



Informed Consent

I/we, _____ wholly concede that by enrolling my/our child, _____ at the Chameleons Montessori School, I/we am/are fully aware that the school is situated on the Nitida Wine Farm which is a fully working farm.

As such there are certain farming practices e.g. the spraying of the vineyards with pesticides, which may have an impact upon the environment.

I/We undertake that I/we have read the **Environmental Health Committee's Findings and Action Plan** as well as the **School's Environmental Health Policy** annexed hereto and accordingly declare that I/we are fully informed of all possible risks associated with the environment.

I/We enrol my/our child in the school taking full responsibility for any risks that may be involved in my/our child attending the school in the farm environment.

My/our signature(s) here below confirms my consent for my/our child to attend school on the Farm knowing full well that the school is taking every reasonable precautionary measure to ensure the children's safety at all times.

Signed and acknowledged at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 20 ____ .

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____
Parent 1

Signature: _____
Parent 2

Environmental Health Committee Findings & Action Plan

In 2010 the Chameleons Montessori school community set up an Environmental Health Committee to investigate the possible side effects of exposure to the crop spraying in the surrounding vineyards, specifically with regard to the health of all those at the school. The committee was made up of parents and staff at the school who consulted with various experts on the subject.

Below follows the findings and action plan of the Environmental Health Committee (EHC).

Findings

- The Nitida wine farm operates under the auspices of the Integrated Production of Wine Scheme (IPW) and as such keep to a rigorous auditing process which ensures that their farming practices are as environmentally friendly as possible.
- All vineyard sprays used on the farm are registered with the IPW.
- Nitida does not spray with Organophosphates.
- Medical Safety Data Sheets for each spray used on the farm are available from the committee.
- In 2010 Prof Leslie London of UCT gave a talk to the school on the subject. Copies of the DVD of Prof London's talk are also available from the committee.
- Ground water testing has been completed by AL Abbot & Associates. The water was tested for phosphates and sulphates. Certification was given to Nitida on 22 April 2010. The results of the test are available from the school.
- Drinking water (municipal) also underwent testing performed by Gerrit Van Wyk of the Dept of Health. Gerrit confirmed that the bacteriological samples taken from the drinking water were within the recommended guidelines for drinking water (<1 E. Coli/ 100ml).
- Cholinesterase testing was initially considered as an option, but based on the fact that organophosphates are not being used, the testing was excluded as an effective option.
- The use of Kitz air revitalizers in each class ensures that the air quality in the classes are maintained. (This is of particular note for days when the children are required to stay in the school for the duration of the spraying). Air quality tests on the product have been supplied and are available on request.
- A barrier of Leylania trees alternated with Eugenias and mock olives has been planted along the length of the school boundary adjacent to the vineyards in 2010. These trees have grown in the last two years to

provide an additional buffer zone.

- Vine Spraying does not occur during the Autumn/Winter season.
- Spraying takes place approximately 8 times per year, for 2-3 days at a time.
- The size of Nitida is 37 hectares of which 16 hectares are under vines.
- Regent is a chemical used to control ant infestation and is sprayed by hand on approximately 300 vines. Ground water testing (as mentioned above) has not been affected.
- Weed spraying occurs on Nitida. Mamba is used as the chemical to control the weed infestation. The Mamba is sprayed directly to the ground, no drift is indicated.
- No aerial spraying takes place on Nitida.

The farmer at Nitida has expressed his willingness to cooperate with the school in order to provide advance warning of vine-spraying and to consider any proposals which the school may have regarding alternative sprays. This process is ongoing.

Action Plan

- The school website is updated with the findings of the EHC and all information will be made accessible to parents, staff and other interested parties.
- The school will issue all new parents with a letter of informed consent on enrolling their children into the school. This letter will ensure that parents are fully aware of the vineyard spraying on the farm.
- The school's Environmental Health Policy will be reviewed to include all the findings and outcomes of the EHC's activities, and the updated policy will be made accessible to parents, staff and other interested parties.
- The EHC has erected a shade cloth barrier at the school as an interim measure until the trees are fully grown.

Updated: 25 Sept 2013

2013 Environmental Health Policy with regard to Vineyard Spraying on Nitida Wine Farm

Chameleons Montessori strives to maintain the safest possible environment for all the children, staff and parents frequenting the premises.

After certain concerns were raised regarding crops and insecticides, the school undertook extensive research and consulted with various experts regarding the possible side effects of exposure to the crop spraying in the surrounding vineyards, specifically with regard to the health of all those at Chameleons Montessori.

We also solicited the advice of various experts in the field. The Chameleons Montessori Environmental Health Policy that follows below was adopted after a rigorous environmental sampling and testing program supervised by Prof Leslie London of UCT was carried out on the school premises. This policy was endorsed by Prof. London of UCT , The Dept. of Health and Safety, The Agricultural Dept., The Air Pollution Department, and the Tygerberg Poison Unit.

1. Nitida's entire farming process is audited by the IPW (Integrated Production of Wines in South Africa). This is a voluntary environmental sustainability scheme established by the South African wine industry. It provides us with a guarantee that grape production was undertaken with due consideration for the environment, and that the wine was produced in an environmentally responsible manner and is safe for the consumer.

IPW consists of a set of guidelines specifying good agricultural practices related to grape production, as well as a set of guidelines specifying good manufacturing practices related to wine production and packaging activities.

Compliance with the IPW guidelines is assessed on an annual basis through the completion of a self evaluation questionnaire and is independently audited on a spot check basis.

2. Nitida does not spray with Organophosphates .
3. Vineyard Spraying takes place approximately 8 times per year, for 2-3 days at a time.
4. No aerial spraying takes place on Nitida.
5. There is no conclusive evidence that the spraying of the vineyards has any direct effect on the children or staff's health or that it is the cause of allergies.
6. There is no reason for concern regarding the consumption of Municipal water on the farm.
7. However, like with any chemical, staff and children should not have any direct contact with the spray.

In spite of the above assurances, the school will be minimizing the children's and staff's possible exposure to the spray drift during the crop spraying season by implementing the following safety precautions:

- The school has planted a row of fast growing trees to form a barrier along the boundaries of the school grounds adjacent to the vineyards.
- The school has installed a shade cloth barrier which can be erected during spraying.
- Nitida will inform the school via SMS of the days that they will be spraying. As the need for spraying is weather dependent, notice may however be given as late as the afternoon/ evening before.
- The school will immediately follow up with an SMS and E-mail to all parents and staff to notify them of the spraying.
- In the case where little notice is received from the farm, parents will be notified by email and SMS as soon as possible. In addition, a staff member will be present in the parking area to inform parents of the spraying.

- On spraying days (when Nitida is spraying in the vineyard adjacent to the school), the children will remain indoors for the duration of the day. Outdoor play equipment (e.g. climbing frames) will be hosed down after spraying before the children use them again.
- In the case where Nitida is treating the weeds between the vineyards with weed killer, no action is necessary on the part of the school as there is no risk of exposure. However, (when Nitida is spraying in the vineyard adjacent to the school) children will remain indoors for the duration of the spraying as an additional precaution.

For more information, please refer to the following website: www.ipw.co.za (Integrated Production of Wines in South Africa).

For full details of the school's vineyard spraying investigations, please visit the school's website (www.chameleonsmontessori.co.za).

Updated 25 September 2013