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Denis Goldberg



Denis Goldberg House of Hope

Newsletter no. 24

May 2024

NEW PROGRAMMES

In recent newsletters we reported that during school term-time we now had regular weekly activities for young people on every day of the week except Sunday. In this newsletter we report on three new programmes that we have introduced since the start of 2024. We also report briefly on the show 'n tell at the end of the first term, and the three-day holiday programme at the end of March.

SCIENCEMAKESART



This new experimental programme started with a big-bang launch at which we were honoured to welcome the director of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, Max Hollein, and his colleague, Alisa LaGamma. We held the launch late afternoon on the day of the Argus Cycle Race. Over 60 people faced the challenge of road closures to hear our patron, Albie Sachs, speak about Denis Goldberg's and his own relationships to art, and Ralph Borland present on his amazing multi-disciplinary projects and creations.

We held the first session of our new programme very soon after. The programme is a partnership between the DGHOH and the Cape Town Science Centre. It targets children in the highest three grades of primary school, and aims to give them knowledge and experience of how science links to art.

In the first session the children learnt about how the eye sees motion, and then made thaumatropes and flipbooks that illustrated what they had learnt. Subsequent sessions explored optical illusions and Op Art, and then wind and force through making wind gauges and two types of kites. Unfortunately, there was not a breath of wind on the kite-making day, but each child took their creations home to test when the wind returned.

READING WITH CHLOE

Grade seven learner Chloe Coleman is our youngest facilitator, and a favourite with the children who attend her sessions. Chloe attended several of our holiday programmes in the past. When she became too old for the holiday programmes, she decided she wanted to volunteer at the DGHOH. Chloe is a fanatical reader and our library has been the grateful recipient of some of the books she has outgrown. We therefore grabbed the opportunity of a reading programme in which she could share her love of books with younger children.

Every third week Chloe and Nikita Blouw, one of our programme assistants, facilitate a one-hour session during which Chloe reads one of her favourite books to the children, and they then make art and play games. The sessions take place on Saturday mornings, and a growing number of the children who attend the first hip hop class of the day are joining the reading session afterwards. Chloe and Nikita plan the sessions on the Thursday afternoon before each session.

In the first three sessions the books read have been *Rhinos Don't Eat Pancakes*, *Dogs Don't Do Ballet*, *My Best, Best Friend*, *Purple Spaghetti*, and *Apples are Apples*.

DRAMA WITH NICOLE

Since the start of this year Nicole Senekal has facilitated our drama sessions. Nicole, who is the drama teacher at the nearby International School, is building the DGHOH children's ability and confidence in a range of skills underlying drama performances. The group games and activities that form part of Tuesday's sessions meanwhile strengthen the children's collaboration, communication and creative thinking abilities.

The first term's sessions focussed on improvisation and storytelling. This included using the Greek play of Pandora's box to teach the children about playing different characters as well as storytelling. In the second term Nicole is building the children's vocal skills through poetry and choral verse. She has recently started preparing the children for their planned participation in the Cape Town Eisteddfod, which will take place early in the third term.



MUSIC SHOW 'N TELL

On Saturday 16 March the children who participate in our weekly group music-making sessions performed for family and friends. Facilitator Mulalo Mphaphuli designed the programme in a way that allowed him to explain and show the audience how and what he is teaching the children. The programme thus included rhythm patterns with drums, shakers and clapping, singing of note sequences, and some tunes on the recorder. It ended with several pieces on the xylofuns. Everyone - children and audience - enjoyed the performance. One of the mothers was even inspired and brave enough to join the children on the xylofuns.



INSECTS AND OTHER BUGS

The focus of the three-day programme was insects, with a few non-insect bugs thrown into the mix at several points. As usual, the programme included a variety of arts and craft, movement, games, competitions, and stories grouped around this theme. Visitors to the DGHOH will see some of the craft bugs on display. Many more of the bugs were taken home by the children.

The programme included a half-day visit to the Norval Foundation. Coincidentally, one of the two exhibitions that the children explored was Walter Oltmann's *Metamorphosis*. Readers who have seen Oltmann's work will remember how he works aluminium wire, brass rods and plastic beads into amazing structures that combine both human and insect shapes. Equally exciting was the time spent in the Norval classroom where the children traced and then scratched out colourful insects and bugs on black Scratch Art sheets.

Big thanks are due to the Norval Foundation team as well as to The Pelican, Massimos and Snoekies for assisting with the lunches, while Dario assisted with fruit, as he also does regularly during term time.



GOODBYE AND HELLO

At the end of April we said goodbye to Kaylee Farmer, an EPWP worker whom the Hout Bay Museum had seconded to the DGHOH. Kaylee worked with us from the time she helped Denis with cataloguing his art collection, through the time we moved into the new building and expanded our offerings for the young people of Hout Bay. Thank you, Kaylee, for all your contributions over this time.

At the start of April, we were very pleased to welcome Caitlyn Johnson and her warm smile and energy to our team. Over the short time she has been with us, she has confirmed that our choice of Caitlyn was an excellent one.

DO YOU WANT TO USE OUR BEAUTIFUL SPACE?

Return visitors to the DGHOH can enjoy the new selection of paintings from Denis's art collection that are now on display. After two years of enjoying the previous set, we have replaced them with paintings relating to the themes of fishing, colours and emotions, home and neighbourhoods, and flowers. Once again, the paintings illustrate Denis's attraction to bold and colourful painting that are full of Life, Wonderful Life! Thanks to Brendon Bell-Roberts and his team for helping us put up the new artworks.

You can expose others to the new paintings and the building as a whole by hiring the gallery space in the mornings or over lunch time, in the evenings, or on Saturday afternoon or Sunday. You can also hire the smaller round activity space, which is ideal for meetings, discussion groups and the like. We have solar panels, an inverter and a battery, so loadshedding is generally not a problem.

Please do contact us on dglftrust@gmail.com or 061-8855430 to make a booking or find out more.

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