

# THE GRAPEVINE

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## Welcome back to School 2012!

Once again our matric results were excellent! Constantia Waldorf School started writing WCED exams in 1998 and since then not one matric student has failed. 2011 was no different. 100% pass rate! 25 students sat for their matric exams and 24 passed with a university entrance. 12 of our students achieved A aggregates. The average for our class 13 was 75.9%.

### Subject distinctions were as follows:

4	English	→ 5/25	Physical Science	→ 5/6	Music	→ 3/3
	Afrikaans	→ 8/24	History	→ 8/18	Drama	→ 12/14
	German	→ 1/1	Geography	→ 3/9		
	Mathematics	→ 4/18	Biology	→ 8/12		
	Math Literacy	→ 4/8	Art	→ 9/10		
	Life Skills	→ 12/25	Design	→ 3/3		

### Well done Class 13 2011, we are proud of you!



As is tradition at the Constantia Waldorf school, on the first day of school each year the whole school gathers for a big assembly, inviting new parents to join us to welcome our new Class 1 children. Our current Grade 13 students gather outside the hall waiting to meet and greet the new little Grade 1's. Colourful flower posies are given to each Class 1 child by a Class 13 student who, by the hand, lead our 'newlings' into their first assembly. This ceremony was accompanied by the soft sounds of a violin played by our eurythmist, Sarah Freunberg. Thank you Sarah!

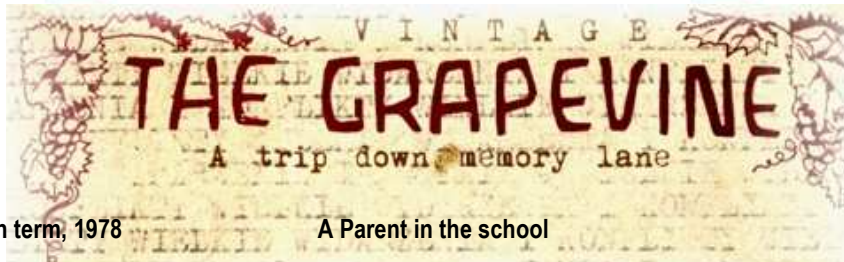
Our new Class 1 teacher, Louise Schipper, introduced each of the new Class 1 children to the parent, teacher and student bodies together with telling a wonderful story to welcome them to their first day of school. This was followed by each Class teacher in turn as they welcomed their individual classes to the new year. Our rich and beautiful curriculum unfolded in snippets within these welcoming messages and parents were able to hear how Waldorf education begins to unfold from Class 1 - Class 13.

It is on this note that I would like to add that we endeavour to do an editorial on each of our classes to give parents an opportunity to look into

the classroom through a little window and share in a little of what our children are experiencing daily. I would also like to add on a more serious note, our Grapevine is one of our schools' largest information vehicles. The Grapevine is published every Friday. A lot of time and energy goes into the preparation of this document with the intention to keep our community as informed as possible. I implore you, skim through the document, take the responsibility of keeping yourself informed and up to date. We are aware there is a lot happening at our school, and the Grapevine is a large document, yet it is the only way we know how to keep everybody up to speed.



**Editors Note:** We would like to apologise for the inconvenience and lack of communication from the admin offices, we experienced a total shut down on our internet for days and weren't able to process any e-mails etc. With that, the Grapevine this week may not have all requests published, which will be inserted next week.



Waldorf Quarterly, Fourth term, 1978

A Parent in the school

Ann Sharfman

When parents choose a school for their children, to some extent they are choosing the school for themselves. They will be involved in many ways – they will be actively concerned with the progress and development of their child, homework will have to be supervised and extra-curricula activities take over the spare time of both child and parents. All school run fundraising projects which naturally interest parents who value the contribution the school is making to their child's development towards adulthood. Adulthood is the obvious goal of true education in the full sense of the word so that parents must be certain that the school will complement their ideals and ambitions for their children. "Which school then?" – the answer to this question is obviously a greater one than simply sending a child to the nearest and most convenient school.

I chose the Waldorf School. This is not an easy decision – one has to be prepared to stand firm against a degree of amazement and disapproval from many sources. Initially there are those raised eyebrows and "I'm sorry – I didn't know there was anything wrong with your child" or "Oh! That school has no discipline" or mutterings about strange people with strange ideas. I soon got over the annoyance these remarks used to raise – my children are normal, they are as good or as naughty as any other small boys and, in fact, because they are taught appreciation of the arts, can sit entranced at the theatre or concert hall while others are squirming and bored, and the people I have met through the school have been both charming and knowledgeable and not at all strange.

Later, however, more subtle doubts and attacks begin. Johnny-next-door has been at school for a term and can read (his reader) but your child hasn't reached that stage yet. Later Johnny brings home masses of written work and sits for hours at his homework. His satchel is weighted with text books, and his face is often anxious and careworn. Your child, on the other hand, comes home full of stories, songs and tales of paintings, drawings and patterns. He plays all afternoon and is busy being a child. Is he being taught anything? Was your decision a wise one?

I was fortunate during this doubting phase, in fact I was studying psychology and the philosophy, history and practice of education and I found the answers to my doubts. I found out that children can learn many things very early, but that they learn them quicker, easier and with confidence when they are ready for such learning; that if they learn with ease their confidence and self-concept is enhanced and that this is vitally important because it determines how that child will face and deal with life – with confidence or with a constant fear of failure. I found out that apparent learning before readiness is by rote only, is of little value, soon lost and contributed nothing to the total development. In fact it detracts from development, for the time spent in one-sided intellectual development at an early age prevents development in other spheres, spheres which are right for that stage and are vital to development at that time. Thus the three year old sits quietly for hours engaged in activities like matching geometrical shapes with holes in a box, missing the vital large muscle development at that stage (which along with other gains such as spatial awareness and development of confidence must precede small-muscle development and co-ordination), is likely to write letters backwards and find reading and concepts formation difficult.

I found out that learning must involve the whole being – physical, mental and spiritual, must proceed as the child develops and answer his needs of the moment and must never lose its wonder and freshness. I found out about the philosophies of the great educators of the past, and of the ideals and goals of educators past and present, which, for the most part, are dreams only. And I found all these things in the education which my children are receiving at this school.

All children are excited when they begin to read and write, but I think that only a Waldorf parent can experience with his child the joy of reading when it comes spontaneously because the child has not been forced before he was ready. Both my sons suddenly discovered one day that they could read – their faces alight and their boundaries limitless – they will tackle anything. Poor Johnny-next-door is still going to the seaside with Janet and John and others of their ilk. Together my children and I have discovered the forces of good, morality and right which overcome darkness, and the heights of achievement and sacrifice of which man is capable (We have been reminded that man is frail and easily led into wrong-doing but that if he is not left to wallow – he is always helped and can overcome difficulties) These are lofty concepts when you are only nine and cannot put them into words yet, but they are the basis of profound philosophies of life. We have been taught some of the work that man performs with dignity and his place in the social structure. We are beginning to find out about his situation geographically and in the unfolding of history. My nine year old cannot possibly write all he knows – it is too vast, but he and his brother have lived their lessons and will not forget the meaning of what they have learnt, meaning which will enrich their personalities and experience, and are beyond the accumulation of facts.

Arithmetic is exciting and a challenge. They are learning language – its structure and form, but more important its beauty and sound, and how it is used to express ideas and pictures. Afrikaans is alive and fun to speak and sing. Festivals develop an awareness of what is beyond and greater than man. Music, eurythmy and art permeate all and enrich the soul life.

Are they being taught anything? Was your decision a wise one?

A heartfelt YES and the knowledge that I too am being educated and am growing with them. I offer my experience of being a Waldorf parent, in the hope that others may also find such joy and enrichment in their children's education.

**Calling all old pupils! We would love to know all about you and what you are doing. Please e-mail the Grapevine Editor to [waldorf@iafrica.com](mailto:waldorf@iafrica.com) - photos are welcome.**



## Information and Announcements



**OUR NIGHT MARKET TONIGHT! THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR! BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY AND ENJOY! IT PROMISES TO BE A MEMORABLE EVENING WITH A FANTASTIC ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP:**

**17h00:** Musical Waldorf students have the opportunity to step up to the mike. Don't miss a wealth of emerging talent!

**18h00:** Acoustic virtuoso, Gary Thomas, presents his "epic soundscapes" (Mail and Guardian) with guitar and voice. [www.garythomas.co.za](http://www.garythomas.co.za)

**19h00:** The Balkan Klezmer Band takes us on a foot tapping tour of eclectic gypsy folk with its Eastern European roots.

**20h00:** Topping the bill with a welcome return, Sultree (and their unique blend of indie rock) will have you up on your feet and dancing for more

**Entrance is R5 pp** (to cover the entertainment) and secure parking is available at R20 per car. No alcohol is sold on the premises.

See [www.constantiawaldorfnightmarket.co.za](http://www.constantiawaldorfnightmarket.co.za) for more info. Potential stall holders are encouraged to visit the site and book their stalls online.

### Attention students!

We need you to start preparing for the school fair, this is a great opportunity to hone your entrepreneurial skills. Should you want to book a place to sell your baked goods, crafts or other wares, please contact Michelle on 072 279 6921

Should you require a table it will cost R20,00 for the day. No table but an opportunity to walk around and sell will cost R10,00 for the day.

### Musicians / Dancers Wanted

We want the fair to be a celebration of dance and music, to add to that we need musicians and dancers of all styles and disciplines to showcase their talents. If you want to be included in a really great line-up of artists please contact; Hildegard on 083 497 9057 Or at [hildegardekeene@gmail.com](mailto:hildegardekeene@gmail.com)



Diarise the 24th March 2012 from 12h00-20h00 to visit the Constantia Waldorf Annual Fair where the theme this year is Dance. Visitors to the fair will enjoy good old-fashioned children's games and entertainment, dance, market stalls, fun rides, live music, delicious delicacies and whole foods. The fair, which will be like the popular Organic Night Market but with loads more stalls, activities, dance events and music, will run from 12h00 to 20h00 at the Constantia Waldorf School, Spaanschemat River Rd, Constantia, Cape Town. Come and spend a fun family day where the kids can play, dance and have a ball, and parents can browse, chill to the music, shop and feast on the many delicious food offerings.

### Flower roster - Term 1

It is tradition in our school for parents to contribute towards making our school foyer beautiful and inviting. The following people are our Term 1 contributors.

- 30 Jan – 3 Feb** – Ehren Braunlich Class 9
- 6 Feb – 10 Feb** – Sarah Britton Class 13
- 13 Feb – 17 Feb** – Tristan Broers – Class 6
- 20 Feb – 24 Feb** – Sydney Brown - Playgroup
- 27 Feb – 2 March** – Ruelle Bruwer – Class 13



### Dear Parents,

Welcome back from the holidays, we hope you are ready for an exciting sporting year, we have some changes...

**Robyn Austin** will now be our Primary School Sports Co-ordinator, handling all Primary School activities from Games lessons to after school sport.

**James Twine** will be our High School Sports Co-ordinator and will be handling all High School activities from Games Lessons to after school sport.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to call either one of the Sports Co-ordinators, their numbers are in the school diary.

**Robyn - 083 9771275**

**James - 076 1949469**

*sports Corner*



## Information and Announcements



The Rainbow Puppet Theatre presents *The Frog Prince* on the 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th of February. Shows are every Saturday at 10am and 11.15am. Admission is R20 at the door for adults and children (recommended age 4+). Parking is ample and free. Refreshments are on Sale. The picturesque and secure surroundings of the puppet theatre are ideal for children's birthday parties. We have mobile Puppet Theatres for Birthday Parties and private functions.

Please contact Alison on 783-2063 or email [therainbow.puppettheatre@gmail.com](mailto:therainbow.puppettheatre@gmail.com) for more information. The Rainbow Puppet Theatre is situated at the Constantia Waldorf School, Spaanschemat River Road, Constantia.

The new year has started and the first *Eurythmy for Adults* class will be on Monday 30 January, 17.30 to 18.30 at Sophia House, Plumstead. This will be an 8-week block that runs until Monday 26 March.

**Theme:** A Rudolf Steiner form described as "...suited to poems of cosmic character, poems of a certain solemnity and exaltation." It also has a combination of four eurythmy sounds, and we will practice it with "Prayer for Love" by Michael Bauer.

**Cost:** R440.00 for the block (payable in full, or in two installments on 30 January and 27 February)

Please call me for further details, or if you want to sign up for this block, or kindly pass on the information to anyone who might want to join. E-mail: [cobie.roelvert@gmail.com](mailto:cobie.roelvert@gmail.com)

### Condolences to the Burger Family

Rick Burger passed away recently. He was an old student at our school and was followed by his younger brother Wessel Burger. Our thoughts are with the Burger Family in this time of great loss.

### Condolences to Rose Dikana on the loss of her young son

Late in the evening of 4th January, Rose Dikana's 4 year old son died under tragic circumstances in Alice, Eastern Cape. Some of our community will know who Rose is – she was the cleaning lady who was hired for four months to help out while Winnie was on maternity leave. Rose is without work and is looking for a cleaning position in someone's home or office. If you should be able to assist, please contact Rose on 0781158715 or Debbie on 082 455 1601 or Tanya at DreamWorkers on 0833266352. Her story is on the DreamWorkers website. Rose – may peace be with you in this difficult time. We are thinking of you and holding you in our thoughts and prayers.



**The Craft Shop**  
Constantia Waldorf School  
Spaanschematriver Road, Constantia  
021 794 4574

Open Tuesday to Saturday  
9am to 1 pm - during school terms  
Please phone for school holiday opening hours

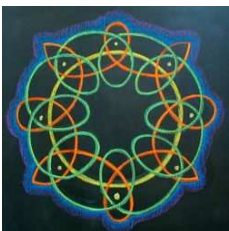


## High School Maynardville Shakespeare!

*Please ensure R60 is brought to school by Monday 30th January for the block booking of "Comedy of Errors" on 8th February for the whole High School at Maynardville.*

*Parents to drop off and pick up. No transport will be provided.*

"REVERENCE, ENTHUSIASM, AND A SENSE OF GUARDIANSHIP, THESE THREE ARE ACTUALLY THE PANACEA, THE MAGICAL REMEDY, IN THE SOUL OF THE EDUCATOR AND TEACHER."





– RUDOLF STEINER

Fresh organic produce at  
Constantia Waldorf's  
*organic and biodynamic*  
community market  
every Friday from 11- 3 pm



### Dates For Your Diary

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>30th Monday</b> CLASS 3 PARENTS EVENING 7PM	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>6th Monday</b> CLASS 10 PARENTS EVENING 7PM	<b>7th Tuesday</b> CLASS 4 PARENTS EVENING 7PM	<b>15th Wednesday</b> NEW PARENTS EVENING	<b>18th Saturday</b> PLAY GROUP AND KINDERGARTEN PICNIC
	<b>21st Tuesday</b> CLASS 7 PARENTS EVENING 7 PM		<b>22nd Wednesday</b> CLASS 1 PARENTS EVENING 7PM	<b>25th 26th Saturday</b> Class 6 GREEK OLYMPICS	<b>27th Monday</b> <b>FOUNDERS DAY</b>	<b>13th Tuesday</b> PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS DAY
<b>19th Monday to 23rd Saturday</b> CLASS 11 PARCIVAL CAMP	<b>24th Saturday</b> CWS ANNUAL FAIR	<b>30th Friday</b> SCHOOL ENDS EASTER FESTIVAL NIGHT MARKET				
						

### TERM DATES 2012

<b>Term 1 2012</b>	TUESDAY 24 JANUARY	to	FRIDAY 30 MARCH
<b>Term 2 2012</b>	MONDAY 16 APRIL	to	FRIDAY 22 JUNE
<b>Term 3 2012</b>	TUESDAY 17 JULY	to	FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
<b>Term 4 2012</b>	MONDAY 8 OCTOBER	to	FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

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Our School could earn a fabulous big income from this passive savings of swiping your "my school card" at Woolies, Engen Garage, or any of the other affiliated shops listed on the website. It is a really easy process (10 mins max) to get a 'my school card'. Log on to [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za). Go to "Get My School Card" and click on the 'Apply for a card here'. Then open a my school account and put in your name, address, id number, email and you are done - you have a number immediately and your card arrives with in 10 days. Tel : 0860 100 445 for any queries.

### Classifieds

**For sale:** Oakridge, North facing, entertainment Dream, pool, sunroom, 3 beds, work from home, parking for 6-8 cars, very very quiet area, loads of extra's great security. R2, 499,000.00. Very serious seller, bought elsewhere. Lorraine Fox 084 456 2767

**Music Lessons:** Recorder with stories and rhythm. Guitar Piano and Violin. Accompaniment on guitar for extra fun. Tel: 079 566 5340 or 021 7622821. Lessons given at school or at home for siblings and parents.

**We are looking for a place to rent:** in Constantia for Grade 12 CWS female student – as close as possible to school, if possible furnished. Rental date :01 February 2012 or later Possible options: bachelor flat on yard of CWS family commuting daily 2 bedroom flat or cottage to share with another female. If anyone can assist please contact Silvia : [silvia@mweb.com.na](mailto:silvia@mweb.com.na) Cell: [+264 812846446](tel:+264812846446) - as of 03 Feb 0767107403

**Puppies:** Golden retriever/labrador type puppies for sale. Both parents malamute X retriever. Female, ready to go. R1000. Tel 021 788 7867.

**Magnificent house in Kalk Bay for sale:** Fantastic sea views and backing directly onto nature reserve. Five beds, three baths and self-contained separate two bed flat. Offers around R5.5 million. Tel 021 788 7867.

**Disclaimer:** Not all articles or advertisements are necessarily the views or opinions of the Editor or the Constantia Waldorf School.