



December Edition

CAMP HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

From the Principal's desk



The fourth term always seems to fly by as it is so crammed full of joyful events while we hurtle towards the end of the school year.

2017 was a year of joy and sorrow. We said good-bye to old friends and welcomed not only new ones, but also some old friends who came back to their Camphill Family.

Camphill School has been truly blessed with financial contributions as well as donations in kind. Thank you to each and everyone for spending time with our special children and staff members, for visiting our School and sharing your love.

Our School celebrated 65 years of service this year and with the help of our teachers, class assistants and volunteers, our children put on a wonderful concert entertaining our guests to commemorate this milestone. The event celebrated the determination and commitment of the pioneer of Camphill in Africa, a mother with a dream of excellent care and education for her son with special needs as well as for others in his position. May Redman established our school in 1952. It was a great honour to welcome May Redman's grandson, Ian Redman and his wife Shirley for a visit during October. It was a touching walk down memory lane for Ian and wonderful to share in his memories.

Our Community Spring outing took place on 2nd November. Despite the overcast conditions and the occasional bout of rain we were determined to picnic in Piet-se-Bos at Grotto beach. The learners were very excited and came prepared



with swimwear as well as raincoats! Fortunately it was not cold at all.

The learners played ball games, swam, ate and just had fun with all the staff and volunteers. We had



braided boerewors rolls and the NG church ladies of Hermanus

made us chocolate fudge for dessert. Thank you to all who made this a memorable occasion.

We have had many highlights on our calendar this term, however I would like to make mention of our special High School friends. Today marked the third year that the Hermanus High School Interact Club and their teachers came to hand out Santa Shoeboxes which they had lovingly and thoughtfully made for each one of our learners. The love is tangible at these occasions. The beautifully wrapped boxes were handed out by



the Hermanus High School's Father Christmas, his elves, together with our very special Camphill School fairy, Geraldine. Our learners were very excited to open their gifts but waited patiently till everyone had received his/her gift. Then Father Christmas led the entire audience in a countdown to ten. The gifts were opened in record time - often we have to help open the boxes.

Everyone had the opportunity to admire the gifts and to sing a final

Christmas Carol before our special High School friends left.



On behalf of our Board of Directors and the entire Camphill School I would like to thank the Hermanus High School Interact Club, all the teachers and Principal Mr Hassenkamp for everything that you do for us; picnics and outings with our kids, a friendly soccer game at our school, Spring day treats, helping with Casual Day, Santa Shoebox initiative and the wonderful outreach in conjunction with Wynberg Boys' High Service Club. We look forward to making new memories with you all in the New Year.

Thank you to all our teachers and supporting staff for your hard work this year. I wish you a well deserved break. I wish to thank all the parents, friends and a special thanks to all our donors for supporting us throughout 2017 and may you have a blessed Festive Season with your loved ones ahead.



Jeanne-Marie Botha

Principal

Christmas excitement



Our final term has been a busy one with lots of training workshops for the teachers, many visitors popping in to meet our children and lots of pre Christmas excitement.



On the 18th of October the teachers went to SNAP, an academy for learners with special needs.

It was very informative and everybody enjoyed the day. We thank all the teachers at SNAP for your warm welcome and to all your children for all their loving hugs and smiles.

Mid November Camphill School was privileged to welcome Magda van Biljon from the WCED who presented a training workshop to the teaching staff, house parents and Julio. This was an inspirational and educational workshop.

The teachers were privileged to attend the WCFID workshop at Alexandra Hospital in Cape Town on identifying and reporting sexual abuse in children and adults with intellectual disability, presented by the much respected author of the book, Rebecca Johns, (MEd), The overall message of the course was "Yes, the system has got lots of problems at the moment, but **DON'T GIVE UP AND REMEMBER TO KEEP SUPPORTING THE CHILD!**" She gave us many pointers on reporting and handling child abuse situations and stressed the importance of educating our children on matters of sexuality so that they are not afraid to speak up.



Apart from all the training, we made time during the term to go and sing once again to the residents at Kidbrook Care Centre. We all know that our children / School can 'give back' to our community, especially to the elderly. Our children's singing has the ability to bring joy. The little lounge was filled with anticipation and right from the beginning, the children felt welcomed and one could feel the connection. We know the feeling when this 'magic' happens. Everybody joined us in singing the old favourites, amidst clapping and foot-tapping and happy tears; - the sister pointed out that even the residents with severe dementia were animated and participating. We were also especially thrilled to be able to 'sing our thanks and gratitude' to a Very Special Person, a Father of our Nation, "Oupa Tutu" or Archbishop Tutu, who had recently celebrated his birthday. He was with his lovely wife Leah. We left with promises to return, delicious

cupcakes to fill our learners tummies and a song in our hearts.

The vocational phase learners enjoyed their new workshop room, learning skills for hairdressing, baking, needlework, housekeeping and crafts. We thank Mr and Mrs Coetzee for the donation of 2 Overlockers and a sewing machine. We also thank Foschini Group and Allure Hair Couture for all the craft materials. Our senior boys are enjoying working alongside the maintenance team, assisting with car washing and woodwork sessions.

The last 2 weeks of the term is always very busy with our annual Eurythmy concert, marking the beginning of our festivities.



Our nativity play held on the 1st of December was a day filled with love and tears as we

celebrated the birth of Christ. All the learners put their whole heart into the play and all our learn-



ers looked beautiful. Thank you to everyone who sang with us,

especially our special guests and family that were able to join us.

The whole community enjoyed sharing gifts with one another this week with our Secret



Santa sharing followed by our Christmas feast under the trees. We thank everybody that made our Christmas picnic possible. We are all aware that "St. Nick" is also on his way bearing more gifts for all our children. The co-workers will put on a small play for all of us to mark the end of term. All the staff and the whole community 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.

The Teachers

joyful homes

Here we are, at the end of 2017 and looking back, I can say we had a year of challenges and happy times, lots of joy in the houses, new adventures with our new co-workers and children.



Our last term was full of surprises, birthday parties and heaps of presents bringing sheer delight on the children's faces.

We have all enjoyed decorating our residential homes with Christmas cheer and the children all love the end of term festivities. Thank you to Lindy Anderson and the Clarkson's for the beautiful Christmas trees, our children loved decorating them.

Our German co-workers have been with us since August and have settled in nicely, they are also looking forward to their summer break ahead, which most of them spend with their families that travel here to see them.

During the term we had extra hands assisting us when Lillian and I needed a weekend off. We thank Rika and Phumla for all your support and help in both homes.

Thank you to the Peninsula Feeding Scheme, Checkers Hermanus, Engen convenience store and Woolworths Station Square for helping to feed our 70 learners every day. We were very excited too when we received word that the Woolworths at the Whale Coast Mall would also be supplying our School will surplus foods weekly, Without the support of our Community we would not have been able to deliver this standard of service and care to all our children.



The co-workers made wonderful Bible suppers over the weekends and we enjoyed several braai's around the pool on a summer's day. Our children enjoyed several outings

with the co-workers to the beach and town.

Nikita, Shaun and Camille were lucky to go on a few outings with myself and Lillian.



Shaun, Camille and Jamie also enjoyed going into town to help shake tins for our street collections. Jamie is always so enthusiastic and loves to chat with all the shoppers.

Jamie is also assisting us with the weekly shopping. We have taught her how to make a list, choose the ingredients, how much

each item costs and how the paying process works. She is a born shopper and she loves it.

I would like to thank my Homelife staff for the hard work this term and I thank all the co-workers for their dedication and commitment to all our children. We wish everybody safe travels during the festive season and to return home safely.



Angela Coetzee



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The Spiritual Life of Camphill



This year the Nativity Play ushered the Advent and Christmas celebrations on the 1st of December. All the children participated in the play each playing a particular role in the sequence of the nativity story which culminated with a tableau in the end. It was heartwarming to see how the children have grown and matured in their performances. All the parents, Camphill Farm Community residents and guests joined in the singing and all of them enjoyed and admired the performances of the children and the effort of those responsible for putting the performance together.

We also had the Eurythmy Concert wherein there was sharing from all the classes of what they have been doing in classes. The Creative Class performed a mini nativity play in eurythmy which was very moving. The highlight of the concert was the individual and group tone and speech eurythmy performances of Emmanuel, James, Jamie Lee, Edward and Chante.



In Camphill School tradition, the Advent Spiral garden was held on the 4th of December after the first Advent Sunday. The spiral garden was laid with dry branches and leaves with "Mother Earth" and flowers and green leaves at the centre at Mercury Hall that mirrored the South African Christmas mood in summer. The beautiful lyre and piano music 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 met "Mother Earth" at the centre who received his or her candle.

Mother Earth gave each child a flower and 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.

Camphill School also celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas and Christmas Festival last 5 December. It was special with first eurythmy performances of all the Class Assistants, Valda, Nonthombi, Lonel and Phumla as well as our eurythmists, Geralyn and Luise. Elizabeth also told the story of St. Nicholas and Christoph provided the music. In the South African tradition, the children await for the coming of Father Christmas with his gifts in December. Camphill School celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas who is 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 meets the children in their respective classes. He tells them the story of his journey. He reads the good deeds of each child from his golden book. Afterwards, the children sing advent songs as gratitude. The children receive gifts from St. Nicholas to remind them of the light and love in their hearts.

At the end of term concert/sharing, there was Christmas carol singing, the co-workers staged a special performance for the children and our school leavers also performed again the eurythmy number that they did in the eurythmy concert.

Thus, amidst the disharmony and restlessness in the world, Camphill School was still able to celebrate and gives space for calmness, humility, hope and reverence in our for the coming of the Christ in our hearts.

Julio Laset

With gratitude....



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 term we celebrated our 65th anniversary. What a wonderful celebration we enjoyed with friends and family of Camphill. We were fortunate and blessed to have been able to share our story with many friends worldwide and with all Camphill Communities. We thank everybody for making this possible and for sharing this milestone with us.

It was heart-warming to have so many friends, donors and family attend our annual Nativity Play. We are truly grateful that so many of you took the time out of your busy schedules to be a part of our Christmas festivities and to meet our wonderful children.

This year we mainly focused on creating a greater awareness within our Hermanus community, from shaking tins in town, MySchool card drives, to our growing friendships with the Hermanus High and Primary Schools to visiting all the churches within our Community and Caledon. We are truly blessed and grateful to have had all these valuable opportunities and we look forward to making new friendships in the New Year.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the following during the term-

Association of Camphill Communities Ireland and UK	Donaldson Trust	NG Church Hermanus
Freunde der Erziehungskunst	Old Mutual Care and Share	Marine Crew Services
Overstrand Municipal Grant-in-Aid	Stephen Barnard	JET Lee Will Trust
Mr and Mrs Theron	Shell- Jeff Green and Klaus Lombardozzi	AGS Church
Hermanus Primary School		

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

(*New child sponsors)

Anonymous Trust	Kerrin Michelson	Jan and Letanie Nel
Ad Ops	Van Tonder	PJ Myburgh
Alan Bailey	JDE Manufacturing	Carin Johnston



As always, we would like to thank Woolworths Hermanus, Checkers 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*, *The Village News* for always supporting us .



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

Great White Projects-Paint	NG Church Hermanus-Food Donation and Fudge for school outing	Hermanus High School-Christmas Santa Shoe Boxes for each learner
Foschini Group- Craft Materials	Bio Wheat- Flour	Anja Brandt-Food Donation
Hanri- Craft Materials	Schulphoek Guesthouse- Furniture	Pick n Pay- Ice cream and cones
VLV Hermanus- Nappies and Wet Wipes	RealNet Hermanus- Stationery and sweet packs	Mrs Loubser- Clothing
Mrs Roussot-Knitted teddy bears	Theunis and wife-Sewing machines, stationery	Mr and Mrs Clarkson- Christmas Tree with decorations
Tsogo Sun-Voucher	Steers Hermanus-Picnic foods	Toy Run-Toys for our learners
Zahira Ismael- Cold drinks for each learner		

We wish you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Genevieve Linney

Thank you to all our Camphill Friends

