

How we celebrated 100 years of Waldorf at Michael Oak Waldorf School in Cape Town, South Africa

Nicole Sparks



In our kindergarten at Michael Oak Waldorf School, we chose the theme of 'Nourishing Communities' as a celebration and honouring of 100 years of Waldorf Education. The children in our care come from various communities in Cape Town and we were encouraged by this to celebrate the rich diversity.

During the first term we collected 100 food items and donated it to a local cooking and feeding scheme for vulnerable children. Each child at our kindergarten very kindly brought one or two items of food to add to the food crate.

During the month of Ramadan, we invited some of our Muslim parents to share stories and customs practised during the holy month. They told stories about fasting, doing good deeds and sharing, which are all important aspects of Ramadan. Each kindergarten class cooked a large pot of soup and made sandwiches which was donated to an orphanage. The children were then invited to feast upon dates and other Cape Malay traditional treats.

We invited the kindergarten children from our sister school, Zenzeleni Waldorf, to celebrate our Spring Festival with us at the end of the third term. In preparation for this lovely celebration, we asked our children and their parents to donate cuttings of spekboom -an indigenous succulent plant, which we planted into 100 small individual pots. The children cared for these little plants for several months, knowing that they would be gifted to the children of Zenzeleni Waldorf Kindergarten and planted in their school garden.

On the day of the festival 30 excited children from Zenzeleni and their 2 teachers were welcomed by our equally excited children. They played in the gardens, explored the classrooms and each one was presented with a beautiful flower crown which was made by our older children. We danced around the spring maypole (we also call it a maypole, even though our spring is in September!), feasted at

our picnic, and then listened to a beautiful story about a garden told in isiXhosa and English. At the end of the festival the children from Zenzeleni were presented with 100 spekboom plants to plant at their school.

What a wonderful year it has been for us, to honour and celebrate 100 years of Waldorf Education. May it prosper for many hundred years to come!



Nicole Sparks is a kindergarten teacher from Cape Town, South African and has been teaching in Waldorf Schools and International Schools since 2006. She has a passion for travel, cooking and learning from different cultures. Nicole is also involved in the Emergency Pedagogy work in SA.