

Denis Goldberg



Denis Goldberg House of Hope

Newsletter no. 30

November 2025

WEIRD & WONDERFUL ANIMALS

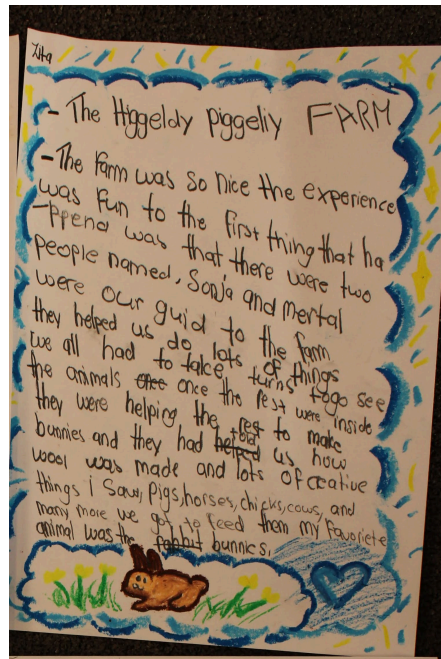
In this newsletter we *again* report on a holiday programme. This is not all that surprising, given that our newsletter appears quarterly, and there are quarterly school holidays - and thus holiday programmes. Further, our beneficiaries seem to agree that all our holiday programmes are exciting. The evidence: The 30 places on the programme are typically snapped up within 24 hours of our sending out the poster, and most of the participants are “returners”.

The topic for the October programme was Strange Animals. We started on the first day with the children at each table choosing from a different pair of “bizarre”, but real, animals. The chosen animals were the siphonophore, pink river dolphin, tarsier, great potoo, and sea pig. Each day the five animal teams competed against each other, with the winning team rewarded with small treats.

On the first day each table designed and created an imaginary clay animal - for example, with 12 limbs, five eyes or three tails; or that lived on a diet of bananas, porcupines or soup. On the second day the teams used waste materials to create a habitat, or room, for their animal. In addition to these and other craft activities, we watched a 30-minute Puff the Magic Dragon movie, played games, read (nonsense) poetry, explored animal-like movements, hunted for a left-handed snail, and more.

On the last day the children spent an amazing two hours at Imhoff's Higgeldy Piggeldy Farm. Their facilitators, Sonia and Myrtle, introduced the children to the cows, emu, bunnies, chickens, ducks, pigs, sheep and goats. One of the ducks provided special entertainment by picking a fight with a cow - and winning! (The cow ran away.) The facilitators then showed the children how to make themselves a bunny out of an old sock stuffed with cleaned wool.

Thank you to all at the Higgeldy Piggeldy Farm for making the visit so exciting. When writing about the visit afterwards, many children said that they wanted to visit again. Thank you, too, to friends who donated their old socks!



PARENTS ARE LEARNING

Over eight weeks in September-October we offered Mikhulu Trust's booksharing programme to parents of children aged 18 months to six years. Booksharing teaches parents how to use wordless picture-books to get their youngsters excited about books, stimulate their learning, and strengthen the parent-child bond.

The main facilitator was Pretty Tombo. Pretty attended our very first booksharing course and was then trained as a facilitator by Mikhulu Trust. Our coordinator, Chamaine, assisted Pretty while our programme assistant, Nikita, entertained the children.

As always, each parent and their child who completed the course walked away with two free books donated by Mikhulu. We handed these and certificates over at the course-end celebration party. The books were well-deserved, as those who attended showed up each week for an additional two hours of learning after their usual full day of work. Pretty herself facilitated the course after a full day of her everyday job.



AND WE ARE LEARNING

In late October, Mikhulu Trust's Thandokazi Tabata and Karen Ross spent four full mornings with Chamaine, Nikita and our other programme administrator, Caitlyn, training them as booksharing facilitators. With this larger facilitator team, we now plan to offer morning courses in the mornings for parents who are available at that time. We will also offer courses for nannies who can use what they learn both with the children they care for during the day and with their own children at home. If you are, or know, a parent or nanny in Hout Bay who might be interested, please do ask them to contact us.

September-October was definitely upskilling time for staff, as Vivienne Basckin spent three sessions teaching us how to be more skilled and confident in public speaking (or “professional communication”, to use the more technical term). We were all extremely nervous, and Vivienne tackled this challenge head-on from the start. We cannot yet claim to be excellent professional communicators, but we hope visitors and our beneficiaries will see the difference.

RUSHING TOWARDS YEAR END

We are now in the fourth term of the school year, with all the associated busy-nesses. Fortunately, the DGHOSH does not have exams to add to the pressures on the children and their families. However, we do have preparations for our year-end show 'n tell.

This year, as in 2024, there will be performances by the circus skills, hip hop, and group music-making participants. But we will also have performances by our drama group, and by the children who are learning the guitar.

The show 'n tell will be the second performance of that week for the circus skills children. Last year they performed for all the learners and staff at Disa Primary School in Imizamo Yethu. This year we will perform for learners and staff of our across-the-road neighbour - Kronendal Primary School.

The circus performances will include several children who started as “flyers” - the people up in the air - in pyramid and related work. Now, a few years later, having grown bigger and stronger, they serve as “bases” - the people holding up the “flyers”. Spoiler: The performance will include much more than only pyramid work.

None of this would be possible without our skilled and dedicated facilitators - Bob, Portia, Zimasa, “Mr Duzi”, Larry and Bev. THANK YOU!

Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy the video below as a “taster”.



BLUE RIBBON BREAD

Since May this year, we have been one of the many organisations benefiting from Premier Milling's generosity. Each week we collect 30 Blue Ribbon loaves of bread that we use to make snacks for the children attending each day's sessions. The number of loaves we collect is small compared to most other organisations, but the cost-saving is significant when one uses even this many loaves each week. Thank you, Premier Milling!

ATTENTION: USA AND UK DONORS

It's that time of year again to remind our supporters in the US to please remember us if they plan to make donations before the end of the tax year. Omprakash serves as our fiscal sponsor, which means that any donation to us using the Omprakash link below will be taken into account by the US's Internal Revenue Service.

Omprakash can also arrange for donations from supporters who are taxpayers in the United Kingdom to be eligible for Gift Aid. So, if you are in the UK, please consider giving us a Christmas or New Year present!

Of course, we would also very much welcome such "presents" from supporters living in other countries, including South Africa! So please do considering donating and helping us continue what we are doing at the Denis Goldberg House of Hope

DONATE

If you are donating from outside South Africa you may find it convenient to send your donation by credit card to our UK website

GoFundME

US-based donors can donate through Omprakash.

UK-based donors can also contact Omprakash about how to make a donation that is eligible for Gift Aid.

OMPRAKASH

If you wish to donate directly, our bank details are:

Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust Nedbank

Account Number: 1146197411

Branch Code/Sort Code: 167609

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If donations are paid into our bank account in cash or via EFT please send your name, the amount, and date to dglftrust@gmail.com. Please let us know if you would like us to send you a section 18A tax certificate.



#lifeiswonderful

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Denis Goldberg Legacy Foundation Trust

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