

EDITORIAL

YMKE HEMMINGA

I am used to spending a lot of time with my girls and I have been taking them to swimming lessons twice a week for nearly two years. Driving to swimming lessons has become a very sweet ritual, we make sure we don't come too late; afterwards we buy cheese rolls in a brown paper bag and juices at the corner café. Lately I have relied on others to take them quite regularly, which caused me to miss something extraordinary at the pool today. Was it my daughters' swimming improvements? Was it the chatting with the other moms about the importance of extra math classes for 5 year olds? No! For two years I had to endure the small talk of over-concerned moms whose main goal in life is to over-stimulate their toddlers, but today a mom and a dad dived fully clothed into the pool to 'save' their child...and I missed it! The report I got from my eldest daughter was that her little sister (4) jumped into the pool before the teacher was in and started crossing it, her little friend (3) who still swims with a belt, jumped after her (without the belt) and started to doggy paddle after her friend.

At that precise moment her parents looked up and with the words "Mina* verdrink" the dad dived in the pool while mom ran around and jumped in at the other end. Before Mina had a chance to show off her newly acquired swimming skills she was saved by her truly heroic parents.

The parents on the other hand had to sit through 2 swimming lessons sopping wet.

My mom-in-law who had taken my girls to the pool saw the whole thing happen but could not find anyone to laugh with, everybody just gravely carried on about how this child nearly drowned. One mom apparently took on the task of informing all the following groups of the tragedy, although she did not witness the drama.

The people who did witness it didn't see a drowning child, but one that actually stayed afloat against all odds.

* not her real name.

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CALENDAR

lawrence boatwright Photography

- décor art prints
- weddings
- engagements
- family & individual portraits

In studio or on location

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Please don't forget:

Tomorrow 3 November 2007 is our summer concert!

Join us for a fun filled evening, bring a picnic basket and come and adore your own, and other talented children. Time: 16h30 for 17h00, venue: our future school hall! Use current entrance and follow directions.

MEET A TEACHER - ANNELIE GR 5

In October 1971, when I heard Max Stibbe giving a lecture: “Education through Art, according to Rudolf Steiner and Herbert Read”, I knew that that was IT! A few days later, a handful of people attended a meeting to plan the founding of the “Fountain School”; that was November 1971. The school started in January 1972 with two children, in the Brooklyn Scout Hall where everything had to be packed up everyday so that the scouts could use their facilities in the afternoon. The little school grew to 40 quite rapidly. Soon Max did Main Lesson with children from eight different grades in one room. That was quite inspiring to witness. One of the learners was Conrad van Alphen the well-known conductor of the National Orchestra.

A small group of teachers trained two nights per week with Max Stibbe and had many weekend seminars on Waldorf Education. My career in Fine Arts was temporarily shelved (for 34 years!). When Max died from heart failure on 20 August 1973, the three of us who were left – Huibert, Annelie and Zelia, knew: “We will go on regardless of constraints”. Because of Pretoria being so conservative towards any new impulse, it took us ten years to have 100 children enrolled. The school was always so small, double classes were the norm, starting with five in Class One and ending with forty-something in Class Six/Seven combined. When we bought this original smallholding in 1977 we changed the name to honour Max Stibbe. The school developed the character of “school-on-a-farm” which it still has. In the beginning, here, we did everything: hostel, cooking, washing, milking cows, building and teaching.

Now, I have the privilege to have divided the last remaining double class, by taking Class Five over from Natalie – oftentimes life is hectic when five or six all assume they can ask their specific question simultaneously

However, if I could go back and re-plan this life, would I change it?

No ways – it was great, and still is – with never a dull moment!

The 7 to 14 year-old child by Aaron Mirkin

We were lucky to be invited to a talk by Aaron Mirkin on Friday, 19 October 2007 at the Waldorf School in Pretoria - one of those rare times when one is at the right place at the right time.

We attended the talk with another couple, neither of us belonging to the Waldorf School - in a way we didn't know what we were getting into. The talk was refreshing and overall a warm surprise. As an individual, he struck me as an intelligent well-informed person with a deep understanding of human nature and really in touch with himself. He was sensitive enough to connect to the male audience (our husbands) that often are resistant to "sensitive" topics. Aaron gave us a comprehensive overview of the development of children from pre-school to pre-adolescent age 14, marked by 7 year time periods. For us specifically with 3 children ranging in ages from 5 to 11 it was right on the dot.

I feel the talk was not to give us an answer to any particular challenges we have with our children, but he opened another perspective often not taken into account in our traditional educational systems. In some cases his words reassured us of practices that we have been doing with our children, and in other instances, he enlightened us with new approaches from which to look at our children's development.

Loving authority was one aspect that I particularly agreed with the most. We live in a society that has moved to agree blindly to children's demands, neglecting quality time, and loving care, resulting in overindulgence.

When my children challenge me, I always give them the example of the Elephants: male elephants must stay with the mother for 15 years until they learn to survive, until she has taught them the ways of life, only then, can they move on. Elephants will not dare to challenge the mother, because she knows best. My children smile, but I think they get the point.

I have to admit I am not as rough as the mother elephant, but I agree with Aaron that children need direction, guidance, and lots of love. My husband and I look forward to his next talk.

by Hilda Lanas

POWERLESS

The first week after the October break the school was suffering under a severe power failure, we tried our utmost to get Eskom to fix our problem but to no avail. When the water ran out, and the electricity was still off we were unable to pump water, and thus had no other choice but to send the children home.

We want to thank all the parents for their understanding and support and we want to thank all the learners for being so flexible, positive, resourceful and unfazed by the whole situation.

MATTERS

REPORT BACK (CONTINUE)

NEWS FROM SHOTOKAN KARATE

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that four pupils of Max Stibbe Waldorf School have represented South Africa at the 9th FSKA World Karate Championships in England, on 13 and 14 October 2007.

This is a prestigious event with over 40 countries and 700 participants attending. South Africa's delegation consisted of 42 competitors from orange to black belts of various age groups accompanied by 6 officials, 1 doctor and 18 parents.

The results were as follows:

1. Deard Erasmus (gr 2) – Gold (Kata) & 4th place (Kumite)
2. Keane Harrison (gr 8) – Gold (Kata) & Silver (Kumite)
3. Mohlala Kongwana (gr 4) – Gold (Kata) & Gold (Kumite)
4. Lerang Molobi (gr 9) – Bronze (Kata) & Bronze (Kumite)

Team Kata:

Kyle McGregor and Brandon Talbot represented SA in the unison team Kata division and took bronze medals in this category.

A total of 46 medals were won by team South Africa:

Gold – 13, Silver – 17, Bronze – 16,
Scorpion Karate South Africa has produced 13 World champions.

The Max Stibbe Karatekas have been training extremely hard over the past 6 months. Commitment and sacrifice have been shown from both parents and students. And the above competitors have improved technically and have matured both mentally and physically. It is an honor to be invited to compete at a tournament of this magnitude and we are very proud of how Max Stibbe's students have represented our country abroad.

Well done!!

Ravi Moodley

PARENTS' WORKSHOP BY ANNELIE FRANKEN

On Saturday 27 October 2007, I held the second parents' workshop, on request of all the parents who participated with much enthusiasm during the first one. The beauty of a workshop like this, lies in the conscious observation of the unfolding potential at each new phase in childhood.

We are alerted to the qualities called for in the adult, to meet the needs of the child on every level.

For us parents, it is re-assuring to realise that our children are not only regarded as "knowledge storing devices", but that each one is an individual with an own destiny and an own special task in life.

In understanding the Waldorf system, we parents can tap into much knowledge and understanding to support us in our task as child rearers and to grow as human beings.

By Annelie Franken

MATTERS

MAX STIBBE MOVE

The new school grounds are buzzing with renovations and maintenance as we are working towards getting the classes fixed and beautiful for the next year.

A number of parents have generously contributed towards our move and have made an effort to shorten our wish list.

Below you find part of our updated "First Priority Wish List" Please note that parents can still contribute towards the move. The palisade fence remains the biggest financial challenge but we also need to paint the roofs and need more bricks for building.

People can make donations and tax-deductible gifts under reference: 'Max Stibbe Move'. We will welcome parents who have experience in fundraising and especially, in finding sponsors; parents who can get discounts on building materials, labour or good second hand versions of some of the items on the list.

We are busy finding sponsors amongst Waldorf Schools in Europe.

Any bright and creative or alternative contributions are most welcome.

Please contact Ymke van Straaten at ymke@rawstudios.co.za or 084 4226006

Banking details: Max Stibbe Waldorf School: First National Bank, Branch Pretoria, Branch code 251445, Account no: 514 2003 7496 Reference: Max Stibbe Move

PALISADE FENCING PANELS	434 PANELS	R 153,364
	1 X PANEL	R 358
PALISADE FENCING POLES	440 POLES	R 42,242
CEMENT AT R 56,00 PER BAG *	160 BAGS	R 8,960 *
SAND		
BUILDING SAND	20 CUB M	R 2,200
PLASTER SAND	40 CUB M	R 5,000
SAND FOR SAND PITS	10 CUB M	R 1,250
BRICKS AT R 176,00 PER 200 BRICKS *		
NURSERY SCHOOL & URGENT REP.	24,000 BRICKS	R 21,120 *
TILING		
CLASS 4 & 5 & ARTS ROOM	400 SQ M	R 26,000
	1 SQ M	R 65,00
ROOF PAINT	40 X 20L DRUMS	R 30,720
	1 X 20L	R 768,00

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK

Some Parents already signed up to contribute towards items on the list. Those items are marked with a * or taken off the list.

We would like to say a big heart-felt thank you to some of the parents who have contributed so generously towards the renovations:

Thank you **Jenni and Anton von Willich** for the stones and sand; this is a huge help, and means that the paving of the paths and driveways can begin.

Thank you to **Jacob de Clercq, Sonja Goossen and Emile Slabbert** for contributing so generously towards the palisade fencing. Thank you **Sinah and Johnny Pitswane** for the bricks and cement, Thank you **Mary-Ann Harrison** for the bags of cement, Thank you **I.C Engelbrecht** for the paint rollers, thank you **Laurie James** for the PVA paint. Thank you to **Lance and Lisa Cullinan** for your financial contribution, and thank you **Mike Jones** and **Shaun Nell** for your time, trying to find better quotes for materials.

MATTERS

INFO

Please take note

We are aware that there are some children with ringworm in the school. Ringworm is a fungal infection of the skin that occurs in round patches on the skin of arms, feet or head and doesn't have anything to do with worms. It is contagious, especially when your child's immune system is low. If you suspect that your child has ringworm please take him or her to see a doctor and inform the class teacher. If you are quick enough you can use an ointment like Lamasil for 4 or 5 days on affected areas. If the ringworm is in a more advanced stage you have to visit your doctor or homeopath. According to the three doctors we asked, it is not necessary to keep the child at home when it is receiving treatment, except in severe cases.

Nursery school christmas play

30 November 2007 at 11.30.
Afterwards grade R will say farewell to the nursery school.

Dear parents

Do you realise the predicament a teacher finds him/herself in when a starry-eyed birthday child comes with a bag full of party packs to hand out, while that teacher knows that health conscious parents will be upset by it?

Many parents know how hazardous artificial colouring and preservatives are for children and therefore do not allow it.

The school follows the same principles as far as possible in the hostel and the tuckshop.

So please do not send partypacks with colourants, flavourants and preservatives to school.

You are welcome to send fruit juice, crisps, cupcakes or cake: please choose the icing with discernment. A blue cake simply seems more suitable for aliens....

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3 Summer Concert 17h00	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Annual play class 3 19h00	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 N/S play at 11.30 school closes!		