

WESTLAKE UNITED CHURCH TRUST



WESTLAKE VILLAGE NEWS (JANUARY 2009)

2008 has finished on a high note with many important milestones along the way.

The renovations and extensions to the community centre are almost complete and should be ready for the staff and community to enjoy the new facilities by the end of February 2009.



INTERNET CAFÉ

An exciting rider to this is the internet café which Steenberg Golf Club will sponsor. It's going to be "a first for Westlake" and will incorporate Personal Computer training programs, from an introductory level up to more advanced. The programs will be

offered by the International Computer Driving License Company and successful graduates will have an internationally accredited qualification, which will most certainly open up job opportunities.

HOME BASED CARE

Eight of our Home Based Carers have received Ancillary Health Care Training (SETA accredited) from the Adult Learning Network. The HBC unit's work has now extended to the southern suburbs where the retirement centres of Dreyersdal Park and Musgrave Park have been served by our Carers, as have a number of other individuals in their own homes.



Many letters of thanks and commendation have been received, all of which is a fitting tribute to the magnificent work carried out by our dedicated team.

EMMANUEL EDUCARE CENTRE

Emmanuel Educare has had a most productive year, culminating in 47 of the 116 registered learners moving on to "big school." Emmanuel again shared the Reddam House School stage in a joint ballet production of Noah's Ark. The performance was fantastic! As a result three of the Emmanuel children have been sponsored to join the Reddam Ballet School in 2009. A special mention must be made of Karen Butler, the ballet teacher, who has coached the little ones to a level that is nothing less than exceptional.



In December a talent scout visited the preschool, watched and filmed some of the children dancing, and consequently another three have been chosen to take part in a TV commercial for Disneyland USA. This is further confirmation of the levels of excellence achieved at Emmanuel.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Adult Basic Education and Training classes have expanded to include Afrikaans speakers as well as those whose mother tongues are English and Xhosa. Interestingly, the original learners were a small group of primarily French speakers from Central Africa, trying to improve their understanding and use of English.



We recently heard that three of the ladies and one man, from the group, have secured permanent jobs because of their abilities to communicate in English. We are delighted.

A total of 21 learners attend the two classes every week and the oldest is 73 years of age. Well done Gys, you've proved that one is never too old to learn!

JUMPMATH PROGRAM

Whilst talking about education, we must affirm Dorothy Raine and her team of 15 facilitators who ran two JumpMath programs in 2008. The Canadian-designed programs provide an innovative and fresh approach to Mathematics that has helped 35 children from grades 4 to 6 to enjoy and have a better understanding of this important subject. Dorothy said the level of engagement of the children with the facilitators took them all by surprise and the attendance levels were consistently high. So you see, "Maths can be fun after all!" The results can be seen in their school performance reports.

NACOSA AND COMMUNITY CHEST

Two of our Advice Office staff also "hit the books" this year. Anthea and Khanya received training from NACOSA and the Community Chest respectively. The NACOSA courses comprised basic

accounting, human resources and organizational governance as well as project management. The Community Chest covered office skills.

CAPE COLLEGE

Two of the pre-school teachers have been taking learnership classes in Grade R Education at Cape College.

With all this grey matter bursting out, it's no wonder that we can praise God for another outstanding year of His grace at WUCT. There are many stories that we have not been able to tell here and to "keep up with things," we would like to refer you to our new and interactive website:

www.wuct.org.za

Have a peaceful and fruitful 2009

