



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

14 June 2024

Issue #12



Principal's Corner

Dear Theodorians

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"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

William Butler Yeats

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And so, I sit here, as per last term, in the quiet of my office. Suddenly there is silence. The children and staff have left, examinations, tests and the co-curricular activities are a thing of the past, while the last-minute matters that need to be resolved, stare at me from my desk. I thought that I would share a photo I have just taken while typing this letter – a scene from my office. – a beautiful one, I would say!

As we reach the end of another term, it is time to reflect on the growth and achievements of our children and students. I believe fervently, that at Theodor Herzl Schools, holistic education — an approach that nurtures the mind, body, and spirit, is alive and practised on a daily basis. It is, realistically, the only form of education that is real, meaningful and impactful. I believe, too, that this term, our children have thrived not only in their academic pursuits but also through their participation in co-curricular activities.

Our school's commitment to a well-rounded education ensures that students develop a diverse set of skills and interests. The world at large needs these skills. End-of-term reports have been released. From the Arts and Sports to a myriad of clubs/societies and community service, our co-curricular programs are designed to complement the rigorous academic curriculum. This **balanced approach** helps our children/students cultivate creativity, teamwork, and resilience, which are crucial for their overall development.

I am proud of what we have accomplished in this short and sharp 2nd Term.

In the academic arena, our curriculum remains robust and challenging. I thank our dedicated teachers and teachers' assistants (Grade 000 to Matric) as they strive to ignite a passion for learning, encouraging students to think critically and solve problems creatively. **I believe wholeheartedly that the combination of rigorous academics and a vibrant co-curricular landscape prepares our students to face the future with confidence and competence.**

As we head into the holidays, it's essential to remember the importance of quality family time. The break is a perfect opportunity for us all to engage actively with our children. In our fast-paced world, moments of **intentional listening** and **genuine interaction** can strengthen family bonds and foster a supportive home environment.

I encourage you to take time to explore your child's interests and passions. Whether it's a shared hobby, a family outing, or simply a heartfelt conversation, these experiences create lasting memories and reinforce the values of empathy and understanding. The reality is that one's active involvement and encouragement can significantly impact your **child's emotional and intellectual growth.**

As Yeats noted, education is about "lighting a fire." I do believe that "fires have been lit" within each of our children/students at Theodor Herzl School. Whether the "fires" are in the Pre-Primary playgrounds, Primary School classrooms/playgrounds or the High School classrooms, sports fields or on the stage of "Macbeth", fires there have been aplenty.

Theodor Herzl Schools is about partnerships: children, staff and parents. Together, **we can ensure** that our children/students are well-equipped to navigate life's challenges and opportunities.

At our final assembly earlier this week, we celebrated and acknowledged Shavuot. With its central and universal message re-told. The moment served as a timely reminder of the "ethical rules of life."

In conclusion, I came across this little article that reflects on the idea that "writing by hand is better for remembering things." In our digital and technological world, the irony of the comment was profound...and with examinations and tests just completed, even more profound. Written by Justin Pot, the article makes for interesting reading. The link is

<https://www.popsci.com/diy/typing-vs-writing-by-hand-memory/>

All that is left for me to do is to wish you all a joyful and restful holiday season. To our fathers, may this Sunday, 16th June, be a special day for you too!

Kind regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz
Executive Principal

We Feel Proud of...

Theodor Herzl Primary School held a Fun Chess Tournament at school recently. Congratulations to the Chess Champions: Grade 2: *Conrad Flanagan, Tapiwa Butau and Olivia Cameron-White* Grade 1: *Aiden Groenmeyer, Stian van Loggerenberg* and Champion Elite: *Anvita Nagarkar Enrique!*



Cole Kruger and *Mason Kruger* secured first places in the 50cc and 65cc events at a recent Rover Fun Day.

Iviwe Sizani and *Olivia Cameron-White* won the "Best Female" category in the Grey Junior Chess Academy Tournament held recently.





Two of our Equestrian Riders participated in the Settlers EC Show Jumping Championships, held in Grahamstown recently. *Jemma Schewitz on The Beat* became the EC 1m10 Junior Show Jumping Champion. *Chloe Wiese on Coshise* became the EC Reserve 1m Junior Show Jumping Champion.



Chloe Wiese and her horses *Conchise Chief*, *Eagles Lantana* and *Little Prince Charming of Lagos* will be travelling to Shongweni during the June holidays to represent the Eastern Cape in the Jnr Intermediate Equitation Riders 1m Team, the Jnr Novice 90cm & 1m Show Jumping Teams and the EC Novice Showing Pony Rider Team at the SA Championships.

Congratulations to the following First Aiders who completed the Level 1 course:
A. Schmidt, J. Schewitz, S. Baling, M. Luca, B. Tsatsire, S. Tebelele, A. Miltz, A. Dosa, A. Moodaley, G. Muller, C. Ncoyo, E. Ntsume, A. Joubert and L. Mokhele.

Level 2 course: **A. Zeelie, I. Hagemann, J. Parkin, C. Nduvane, J. Ngcwabe, C. Marran, L. Payi and Z. Thabatha.**



Jewish Life

Our three schools celebrated Shavuot during the last week of term. They made contributions to One Life Child, as well as a donation to the Flood Victims. I was reminded that the sincerity of a child's heart shines with an unfiltered purity, reflecting a world untouched by the complexities of adult pretense when I read a letter from Theodor Herzl Primary Children to the Flood Victims:

"We feel so bad that you have lost your homes and hope and pray you are all still fine. May G-d bless you. We hope you enjoy what we have given you. It all comes with a lot of love. The Children of Theodor Herzl."



Pre- Primary School News



Our Theodorables have so much to discover indoors and outdoors: they love early morning construction and teamwork.

Sometimes nature provides the subject. Children thrive when learning through their environment.



Primary School News

Our Grade 1s designed and delivered cards to wish their Grade 7 Buddies well for their recent Examinations.



Our Grade 2s took to their own voting stations during election time! At our Grade 2 elections the children had a chance to vote for the 'Top Historical Character' that they have learned about this term. They had to queue for identity verification by our strict officials, their ballots were then stamped, fingers marked and then they were allowed to cast their vote at the voting booth.



High School News

A strong bond between teachers and students fosters a supportive learning environment, enhancing academic success and personal growth. Our teachers and Matrics had an “absolute blast” swapping identities during Flip Day on the last day of term!



Sports News

High School Sports News:

Our High School Hockey players enjoyed the Inter-House Hockey matches held this past week. They played with heart and we congratulate House Ben Gurion who was victorious!



Important notices



Attention All Theodor Parents

The safety of our children is always our priority. With this in mind, we have decided to hand out THS car stickers (see left) to all parents who collect their children from inside the school gates. This makes it easier for our guards to identify visitors as a Theodor family member or not. We respectfully request you to attach the sticker to your window where it is easy to be noticed. We trust that you will endorse this attempt to keep our children safe.

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL PEEPS



Please support our INTERACT Committee on

HOODIE DAY



18 July 2024

Mandela Day and Ubuntu

R20 or bring a pair of New Socks
(Grade reps to collect)



Theodor
Herzl
Schools

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART