

BrakenJanner

DECEMBER 2019 No 10 NEWSLETTER



BRAK EN JAN
CRÈCHE & PRE-SCHOOL
Providing a Good Pre-School Foundation

Www.brakenjan.org.za

Better Future for the Children from
Surrounding Areas / Farms

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From the Children to all our Sponsors and Friends of Brak en Jan
WE ARE THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO FOR US



Welcome to the End of Year Newsletter, as always lots to read and see. There are articles from Christa (Chairman) , Mearle (Principle) , The Learning Initiative, and thank you letters from our two German Students who were here on their Summer Holidays as well as one from Ashlin our Student Teacher.

We had a wonderful trip to the Blue Train and a fantastic End of Year Function.

Enjoy the read. Robert—Editor and Board Member.

From The Editor— The Morning of the End of Year Function. Dec 8th 2019

“As I walked on the beach this sunny morning with strong winds and sand behind and in front sweeping into me, I reflected on the last eleven years.

We have come such a long way since Bernd Holtkamp and his friends from Germany funded and the students from The Technical University of Munich designed and built the creche.



On the way we have had strong winds against us, for example last year when we had our minibus off the road for six months and the bureaucracy in getting it sorted, more recently having to spend R24,000 on Fire Resistant paint for our two new Wendy houses. Why on earth are they not built with wood which is fire resistant ?

However the strongest winds have been behind us, the passion, love and dedication of the teachers, the amazing sponsors and friends of Brak en Jan, our partnerships with Masikhule. Hemel Op Arde The learning Initiative, Somerset College and Christa and her board who continually set new objectives for Brak en Jan.

The parents who are working with us and have attended courses to help with the development of their children. We hope even more parents will work with The Learning Initiative next year.

Our primary objective has always been to fulfil the potential of the staff and our children to prepare them for life and Primary School in all aspects of their lives.

The most important years of a child's life are at Pre-Primary.

A recent survey in South Africa showed that 76% of children are not ready for Reception and Grade 1. It was wonderful to have had such positive recent results for our Grade R where the assessor said that Brak en Jan was outstanding and every child was ready for Grade 1. Similarly our 4-5 year olds are ready for Grade R

Our greatest Legacy is not how much we own or how well we have done, it is To Make A Difference to our children who are the future.

All of us are blessed to have been able to Make a Difference to you at Brak en Jan.

To those Primary Schools receiving our Grade R children, please teach, encourage and love them so that they enjoy their school lives”



Chairman's Report.

"Thanksgiving is a glad and reverent lifting of the heart to God in honour and praise for His goodness"
James R. Miller.

At the end of 2019 we look back upon a year filled with blessings. The year started with the crèche/ preschool filled to capacity and teachers, children, driver, cook and gardener full of fire for the year ahead.

A few highlights for the year includes the following:

☑ W.C.E.D. has officially recognised Brak en Jan as satellite Preschool to Raithby

Primary School including the benefits of training courses for the teachers and a subsidy towards the education of the Grade R learners.

☑ Two new staff members were welcomed: Mr Arno Linders, the driver and me Shafieka Benjamin our new cook and general assistant. At the same time we bid a fond farewell to our previous driver Mr.C. America and cook/ general assistant Mrs Nicolet Davids.

☑ The 6 x R5000.00 month donation from Bosch Rexroth is a valuable contribution towards the day to day running costs of Brak en Jan.

☑ A tarred parking area at the Creche for the bus followed, which streamlined the transport of the children.



☑ Hemel op Aarde numeracy and literacy project, in keeping with the CAPS curriculum was introduced with weekly training sessions for teachers. Evaluations for both teachers and children alike followed, good reports were received all around.

The Dept of Education spent three days visiting the school and congratulated the school. All our children passed the tests and are ready for Grade 1. One child got 100% and several only answered one question incorrectly.

☑ The reading club with the learners from Somerset College Primary School, initiated by Mrs S. Theron, is well on its way. Brak en Jan's children

were blessed with books they could take home to start their own home libraries. The Reading Club grew into



so much more than a reading club as other activities like

music sessions and Yoga classes as well as reading times with the parents from Somerset College followed.

Chairman's Report Continued



OUR NEW
INFANT
TRAMPOLINE

Numerous gifts like wall fans for the classrooms, an infant trampoline and generous food donations were also received. We are overwhelmed by the generosity and extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved.

☑ A vegetable garden in brick planter boxes were established with the kind assistance of Mr. B. Holtzkamp and Me Britta Belz.

☑ The children of the Grade RR and R classes went on two outings to Giraffe World and Bugz Playpark in the second and third terms which was well enjoyed.



BERND HOLTZKAMP AND OUR
NEW VERGETABLE GARDENS

On the 28 November 2019 we took 73 children to the Rotary Blue Train in Green Point.

☑ Plans were drawn up for extensions to both the grade R -and Green (baby) classes and we are looking forward to the commencing of the work as soon as the plans has been approved.

☑ Negotiations towards a formal agreement between the Methodist Church and Brak en Jan Creche and Preschool are on the way.

☑ A visit by 2 German students in August and September 2019 was well enjoyed by the children, teachers and students alike.

The generosity in terms of love, time, effort, financially and so much more of our sponsors, donors, supporters, volunteers, teachers, staff members, board members and parents is overwhelming. Thank you to everyone, you are playing a key role in the development of the precious children of Brak en Jan as a good foundation to reach their full potential.

Christa DeFreitas—Chairman Brak en Jan Board

VISIT TO SOMERSET COLLEGE NOVEMBER 2019

In December, Somerset College came and collected the Brak en Jan Children for a day at the College.

The outing was a lot of fun, the three classes were divided into three groups, where we did different activities, playing outside, doing exercises, reading in the hall where the Grade 7 children spent time reading to our kids. The last activity was where the children could draw in the art room and playing games on the tablets. Somerset College sponsored a lot of school supplies in 2019 and each child received at least two books.

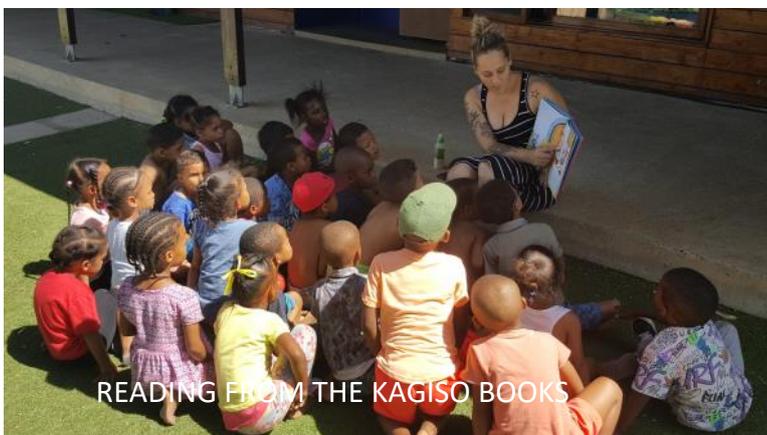


PRINCIPLE'S REPORT

We started the year with 104 children and at the moment we have 89, mainly due to the movement of parents.

All our classes have done very well.

Our new Department of Education R Class started in January, with the Caps Curriculum. In addition to this The R Class had the Kagiso Reading Books, Number Sense Books, The Hemel Op Aarde and Reading Eggs to integrate into the timetable. It was a lot to organise and I was very pleased how Kelly with the assistance of Ashlin did. The R Class Children performed very well in their Dept of Education assessment tests which were done at the end of the year and are ready for Class 1 in their various schools. Brak en Jan received very positive comments from the assessors who spent three days at the school.



Abigail in Class 4-5 worked very well with the Learning Initiative and received a certificate as a result.

I have been particularly pleased with the Class 3-4, Irma and Natasha have all the children cutting with scissors and colouring in lines.



Chalene and our new assistant Shafiqa had a lovely group in our infants class, the children have all started well.

We work on our theme packs from Masikhule and when we do not go, we do our own themes based on what we are teaching. Teachers are placing their previous week's work on the class wall before putting in the children's files.

Heaven on Earth will continue next year. They have been very pleased with all the teachers and children.

We are awaiting their official assessment.

Reading Eggs has done well with all the children participating, obviously reaching different stages in the year.

Ashlin (Our Teacher Student) has been helping with the Kagiso Readers and with the children building words with the flash cards.

Shafeika joined us during the year, she has settled in extremely well.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—CONTINUED



TRAINING Three teachers did the Elda training and I did the Caps (Grade R). Next year Shafeika will do the nutrition course, Charlene, Advanced Masikhule and two others the first aid course.

A big THANK YOU to Somerset College for everything that have done with us



this year. The Grade 7 Learners and parents were wonderful. They donated books, fans in all four classes, a trampoline for the smaller children and lots of dry food. Mums also came to read to the children.

Kirsty one of the mums has been doing Yoga with Class R. She has found it a wonderful experience and will continue.

Next Year we will have five classes by having Infants 1-2 and a Class for 2-3, presently they are combined.

Finally Aliyah Williams, an ex learner and who is now in Class 7 Raithby Primary was selected to play a part in Latieses Se Taxi on Kyknet. She is a good mannered child and very humble and a credit to Brak en Jan and her parents



A big thank you to everybody involved in Brak en Jan, we and the kids really appreciate it.

Mearle Hendricks—Principal

TWO LETTERS FROM OUR GERMAN STUDENTS MARIE AND LEA

Who spent their holidays with us in Aug/Sept.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Tannis and Uncle,

First of all, I would like to thank you with all my heart for this wonderful time you gave me.

You received us warmly in your team and tried to give us a lot of freedom, what make us very valued.

I admire your work with these kids and you really helped me to find out what I want to do in my future.

At the beginning, I thought one month is a long time but the time has passed so fast. Everyday I had good time in the kindergarten and everyday I got to know the kids even better. I rally enjoyed winning the trust of the kids and to become a welcome partner for them. I will always remember the kids, all Tannis and this great time and hopefully we will meet again very soon.

Thank you for everything. Marie Graf

Ladies and Gentleman,

It has been my dream for a really long time to support a kindergarten for children from disadvantaged families. So being part of the Brak en Jan team has been a great enrichment for me.

I realised how amazing this organisation is, giving children in need a perspective for the future.

We felt really well integrated in your team and enjoyed having multiple tasks and being able to take responsibility for the children.

It was fun teaching the children how to use the computers, teaching them new songs, helping them to handcraft, reading books and last but not least making them smile during the breaks.

Thank you for the great opportunity ! I am happy to keep supporting your project by donating money and telling friends about your amazing initiative.

See you soon, best regards. Lea Hofmann 18-09-2019

B4G End of Year Report

The Blocks 4 Growth program has officially come to a close for 2019. Throughout the year we completed close to 60 sessions with the children and in those sessions we have covered many different areas of development which include fine motor skills, gross motor skills, emotional development, language development and cognition in order to prepare the children for Gr R and primary school. Fourteen children graduated from our program and we are so unbelievably proud of the progress our kiddies made.



On the 7th of September we had a parent workshop in Macassar which discussed and explore how to create an environment to promote learning and skill development at home. The parents and teacher that attended were interactive and it was wonderful to get to know some of the parents that our team had not yet met.

Abigail (4-5 class teacher) has attended teacher support sessions throughout the year. In these sessions topics about development and different ways to encourage learning for all children were discussed. Abigail has been a huge asset to our program this year and she received a certificate for her participation and dedication to the program.

We look so forward to 2020 when we start working with the new 4-5-year olds and partnering with their teacher and parents to ensure they reach their potential and succeed.



Some thoughts from Ashlin our Student Teacher this year.

I started 2017 as a student in the baby Class 1-2 Year olds at Brak en Jan Creche.

The personnel at Brak en Jan gave me a warm welcome and I felt at ease whilst doing my work.

I am doing my 18 month Educare Practical now and this really was a fantastic experience. I love what I am doing and Brak en Jan was the only school where I could do what I wanted to do in terms of my study register.

I wasn't treated like a student, I have been like one of the teachers. I have been included in all the events throughout the year. I am proud being at Brak en Jan because they give me lots of opportunities with the small ones and teachers.

Through these years I have learned a lot and I know that I am going to be a good teacher for all the kids at our school. Thank you for the opportunities and thank you for trusting me with the kids, to teach them as my own and be the pillar the kids want me to be.



AGM—NOVEMBER 20th 2019

It was great that so many parents attended this important meeting in the year. We received reports from The Chairman, Principle and Treasurer. The board thanked the parents for their prompt payment of fees, there has been a big uplift this year and it is making a big difference to the finances. We are looking for parents to join the board, please contact Mearle.

VISITING SPEAKER

Unfortunately the invited guest speaker, Ms Sandy Theron, who was going to speak on the "Importance of Parents reading to their children in the home", had to cancel at the last moment. Christa de Freitas instead, addressed the parents and gave a few tips on "reading at home":

- a. Parents must show that they enjoy reading to their children.
- b. Children must be allowed to choose the book they want read.
- c. Children should be read to at the time of going to bed. This serves to calm them down ready before sleep.
- d. The concentration span of children is relatively short. Depending on the age, stories must not be too long.
- e. As they are reading a story, parents should ask questions to keep the children involved.
- f. Repetition of stories is good.
- g. Parents must continue to read to their children, even when they can read themselves.
- h. Reading stories aloud contributes to the bonding process between parents and children.
- i. Once the story has been read, get the children to tell the story back.

BLUE TRAIN VISIT





END OF YEAR FUNCTION—DECEMBER 8TH 2019

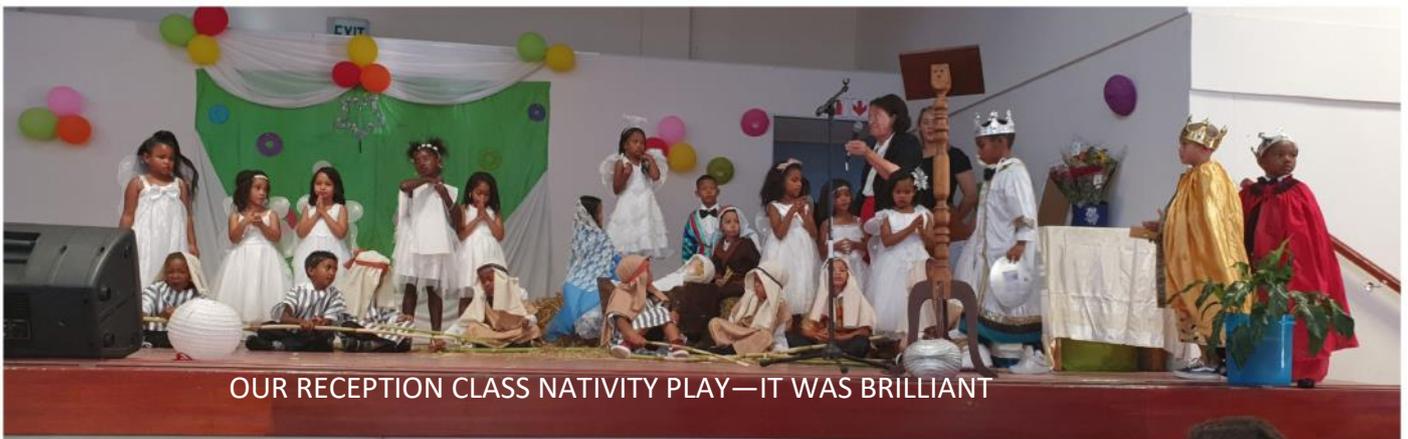
Brak en Jan's End of Year function took place at Firgrove Primary School Hall, in front of a packed audience of over 300 Parents, Friends and Siblings. This year we were blessed by having power throughout. We had a new sound engineer who ensured that the event went smoothly.

The program began with several awards being given to Parents and Sponsors, then it was the turn of the children who sang the National Anthem. This was followed by the various classes performing dance and song routines, then it was The Reception Class's Nativity play under the direction of Cathy Maclaren from The Raithby Methodist Church.

It really was amazing, a huge thank you to the staff, children, parents and all concerned.

Then we had certificates presented to children who had done particularly well in this past year.

This was followed by all the parents of the Reception Class coming onto the stage to receive their children's Graduation packs. Then the highlight of the afternoon when the children came forward in their gowns and mortar boards to stand beside their parents. Several of the children were awarded certificates for outstanding achievement. Then to the delight of all the children, they came up to receive their Santa Shoeboxes. A big Thank You to all our donors who supplied the boxes, just see the joy on the children's faces.





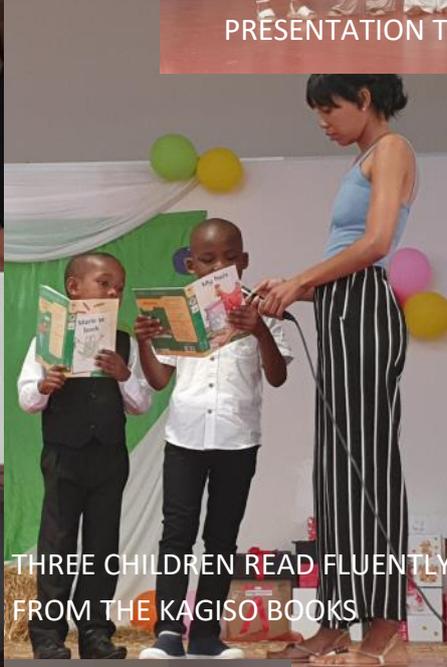
OUR 1-2 YEAR OLD CLASS



PARENTS WITH THEIR GRADUATION CHILDREN



PRESENTATION TO MEARLE FROM THE TEACHERS



THREE CHILDREN READ FLUENTLY FROM THE KAGISO BOOKS



A SPECIAL AWARD

