



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

12 April 2024

Issue #08



Principal's Corner

Dear Theodorians

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“If you allow students to only learn what they're interested in, you condemn them to the circumferences of their imagination. Education needs to bring the universe into their lives, until it becomes their universe.”

Tom Bennett

With this being my first newsletter for Term 2, I welcome everyone back to what will be a short and sharp 8 weeks of school this term.

Our High School production of “Macbeth” is in full swing. The focus, in this newsletter seems naturally to fall on things cultural – be it at Theodor Herzl School (Pre-Primary, Primary and High School) or whatever the context may be.

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Before anything further is said, I have to express my absolute awe of the cast in “MACBETH”. Quite

simply, it is a breath-taking and world class production. I am beyond proud. Watching last night's gala performance of “Macbeth” reinforced a lot for me with regards to culture and its offering at both Theodor Herzl Schools and in general. In his blog, “*There is a hadeda on my stoep*,” Tim Jarvis reiterates the notion of “don't cancel culture” – with the obvious play on words from the social media space acknowledged too.

He stresses that “involvement in arts and culture, whichever side of the curtain we sit, is about being human. The concept of **cultural perpetuity** reminds us that humanity existed before we were here and will continue after we are gone, and yet, while we are alive, we can contribute to the human story. Children/teenagers may not like attending plays or concerts, but we want to introduce them to the very best of what has been thought, written and created. They might not want it but it's good for them.”

Tim quotes the 2018 report by the World Health Organisation wherein it states that after 3,500 studies it had cast iron evidence of the deep and widespread health improvements which came

from the teaching of the arts — from neurological disorders to child development. Cohort studies have shown that tens of thousands of people of all ages benefit physically, emotionally, and intellectually by going to galleries, by dance and by singing in choirs.

The prominent role that the arts take at Theodor Herzl Schools is significant and important. I am proud of what our children/students are exposed to w.r.t. the arts (music, visual art and dramatic arts), on a daily basis. We are blessed with teachers of the highest calibre in the respective arts at all three of our schools.



I endorse Tim's comment that there are plenty of good pragmatic reasons why students should be exposed to the arts. However, beyond that, they encourage all of us, staff and students alike, to consider: "what makes us better humans."

Tim makes reference to the words by Melvyn Bragg, in his address to the House of Lords in on the 1st of February 2024. His words resonate with me:

"We have scientific proof that art exercises the imagination and feeds us in a unique and lasting way. We can't afford to ignore this. If we can bring up generations whose minds and feelings are moulded by the best work, good teachers and multiple opportunities, then we could indeed make a brave new world. Why not and why not now?"

With all of what has been said, it is important to acknowledge that life is about balance too. As reflected in social media, the accomplishments of two of our swimmers, **Kellen Jones** (Grade 8) and **Milani Butau** (Grade 5) at their respective swimming championships are more than noteworthy. This week has seen Kellen swimming in the SA National **Senior** Men's Championships, where winners of respective races have the possibility of representing South Africa at the Olympics in Paris later this year. All one can say is, "Wow."

In her article, "The mind-expanding value of Arts Education," Ginanne Brownell reflects on the fact that as funding for arts education declines worldwide, what students — and the world at large — are losing in the process.

The link to the article is: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/02/arts/design/arts-education-necessary.html>

To our Muslim families, I wish you Eid Mubarak!

I wish you all a good weekend ahead.

Kind regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz
Executive Principal

We feel proud of...

Milani Butau took part in the SSA Level II Swimming Championships in Oudsthoorn during April and brought home 5 medals

Bronze 50 m Backstroke
Bronze 200m Individual Medley
Bronze 100m Freestyle
Bronze 100m Backstroke
Silver 50m Freestyle



Kellen Jones participated in the SA lifesaving Stillwater Nipper Champs in Durban during March. He achieved the following in the U14 age group:

Gold
100m super nipper
100m manikin carry with fins
100m manikin carry
100m medley rescue
100m obstacle
50m manikin carry
Kellen won the u14 boys Victor Ludorum award.



Pre- Primary School News

Our Theodorables have plenty to keep busy with on a rainy day.



Primary School News

Our Grade 1s are learning about Reptiles!



High School News

Opening Night of our High School Production, MACBETH, was a huge success! Book your tickets now.





Important notices

LET'S ALL KEEP WARM

INTERACT is collecting **WINTER WOOLLIES**

**THEODOR COMMUNITY PLEASE
DONATE GENTLY WORN, SCARVES,
BEANNIES, GLOVES AND JERSEYS**

3 APRIL – 7 MAY



COLLECTION BY CLASS REPS AND BOX IN FOYER

THEODOR HERZL HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

MACBETH

DIRECTED BY NIQUI CLOETE - BARRASS

CHOREOGRAPHY BY CHIREEN STRONACH

LIGHTING DESIGN BY DAVID LIMBERT

April 11 - 18

Theodor Herzl School Hall

Tickets available on

Quicket
EXPERIENCE AWESOME

@R120 or R100

for block bookings of 20 or more

Bookings Open: 1 March



Theodor
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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART