

March Edition

CAMPHILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

From our Principal's desk

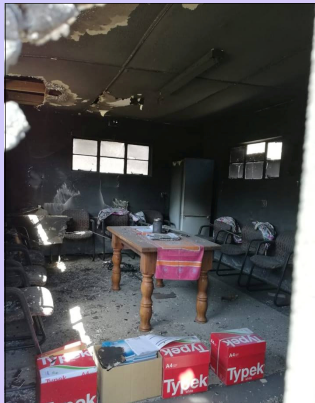
We were back only 2 days into the fresh new year after the December holiday when we received the message from Danie van Zyl of HARSA (Hemel and Aarde Rural Safety Association): "Fire is running at crazy speed. Will be over the mountain in Hermanus with 20-30 min. Please warn Camphill, Bona Dea, etc"

Ferns that had previously burnt in the Karwyderskraal fire were reignited by very strong winds and within an hour the fire was raging out of control despite 2 fire trucks and 4 spray carts being at the scene.

Our school buses had fortunately been dropping all the day learners at that time as the school day ends at 13h00 on Fridays and the bus drivers were on their way back. Collins, one of our drivers was able to evacuate the boarders and house parents, plus some of our German volunteers. The rest of the volunteers drove in the Tazz and our Foreman's personal vehicle.

We evacuated everybody to the Sandbaai Hall, a community hall down the road. We were overwhelmed by the generosity by our Hermanus Community. Within a very short space of time the kitchen at the Sandbaai Hall was overflowing with food and

bottled water, bedding and mattresses were delivered and when the power went off, generous businesses brought generators and lights.



The boarders were all collected by their parents that evening; some parents also took volunteers with them. Kind-hearted community members offered a place for those young volunteers left in the Hall for the weekend, while the Laset family and Jonnelize our House Mother chose to sleep in the Hall with the Farm Community members.

Eddie Holloway who assists us with our security camera system and is involved



in the Onrus/Vermont Neighbourhood watch helped our people to evacuate. Early evening he called to inform me that we had sustained no major structural damage and that only the teachers' room and old Nutec Classroom were burnt to the ground. At that stage the rumour that "the whole school burnt down and there is nothing left" went around town like wildfire

and the news that we sustained minimal damage brought immense relief.

Later that evening we drove with Eddie to the Camphill Communities. By this stage it was thankfully pouring with rain and the fire was contained. Eddie warned us that we had to be prepared for what we are about to see and that it was not the Camphill that we had left behind that afternoon.

Still we were not prepared for the sight that greeted us as we entered the premises. Everything was black, the vegetable garden and Fairy Wood destroyed, Dawn House smoking, gutters lying on the ground, our security fence

ing severely damaged, huge tree branches everywhere as the gale force wind partnered with the vortex of flames wreaked havoc throughout our community. It was raining heavily and combined with the smoke made for a grim black and white tableau.

The clean-up project started the very next week and we are truly grateful to CSV Construc-

tion for assisting us. They brought a digger loader, and a big team to help clear burnt vegetation and tree stumps around the buildings and the estate. Originally they would have come for a week, but stayed for two weeks as it ended up being a huge clean up. We thank them wholeheartedly for this very generous donation and for their valuable time.

We have also received a huge donation of plants and trees from Walker Bay Nursery and once our children and staff are all back at school, we will start planting.

The contractor appointed by our Insurance to undertake the repairs and renovations aims to finish the work within 4 months, but will strive to finish the classrooms and construction work before the end of March. The main school building is finished, but safe asbestos removal by a registered company is impeding the progress of repairs.

The fire is burning approximately 1,5m underground in the peat marsh at the Southern border of our premises, has only intensified over the last 2 months causing intense smoke along the riverbed. During the evenings and in the mornings the smoke makes it impossible for our already challenged boarders to come back to the residential facilities on the premises. We have housed all our boarders, house parents and German volunteers in Sandbaai and Onrus till the air is suitable for everyone to come home. All our children are currently being schooled in a community hall till the

end of our term. As soon as the conditions improve and it is once again a safe environment, our learners will return to school. We are all really looking forward to that.



Amid the ongoing fire clean-up we also have other projects on the go. Thanks to a financial contribution from the Hermes Trust in the UK and Vincent

Brogan we were able to repair and upgrade our Kindergarten bathroom. We also received a monetary donation from Camphill Foundation USA for the restoration of River Cottage; home to our Community Doctor, his wife our Eurthymy Therapist and their son Emmanuel who is a Vocational Phase learner in the school. It is one of the oldest houses on our estate and was in need of some overall maintenance. We thank these donors for their significant contribution and for their ongoing support.

Although it has been a challenging term, we are still feeling very grateful and blessed with many lessons learnt along the way. We thank our Hermanus Community, our Camphill Friends and valued donors worldwide for your overwhelming support, it is impossible to mention each and every one that have played a significant part during this trying period. **Jeanne-Marie Botha**

Our home away from Camphill

Our Homelife staff and volunteers were all geared for a new year after a lovely Summer holiday. Two days into our first term we were surrounded by flames. Our day learners had just been taken home and our residential learners had lunch and having their rest hour.

Angie (House Mother) was busy knitting in the lounge in Phoenix and Jonnelize (House Mother) was in Cloister at the time. Jonnelize says when she realized that the fire was close to the home and they must grab everything that they can, the necessary stuff, her mind come to a complete standstill. We had practiced fire drills often but at that point it was all forgotten. Everyone was panicking and running around trying to make sense of what was happening. Both House Mothers had to think for a lot of people in

the house and had to keep their cool. The children were scared and there was absolutely no time for panic. It took us all 15 minutes to grab the necessary stuff, but to Jonnelize it felt like the longest 15 minutes of her life. The House Mothers got everyone in the bus, children, volunteers, dogs, Angie grabbed the children's medication and Jonnelize even remembered to lock the door as they left. As they all left their homes, they could see the flames behind them. That was an experience that we will all not forget easily.

As the conditions at the school are still not favourable with the smoking wetlands, we have found two homes, one in Onrus and one in Sandbaai to house our residential children, volunteers together with both House Mothers. Our Homelife staff has

been split between the two homes to assist in the cooking and cleaning while Elaine goes to Sandbaai hall everyday to cook lunch for all our children, volunteers and Teachers.



It has been a trying time for all of us but our children seem to be settled and comfortable now. We have still managed to celebrate some birthdays in

last month with pizza's and cupcakes and have also taken our children on several day trips to the beach. We are hopeful and cannot wait to return back to our homes at Camphill, we hope it will be soon, as we all truly miss being there.

Angie and Jonnelize

Schooling in Sandbaai Hall

It is difficult for each of us to express in words how the last 2 months has been. Our children all need stability and routine is very important. Schooling in the Sandbaai Hall, a community hall down the road from Camphill has been tough and has not been easy.

All six classes are in one big hall, although the hall is very big, it is not ideal. Each class are seated at 2 tables and space is very limited. Our learners are distracted easily, they are unsettled and these circumstances make it exceptionally hard to teach. This situation has definitely taken teaching to a new level. The garden outside the hall is also very small and playing ball and games outside is not easy. Our children are missing their jungle gyms, trampolines, swimming pool and most definitely the unlimited space at Camphill. Our first term is almost over and we are all hopeful to return back to normality and routine at the beginning of our second term. Elaine, our Homelife Cook, is now cooking at the Hall where she prepares the children's lunch and snacks daily.

We have enjoyed several outings, due to the Hall not always being available. We all enjoyed a summer picnic at Grotto Beach, Piet se Bos and Fernkloof Nature Reserve. We have also used the hall at the United Church on occasions. We thank the United Church for accommodating us.

Our Vocational Phase workshops are also not in full swing at the moment; however our children are still making beautiful crafts in the hall. Our Vocational Phase learners made special gifts for all the Lighthouse2Lighthouse ladies and are starting to make crafts to distribute in various local farm stalls and markets.

We were excited when Old Mutual



volunteers came to visit bearing hair-dressing workshop goodies. From mirrors to towels to hair dryers and brushes, our workshop is now ready to roll. We also had a proper hairdressing basin fitted, so now we just need to get back to Camphill to carry on with our wonderful workshop which our senior girls absolutely enjoy. We thank Old Mutual for your donation and for your ongoing friendship and thank you too for the sweets.



Once again, the Interact Club of Hermanus High School pulled out all the stops for us. Our Kindergarten and Intermediate classes went to the High School for a fun day prepared by the Interact Club. The High School learners were so excited to see our children again and

one can really see how they honestly care about them. They all had great fun kicking around a giant size tennis-ball, played many games like 'Wolfie Wolfie, whats the time?' blew bubbles and had their faces beautifully painted and decorated. The interaction is always so wonderful to see; our learners have gained confidence and developed friendships since the last time they saw their High School friends and enjoyed the morning thoroughly. The day was ended with the long-anticipated hot-dogs and cold drinks. Thanks again to our fabulous Interact Club friends and to all the High School teachers for making these special days possible.

We would like to thank painting therapist Ashleigh Temple-Camp for your painting therapy sessions with all our staff, teachers and some of our learners. Ashleigh came to spend time with us all after the fire to help us express our feelings and emotions through the media of art. It was an overwhelming experience for each of us and we thank Ashleigh for her valuable time and spiritual guidance.

We will end our term with a Eurythmy performance by a Fairy Tale Ensemble from Stuttgart, Germany. It is a great and rare opportunity to watch and experience this international group of Eurythmists perform a fairy tale and some speech and music pieces in Eurythmy for us.

The Teachers



Like us on Facebook

From Lighthouse 2 Lighthouse



It has been an overwhelming journey with the Lighthouse2Lighthouse ladies. After having been selected as their beneficiary for their 2019 walk



in September, it has been an incredible few months and valuable experience. I have felt truly privileged and honoured to have met such inspirational and incredible women and to have been a part of their walk.



The Lighthouse2Lighthouse Ladies Walk is an annual 4-day walk of 100 km along the pristine shore of the Southern Cape coast of South Africa. The walk starts at the historic Lighthouse at Cape Agulhas, the southernmost tip of the African continent and it ends at the Danger Point Lighthouse, situated near the famous great white shark diving tourism hub of Gansbaai within the Overberg District. The walk is in aid of a chosen charity and each lady, 120 in total, must raise enough funds to participate.



We met with the ladies to bid them farewell at the Agulhas Lighthouse on a drizzly Thursday morning. We then joined them at Die Dam Resort where they were staying for the duration of their walk. The first day was tough as they walked in rain and windy conditions and most of the ladies shoes were soaked, but their spirits were high and full of laughs and giggles. We left them with a gift our children had made, small hand crafted angels which they all liked.



On day 4, our children, teachers and Principal waited for the ladies return at the Danger Point Lighthouse. Thank you to Lize-Meri our Kindergarten Teacher and her Mother Letitia Hayes for bringing along a small picnic for our children, while they waited. The wind was pumping but that did not dampen anybody's spirits. The ladies came walking up the hill to the lighthouse singing, laughing and



full of smiles. They were met with medals and lots of hugs and tears.

Our children sang a few songs while the ladies enjoyed a fruit skewer, ice cream and well deserved glass of bubbly. Nicolette Botha-Guthrie said a few words and lots of photos were taken.

I take my hat off to each and every lady, I admire and respect you all and I am humbled by all you do for each other and for your community. It has been such a wonderful journey, for our School to be associated with such an incredible and inspirational group of ladies, it has been a journey I shall always keep close to my heart. I feel blessed to have met such special woman and I am seriously now even considering walking with you all next year. We are all looking forward to the handover on the 3rd of April.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US HERE AT CAMPHILL SCHOOL

Genevieve Linney





Blessings

The compassion and community spirit which we have received since the beginning of the year has been massive, to say the least. It has been a very busy time and without the support and ongoing help we have received from friends and donors worldwide, it would have been a very challenging time. The physical and spiritual support has been overwhelming and we thank each and everyone that has been involved. Donations -in-kind have continued to arrive since the beginning of the year together with financial contributions. We give grateful thanks to all our generous givers.

I spent most of the weekend after the fire in the community hall where the farm residents and staff were staying after the evacuation. I truly cannot express in words the enormous gratitude I felt, The donations kept on flowing in, we had so much food, water, pots of cooked pasta and curry, toiletries and even a bag of teddy-bears for the residents. The generators and lights also arrived at the perfect time. We had all the local churches, schools, municipality, restaurants and local grocery stores bringing goods or simply spending some time with the residents. We even had a local doctor and local vet pop by, to drop medication and calming tablets for the pets. Thank you to each of you, it is through friends like you, that Camphill School can grow and continue to offer all our special children the safe haven they all deserve.



Apart from those who supported us I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the following:

Camphill Foundation USA	The Clive Smith Charitable Trust	Ian and Max Lockette
Hermes Trust UK	Chris Jooste	Vincent and Dympna Brogan
Ann Marais	Hermanus Staam Saam	C.Koster
Freunde de Erziehungskunst	Van Kniekerk	Jean Boucher
Frank Pronk	Patrick Chapman	Robert Johnson
Nicole Tager	JET Lee WillTrust	Marinda Smit
Rosenberg and Associates	Lily Ashton Charitable Trust	Frances J Appleby Will Trust
Heide Hoffmann	Emmanuel Laset	Camphill Copake USA
Gert van der Heever	Bailey Wedding	Vivien Malan

We also thank our regular Child Sponsors , who month after month, support our School and our children, in particular:

Alan Bailey Civils	J van Tonder	My School (please do sign up)
Joshua King Foundation	PJ Myburgh	Carin Johnston
Jan and Letanie Nel	JDE Manufacturing	

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

Janine Boshoff (Jungle Gym)	Riaan Nel (Fridge)	Prag (Shoes)
Anja Brandt (Food)	Leo Benning (Clothing)	Joanne Grobler (Clothing)
Anet Schutte Coetzee (Stationery)	Krone (Champagne donation for L2L)	Pick n Pay (Fruit Skewers)
Murray Stewart (Clothing and bedding)	Gansbaai Superspar (Ice-Cream donation)	Lize-Meri Frank and Letitia Hayes (Picnic)
Walker Bay Nursery(Plants and Trees)	CSV Construction	Marine Hotel (Kitchen Equipment)

As always, we would like to thank the convenience store at Engen Hermanus, Checkers Hermanus, Woolworths Station Square and Woolworths Whale Coast Mall and The Peninsula Feeding Scheme for the food which they supply to us on a regular basis and the community of Hermanus for their ongoing support. We would also like to thank our local media *The Village News* and *Hermanus Times* for always keeping our friends in our Community updated and abreast with what's happening at our School at all times.

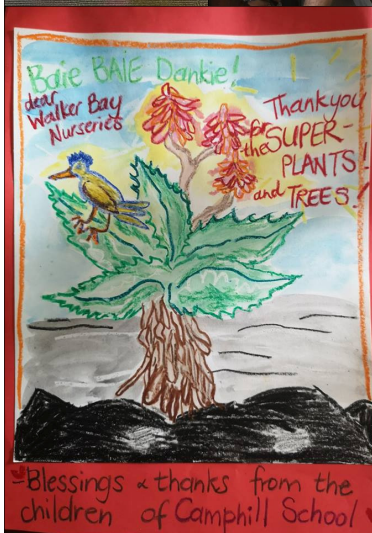
Genevieve Linney



Skipping for Camphill

We were overwhelmed when Leigh Murray, owner of Studio Health in the Hemel en Aarde Village, handed over an amount of R20 070 to us on the 3rd March. Leigh started a skipping challenge in order to raise funds for Camphill School, an entry fee of R300 was charged and the person attaining most revolutions in the space of 5 minutes would be crowned as winner. Sandy Jardine managed to do 740 revolutions making her the champion of the challenge and Sandy donated her winnings of R1 000 straight back to Camphill School. Thank you Leigh for initiating this fundraising exercise and we are extremely grateful for every member who participated.

Amanja Swart



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