

# Christmas Edition

## CAMPHILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

# From the Principal's desk



I can scarcely believe that we are at the end of the 2021 academic year. I think

that it would be an understatement to say that we have received many blessings this year, despite the myriad of challenges that the school faced.

The School received many donations-in-kind as well as child sponsorship contributions which helped to alleviate the financial burden on our limited resources and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to our school, making it possible to provide specialised education and care to our learners.

We are especially grateful to Woolworths who continued to support our school through their newly established Foodshare programme and to Checkers and the Peninsula Feeding Association who made it possible for us to provide nourishing and nutritious meals and snacks to our learners throughout year. Thank you so very much.

Strict adherence to Covid protocols and avoiding unnecessary gatherings have led to the separation of the junior school section in the Dawn House complex from the senior phases in the main school building. We value being together as a "family unit", supporting and encouraging each other so this has posed a challenge to us. Staff members and volunteers have been working extremely hard, jumping in wherever they were needed without hesitation. Thank you so very much



communities and suggested a collaboration with Working On Fire (WoF), making a 15 member team available to us for the month of November.

The WoF team started on the 9<sup>th</sup> November at the border between Bona Dea Estate and Camphill School on our side of the fence, continuing with the joint fire break to the Camphill Community Hermanus next door, finishing at the end of November by cleaning the Municipal servitude which runs parallel to the top road on our premises. We thank Mitch Africa who arranged a meeting with the land-owners bordering our two communities to discuss our fire breaks. Thank you to Danie van Zyl from Karwyderskraal and Rudi Vogt from Bona Dea, as well as Pieter Rossouw from Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association for making yourselves available for this discussion.

Assistant Chief Scholtz from Disaster management and Assistant Chief Solomons from Fire Safety could only come on 3 November to conduct their part of the fire risk assessment. Thank you for the recommendations and assistance. We thank the WoF team and everyone that has been involved in assisting and formulating our Fire Management Plan. We really appreciate it.

Various wetland experts are currently working on a rehabilitation plan for the partially destroyed section of Palmiet

for your love and support to all our children.

In October Angelo Aplon, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Operations & Training and Mitch Africa, Extension Officer from the Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association, came to do a fire risk assessment for our School Community ahead of the official annual fire season. They both agreed that we needed strategic fire breaks along the borders of the school and farm

wetlands, where the underground fires raged for 6 months from January to June 2019. We thank everyone who has been involved in this project, but hesitate to name all of the role-players in case I leave anyone out.

What I can say is that I am very grateful to the Executive Manager of the Camphill Farm Community, Sam Hodson, Duncan Clews, to Johan Montgomery from Hamilton Russell who is always willing to jump in and do what is needed and to Liezl de Villiers, Senior Environmental Manager at Overstrand Municipality, who has been right by our side since the moment that we found out about the underground peat fire in February 2019.

I would like to conclude by bidding a sad farewell to Hugh Fynn, the South West Regional Director of ISASA (Independent Schools Association of South Africa) who is retiring at the end of the year. Hugh has been a rock throughout the challenging Covid period, always keeping us all up to date with DBE amended directions and Standard operating procedures and how it affects Independent schools. Hugh has a heart for learners with special needs and it is an absolute pleasure and honour to know him and to have him to turn to in times of uncertainty. Thank you so very much Hugh. All the best in all your future endeavours, please know that you are always welcome at our School whenever visiting your brother in Hermanus.

Thank you to our board members, our management team and staff for all your help and support throughout this challenging year and thanks be to God for protecting us and keeping us all healthy and well. May you and all your families have a blessed festive season.

**Jeanne-Marie Botha**

**Principal**



# Busy fun term



What a wonderful last term it has been filled with love, energy and lots of excitement.

We started the term with our Vocational Phase workshops in full swing, focusing mainly on our woodwork workshop, together with our arts and crafts. Our learners learnt a lot about painting, sanding, drilling and hammering nails into wood and have been producing beautiful pieces, of which they are so proud. We were fortunate to be able to set up a stall at the St Peters Garden Church Market every Saturday, weather permitting, to showcase our learner's arts and crafts. We thank each and every one that has made this possible.

We bid a sad farewell to our Foundation Phase Teacher Riëtte Malherbe. She has been wonderful with our juniors and she will be missed by all. We wish her well with her travels next year and hope she will visit us again soon. Our little ones will miss you.



We were richly blessed this term with many donations-in-kind. We thank Sea Harvest Foundation, for the educational toys, garden equipment for our gardening workshop and for the mini trampoline.

We thank EnviroServ Waste Management in Cape Town for the continuous gifts during the term, from new sewing machines, wooden puzzles, balls, play dough, wool, paper, to a new blender for our kitchen. We wish to also thank Hermes Trust in the UK for the Kindergarten mats and for the funding towards the restoration of our playground and to Oosie Oosthuizen from Hermanus Toyota for the boot full of sweets.



We value these gifts and your ongoing contributions towards our School and our Children.

Our Foundation and Intermediate



Classes enjoyed outings to the beach. Our Foundation Phase learners visited Onrus beach and enjoyed a small picnic. Our Intermediate Class where all the children ended up swimming. We thank all that made these outings possible.



The last two weeks of the term are always very exciting as we have many festivals and celebrations. This year we were able to host a graduation for our four school leavers, Keano and Keanan, Masibulele and Akhona. Sadly Masonwabe could not attend as he had already left for the Eastern Cape. St John's hall was beautifully decorated and a lovely meal was prepared for our learners, class mates and teachers. The learners dressed up for this wonderful occasion and it was a memorable graduation for all. Thank you to Margaret and Jonnelize for the preparation of the meal and to the teachers and assistants that made this a truly special day.



We had another special event. We had one of our favourite visitors popping by to see our Children.

St Nicholas once again came to spend time with our children, share their good deeds, sing Christmas carols and pass on small gifts. We thank St Nicholas once again for his special visit; sadly Ruprecht couldn't make the visit this year.

We thank our Hermanus High School friends for the beautiful Santa Shoeboxes. We were sad to hear that they would not be able to visit us this year, but we felt their presence and love during the handover. We thank you all for your valuable friendships and we truly hope that we will all see one another again in the New Year.

We took part in Eurythmy concerts, orchestrated by Geralyn and our Christmas Carol singing and lunch will be held on the last day of term.

We thank everyone for their hard work, their dedication and love towards our Children. Rest well and enjoy the holidays.

**The Teachers**

# Meaningful celebrations



The meaningful celebration of Festivals is very important in our school community in enriching our spiritual life which is the source of our strength, especially in these challenging times of COVID protocols and restrictions.



The Festival of Advent and Christmas concludes our Festival celebrations this year. There were preparations of Advent Wreaths in the Classrooms and St. John's Hall. The Senior Classes did the Crown Forms in their Extra Lessons. The Advent period was ushered in by our Advent Spiral. Teachers read the "Creation Story" in their classroom before each class came to St John's Hall where every child received their unlit candle and, accompanied by an angel and soft lyre music, each child entered the spiral and lit their candle from the large candle in the centre. They then placed their lit candle in the spiral. The movement of going into and out of the spiral symbolizes the inner journey of each child who carries inner light and love, that can continue to shine over any darkness of the earth. This Advent Spiral holds a significant place in Camphill tradition wherein Dr. Karl Konig, the founder of Camphill movement worldwide, was able to draw his inspiration in dedicating his life on the care and education of children with special needs - in lighting the flame of their beings to radiate and shine forth into humanity. We are truly grateful to continue this tradition within our School Community.



Our School also celebrated St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas, who is the forerunner of Santa Claus and Father Christmas, visited the children in their respective classrooms with the singing of Christmas songs, the recognition of the good deeds of each learners and the receiving of simple gifts such as cookies, etc.



The Eurythmy Performances of all classes were done with the theme of Advent and Christmas. The Foundation Class performed a Christmas Story Nativity Play in Eurythmy, the Intermediate Class moved

to the sound gestures of The Christmas Light, the Senior Classes did the movement in 5-pointed stars and Crown forms while the Upper School recited a poem of An Inner Light and did an EVOE greeting.

We were able to hold the Services - Children's Service, Youth Service and Offering Service for our learners in the last weeks of the term.

We are blessed and fortunate to celebrate the festivals with courage, love and trust in these most challenging times. It is through them that we are guided in kindling the light of the Christ in our hearts and always be thankful for all the blessings and protection that we have been receiving.

Julio Laset

# Friends of Camphill



The last term of the year always seems to race by, but as I reflect on the year, we are truly grateful for the continuous support that we receive from our local friends and friends from afar. I hope that we will be able to once again visit and sing to our friends at the Retirement Homes and to interact with our High School friends in the New Year.

I wish to thank our Hermanus High School friends of the Interact Club for their friendship and love. We

were saddened with the news, that they would not be able to make the traditional Santa Shoebox handover. Our High School friends have made special Santa boxes for our Children for the 6th year now and due to the interesting times that we are living in, had to make that decision. Our School Community still gathered in the courtyard, Daniel and our Children played the marimba, the sun came out and Santa and his elf arrived. We thank our High School friends for the special gifts that were uniquely put together for each child, our Children were overjoyed and felt the love of sharing and giving. We truly missed you all, but we treasure your generosity, your love and your valuable friendships.

I also wish to thank our neighbour Anthony Hamilton Russell and the Wine Village, Paul and Cathy for your fundraising initiative in generating funds for our School. Thank you for your support, encouragement and for keeping our School close to your hearts.

Willem and Annette Theron	JET Lee Will Trust	Hermes Trust UK
Anthony Hamilton Russell	Frank Pronk	Stephan Weltz
Onrus Manor Retirement Village	Marge Balbuena	

I thank each and every one that has played a significant role in allowing us to offer our Children the best education, care and support that they each deserve. The last two years have been somewhat different and I hope that in the New Year we can welcome our friends and donors back to our School to visit our Children.

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

Carin Johnston	Phillip Myburgh	Jan and Letanie Nel
Alan Bailey	MySchool	Freunde der Erziehungskunst (German Sponsors)
J van Toner	Marinda Smit	Rob and Margaret Molyneux

