

December Edition

CAMP HILL SCHOOL

From the Principal's desk



Wow, can you believe that Christmas is peaking around the corner!

Even though this term flew, by it was jam packed with school and fundraising activities, training opportunities and visitors bearing gifts!

On 17 October Dr Charles Coetzee, a psychologist who works closely with various education faculties, presented a workshop regarding the "Circle of Courage and "Restoring youth at risk" - behaviour management. This workshop was fascinating and very valuable.

Later on in the term Bev van Rensburg presented an invaluable free trauma workshop, specifically designed to build Trauma-Competent caregivers. The Overstrand Association for People with Disabilities (APD) and church groups joined the teachers and staff on the day.

On the School front, we are proud to announce that the class assistants finished their Child Day Care Advanced Certificate Course and they all did extremely well.

On Friday 27 November Elize Snyman and Wilna Snyman (from 7de Laan—a South African TV series) came to Camphill School to present each learner with a hand-knitted teddy bear. It was a very moving occasion which sparked interest in the community encouraging more visitors to come and see what we do

at our School.

On that note, The Hermanus High School Interact Club, their Principal Mr Hassenkamp and teachers (accompanied by Father Christmas) once again came to present our learners with Christmas gift boxes made-up specially for each of our children. After the distribution of gifts from Father Christmas, our learners were treated with cupcakes galore. Thank you to these extraordinary people for your ongoing support towards our School and for sharing your love with us.

As we approach the last week of the School term, which will be filled with a visit from St Nicolas, the School Community Xmas lunch and the Nativity Play, we start preparing for 2016.

Then, we have two very exciting projects taking place in the first term, the extension of the foundation phase and renovating Cloister House. We would like to thank Laurie Singer whose in-laws asked for donations towards this project in lieu of their 60th anniversary gifts. We would like to wish them a Happy Anniversary and a huge thank you from the Camphill Family.

I wish to then thank all the parents, friends and a special thank you to all our donors for your continuous support and loyal commitment throughout 2015. May you ALL have a blessed festive season with your loved ones and take special care.



Jeanne-Marie Botha
Principal



Congratulations to Ignatius Jafta on his graduation. We wish you all the very best.



Special visitors John and Kristin Tallo



George and Tom Evans



Pre-Christmas excitement

The term started off with a blast: the Overberg Brass Ensemble and friends entertained the children and farm residents with a very upbeat and thoroughly enjoyable musical morning. The children are in a state of pre-Christmas excitement and the anticipation is almost unbearable for them. That is why it's so special at Camphill School to have festivals like Advent, to calm and prepare the children for the Season ahead.

Sunshine means swimming and fun and the co-workers had water safety training from Kathi which we will continue next year. Geralyn Laset has begun Curative Eurythmy classes and these and the other therapies along with new workshops are much enjoyed and appreciated. Teachers and Class Assistants attended an ADHD forum and an invaluable 2-day course on Trauma Counselling. Teachers were also privileged to visit Mispah Special School and had a workshop on understanding Behaviour from Professor Coetzee. Training is essential for us to better understand and meet the needs of the children in our care.

Many changes are happening; some of the children will move up to another class next year and we will be welcoming new learners. It is always heart-warming to see how the children have developed and grown, both physically and emotionally. Their well-being is important and preparation for their future is essential.

The children always enjoy practising for the Nativity play and it's especially wonderful to hear the songs bursting out from various areas of the school. We are all aware that "St. Nick" is on his way! The adults also enjoy this festive time, particularly when joining in with the children to share the feeling of goodwill and gratitude for all the love and support we received this year.

Thank you all and be blessed this Christmas and New Year.
Michele Lorton



The Upper School children busy with their vocational skills training at Camphill Farm making cheese.



Kairos Eurythmy Performers with Geralyn Laset.



William enjoying his second helping of ice cream at our Christmas Lunch.



Teachers visit to Mispah School

On Wednesday 21st October Julio and the educators went to visit Mispah, the school for learners with learning disabilities, as well as the Elim House for the physically and intellectually disabled, in the historic town of Elim. This was a fruitful stopover as various topics were discussed with the Mispah educators such as *how they treat and support their disabled learners*.

At the Elim House information was passed on and positive support systems were discussed between the educators. Everyone was given the opportunity to examine the learners' books and in return gained valuable information which can be implemented at Camphill School.

Educators also had time to visit their vegetable tunnels and gained new ideas on how to replenish the shortfall on their subsidy. We also received feedback on one of our previous learners who now resides at the Mispah hostel. We would like to thank the management team for the opportunity awarded to us, we had a memorable day.

Johanna Gardiner



What's cooking at Phoenix

Here we are at the end of a wonderful year. Our last term was full of surprises, birthday parties and heaps of presents bringing sheer delight on the children's faces.

We started the term by celebrating Madison's birthday and 2 weeks later we had a beautiful Barney- themed party for our Poppy Honey. Thank you to Lindy, Poppy Honey's Mom, for all the lovely party packs that she specially prepared for the children in Phoenix House for this occasion. They had a wonderful time.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Madison, who went to Shalom Respite Care Centre in Gauteng. Madi you will be in our hearts forever and we wish you only the best in this new chapter.

Later on in the term, our team of co-workers expanded when 2 vibrant ladies from Botswana, with Clinical Psychology degrees, arrived to do volunteer work here. Both have worked exceptionally hard in the classrooms, in the house and the children have enjoyed their time together.

I was very fortunate to participate at the Makaton Workshop (sign language workshop) at the end of the term. It was a once in a life time experience. I made a decision then and there to put into practice what I had learnt at the course and I am excited to say that these skills are essential in communicating with our children that cannot express themselves verbally.

Then, I would like to say thank you to all the staff from Homelife for all their hard work and especially for preparing the catering for all the special occasions this term.

Ladies you Rock! I am very proud of you!

I wish everybody here at Camphill School and to all the parents, donors and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Angela Coetzee



The Homelife team taking a quick break to be spotted with Wilna Snyman (well known actress from 7de Laan).



Hot off the press... Secret Santa time



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Trauma counselling workshop

The name of the course was "Building Trauma competent Caregivers".

It is a Christian-based course, formulated by Lynn and Ruby Johnston from Lamb International, who are world-renowned Educators and Curriculum divisors. They are and take this training all over the world, from Canada to Uzbekistan and other eastern European countries, to many countries in Africa too. It was a great privilege to meet their "agent" Bev van Rensburg, a gentle but powerful speaker who has a huge heart for wounded children.

The school, house and office staff attended and we knew we were in for a very deep and meaningful course from the beginning. We were spared no details about the pain and tragedy of a child in trauma and Bev often referred to "walking with the wounded".

The course was presented over two consecutive days. Day one, "The Impact of Trauma on the life of a Child", and day two, "Building Trauma-competent Caregivers", which was about understanding and navigating the emotional and behavioral needs of traumatized children. Also identifying and dealing with behaviour we so often



see in our school children and understanding that BEHAVIOUR IS COMMUNICATION. We were given a developmental checklist with indicators for delays in children exposed to trauma as well as a list of domains of impairment. The resources given to us are invaluable assessment materials which we will be able to use in years to come. We ended off with a talk on *how to cope as a caregiver*.

The closing prayer was that we do not leave this knowledge at the course, but use it and spread this gift to everyone possible, especially the carers at ground-roots level, such as the Gogo's (grandmother) and family support, so that this knowledge may be used to help as many hurting children as possible.

Michele Lorton



From left to right:

Bev van Rensburg, Suzette Nortje and Jeanne-Marie Botha



Musical Melodies



We want to thank Laurika Steenkamp and the members of the Brass Quintet for making this day very special for all of us.

We look forward to your next visit.



Suzette Nortje

The Cape Town Philharmonic Brass Orchestra Quintet visited Camphill School on the 13th Of October. What a wonderful experience for all the people who attended this event.

They showed the instruments to the children and demonstrated how it works. We enjoyed all the melodies thoroughly and we were so happy when they also played "Vader Jakob" a song the children know very well.



The Spiritual Life of Camphill

Amidst the disharmony and restlessness in which we live today, the Christian festivals that we celebrate at Camphill still gives us freedom for calmness, humility, hope and reverence in our hearts. It is a Camphill tradition to celebrate these Festivals which are cherished and enjoyed by the entire school community - the children, the staff, volunteers and friends.

We celebrated the first week of advent with the Advent Spiral on the 30th November. The Advent Spiral ushered the start of the Advent and Christmas festival in summer. At Mercury Hall, dry branches and leaves were laid in a spiral, with "Mother Earth" and flowers and green leaves at the centre. The beautiful lyre and musical sounds of the piano created a peaceful and meditative mood throughout the ceremony. An Advent Story was told to the children about the journey of Mother Mary preparing for the birth of her Child. This was followed by the journey of each individual child in the Advent Spiral. One by one, each child received a lit candle which was cored in an apple, from an 'Angel'. The child was then guided by the 'Angel' in his or her journey into the spiral with his or her lit candle and where they met "Mother Earth" at the centre who received his or her candle. Mother Earth gave each child a flower and the children then placed it on the dry branches beautifying the spiral. In the end we can see the lovely spiral garden with flowers and the glowing candle lights at the centre. The movement of going into and going out of the spiral symbolizes the inner journey of each individual child who carries inner light and love that can shine over the darkness of the earth. Each child prepares for the birth of the Christ Child by filling his or her heart with light and love so that the earth will also be filled with light and love. This is the real essence of Christmas.



In the South African tradition, the children await for the coming of Father Christmas with his gifts in December.

At Camphill, the children are visited by St. Nicholas, the forerunner of Santa Claus and Father Christmas. Legend says that St. Nicholas is allowed to return to earth each year to bring heavenly gifts to the children and to gather their love and carry it back to Heaven. This will prepare the way for the Christ Child to come on Christmas day.

St. Nicholas' day is celebrated on December 6 each year. This year, St. Nicholas meets the children in their respective classes where he tells them the story of his journey. He goes to each class to read the good deeds of each child from his golden book. Afterwards, the children sing advent songs together showing their gratitude. The children receive gifts from St. Nicholas to remind them of the light and love in their hearts.

Then, the most awaited event of all, the Nativity Play which is performed on the last day of the term for the parents, friends, partners and residents and staff of the Camphill Farm Community. The entire school is involved in the play wherein the children assume different roles in different scenes of the Nativity story, in the singing and even in the preparation of the props and costumes. The play culminates with a tableau of the whole story of Nativity. It is wonderful to see the result of hard work so that the play is performed beautifully by the children supported by the love and dedication of their teachers.



Julio Laset



Simon and Co says..

How would you describe your experience at Camphill School as a volunteer?

We have experienced numerous sides to Camphill School but the best part is the children. They are wonderful and they make us laugh, which makes our day. Only after being here a short while they have all crept into our hearts and we are showered with love and hugs each morning when they greet us. It is wonderful to see how they progress when you teach them colours, mathematics and language skills however there are also many challenges too. We have come to learn, that communication is key at Camphill. It is sometimes tricky to communicate with the children because of their disability but all in all, our experience here is very valuable and the skills we have acquired at Camphill School will help us in the future, not to mention the extraordinary memories.

What have your highlights been so far?

The biggest highlight is seeing the loving interaction the co-workers share amongst the children. Their unconditional love is truly touching. One of our favourite moments was when everyone started dancing to the marimba band at the last concert.

How do you like Hermanus?

Hermanus is a beautiful, sweet village. Soon we found our way around and felt at home. We enjoy our time at the old harbour and sit on the cliffs enjoying the views. Grotto Beach is also a great place to spend time and relax. Furthermore, you can quickly drive to Cape Town which is a great advantage. We enjoy our time here

in Hermanus.



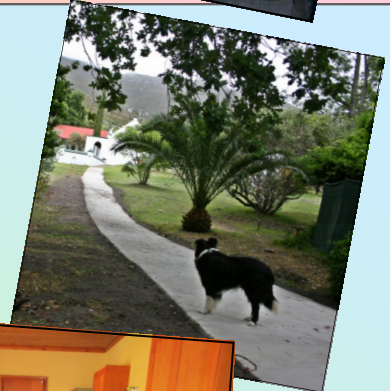
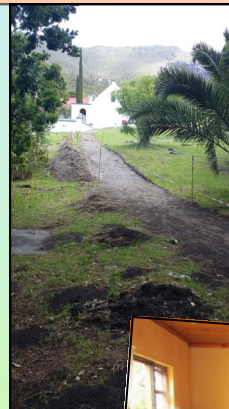
New pathways

As far as you all know by now this has been a very busy term. Our two highlights during this time were the official opening of Phoenix Kitchen and the completion of the much-needed wheelchair friendly pathway generously sponsored by RisCura. The team also have had their hands filled with securing the property with more spotlights in and around the terrain to increase the level of security as we approach the December break.

We look forward to the opening of another foundation phase in 2016. The first phase of the project is already underway and I would like to thank the fundraisers for all their efforts in raising available funds for our essential projects here at Camphill School.

Thanks to the maintenance team for all their hard work and dedication once again. Have a great break ahead, because we are going to rock in 2016!

Clint Fouche



Shake...Shake

On Saturday the 31st October 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.



At the Eastcliff Spar we had our very own 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.

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



Genevieve Linney

Sports Day Challenge

Make sure you tag your 2016 diary today: **Saturday 13 February 2016** is our first fundraising event of the year.

The annual Camphill School Sports Challenge is always a highlight on 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.

There'll be mountain bike rides, trail runs, a moms and tots fun walk and boeries galore. Enthusiastic MTB cyclists and trail runners will be able to master the challenge of the tough courses laid out for them uphill and down across the Hemel en Aarde Valley, while scores of walkers and less energetic runners of all ages, jog or stroll their way around gentler routes, some beside the tranquil Onrus River.

All the routes, amongst the most picturesque in the Western Cape, have been designed by Hermanus Adventures, under the leadership of Paul du Toit of the Wine Village.

Registration will commence at 06h00 or alternatively enter online@ www.enteronline.co.za

For more information contact Camphill School office at 028 312 4949. See you there!

Michelle van Zyl



Guess who came knocking at our door!



THANK YOU TO THE CHARITY TOY RUN TRUST FOR THE TOYS SPONSORED TO OUR CHILDREN

A heartfelt thanks

Camphill School has been greatly blessed by all the generous givers this past year who have become loyal friends in providing a caring and supportive environment in which our children can grow and flourish.

As we approach the end of this year we would like to take a minute to express our sincere gratitude and to give thanks to all our ongoing supporters and new partners from near and far. Donations continuously arrive at regular intervals throughout the year and these in-kind gifts play a significant role in creating a stable environment for our children.

This year we mainly focused on creating a greater awareness within our Hermanus community, from a spectacular magic show, to shaking tins in town, to forming special friendships with the Hermanus High School, we are truly blessed and grateful to have had all these valuable opportunities.

Apart from those who supported our ongoing events, as well as our street collection, we would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the following:

Camphill Communities Ireland and UK	Acacia Trust-Susanne Elsholtz	Kirken Reis Lichtenberg
RisCura	Old Mutual	Hermes Trust UK
Willem and AnetteTheron	Freunde de Erziehungkunst	Hermanus First Fridays
AoCC	The Charitable Toy Run Trust	JET Lee Will Trust

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

(*New child sponsors)

Simple Active	Kerrin Michelson	Woolies My School (please do sign up)
Ad Ops	Jamie-Lee Grant	ABSA
Alan Bailey *	JDE Manufacturing	Carin Johnston *
Andre Heyns *	PJ Myburgh	Several anonymous donors



Thank you to the Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust and to The Lewis Group for our new kitchen.



Equally important are the donations-in-kind we received during this period-

Gerry Gouws-Video player and videos	Chanelle Bezuidenhout/Wayne DVH-Clothing	Hermanus High School-Christmas boxes, clothing, toys
Karen and Christo- Kelpak for the garden	Zahira Ismail- Meat donation	Anja Brand-Trampoline and food donation
Mr Heunis-Clothing	Vera and Toekie Botha- Newspaper/ cotton	Pick n Pay- Ice cream and rolls for Christmas Lunch
Nikki van Heerden-Vegetables	Hanlie Gunther- Clothing	Colourpix-Pull up Banner
PJ Myburgh-Xylophone, doll house, CD's and DVD's	David Bruce- Beds and mattresses	Arno van der Merwe- car wash materials
Mr Roeloff van Weelle- Weaving Loom	Pack n Bake-Napkins, cups for Christmas Lunch	Elize Snyman and Wilna Snyman-Teddy Bear donation.

As always, we would like to thank Woolworths Hermanus, the convenience store at Hermanus Service Station and the Peninsula Feeding Scheme for the food with which they supply us on a regular basis. We would also like to make special mention to the media, *Hermanus Times*, *Whalecoast FM*, *Whaletalk magazine*, *ShowMe Hermanus*, *The Newspaper* for always supporting us .

We wish you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Genevieve Linney and Michelle van Zyl



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Genevieve and Michelle doing a MySchool Drive at Woolworths Hermanus



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