



MARCH 2025

Camphill School Newsletter



Jeanne-Marie Botha

From the desk of our Principal

Learners and staff started off the 2025 academic year filled with excitement and anticipation for what the new school year will bring.

We welcomed two new staff members to our Camphill Community. Nombulelo Notwala was appointed as the new Intermediate Class teacher and Neziswa Nqeto was appointed as class assistant in the Foundation Phase class. We sincerely hope that they will be very happy at Camphill and be part of our family for a very long time. ♥

Rick Silverman, a retired woodwork teacher and carpenter, also joined Camphill School as a volunteer woodwork workshop master for the Vocational Phase class in January this year. He is doing phenomenal work with the learners and they are really enjoying it tremendously.



Thanks to the generosity of the Association of Camphill Communities UK and Ireland (AOCC), we have been able to do much-needed repairs and maintenance to our building and estate. Dehl Waterproofing started repairing, sealing and repainting our roofs in December 2024 and finished last week. I have to commend them on doing a very good job for which we are truly grateful.

It was decided that the Foundation and Intermediate Classes would move from our very old Dawn House complex to newly created classrooms in our old boarding facility, Phoenix house at the start of the second term. Bedrooms were converted into two classrooms and the bathrooms converted to accommodate the smaller children. Paving was laid outside Phoenix House and a carport installed as this serves as pick-up and drop-off point for the transport and it gets very muddy when it rains. Now the children and staff can keep dry while waiting for the bus! This would not have been possible without the generosity of the AOCC who funded this project. We are all extremely excited to move next term! Thank you so much to the AOCC and to WR Projects for doing a wonderful job. It looks great.

The AOCC and the Friends of Camphill in the UK made funds available for the installation of a multi-purpose sports pitch at our school many years ago. I am very happy to report that WR Projects have started this project. They also helped clear the playground for the installation of the new playground equipment.





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Our playground was in serious need of some TLC as some of the equipment is old and weathered. Thanks to the Camphill Foundation USA's sponsorship of this project we have been able to revamp our playground. The installation will take place as soon as the ordered equipment arrives.



From the desk of Julio Laset



THERAPIES AND FESTIVALS

The provision of therapies for our learners continued this first term 2025 with Occupational Therapy with Annetta Saaiman, Marimba and drumming sessions with Daniel Kamber and Cranio-sacral therapy with Belinda Malan. It is fortunate that Belinda is able to provide CST sessions for two hours per week and hence more children benefited from this approach.



We are grateful that Michele Lorton continued to do painting sessions with the Foundation and Intermediate classes and the children loved their sessions with her. We had speech therapy assessment of selected learners with Estelle Venter and we will still plan for the regular therapy sessions of these children in her practice.



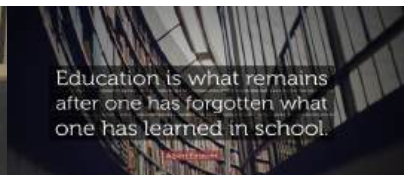
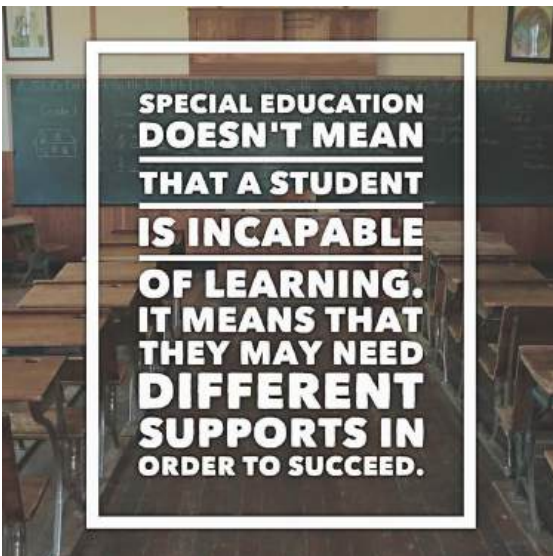
We are not successful yet to find the replacement of GERALYN LASSET for eurythmy classes and eurythmy therapy sessions of our children. But we will continue the recruitment for the post of eurythmy teacher and therapist since it is very much part of the core curriculum of the school.



We had an intensive discussions with the teachers regarding the Individual Educational Plans of each learner wherein we were able to identify therapeutic interventions that would also be implemented in the classroom.

We are grateful to the IQRRA Trust for the therapy funds they have provided so that these therapeutic interventions will be continued for the benefit of our children.

There are preparations for the Easter Festival which will be held in the first week of the second term.





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From the office staff and teachers♥



Dutch Students

We are fortunate to welcome two students from the Netherlands to our school. Sophie Kouwen (Social Work) and Floor Dorenbos (Nursing) will be conducting research on learner interaction to develop a resilience programme and explore play therapy. This important work forms part of their studies in International Sustainable Development. They are among 11 students from the Sluyter Foundation, each assigned to different programs in Hermanus. Their main aim is to introduce a sustainable programme for Camphill School by the end of May 2025 that can possibly be implemented and help our learners be more resilient to bullying and aggression. We wish them the best of luck on this journey and are grateful to have them with us. Sonja van Wilpe is acting as their mentor at the school.



OnlySpecials Café

We currently have 6 learners doing training in hospitality at Only Specials Coffee Shop in Hermanus. We truly appreciate Joke, Charmaine and the staff for their dedication and patience in training our learners to eventually earn an income as waiters, baristas and helping with the baking process of breads and various pastries, which they learn at Daan's Bakery. We look forward to them graduating from this life altering experience at the end of the year.



New learners

School started with great enthusiasm from everyone this year. We welcomed our new learners with open arms, love and support and they all seem to be doing very well in their assigned classrooms. The learners who were upgraded to the next Phase in the Camphill curriculum for special needs children have adapted very well to their new classes and teachers. Each class (Teacher and class assistant) is hard at work to develop the skills and ability of each learner to their full potential.

The Vocational Phase is currently doing workshops in gardening, car wash and woodwork for the boys and needlework, arts and crafts and housekeeping for the girls. We are blessed to have a new woodwork teacher, Rick Silverman who volunteers his time unselfishly to teach our woodwork learners with patience and love. He has an eye for detail and sees the potential of each learner that enters the woodwork shop on the school grounds. We are planning great and innovative projects for our learners in the Vocational Phase soon to fully unlock their true potential and worth.





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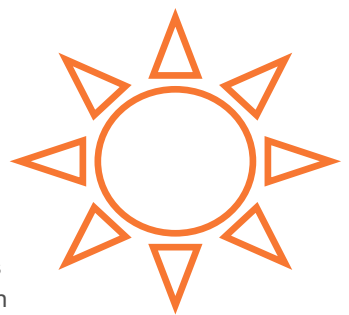
The Foundation Phase

They took full advantage of the lovely warm weather we experienced in the Valley. A few learners enjoyed a wonderful swimming session at the school. They were delighted to be joined by our Dutch students in the pool. It was a joyful experience for all.



Fun Day at Hermanus High School

We enjoyed another memorable day at the Hermanus High School Fun Day. Our Foundation, Intermediate Phase and Senior 1 learners had the privilege of spending a fun-filled and engaging day at Hermanus High School. A heartfelt thank you to the learners and teachers of Hermanus High School for always welcoming and including us. Your efforts in entertaining our learners with songs, games, dancing, face painting and colouring made the day truly special.



We are also grateful for the delicious lunch prepared for our learners – they thoroughly enjoyed it! The joy on their faces was a testament to the kindness, love and generosity shown to them. This experience was a true blessing, and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support towards Camphill School.♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥



This is where we learn, experience and love♥

**Be resilient, become worthy and human
and path our way to a better future!**

**We can, we will, we strive through our
education at Camphill School !!**





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FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE—THE LASET FAMILY♥♥♥

Julio, Geralyn and Emmanuel Laset arrived in August of 2006. I remember it well because we went to fetch them at the airport and Julio had the dates wrong, so we had to return for them the next day! They also found out that the Western Cape is cold in winter.

I remember Emmanuel as a little 7 year old boy that liked to run away. We were forever finding him on the dirt road leading out of Camphill. The road was only tarred and the gate put up years later.

The Lasets settled in very quickly and contributed hugely to our Community, throughout the years. They were house parents in Phoenix, Geralyn was the Foundation Class teacher. Geralyn went to study Eurythmy at the Centre for Creative Education in Plumstead, Cape Town, came back and became our Eurythmy teacher and therapist. She also presented Eurythmy to the Farm residents and donated her fees to the school. Julio and Geralyn organised the celebration of all the Christian Festivals and it was always so beautifully done.

Julio took the role of our medical, therapeutic and child protection officer. He has liaised closely with social services and medical professionals to support and protect the learners. He also did home visits to parents. Julio organised therapies according to the individual education plans (IEP's) for every child and met with teachers and house parents regularly in Teachers/Homelife meeting and lead child studies about individual learners. He was instrumental in the compilation of the IEP's.

Julio is a board member of both the Camphill Farm and Camphill School Communities and was the school's board secretary. He organised AGM's and memberships and liaised with our auditor and bookkeeper to produce accurate Annual Audited Financial Statements.

He has been a very valuable management member and been a colleague, mentor and friend to me throughout the years that I have known him.

Emmanuel started off as a learner and later joined the maintenance team after finishing school. This young man's work ethic knows no limit. He is not only active in the school over the holidays and weekends, cutting grass, but also at the Farm Community. Every Saturday he participates in the Parkrun and is always striving to improve his personal best time.

I think it would be an understatement to say that the Laset family will leave a huge void in their wake. We will all miss you guys so much. May your future endeavours be successful and blessed.

