

A wonderful term for festivals at Hermanus School, South Africa

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We always look forward to the second term because it is a term full of festivals. This year, Holy Week fell during the school term break. We started the term with an Easter Eurythmy Festival performance by international eurythmists.

It was autumn with erratic weather and we prayed for nice weather on Ascension Day. As the morning progressed, we were given beautiful blue skies with beautiful cloud formations while we celebrated the community gathering before the Ascension hikes. As in our tradition, all the children and staff, with the maintenance men as marshals, were divided according to their capabilities to the different sites: climbing either to the Irish Cross on top of the 'Camphill Mountain' or to Castle Rock and the less able had their own drive up to the Rotary Way viewpoint. The group that tackled Castle Rock tried to explore the other route only to find out that the fynbos vegetation was too overgrown and the route was too difficult to walk. But nonetheless, they reached the top and were able to appreciate the views of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley. One of our learners was asking how much further they needed to go but when she turned around and saw the beautiful view, all she could say was 'Fantastic, Fantastic' and the thought of being tired was gone. All of this culminated with blowing of bubbles in their respective destinations, whilst enjoying a deserving snack.

The celebration of the Whitsun Festival was an experience for our Community as we had a new set up for St John's hall. The table and candles were placed at the centre of the hall with the readers around the table, followed by the learners and staff sitting around them, creating a large circle formation, symbolizing a community holding. The readers, with representations from school, homelife, therapies, administrative and maintenance, lit their candles one by one before they read the verse of John 1:1-5, read in 12 different languages. The music which was composed by our music therapist, Christoph Reppel, created the solemn mood of the Festival.

The celebration of St. John's Festival is our Festival of Lights in winter and was truly special. The whole school community gathered around the school courtyard where the Upper School performed eurythmy to the St. John's Fire Verse by Lawrence Adler. This was followed by a lantern parade whilst singing around the school grounds, which ended at St. John's Hall. The darkened hall was brightened by the lights from the beautiful lanterns prepared by each learner and teacher. There was a short programme of story telling of The Light Bearer as well as the eurythmy performances of the gospel of St. John 1:1-14, by Geryl and Luise and a Novalis poem by Luise. The festival culminated with the gathering around a bonfire and the throwing to the flames pieces of paper where everyone had written things they want to change within their lives, symbolizing the call for change as we let the inner light of Christ kindle in our hearts. Another highlight of St. John's was the lovely eurythmy performance of the Creative Class on 'St. John's Gift' during the school Assembly.



The Saint John's Festival of light in winter; eurythmy to the Saint John's Fire verse by Laurence Adler.