



# w-mail

## 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester 2014 Challenge Parzival Outing // Hit the Beat 2014 – Performing Arts Project // Project Partnership with the City of Schwäbisch Hall // Teachers Empowered // Portraits

### Parzival Outing with Grade 11

I am Isabelle Fourie, Executive Member of NAPHA, which stands for Namibia Professional Hunters Association and one of the first female Big Game Hunters in Southern Africa.

My dream is to teach our kids about nature, its wonders and how to be able to live from, in and with nature. That is why NAPHA is prepared to get involved in projects like these. As a Hunters Association led by hunters, our interest lies in the safe keeping of our wildlife and the whole of our natural habitat. We want to show the future generation what treasure is out there, what beauty. Namibia's natural habitat has so much to offer to young people. The kids of today are the leaders of tomorrow and thus will also be the keepers of our natural habitat. They can learn, how our ancestors lived!

In this age, everything is steered by cell phones, computers and technical haste, giving the youth no time to go into themselves to learn what they really are. But we have a country with an abundance of nature and wildlife, that can teach them to every now and then, take off the pace and find themselves again.

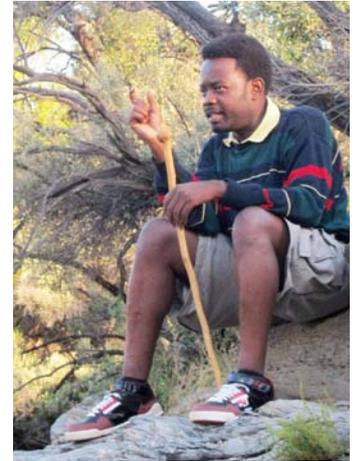
At the beginning of the week,

I was only Janke's Mom and was confronted with 21 modern town kids, with no or little clue about nature. Only what they have learned in school, but no real practical experience. Within this week, I watched these kids grow in soul and mind. I bombarded them with challenges like having only cold baths in the river to keep clean, collecting their own tea, drinking water from the river, facing armies of bugs, wind,

heat, cold and hard rocky beds, walking them for miles through rough territory. The first day, we even came across a snake, which I could only hear, but not see. Every single one of them reacted fantastically and put so much trust into me. The second day, we saw three small non-poisonous snakes, that were so fast, that only the kids in front had the opportunity to view them. One snake actually sailed over a girl's feet to get away. The wonder happened: No one screamed and all of them were astonished by the beauty of this slender creature.

On our walk on the plateau, building up the camp in the afternoon, was a sight to see. At that moment I wished that you could have seen these grownups, working in a group, showing interest and building a home in the wilderness together, even if it was only for one night. I took a moment to watch them and my heart went out to those worthy adults. They were ready for their next and last challenge!

The next day, we went for a



Shapumba Shapumba, music teacher

stalk to a herd of Blue Wildebeest and to top it, I shot a young Wildebeest for dinner. We even took out the intestines in the field and yes, some of you will probably say eeeuuuu! These young adults had their first experience of what it meant to survive in nature. They had the opportunity to touch our quarry, to prepare it for the table and to taste, what they have hunted. All of them now knew, that in order to survive, you had to offer something and still give it the



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respect it deserved. I showed them the ritual of respect you give to your quarry after the hunt. I taught them the basics of how to live in, from and with nature and the abundance God gave us to be able to do that. We even had a Blue Wildebeest bull shortly listening in to the story of Parcival.

Some would think, this is too much to challenge a town looper with in only 4 days. I tell you, if there was a war and I had to hide in the wilderness, I would take each one of these 21 young warriors with me and we will live like kings! I would trust each of them with my life. That's how fast and eager they learned in only four days.

The theme of this project was Parzival and thus we had a lot of lessons and readings. The heart of the story however was the Holy Grail. No one knows what it really is, but kids, we now know. The grail gave food and drink to those sitting in the grail castle. This is all you actually need to survive. So in this week, we were in the grail itself. We saw the wonders the grail had to offer. The wonders of nature in its purity, given to us by God to use and also take care of, so that the grail can give life to all generations to come. The grail is nature, it is life itself in its most basic and pure form. Remember kids, nature is life and is as it always will be your grail in life. It can not only give you a home, food and drink, but it can

also heal you and itself. Keep it safe, respect it and return to it every now and then, to feel what unbelievable strength it can give to you, whenever you think, that you can't take it anymore. I promise you, you will never be disappointed!!

I started with you as Janke's Mom and I ended this trip as the mom of 21 valuable young women and men. Thank you all for your trust in me and especially in being able to have four days of your lives to see you as the adult human beings, you are able to become. I love you all and am overwhelmed with pride of having such worthy kids! May the Holy Grail give you a fulfilling life. God bless you.  
*Isabelle Fourie (Mother in grade 11)*

**Hit the Beat 2014**  
Let's move it - Performing Arts Project  
Choir & Friends with Percussion, Theatre, Dance

Special guests: **GONZO N FRIENDS**

**Friday, 11 July 2014**  
**Saturday, 12 July 2014**  
**19h00**  
**Warehouse Theatre**  
Old Breweries Complex,  
Tal Street 40, Windhoek  
Tickets: N\$ 50

Available at school office  
061-41 52 50 or at the door

[www.waldorf-namibia.org](http://www.waldorf-namibia.org) **GONZO N FRIENDS** **MOVEL Umir** [www.hit-the-beat.org](http://www.hit-the-beat.org)

Waldorf School Windhoek

Design: [www.waldorf-namibia.org](http://www.waldorf-namibia.org)

## Hit the Beat 2014

We are all really looking forward to our next "Hit the Beat Project 2014" from 23 June to 12 July 2014. Like last year Carmen Voigt, Luigi Scarano and Gonzo N Friends will be joining me. In addition we will have Tony Muirhead (a drummer in Windhoek) joining us as well and of course Barbara Stauffer and Shapumba Shapumba from the teachers side (and hopefully more teachers might join us). As discussed last October with the learners we are offering a voluntary 2nd project week during the Midterm break. When I asked who wanted to join in October

there were about 80 hands up – therefore we have organised Gonzo n' Friends to be there during this week. The lists I have received from your teachers show a lot less names. It would really be sad to have only a few participants with all the workshop leaders coming in from Germany.

We will organise the week in a way that we will be working between 10h00 and 17h00 – obviously not everyone will have to be there all the time – it will depend on which field you want to be in (dance/singing/drumming etc). Gonzo n' Friends will be performing at Warehouse during that week on 3 occasions and it will be possible for some of you to join

them there as well. During the actual project weeks before and after the Midterm break we will have workshops until 15h15 again so please take care to keep your afternoons free during these weeks – it is compulsory for all learners of grade 10-12. I am very happy that there will be some former learners that are joining us to either sing along or even teach us some of their music. We will organize food and drinks for this week which will take place on the school grounds.

Our sponsor Marion Würth intends to come to see the performance as well, so we are all very much looking forward to these upcoming weeks! *Simone de Picciotto*

## Project Partnership with the City of Schwäbisch Hall

From 22th to the 29th of March, a group of delegates from the City of Schwäbisch Hall visited Namibia for a fact-finding journey in order to get into conversation with representatives from potential twin towns (Ondangwa, Eenhana, Outapi). The delegation include the following persons: Mr Hermann-Josef Pilgrim, Lord Mayor of Schwäbisch Hall,



Mr Hans Georg Reber, First Deputy Mayor and Councillor, Mr Hartmut Baumann, Second Deputy Mayor and Councillor, Mr Rüdiger Carl Schorpp, Councillor.

Mathew Shikongo (Chairperson of WSW), Anna Esther Ndipondoka (Acting CEO from NTA), Ulrich Kleber, Rüdiger Wolf and Hans-Peter Seeger accompanied the group.

Considering the friendly co-operation between Namibia and Germany, the goals are to bring the citizens of our nations closer together, to get to know new cultures, and to build partnerships in future projects. Visit our website for more information [www.waldorf-namibia.org/press](http://www.waldorf-namibia.org/press)

## Hermann Josef Pilgrim new Member of the Board of Trustees



Hermann-Josef Pilgrim talking to learners in Ondangwa

After various encounters with Hermann-Josef Pilgrim Lord Mayor of Schwäbisch Hall we approached him and he agreed to be a new member of the Board of Trustees in Germany. We warmly welcome him and we are looking forward to a fruitful relationship.

## Management handing over in Germany

Hans-Peter Seeger (right) and the newly appointed Manager Christian Bosse (second person from the left side) traveled all over Germany to meet with our partners and donors. At the picture: Meeting with "Freunde der Erziehungskunst" in Stuttgart.



## We welcome our new Grade 1



On Tuesday 28 January 2014 we welcomed our new grade 1: their teacher, Mrs Minberg, the 21 children and their parents at school. The grade 2 class performed a little play and whilst the first lesson was taking place, the parents waited in the Teacher's Garden getting to know one another over a cup of tea or coffee. *Kathi Damon*

## Teachers Empowered: Down to the roots and forward

I was very excited to be invited to introduce my program Teachers Empowered to one of the top Waldorf schools worldwide regarding the range of diversity of their students. The differences in economical, racial and cultural backgrounds are wonderfully real at the Waldorf School in Windhoek, meaning: They represent what's out there in the city, in the country and our world. Would Teachers Empowered be helpful to the staff facilitating these social dynamics and teaching the students?

In the two day seminar that my colleagues Susan Uushona, Ben Schernick and myself were facilitating we started off by working on the self and the personality of the teacher and the deeper reasons behind choosing this profession. Reconnecting with our deeper purpose allowed us to approach conflict with an attitude of "what is trying to happen here?" instead of "what should be corrected here?" Conflict can be a gateway to building community. Especially in social fields with a lot of diversity, conflict provides us with a big opportunity to develop an understanding of where we are coming from and how we can co-create a more inclusive way of living and learning together. Finally we were looking into how our inner attitudes determine the outcome of behaviour and were practicing skills to work internally on what disturbs us on the outside to the point



Lucas Hohler, Susan Uushona, Ben Schernick

of sleepless nights (our "star disturbers"). At the end of the two days, the atmosphere in the room felt alive and buzzing. From the feedback that we got we conclude that we have been of support to the teachers and their own learning path around their profession and also in their personal lives. As the facilitation team we have great appreciation and respect for the work everyone at Waldorf Windhoek is doing. Ben Schernick and Susan Uushona will continue the program in Windhoek, working with all the teachers in large and small group settings, and I will come back in January 2015 for another two day workshop. *Lukas Hohler*

**Teachers Empowered** is a personality-oriented empowerment program that supports teachers in strengthening their sense of feeling alive in their profession and in developing their leadership capacities. Grundkraft (Lukas Hohler's Company) has also developed the programs Youth Workers Empowered and Leaders Empowered. [www.teacherempowered.net](http://www.teacherempowered.net), [www.starke-lehrkraefte.net](http://www.starke-lehrkraefte.net), [www.grundkraft.de](http://www.grundkraft.de)



## Rafaela Nys

Hallo! I'm Raphaëla, 17, my home country is Belgium. In August 2013 (first time for me in Namibia and at WSW) I directly fell in love with the school, the people and just the way how everything goes in Namibia. When I was back in Europe I just knew that I needed to go back... In January 2014, I landed again in Windhoek – for a stay of 3 months! My class, grade 11, welcomed me with open arms and I felt directly again at home! Grade 11: a class full of spirit and very dynamic. I'm very thankful that they were so open to me and I really felt a part of this class. Breaks were always just fun, hanging around with the class and with the other students. That's what I found so special... In break it doesn't matter from which class you are; you're just a learner at the WSW!

I stayed in the hostel and that was a whole experience on its own! In the hostel we were with 27 children. You live, learn and look after each other and you make a lot of fun together! I'm really thankful to all the people who were there and looked after me and I'm really missing them! I know; one day I will visit WSW again!

## Events June–July 2014

**Tue 3.6.2014**

AGM – Annual General Meeting

**Wed 4.6.2014**

Parents Association Meeting

**Sat 7.6.2014**, Green Market, grade 4

**Mon 16.6.2014**

Day of the African Child Festival

**Thu 16.6.2014**

Internal Trimester Festival

**Fri 20.6.2014**

Jeans4giraffe Casual Day

**Sat 21.6.2014**

Trimester Festival

**Mon 23.6.2014**

Hit the Beat Project starts

**Tue 24.6.2014**

St John's Festival (Primary school)

**Sat 28.6.–6.7.2014**, Mid-Term Break

**Wed 9.7.2014**

Parents Association Meeting

**Fri/Sat 11.+12.7.2014**

Hit the Beat Concert at Warehouse Theatre

## Astrid Grosse-Weischede

I was born in Pretoria, South Africa the eldest of three children. I call Namibia home, because this is where I grew up and where all the people I love stay.

I completed my schooling at DHPS in 2006 and started my tertiary education at the University of Education in Freiburg, Germany. In 2009 I returned to Namibia and started studying through UNISA towards a teaching degree specializing in English, Mathematic and Afrikaans. For the past three years I taught at DHPS in Grades 5 to 8, teaching English, Afrikaans and Mathematic, as well as being a class teacher.

I am happy to have made the transition to a school where I can focus on the child as a whole, as well as being a positive part of the child's development. I am the mother of a four year old boy, who is currently in Pre-primary here at the school.



## Trainee teachers University of Flensburg

Within an information lesson at our university in Flensburg we got to know about the opportunity to do an internship at the Waldorf School Windhoek. We were excited about the idea to teach at a school with another background, philosophy, mentality and new culture. As we are in the third semester studying German and Geography/History, we would like to learn more about different teaching methods and practice teaching, while we get to know different teachers. The school gives us this chance in really nice way. In the first two weeks we got to know the school structure, the pupils, the mentality and the culture. After the midterm break we will start to take over some own lessons. The intercultural exchange gives us both a lot to think of and even more for life and our teachers personality. Therefore we are really thankful for the possibility and hope that the cooperation will last long and give some more young people these experiences. [www.uni-flensburg.de](http://www.uni-flensburg.de)



## Susan Cloete

I was born on the 26th April some years ago and bring with me a many years of customer service, sales and organizational experience. I am a lover of people, I like to keep busy and I am always ready to lend a helping hand. My other passions are reading, good food and friends. Family is of utmost importance to me and I will move heaven and earth for those I call family and friends. I am excited to become part of the Waldorf School culture (I feel at home already), and hope to become the warm and welcoming face of the school.



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## Alumni Series 2: Cyclist Heiko Redecker is looking for sponsors

Our former learner and aspiring professional cyclist is looking for sponsors. His focus is on the Cross Country Olympic (XCO) discipline but he also participates in Road cycling and Cross Country Marathon (XCM) races. With national titles in all three disciplines from his junior years to present day he has shown great potential on the National racing circuit. He is currently in Europe participating at World Cup level events and will also be representing Namibia at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July.

→ Continue reading [www.waldorf-namibia.org](http://www.waldorf-namibia.org)

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