

EDITORIAL

YMKE HEMMINGA

'Promoting the art of happiness.'

I came across this sentence on a circus truck and I loved it. It implies that happiness is an art, a skill, something we actively have to pursue...

I'd like to think of Waldorf Schools as places that promote the art of happiness.

The way Waldorf Schools endeavour to surround children with respect, beauty, care and age-appropriate learning materials, seems to provide them with a safe, stress-free environment that fosters a love for learning, and makes them happy and confident. My opinion is that, if we could choose to be anything in this life, we might as well try to be happy and maybe extend some of that happiness to others.

How?

For adults happiness does not always come so naturally (hence my conviction that happiness should be a priority in childhood, as one has to stock up for a lifetime).

I have always felt that happiness is underrated; some deep-rooted 'not-granting' seems to come out in people when happiness is mentioned. Do we not deserve it? Do we have to 'earn' it? Are we 'spoiling' our children when trying to ensure their happiness?

Should we rather harden our children? Why? So they get used to the idea that life is hard and will not have any illusions about it? How would one do that? I don't think it is possible to make anyone get used to 'hardness'.

Miserable? Insecure? One may become even hopeless? But not 'used' to hardness.

I believe if we can instil a sense of self, confidence and creativity in our children they have a better chance to grow up capable of shaping their own future instead of feeling helpless and unable to bring improvement or change to situations that jeopardise their happiness and growth.

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Tristan

*There once was a boy called Tristan
He wanted to be a knight
He said he could slay a dragon
But he could only fly a kite
When he was a bit older
And when he had the heart to do it
He went to find the old king
And paid him a well-earned visit
He got the job of killing the dragon
He got a sword and spear
He got a good horse to ride on
And champions who had no fear
His father heard
And sent a shirt
In the good old mail
He said it had come
From his loving mum
At the market sale
As he rode up to the dragon
He got a knot in his stomach
For the sight of the creature
Made his friends run amuck
As he rode closer
He heard the church bells
They had tied to its neck,
To know it was well
He killed the great monster
Bittersweet taste on his tongue
When he fell down – asleep
Untouched and unsung.*

Poem by Meagan Gilfillin, class 6



Please note that Max Stibbe Waldorf School can be supported through the MySchool card! You can easily apply for a MySchool card via the website www.myschool.co.za and list Max Stibbe Waldorf School as a beneficiary!

The last MM will come out on **Friday 4 December** contributions can be emailed to ymke@rawstudios.co.za by **20 November 2009**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Class 4 camp

For the first time we had the opportunity to spend some time away from school and it was absolutely wonderful. We camped on a beautiful farm in the Magaliesberg.

It was very interesting to see the class 4s using the skills we have learnt so far, from harvesting oats to cooking meals.

Thank you Tarryn Minne, our class 2 teacher, for making it possible to stay on your dad's farm. Kazlet Mgiba, you have extraordinary patience while driving the bus, a big thank you to you! Most of all, I want to thank Lulu Blake for joining us, it was a new experience for some children to meet you outside the library (and to swim with you in a pond full of water lilies). To see nature through the eyes of these children inspired me in numerous ways. To meet them out of a school environment made me understand them in so many other ways. It was our first camp but definitely not the last.

Melanie, Class 4 guardian

Environmental thought:

Here's a thought for anyone who is about to buy toys this Christmas! Most toys advertised are made of plastic. Did you know that plastic takes 500 years or more to break down*? Plastic toys can hardly ever be fixed when they break, and most of them are designed to go 'out of fashion' in about 6 months. This means that the average toy lies in a landfill for at least 499 and a half years longer than it was ever played with, polluting our beautiful planet for generations to come!

Alternative durable toys can be bought online from Think Toys, or The African Toy Shop, and there are many local Christmas markets that sell beautiful hand made toys and gifts.

*It does not biodegrade it just breaks down into tiny plastic particles

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 6 November: Class 1 play and parent update

Friday 13 November: Class 4 play and parent update

Friday 20 November: Class 6 parent update

Saturday 21 November: Last Open Day of the year, from 9h00 to 11h00!

Please invite interested parents!

Wednesday 25 November: Class 5 parent update

Friday 27 November: Music Concert with Magne Skrede and the children of Max Stibbe Waldorf School.

Wednesday 2 December: Class 2 and 3 play

Thursday 3 December: Nursery School parent update

Friday 4 December: School closes

The farm market at Rosemary Hill is open on Sunday 8, and Sunday 29 November, from 9h00 –14h00. Come and enjoy our lovely country venue! The restaurant serves delicious breakfasts, cakes and lunches. There are many food and craft stalls and plenty of space for children to play.