



September Edition 2019

CAMP HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



From our Principal's desk



It is almost impossible to believe that we are already heading into the fourth term of 2019. With everything that has happened since the run-away bush fire that swept through our Community on 11 January, leaving the underground peat fire smouldering at the bottom of our premises in the Onrus River Palmoiet Wetland, the year just sped past. There were two significant highlights during our third term. The first highlight was definitely the return of our Learners and staff to Camphill after a long six months. I want to take this opportunity to try to thank everyone involved in helping our School during this difficult and challenging time, but it would be impossible to mention everyone by name, so forgive me if I missed anyone. Environmental agencies National and Local, Liezl De Villiers who is the Overstrand Municipality Senior Environmental Manager and her colleague Tarron Dry, wetland specialist Dr Piet-Louis Grundling as well as representatives from Working on Wetlands, the Fire Department's Lester Smith and Angelo Aplon and all their colleagues, Working on Fire, Rob Erasmus from Enviro Wildfire and the Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association worked hard to devise a sustainable strategy to contain and extinguish the fire in this very precious unique wetland.

The 25 volunteers from Working on Fire (WOF) who resided in our boarding facility, worked tirelessly to extinguish the fire and stopped it from spreading further into the wetland, are all heroes in our eyes. They made it possible for our learners and staff to return back to school in July. The Department of Environmental affairs and our Fire Department are still monitoring the situation in the riverbed daily for any flare-ups which they tend to as soon as they observe it, using the specialised "earth spike" tool devised by Working on Fire's Martin Bolton.

Our learners, teachers and support personnel were not able to return to our premises while the emissions from the peat fire was affecting the air quality in our Community and therefore had to conduct their classes in the Sandbaai Hall and after at Bosko Ministries. We are grateful to the management of these two venues for accommodating us, enabling the teachers to continue with the education of our Children. Thank you to the United Church and Fernkloof Hall for providing alternative spaces on the days when these halls were not available.

On 12 September our School together with the Farm Community had a joint Fire Relief Thanksgiving Service at Mercury Hall to thank everyone who helped us during and after the fire. Reverend Ken Jackson from the United Church brought the message of gratitude and our Children and teachers made us very proud with their beautiful performance of 'Amazing Grace', 'Jesus Loves me' and 'If I were a Butterfly'. We concluded the service by all joining in the singing of the prayer "Masithi" Amen, We praise your name, o God.

At the end of the service Working on Fire handed out certificates and shirts to those volunteers involved in extinguishing the peat fire. The shirt is emblazoned with a shield specifically designed to commemorate this very unique wetlands peat fire project in the Onrus River. Well done to everyone.

The second highlight during our term was the official hand-over of our new school bus by the Lighthouse to Lighthouse Ladies (L2L). The L2L committee members with their main sponsor SPAR for the 2019 walk, the L2L patron Nicolette Johnson, our Deputy Executive Mayor Elnora Gillion, the local media, the principal of the Mercedes Benz business vehicle dealership in Cape Town and their marketing manager were amongst the special guests invited. We all waited in front of Phoenix house with the rest of the school children and staff for our new bus to make its grand appearance, filled with our singing learners. Thank you to Genevieve and teacher Suzette for orchestrating this exciting arrival. We thank the L2L Ladies once again for this incredible and very valuable donation and we thank you all for walking for our School and keeping our Children close to your hearts.



Jeanne-Marie Botha
Principal

Back to school is cool

Our third term started off in high spirits when we received word that the peat fire was extinguished and that we could all come back to school. Our learners and our staff are truly happy and excited to be back and they all cannot get enough of playing on the playground.



As the term started our German co-workers with

some of our Learners gave us a brilliant concert 'The Wizard of Oz'. Dorothy, the cowardly lion, the tin man seeking a heart, the scarecrow were but some of the cast and had our Staff and Learners laughing in hysterics. Thank you all for such a wonderful performance.

We had the opportunity to go and sing to the management of Bosko Church and Sandbaai Hall to say thank you for assisting our School with a place to be schooled for six months. We thank them all for creating a space for us and enabling us to have carried on with our school days. It was a challenging six months, but we are most grateful to each and everyone that made it all possible.

Our Kindergarten and Intermediate classes also managed to go and visit our friends this term at Kidbrooke Retirement Village. We love sharing the concept of 'GIVING BACK', and singing to the elderly in order to thank them for their love and support is one of our favourite ways to do this. The hall was packed and this time, our Children were somewhat shell-shocked, but all sang joyfully and warmed the hearts of both staff and residents. It's always such a good feeling to see the interest shown, especially when the residents join in with the fun. We finished off with delicious, home-made cupcakes and left just before the rain.



Our soccer team had the opportunity of playing a friendly soccer match against Waldorf School during August. The emotions were running high, full of excitement as our Children were so looking forward to playing a soccer match. Our team were proud to wear their Soccer Shirts, sponsored by Seven Springs Vineyards. The final score was 4-1 for

Waldorf School, but the joy was priceless for our Children. Thank you to Waldorf School for this opportunity and great spirits. To all the supporters who came to cheer on the teams, we will see you next time.

We had some special visitors on Mandela day from Tsogosun Hotels in Caledon and Ford Hermanus. As the rain started to drizzle it did not keep the Tsogosun men from pulling out weeds in our garden, while the ladies were busy preparing lunch in the kitchen. The 2 Ford representatives started early, preparing sandwiches and finished the day planting seedlings. We thank you all for your kind hearts and thank you for spending more than your 67 minutes here at our School.

Our Vocational class were privileged to have been invited to Seven Springs Vineyards Open Day to sell their crafts and played Marimba. We were also given the opportunity to display our crafts in their Onion Shed. Our Vocational class also visited the Hermanus Animal welfare (HAWs) where we assisted with the cleaning, feeding and walking of the dogs and cats. This opportunity could create a prospect for job shadowing for next year.



The Hermanus High School Interact Team came to Camphill for an afternoon of fun on a glorious Spring Day. The entire school could join in this time, as the Zwelihle learners were unfortunately home due to protests. The High School pupils were really thrilled to see our Children again, and brought gifts and fun activities like play-dough and pancakes to entertain us. Songs were sung, games were played and old friends were reunited to enjoy the Spring day together.

After a busy term our Learners are all once again settled in and happy. The workshops are going well, although we focussed more on academic this term as it was literally our first term back and we are still evaluating the learners and identifying their strengths, needs and interests in the various workshops.

We will end our term with our Eurythmy concert presented By Geralyn and Luise.

The Teachers

Back to our Happy Homes...

Our third term started off with a lot of excitement, happiness and gratefulness to be back home on Camphill grounds. We managed to move out of our rented houses with the help of our Maintenance Team during the school holidays. Our residential children have settled back very quickly and our Homelife staff are all happy to be home and back into our normal routine.

With the beginning of the third term, we had to once again say goodbye to our co-workers. They have been with us for the last year and have meant so much to us. Their hard work, love for our children and dedication will never be forgotten. Our new group of co-workers joined us full of energy and positivity. Our children welcomed them with open hearts and big smiles. This year we have less co-workers as we have fewer residential children. Our new group had an in depth Orientation and Observation training of 2 weeks and now they are settling in nicely.

With Engen, Woolworths Station Square and the Whale-coast Mall and Checkers donations of surplus foods, we manage to supplement all our meals with nutritious vegetables and fruit.

We were very fortunate to receive a new washing machine from EnviroServ Waste Management in Cape Town, this machine came at the perfect time and we thank you for this wonderful donation-in-kind.

Our Homelife staff were fortunate to receive in-house training by Melanie Coetzee. It was an intensive 2 day training course on kitchen and food hygiene and management there of. Thank you for this opportunity, it was hugely beneficial to us all.

I thank my Homelife staff for the last term and wish everyone a safe Spring holiday.

Angie Coetzee

Festivals...



The St. John's Festival is our Festival of Lights in winter. The whole school community gathered in the school court yard and the festival was ushered by reading the Fire verse for St. John's by Lawrence Adler. Jeanne-Marie read the passages of St. John and Teacher Henna gave a short input of the

essence of the festival. This was followed by a lantern parade whilst singing St. John's songs around the school grounds which

ended in St. John's Hall. The darkened hall was brightened by the lights from the beautiful lanterns prepared by each learner and teachers. There was a short program of storytelling on *The Light Bearer* by Teacher Suzette as well as Eurythmy performances by Geralyn Laset and Luise Boedinghaus on the Soul Calendar verse by Rudolf Steiner, Novalis Verse and Prelude No. 21 by Alexander Scriabin. The festival culminated with the gathering around a small bonfire and throwing to the flames pieces of paper where everyone had written things that they want to change within their lives, symbolizing the call for change as we let the inner light of Christ kindle in our hearts.

Therapies



As our Children have slowly settled back at School, so has the provision of therapies at the Phila Therapy Centre. We have continued with eurythmy therapy with Geralyn Laset, occupational therapy with Annetta Saimmann, painting therapy with Ashleigh Temple-Camp, speech therapy with Lee Meyer and massage therapy with Beatrice Pook. Our children were also able to continue their marimba classes for our Senior, Upper School and Creative Classes, as well as the recorder class for the intermediate phase with Daniel Kamber. The eurythmy classes also resumed with Luise Boedinghaus for the Foundation and Intermediate Classes and with Geralyn Laset for the Senior Classes, Upper School and Creative Classes.

Our horse riding sessions also continued at the Hermanus Equestrian Centre (HEC). We were sad to hear that Wilhelmiën Valentine will be moving to the Karoo soon and she will be missed by our children. She assured us that we would be able to continue the horse riding therapy sessions with the new owner of the HEC.

We are grateful to the Anglo-American Chairman's Fund for their continued support towards our School's Therapy Programme.

Julio Laset

Time to Shine for Casual Day



Casual Day on Friday the 6th September was a hit once again.

Casual Day has become a firm favourite on the calendar for many of us. It is an excellent opportunity for organisational team building, whilst also making a contribution to one of the country's most vulnerable sectors of society: persons with disabilities.

TIME TO SHINE was this year's Casual Day theme.

Our Hermanus Community together with our loyal supporters from Caledon, Cape Town and Gansbaai, were all dressed up or dressed down for the day. Most of our supporters

On behalf of Camphill School, we would like to thank each of you for supporting this very worthy cause. Thank you to all the schools, grocery outlets, municipality, hotels, retirement villages, hardware shops in and around Hermanus and Caledon. Your ongoing support in purchasing stickers and financial donations are hugely appreciated. We enjoyed the fantastic vibe throughout our Community.

Casually yours, Genevieve Linney



Gum Boot Galore



We had a very special friend visit us during Winter. Out of the kindness of his heart, Koos du Toit organized and bought brand new Gum Boots for every learner here at School. Our Children were so excited to receive their brand new boots and we thank him wholeheartedly for this very useful and wonderful donation. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank

Nelia Louw at WhaleCoast FM for giving Jeanne-Marie our Principal the opportunity for doing a live broadcast on the 31st July. During this interview, Jeanne-Marie expressed the need for gum boots for our

Children and thereafter Koos made contact with us. THANK YOU so much Koos for keeping our Children close to your heart and for keeping their feet warm and dry during the cold rainy season.

Genevieve Linney



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Camphill gives thanks.....

As we come to the end of yet another busy term, we are forever grateful to all our donors and for all the contributions made to us in the last few months.

This term, emphasis was placed on the arrival of our brand new 23-seater Mercedes Benz School Bus donated by the Lighthouse2Lighthouse Ladies Walk and to a successful Casual Day that has just passed, we realise the fundamental role our Community plays and just how much we value our Communities ongoing support towards all our fund-raising endeavours.

All contributions, whether big or small, is met with a grateful heart and we thank each of you.

Thank you to the following donors who have contributed monetary donations this term:

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| Joan St Leger Lindbergh Charitable Trust | JET Lee Will Trust | Sea Harvest Foundation |
| Freunde Der Erziehungskunst | Rosalind Hendry | Fonds de Fraternite |
| Hermanus Adventures and Absa Cape Epic | PSG Wealth Hermanus | Hermanus Primary School |
| Dr Mickey Fael | Frank Pronk | Marine Hotel |
| Heidehof Retirement Village | Municipal Grant-in-Aid | MySchool |

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

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Rob and Margaret Molyneux | Carin Johnston | Jan and Letanie Nel |
| Alan Bailey Civil Engineer CC | PJ Myburgh | Marinda Smit |

Equally important are the donations-in-kind and sponsorships we received during this period, it is impossible to mention all our generous donors, but we would like to thank the following in particular:

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| EnviroServ Waste Management Cape Town- Washing Machine | Koos du Toit- Gum Boots for all the learners | Anne Murray- Crafts, wool |
| Michelle Green- Music and DVD's | Robert and Nicolette Johnson- Flowers | Christa Steyn- Clothing and Linen |
| Chanelize Lorist- Clothing | Willie and Georgia Haye- Crafts and Stationery | Corlia Malherbe Bloch- Clothing |
| Hermanus High School- Cold Drinks and Milkshakes | Beanery- Coffee donation | Julie MacPhail- Biscuits |

Fundraising Team- Genevieve Linney and Amanja Swart

