

CAMPHILL SCHOOL

Editorial

One thing's for sure: there's never a dull moment at Camphill School Her-mamus! We may not have much money, but we are never bored. As you will read in this newsletter, even though this was the shortest term of the year, there have been lots of comings and goings and many exciting events to enjoy.

The School is enriched by the experience and the institutional memory of those who have been here for a long time and enlivened by newcomers who contribute fresh ideas and bubbly energy and enthusiasm. Dr Matthi, our Principal, and Jeanne-Marie, his Deputy, have both been on stimulating trips abroad and have been able to share thoughts and bring back experiences that will ultimately have a valuable spin-off for the School.

But as we hunker down for the wild, wet, windy, winter, we are warmed by the knowledge that there is no place like home; that the spirit of caring and community felt by everyone associated with the School, children and adults alike, is our woolly blanket against the cold. And as much as we appreciate the blessings so generously bestowed on us by others, this welcoming warmth, in turn, is our gift to them.

Elaine Davie

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



I am grateful to report that Camphill School continues to grow and flourish! When I drive to this beautiful School in the mornings with a song in my heart, I feel blessed indeed. We are all so privileged to be able to serve these very special children in a spirit of mutual support.

The second term of 2014 was the shortest term of the year and passed rapidly. We now have 63 learners, the highest number ever, with more applications still coming in. If this ever-growing need continues, the Board will need to consider establishing at least one new class in 2015. We are already seeking funds for a new classroom and workshop.

We were excited to undertake an in-depth assessment of our School this term, quality-assured by an external assessor. This was done to determine our strengths and weaknesses, so that we can reinforce what we are doing well and make improvements where our performance is not good enough. A number of issues were identified for special attention, including parent involvement. We would like to ask for suggestions from parents as to how this can be achieved.

Also this term, I was privileged to visit a similar school to ours in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates for a few days, all expenses paid. My task was to assess the school and make recommendations for improvements. I was overwhelmed by their hospitality and learnt many things that could be applied in our School.

We gained several new staff members this term: Clint Fouche was appointed as Head of Maintenance and Transport; Irene Erasmus as Assistant Housemother and Gert Shepherd as driver and maintenance assistant.

We wish them much happiness and fulfilment at our School.

Most of our young volunteers will be leaving us at the end of this term. We all agree that they are the best group we have ever had. We wish to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their wonderful work here this past year. They have set a high standard for their successors. Vielen Dank Jungs. Das Beste für die Zukunft.

We are grateful that our financial position remains stable, thanks to the hard work of our fundraisers, strict financial control and the commitment of the wider community to our School. We are greatly blessed by their sustained support, which contributes greatly to the high quality of service we render to our children.

As always, our thanks go to our donors, dedicated Board and staff members and co-workers for their committed engagement. Special appreciation is also expressed to the Association of Camphill Communities in the UK and Ireland as well as Camphill Africa Region for their sustained support. Most importantly, we wish to honour our Heavenly Father who blesses us in so many ways.

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

Dr Matthi Theron



Falling Leaves

Autumn at Camphill is always the most beautiful time. We are so aware of the beauty of Creation and this is manifested in all our classrooms. Hand-made trees of various shapes and sizes adorn the walls wherever you go, bringing Nature inside.

We have also been trying to reclaim the garden and are teaching the pupils nursery skills this year: how to transplant and grow from slips. We aim to begin potting plants for sale.

The school was privileged this term to enjoy superb entertainment provided by 'Storieskip', who gave us a vibrant performance with an eco-theme. We also had a surprise visit from a young cyclist-traveller, Nick, from Australia. He believes in 'giving back' and takes his puppets along with him, performing for children along the way. He played his didgeridoo and the children loved interacting with the puppets, singing and dancing. Teacher Henna's boys, in particular, were amazed by the fact that he could cycle such long distances and all of us were touched by the lesson on 'giving back' to others, which is an on-going theme at Camphill.

The winter weather let up long enough on Ascension Day for us all to climb the mountain in our back-garden and, as usual, the walk was edifying and enjoyable.

Along with collecting and studying autumn leaves, our children are all busy with knitting, crocheting, or weaving, in the warmth of the classrooms. We are also rehearsing for the end-of-term St Johns Festival, where we will think of carrying our inner light into the winter months.

Michele Lorton



Stepping Stones to Camphill



Hermanus was our holiday town when I was a child. We used to hike in the koppies above Camphill.

After my teacher training and marriage, we lived on a farm in Norvalspont, Colesberg district, and later in Kimberley, when my husband joined the Northern Cape Legislature. I was involved with teaching throughout those years. We had five children and after an accident in 1998, my twin daughter became cerebral palsied. After my husband and I divorced, I moved to Hermanus in 2006, to be close to Camphill. Sadly, Kyla passed on during that time.

I now have a daughter and grandson living in Hermanus, two sons in Italy and another son at Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch.

I am very grateful to have come full circle to become a kindergarten teacher at Camphill School, where working with the children is very rewarding and special.

Karin Sinclair



The Light of Camphill

There was a light that shone, high up on the hill;
 its rays were bright, its light was full,
 full of hope, full of meaning,
 a whispered chance; its rays were teeming ...
 teeming with purpose; significance; acceptance and need;
 a need ... a need to be me
 to be free
 to be taught
 to be wrought
 into something useful, something helpful, something ... full
 full of hope
 full of identity
 full of life
 a need to be special, to be recognized;
 a need to be known, to have a home,
 ... a special need

There was a light that shone, high up on the hill;
 its rays were bright, its light was full,
 its purpose was to make full, to fulfil ... those who have a special need.

Lauren Brown

Ours is a happy home



We were really blessed this term with the installation of Trellidors on all the outside doors of Phoenix and the flat at Roberts. Now we all feel very safe - children, co-workers and staff. In fact, all the new security measures that have been introduced at the School have made us feel much more relaxed. Now, we have security lights in the grounds, as well as a fence round the property and an electronic gate that is kept locked at night and over weekends. We are very grateful to all the donors who made this possible.



We were very happy to welcome our new Assistant House-mother, Irene Erasmus, at the beginning of the term. We hope she is going to be very happy with us. Clint, our new Maintenance Foreman has also been very helpful in the house.

Jamie-Lee had a very exciting time this term. Johanna, her co-worker paid to have her hair braided. She is so proud of her new long hair and we all share in her happiness. Thanks, Johanna, for giving her so much pleasure.



On 7 May we all went on an outing to Kleinrivier, near Stanford. The children enjoyed it very much. While we were there, Arno van der Merwe of Midas, Caledon approached me with an offer of money to spend on the children. We bought some pizzas, which they really enjoyed. Subsequently, he also sent us some car cleaning materials, as well as lovely toys and puzzles for the children in the house. We want to thank Arno; we really appreciate his kindness.

Cornelia le Roux

Talking up a storm

I was privileged to be able to attend the recent Camphill Dialogue held at Camphill Soltane, in Pennsylvania, USA.

An international working group formulated the following vision for the Dialogue a few years ago:

'The Camphill Dialogue aims to promote co-operation and cohesion between Camphill communities worldwide, with the active participation of Board members, enabling them to respond to views, recommendations and advice, and to cultivate shared aims and ideals in the spirit of association.'



Not only Board members were present, but people with an interest in the cause, as well as employees and Camphill community members. Eighteen countries were represented. It was a very enriching experience to meet people from communities around the world, who have been faced with, or are about to face, similar challenges to those we have experienced, some of which we have successfully overcome. Staying positive and seeing each challenge as an opportunity for growth and development is very important.

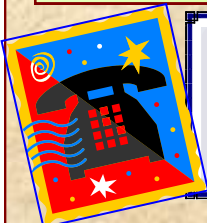
The theme of this year's Dialogue was 'Developing and growing community in a changing world'. In this sense, 'community' does not only mean our individual organisations, but also Camphill as a movement, as people who work together across the globe with common aims and goals.

I attended fundraising, management and governance workshops, as well as panel break-out groups about 'Camphill and person-centred support', 'Fundraising and sustainability' and 'Camphill's dialogue with the world today'. It was interesting to note the extent of government support afforded to most of the communities in other countries.

Camphill Soltane is an adult community, consisting of 8 residential houses, set on 50 acres of lush green countryside with lots of trees, outside Philadelphia.

Thank you to the AoCC for making it possible for representatives from Camphill Africa Region to attend and present the African perspective at the Dialogue and thank you to our American friends for assisting with conference fees for the two CAR representatives. It was truly a wonderful experience.

Jeanne-Marie Botha



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Ascension Day at Camphill

On Thursday 29 May Camphill School celebrated Ascension Day. One group went up the mountain to the cross, another went up to Castle Rock and the third went by bus to Rotary Drive.

As always, it was a wonderful experience for everybody to go up the mountain to view the wonder of nature from above and then descend after having enjoyed a healthy fruit snack on the top rocks, surrounded by fynbos and the clean air.

For all the learners it was a meaningful Ascension Day outing which will remain with them until next year.

Karin von Maltzahn



A Term of Festivals



We had Ascension Day ...

This was followed by Whitsun, which was celebrated during the School Assembly. It was a solemn ceremony in which we had the readings in 10 different languages - English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, Dutch, German, Filipino, Polish, Greek, Spanish and Russian!

On June 24, we celebrated St. John's Day, the Festival of Light, for which the learners prepared beautiful lanterns. The Festival started with a ritual in the school grounds; then the whole School walked right round the property, ending up at St. Johns. In the darkened hall all the home-made lanterns had been lit, creating a beautiful atmosphere. The ceremony started with songs and then everyone listened to a reading of the Tale of the Light Bearer. The event ended round a bonfire outside where the learners could throw into the fire a list of the things they wanted to change or leave behind as they move forward. St John's Day is a truly heartwarming festival, particularly meaningful because it involves the whole School.

Julio Laset



A year at Camphill

Interview with Jeannine Skiba, one of the 2013/2014 co-workers

How would you describe your experience at Camphill School?

I think all of us enjoyed working here. I mean there are always ups and downs when things are either easier or more challenging, but we got used to everything and it was an amazing time that no-one will forget.

What did you enjoy most during the year?

All the children are so lovely and it is just fun to be with them: to see when they are happy; to laugh together; to see that the child you are working with is making progress. For me it was fantastic to see that Chandra can now write her name, after trying to teach her for months. We enjoyed the last days before the Christmas holidays; the Advent Spiral was so special and reminded me of my own Kindergarten time. Another highlight was the school holidays, of course. We saw so much of South Africa and the neighbouring countries; that was amazing.

How did you like Hermanus?

I did not expect Hermanus to be so European. The town is small but has almost everything you need: supermarkets and restaurants, lots of possibilities to go shopping. I hadn't expected that. But it is a beautiful town, with the ocean and the beaches and the whales in winter time. I just regret that Hermanus has so few opportunities to meet other people of our age.

What will you miss most here?

All the children, of course. I will never forget them and I am sure that I will be crying when we all have to leave. I am already sad. I don't want to leave all these lovely people - children, teachers, class assistants and house mothers. It's a pity that they don't all fit into my suitcase. I will also miss Hermanus and the beautiful landscape and ocean.

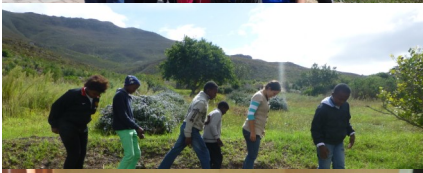
What tips do you have for the next group of volunteers arriving?

If you have your own ideas for a project - like I built a barefoot path with my class - speak with your teacher or housemother and take the initiative. To start or finish a project can take a long time here at Camphill. Follow through with your ideas. Try and make contact with the previous volunteers for information and progress reports on the children they worked with. That will make it easier for you to see how you can help them. If you have any problem, talk directly to the person you have the problem with or take the problem to your Head of Department. It makes things a lot easier. Solve problems through communication.

Last but not least, have fun. You will have a great, great time!!!



Thank you Co-workers 2014



Three Cheers For Volunteers!

VOLUNTEERS...

- Very important people!
- Outstanding!
- Love to be helpful!
- Understand children!
- Needed for many things!
- Teachers value them!
- Enjoy helping children!
- Enthusiastic adults!
- Ready at a moment's notice!
- Special people!

Thank you!



Thank you from ALL of us at Camphill School Hermanus

A Special School for Special Children

Alta Du Toit is a government school for learners with Intellectual disabilities in Kuilsriver. It has about 360 children and dormitories which sleep up to 100. Having been at Camphill School for nearly a year, the name, Alta Du Toit, has come up regularly as an example of what can be done for children with special needs.

So, when we had the opportunity to pay it a visit, I was curious, to say the least. Alta Du Toit runs like a well-oiled machine. It has over 50 years of experience working with children with special needs. Therapists, teachers, a school nurse and doctor are all based on campus, offering a holistic approach to education.



What struck me most was the positive energy flowing from every classroom, where every person in the school works towards the same goal: equipping the children for survival in the world. It was amazing to see what government funding can achieve, together with the right attitude from the staff. I find it difficult to describe how uplifted our spirits felt after observing all the good work they are doing. I felt personally challenged to put even greater positivity and inspiration into my teaching, despite the difficulties we face at Camphill School.

As teachers, it is sometimes difficult to maintain our perspective on life and our vision for our children. Just as we get the machine running, we realise we're missing pieces, or something breaks. Not letting this affect your teaching is challenging. Thankfully, we are not left to piece everything together alone. We have a team that works on the engine, a team that replaces parts and a team that checks that everything is functioning properly.

The close relationship between all staff members is something unique to Camphill School. Our beautiful setting, together with our special staff dynamics, make this School one in a million! As I go forward, I will always be thankful for the exceptional individuals that make up Camphill School and I will persevere in this remarkable thing we are doing for the children of our School. **Lauren Brown**



Jumping for Joy!



The official opening of the Camphill School Trampoline donated by the

Merk Family 23 June 2014

Therapy Update



This term continued to be a busy one for our therapists. We are so grateful to our donors, like the Anglo American Chairman's Fund, the William Morris Camphill Community and the Fuchs Foundation for making it possible for us to offer our children such a wide range of modalities. Access to the relevant therapies is making a huge contribution to their development. We are pleased that Anetta was able to give us more time for occupational therapy sessions this term, so we were able to add at least one more child to the roster. Assessment of our learners by Lianna Morrison of Overberg Therapy Centre continued and Anetta and Estelle, our speech therapist, participated in some observation sessions in the classes, to firm up the co-ordination of therapies and school activities, which is so important for continuity and reinforcement.

We have not had much winter rain yet, so our learners could still benefit from therapeutic horse riding with Dasha at Mountain Rose. Sadly, Dasha broke the news that she will have to retire Hot Chocolate and Priscilla, two of the horses the children love. We hope this will not affect the therapy sessions too much.

As always, the children continue to enjoy playing the marimba and participating in the choir as well as the eurythmy sessions, in groups, as well as individual therapy sessions. Physiotherapist, Felicia continued to treat a number of our learners, some of whom were referred to the Red Cross Hospital and Hermanus Provincial Hospital for further interventions. In these chilly autumn days Beatrice shared the warmth of etheric massage with the learners, constantly reminding us all to keep warm in these winter months.



Julio Laset

Thank you to Marcel for the wonderful Occupational Therapy equipment.

Forthcoming Attractions

9th AUGUST
STREET
COLLECTION



5th SEPTEMBER
CASUAL DAY
BRING OUT THE BLING

5th OCTOBER — BARRY
HILTON SHOW

12th OCTOBER — GOLF DAY





Bobby on the Beat – Clint Fouche, Camphill's new Foreman

Clint Fouche was born in Durban. He was a police officer in the SAPS for 17 years, and achieved the rank of inspector. After retiring from the force, he started his own maintenance business in Durban. Needing a change, he and his family eventually decided to relocate to Hermanus at the beginning of 2013. Clint is a very loyal, dedicated, hands-on person. His hobbies include ballroom dancing and going for cruises on his motorcycle. He is married to Jill and they have two daughters, Carmen (12) and Juliet (9), who attend Hermanus Primary School.

Since his arrival, visitors to the School will have noticed that Clint already has his finger firmly on the pulse of the School's maintenance needs. In the middle of winter, he can be seen getting his hands dirty around the campus, dressed in short pants, with a woollen beanie on his head, personally getting things done!



Security Update-

Trellidor Hermanus, with the backing of Trellidor head office installed 18 Trellidor security gates at Camphill School at cost price. We would like to express our gratitude for their support and for making us all feel so much safer.

L to R: Theron Delport (Trellidor Hermanus Sales Consultant), David Botha (Trellidor Franchise Owner) and Dr Matthi Theron, our principal.

Treasure is where the heart is

When so many people have invested their hearts in the children of Camphill School, we are rich indeed. And when many have given more than just their hearts, but have made material contributions to the welfare of the School, they have stored up treasure in heaven for themselves.

We are always deeply touched by the generous donations in cash and in kind, which arrive on our doorstep, just when we need them most. Every one of our donors is appreciated and honoured for the contribution they make to the education and care of our very special children.

During this term, we have paid special attention to the dissemination of our child sponsorship brochures. A number of them have been placed in the bedrooms of high-end guest houses in and around Hermanus and we have sent the electronic version to many of our friends overseas. Potential sponsors based in the UK and Ireland can channel their contributions in GBP through the AoCC (Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland), thereby saving on banking costs (e-mail for banking details).

Another fundraising and PR focus for us will be via the churches of this region. I was recently invited to make a presentation on Camphill School to the Ladies' Group of the United Church of Hermanus, who made a donation of R2 000 to the School. This was followed up with a visit to the church's minister, the Rev James Gray, who has undertaken to dedicate one of the church's Sunday collections to the School. We are hoping to expand this initiative to involve some of the other churches.

This term we would like to offer our grateful thanks to the following donors in particular:

Valley Farm Stall	Direct Aid for Africa	The Stella and Paul Loewenstein Trust
Mourne Grange Camphill Community	United Church of Hermanus	William Morris Camphill Community
Gayle Johnson	Simeon Care Camphill Community	Narollah Trust*
Protea Hospitality Corporation (Pty) Ltd	Riscura Consulting	

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

My School (Don't forget to sign up)	Jami-Lee Grant*	JDE Manufacturing*	Ad Ops*
Jaci van Heteren*	Kerrin Michelson*	Anonymous*	

*Child Sponsorships

We are equally grateful for the donations in kind we received this term:

Pennypinchers (paint)	Arno v.d. Merwe of Midas Caledon (toys and vehicle cleaning materials)	Veronica Bates (books)
Rothea Kleynhans (books)	Biblioneef (Books)	Anne du Toit (beads)
Marcel Pongs (Occupational Therapy equipment)	Robert Johnson (clothing)	

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

Elaine Davie

Banking Details:



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

