

## Editorial

It's Spring! Spring! Spring! Once you reach the end of this third-term newsletter, you will be left in no doubt that Spring has sprung at Camphill School. In the words of the Beatles: 'Sun, sun, sun, here it comes!'

Many of the activities at School this past term reflect the spirit of Spring, from spring cleaning at Cloister House, to a new lick of paint for the school buildings, to a Spring Day picnic at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, a coastal clean-up campaign and sand boarding on the Betty's Bay dunes. It's all about new beginnings and stepping into the future with confidence.

But it's also about saying thank you: thank you for the many blessings the School experiences each day. There are children who celebrate success in mastering a new skill; there are dedicated staff who pour themselves out for the children each day and there is an army of kind friends who generously share their resources with the School, whether it be a new bus, a washing machine, or a monetary donation.

Our grateful thanks also go to Dr Matthi for his concern and care for the welfare of the children of Camphill over the past three years. All of us at the School wish him good health and happiness in his second retirement.

**Elaine Davie**

## Message from the Chairman of the Camphill School Board

We regret to announce that Dr. Matthi Theron resigned from his position as Principal of Camphill School Hermanus, with effect from 10 September 2014. Dr. Theron advised the Board that his decision was influenced by a number of factors, including his age, health and the toil of the daily commute from Betty's Bay to Hermanus.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and indeed the entire school, I want to express our most sincere gratitude and thanks for the substantial contribution made by Dr Theron to Camphill School Hermanus during his time as Principal; in particular, those early days back in 2011 when the school faced much uncertainty and many difficult challenges.

Pending the appointment of a new Principal, the Vice-Principal, Jeanne-Marie Botha, will act in this capacity, ably supported by the School Management Team and, of course, the Board of Directors.

We all hold Camphill School close to our hearts and know that it will continue to flourish and be of enduring benefit to the special children in our care.

**Geoffrey Weir**



# Spring Fever in the Classrooms

The swallows are back, flying in together with a new group of co-workers from the northern hemisphere. They arrived at the beginning of August and settled in immediately. Their youthful enthusiasm and friendliness infected the children from the start. They are planning afternoon games and sports, and have been doing superb class-work with the children.

The new readers we received from Oxford University Press are also a great hit. They are based on identifiable South African characters and fun story lines and the pupils are whizzing through them!

Teachers and class-assistants were very fortunate to have rhythmic massage training from Martina, a Farm volunteer and we also enjoyed challenging Art Therapy training with Julane, which has inspired us in our work with the children. A talk on practical suggestions for teachers of autistic children was very stimulating and it was good to see them used immediately in the classrooms.

Regular discussions with Annetta Saaiman, our resident OT, have been insightful and very valuable. Teacher Karin von Maltzahn visited Alta du Toit for practical training and came back full of creative ideas to share with us. Experiential learning is of great benefit to our teaching staff and visiting

other schools opens our eyes, not only to other types of education, but also to how wonderful and unique our little Camphill School is.

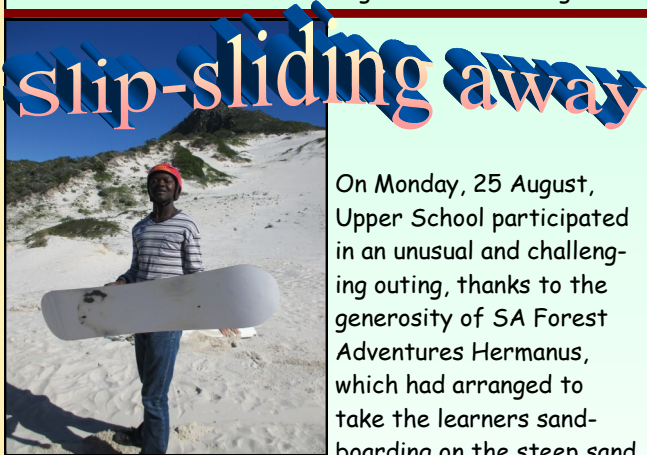
The School had a visit from ex-Camphill (Scotland) co-workers,



Julia and Reyk. They provided the children with much-appreciated fruit for snacks, and visited each class, enthusing us with their delight in the School. Parents and teachers from Camphill Botswana who also visited the School were equally impressed.

September 1 was, of course, Spring Day, and Teacher Karin von Maltzahn did a lovely Spring Assembly with a puppet story. The children wore garlands and flowers were everywhere. The next day, the entire school went on a trip to the Harold Porter Gardens in Betty's Bay. Now we are all busily practising for Michaelmas and the end-of-year Spring Concert, before the eagerly-anticipated holidays roll around once more.

Michèle Lorton



dunes of Betty's Bay.

It was a lovely sunny morning, after a long rain spell of more than a week. Excited Upper School learners, teaching staff and two new co-workers from Germany left early in the morning with Clint (our Foreman,) who drove the Camphill School bus to Kleinmond. There we met up with one of the Adventure Centre's instructors who lead the way to the big white sand dunes of Betty's Bay.

Under supervision, the learners and co-workers each had several turns to slide down the lovely white sand dunes, one at a time, on a very large sandboard, which looked a bit like a snowboard.

They looked very professional in the special helmets to protect their heads, as they slid down the dunes.

The girls in the class surprised everyone with their fearlessness, stamina and spirit of adventure as they threw themselves wholeheartedly into this challenging new activity!

Afterwards, everyone went for a well-deserved picnic lunch of hotdogs and cool drinks at Kleinmond lagoon. They were very happy to have learnt a new skill, as well as having had a fun-filled day of good weather, beautiful nature and fresh air. Thank you so much to Clinton of Forest Adventures for this exciting opportunity, which will be remembered by all our learners as a very special day in their lives.



Karin  
von  
Maltzahn



# It's all happening at Phoenix

Everyone at Phoenix House was very sad to say goodbye to the 2013/2014 volunteers, who left at the beginning of this term. However, our new volunteers from Europe arrived soon afterwards and are settling in well. They and the children are getting to know each other and are forming strong new relationships.

The School celebrated Spring Day on 2 September and all the children went on a wonderful outing to the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens in Betty's Bay. It was perfect Spring weather and afterwards they were able to go the Kleinmond Lagoon for a dip and to play on the swings. We are grateful to the office staff for helping to prepare the delicious picnic snacks.

Margaret and Lucky took a break from cleaning and cooking and decided, on their own initiative, to re-

move all the leaves from the storm water drains and gutters around the house, and what a great job they did, too. Now we know who to go to whenever we need a quick maintenance job done at Phoenix. Well done to them!

We must also thank Louisa for helping out part-time at the house until we appoint a new assistant house-mother. She is indeed a star.

Thanks to Genevieve, we have received a donation of a variety of sauces and pestos to use in the preparation of our meals. We have been making wonderful, mouth-watering dishes in the kitchen. A real treat for both the children and the staff!

As the children leave for their week-long October holidays, we wish them a restful and happy time



and look forward to seeing them back, full of energy and enthusiasm, for the last school term of the year.

**Cornelia le Roux**



## Camphill and Me

About a year ago, I joined Camphill School as Assistant Chef at Phoenix House. At nearly 50, I never thought that I would be going back to school again!

However, here I am at school, in the kitchen, and learning how to cook. I have been helped along the way by Elaine, who has taught me a lot about the job. She has really made me feel as if I am part of the team. In fact, I wish to thank all the people who have helped me in the kitchen, in the morning, and in the afternoon. I also want to thank the Feeding Scheme for their donation of food to the School. I wish we had more food sponsors; we always strive to give the children varied, nutritious meals.

The other work I do is on Camphill Farm, helping Hilda in the herb garden. I have been living and working at

Camphill Farm for about 11 years now, and I feel like I'm part of the furniture ...

Before I started to work at Camphill School, my wife, Claudia, worked at Cloister House, doing the same work I am doing now! So, I had a connection to the School before I even started to work here. Come to think of it, my connection to Camphill School goes back to about 13 years ago, when I was giving the learners art lessons in Copper Art Work, mainly copper pressing, using copper shim. I had been working in copper and pewter for about eight years before.

I am so happy to be part of the Camphill family!

Hans Peyerl



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# Spring is ---

'Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush' - Doug Larson

Spring has arrived at Camphill School! And even if there is still a bit of slush about, the trees are full of fresh green leaves and blossoms. The birds celebrate its return and it feels like there could not have been a Spring more beautiful than this!

This year's School Spring picnic took place at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens in Betty's Bay. We arrived at about 10:00 and began with a prayer of thanksgiving. Then we all set out on an energetic hike, with Dr Matthi in the lead, heading up the mountain. It was a beautiful warm day and on our return from the expedition, the children were exhausted; they kept complaining about the gruelling pace Dr Matthi had set.

However, they soon perked up as we sat down to a lovely picnic with rolls, salad and juice. After that, we trooped off to the Kleinmond lagoon to cool our feet off in the water. It's amazing to think that we live in a place like Hermanus and yet, for some of our children, it was only their second time at the beach (the first being during last year's Spring Day picnic). After having a swim in the lagoon we headed back home, satisfied that our first day of glorious weather had been well spent.



Lauren Brown



## Camphill School goes beachcombing

Saturday 20 September was World Coastal Day, and the pupils in class 7 and Pre-vocational Phase had the opportunity to participate in a beach clean-up on Tuesday 16 September. After discussing the dangers of air, water and environmental pollution, and the need for recycling in the School, the children, teachers and co-workers headed for the sea to clean up the lovely Sandbaai and Onrus beaches.

We took with us black refuse bags, gloves and bottles of drinking water. We knew it was not going to be an easy job, but it was for a good cause. On arrival, we talked about what exactly we were going to pick up from the beach. It was amazing how enthusiastically all the children participated. We agreed we were going to pick up anything that could pollute the water, and soon we were stuffing our black bags with rubbish.

It was almost an hour and a half of cleaning and walking before we finally arrived back at school. Then we had to sort all the pollutants we had picked up.

We had in our bags, amongst other items, plastic bot-

tles, cigarette lighters, old socks and shoes, broken bottles and cans, which we separated and sent to the recycling shed. The children were very proud of themselves for the wonderful job they had done and for being able to participate in a global event.



Rumbi Kamber





# BUILDER BOB AND HIS MERRY MEN

The maintenance team have had their hands fuller than full this term, with all the fixing, painting, cleaning and upgrading that is an essential part of creating a caring and supportive environment in which the School can operate effectively.

In preparation for the arrival of the new volunteers from Germany, Cloister House was treated to a much-needed upgrade. The building was given a fresh coat of paint, new curtains and new bedding, while repairs were done to the plumbing and wooden cupboards, amongst other things. At the same time, the fencing around the pool was fixed.

Due to a shortage of funds, the upkeep of the school buildings had been shelved for some time, with the result that they had begun to look very neglected. However, at last we have been able to start repainting them and this should be finished by the end of the term. As

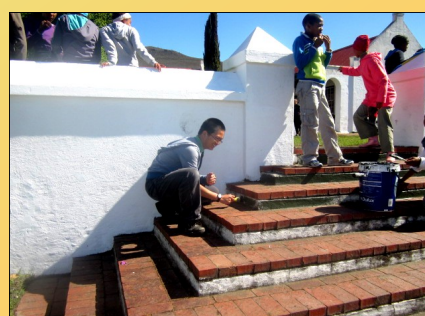
part of skills development, some of our learners assisted with the scraping and painting. Gutters have also been fixed, as well as the waterproofing on most buildings. We would like to thank Prominent Paints and Cape Stone for their generous donations.

As part of the Bona Dea security project, we were able to install new Trellidors at the kindergarten and further renovations are also being carried out there. Also in a bid to ensure the safety of children and staff, maintenance of all the fire hydrants has been completed and fire drill procedures updated. Nine of the school's staff members, as well as four from the farm, attended a fire fighting course at the School.

We would like to welcome Gert Shepherd on to the maintenance team, as driver and handyman.

His calm, grandfatherly presence is appreciated by children and staff alike.

Clint Fouché



## Out with the old, in with the new

Towards the end of the second school term, with the help of a generous donation, we were able to renovate Cloister, one of our residential homes, in time for the arrival of a new batch of volunteers from Germany.

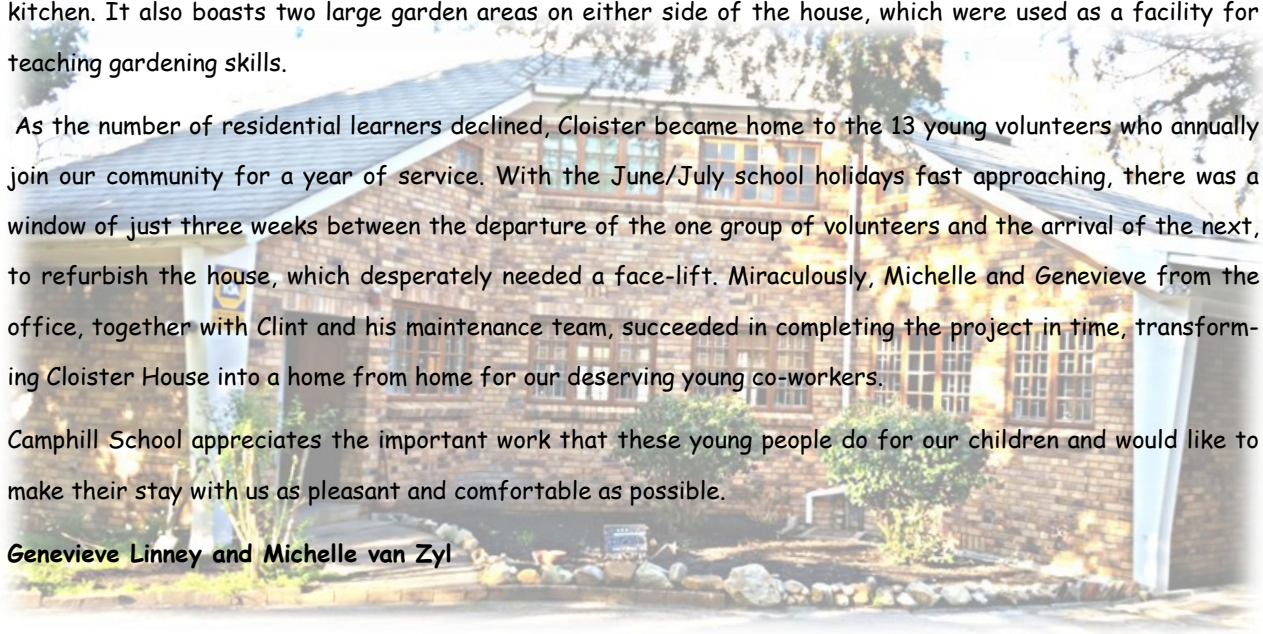


Designed by a German anthroposophist, Cloister was built in the 1960s as a residential training centre for young adults with special needs. The house consists of 15 bedrooms, a spacious communal area and kitchen. It also boasts two large garden areas on either side of the house, which were used as a facility for teaching gardening skills.

As the number of residential learners declined, Cloister became home to the 13 young volunteers who annually join our community for a year of service. With the June/July school holidays fast approaching, there was a window of just three weeks between the departure of the one group of volunteers and the arrival of the next, to refurbish the house, which desperately needed a face-lift. Miraculously, Michelle and Genevieve from the office, together with Clint and his maintenance team, succeeded in completing the project in time, transforming Cloister House into a home from home for our deserving young co-workers.

Camphill School appreciates the important work that these young people do for our children and would like to make their stay with us as pleasant and comfortable as possible.

Genevieve Linney and Michelle van Zyl







# Taming the winter dragon

In the Southern Hemisphere, Michaelmas is a Spring festival celebrating the triumph of light over darkness. It encourages us to awaken and rekindle our light after the sleepiness of winter and to offer our spirit and our light to the world, with courage and strength. We tell the children stories about St Michael taming the dragon and how it takes courage to stand up for the defenceless and for what is right.

Lauren Brown



## Barking Mad

On a drizzly morning in September, the School pupils and the residents of Camphill Farm were treated to a wonderful performance on the lawns in front of Mercury Hall. They were paid a visit by the SAPS' Overberg K9 unit who presented a demonstration of the dogs' prowess, including sniffing out drugs, abalone and explosives. The patrol dogs were also put through their paces, proudly showing their mettle in crowd control and detaining suspects.

The learners thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration and were keen to play a role in the proceedings, when asked to do so. Their questions came thick and fast and the leader of the team patiently and knowledgeably answered every one.

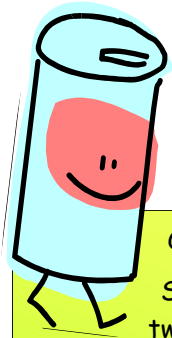
The following day the pupils of classes 6 and 7 drew cards reflecting what they had seen, with a message

for each of the K9 police officers to thank them for the performance and for the valuable work they do to protect us from crime. The cards were handed over to the team, who were very appreciative of the children's efforts.

Johanna Gardiner







# Street Collection

On 9 August, we took to the streets to shake our cans and rattle our coins.

Showing a lively spirit of enthusiasm, the staff and volunteers were divided into teams of two and took up their stations at various retail outlets around Hermanus. Once again, we received strong support from the people of Hermanus.

We not only collected R7 000 on the day, but created awareness throughout the town of what Camphill School is all about. People are always interested in engaging with us and we never cease to be amazed at just how giving members of the Hermanus community are. Their ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

**Genevieve Linney**

## Bringing out the Bling!



We want to thank everyone who participated this year. It was a great team-building initiative and Camphill School benefited to the tune of just over R15 000, more than ever before. We look forward to next year's theme and hope the participation will be even greater.

**Genevieve Linney and Michelle van Zyl**

It was that time of the year for everyone to shake off their inhibitions for Casual Day, which they did in glitter, sequins and anything sparkly. Businesses and other institutions, like schools, participated by buying stickers or encouraging staff and other stakeholders to buy them. This gave them the licence to dress up as outrageously as they liked on the day.

Casual Day celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on 5 September by inviting everyone to go completely overboard and Bring out the Bling! This event has become bigger and better in Hermanus each year, with businesses, schools, the Municipality and hospitals outdoing each other for the most outrageous costumes. It's the one day of the year when everyone has the go-ahead to let their hair down, have fun and join in the community spirit by supporting a worthy cause.

Casual Day is the flagship project of The National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities SA. Last year, more than two million people participated countrywide and R24,8 million was raised. These funds are shared between 12 national disability beneficiaries and a selection of local NGOs.







# Barry Hilton



SUPPORTING  
CAMPBILL SCHOOL



*The way I see it*  
**barry hilton**

**R 130**

In aid of Camphill School  
Hermanus

Date: 5 October 2014  
Time: 17:00  
Venue: Windsor Hotel Hermanus  
Tickets: R130.00 each

Info:  
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on 082 5653 627  
to purchase your tickets today!

or  
book online at  
<http://ngobraai.com/collections/tickets>



## 4-ball Mixed Alliance

**R400.00 per player**

(includes green fee, competition fee  
and snacks )

**Four-ball :R 1 600.00**

**Tee-off from 12h00**

Call Michelle or Genevieve  
on 028 312 4949 to book

***Camphill School Charity Golf Day 12 October***  
***at the Hermanus Golf Club.***



# Of wheels and washing machines

We never get over the generosity of our supporters. When there is a need at Camphill, somehow someone always come through for us and we are filled with gratitude, whether the gift be large or small.



However this term, two gifts deserve special mention. First, there was the washing machine. The one at Phoenix had given notice of its intention to retire. With clothing from the boarders and the volunteers, as well as all the household linen lining up in a never-ending queue, it indicated it had had enough and one breakdown after another emphasised the fact. Then our supportive Mayor, Nicolette Botha- Guthrie stepped up to the plate with a gift from the Mayor's Fund - and a shining new washing machine arrived on our doorstep. The old one was finally retired and the Phoenix staff can still be heard cheering every laundry day.

Next, there was the bus. Our two 16-seater, 'skorro-skorro' buses were even tireder than the washing machine and spent more time in the workshop than on the road. What to do? Fifty-three children needed to be delivered to and from school each day and this had become a major headache. We knocked on the door of our loyal friends, the Trustees of the Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation. After some deliberation, they agreed to the purchase of a brand-new Toyota Quantam Fikile 16-seater bus.

When it arrived at the School in all its glittering splendour, complete with the School's name on the side, the children were out of their skins with excitement. Some of them had to be restrained from boarding it immediately. We are so pleased that the Foundation's Mandy Whitley and Stella Arnott were able to hand the bus over to the School in person and experience the children's joy for themselves.

Halala! to one and all.

Elaine Davie



# Outings





# Holding Hands

Every term, as I prepare this report on the donations we have received during that quarter, I am amazed all over again at how generous ordinary individuals are, some of them coming from a low-resource base themselves. And then, of course, there are the local businesses, the philanthropic foundations, both local and foreign, and the major South African corporations, on whom so many demands are made. All of these have found a corner in their hearts for Camphill School.

As can be seen below, we have been particularly blessed this third term with monetary, as well as in-kind donations. We want all these friends – some new, some old – to know just how grateful we are. They can be sure that every single donation directly benefits our children and makes a valuable contribution to their care and education.

Visitors always comment on the beauty of our School and the tranquil and happy atmosphere here. It is difficult to imagine how bleak most of the children's lives would be outside this nurturing environment and without the wonderful opportunities they are given here. And none of this would be possible without the sustained support we receive from our friends and partners.

This term we would like to offer our grateful thanks to the following donors in particular:

|                          |                |                                |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Protea Hospitality Group | Riscura        | Anglo American Chairman's Fund |
| Heyns Family Trust       | Willem Theron  | Lewis Stores                   |
| JH Richards Will Trust   | Julia and Rayk | Jill Fouche Holiday Camp       |
| Emmanuel Laset           | Gladys Gillion | Rothea Kleynhans               |
| Chantal's Nails*         |                |                                |

We also thank our regular contributors, who month after month, support the School and its children:

|   |                   |                    |                 |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| My School (sign up now – we need new members) | Jami-Lee Grant*   | JDE Manufacturing* | Ad Ops*         |
| Jaci van Heteren*                             | Kerrin Michelson* | Anonymous*         | Claudia Kiefel* |
| Beate Griesser*                               |                   |                    |                 |

## \*Child Sponsorships

We are equally grateful for the many donations in kind we received this term:

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Rolf-Stephan Nussbaum Foundation (bus)                       | Overstrand Mayor's Fund (Nicolette Botha-Guthrie) washing machine | Anne Blignaut (fabric and fabric paint)               |
| DJ Transport (building sand)                                 | Overstrand Municipality (dune sand)                               | Clinton, Cape Stone (pavers)                          |
| Hermanus Round Table (hoodies and blankets for the children) | The Book Mark (bookshelves)                                       | Anya Brand (food)                                     |
| Mrs Lipan (curtains, household linen and equipment)          | Mr Bronkhorst (furniture and a weaving frame)                     | Snuffels (furniture)                                  |
| Prominent Paints (paint)                                     | Kidbrooke Carers (goodie boxes for the children)                  | South African College School Cape Town (12 computers) |
| Zaira Ismail (Meat donation)                                 | Beverley and Andre van Zyl (Crockery)                             |   |

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

**Elaine Davie**



# Meet our 3 sets of twins



Mihle and Mhlali Sipolo



Daniel and William Davies



Keano and Keanan Roos



Camphill School and Camphill Farm participated in the Basic Wildfire Suppression workshop on 11th September and received certificates in fire fighting.

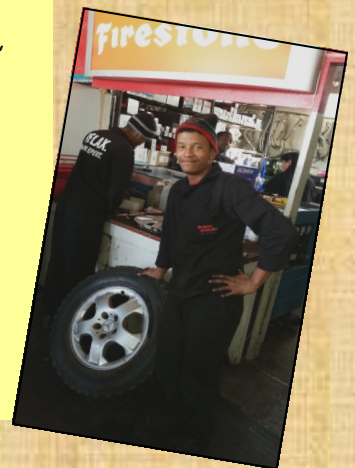


Thank you to the Hermanus Round Table for the blanket and beanie donations.



Thank you to RISCURA for the CAMI Computer Programme.

One of our Former learners, Cowen-Lee Prins working hard at Supaquick. Hermanus.



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Mail the school office for an application form today  
[genevieve@camphill-hermanus.org.za](mailto:genevieve@camphill-hermanus.org.za)

## BANKING DETAILS

Account name: Camphill School  
First National Bank  
Acc no 524 7070 4936  
Branch code: 200412  
Swift code: FIRZAJJ

