



Newsletter June '24

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Education for Employment

by Bertus van Zyl

We voted for EFE. Education For Employment. EFE just makes sense. It is the right choice for the future of our country. EFE is not a political party, it is a purpose driven choice.

Our school celebrates 30 years of existence with our country's Democracy. The foundations to our future High School were cast during the same week as our latest General Elections , an important moment for both our democracy's future and the pupils in our care.

We are VERY EXCITED about our next chapter. What will that next chapter be and why did we choose that route? As we have extended our school into Higher grades we had to choose a curriculum direction. We chose a vocational route. But let us start with a broader picture of our country and town in general. Our country has a dismal 66 Percent retention rate of learners from Grade 1 to 12.





The first bit of construction has started as we watch our high school grow.

Hermanus community has a 48 percent retention rate. That is how many learners start school and eventually finish their education. 52 percent end up with unfinished school and unemployed!

Of the 48 % left only 37 % (18 learners) achieve a Bachelors pass and only 50 percent of those that do qualify actually enrol and statistics show 50 percent of first year University students drop out. For example, let us start with 100 learners in Grade 1 in Hermanus, only 48 learners would finish matric.

Of the 48 matriculants only 18 receive a Bachelors pass (National statistics) and of the 18 Bachelors pass learners only 9 enrol into Varsity. Statistics show 50 % drop out in the first year of University, leaving us with 5 University Students.

Assuming the 5 remaining pass and finish their degrees, only 5 learners out of 100 from Hermanus end up with higher Education qualifications with chances of better employment. What happened to the other 95 learners? Is our schooling system focused on getting the 5 through life or on the 95? I believe we CAN focus on the 95 not making it to or through Varsity. Educate them with purpose and skill to enter the workplace and provide for their family. That answer lies in Vocational training.

We aim to use the Department of Higher Education's offering of a National Certificate Vocational (NCV) as opposed to the National Senior Certificate (NSC). Both are considered Matric both have a NQF level 4 (National Qualifications Framework). The NCV just focuses on specific skills rather than a broad academic approach. Both allow you to study further, but the NCV provides you with industry specific skill to enter immediate employment.

We critically looked at Hermanus and the industries that define Hermanus. We also consulted our pupils, parents and community and identified 3 training courses we believe will provide employable individuals with necessary skills for employment in our town.

Starting in 2025 we will offer Electrical Infrastructure and Construction with Renewable Energy as a focus, and Primary Health and possibly Hospitality. All three of these offer a wide range of skills for possible employment in those industries. We will start with the Level 2 (Grade 10) and grow per level until we can offer all three levels simultaneously.

We want to thank our generous donors the Elizabeth Margaret Steyn Foundation (EMS) for believing in our dream and providing the financial support to build the infrastructure needed to present this curriculum. Thank you to parents and the community for their support. Together we can reshape the landscape of Hermanus.



Kindergarten with Teacher Denise



Cutting, sticking and showing off their fish for arts and crafts.

“Play is our brain’s favorite way of learning.”
– Diane Ackerman



Creating autumn trees using orange, red, yellow and green paper.

There are loads of fun things that happen in Kindergarten. Learning is focused on the seasons of the year and nature. We do many activities to help develop each child’s fine and gross motor skills to prepare them for formal schooling. Play is such an important part of the learning process – it ignites the imagination and teaches them to form their own thoughts and exert their wills. And they absolutely love playing! They use imaginative play when playing with their wooden toys – boys playing with their cars and the girls with their dolls.



Grade R with Teachers Nomfuneko & Ragel



Grade R's learning is all about nature, and the seasons. They really enjoy celebrating all the festivals and creating arts and crafts for the festivals. They also sing songs, learn poems and verses, and, their favorite, play play play! Grade R is where we prepare for Class 1, so learning is a little more formal than Kindergarten, but still very imaginative and the children really do enjoy using their imagination!

**“Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.”
– Kay Redfield Jamison**



Grade R class preparing for their festival of light performance.



Class 1 with Teacher Cathrie



Acting out the role of Peter Plus

Our class had a wonderful start to the year with a warm welcome to the "big school", receiving practical gifts from our fellow learners. Everybody greeted us with a loud round of applause at our first assembly where our teacher told us a story of a very brave boy and his sister that were about to start an adventurous journey. With many stories we learned about different lines and how to use them forming symbols that represent sounds – our letters. We left the most special ones for last. We call them the angel letters or like our teacher taught us, vowels. We made them out of clay and did many crafts to help us remember.

Teacher taught us to play 'Vroteier'. When it rains and we cannot play outside, we love to play 'Vroteier' in the hall. Mondays we go to the Library where friendly people read us stories and show us many pictures. We also started with finger knitting and even made bees where we wove their bodies with yellow yarn. Most of us enjoy painting or making pretty things. Others love playing with the ball and dancing all the letter-sound songs.



Class 1 made these cute jellyfish to represent the sound "J". They sing a song about June the Jellyfish.



Class 2 with Teacher Funiswa

In class 2, we have been learning all about phonics, blending letters and sounds together. We learned about place value and how to add and subtract numbers using place value. We have also been learning all about our Fables and Saint stories in English. These stories help us understand virtues and morals we would like to adapt in ourselves as humans. Another highlight this year has been our annual athletics day. It was so much fun running races against each other.

We are now attending Shine reading program offered by Enlighten Education. We each have our own teacher who reads with us and teaches us different skills in reading. We are thankful to Enlighten for helping us learn to read.

We are looking forward to our Festival of Light where we will celebrate the winter and how we can warm our hearts with song, dance and lanterns we make during arts and crafts. We hope you enjoy our performance!



Learning place value on the carpet using blocks



Painting the Autumn sunset to celebrate the changing of the seasons.



Class 3 with Teacher Mary Jayne

In Class 3, we have been learning all about the Old Testament Stories, our favourite being the story of Noah's Ark and Joseph. We use our stories to learn English concepts like phonics, punctuation, sentence construction, reading comprehension and parts of speech. We have also learned all sorts of mathematical concepts like measurement, time, money and long multiplication. By far our favourite lessons were the lessons about gardening, creating our own compost and planting vegetables.



Acting out 'ouma' and 'oupa' in Afrikaans

We also baked cookies. Unfortunately, our cookies burned in the oven. Regardless, we still enjoyed making them!

For our money lesson, we hosted a market day in the hall. All the classes could come and buy various treats. We were responsible for making change and giving our customers the correct change. The market day was such a success, and we were really excited to learn that we have made R1300 that will go towards our outings.



Harvesting and enjoying oranges from our orange trees. We also used oranges to learn basic fractions.



Class 4 with Teacher Sipokazi



Class 4 with Teacher Megan, who stood in for Teacher Sipokazi while she was on maternity leave.

We have had an amazing year so far. We have been doing a lot of work and learning new things. We are learning to catch up with the intermediate phase workload and all the subjects we need to do now. We also learned a lot of stories from the Norse Mythology main lesson and drew pictures.

Between the months of March and May, we were privileged to have a teacher from the Netherlands, Teacher Megan. She stood in for our class teacher while she was on maternity leave. We have learnt a lot of new songs with Teacher Megan and she taught us new games which helped us to improve our mental Mathematics.



Playing games to help improve fluency in the times tables.



Class 5 with Teacher Flippie

A learner writes:

"Hermanus Waldorf School is a very nice school. There are a lot of things we do that were so much fun. In March, we did athletics. We did short sprints, long run, long jump, shot put, discuss, javelin and three sticks (triple jump). A man passing by our school saw that we are busy doing sports in our green shirts and white shorts. He loves the color green and decided to donate Energade for every child in the school. Our winter sports that we are doing now is soccer, netball and rugby. The soccer and netball players went to play a match against Generations. In soccer, the Class 4's won but the Class 5 and 6s' had a draw. The netball girls lost but they now have the experience of playing against another school.



In Class 5 we are doing Eurythmy and music like other classes. This year is the first time that we are learning how to play the marimbas with the help of Class 6. The school also opened a new school library where we can get books to read. In class, we do subjects like Mathematics, English, Natural Science, L.O and Form Drawing. Some of us do Afrikaans and some isiXhosa. So far, our Main lessons were Fractions, Decimals, Geography of South Africa and Ancient Mythology of India, Persia, Babylon and Egypt."



Class 5 enjoying some time in the library reading and learning.



Class 6 with Teacher Carmen

A learner writes:

"This year was such fun so far. It has been the best year ever. We went to Constantia Waldorf School to participate in the Greek Games. We did a lot of fun activities, and we all made a lot of friends. There were many Waldorf schools, even from places like McGregor and Plettenberg bay. Our main lessons this year include Roman History, Geometry, Area and Perimeter and Middle Ages. In Middle Ages, I learned about people like Charlemagne and Richard the Lionheart.

Our school has a library now, we go there every Thursday. It is fun. We know that reading is important, and it helps with our future. Sometimes people come to our school and teach us new things. Especially about Nature. The story team came to our school and taught us about the dangers of Global Warming and the Whale Coast conservation came to our school and taught us about wetlands and peat lands and how important they are.

Lastly, we had a visit from teacher Eva, she is from the Netherlands. We received letters and drawings from her class. Now I have a friend in the Netherlands. She also taught us handwork."



Teacher Eva doing a lesson



Whale Coast Conservation teaching Class 6 about wetlands and peatlands



Class 7 with Teacher Rumbi



Geometry lesson, using shapes.

A learner writes:

"This year has been good so far. When we came to class 7, we were expecting to do very challenging work. But it was the opposite. We found ourselves doing a lot of revision, especially in Mathematics. We had covered most of the work in Class 6.

Our systemic results came, and we were very happy that we did well as a class. It was all thanks to our teacher who made us work hard. In Class 7, we are doing more subjects than we did in Class 6. Mathematics and English are the least of our problems, we have a lot of new concepts to learn;

Natural Science, Social Science and Technology. We are enjoying all the lessons.

Sadly, we only have one marimba lesson per week. We practice all our old songs and managed to add one more piece which we taught ourselves. We are excited about third term and looking forward to what it will bring."



Learning about acids and bases is easy when you do it practically.



Class 8 with Teacher Kudzi

A learner writes:

"The Grade 8 Class of 2024 is delighted to share with you our journey for the past two terms. The year commenced well but was nerve-racking as half of the class was comprised of new students who were joining the school for the first time. Some of the learners found it difficult to adapt to the new environment, but with the assistance of the old students, life became much better. We also had a new class teacher who made the class adjust and focus on the goal of learning. Mr Kudzi treats us with respect, care and allows us to learn in a conducive environment.



Teacher Kudzi, our new high school teacher.

The new learners had to learn to play marimba with the guidance of the experienced learners. We participated in athletics and ball games as well as learning various subjects in class.

Our class got an opportunity to be part of the robotics club hosted by SANSA and will compete with other schools in a project competition. We also had a mini tour around Hermanus focusing on mountains and rivers. This gave us a practical experience to witness what we had learnt in class. Our class is really enjoying all the learning and we are looking forward to spending more years together in our academic journey."



Class 8 doing science experiments in class. They have been delving deeper and deeper into science.



Class 9 with Teacher Abisha



The first semester has sailed by so fast. We are now realizing that high school is about setting up our individual timetables to keep deadlines. We started the first term on a high as we were joined by two wonderful new teachers, Teacher Kudzi and Teacher Neziwa. Teacher Kudzi has been taking us for Humanities whilst Teacher Nezi has been taking us for Life Orientation, Creative Arts and Technology. Our class teacher, Mr K, has been taking us for sciences. The highlights of the first semester were our interesting main lessons such as Electricity and Magnetism, where we learnt about how magnetic fields shape our everyday lives by producing electricity and most of our household gadgets; Conic Sections, where we learnt the maths behind the drawing of graphs such as the parabola, hyperbola, ellipse etc and how they are used in modern architecture and design; The Russian Revolution, where we learnt about the revolutions from the East following our studies of the West and European revolutions last year; Personal Biography – we future developed our biography writing skills; Major Sense Organs, where we learnt about the anatomy of the eye and the ear and how they inspired science tools such as the camera, microscope, telescope, hearing aids; Restless Earth, where we learnt about natural disasters.

Apart from the academics, we had times of fun especially during the sports day as well as when we performed the Easter Hat Parade. Going forward, we are excited about our High School project and cannot wait for it to be completed. As Class 9, we want to close by thanking the school principal as well as our teachers for always placing our educational needs as a priority.



Athletics Day



Our learners competing in our annual athletics day

On the 29th of February, we started our annual athletics. Day 1 consisted of the Class 4 to Class 9 learners competing in our field events. These events are shotput, javelin, long jump, three sticks (triple jump) and discus. Each learner practiced for weeks ahead of the athletics day and on the day, they had 3 chances to achieve the best result. Day 2 was racing day. Kindergarten and Grade R started with wheelbarrow races. Class 1 to 9 then did 100m sprints. The final races consisted of the intermediate phase and senior phase running long distance races.

As the learners were competing, singing and dancing on the field, a passerby noticed 'a sea of green t-shirts'. He was so impressed by our athletics day, and green being his favorite color, he decided to buy each learner a bottle of Energade to get their energy levels up and keep the kids hydrated.



Learners enjoying Energade generously donated by LL Worx construction company. Thank you for your kindness, sir!



International Visitors

Maaike & Eva



We had the pleasure of having Maaike and Eva join us in the first term. They were sent to South Africa by the IHF (Internationaal Hulp Fonds) to visit some Waldorf schools in the area who may need financial support. Maaike has been involved in Hermanus Waldorf School since her student days, visiting as often as she can and doing as much as she can for our school. She brings funds, resources and renewed knowledge to our school which helps our school grow and prosper. This year, she took one of our teachers on a trip to McGregor Waldorf School. The goal of the trip was for our teacher to learn from the school at McGregor and gain insight into how the school and class is run. The trip was incredibly insightful, and we are grateful to Maaike and Eva for giving us the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge about the Waldorf curriculum. Thank you Maaike and Eva!

"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

– Howard Zinn

Megan



This is one incredible teacher! Megan was sent to Hermanus Waldorf School by the Sluytler Foundation, a foreign exchange program that allows students from the Netherlands to come and experience the workplace in South Africa and make a meaningful contribution. Teacher Megan took it to another level and took on the entire role of a teacher, substituting for our class 4 teacher who went on maternity leave. This was quite a challenge, considering her first language is not English, but Dutch. At first, it was a rocky road, but with time, she quickly adjusted to teacher life here at HWS. She was able to identify some of our learners' weaknesses in mathematics and decided to create interventions that help the learners master their mental mathematics. She created various games that focused on improving times tables and improved their skills by 25%. What an incredible achievement! We are really happy she was able to teach our Class 4 learners! Thank you, Megan!



International Visitors

Tanja



Tanja with her group of learners



Curative Eurythmy in action

Tanja has been joining us at HWS for many years, coming for 3 months of the year at her own cost, to help our learners develop motor skills. Tanja is a Curative Eurythmy teacher. She works with selected learners to improve any issues they might face like concentration, handwriting, balance, crossing-the-midline and much much more. She carefully develops individualized Eurythmy programs for each child and works with them one-on-one wholistically. She also boosts their confidence and gives them individual attention.

She is such a gentle soul, she speaks softly, and she absolutely loves our learners. Before she left, she stated that all the children are friendly and greet quickly. It warms her heart when all the children smile and chat with her easily. When it gets very cold in Sweden, she takes all the pictures and letters out and their little smiles warm her heart. It makes her want to come back to South Africa every year. We look forward to having you every year. Thank you, Teacher Tanja!



Farewell, Uncle Errol



Errol Coert, affectionately known as Uncle Errol, has been working as head of maintenance at HWS since 2009. After 14 years of service, Uncle Errol has retired.

He was really our right-hand man when it came to any maintenance issues we had at the school. Uncle Errol is always very eager to help and would tell a good old story along the way. He was a very important part of our school and its culture, and we will miss him dearly. We want to take the opportunity to express our deep appreciation for Uncle Errol's dedication and contribution to our school. His positivity and hard work has been an integral part of our success.

Thank You!

With a humble heart, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you, once again for your continued kindness and generosity to our school. It is very much appreciated! A special thank you to the following organizations and persons:

- Rossi's (Frank)
- Eden café (Isabel)
- Enlighten Education Trust (Corlia and her team of volunteers, Rodney and his team)
- Also:
 - Susi McCallin
 - Jeanne Arangies
 - Rika van Romburg
- Finally, our loyal sponsors who keep our school running year after year!



General Information

School closes:

Friday morning 14th of June 2024

School re-opens:

Monday 8th of July 2024 for teachers and staff

Tuesday 9th of July 2024 for learners

School Fees:

	KG/Gr R	Cl 1 – 7	Cl 8 - 9
Fees Monthly	R 870	R 900	R 1 050
Stationery	R 250	R 350	R 400
Registration	R 260	R 260	R 260
Total Annual Fees	R 10 080	R 10 510	R 12 210

Bank Account Details:

Standard Bank

Account: Hermanus Waldorf School

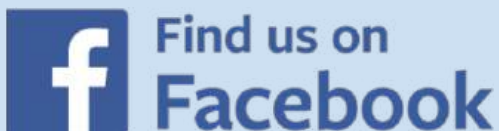
Account Number: 372 752 071

Reference: Child's Name



With warm regards from the staff and children of the Hermanus Waldorf School.

For more regular updates about our school or to get into direct contact with us, follow us on Facebook.



Hermanus Waldorf School

1.1K likes · 1.2K followers

