

# CAMP HILL TIMES

Term Four 2005

Dear parents and friends,

Have a blessed Christmas and a light-filled year ahead.

From All in Camphill School

## UPPER SCHOOL CAMP

21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of November

On Monday we left Camphill to go to Oudtshoorn for three days. The drive was really long but nice. We went to the crocodile farm where we saw crocodiles, lions and Duma, the cheetah from the movie "Duma" – Robin's favourite. I thought Duma was really sweet but I was scared of the crocodiles and the lions. Then we went to De Hoek Nature Reserve where we settled in and had supper cooked by Hans and Alouise. They very kindly made supper for us every night.

On Tuesday we went to "problem solving" where we had to climb a very high wall and escape from Farmer John. I was very scared of doing that but I managed. After that we had to escape from a burning building. That was fun, but my favourite was when we had to fly on the zip-line. In the afternoon, we went to the Cango Caves where there were lots of tunnels where we had to go through on our hands and knees. Hugo went through the whole way on his bum! Leat and Babalwa turned around in the middle of it. The last tunnel was called the "post box" where we had to go through on our tummy. I did not manage that one.

On Wednesday, we went to the ostrich farm – that I enjoyed! Some of us sat on an ostrich and Björn, Vuyani and Ann-Marie even rode on one. Robyn was so lucky to get a kiss from an ostrich called Linda! In the afternoon, we went to do an obstacle course in the forest. That was fun but very scary for me. But the best part was when we had to go through a wet, muddy tunnel on our tummies. Vuyani even got mud on his face!

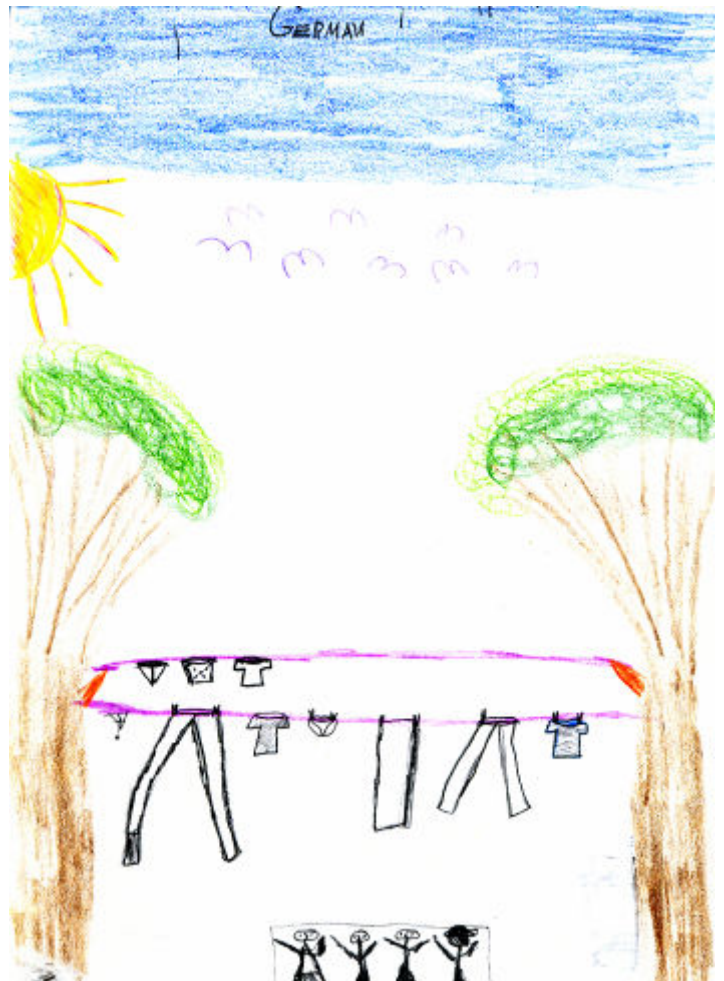
On Thursday, we had to say good-bye to Hans and Alouise and drove back to Camphill. We stopped for a picnic in Swellendam and had two ice-creams in the car.

I really enjoyed our trip and special thanks to John and Katrina for everything they have done for us.

**Ginny Stocks**

(Ed: see pictures on page 5)

Class 7 students' impressions & expressions of their camp





## IBIS-HOUSE

Ibis-House wishes all the Students, Co-Workers, Parents and Friends a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Also this term was again very interesting for all of us. We had a lot of changes going on, apparently two very nice people leaving. Ulla-Gitt left us in November to travel around with friends before going back to work in cold Sweden. Just now, Maja, who was running the house for long time so well, left for going back home to Denmark again. We all, the children and Co-Workers, will miss her guiding and relaxing way of taking things and her funny, patient and experienced manners. She will leave a gap in our hearts. We also got two new people in the house: Asja came in the beginning of term, she is having lots of fun with Jamie, who she's looking after. Since half term, Veronika is with us to replace Ulla-Gitt. From the beginning she was interested in all the things going on and from now on she will look after our Greg. Since this term the weather is much more beach-like, on Sundays we enjoyed our outings to Grotto and Onrus pretty much. Some of these outings we shared with St. Martins, what mend fun and more relaxing time for children and carers. We also went horse riding on Easy and Lisa, what especially Johan enjoyed. He also developed some good skills in using his self-made bow and arrow. Andre, whose first full term it was, is now well settled in Ibis. Greg is getting quite social and can often be found even in late hours in other peoples rooms and playing the doorkeeper, deciding how of our visitors is whether

## DAWN HOUSE

We started the term off with a new co-worker, Rochelle, to help out for one term, but we like her so much that we'd like to keep her for ourselves for another term, so you'll see her again next year! Rochelle is a mother of twins and is wonderfully practical. Thank you Rochelle for "fitting" yourself into our house so gently.

We are already saying good-bye to Sonja and we thank her for her consistency and love to our day pupils. Sonja will be joining the farm for her last 6 months and we hope that she will have enough work and get enough exercise there. Thank you too for all the little extras you always took care of. See you around!

Dawn House is having a baby boom! Verna is going on maternity leave now and will return in the second term of 2006. Best wishes Verna – we pray that all goes well for you and the baby.

Thank you also to Harri & Phumla for always patiently and lovingly caring for all the children; and Derrick and Nina for holding the kitchen together after lunch. Thank you!!

To all our children – we love you and thank you for having taught us soooooo much this year. We wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas holiday with your families and we hope to see every one of you back in school on 16 January 2006! Take care! - **Heidi**

allowed to stay or not. Jamie Lee moved and got now her room, she also enjoys drumming on an African drum pretty much, what is creating an special atmosphere.

Just before end of term Maja's family came to visit us and made the children very happy with lots of nice toys, they brought all the way along.

Last but not least, we all are looking forward to the long holidays, after witch we'll start with new energy in the summer term.

Following Veronika and Asja are introducing their self's for Camphill Times:

Hello, my name is **Veronika Gruber**. I'm 21 years old. As most Co-Workers I'm from Germany, no actually from Bavaria ;-) and will stay in Ibis for one year. I came in the last half term weekend and started as the replacer. After holidays I'll work with Greg.

For me, **Asja Döring** (from Germany) two of my twelve month of staying in Camphill are over and I'm not sure, if found it a long time or not. Anyway, working with Jamie Lee and the other small Children fulfils me with joy. It's amazing to find out how much they can give you back. There is one thing for sure: I'm already missing Jamie if I start thinking of being on holidays for five weeks. As far as can see, I've experienced and learned a lot already (Thanks to Ibis!) and I'm looking forward to the next term.

## St Martins

Another term is over. St Martins got a very helpful new resident who seems to be always in a good mood and with her nice sense of humour she always makes the co-workers laugh and life easier again.

She is a great cook and we sometimes had proper African food again between all those German meals... Yes, it is Amarcia I am talking about; the nice girl from Ibis house who asked for a move to St Martins. It is a pleasure to have you Amarcia.

Jody and James are quite the same as last term. For James it would be good to move on with his life in Camphill. He is quite stuck in everything we do and knows exactly what comes next.

Our youngest girl, Lise-Mari, also had an exciting change this term as she is now joining other children of her age at the Waldorf School Kindergarten in Hermanus three times a week. She also talks more and more between her singing and you can even hear some understandable words in her "Lise – Mari – ish".

Also half of St Martins' co-workers changed and there was a lot to learn, remember and find out. But Thore and Julia are finding their way now. Thore is a great fisherman, so we get al sorts of fresh fish and mussels to try. And Julia serves us with a lot of music; singing and guitar.

Thank you all for holding this house together.  
**Maria Ruland, Housemother**

## Class Two

At the end of yet another year there is so much to say, the children have taken great leaps both academically and in ways of personal growth.

This term we have warmly welcomed Dominic and Thore as our two new class assistants. They seem to go down a treat with the girls and are appreciated by the boys who have found new respect and friendships with both. Well done chaps and thank you for fitting in so well.

By concentrating mainly on revising the last three terms themes in main lesson this term the children have become a lot more confident in the way they work therefore giving space for extra number work, reading and writing. Shapes sequencing and body orientation are being regularly named and recognized in our day to day activities and Most children can now count up to at least thirty. Xolani has due to thorough commitment in lessons, homework and even meal times with his practicing just reached the number sixty. Thank you to all parents who have taken time out of their busy work schedules to count with their children. Please do carry on your effort is not going unnoticed.

All pupils reading and writing has also moved on to higher and more beautiful levels. Letter and word recognition has been achieved by all whether the amount large or small. The class can all now recognize their names when asked to choose from a selection. Most can recognize the days of the week. The alphabet is being explored using associated word, sign, picture examples, speech poems and practice during copying in their sentence structure exercises. We shall continue in greater depth next term. It has not all been so intensely academic though. Through play, crafts and painting we have all learnt and benefited. Spectacular pieces of art have been produced using our never ending new skills and techniques. Many lucky people have happily received some of our craft work as birthday and farewell presents. Others will be sent home as Christmas presents for friends and family. Weaving, felt work, sewing, paper Mache, gluing, painting and calendar making are just some of the projects we have worked on.

Morritz, our fully dedicated musical genius has performed great work with many of the children in class two. Curative exercises with Greg and Andre, Recorder lessons with Johan and Jamie Lee and the occasional music lesson with the entire class. All children who have participated have taken a great deal from Morritz, as specially Greg who now seems to feel a lot more comfortable to join in with group games, sing alongs and activities. Well done you!

We would like to wish our nursery class teacher Verna good luck with the birth of her second child. She will take her maternity leave starting at the beginning of next term. This will mean that Lise- Mari will join class two again for lots of fun and games. Welcome back to her.

Thanks again to all parents who have supported us and their children in this last term of the year. May the festive season bring much happiness to all.

Giles Stevens Teacher

Harriet Moore Trainee Teacher

## Class 4

“The Study of Man and Animal” – what a nice subject to end the year with! We’ve roared like lions, swum like fish, flown like birds and walked around like elephants, swinging our trunks! Unfortunately there has been a little bit of baboon-like behaviour as well, but just enough to show how we are actually different from them (which is the point of the whole study!)- we don’t HAVE to behave like that, they do! Telling the time has been a strong theme again, and some pupils are making great progress- 10 to, quarter past and all that is finally starting to make sense!

Then we’ve been the lucky crowd who’s been going horse riding – how nice to see how the whole class is confident in the saddle now! All in all it has been a term of growing up, of taking a big step towards adolescence...

We’ve welcomed Rochelle onto the class who helps Teswin a lot with translating into Afrikaans. Thanks for your good energy and positive attitude!

And then we sadly say good-bye to Maja, who has done wonders with Sihle, and also brought lots of good, smiley energy to the class. Bon voyage Maja & Lycka till!

Thanks to everyone who’s been in the class – Pumla, Jannes & Anna...it has been a true joy to have you with us!

Lastly I’d like to invite everybody to come and see our life-size elephant – painted on the outer wall of Dorothea’s classroom which faces up to Rose Cottage – before it gets washed away by the rain!

Happy holidays!

Nina  
Teacher

## Class 6

This term class 6 was very busy; we were celebrating St. Martin’s. We were practicing and performing a play about Saint Martin and the Beggar. As this was our first time to perform on stage, everybody was very nervous but it all went well and after the play we invited the whole school for ‘cloak sharing’ in St. Martin’s house. As we were studying Roman history as main subject we also had our day in Rome at the swimming pool. We were all dressed up as Romans and being entertained with belly dancing, juggling, poetry and two speeches by Warren and James. We ended the whole celebration with a foot wash and massage from our chosen ‘slaves’. It was fun. Class 6 also had our first outing for the year to celebrate and welcome Yola into womanhood. We had a celebration and a braai at the beach. It was a very exciting year for class 6 and we are very thankful and grateful to all the classhelpers who made things easier for us. Thanks to Anna, Julia, Daniela and Veronika. We want to say goodbye to Matthias (“Milk Face”): Take care! God bless and have yourself a merry Christmas.

Love, Maria  
Teacher

## Class 7

There is much to be grateful for. We went through heavy topics and significant adventures together and there was often a serious mood where one could feel the weight of growing up.

Our subject was Biology of the human being. We looked at the changes that happen from childhood, spoke about friendship, love and sex, about AIDS-prevention and other diseases, and about how a child comes into the world, both from a spiritual and physical aspect. There was so much to discuss in regard to health and responsibility that we only had time for a short look at lung and heart and blood circulation and digestion – more to do for class 8!

After the initial giggles when drawing naked human beings we had beautiful works of great artists like Raphael, da Vinci and Michelangelo. We brightened the seriousness by looking at our baby photo' and exchanging childhood memories and future visions. There were dreams and quite realistic ideas; from family father to car mechanic, builder, tractor driver and hip-hop teacher – we had a good laugh when we asked Elmo's wish and he said "moto" and we had the vision of him becoming one of the guys who stand in town and say: "I guard your car!"

We did some first aid too, especially in regard to our Camp. For 5 days we pitched our tents in Greyton in a friend's garden at the Gobos River. Time flew with all the great things we did: a guided tour along the "leiwater" system into magnificent gardens; digging a pool and building a dam to wash ourselves in the little river; an explorer walk up the Gobos, wading knee-deep with dragonflies and fishes shooting around us; jousting on air mattresses in the big river; line-dancing lesson with our hostess; painting in her garage.

Wednesday was the most wonderful day. We got up at 04h30 to listen to the awakening bird choir and walked in silence for the first 2 hours, trying to find out what the singers looked like.

By sunrise we were already climbing the steep slope to Boesmanskloof on the famous track to McGregor; and Amarcia impressed us with her knowledge of healing herbs. Near breakfast rock we spoke our morning verse and sang our mountain song before filling our rumbling tummies. German could .. his spurs for politeness when, at the sight of the ever winding uphill track, he cautiously turned to the teacher with the words: " I don't want to complain – but...look at this..." But we didn't complain '



What is a camp without some horsing around

just passed the heavy rucksacks on and walked on to the top and then down into the remote nature reserve to reach the Oak Falls by midday! What a magic place! Dark, cool pools between warm, smooth rocks; a perfect paradise for swimming, climbing, picnic and long dreamy resthours under the bed sheets that we had taken along for protection. There were big clouds in the sky that looked dark at times, but then hot sunshine broke through again in the blue patches. At 3pm everyone began to stir, a few droplets had tickled some noses and feeling very refreshed, we set off back to Greyton. The rain never broke out and in the cooler air we walked with amazing speed; reaching breakfast rock with 5o'clock sun and basecamp still on time for a river swim.

The theme of our camp was the King Arthur stories we read in the evening – so we kept looking out for noble deeds and virtues we could get knighted for.

Some certainly deserved it for courage, others for coping with pain, some for courtesy and kindness and all for endurance!

On our last evening, whilst baking stick bread over the braai and with the sky giving a blazing orange and purple farewell, we found titles for all the ladies and sirs-to-be -they each tell a story (you can ask the heroes yourself otherwise this article will never finish!) – like "Sir Wally, the valiant rose cavalier" or "Sir Elmo, the dauntless sprinkler fighter barbar" (the "barbar" he said himself) or "Sir Thore of the slippery slide".

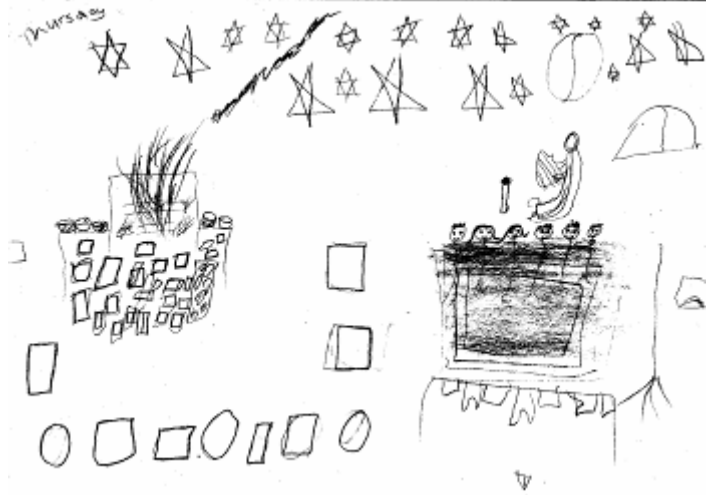


Thank you for all your support, thanks for all the co-workers who changed their time-tables to make it possible, thanks to the parents who contributed to the finances and thank you for all your good thoughts – we felt well looked after and learnt some important lessons for becoming more caring and responsible.

**Dorothea**  
Teacher

More expressions from Class 7

In the evenings we sometimes  
 went swimming in the river  
 We had air mattresses  
 for horses and few



On Thursday we slept outside. At 1 o'clock  
 I woke the coworkers with my alarm  
 clock but they were too tired to get u  
 anyone

ON Wednesday

We went for a walk  
 At 4:30 am we got up  
 and we listened to the birds  
 I enjoyed the bird walk  
 then we tried to find the bird  
 every time we went near it got more  
 squeaky - it was very funny

Upper School Camp

Adventure, Problem-solving & Reflection



Simon escaping from  
 the burning house  
 the burning house

## Class 10

It is not only the term but the year has come to an end. I sincerely appreciate the cooperation and support that all co-workers gave throughout the year. Without your support, we would not be able to fulfill the needs of our students. For those who are not leaving yet we will rely on your continued support in 2006.

This term class 10 had a wonderful time as usual. Our main lesson was embryology; we were studying about human that has not been born yet and its development in the mother's womb. We did have practical activities and art. My students enjoyed these lessons a lot. We had baking lessons, clay modeling, painting, beadwork, eurythmy, sewing, games, reading and writing. We were practicing a play for the school festival; it is about black African customs. Our play is about how important education is in our lives but it doesn't mean that with education we have to abandon our traditions and cultures.

It is sad to say goodbye to Jacob and others, especially Jacob who was our main class helper. I want to thank you for all your contributions in the class: For helping the students, making them smile when you are around. They love you and will miss you. I have to profess that I have never heard Jacob shouting at the students and he is almost whispering when he talked to them. He has given them the love they deserve. Thank You Very Much.

To everybody: Have an enjoyable festive season. God bless you. We look forward to a prosperous 2006.

### Phelisa Bakaco

Class 10 teacher

Now my time in Camphill is up, the big Clock is ticking and I feel an urge to move on. There is a lot to say, but most of it is difficult to express in words.

Children! You have taught me about having trust and courage in life; in your eyes I have seen an admirable will to live, to learn. In your unconditional trust, I have found encouragement. In your play, I have seen joy and happiness.

I thought I was going to be the one to teach you, instead you became the ones to teach me about life. For that I'm grateful.

"It's only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." - from *The Little Prince*

In Camphill one sees people working with the heart, and the effort they put into keep Camphill running and to cover the children's needs deserves deep respect.

In the future I will find it strange not to have the small runs to the Dairy with Greg, to sit in a car; without having the lock checked by Elmo, or not to have Thando to tell you the time after checking your watch and Jamie to cheer you up with her laughter!!

Yeah, you're not easily forgotten!  
Good luck all of you!

**Maja**

Now, I am already saying 'goodbye' to the school. I decided to move to the farm for the second half of my year in Camphill because it is my wish to experience both school and farm. I hope that it is acceptable for everybody.

First of all: 'thank you' to Dawn House, to all the children and to Heidi. I enjoyed the time with it's ups and downs and I am very glad and thankful for all the experiences I made. It is amazing how much I could learn about myself in working and living with the children.

Only 45 minutes rest hour e.g. can challenge you strongly. I learned a lot about motivation, patience, understanding and self-control at the same time.

Comparing school and house work the classes weren't all that challenging but the variety made it interesting for me. Helping in four different classes was an enrichment especially because of different ways of teaching.

Leaving Dawn House makes me sad – but I am optimistically looking forward to the new work and new people.

I wish everybody, the children, the co-workers and Heidi a lot of energy, power and fun for the new year!

### Sonja Poland

So, now it's time for me to leave and it is with mixed feelings I say good-bye to Camphill and Ibis.

It has been seven months of hard work, too hard for me, but also a big pleasure to be here.

I have met so many wonderful people, big and small. I have arranged a special place in my heart and I will keep you there!

My work here has also given me the possibility to travel around in South Africa, Lesotho and Namibia. Such stunning places I have seen. Sometimes Camphill its too serious and have too much of the Anthroposophic spirit.

I work at a preschool and we have much more fun together with the children. We must keep in our mind that even "children with special needs" are children and we must give them more fun!

Give them also more respect. We are their role models and they: "Do what you do, not what you say!"

Thank you for letting me be a part of your Community, Camphill!!

**Ulla – Gitt**

*Dear Parents!*

This is to say thank you to YOU for your invaluable support during the years of housemothering Ibis. In particular I would like to mention Christa & Deon Agenbag, Elmarie & Chris Uys and Lorie and Leon Singer. Not only are you wonderful people, but the constant exchange we had brought us together aiming at surrounding your child with a harmonious approach. I always felt respected by you. I cared for your children with great enthusiasm. Had I not my own family, I would be there still!

Keep well and please form a parent support group that the other parents get inspired to do the same!!! It makes all the difference!

*Dear Coworkers young and old; good, bad and ugly.....* thanks for the experience, many a time wonderful, many a time very painful. I take my hat off to you for what you are doing. May you be blessed in your lives to follow, maybe we'll see you on the Garden Route. My commitment went to the young people whose coming here I admire so deeply. May your role find ever more appreciation and support. I would like to honour few people that taught and lived the Camphill ideals as I

understood them: Heidi Feucht thank you for your inspiration, Suzanne for your listening, Mette for your wisdom, Julian Sleigh for your unconditional support, Dorothea for the singing. What I have received from you I shall take with me wherever I go. Phumla, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing of your world with me. Please stay in touch!

*Dearest Children!*

Especially to my boys from the old Ibis - Siphe, Jonathan, Elmo, Warren, Andrew, Dane, Mungai, Werner, Ali, Shane, Johan and Gregggy and of course my girls: Savannah, Alida and Lula - living with you has been a privilege. Thank you for being my wisest teachers. I loved being with you and will treasure the moments always. One exception to my Ibis friends: my dear Xolani - we knew each other when we first saw each other from a time long gone. Take care my friends! I love you all dearly.

*May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and may the rain fall softly on your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*  
Love **Gabi**



*Gabriele and her children in interesting time*

*Thank You from the Wellens children: Maya, Kiani and Tilla*

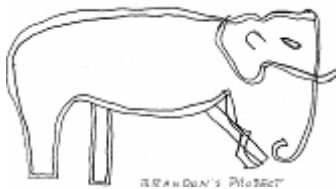
Maya says thank you to Margie & Dawid, Sonya and Dorothy for being so kind.

Tila: "Luli, it was fun to play with you. Dorothy & Steffi for helping in the garden."

"Dear Jamie Lee,  
I will never forget  
you at our new house."  
from Kiani

"Mvula it was nice  
to play with you.  
I will also never forget  
you like Jamie Lee." from Kiani

"And Berna and Margie, I will not forget your kindness". from Kiani



Dear parent/guardian

- We have yet to receive copies of Birth cert/ID for some children. Have you sent for your child?
- Do you have a copy of the term dates for 2006? If not, please let us know. You may also download it from our website, also the Camphill Times of this year

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