

Kufunda Village School



Highlights from our second term: May-July 2018



New teacher joins our school

Our second term has as usual been full of activity. The biggest new development was that Gilbert Guvakuva joined the school as our newest member of staff. During the term he went to Stuttgart to defend his thesis and complete three additional courses, and has returned to us as a fully qualified Waldorf teacher. This is a great addition to our school. Gilbert and the teachers look forward deepening their learning through in-service training that he will lead and through our weekly study circle.

Visiting teachers and contributors

While Gilbert was in Stuttgart, Waldorf teacher Elke Castner, joined us from Malawi to stand in for Gilbert. She took over his class (the class 4s), teaching maths main lesson. Elke brings a particular passion for maths, as well as years of experience as a therapist working with the twelve senses. Thus in addition to teaching, she worked one on one with a few children. Mid-way through the term Eurythmy therapist Julia O'Leary from Mount Michael Waldorf school in Cape Town joined us for five weeks to offer curative eurythmy to the children on a one on one basis. She has been working with all of the children, and focusing on the ones needing extra support, taking them twice a week for private eurythmy sessions.

The Children's Work

The class one children continued learning the alphabet through stories. They listened to the stories, drew pictures and discovered the secret letters hidden in the pictures which they wrote and sounded. They also continued deepening into the four operations through stories and through doing sums with rocks and other elements



from nature. As a forerunner of science children were introduced to the four elements, earth, fire, water and air. They went on nature walks and saw the growth of plants, birds and little animals in the surroundings. They noticed the changing colours of the seasons.

The class twos curriculum was focused on building their confidence and also supporting them to work together as a group. The class did a lot of speech exercises in an expressive and artistic way. They memorized poems and verses connected to their main lessons. They practiced their reading and had a chance of learning to construct short sentences from their new words. In maths the children focused more on their tables. A lot managed to get up to the six time table without any difficulties. They used songs to learn and practice their tables, and also drew the tables geometrically, making them very easy to understand. In nature studies trees was their main focus this term. It gave the children an understanding for how they should treat our nature. A lot of children loved to bring different things for the nature table.

While Gilbert was away the *class fours* had a main lesson of maths review, including time. As part of this they had to calculate how many bricks had been used to build their classroom. They had much active debate and calculating together before they arrived at a figure they could all agree to! In local geography they began to develop their ability to make maps of their rooms, the classroom, the school and Kufunda Village. The village was impressed with the map of Kufunda. Human and Animal study introduced them to a study of the human being and of our place in nature.

Family Fun day

Together with Kufunda Village, the school hosted a family fun day. People from the city came out with their children to enjoy a day in the natural environment of Kufunda. There were activities for the children including rainbow candle making, form drawing, clay moulding and pony rides. There was live Mbira music and healthy wholesome food served. It was a wonderful day, and people asked for more. These family days will

provide an opportunity for us to let more people know about the school and the Waldorf way of teaching.

Visit to Wild is Life

During the final week of school the whole school went to visit nearby animal sanctuary called *Wild is Life*. They look after rescued wild life, and where possible rehabilitate them into the wild. The children met their young elephants; they got to see the very rare pangolin; they saw the lions being fed, and they even got to feed the giraffes themselves! They learnt many interesting things about each animal.



St John's Festival

The term ended with a beautiful St John's festival. The children had prepared well, and each class shared joyful and earnest performances. The festival and the term closed with a simple traditional meal and conversations with parents.



During the school holidays we will begin the construction of a new classroom block. Parents have been invited to join us to help with the building. Our school is growing.

Thank you for your continued support.