

# BrakenJanner



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

**AUGUST 2019 Newsletter No 9**

[Www.brakenjan.org.za](http://www.brakenjan.org.za)

Better Future for the Children from  
Surrounding Areas / Farms

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## Welcome to our latest newsletter.

I am editing this from the UK, so a big thank you to Christa our Chairman and Mearle and the teachers for providing me with reports and photos from the last three months.

As ever it has been a very busy constructive period with the installation of a new Wendy House as well as new hard standing for the mini-bus which we now park at the school under the protection of an alarm. Somerset College have again been very supportive with the supply of classroom fans and a trampoline specifically for the very young children, we have had wonderful donations from Bosch and Mr Gustav Meuter who had a collection on his birthday.

### A note from our Chairman, Christa.

With 2019 past the halfway mark, Brak en Jan crèche and Pre School counts it's blessings.

We are privileged to be filled to capacity with a waiting list in place.

The Western Cape Department of Education visited our newly registered grade R class in July, to evaluate practices and standards. A stamp of approval was given.

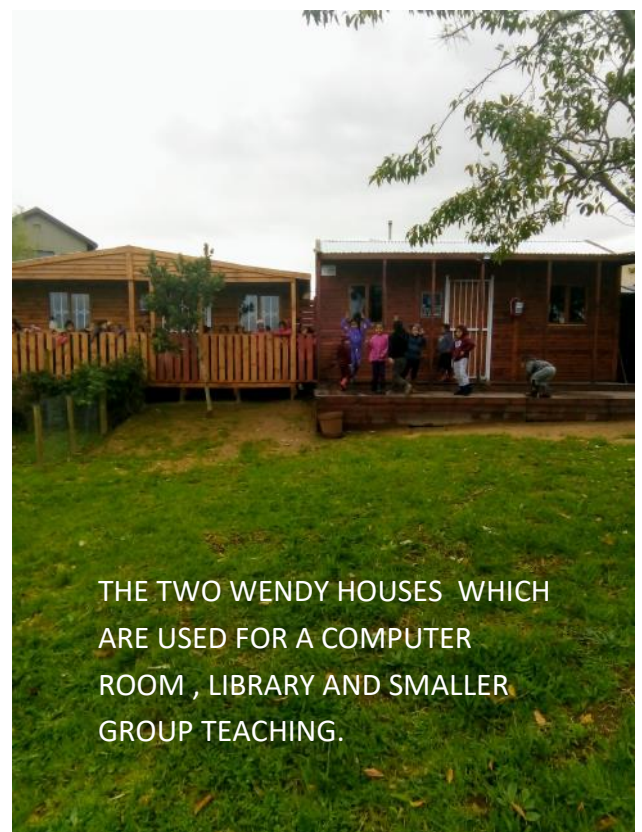
With the good rainfall we have experienced, rain water harvesting is in full swing and all the tanks are full and supply the washing machine and toilets.

Sponsorships and donations, for which we are eternally grateful, supports a quality learning experience for the children.

Hemel op Aarde project, Kagiso readers, Masikhule theme packs, Reading Eggs programme, the Learning Initiative and Somerset College Reading Club, amongst others, add spice to the learning life. We are looking forward to the next visit from the children of Somerset College reading club on 27/8/2019 and the parents on 10/9/2019.



OUR NEW WENDY HOUSE



THE TWO WENDY HOUSES WHICH ARE USED FOR A COMPUTER ROOM , LIBRARY AND SMALLER GROUP TEACHING.

## Chairman's Report (Cont)

A visit to Giraffe World and the upcoming "Pirates and Princesses" fashion show fund raise (31/8/2019) injects even more.

We said goodbye to Christy our driver (retirement) and Nicolette our general assistant (due to poor health). A heartfelt thank you to them both for the value they have added to Brak en Jan crèche life.

Welcome to Arno our new driver and Shafieka our new general assistant. May you find great joy as part of the Brak en Jan staff team.

The planning of a vegetable garden at the crèche is taking shape and should be implemented in September.

A huge thank you to the staff, board members, volunteers, interested parties, parents and children. Without you there would not have been this unique opportunity to build into the lives and futures of the precious children in our care.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year with great expectation.

### **Bosch Visit.**

Sabine Seigner, one of Brak n Jan's supporters and donors introduced the crèche and pre-school and it's needs to Bosch Primavera in Germany.

Brak en Jan was honoured by a visit from Mr. Olsen from Bosch Primavera Germany, Mr Mike Harrison Regional director Bosch Rexroth South Africa and the Western Cape representative on 20 June 2019. They showed a lot of appreciation for the existing facilities, the teaching curriculum followed as well as the opportunities offered to the children. They expressed interest in involvement in the school and requested a wish list to discuss at their upcoming meeting. Valuable suggestions like a separate play area for the smaller children, a vegetable garden and year round collection of clothes for the children were offered by the visitors. A heartfelt thank you to Bosch Rexroth Hytec who donated, on a monthly basis, 6 x R5000,00. It will be a valuable contribution to improve the school environment as an extension to the grade R class is needed and the baby class needs a separate room for the baby cots. Thanks to Sabine who raised awareness.

## We welcome Shafeika who has joined Brak en Jan



## The Children and Teachers 2019



## New Wendy and Bus Parking

The new wendy, added earlier this year, is now in full use. The ladies from Learning Initiative enjoy the extra space and uninterrupted time with the children in their care. Daily reading groups from the Grade R class also benefit from the extra space as smaller groups get more attention in the separate space. It is also being used as arts and crafts facility.

A bus parking space was added to the side of the school building. The alarm system has been extended to include the parking space and a light for those dark early winter's mornings installed. We welcomed a new driver Arno to the staff, who finds the new parking space quite helpful. A great thank you to Arno for all the driving he has done already and we wish him a very happy and productive time as part of the Brak en Jan family.

## E.L.D.A.S. Training by Abigail

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2019 Mearle and I attended a workshop at the Junior Academy. The workshop was presented by Lauren and Lizette and the theme was E.L. D. A. (Early learning Areas) To me the highlight was the identification of the six kinds of ELDAS, namely:

Wellbeing

Identity and sense of belonging

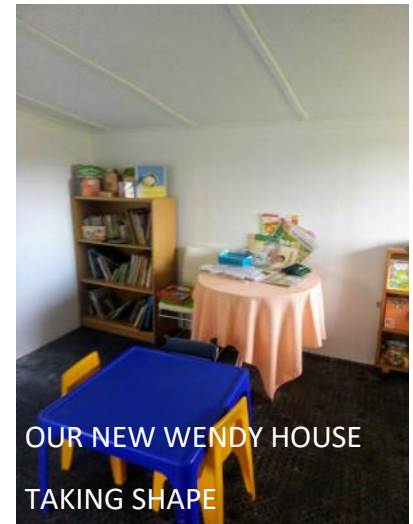
Communication

Explore mathematics

Creativity

Knowledge and understanding of the world

The opportunity to experience what the children in the class environment experience were offered when we played school. We were divided into groups to role play the different ELDAS in a make believe classroom environment.



### Brak en Jan Report from The Learning Initiative

The Learning Initiative has been running their ECD program, Blocks 4 Growth, at Brak en Jan over the past 7 months. We now have 14 kids in our groups and we have had close to 40 sessions. Lately we have been focusing on numeracy components (counting, recognising numbers, categorising objects) which are the 'building blocks' for children to later be able to do maths. We have also focused on gross motor skills which involve strengthening the big muscles of the body. We need strong gross motor skills to be able to sit up straight, play outside, dress and wash ourselves and because these big muscles are needed to support our smaller hand movements (needed to write, thread and tie shoelaces).

We are seeing wonderful improvement in these areas, but we are also seeing improvement in behaviour, concentration, confidence and in the children's desire to learn. This has all been made possible because of the parents spending extra time working with their children at home (homework is sent out twice weekly) and because of teacher Abigail's dedication and clever planning of classroom activities.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September we will host our second parent workshop which we will invite all parents of the 4-5 year old class to attend. The aim of our parent workshop is to discuss and explore how to create an environment to promote learning and skills development at home. In addition to the information, each parent receives a stimulation pack, food, transport money and a cell phone app that provides additional ideas for educational activities to do at home. We hope to have many of our Brak en Jan parents and staff joining us on the day!

## Siyabulela visit by Natasha Gordon.

On June the 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 Mearle and I, visited the Siyabulela Creche and Pre school in Kleinmond. The principal and teachers welcomed us.

It was a wonderful privilege for me to go as I have learned a lot from the teacher for the 2 – 3 year old class. New ideas as how to approach lessons were offered and as a bonus the teacher shared her books for planning of lessons and progress reports with me, which will help me a lot in my own planning for and evaluation of the children in my class. She also gave me some activity pages they use to use in my class. I was very grateful. It was nice to exchange ideas. We were treated to lunch where we could exchange more ideas and share our work experiences.

## Lots of Clover Yoghurt donated.

A big thank you to Clover who donated a large number of boxes for the children and their families



HUGE CLOVER YOGHURT DELIVERY



CHILDREN WITH THEIR YOGHURT PACKS



MEARLE, NATASHA, NATASHA AND ALTA

## Siyabulela and Brak en Jan

Natasha and Mearle's visit followed on from Alta and Natasha's visit to Brak en Jan in April 2019. There are so many similarities between the schools and we hope that there will be many more visits in the future. I am sure that it will be a huge benefit to the Teachers and Schools. A big thank you to Alta for making them so welcome and for the looking after them so well. It is great that Mearle and Alta are also in regular contact sharing experiences and advice.



AT BRAK AND JAN APRIL 2019

## Teaching Theme: Red: Shapes.

The Red Class (3 – 4 year olds) enjoyed the theme on shapes tremendously.

We worked with the different shapes. The children were introduced to the different shapes. They had the opportunity to apply their new found knowledge by building the shape puzzle.

Different activities were done with the shapes. They had to colour, paint and stick the different shapes.

## Mandela Day.

Somerset College spent the day at Braken Jan. Four wall fans were donated and installed in the classrooms. A trampoline donated for the smaller children, with safety nets, was an instant favourite. Lots of toys, books and puzzles for the classrooms were included in this very generous gift from Somerset College, a true blessing.

The children from Somerset College spent their 60 Mandela Day minutes with the Gr.R class. Games were played



NEW TRAMPOLINES FOR THE YOUNG ONES.

## SOME THEMES THIS WINTER TERM

### Teaching Theme: Yellow (4 – 5 year olds) Vegetables.

The yellow class enjoyed the theme about vegetables a lot. The children named the different colours found in vegetables and used the colours for different other purposes. Vegetables were offered to see, touch and taste to stimulate their senses. Many children could not recognise or name the vegetables which gave me the opportunity to introduce it to them. The winter vegetables and their uses were highlighted.



OUR NEW FANS FROM SOMERSET COLLEGE



CHILDREN WITH THE TRAMPOLINE DELIVERY

## Reading Eggs—Progress report.

The children can't wait to go to and are always excited about the Reading Eggs Class. Good progress was made by all. Some children manage the work very well on their own, while others still need help as they do not always understand what is expected of them. Skyler, one of the girls, used to cry when she did not understand what to do, but nowadays she is quite excited about Reading Eggs as she can manage on her own. It is so rewarding to see them improve like that.

The children learn a lot of words and when they are finished for the day they can remember exactly which words they have learned when asked. The children learn a lot by making use of the programme.

## Kagiso Reading progress report.

At the moment book 3 "Help" is in use. The book is relatively easy and the group that read it previously approach it positively. It is quite an adjustment for the children to read the actual words instead of giving their own interpretation of the picture. They are getting used to how the words are written as well as how they sound. They still get confused with a few words that sounds the same or starts with the same letter. The children are easily distracted as they find it difficult to sit still and focus on the book for a longer period of time. All the children are doing their best at this stage and there is good progress noticeable.

**And finally:-** We hope to arrange two outings for the children including a visit to the Blue Train at Mouille Point in December. Later this August two students from Germany, Lea and Marie are coming to work at Brak en Jan, we are so looking forward to meeting them. Finally construction of our new raised vegetable garden starts in August.

**Please sign up on our website home page [www.brakenjan.org.za](http://www.brakenjan.org.za) to receive future newsletters.**

**THANK YOU FOR INTEREST AND SUPPORT Mearle (Principal)**

