

### EDITORIAL

YMKE HEMMINGA

Last week I received the sad news that Marjolijn van den Eeden, my high school Dutch / Literature teacher had passed away, and I felt an unsurpressable urge to write her a tribute.

Marjolijn was an extraordinary woman who woke up, fostered and encouraged my dormant love for words and language for which I will be eternally grateful.

Our class (class 9b) was the only class in the whole school that she taught, because she was also looking after three small children at home.

Why we were the chosen ones, I will never know.

Marjolijn was small, very soft spoken and slightly weird in an original way, so of course we from class 9 didn't give her the time of day during her first lesson.

Did we scare her away? Not in the least...the next week she was back with a rap song she had written, featuring each and every child in our class. She actually stood in front of the class and rapped us into shape! Needless to say we were all hers from that moment on.

She opened a world of words, poetry and creative writing for us, she introduced us to the great writers of the Netherlands.

She sent us on a poetry writing mission through the streets of Rotterdam and we made a class poetry book in which each child had written a poem.

Yesterday, when I went through my boxes of letters scanning for her thin, long-legged handwriting I found a letter that was addressed to the whole class. In the letter she explained to all of us why she had not written us each a personal note besides our marks in our rappers that specific year: her youngest child had just been born and the oldest one was ill - she had been too 'baby-minded' and thus unable to write us something decent. This of course didn't make her any less of a great teacher, but it did make her a wonderful mother, and an honest, loving human being all in one!

A good teacher can really become like a parent and just the thought of never again receiving any envelopes with thin, long-legged handwriting on it breaks my heart.

I wish I could thank her for everything she has done for me, and hope she will find peace and poetry wherever she is.

### IN THIS ISSUE

PROVERB OF THE MONTH

REPORT BACK

IMPORTANT DATES

\*Sepedi proverb of the month, contributed by Grace Rakgoale:

**'Tau tsa hloka seboka di sitwa ke rare e hlotsa'**

Translation:

**'Lions who do not work together are foiled by an injured buffalo'**

Meaning:

**If people are not united they will fail to accomplish simple tasks.**

**The next Parents' Committee Meeting is on Tuesday 11 November at 17h00!** All interested parents are warmly invited to attend this meeting, as we would love to expand our Parents' Committee. **Please confirm** with Ymke via email: [ymke@rawstudios.co.za](mailto:ymke@rawstudios.co.za) or via sms on 084 4226006.

**If there are parents who would like to receive the 'Max Stibbe Matters' via e-mail, please let me know by sending an e-mail with your name, and your child's name and class to [ymke@rawstudios.co.za](mailto:ymke@rawstudios.co.za) and I will mail you the MM in pdf format.**



**The Amazing Race**

On 30 August 2008, five of our learners, Arnon van der Spuy, Casey Roosendaal (class 8), Emile van Straaten, Justin Offerman and William Blair (class 7) together with Shad Masiteng, took part in an "Amazing Race."

Four schools participated and the grand prize was a computer and R1500.

With a prize like that, you can imagine the enthusiasm of the learners.

The aim of the game was to solve clues and complete different tasks. Each task was at a different place in Pretoria and thanks to Althea Blair's map reading and driving skills the boys got to their tasks safely.

It was Justin Offerman who climbed the tree for the first clue. The first task was rafting: they had to first pump up the raft then paddle two by two across a pond and fill a holey pipe with water in order to receive their next clue.

The next task was at Fort Klapperkop. There they had to dig and find 3 maps which would send them to their next task: 'Paintballing'. The learners and Shad ran the gauntlet of being shot at by unseen men as they were trying to retrieve their next clue.....

Rock climbing at the university. That wall was so high and the wind was blowing so strongly, I feared that the boys wouldn't make it. I needn't have worried, they looked like spiders in paradise. Off to the Union Buildings to find a special flower. Then it was Go Karting, a task that William Blair excelled in. He competed against the teachers of the other teams, and they didn't stand a chance.

All the tasks were done, and it was time to find the last stop - the restaurant. The learners had to shoot balloons to get their meal ticket, which was no problem for our farm children, and in no time they were enjoying a hard-earned lunch.

We did not win the race; it wasn't easy to compete against matric learners who have a physical advantage.

To the team it was great to enjoy themselves, work together, accomplish the difficult tasks, encourage the other teams, and stay positive even when the odds were against them.

Chantelle Offerman

**Max Stibbe Barn dance**

I had heard about Barn Dances before and all the fun they were, but I had never been to one and it was not without trepidation that I was looking forward to the Max Stibbe Barn Dance!

In the weeks leading up to the event the children (and I) learnt all about line dancing....., and to see how easy line dancing is, quelled the fears of all those who believe they were born with two left feet. (Thank you Hayley for teaching us!)

On the night of 6 September we had the best time ever! The "barn" looked cosy and the food was DELICIOUS! Pat Petters and her team led the dancers in line and barn dancing and young and old had a good time, laughing and dancing. Quite a number of sceptical teenagers were spotted having a great time.

I wish to thank Huibert and his team for their hard work in clearing the barn; Theresa and Thomas for their hard work concerning food and drinks, and all the teachers and hostelparents and parents that helped on the day. A special thanks also to the grade 9s who helped to move chairs and tables and who built the stage.

It was an event worth repeating.

Marguerite de Clercq

One of our parents said the following about the barn dance:

'The barn dance was a spiritual experience – I was dancing with my children – something we have never done before. We should have a dance like this every term as it brings the family into another dimension.'

Grade 5 parent

**Masada market at Rosemary Hill**

The next Masada Market dates are **Sunday 26 October** and **Sunday 9 November** from **8h00-14h00** at Rosemary Hill. The market is a lovely opportunity to spend some time in the country side, pick up some (organic) fresh produce, have breakfast or lunch while your children roam free in a safe and spacious environment.

If you are interested in having a stall please contact Theresa on 083 2356857