

# Christmas Edition

CAMP HILL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## From the Principal's desk

It is almost impossible to believe that it is almost the end of the last school term of 2020. Despite all the challenges presented by Covid-19 and the adjustment to the "new normal", our staff and learners persevered and met these challenges head-on. They really earned their summer break.

The school maintained its no-visitors policy during school hours throughout the term which had an impact on how admission interviews had to be conducted. We managed to overcome this obstacle by moving the interview room away from the school and administration building and managed to enrol one new learner who started at the beginning of this term and two learners who will join us in the first term of 2021. Admission applications are still being processed and interviews scheduled. Concern meetings with parents and social workers had to be conducted after school hours and this worked well.

Our bus drivers and class assistants continued the Covid-19 screening, masking and sanitizing process at the buses when picking up the children in the morning and the teachers the screening process in the classrooms during the day. Sanitising of buses after every trip and of classrooms and offices before and after school continues. Clear Covid-19 regulations were provided by the Department of Basic Education in their Standard Operating Procedure document and the Independent Schools Association of South Africa provided guidance and support throughout.

Slowly but surely our Vocational Phase learners have started their outdoor workshops like car washing, maintenance and gardening again during this term. They have also been making jewellery in the craft workshop. Marimba as well as Eurythmy and Art classes have also resumed for the different classes. Whenever possible activities are conducted outdoors as there is enough space for our learners and staff members to safely socially distance from one another.

The last few days of the academic year will be filled with celebrations for the whole Community.

The Hermanus High Interact Club and their



teachers visited us on the 7th December to share their Santa Shoeboxes with all our learners. It was a very heart-warming event for our School for which we are truly grateful.



We are also looking forward to our annual Community

Christmas lunch which will be enjoyed outside under the trees and in a "physically distanced" manner. St Nicholas will also once again visit the classes to distribute small gifts and biscuits to the children with the help of his trusted companion, Ruprecht.

This has been a very challenging financial year for us all and funding is scarce as many donors and companies have been negatively impacted by this pandemic. Thanks to the continued supply of surplus food donations from Woolworths and Checkers we have been able to continue providing nutritious meals and snacks to our learners every day. Thank you to the Hermanus Community for your generosity throughout the year, to all Camphill Communities worldwide and to the Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland (AoCC) for your ongoing support.

I am really grateful to our School Board for providing guidance and insight whenever needed and to our School management team and staff members for your loyalty and support in making our School a safe haven for our special children. I wish you all a blessed Christmas time. Keep well and stay safe.

**Jeanne-Marie Botha**  
Principal

# Festivals



In light of the COVID protocols and restrictions, Camphill School still found ways to celebrate Festivals this year. Although the School was not able to do the Nativity Play this year, we were still able to create the mood of the Advent and Christmas Festivals. Each class

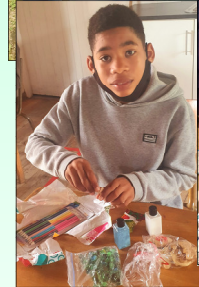
the room was brightened by their candles in the spiral. The movement of going into and going out of the spiral symbolized the inner journey of each child who carries inner light and love that can shine over any darkness of the earth.

was busy in the preparation of their advent wreaths and Christmas decorations in their respective classrooms. In the Eurythmy classes, the children moved with verses, forms and stories with the theme of Advent and Christmas.

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 grateful to continue this tradition in our Camphill School.

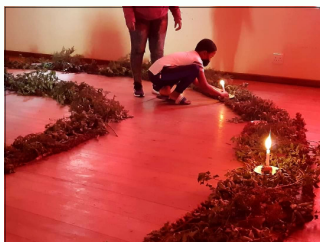


We also celebrated St. Nicholas Day on 9th December. St. Nicholas, who is the fore-runner of Santa Claus and Father Christmas, visited the



The Advent was ushered by our Advent Spiral on 1st December in a much smaller venue in St. John's Hall and therefore had to be done per class rather than with the whole school and farm community. The set up was also different wherein the center of the spiral was a big candle as a central flame in the room. The children first heard the "Creation Story" from their teacher in the foyer. Then each learner one at a time entered a semi-dark room and received the apple with candle from their teacher. Accompanied by soft lyre music, each child now entered

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 and others. 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.



the spiral and they lit their apples from the big candle and then slowly went out of the spiral and found a place where the lit candle was left in the

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.

spiral. After all the children had had their turn,

**Julio Laset**



# Therapies

Camphill School is guided by the WCED COVID protocols and restrictions which are diligently being adhered to in all departments of the school. Hence, these also affected the implementation of therapies. Fortunately, we were able to continue the eurythmy classes and therapies, painting therapy and music/marimba in all classes. As the children are no longer able to have access to Phila Therapy Centre during this times because of COVID protocols in Camphill Community, therapies for our children has to be done at St. John's Hall. We have converted a room in Dawn Complex for the painting therapy. Hence, we were not able to provide the occupational therapy as well as the speech therapy. We have to cancel the therapeutic riding as well. **Julio Laset**

## Side by Side for Equality

Casual Day has become a firm favourite on the calendar of many South Africans. 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. This year Casual Day was held in December and not September as usual and also falling on International Day for persons with disabilities.

The theme this year was **Side by Side for Equality, Mickey Mouse and Friends stay true forever.**



As you can appreciate this year seemed to be a bit more challenging with COVID hanging around and December being a very busy month for all. We did manage however to get the word out within our Community and a good day was shared by all our loyal supporters and friends. From the local Hospitals, Banks, Schools, to local shopping outlets, most supporters were dressed in tutu's and Mickey Mouse outfits or some organisations spent a little more and geared up in casual day merchandise. All in

all, it was a great team-building day amongst colleagues and friends, something happy to celebrate after the interesting year we have all had.



I will be doing a final reconcile early into 2021 and will let you all know how successful the day was. I would like to thank each and everyone that participated in this fundraising drive and a big thank you for making a difference, no matter how small. Well done to all and I will see you all again next year.

Casually Yours, **Genevieve Linney**



# Sharing the Light and Love



We are truly grateful to all our supporters, donors, loyal friends and new Camphill friends for the valuable contributions and donations-in-kind made this past year.

I would like to mention two specific highlights during our last term at school. A very generous financial donation was given to us by the Wyss Family, in particular Julia Wyss, she is photographed on the left and resides in Switzerland. Their significant donation could not have come at a better time and we thank you all wholeheartedly for your incredibly generous financial support towards our School and Children.

The second highlight was the return of our Hermanus High School Interact Club, bearing Santa Shoeboxes, individually prepared for each of our learners. This year we unfortunately spent a little less time with our High School friends than usual, but that has not hindered the friendships and the valuable bonds between the High School learners and our children. Thank you for sharing your love and light with us all and for being a part of our children's lives.

We would like to acknowledge the financial contributions made by the following during this term-

Julia Wyss and Family	Willem and Annette Theron	ABSA
Hermanus High School	JET Lee Will Trust	Onrus Manor Retirement Village

We also thank our Child Sponsors , who month after month, support our School and our learners-

Alan Bailey	Marinda Smit	Jan and Letanie Nel
Carin Johnston	J van Tonder	MySchool

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

Anja Brandt- Meals for our Children, Wooden Blocks	Bona Dea/PSG- Meals	Stephan Welz and Co
Mrs Strydom-Stationary	Hermanus High School Interact Club- Santa Shoeboxes	Miralese Wiegman- Toys
Colleen Schlaphoff-Materials and wheelchair	Checkers Hermanus, Engen, Woolworths Station Square and Whale-coast Mall-Surplus Foods	Peninsula Feeding Association-Monthly Dry Goods



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