



YEAR END NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

THE ANIMALS IN OUR GARDEN



We love ALL the animals that visit our garden.

The birds are many, oh so many! They fly down to our pond and sometimes hover and flutter before landing on the rocks. They dip down their heads to drink the water and then step in to the pool to flutter and splash. They spend a long time fluffing and splashing with each other and their chatter is quite noisy and cheerful. Occasionally a Dove will arrive with authority and the little White Eyes and baby Weavers will vacate the space - for just a little while. Once a couple of big black Starlings arrived and splashed nonchalantly - bathing and drinking till well satisfied.

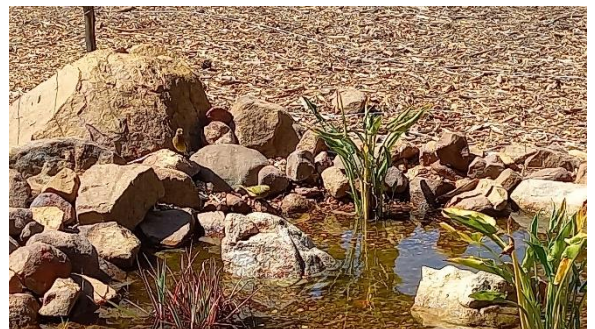
We found a Sunbird nest under our fruit circle roof. We think it was the Sunbirds that must have taught the other little birds to hover and flutter with such skill. One day, I saw a little bird hanging upside down from the nest. Its little foot was caught in a strand from the nest. I quickly ripped the strand and the baby fell gracefully to the floor and flew to a corner by our building - hiding quietly in fear. I left him there while his mother and father were flying about with an anxious eye.

The field mice too, are very sweet. They stay outside and happily sit and nibble the crusts and scraps that we leave out by the pond. The birds are quite at ease with the mice. And the mice seem quite friendly with the birds too. They never argue over food. The mice sit up with food in their hands and we can see their whiskers twitch as they nibble. Then they stretch down to drink from the pond, but we have never seen them swim! Usually only one comes to visit at a time, but today there were two!

Another regular visitor is our tortoise. He is still quite little. His shell is probably as big as my hand. He crawls much faster than we expected a tortoise to crawl! And his favourite place is the bush under which we throw the apple cores and fruit scraps. He looks at us when we look at him. And then he bites the apple cores again and again.

We care too for the furry caterpillars, the ladybugs red and yellow, the black tadpoles with new legs and the shiny black bugs. But the tortoise, the stripy mice and the birds are somehow most special to us.

Laura Moss
Kindergarten Teacher



HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

A lovely initiative was thought of by a long-standing parent in our school, Jacqui Roche, to hold a Halloween Fundraiser, to assist our sponsorship programme, especially the sponsored children who are graduating from Class 7. She held the fundraiser on the 31st of October in the deep South, in Scarborough where children could do fun activities such as candle and wand making. There was a DJ who played joyful music for the occasion. The four children part of the sponsorship programme were given money to buy something special to wear to their graduation on 8th December 2022. The rest of the money was donated to the school's sponsorship programme to cover school fees for children whose parents cannot afford them.

We are very grateful to Jacqui for holding such an event and for keeping these children close to her heart. We look forward to celebrating at the final assembly, where we get to say farewell to the children leaving Imhoff Waldorf to go to high school.

Candice Plowden
Class 2 Teacher



OUR FIRST CLASS CAMP

As the final term approached, class three were ready to take on our first ever class camp. We left early and the drive seemed to take long. Eventually we arrived at the wonderful and wonder-filled Bloublommetjieskloof Biodynamic Farm! We received a warm welcome from our camp facilitator, Teacher Adams. After settling into our sleeping area, an old stone loft farm house, we

went on a farm tour where we met the owner, Farmer Wendy and our lovely cook, Chef Mimi. We walked around and met the horses, cows, dogs, pigs, roosters, chickens and chicks.

A wholesome lunch was served and we were ready to take on the rest of the day. The first task was for the children to prepare animal beds. The children went by tractor to collect pine needles in the forest. That night we went on a night-walk and just before, got to watch the sun set and the sky change into the most spectacular purple, orange and pink sky. We saw some fireflies and lay on the grass under the stars and moon, sharing about our day. What a precious moment for us to share as a class! The first night was filled with excitement and pillow fights and the children all slept very well.

The next morning, the children woke up and were ready to take on the day. Our class was split into two groups and one group went to the dairy whilst the other fetched and fed the animals. At the dairy, we met the most gorgeous Jersey cow, Sophia, who had the loveliest brown coat with big, dark black eyes and long lashes (she looked as though she was wearing make-up). We got to milk Sophia and taste the warm, creamy milk directly



from her udders. We then got to make some rich, creamy butter and help make cottage cheese. Breakfast was served and the children happily ate their fill.

The children then switched tasks and those who were in the dairy then went to work on the compost heap. After yet another delicious lunch, we took a tractor ride down to the dam for a swim. The swimming was appreciated as the day was extremely hot! The children had a fun time riding horses too. We went on another night walk around the farm and into the forest. There we sat amongst the trees, sharing about our day, listening to the sounds of the animals and watching the night sky. That night, the children were exhausted and slept very well after an intensive work day and a delicious cup of hot cocoa.

On the final day, the children had a special compost ceremony and ended the camp with one last tractor ride before we took the drive back home. What a memorable and special bonding time for Class 3!



Bilqis Pandey
Class 3 Teacher



For Class 1 our knitting journey this year began

with sanding our needles. It was a tedious and repetitive task to get the dowel stick smooth enough for the wool to slide over and in every lesson, I would be asked the same question, "Is it smooth enough yet?" ten times over. It was a wonderful lesson for me as the teacher to make sure the expectation of a smooth needle, for the practical reason of the wool not getting stuck on an iffy needle, was met and to guide the children that were tired of the task and didn't have the will to continue over the threshold.

LEARNING TO KNIT



Once the needles were smooth enough to brush across our cheeks the real task of knitting began and oh what a challenge it was. For me, out of all the tasks and new challenges that Class 1 presented to the children, knitting was the most revealing of the children's abilities and challenges. For some, knitting was physically challenging as they did not have the coordination required to guide the wool around the needles to capture a stitch. For others, they didn't have the concentration to finish a row without dropping stitches and the resilience to fix and overcome the mistake. For some, it was love at first stitch and they asked to knit during every break time and every free opportunity.

No matter what challenge each child faced, with the help of patient parent volunteers and the children's buddies in Class 7, they all managed to complete their own square of knitting which they transformed into a unique bunny. They were all so proud of their bunnies and I, as their teacher, am so proud of the perseverance that was developed in each child through this task of learning to knit.

Holly Armstrong
Class 1 Teacher



A TREAT TO END THE TERM

On the 17th November 2022, the classes three to seven were treated with a fun and exciting performance by the Jungle Theatre Company.

The children watched the play “Hoerikwaggo” from the indigenous people of the Cape, meaning “Mountain in the Sea”. This was the name given to the famous Table Mountain. Jungle Theatre performers shared the story of two baboons who found a baby left behind, after a field fire started. The play had a range of indigenous animals and plants who all played a role in safely returning the baby and assisting the baboons in getting the baby back home. We met seagulls, African penguins, dassies, proteas, sugarbirds, ericas, mongooses and many others! The performance contained a great variety of songs, dances and drumming.



After the play finished, the three performers engaged the children with activities, and they got to be those characters and learn the songs from the play. The children were excited and the room was alive with laughter, singing and many smiling faces. What a marvellous performance!

We thank Jungle Theatre for sharing their work with us!

Bilqis Pandey
Class 3 Teacher