godfrey Ngqeleni and Siyabulela Wogqoyi have also been appointed and we wish them much happiness at our School.

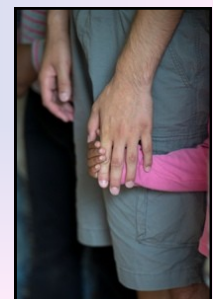
We are grateful to report that our financial position is still stable, thanks to hard work from our fund-raisers, strict financial control and the commitment of the Hermanus community to our School. We are so blessed to receive their support. It contributes greatly to the high quality of service we render to our children.

Many thanks go, once again, to all our donors, dedicated Board and staff members and co-workers for their commitment;

special appreciation also to the Association of Camphill Communities in the UK and Ireland, as well as Camphill Africa Region for their sustained support. Thank you, too, for all the support I received when I was in hospital and at home recovering from heart surgery. I am grateful to report that I am well again and back at School since the beginning of the new school year.

We look forward to next term and the exciting challenges it will bring. Enjoy the Easter holidays!

**Dr Matthi Theron**  
Principal



# Fast Forward School!



Although teachers and pupils alike are feeling that this term has been very long and winter is coming too soon, we have had an exciting start to the year. We have had many new admissions, from Kindergarten to the Pre-Vocational phase and so many more enquiries that we have a waiting list. We will form a new class once we have enough pupils of a similar age. We have tried to accommodate new children, wherever we can, including Busiswa in Class 2-4. Although she is deaf, we have given her a new home and are teaching her sign-language! The pupils are all enjoying learning this together and a whole new world has been opened to her. The Camphill philosophy of accepting, embracing and working together really works.

On Valentine's Day we all dressed in red, pink or white and had fun sharing Valentine's cards with each other. After that, we began working towards the School's Sports Challenge and made very attractive crafts to sell. The very next Monday, the School went on a wonderful outing to the Aquarium in Cape Town. Pupils were even allowed to handle slimy specimens in the interactive lesson. Thank you for organising this, Elaine; it was a once-in-a-lifetime event. We are also always grateful to the kitchen for providing delicious eats for our outings.

Throughout this term, the School has enjoyed singing 'Welcomes' and 'Thank You's' to our many special visitors, like Board and CAR members, visitors from Botswana and, on the occasion of the official Opening of a security gate, for the Mayor and the people of Hermanus who gave so generously towards our security project.

A highlight of this term was our first School Sports Day. Absolutely everyone took part, with such enthusiasm that it was hard getting them to STOP running races! We ran long distance around the School, sprints and many fun relays, like acorn-in-the-spoon and carrots-in-the-bucket. The Kindergarten were the Sunshine teams; Class 2-4, the Snowmen; Class 6, the Terrible Tigers; Class 7 the Stormers; Pre-Vocational phase, the Red-Hot Chillies and Upper School, the Purple Turtles. Huge applause to the teachers for pulling out all the stops and making the day such a success. Thanks, too, to the Maintenance team for magically conjuring up a 'Sports Field'!

We now head towards the Finish Line of this term and get ready for assessments. All the classes are practising poems, songs, or skits for the end-of-term Easter and Autumn Festival.

Michèle Lorton



## Saying Goodbye is Hard to Do

Everyone at Camphill was sad to say goodbye to Jeanne-Louise Taljaard in March, but none more so, than her little family in the Kindergarten. In the relatively short time she was at the School, she crept into the children's hearts and quietly and gently brought about some miraculous changes in their lives.

Jeanne-Louise shares some thoughts about what her time at Camphill meant to her:

*'My time at Camphill was a great life experience; one I will never forget. I had the chance to work with wonderful, loving people. A word to describe Camphill is family. Not one day felt like work; it was like helping and supporting family and friends every day.'*

*Being in Kindergarten made me very happy. Camphill gave me space to grow and to be myself. The children in*

*Kindergarten will always be a part of me and not one day goes by that I do not think of them. Camphill is a place of love and growth. Thank you for the wonderful experience and for inspiring me to be a better person. Camphill will always stay a part of my life.'*

Jeanne-Louise Taljaard





# It's all happening at Phoenix



First, I would like to thank the management and staff of Camphill for having put their trust in me as the new Housemother at Phoenix. What a wonderful, challenging year lies ahead for all of us.

We welcomed a new residential

learner, Nikita Lipan, at the house at the beginning of the year, which was exciting for everyone. Then, there have been birthdays galore to celebrate: Pieter and Neil in February and Chandra in March. Of course, there was also our special Camphill child, Jamie-Lee's 17th birthday on 10 March. She really enjoyed her party at the house. We made her favourite 'pink pap' for breakfast and had a big celebration, with piano-playing by our co-worker, Michelle, and dancing.

Big hugs and thanks to Elaine, Margaret, Lucky and Hans for all their support. They have helped so much with the general catering and also for the special preparations for our annual Sports Challenge, Fundraising Workshop and CAR meetings. Together with the co-workers, we make up a great team and I want to thank them all so much for their hard work and the love they show

the children.

Unfortunately, after several years of receiving donations from Woolworths on a weekly basis, in March they decided not to renew their contract with us. This was done so that another charity could have a turn at receiving goods from them. We are very grateful for all the food we have received over a long period of time and will miss it. The School made a beautiful thank you card for them, which they are displaying in their shop. Thank you so much, Woolworths!

Since January we have been without an Assistant Housemother but a new appointment has been made from 1 May.

We look forward to the rest of the year. We have been blessed because God made it possible.

Cornelia le Roux

## All you need is love



Lindy Anderson, the mother of Poppy Honey, one of our Kindergarten children, invited us, the co-workers, and the residential children, to a lovely Valentine's picnic on 14 February.

The playground was covered in blankets and decorated with hearts and flowers. We all sat together and enjoyed the nice picnic. We had delicious yoghurt, Appetizer in sweet old jam jars, yummy ice cream, crispy chips and pink cupcakes.

As guests, she brought some friends with her. One was a German woman with her two adopted children, and the other one was a deaf woman, who could help us to improve our sign language skills. With that lovely group of people, we all sat together, had good conversation and enjoyed the beautiful weather ('cause good friends are always happy together).

The children also had so much fun and enjoyed having such a nice picnic as a change to their daily routine.

We want to thank Lindy for showing us once again that there is always someone who loves us and cares about us. We really appreciated that and were inspired to also share as much love as we can, not just on Valentine's Day.

Klara Knapp and Alexa Herpich



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Tel. +27 (0)28 - 312 4949

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Like us on  
Facebook



# Simple Pleasures: a visit to the Cape Town Aquarium

Being part of Westernised society has many advantages, such as advanced technology; knowledge at our fingertips in the form of the internet; medical advances. But one thing we are being robbed of is our ability to take pleasure in the simpler things of life.

Who would have thought that a visit to the Aquarium could open my eyes to how blind we have become. Our trip from Camphill got off to a rocky start due to delays on the road, but the view of Table Mountain and Cape Town harbour more than made up for it. To think that something as ordinary as a mountain shrouded in clouds could give children such a thrill of excitement ... and that was just the beginning.

Of all the sea creatures we saw at the Aquarium, my children were fascinated most by the jellyfish, which changed colour when UV lights were flashed through their tank, and the shrimp, those little creatures that run on water. Yes, the sharks were amazing and the giant sea turtle, too, but the jellyfish took the cake.

Their fascination with the tiny creatures in the aquarium served as a reminder that life is made up of small things.

Of course, there are the big shark moments, but our daily lives are made up of small moments and we need to have the eyes to see the beauty in them.

If we can take pleasure in the simpler things, our lives will have daily meaning. If we spend our days waiting for the big moments, they may never come and our lives will have been wasted. So take the time; take a breath of fresh air; drive along roads you have never taken before; let go of everything that holds you back and enjoy the now, because that is all you are ever going to have.

**Lauren Brown - Class 6 Teacher**



## On your mark get set...

The annual Camphill School Sports Challenge is always a highlight in the calendar. It is a way for the School to reach out to the wider Hermanus community, as well as friends from further afield, to share in the joy of spending a morning in a beautiful corner of the Hemel en Aarde Valley.

This year was no different. On 22 February MTB cyclists and trail runners enthusiastically tackled the challenge of mastering the courses that had been laid out for them up hill and down dale across the Valley, while scores of walkers and less energetic runners, of all ages, wended their way along gentler routes beside the tranquil Onrus River. Whichever course they chose, all the participants were full of praise for the trails prepared by Hermanus Adventures, under the leadership of Paul du Toit of the Wine Village. They must be amongst the most scenic in the Western Cape.

Back at home base, a croquet match was on the go and the children were splashing around in water balls and small canoes, or

taking meandering pony rides. Of course, the inner man was not forgotten.

What would a day in the country be without food? Between gargantuan, mouth-watering all-day breakfasts, finger-licking boerewors rolls and home-made ice cream, no one went away hungry.

The day ended on a high note with a demonstration from the Hermanus Line Dancers when many onlookers had the opportunity to join in and boogie away.

See you at next year's Sports Challenge!

**Michelle van Zyl  
and  
Elaine Davie**







## Encircling the School with Love

There has never been a more heart-warming affirmation of how much the people of Hermanus care about the children of Camphill School! In August last year an article appeared in the *Hermanus Times* indicating a growing security risk at the School and proposing the establishment of a fund to step up safety precautions.

There was an immediate response from individual residents of Hermanus, as well as members of the business community. Spearheaded by Paul du Toit of the Wine Village, plans were immediately rolled out to fence the entire property and instal an electronic security gate at the entrance. At that point, Diddi and

Robert Johnson of Bona Dea Estate came on board and offered to organise a prestigious dinner-dance in aid of the Security Fence Project. They hoped to raise about R100 000, but so well supported was the event by the Hermanus community that a total net sum of R377 000 was raised!

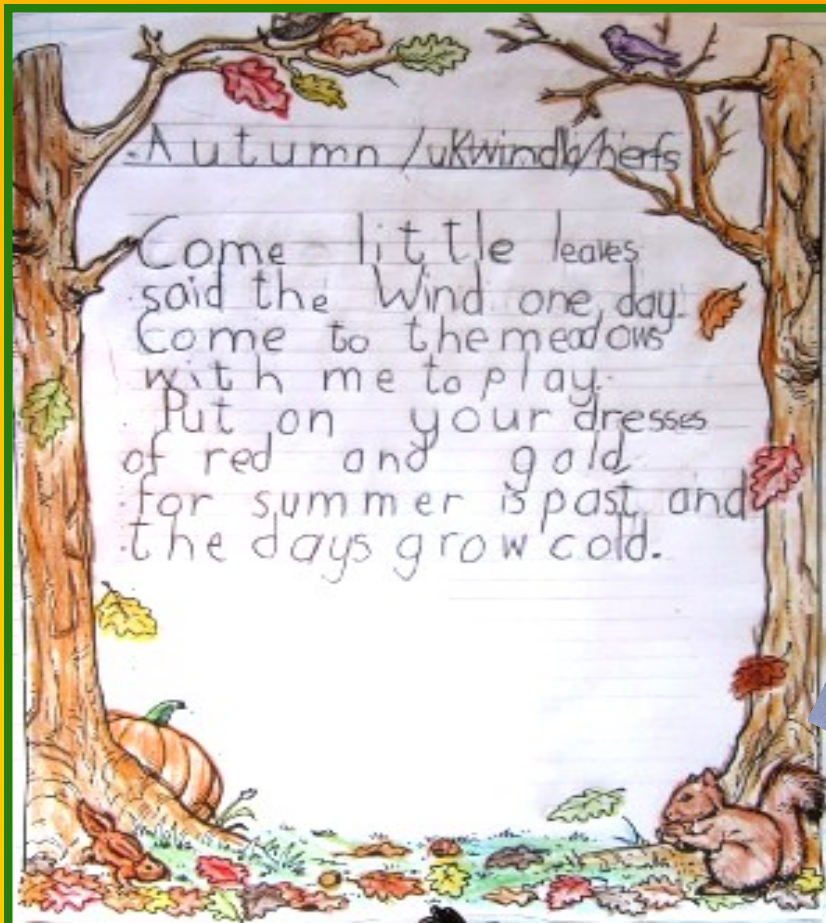
This amount, together with other independent donations, will be sufficient to instal a top-of-the-range electronic gate, as well as 700 metres of security fencing. After that, there will be enough left to improve the security of the individual school buildings, with the installation of Trellidors. What a wonderful indication of how Hermanus feels about the safety and security of the special children and staff of Camphill School.

On Friday 14 March, the Mayor ceremoniously opened the security gate and planted the first fence post. By the beginning of next term, the whole security system should be up and fully functional. Everybody at Camphill School feels a huge sense of gratitude for the circle of love that the people of Hermanus are building around the School.



Photo taken by the Hermanus Times

Elaine Davie

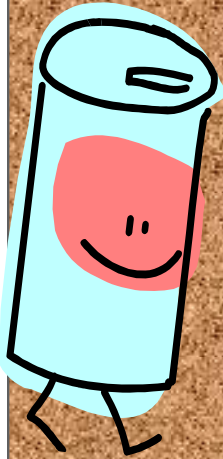


Autumn Leaf Mandala's made by  
Class 2/3 learners





# Pennies from Heaven



On Saturday 5 April we once again took to the streets of Hermanus laden with cans and boxes, to collect money at various strategic points around town.

We were surprised once again at how many people gave their pennies and then still came back a second time round with more money. Lauren, our Class 6 teacher, who collected at the OK Mini Mark in Vermont reported that a gentleman returned with a bucketful of coins, a bucket so heavy she could not even carry it. He told her he had moved several times with this bucket and was so glad he had finally found a worthy cause to give it to.

At the Eastcliff Spar we had our very own

child, Jamie-Lee, shaking her tin once again and she loved every moment. With her enthusiasm and winning smile, her tin was soon full to the brim.

We are happy to say that we have already collected close to R8 900, with the children in Class 6 still counting the last cents in the bucket.

Thank you to all who so generously contributed and thank you to all our collectors. We will be out on the streets again on 9 August.

**Genevieve Linney**



## A Different Ball Game

Good news! Camphill School offers golf-lovers the chance to swing into full golfing mode for the annual Camphill School Golf Day which will be held on 8 May 2014 at the prestigious Hermanus Golf Club.

A sociable and relaxing round of golf on the rolling freeways and immaculate greens of the Hermanus Golf Club will feel even better, knowing that there will be a great spin-off for the very special children at Camphill School. Every cent raised will go towards improving the services offered to them.

We are deeply indebted to the Hermanus community for its enthusiastic and sustained support and by participating in the Golf Day, golfers can kill two birds with one stone (or golf ball): have fun, win fantastic prizes and at the same time, help Camphill School.

Remember, Thursday 8 May - Hurry and put together a four-ball, at a cost of a mere R400 per player. Each golfer will be welcomed with a goodie-bag and will have an opportunity to attend the prize-giving, followed by refreshments and tasty snacks.

To register and book a tee-off time; or if you would like to sponsor a tee, please contact Genevieve or Michelle at Camphill School on 028 3124949, or e-mail

[michelle@camphill-hermanus.org.za](mailto:michelle@camphill-hermanus.org.za) or

[genevieve@camphill-hermanus.org.za](mailto:genevieve@camphill-hermanus.org.za)

**Michelle van Zyl**  
and  
**Elaine Davie**



On a recent outing to Sandbaai beach, the Kindergarten class made sand castles, played ball games, swam in the sea and gorged themselves on ice-cream and watermelon. For some, it was their first visit to the beach.

Truly, a day to remember!



Happiness is sun, sea and a big juicy watermelon on the beach!



# Barefoot in the Park

Jeannine, one of our co-workers from Germany, had the great idea of making a barefoot path for the children. With a lot of help from Class 6, the path was finished within two weeks. Now your feet can experience twelve different materials (fabric, acorns, sand, pine cones, leaves, grass ...) in the space of about 15 metres.



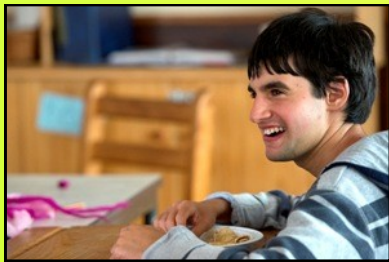
Most of the time we all wear shoes. On the barefoot path your feet are stimulated and it is a great massage for them at the same time.

So take off your shoes and let your feet have fun.

Jeannine Skiba



## My School - support Camphill School today



Contact the school on  
028 312 4949 and  
ask for an application  
form today!

## School Outings



A big thank you to  
Lindy Anderson for the beautiful  
costumes and water-wings .  
Your support is truly appreciated.

# God loves a generous giver

## God loves a generous giver ...



And Camphill School has been greatly blessed by all the generous givers who have become loyal partners with our Board and staff in providing a caring and supportive environment in which our children can flourish and grow to their full potential.

At the beginning of a new year, one always feels a little tentative. Will there be sufficient funding for us to plan for the year ahead and to implement those plans? We could not have had a more hopeful beginning to 2014. Donations continued to arrive at regular intervals throughout the December holidays and into the new year (see list below) to place us in an even more stable position than we were this time last year. We give grateful thanks to God and our generous friends.

You will probably have seen our new child sponsorship brochure. We intend to place strong emphasis on this form of giving in 2014. The knowledge that we can bank on a certain amount of money each month, no matter how small, gives us the security of being able to plan ahead, and gives our neediest children the security of knowing that their place at Camphill is assured. Please feel free to pass the electronic form of the brochure on to anyone you think might be interested in supporting our pupils. It can also be found on our Facebook page.

Apart from those who supported our Sports Challenge this term (see separate list), as well as our street collection, we would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the following:

Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland (AoCC)	Clover Leaf Trust	Kleidos Foundation
Anglo American Chairman's Fund	Syringa Trust	Arabella Community Trust
NG Kerk Hermanus	Susanne Elsholz	Dassiesfontein Farm Stall
Freunde de Erziehungskunst	Mourne Grange Camphill Community	Mr Alfred Rosenberg
Grant-in-Aid Overstrand Municipality	Frances J Appleby Trust	Victoria Frances Clive-Smith Charitable Trust
Lily Ashton Trust	Mrs Mostert	Mr Ralph Woescler and Mrs Marion Merk
Mesdames Milton, Byrne & Picard in celebration of Diddi Johnson's birthday	Several anonymous donors	

We also thank our regular contributors, who month after month, support the School and its children, in particular:

(\*New child sponsors)

Western Cape Community Chest	Kerrin Michelson	Woolies My School (please do sign up)
Ad Ops	Jamie-Lee Grant	Bradshaw Family
Naele Family	JDE Manufacturing	Christopher Cook*
Michael Pashut*	JJ Swart*	Several anonymous donors



Equally important are the donations-in-kind we received during this period, which saved us a significant amount of money:

Pennypinchers (drain pipes)	Afrimat (crusher stone)	Agrimark (painting equipment)
Mrs Coby Zoeteman (laptop)	Salome Holloway, Ané Theron, Frank Pronk (clothes)	Mr Julius Swart (food)

As always, we would like to thank the convenience store at Hermanus Service Station and the Peninsula Feeding Scheme for the food with which they supply us on a regular basis.

A very special word of thanks is due, too, to Woolworths Hermanus for sending us food every week, over several years. Apart from the benefit to our children of receiving such high quality, nutritious produce, it has saved the School a great deal of money. In March this year this came to an end (only for the time being, we hope), so that they could offer this wonderful service to other worthy causes in this area. We cannot sufficiently thank them for the unstinting support they have given Camphill School over such an extended period of time.

# Camphill School Sports Challenge

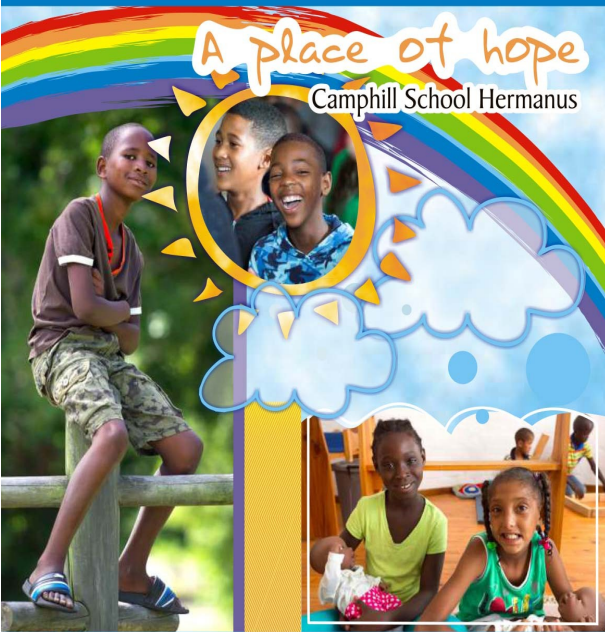
**Camphill School is very grateful to all the sponsors & donors who made this fundraising event a success:**

Andrew Southey	Penbev
Wine Village - Paul du Toit	Euodia Cycle Shop
Hermanus Adventures	Daniel Kamber
KIA Motors Hermanus	Hermanus Line Dancers
Cashkows	Haygrove Heaven
Beauty Fires	Hermanus Accounting
Camphill Friend	PSG Head Office
Gateway Spar	PSG Wealth Financial Planning
Laurie Singer	Ocean Mushrooms
Mr Geoff Saevitson	Birkenhead Brewery
Ask Security	Agrimark Hermanus
Mr JS Rabie	The Beanery Coffee
Dioné Bekker	Arabella Hotel and Spa
Pick n Pay	La Vierge Restaurant
Hermanus Service Station	Hamilton Russell Vineyards
Niel du Toit	Caledon Casino Hotel & Spa
Fruit & Veg City Gateway	Mr Barron (Hermanus Croquet Club)
Percy Delpont	Derrick Benzien

**Our thanks are extended to all the cyclists, runners & walkers who participated in this event, as well as the media - in particular The Hermanus Times, Nosy Rosy, Whale Coast FM, Show Me & Whale Talk - for all their support**



# Sponsor a Child



## CAMPBILL SCHOOL HERMANUS CHILD SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

Full names and Surname \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to support the work done by Camphill School in educating learners with intellectual and other disabilities.

### MARK APPROPRIATE DONATION OPTION:

Annual | Quarterly | Monthly | Once-off

R50    R100    R250    R500    Other \_\_\_\_\_

### I WISH TO SPONSOR:

a specific child | needy children in general at Camphill School.

### PAYMENT OPTION:

When making payments, please use as reference: 'Sponsor + your surname'

Cheque    Electronic transfer    Stop Order (which I will arrange with my bank)

### PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Camphill School Bank details:

Account: Child Sponsorship Fund  
 Bank: FNB, Hermanus (Code: 200412)  
 Account No: 60 247 115 054  
 SWIFT code: FIRZAJJ

### Contact details:

PO Box 68  
 Hermanus 7200  
 t 028 3124949 f 086 5221749  
 e school@camphill-hermanus.org.za

SPONSOR A CHILD

003-320 NPO



Please complete the above form and either post, fax or scan and e-mail it to the above address.

## Camphill School Banking Details:



Account name: Camphill School  
 First National Bank  
 Acc no 524 7070 4936  
 Branch code: 200412