

# Christmas Edition

## CAMP HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### From the Principal's desk

As we draw to the closing of the school year we had our last parents- teacher meeting on 25 October to discuss our School's strategic five year plan.

Parents, teachers and class assistants were divided into groups to discuss the way forward, improvements they would like to see and how as parents they could contribute to the future of our School. It led to a lively and interesting discussion with highlights of the positives being that parents knew their children are loved and protected here, that each child is educated according to his/her own abilities and needs and that their children actually enjoy coming to school. Parents indicated that they would like to see more opportunities for vocational skills training in the future.

The school will see an additional workshop in the New Year involving the School's Board.

The school has had the privilege of meeting the founder and CEO of Uphold Global in America, Kelsey Lindell, early in the year. We have worked very closely with the organisation during the course of the year and subsequently to, Kelsey returned with a new possible project to sponsor tailor made training for our parents with special needs children, from understanding and coping with their children's various disabilities. This project would entail a 10 week programme of which Uphold Global would like to drive financially and professionally. Our parents are very grateful for this offer and are eager to participate.

Our School would like to thank the Hermanus High School Interact Club, the teachers involved and to Mr Hassenkamp, the principal. They once again prepared Santa Shoeboxes

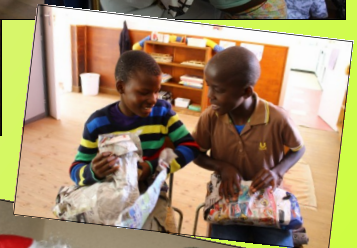
for each one of our learners. The boxes were individually wrapped and filled to the brim with clothing, toys, toiletries and treats. They came to handover the boxes on the 28<sup>th</sup> November with Father Christmas ready to hand out these gifts of love.

Thank you for all your time and for the love that you share with our learners. These boxes of love bring so much joy to our learners.

Similarly we owe a debt of gratitude to the Overstrand Junior Town Council for the dry food collections you organised during the course of the year. These food donations are hugely appreciated and make a difference. It is encouraging to see the next generation of community leaders taking an active role within our Community, in caring for children with special needs and raising awareness by way of their actions.

I would like to thank the staff in all our departments, the learners, Board members, the Hermanus Community and to the parents for their support and hard work in 2016. May you all have a wonderful well deserved break, a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Jeanne-Marié Botha





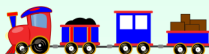
# Out & about



At the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> term we welcomed Nadia Visser, our new Foundation teacher to the team. She has settled in well and the learners adore her. We would also like to wish her well with her wedding which will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December.

With the short term that we have had, we have been treated to several outings. Both Senior classes had the opportunity to visit Robben Island during October. It was an incredible experience for some of our learners as this was the first time that some had seen Table Mountain and also been on a boat. The Intermediate class visited the Iziko Museum in November. The reason for these outings is to further educate the learners as to what they have been taught in their classes.

The Foundation as well as the Creative phase classes also had the opportunity to visit the airport and the Blue Train in Cape Town as they are currently learning about the different modes of transport. We would like

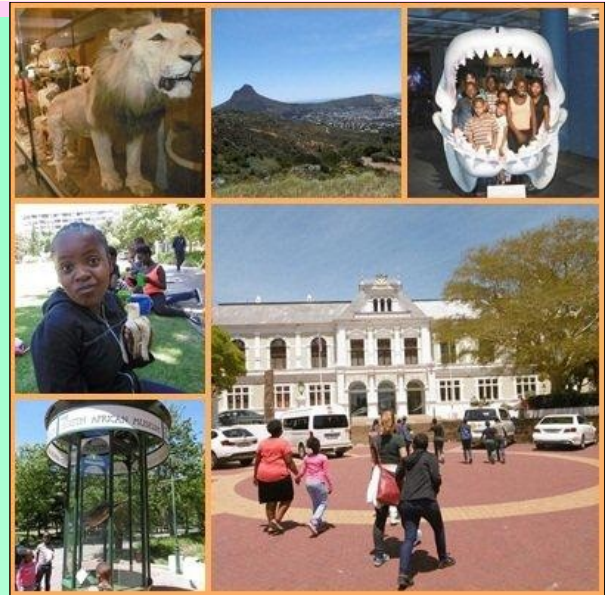


to thank the Association of Camphill Communities of Ireland & UK, the Sinclair family and to our Management Team for making these outings possible.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of November the teachers, class assistants and some of our staff attended a very informative workshop on Adolescent Psychological Trauma presented by LAMB International. Ruby and Lynn Johnston are the founders of LAMB International and have constructed this course (one of many), particularly meant for carers of orphans but is also suitable for any adult who needs to help a child suffering from the results of trauma.

Musicians from Camphill Farm treated us to a musical concert on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. We would like to thank Christoff Reppel and his students for this music sharing.

The end of the term has brought the Christmas festivities from Santa shoeboxes, Eurhythmy performances by GERALYN and Luise, to a moving nativity play which encompasses all our learners. Our co-workers also performed a dance, may this be a start of a new

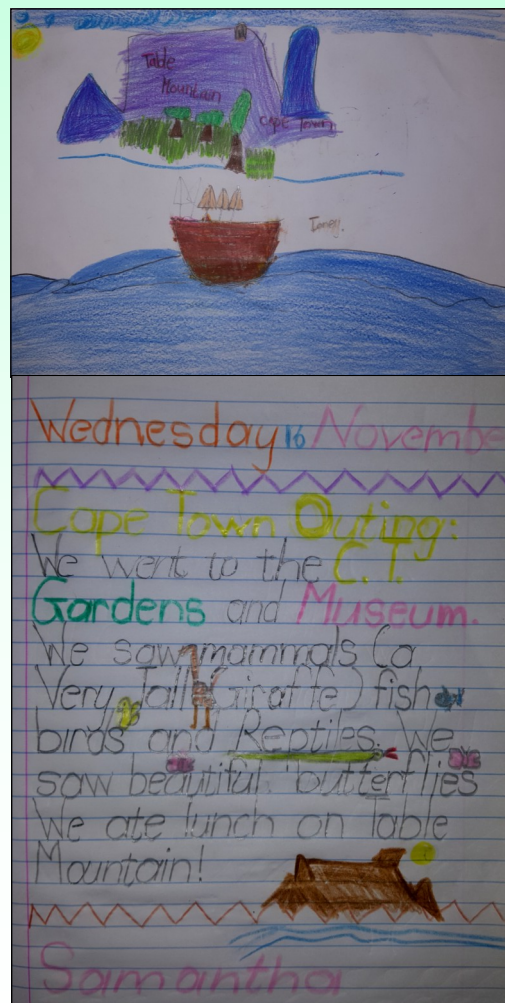


tradition here at Camphill.

St. Nicolas once again came knocking at our classroom doors bearing stories and gifts for all our learners. Thank you to the Toy Run Trust for the toys and for bringing big smiles and laughter to our learners.

Merry Christmas to all.

**The Teachers**





# Love in our tummies



Here we are, at the end of 2016, and looking back, I can say we had a year of challenges and happy times, lots of joy in our residential homes (Phoenix and Cloister) and new adventures with present co-workers.

We are pleased to say that Lilian Teunissen accepted the permanent position as a House Parent for Cloister home. With her enthusiasm and charm she has turned Cloister house into a happy and warm environment where our teenagers reside.

New workshops have been introduced for our learners these include sewing and craft workshops at Phoenix house, pottery and baking workshops at Cloister house and in addition our wood workshop and gardening.

Behind Phoenix house we have also encouraged the learners to start their own vegetable garden and it is proving to be quite a productive workshop. We have enjoyed the spinach and herb salad immensely.

During last week, some of the learners prepared baked goods and the smell of cinnamon is still present. Both residential houses had an outing to Grotto Beach before the half term and the learners thoroughly enjoyed this treat. We all then had a dinner picnic and watched the sunset across the ocean. It was magical.

Our Homelife staff outdid themselves preparing the Christmas lunch for the learners and staff on 1<sup>st</sup> December. The tables were cheerfully decorated by all the teachers and Margaret and a huge Christmas tree setting the festive scene. Our co-workers played delightful piano carols whilst we all entered the hall. Teacher Johanna blessed the meal and we all enjoyed this feast of lamb, potatoes and vegetables, ending off with glorious malva pudding & ice-cream, including a tasty treat specially made by our class assistant Valda Coetzee. Thank you to Zahira Ismail, Plaaskombuis, Dirk Coetzee, Corlia Smuts, Nikki van Heerden and to Pick n Pay Hermanus for making this lunch for our learners possible.

We wish everyone at Camphill School and at home a wonderful Christmas together with their loved ones.

Angela Coetzee



## Therapy Updates

We sadly said goodbye to Estelle Venter who has been our speech therapist for the past ten years due to the demands in her private practice and hospital works. We wish her all the best and we thank her for her dedication and hard work with our learners.

We welcomed back Asleigh Temple-Camp who used to work with us back in 2013 for providing therapeutic art interventions for our learners. Geralyn Laset and Luise Boedinghaus have been very busy with pedagogical eurythmy and Geralyn with therapeutic eurythmy. However the most exciting news is that the project proposal submitted to the Anglo-American Chairman's Fund has secured our therapy interventions for 2017. We can thus continue providing a wide range of therapies that will benefit our learners. These include speech and

occupational therapy, therapeutic eurythmy, music and therapeutic art, massage, physiotherapy and horse riding. We also appreciate the valuable contribution from the friends in the United Kingdom through the William Morris Foundation.

Julio Laset



# Festival Celebrations



In Camphill School tradition, the Advent Spiral on the 28 November ushered the Advent and Christmas celebrations. In South Africa, we experience the Christmas mood in summer. Thus, the spiral garden was laid with dry branches and leaves with "Mother Earth" and flowers and green leaves at the centre at Mercury Hall. 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.

The Nativity Play is one of the highlights of the festival. All the learners participated in the play, who played particular roles in the sequence of the nativity story which culminated with a tableau in the end. It was heartwarming to see how our learners have grown and matured in their performances. An Advent eurythmy play, "Mary's Journey to the stars", was also presented

by the Upper School and Creative Class together with their eurythmy teacher. A puppetry on the Rainbow bridge was also done for the school.

In the South African tradition, the children await for the coming of Father Christmas with his gifts in December. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, Camphill School celebrated the visit 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, all the classes did eurythmy performances to share what they did during the term and some with the theme of advent as well. The co-workers also did a short performance for the learners. Kimberley Bouna, also did a solo tone eurythmy performance of Camille Saint Saens's "The Swan" and supported by co-workers, Annika and Elias on piano and cello respectively. The highlight of the program was the awarding of the Camphill leaving certificates to Kimberley Bouna and Lwamkelo Bokolwane.

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





# Trick or Treat

On 28 October we held our second FOREST FUN RUN (FFR) with Overstrand Training Institute at the Forest Adventure Centre in the Hemel & Aarde Valley. The Hermanus parkrun route was used again, this time with a fairy or scary theme.

We were very surprised to see that the participants came in droves and were kitted out to the tee. We had nearly 300 people on the evening and it was a tremendous success. With positive feedback everybody is eagerly awaiting to dress up again with a new 5km themed route armed with torches and headlamps.

Thank you to all our sponsors that provided prizes, decorations and treats towards this fundraising initiative.

Michelle van Zyl and Genevieve Linney



# Upcoming Event



## Sports Challenge

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2017

MTB Rides, Trail Runs and Family Fun Walks in the beautiful Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, Hermanus

MTB - 35 / 12 km	07:30 / 07:35	R 120 / R 100
Trail Runs - 8 km	08:00	R 80
River Run/Walk - 6 km	08:10	R 60
Fun Walk - 2.5 km	09:00	R 30



FREE COFFEE on Registration • Water Point • Boerewors Rolls • Refreshments

For more info and bookings contact Camphill Office: 028 312 4949  
 genevieve@camphill-hermanus.org.za or online entries @ [www.enteronline.co.za](http://www.enteronline.co.za)

NPO 003-320

Make sure you tag your diary today:

Saturday 18 February 2017 is our first fundraising event of the year!

There'll be mountain bike rides, trail runs, a moms and tots fun walk and boeries galore. Enthusiastic MTB cyclists and trail runners will be able to master the challenge of the tough courses laid out for them uphill and down across the Hemel en Aarde Valley, while scores of walkers and less energetic runners of all ages, jog or stroll their way around gentler routes, some beside the tranquil Onrust River.

All the routes, amongst the most picturesque in the Western Cape, have been designed by Hermanus Adventures, under the leadership of Paul du Toit of the Wine Village.

Registration will commence at 06h30 or alternatively enter online@ [www.enteronline.co.za](http://www.enteronline.co.za)

For more information contact Camphill School office at 028 312 4949.

See you there!

Fundraising team

# Reaping the rewards

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. From students, pupils to CEO's they have each taken the time to come and visit the classrooms and to personally meet our learners. We have noticed that we have reached a younger generation of visitors and they have been touched by the work we do here.

A special mention also goes out to Robert & Diddi Johnson, Minister Donald Grant (Government of the Western Cape Department of Transport), Mr Mannie van Eeden and Madame Nicolette Botha-Guthrie for the smooth tarred road leading to our School...no more bumpy bus rides, flat tyres and dusty buses.

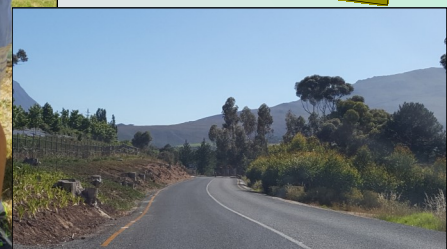
Blessings from ALL the children and residents of Camphill School and Camphill Farm Community.

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

Mr & Mrs Theron	Peggy Grant Trust	Sonnet and Minnie Cadle
Cashkows & Hermanus Adventures	Corlia Smuts	Community Chest
Hermanus Bowling Club	Freunde der Erziehungskunst	Hermanus Bowling Club
Old Mutual Care and Share	J van Tonder	Marine Crew Services SA Pty Ltd

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

Anonymous Donor	Alan Bailey Civil Engineering cc	Beatte Griebler
Ad Ops	Michelson	Jan and Letanie Nel
PJ Myburgh	Margate	Claudia Kiefel & Mr Winkelmann
ABSA	Carin Johnston	The Dick Family
Woolies My School (please do sign up)		





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


Susan Beukes (craft materials)	Naomi and Paulette-(food donation)	Alissa & Adele Coetzee (clothing)
Ms Laubscher (clothing)	Pat Miller (clothing)	Kate Linney and Nicole Linney (clothing and curtains)
Pick n Pay Hermanus (food)	Pat Bagnall (clothing)	The Hermanus High School Interact Club-(clothing - Santa Shoe-boxes)
Philip Myburgh (CD's)	Bernard Overmeyer (bicycles)	Jenny Densham (bedding)
NG Kerk Hermanus ladies (food)	Kelsey Lindell and friends from USA (ice-cream)	Margitte Jooste (craft materials)
Overstrand Junior Town Council (dry food donations)	Toy Run Trust (toy donation)	Nadia and Steff (flowers)

As always, we would like to thank the convenience store at Hermanus Service Station, Woolworths Hermanus, Checkers Hermanus and to the Peninsula Feeding Scheme for the food with which they supply to us on a regular basis.

Michelle van Zyl and Genevieve Linney

# Thank you Camphill Friends





Camphill School  
 First National Bank  
 Acc no 524 7070 4936  
 Branch code: 200412  
 Swift code: FIRNZAJJ