



# Christmas Edition

## CAMPHILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



# From the Principal's desk



The last term is always so crammed full of happy events that time seems to fly by too quickly. It is hard to believe that the December holiday is upon us already!

Camphill School hosted an Open Day on 1 November and welcomed Ms Celestine Smith from the Disability Forum of Genadendal bringing with her 25 adult disabled persons and 9 teachers. The learners' workbooks as well as crafts were exhibited in the classrooms

and workshops, Phoenix was turned into a tea garden selling the pancakes made by Teacher Henna's class and the Vocational Phase selling cupcakes and acting as waiting staff. Our hearts were filled with pride for our learners' and teachers' handiwork and achievements. Thank you to everyone who came to support us.

Our Annual Nativity play was surprisingly well attended this year. The positive response to our invitation was absolutely overwhelming. We were delighted to welcome the Hermanus Waldorf Schools classes 1,2 and 3, Curro's Grade R class and their teachers as well as our old and new friends and supporters. They all gasped in amazement and excitement when the curtains opened and they saw the beautifully lit nativity scene. Guests were encouraged to sing along with performers, making it a really joyful experience. The play itself was described by some of our regular attendees as the best one ever. Well done to all our teachers, co-workers and children!

We all enjoyed a very exciting and challenging soccer match between our senior learners in their beautiful sponsored red jerseys and our maintenance team who joined forces with our co-workers. We all watched in anticipation; there was lots of running and shouting and cheering from the rest of our school and staff. What a fun afternoon, we will definitely be playing again soon.

The whole Community will have a pizza and ice-cream picnic party on the playground as our end-of year function after the Advent Spiral. The celebrations usually kick off with the gift of giving as we exchange Secret Santa gifts. Once again Veronica and Riaan from Debonairs have really made our Christ

mas celebrations special as they have been doing over the last 2 years, bringing balloons and ice-cream for all of us. How wonderfully blessed are we to be able to share in the joy together as a Camphill family. Thank you so much.

On the 4th December, for the first time ever, our School will have a graduation celebration for our 7 school leavers of 2018. It will start with a certificate presentation which the school's board members and parents will attend, followed by a party and sit-down meal for the senior and vocational classes. We are aiming to create a "Matric Farewell" atmosphere in St John's Hall and party-goers will have to dress up in their finery. We are very excited about this event.

As I reflect upon the past year, I feel overwhelmed by the generosity of our Hermanus Community and friends further afield. Thank you for the food, stationery, Santa shoeboxes, clothing, toys, furniture, washing machines and for always being willing to support our raffle sales. Thank you to donors who enable us to provide quality education, therapies and care to our children. But most of all; thank you for sharing your love. May everyone have a blessed, joyful and safe Festive Season.

**Jeanne-Marie Botha**

**Principal**





# Pools of fun.....



What can we say, the term has passed and the year is almost over, but we are thankful every day for all the blessings we received and that God kept us all safe throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who support and love our School and our children.



Due to popular demand we went back to Grotto beach for our spring outing, the weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed the peace and quiet of the beautiful nature around us. Thank you to Pick n Pay for the delicious rolls you prepared for all of us once again and for always being so generous.



The staff went on a Professional Minds workshop on the correlation



between learning and listening skills which we can utilise in the classrooms. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

We all had our end of year class outings with Vocational phase to Grotto beach, Senior 1 and 2 to Wimpy, Creative class to Spur and Foundation phase to Wonderland.

The Intermediate class went to Onrust rock-pools for the end-of-year outing to consolidate our Sea Creatures theme. The tide was out and the water was crystal-clear. We scrambled over the rocks looking for sea-life. Sadly, there was not much to see as the poaching has taken its toll on our ocean, but we saw beautiful 'Pearlie' shells and others. We only saw TWO anemones;- a huge yellow 'sea-sunflower' and a big, bright fiery one. We also saw a few purple 'spiky balls,' as Jaydon called them. Suddenly we heard Keneowe scream. She had been surprised by a red octopus! They used to be plentiful but now we rarely see them, so it was good to know that they are still around. (although she wasn't that thrilled). We collected bits of litter and fishing-line to throw away, shared a 'lekker' picnic and then returned to school, tired, but grateful for our precious Oceans. Everyone enjoyed the outings so much and we thank everyone that made these outings possible.





A BIG Thank you to the management of EnviroServ Waste Management from Cape Town for their generous contribution of school stationary for next year. It was lovely to have you all visit us and thank you too for all the treats you brought with for all our children and staff.



We were excited to once again have our special friends from the Hermanus High School Interact Club here. They came bearing beautiful Santa Shoeboxes for each of our children. Our children were so eager in anticipation to see their special High School friends again and couldn't wait to open their box of lovely goodies. We thank the Interact Club wholeheartedly for these precious gifts, we also thank Father Christmas Gerphan Louw and to all the teachers a special thank you for organising this BIG highlight on our calendar. You have all become valued friends to Camphill and thank you for always keeping our children close to your hearts.



A day later we enjoyed a Eurhythmy performance by GERALYN and LUISA with all the classes. It is wonderful to witness the development and progress in some of our learners, with their group Eurhythmy sessions they receive weekly throughout the year.

We end this year with our very moving Advent Spiral that will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December and a Secret Santa surprise just waiting around the corner and then we end the day with a lovely picnic with all staff and learners. We are very privileged and honoured to have such wonderful staff.

Our Graduation ceremony for our seven senior learners is also on the cards, followed by our traditional visit from St Nicholas and then to end our festivities a concert performed by our German co-workers with carol singing.

Thank you to all that made this year truly memorable. We cannot wait to see what next year holds.

**The Teachers**



# Unconditional Love



We give a big thank you for all the wonderful donations this year and to our hardworking Homelife team and our co-workers, who always help to sort the surplus food donations from our local grocery stores, Woolworths, Engen and Checkers.

We had many birthday celebrations this term, Margaret's, Lotta, Annika and Poppy-Honey and so many more. We often enjoy these festivities with all the lovely treats we receive. We really enjoy the pizza's, pies, sausages, sandwiches and the chicken stews.

Our Pool/Snooker Table we received as a donation last term is in our Phoenix home and the co-workers

and our learners really enjoy playing pool during their breaks. The game brings a lot of lively chatter and laughter.

Our team of German co-workers have been here

since August and are settling in well. They are all looking forward to our long Summer holiday, where most of their families will come and visit them.

We had a special visit from one of our past German co-workers Simon Pohlmann. He spoilt us with his company and his stories and smiles. He also treated us to a few new gadgets for our kitchen and a monetary donation to our Vocational Phase to buy craft materials in the New Year. It was lovely to have him visit and hope he will return again soon.

We are sad to say good bye to one of our residential children, Nikita. We will miss her hugs, her contagious laughter and we

wish her well back in Cape Town with her family.

We are all enjoying the festivities of the coming week and in full spirits for our long summer holiday ahead.

We thank our two housemothers Angela and Jonnelize and the rest of my team for a wonderful year.

We are truly thankful to each and everyone's dedication and commitment. Our reward at the end of the day, is seeing the happy smiling faces of our children.

**Elaine Dyers**





# Preperation for the birth of the Christ Child in our hearts



The Fourth Term is the shortest but the busiest term of the year with Festivals. The Nativity Play on the 16th November ushered in the Advent and Christmas celebrations. All our children played particular roles in the sequence of the Nativity Story which culminated in a tableau at the end of the play. It was heartwarming to see how the children have grown and matured in their performances. All the guests joined in the singing and they all expressed admiration for the entire production and how it all came together at the end. This year was also special because of the attendance of the children from the lower classes of Curro and Hermanus Waldorf School. Our children received beautiful drawings from grade 1 students of Curro School and cards from the Waldorf Classes, as expression of their appreciation of our Nativity play.



We also had the Eurythmy Concert on 28th November wherein there was sharing from all the classes of what they have been doing throughout the year in their classes.

One of the highlights of the concert was the Advent Play in Eurythmy "Mary's Journey through the stars" which performed by the Senior Classes.

In Camphill School tradition, the Advent Spiral garden was done on 3 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, flute, violin 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 lighted candle and met "Mother Earth" at the centre who receive 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.

In the South African tradition, the children await for the coming of Father Christmas with his gifts in December. Camphill School celebrated the Festival of St. Nicholas on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December with eurythmy performances by Luise and GERALYN and story telling on 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 visited all the classes and 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.

Hence, the essence of the celebration of these Festivals and Festivities is to give space for calmness, humility, hope and reverence for the coming of the Christ in our hearts.



**Julio Laset**

# Blessings

We are very grateful to all our supporters, donors, loyal friends and new Camphill friends for the valuable contributions made this past year.

With the positive PR campaigns for the past few years, we are now reaping the rewards with the substantial increase of visitors, from near and far. We had a well attended Open Day this year as well as the Nativity Play. We thank each and everyone for spending time at our School and spending time with our children. We feel truly grateful for all our blessings received.



We would like to acknowledge the financial contributions made by the following:

TS Berwitz Trust	Willem Theron	Marine Crew Services SA (Pty) Ltd
Simon Pohlmann	Old Mutual Care and Share	

We also thank our regular contributors, who month after month, support our School and our learners, in particular we thank our child sponsors-

Carin Johnston	PJ Myburgh	Jan and Letanie Nel
Alan Bailey	My School (Please sign up)	J van Tonder

Percy and Anna Haumann- Clothing	Ken and Christina Stead-Washing Machine	Adele Cpetzee- Washing Machine
Annie Hamman- Towels and furniture	Hermanus High School Interact Club- Santa Shoeboxes for all our learners	Simon Pohlmann- Kitchen utensils and funds for Crafts
Laminin Paint- Paint	Leo Benning-Medals	Oewerzicht Guest Farm- Raffle Pize
Seven Springs Vineyard- Wine for Raffles	Illana and James Whiteman- 1 sheep for raffle prize	EnviroServ Waste Management- Stationery for 2019
NG Church Hermanus- Food donation	Cape Town Toy Run Trust- Toys	Marius Krause- DVD Player



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