

December Edition

CAMP HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

From our Principal's desk

Never in a million years could we have imagined what 2019 would have in store for us when, filled with enthusiasm and excitement about implementing our year plans, we started the academic year on 9th of January.

As most of you would know, a run-away bush fire fuelled by winds exceeding 120 km/h, ripped through the Camphill Farm and School Communities as well as our neighbouring farms. An underground peat fire in the Palmiet Wetland at the bottom of our Community continued smouldering for many months, emitting noxious gasses which affected the ambient air quality in our School Community.

This meant that our learners and staff could not return to Camphill premises till the start of the third term as they were being schooled in town halls and the residential learners living in rented accommodation with their care givers.

Due to the disruption in the schooling and therapies of our very special learners during the first semester, we have had a lot of catching up to do during the last two terms.

Once again I have to stand back and marvel at the resilience of our Children and their eagerness to learn. My heart swells with pride when I look at their work and how well they have done despite having to spend half the year being educated under less than perfect circumstances. Well done to our teaching staff and thank you for your commitment to the education and growth of each of our learners.

Our School Management and Board Members have spent time together in the last few months working on strategic planning. We are also actively working on new learner admission applications for 2020 in order to provide education and care to more learners with special needs



within our local Hermanus community and further afield.

We are extremely excited to announce that the 2 Hermanus Camphill Communities will be hosting the international Camphill Dialogue 2020 conference from 16 - 20 March. Dialogue presents an opportunity for board members of Camphill Communities across the globe to meet every 3 years and discuss matters effecting Camphill Communities worldwide.

The theme for next year's Dialogue will be "Camphill Values today and your Community". We are hoping to host between 60-80 delegates during this action packed five day conference. Our keynote speaker on the first day will be Christo Brand, warder of Nelson Mandela at Robben Island and at Pollsmoor prison which would undoubtedly be very inspirational. On Wednesday 18 March we will all visit Camphill Village West Coast, situated near Philadelphia and Dassenburg; one of the four Camphill s in Africa. The Dialogue Conference will conclude with a celebration dinner on the Friday evening at the beautiful La Vierge Restaurant, overlooking the splendour of the Hemel en Aarde Valley.

Delegates can travel to Botswana before or after their visit here, to visit the inspirational Community near Otse and experience the magic of that Community.

For the second consecutive year we were able to host a special graduation farewell for our 6 vocational phase graduates. St John's hall was transformed into a scene from a storybook; our Learners were the princes and



princesses of this Fairy tale. Our three senior classes, parents of the graduates and

staff enjoyed a heart warming graduation ceremony followed by a delicious meal prepared by our Homelife staff. It was a sad farewell as we watched them mature and have grown alongside with them all and we wish them all. We wish them all the best on their new life journey.

Even though 2019 brought many challenges, we weathered the storm together and saw renewal, growth and made us so much more appreciative of all our blessings and of our beautiful therapeutic community.

I wish to thank all the parents, friends and a special thanks to all our donors for supporting us throughout 2019 in helping us provide our services to our special children. May you all have a blessed festive season with your loved ones ahead.

Jeanne-Marie Botha
Principal

Christmas excitement



It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the last term and

what a busy term it was. It started off with loads of events on our calendar to look forward to.



The Spring Day outing kicked off the festive term. Our entire school community went to Piet se Bos at Grotto Beach for a picnic and fun filled day. It was a lovely sunny day, we all relaxed in the sun, the boys played soccer and after went swimming to cool down for a bit. We all then sat down together to enjoy a

picnic lunch prepared by Pick n Pay Hermanus.



Our School was honoured to be invited by The Cape Leopard Trust for a sleepover camp at Disakloof. Twenty senior

learners, their teachers and class assistants were excited with the news as this was their first camp ever. A full program from the Cape Leopard

Trust was planned, starting off with a visit to the penguins at Betty's Bay and Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. We then went to meet our hosts at Disakloof, where we stayed the night; our accommodation was 5 star quality. We went on beautiful hikes in the mountain and enjoyed several educational workshops about the natural fauna and flora in the area. Our meals were made with pure love and our Learners could not get enough of the delicious food. Thank you to The Cape Leopard Trust, Chris, Naas and Disakloof for giving our Children this wonderful opportunity. Our Children had the best time and it was truly the most memorable occasion.

Our Teachers were fortunate to attend two training

workshops during the term. The First Aid course was an intensive two day workshop with Joan Nortje and Associates. We also attended a training workshop at the Alexandria Hospital on Adolescent Sexual Development hosted by the Western Cape Forum for Intellectual Disability.

Our Soccer team enjoyed another fun filled match against their rivals at Waldorf School. We lost the game, but our boys enjoyed the match and afternoon. We thank Waldorf School for hosting us once again and look forward to seeing you all for another friendly match in the New Year.



Our classes were truly blessed to have had the opportunity to go on different class outings during the term. The Creative, Intermediate and Foundation phase classes visited the famous Cape Town Aquarium and what a privilege it was. The Aquarium was



packed with other schools, but luckily it didn't deter from the enjoyment and the chil-

dren were able to gasp at the florescent jellyfish, cute sea-horses, many technicolour fish and magical sea-creatures of all kinds. To see our Children's faces in the Nemo tank was a thing to behold. The most favourite of all were the sharks and the manta-rays in Shark Alley. We would like to thank Maxitec and Oom Johan for their financial contributions and to teacher Lize-Meri's family for the snack-packs. Without support from generous friends, the life-enriching outing to a special place like this would never be possible for most of our Children. Our Vocational Phase learners went to Grotto Beach and afterwards for a walk and ice-cream at the Old Harbour. Our senior classes enjoyed a picnic here at Camphill.

Our learners are all very busy rehearsing for the much anticipated nativity play and we cannot wait to spread the joyous spirit of Christmas and to touch all the hearts of our visitors, parents and friends. Lastly we will have our Christmas community lunch and secret Santa to hold hands and join as one when we leave for a well deserved holiday.

The Teachers

Home Life

Here we are again, at the end of another year. Our year started off with a blazing fire which had both residential homes moving to alternative accommodation two days into our school year. It was no doubt a challenging period and we were all very happy moving back to Camphill at the beginning of July. During July we saw our group of young German co-workers leave and a smaller group of five female co-workers arrive. They have all settled in nicely and already formed those special bonds with our Children.



We sadly bid farewell to two of our residential children, Jessica and Shaun. Jessica has sadly already gone and Shaun will leave at the end of term with a little farewell party planned at

Cloister. Shaun we will miss your happy chatter, your stories and I am pretty sure Park Run will miss you every Saturday morning.

We thank the Marine Hotel for the donation of two catering fridges and piano and to all the donations-in-kind we received during the term of linen, curtains, bedding and crockery.



We enjoyed a wonderful celebration with Emmanuel on his 21st Birthday. The theme was Winnie the Pooh and the hall was decorated beautifully. We thank everyone that had a part to play in the preparation and for the most delicious spread of food and treats. It was an honour to have been a part of his special day. Emmanuel's father Julio and GERALYN



celebrated their silver wedding anniversary a few weeks after with the whole community. Congratulations to the Laset family.

We enjoyed a little birthday party for our little princess Poppy-Honey who turned 13, we cannot believe that Pops is already a teenager. Thank you to Lindy for bringing along the sweets and treats.

While our learners are preparing for all the festivities, our Homelife department are getting geared for our big community lunch followed the next day by a staff braai. We are truly blessed by all the donations we have received towards our Christmas lunch.

We want to thank the Peninsula Feeding Association, Checkers Hermanus, Engen convenience store, Woolworths Station Square and Whale Coast Mall for helping to feed our 60 learners, supporting staff and co-workers every day. The surplus foods we collect weekly makes a significant difference to our meals. Without the support of our Community we would not have been able to deliver this standard of service and care to all our children.

Our co-workers continue to make wonderful Bible suppers over the weekends and we thank the Homelife staff for their hard work this term and 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.



Genevieve Linney



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The Spiritual Life of Camphill



Our School started the term with Michaelmas Festival which normally happens at the last week of September. The Festival of St. Michael was celebrated with

singing of Michaelmas songs, eurythmy performances by our eurythmists, Geralyn Laset and Luise Boedinghaus and a short play of "A Knight, A Lady and the Dragon" by the Senior Class at St. John's Hall. This was followed by an obstacle course which was designed by the teachers and co-workers and this was participated by all learners and staff. The obstacle course represented the dragons and life's challenges that can be conquered.



During November our Senior classes performed a Greek Play 'The myth of Demeter and Persephone', *How the Seasons begun in Eurythmy*. The play was orchestrated by

Eurhythmist Gerlayn and the senior class teachers. Well done to all, it was a truly beautiful play.



The Advent and Christmas festivals were ushered in with Nativity Plays which were attended by the learners of Hermanus Waldorf School and Curro School on

the 28th November and by the friends, parents, other partner organizations and the Camphill Farm Community on the 29th of November. The Hermanus High School Interact Club organised Christmas Santa shoe boxes for all our Learners in which they distributed gifts to all our learners. It was a really touching experience for all and we thank them all wholeheartedly.

We had our traditional Advent Spiral Garden in Mercury Hall on the 2nd of December which was also attended by the Camphill Farm Community. In Camphill School tradition, the Advent Spiral garden is laid with dry branches and leaves with "Mother Earth" and flow-

ers and green leaves at the centre that mirrors the South African Christmas mood in summer. The beautiful lyre and piano music creates 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.

We enjoyed our Christmas Secret Santa or exchanging of gifts by the whole school community, followed by our Christmas community lunch. Our Homelife department prepared a hot lamb meal with dessert after. We thank all our friends and donors that contributed towards our lunch and made this day very special for our Children. St. Nicholas Day was also celebrated with a short play on St. Nicholas by the Upper School which also culminated with the visit of St. Nicholas which was played by Hans Peyerl to all the classes, wherein all the learners had joy of receiving his gifts. In this celebration, Luise and Geralyn also performed some Eurythmy for us with a Christmas Verse and the Hymn of the Nativity.

Looking back with all the challenges we faced throughout this year, the Christian Festivals that we celebrate reminds us to appreciate all the blessings that we have been receiving and guiding us to kindle the light of 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.

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. We enjoyed having some of the younger learners here from Curro School and Waldorf Schools for our first Nativity Play.

We had our first street collection in October and enjoyed shaking our tins in town, we brought in R 7 459.00 and thank all who supported us with this initiative. We also had a bumper Casual Day in September and managed to make R 19 568.00. Thank you to all our regular supporters in our Community, to the local schools, municipality, hotels, retirement villages here and in Caledon.

Santa Shoebox has most definitely become one of the biggest highlights on our calendar every year. Our Hermanus High School friends once again made the most beautiful and unique Santa Shoeboxes for all our Children. We thank each of you for these special boxes of love and for always keeping our Children close to your hearts. We thank each Teacher from the High School involved, thank you for the puppet show and thank you to Santa (Gerphan) for joining us. What an exciting and special morning it was.

We have so much to be grateful for and thank each one that contributes to the well being and happiness of all our Children. Thank you for keeping our Children close to your hearts.

Festive Times....



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

Western Cape Community Chest	Sea Harvest Foundation	Nedbank Cape Town Branch
Hermanus Primary School	Mr Post	Heidehof Retirement Village
Overstrand Municipal Grant-in-Aid	Frank Pronk	KK Lichtenberg Oberspree
Willem and Annette Theron	Marine Hotel	Hermanus Primary School

We also thank our regular contributors, our Child Sponsors, who month after month make a contribution-

J van Tonder	Marinda Smit	Jan and Letanie Nel
Rob and Margaret Molyneux	Carin Johnston	PJ Myburgh
Alan Bailey Civils	JDE Manufacturing	

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

Ilse Nothing- 2 Fridges	Koos du Toit- Toys and Games	Hermanus High School-Christmas Santa Shoe Boxes for each learner
Yolande Uys- Children's Toys	Marine Hotel- Piano, 2 fridges, towels and linen	Maxitec- Donation towards Kindergarten outing
Chanelize Lorist-Clothing, DVD's, toys	Vennesa Botma-Clothing, linen, books, cricket set, crockery	Pick n Pay- Rolls for Spring Picnic
Toy Run Trust- Toys for our Learners	Toinette and Johannes du Toit- Lamb for Christmas Lunch	Gateway Spar- Rolls for Christmas Lunch
OK Gateway- Ice-cream and custard	Nikki van Heerden- Vegetables for Christmas Lunch	Coca-Cola Beverages- Cold drink donation

We wish you all our friends, loyal supporters and donors a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Genevieve Linney and Amanja Swart

