



THEODOR  
HERZL  
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS  
With HEART

# NEWSLETTER

26 January 2024

Issue #02



## Principal's Corner

Dear Theodorians

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*“The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless.”*

[Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#)

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Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the French philosopher and writer, has captured the nub of one's imagination perfectly. For each of us our realities are known – imagination, on the other hand, knows no boundaries. The world of 2024 needs people with ideas and an imagination, but even more so in the years that lie ahead.

Which brings me to a brief moment I experienced while visiting the Pre-Primary School last week. With the “beginning of school” jitters evident in some children, I bent down and momentarily chatted to a child watching the sandpit and asked if he could make me some “cakes” made out of mud/sand. He looked at me quietly and carried on standing looking at the garden...I moved away to chat to another child, and a few seconds later, he approached with me very proudly with the moulds of the little cookies neatly made out of sand. **Making time to connect and the power of imagination** – a lesson learnt by me in the simplest of ways in the most beautiful of settings – the Pre-Primary school and its garden.

From the Pre-Primary School, to the other end of the spectrum – the Primary and High School, where the notion of the skill/ability to solve problems, think creatively, all the while collaborating, are certainly skills needed by the next generation. The IEB (**Independent Examination Board**) has created many opportunities for these skills to be honed. A pilot study by the IEB late last year, in which our students participated, saw our students work collaboratively and nationally with other school pupils on a problem-solving situation involving the scope of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. This included research from the student as well as the staff perspective. This year, our students are involved in a similar research topic concerning the world of AI. It is again a national “think-tank” and one which will reinforce the need to “think out of the proverbial box,” work collaboratively and be creative and imaginative in solving the issues at hand.

Being part of the IEB has more than distinct advantages (apart from being a rigorous assessment body). Internationally accredited, its assessment levels, workshops for our students (and staff) encourage and reinforce creative and critical thinking. Our schools being part of the IEB is of vital importance on so many levels.

Staff development is also a feature of the IEB and all of our High School staff are attending either regional or national conferences in the next three weeks, hosted by the IEB. Getting to grips with the national curriculum, while establishing collegial networks and receiving feedback from national examiners of matric final examinations, these opportunities are more than necessary and helpful.

On the home front, and as reflected on our social media pages, our High School Inter House Gala took place this past Friday. There is talent aplenty. With the High School Inter House Athletics taking place this Thursday 1 February, and our touring team consisting of our Boy's Cricket Team, boys' and girls' Tennis teams and our Basketball teams all in action this week, it certainly is a busy but exciting week.

I am looking forward to visiting the Primary School this morning, where, at a symbolic ceremony, each Grade 7 child officially takes on the role of "big brother/sister and mentor" for each incoming Grade 1 child. Mentoring, nurturing and caring is at the heart of what we strive to achieve on every level in our respective schools.

Our recent *Tu Bishvat* assembly on Thursday reflected the heart of Theodor Herzl Schools once again. The message of Tu B'Shvat is that although the fruit have not yet grown, the process which creates them has begun! For people, our fruits are our deeds and achievements – and they too have their origin.

I congratulate **Katie Ferrant** who was awarded the Trophy for Best Supporting Actress at PEMADS's production of Goldilocks and the 3 bears. It is a significant achievement.

As always, we are excited about hosting our respective Open Days, which allow prospective parents to hear our story and experience our "heart." Social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram) have been active in sharing the information. Please share the information! In summary, the dates are:

PRE-PRIMARY OPEN DAY PICNIC: 18<sup>th</sup> February

PRIMARY SCHOOL: 6<sup>th</sup> March

HIGH SCHOOL: 13<sup>th</sup> February

In conclusion, I found the following article somewhat interesting. Entitled, 'Why we glorify overwork and refuse to rest,' it is a pertinent article for many of us adults – and possibly for our students too! The link is:

<https://hbr.org/2023/08/why-we-glorify-overwork-and-refuse-to-rest>

I wish you a good week ahead...and look forward to seeing you on the athletics field as our High School athletes compete!

Kind regards

*Viktor*

**Viktor Kurz**

**Executive Principal**



We feel proud of...



**Kellen Jones** also participated in the 100<sup>th</sup> River Mile. He came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the wet suit Mile and 6<sup>th</sup> in the men's mile.

**Adrian Jones** participated in the U10 across the river swim and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in his age group.



## Pre- Primary School News

Kinderkinetics at the Pre-Primary School focuses on every aspect of motor development. Body awareness, vestibular function, fine motor, balance, improves memory, motor planning to name a few. We are fortunate enough to have Kinderkinetics as part of our weekly curriculum.



## Primary School News

Our Grade 1s developed their Critical Thinking Skills last week when they had to build a bridge to get from the Larva zone to the Safe zone.



Our Grade 7s had the best time on camp to Hobbiton in Hogsback.



## High School News

Our new Grade 8s had a wonderful bonding opportunity on their camp at African Footprint, Kirkwood.



Primary School Parents  
**CAUTION**

Should you wish to use the DRIVE THROUGH, adhere to these rules:

**PLEASE DO NOT** park in our DRIVE THROUGH. We need to keep the FLOW going in order to help as many parents as possible.

When you drop your children in the mornings they must have all their bags, etc ready to exit the vehicle on the left. NO Parents are to exit the car on the right side to assist children. There are parking bays available for this.



Attention all

**Maths, Math-Lit & Science**

**Peeps**

Do you need **EXTRA HELP?**

**Mrs Schmidt** is available!

Visit the **Music Room** (old Bio Room)

**Mondays to Thursdays**

**07:00 – 07:40**

Bring your questions and get extra help.

Come for as long as you like,

When you like!



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