



w-mail

Newsletter Waldorf School Windhoek, www.waldorf-namibia.org



February 2012

Welcome to our new grade 1 // Invitation to Germany // Vocational training in Namibia // ATCK product sale // Rudolf Steiner's birthday // Welcome new teachers



Class teacher Shapumba Shapumba welcomes every child of grade 1 on stage



On the way to their classroom with grade 7 'paten' (guardians)

Learning with all Senses

Welcome to our new grade 1

We warmly welcome the 25 children in the new 1st grade from January 31st, their first school day. They will be accompanied through to the 7th grade by their class teacher Shapumba Shapumba. Some of the children have come from the Waldorf kindergarten, and some of them already know our school from the pre-primary school grade O. Most of them come from Herero, Damara and Oshiwambo speaking populations.

The first school day is one of the highlights at Waldorf schools all over the world, and it's the same in our school where all the pupils at the Waldorf School Windhoek assemble to celebrate. This day is

a big step for the new children as it brings their strongest experience of separation from their parents so far. It is also a special moment for the parents when they hand over their children to the teachers who will share responsibility for them until the end of their school days.

So today we are pleased to present some of the special features of Waldorf education in the first school years: Every year all primary school children up to the 7th grade move with their class teacher into a different classroom. The colour schemes of the rooms are tuned to the respective ages of the children. So, for example, our new 1st grade pupils are moving into a pink-

coloured environment. Shapumba Shapumba has been working hard over the last few days making small changes so that he and his 1st grade class will feel completely comfortable.

Each school day begins with a morning assembly for the whole primary section, followed by the main lessons with the class teacher. Punctuality is very important as the main lessons have fixed teaching elements which become rituals for the pupils. The main lessons is composed of four parts. Each day begins with rhythmic part. This contains, for example, a morning saying, songs, physical exercises and finger games. The rhythmic part helps the children to arrive, to harmonise and to tune in to the group.

The contemplative part follows. We talk about what happened yesterday, revise and learn additionally. Then the written part follows that we like to call 'work time', in which the children work in their exercise books. The narrative part completes the cycle, which for the 1st grade mainly consists of fairy tales (those of the brothers Grimm are preferred). And then the communal breakfast leads into the first main break.

The main lesson for a teacher also follows a rhythm. Each day the same cycle occurs at the same time from the rhythmic to the narrative parts. This is very helpful to the

children's inner and outer orientation. In Waldorf education the main lessons are geared to the child as a totality, head, heart and hand – respectively thinking, feeling and acting. At the same time the teacher always has his eye on each



individual child as well as on the class as a whole.

Finally we would like to introduce the 'block' teaching. For three or four weeks a special subject is taught as part of the main lessons. From grade to grade the contents become more complex. The advantages of the 'block' teaching are clear as, instead of remaining with superficial impressions, the children are led deeper into a certain subject matter.

Meeting their guardians is also an important ritual for school beginners. Each pupil in the 7th grade becomes a mentor to a child in the 1st grade for one year. For the big ones taking this responsibility is an important step, and for the little ones it immediately eases their way into the school community.

Katharina Wyss, S. Shapumba



Invitation to Germany: two Weeks Concerts, Outings and Activities

Good news: The entire High School Choir and drumming group “Hit the beat“ has been invited to go to Germany by one of our sponsors in June for about 2 weeks – they will perform in Berlin, Künzelsau and Stuttgart. Ms Marion Würth who is sponsoring this trip intends to also

spoil the learners with wonderful outings and various activities. We are extremely grateful for this opportunity and will keep you updated on how the organisation and rehearsing will happen. *Simone de Picciotto, Teacher and High School coordinator*

Vocational Training in Namibia – Planning Phase

Hands-on, practical skill aspects as they are taught in the Waldorf Education could soon be integrated in Namibian state schools throughout the country.

In the week from 13th to 20th February 2012 Dr Helmut Riethmüller and Ulrich M. Kleber of the FORUM INTERNATIONAL Berlin are coming to Windhoek. On the 16th February we have a presentation as part of a stakeholder meeting on the subject of:

“Vocational training from early childhood through school into working life” including syllabus elements from Waldorf educational practice and other training institutions.

We have been invited to make a presentation by the NIED (National Institute of Educational Development) to representatives of UNAM, the Polytechnic, the Ministry of Education and the NTA (Namibian Training Authority), and in short active Namibian training providers, based on the human background of our hands-on, practical teaching methods. The aims are to offer our integrative vocational training methods, which are in practice



Eline Nghiitwikwa (Director of Community and Early Childhood Development), Hans-Peter Seeger (Manager Waldorf School Windhoek) and Dr Herta Pomuti (Director of NIED)

world-wide, to those responsible for the government curriculum, to evaluate the associated teachers’ qualifications, and to develop these further in the long run.

A preliminary meeting occurred in the early morning 26th January 2012 at Frankfurt Airport between Ulrich M. Kleber and myself and the delegation who was in transit on their way to Finland. Present were the representatives Dr Herta Pomuti (Director of NIED), Eline Nghiitwikwa (Director of Community and Early Childhood Development) and Richwell Lukonga (Acting General Manager vom NTA).

Hans-Peter Seeger

Thanks a lot Marina Higham

Dear Marina, first of all: Thank you very much, that you jumped in in January 2011 and helped us with taking over grade 4 for one year.

What was your most exiting experience concerning the Waldorf School Windhoek?

It was the warm welcome of all the colleagues and co-workers. Also the learners showed their feelings immediately. I had the feeling to be a part of that family and not a stranger. The experience of coming back after a sick day is unforgettable. The children come running up to me, hugged me and showed their joy having me back. The visit of the minister of education, honourable Dr A. Iyambo, impressed me. I really agree with him that the Waldorf Education is the best what the children can have in Namibia.

What is the different way of teaching, comparing to your experiences in Germany?

The children behave differently. They show strong emotions, either up or down. The learners have to be taught with actions and artistically. In Germany my learners listen better to what I say and are able to follow the instructions and stories in a suitable way. Here in Namibia was it the biggest problem I had at school. One reason, of course, is the language and the change of teachers.

Sorry to say, but I am disappointed about the parents who did not come with their children to the festivals. For instance on the last half the class was missing at the last Trimester Festival without excuses. That makes teaching very difficult. In Germany we do not have these problems. My wish for the school:



Katie Damon (left), principal and teacher, visited Marina Higham (right) in Germany

parents should support the school much more and take over responsibilities. And about the country? The poor and the rich, mostly black and white, life so differently. The open social life full of joy in Katutura and the hidden way of living behind high walls and electric fences in the rest of Windhoek – what a crazy unbelievable situation! That’s what my friends cannot imagine.

You also travelled through Namibia.

Yes of course. The wide landscape, the never ending roads, the feeling of freedom. I was happy and thankful for all the sunrises and sunsets. I could experience the wilderness. It leads you back to the roots of mankind, away from scratching only on the surface of life.

What will you miss, when you will be back in Germany?

I will miss the open hearted people, who always have time for a chat or a smile. In Germany everything is so perfect and well structured; there is not enough time for spartanly.

What will you tell your friends in Germany about the Waldorf School Windhoek and the Country of Namibia?

I will tell them about the multicultural mixture at the school and that I always had to be very flexible in the way I approached the learners. Creativity is much more demanded than in Germany.

Erich Meier



/// We offer fresh vegetables and milk products ///

The *Agricultural Training Centre Krumhuk* was established in 2008 as a training facility for agriculture and household management. Today we would like to offer you

New: ATCK Fresh Farm Products Sale at School

Every Friday at the Waldorf School Windhoek (parking lot) from 11 am to 2 pm

the opportunity to buy the “fruits of our training” and thereby supporting our facility as a Namibian Answer to vocational training needs. *Contact: Tel. 061-4000 677, info@atckrumhuk.org www.atckrumhuk.org*



Dornach, Switzerland, 1922

27th february 2012: Rudolf Steiners birthday, founder of Waldorf Education, Visionary Philosopher, Scientist, Artist



Vienna, Austria, 1879

Waldorf Schools
Waldorf Schulen

Anthroposophical
Companies
Anthroposophische
Unternehmen

Anthroposophical
Medicine
Anthroposophische
Medizin

Waldorf
Kindergartens
Waldorf
Kindergärten

Communities
Lebensgemein-
schaften

There are only three
effective means of education:
fear, competition and love.
We abstain from the first
and second. Rudolf Steiner

Anthroposophical
Hospitals
Anthroposophische
Krankenhäuser

Centres for
Curative Education
Heilpädagogische
Einrichtungen

Biodynamic
agriculture
Bio-dynamische
Landwirtschaft

The Christian
Community
Die Christen-
gemeinschaft

Teacher
education centres
Pädagogische Aus-
bildungsstätten

Art Schools
Kunstabbildungs-
stätten

The first Waldorf School

It was founded in Stuttgart in 1919 by Rudolf Steiner and was the first school to put the principle of social justice in education into practice. Young people were educated together, irrespective of social background, or abilities, i.e. it was a comprehensive school. As such, it was the first to replace the principle of selection with a child-centred pedagogy of individual encouragement and support.

Rudolf Steiner (27.2.1861-30.3.1925)

Rudolf Steiner gave some 5,900 lectures in and outside Germany, and wrote 20 books. About 100,000 people work in anthroposophical organisations and initiatives in 60 countries worldwide today.



On stage – grade 2 is playing for all parents, families and pupils during grade 1 first school day celebration (31.01.2012)



Nawala Weber-Trianus, classteacher grade 2, during the celebration (31.01.2012)



Flora Mupia

"I am a new teacher, teaching Ojherero (many of the learners are so happy to be taught in Otjherero, and it's very exciting for the teacher as well). I'm also teaching english in grade 5 and 6 and gardening in grade 1 and 3. Being in the garden is such a wonderful experience and we enjoy every minute of it. My three children are attending the school. The big ones started last year already, and the younger one came with me this year. Being here is such a challenge, but I'm up to it and I'm going to make it a success! For sure! Thanks."



Claire Crowley

"I'm supporting the Waldorf School Windhoek by teaching english and perhaps some history, mathematics and philosophy. I moved from London (UK) to Namibia in October 2010 to work with the *Ombetja Yehinga Organisation (OYO)*, and heard about the Waldorf School during my time in Windhoek."



Golda Gurirab

"I have just finished my bachelor degree in sport science. I've finished and received my diploma in sport management and also have a certificate in karate. I come from a very sporty background and have been doing karate for 20 years. I am very excited and honoured to be able to join the Waldorf School. I really look forward to working with the kids and raising their physical education to an even better standard."



Corinna Hoffmann

"I'm visiting the Waldorf School with my three children. Ameli is in grade 7, Hanna in grade 5 and Nils in grade 0. I'm lucky that I can help as a volunteer in the primary school. With the assistance of the class teacher we are going to help the children who lack basics in German. In the first place our aim is to give them the first steps in this language. In the Afternoon Care I'm helping in the vaulting project. We are really going to enjoy our stay here in Namibia."

Thank you 'Tate Abet'

Abet Nushono came with great enthusiasm and readiness to the Waldorf School Windhoek while studying tourism. In the course of the years he entered his three kids at the school. He was introduced to, and valued, Waldorf education and took over lessons in Oshidonga. Abet Nushono is leaving us in order to take up a full time job at a Windhoek school. We are glad to have him still as a parent. His last question before the holidays was "How can I deepen my Waldorf knowledge in the future?" We hope to welcome him as a participant in further training courses at the school.

Contact to our W-Mail-Team: Katharina Wyss, wyss@waldorf-namibia.org · Pictures: Katharina Wyss, Julian Stauffer, Privat archives



Retha Landsberg

"I'm teaching mathematics, needlework and IT in the High School. I started teaching in 1975 for the Ministry of Education in Namibia. At the end of last year I retired, and joined the Waldorf School this year as a teacher. For the past nine years I have been a principal at the Windhoek Technical High School and Cosmas High School. I think I will enjoy teaching at the Waldorf School."

Warm Welcome to all new Teachers ...

During the past few weeks quite a few personnel changes have taken place. We are glad to welcome for our Primary School two new teachers: Flora Mupia and Golda Gurirab. In the High School we welcome Retha Landsberg and Claire Crowley. *Read more about new colleagues and changes in our next W-Mail in march 2012.*

Keep in Contact:

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Namibia

Waldorf School Windhoek
Nedbank Namibia, Hidas Windhoek
Branch-Code 461696, Account: 110 000 826 88
IBAN: 46 16 96 11 00 00 82 688
BIC (Swift-Code): NEDS NANX

Germany

Freunde der Erziehungskunst, GLS Bank
Account: 130 420 10, BLZ 430 609 67
VWZ: 4886 WSW Namibia + Spenderadresse

Die Angabe Ihrer Anschrift im Feld Verwendungszweck ermöglicht das Ausstellen der Spendenbescheinigung.

Switzerland

Freie Gemeinschaftsbank BCL
Account: EK 115.5
Postcheck der Bank: Basel 40-963-0
Kennwort: WSW Namibia

Netherlands

Triodos Bank NV, Zeist, Account: 21.22.68.872
Kennwort: WSW Namibia

Events February 2012

- **Meeting Parent Association**
Wed 1 February 2012
- **Parents Evening Grade 5**
Mon 6 February 2012, 19:00
- **Parents Evening Grade 3**
Mon 13 February 2012, 19:00
- **Green Market Café**
Sat 18 February 2012, Grade 8
- **Parents Evening Grade 2 and 6**
Mon 20 February 2012, 19:00
- **Sports Day**
Sat 25 February 2012
- **Parents Evening Grade 4**
Mon 27 February 2012, 18:00