

Wake up! News

Volume 9, Issue 1

First Term Impressions



From the Editor

The first school term of the year has been a busy one with 28 new children to settle. Whereas some fit straight in, others find the classroom quite a challenge, taking time learning to socialise and stay with a little task. During those first months at school one quote of Maria Montessori is very apt: "Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed". Especially the daycare teachers are applauded for their patience and caring attitudes.

We had some good late rain and we have seen the new channel at work. There is no more flooding of the playground! Our garden at the moment is thriving with spinach, beetroot, carrots and tomatoes. Some small renovations were done (the sandpit had been eaten by termites) and more is on the book.

We are now getting ready for the winter term. As Namibia has abolished wintertime, the early mornings will now be cold and dark. Let's put up some fairy lights!

Volunteers



We say thank you to Lea and Jule who spent two months with us in the daycare centre, tirelessly doing any job that came their way. We welcome gap-year students, seniors, international and local volunteers. Right now we could really use some creative and handy volunteers to reshape parts of the playground. There is always a job for you!

On the Staffing Front

In January an Admin/Centre Manager was appointed, responsible for all matters administration, finance and maintenance. He is presently assisted by a finance and accounting intern from NUST (the Namibian University of Science and Technology) and we are happy with this opportunity.



On the teaching front we have had some turmoil with the sudden resignation of two of our trained teachers who are hard to replace, especially since one of them was our expected new principal to take over from the present one this May 2018. So the hunt is still on for a mature teacher with management skills who is willing to take on the challenge of leading our team of teachers.

Retaining teachers is a major challenge, as so far the government is absorbing many qualified Montessori teachers and a centre like Wake up! can nowhere near compete with those salaries and benefits. To pay better salaries requires more fundraising, more lucrative exploitation of our facilities and to reconsider fees and sponsorships. This is all on the table for future consideration.

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