

EDITORIAL

YMKE HEMMINGA

This newsletter is very much a hello-farewell issue, and is mostly to keep everyone informed of the developments at school.

First of all we say farewell to our present school building and hello to the new one.

We say farewell to Leoni in the Nursery School and hello to Chantelle.

That means class 3 has to say farewell to Chantelle and hello to Hayley. (At least that one has rhyme and alliteration)

The Grade Rs say farewell to the Nursery School and hello to class 1 and Tarryn, their class teacher. The Class 9s say farewell to their school and hello to a new one.

The high school will say hello to Karma as a Senior Phase teacher.

We are very excited about the three new teachers we have found, they will say 'hello' in this newsletter.

I am not a great fan of saying farewell and saying farewell to Leoni would have taken it out of me, even though my 4 year-old abondonee cheerfully announced : " Dick-Dock and Leoni are not coming with us to the new school, at the new school we will get a new teacher."

Thank goodness I am in the Netherlands on her final day, as I would have got up to say a few words of farewell whilst bawling my eyes out, making everyone feel awkward, and making an utter fool of myself.

Hello and farewell are, of course, as words, way too tiny to hold in them all the emotions that come with them. As they are all about letting go of the familiar and welcoming the new: sad, scary and exciting all at once!

Because I am not here to say farewell to you, Leoni on your last day I do it through the Newsletter.

It is with sadness that we bid Leoni, our beloved Nursery school teacher farewell.

She has been with us for 21 years and is retiring at the end of this year! Many generations have entered that fairy tale that cottage where Leoni and Mary nurtured each child with love and care. Leoni stood guard over many a precious childhood and allowed each child to play freely whilst nourishing their imagination, wonder and awe.

I wish to thank Leoni for the foundation of love and trust she has laid in my two daughters and many other children, I wish to thank her for the beautifully handcrafted toys

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my children received on their birthdays and still treasure today.

And the sense of well-being peace and security they gained from the baking, painting, the beautiful season plays, gardening, story listening, and singing.

Many days I find my children playing 'Leoni, Leoni' a game in which all the stuffed animals, dolls and teddies, are put to bed, tucked in, sung to and watched over by a very dedicated 4 year-old 'Leoni'

THANK YOU LEONI! I wish you to enjoy a well-deserved rest!

Further on in this newsletter you can read some comments by ex-nursery pupils who are now in class 6!

I wish you all a peaceful festive season and a safe holiday and I am looking forward to seeing you all in the new year at our 'new' school!

MEET A TEACHER - ONEIRA GR 6

If you stay at one place long enough, there are many phases and events to witness. It happened to me! I am grateful to say that it has been an enormously satisfying experience to be part of Max Stibbe Waldorf School since 1982.

Events that stand out in my memory are the following:

- Our first black learner, Nothando, who came all the way from America because her mother wanted her to keep in touch with her roots
- In 1986 many schools burned down in a sad and terrible time in our history. But it was also a time of light for us, because then many black children enrolled at our school. What remains a miracle to me and what Rudolf Steiner emphasised, namely age-specific education, then became successful in practice. Many children who came here were much older than their school grades, and without hesitation they were put in the classes where they rightfully belonged, with great success!
- Our constant battle with the former Transvaal Department of Education that wanted to close our school down because we just ignored their "quota" of 15% "other than white", was mostly a rather scary association.
- I remember when the matric class of 1991 only had one white learner and this seemingly unimportant fact caused both departments of education to refuse to allow the class to write matric. We hastily enrolled them at Damelin!
- I think with fondness of all the children who have passed through the doors of our school and are now adults, spread across the world.
- I think of those children of our school who have passed away under various circumstances and I know the memories of them will live on.
- Last but not least, I celebrate the children of our school who are currently the Max Stibbians, causing the school to pulsate with enthusiastic life.

Oneira Pretorius

MATTERS

HELLO / FAREWELL

Dear Class 3 parents

This year has been an exciting and eventful year. Class 3 has learnt to read, write own letters, and do many sums, and much, much more. I have watched each child change and grow and it was a wonderful experience.

The sad news is that I will not be the class 4 teacher next year.

I am not leaving the school though, but have chosen to become the nursery school teacher. Since we knew Leoni was going to retire by the end of this year, we have searched for a mother goose to take over her precious goslings. By October we still had not found a teacher who had enough Waldorf knowledge and experience for the job. That is when I applied for the post. I have a great interest in early childhood development, and am looking forward to being with the nursery school children.

I am of course sad to say goodbye to my beloved Class 3, but I am glad we have been together through the foundation phase and feel we have laid a solid foundation together for further learning and growing. We have found Hayley, a wonderful enthusiastic teacher, who will take over from me.

I wish to thank every parent for entrusting me with their precious children. We had three wonderful years together and learnt a lot with and from each other. The good thing is that I am still part of their growing lives, as I will be just around the corner.

Yours sincerely
Chantelle

Hello,

My name is Hayley Smith. I have just graduated from the University of Pretoria.

Teaching has always been my passion and my biggest goal in life is to ensure that I encourage children to be the best that they can be. Teaching in Waldorf education is a new experience which I am very much looking forward to. I plan to allow the grade fours into a world where they can be themselves, where they can let their creativity flow and they can share their ideas with each other. I look forward to a good year spent with the grade 4s.

Love Hayley

Dear colleagues, children, parents and friends

The end of 2007 signifies an exciting new beginning for many of us. Grade Rs can look forward to their new start in primary school, Grade 9s to their new schools, Max Stibbians to a new venue, and I to being a full time homemaker and mother.

It is never easy to say goodbye, especially when one has enjoyed a fulfilling and enriching career as has been my privilege. My memories of Max Stibbe as my home away from home, will always be treasured.

Thank you dear colleagues, especially Mary, for your trust, support and genuine interest in my work; thank you to all the children for being loving, good and kind; thank you parents for your co-operation always and for entrusting your children in my care; and thank you to all the special friends that I have been fortunate to find at Max Stibbe, for your sincere and valued friendship.

I wish you all success in your enthusiastic endeavours at the new Max Stibbe Waldorf School.

May you enjoy a meaningful Christmas time and a well-deserved rest.

Regards and best wishes

Leoni

MATTERS

HELLO/FAREWELL

My name is Tarryn Minne, and I will be next year's class 1 teacher.
I am extremely excited to become a part of your lovely Waldorf School!

I was raised on a farm in the Magaliesberg until the age of 6, my mother, brother and I then moved to Pretoria, where I grew up and went to school.

My two passions in life have always been children and animals, and so I became a teacher. I am a fair, loving and kind person, I bring all of these attributes into my classroom. I feel that it is essential to guide the children to find their path in life in a happy and meaningful way.

Dear Students and Teachers

My name is Karma, and I will be teaching at the high school as of next year. I am very excited, privileged and honoured to be teaching at the Max Stibbe Waldorf School!

I am studying a Post-graduate Certificate in Education. I am an Enrolled nurse. I studied Publishing and majored in Publishing Practice, Information Science and English.

I was a student at Max Stibbe School from Grade 1 and completed my Matric here and I know this is the best place for my children. I have two little boys who will also be enrolling at the Nursery School from January next year.

I will be teaching English and Afrikaans, History and Arts and Culture in the first term.

I can't wait to discover the world with Grade 7! Grades 8 and 9 will be making some beautiful and interesting art and discover different cultures. Bring colour pencils, oil pastels; bring objects you'd like to draw and paint – lots of stuff to make art with.

Enjoy your holidays!

MIND OVER MATTERS

Is it not magical that if you are discovering something, or thinking something you encounter it suddenly everywhere?

If I do mental discoveries about big subjects I will usually read an essay about it in the paper the following week.

The other day I was exploring the following concept.... If you give a child too much, if you spoil him or her, you actually take something away from him/her, namely his/her ability to be grateful. So in showering someone with gifts you take the most precious gift away: gratitude. If a person cannot feel gratitude his or her life will be a rather somber affair, people without gratitude become indifferent and indifference makes you numb. I am fascinated by the fact that both extremely poor people and extremely rich people are being numbed by this ruthless indifference. Is the emptiness which causes this indifference a soul disease which does not have anything to do with having or not having?

I watched the film Tsotsi recently and was moved by the fact that the woman that was forced by Tsotsi to look after the stolen baby had made such a beautiful and poetic place of her home that even indifferent Tsotsi wanted to be there. Here was someone who owned almost nothing, surrounded by people who own almost nothing, and yet her 'nothing' was completely different, from the ugly, heartless nothing around her, her 'nothing' had beauty and atmosphere and love and more importantly, her 'nothing' was enough.

I heard two children talking in class. One boy was accusing another boy of being spoiled. I had never seen anything spoiled about the accused so I asked, "Why are you calling this boy spoiled?" Of course I was expecting to hear about computer games, fancy cars, etc. but instead the acuser said : " He is spoiled because he gets fetched by his mother everyday."

The 'accuser' recognised the great value of love and attention which to me was so refreshing as a counter balance for all the stuff that is wanted all the time.

I hope that every child from our school gets spoiled with love and attention this holiday as that seems to be one thing you can't really overdo.

MATTERS

REPORT BACK

On 3 November 2007 we had a summer concert.

It was a lovely, mild evening stuffed with entertainment.

The drummies performed for the first time in their new outfits, capoeira gave a show. Then we all went into the red hall to watch various classes perform different things. It was a bit hot and squashed because an astonishing number of parents had come to watch their children perform. And as someone close to me dryly remarked: "Yes it is a bit of a tight fit, but still, we are sitting with the whole school in a school hall as if we always had a space like this." The children performed beautifully and the show ended with the parents and children singing 'Nkosi Sikelele' together.

Melani and Shad had cooked some delicious food and deserts.

Later in the evening Stefan performed together with a pianist and lots of parents and children were dancing, some parents however were very keen to take over the microphone and do some singing aswell....and an idea for a future event was born.....?

Thank you to all parents for supporting your children, and us, in such big numbers!

MAX STIBBE MOVE THANK YOU'S

Thank you Laurie James for the big blackboard for class 6!

Thank you Liesl and Roderick Sorrell for your generous contribution towards the palisade fence.

Thank you Liesl for bringing so many boxes to school for our move.

Thank you Hannes and Loreen vd Venter for contributing so generously towards roofpaint, building sand, and tiling.

And last but not least, thank you Huibert Franken, for working so tirelessly on the new facilities, from tiling to paving to painting, and planting. The gardens did look beautiful on the day of the summer concert, and are looking more beautiful everyday.

Thursday morning 22 November 2007 at 7h15 our school was on e-TV.

It was a three minute profile of our school and apparently gave a very good impression. As soon as we receive the dvd we will let you know.

PARENTS PROGRESS

On Saturday 24 November 2007, five parents worked at the 'playsculpture' on the new Nursery School playground. It was a lovely morning with a good atmosphere, Huibert and his team helped a lot as well and we got quite a lot of work done until we got rained and hailed out round 13h30. Thank you to all the handy men and women who worked so hard!

GENERAL INFO

SCHOOL STARTS WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2008 AT THE NEW PREMISES!

Please note that school, boarding and bus fees are due for December, as our annual fees are payable over twelve months.

Fees for January 2008 are due before the beginning of the new term.

Any pupil whose parents have any fees outstanding from 2007 or for January 2008 will be refused admission to school on 9 January 2008 until all arrears are settled in full.

Thank you for your cooperation, the office staff.

Magne Skrede and Anna Greta Skrede from Norway will be teaching Music and Eurythmy for a month from 23 January 2008. They will be giving a concert by the Bergen Waldorf School for our fundraising on **Saturday 19 January 2008**. Don't miss them, as they are fantastic. They will be on a concert tour in SA and Swaziland. They will perform with the Drakensberg boys' choir as well.

We will be having our annual social bring and braai on Wednesday 30 January 2007. Please join us for a lovely social evening to get to know each other.

Bring your own meat and picnic basket, the school will supply tables, fires and benches, like every year! We hope to see you!

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!