



THEODOR  
HERZL  
SCHOOLS

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With HEART

# NEWSLETTER

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Issue #20



## Principal's Corner

Dear Theodorians

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*“The best way out is always through.”*

**Robert Frost**

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And here we are, having come to the end of the Third Term, and what a term it has been! My choice of the words by Robert Frost may seem a little misplaced at first glance, but I believe they sum up the term appropriately. It has been an unbelievably busy and/but (I am not sure what conjunction to use!) exciting term. I write this newsletter while

accompanying the Grade 8s on their “Ripple Camp” in Grahamstown/Makhanda. We returned home yesterday, having had a wonderful moment to reflect and grow.

Frost’s words certainly reinforce the notion that one needs to “get on with stuff” – and this term has seen us do just that. In these last two weeks, our children/students have had every opportunity to become involved in the fullness of school life at Theodor Herzl Schools. The photographs that follow, as always, reflect the depth and breadth of what is on offer. Getting involved on every level at school is what is expected from our children/students, whether in Pre-Primary, Primary or High School.

I am again reminded that learning is to be had no matter the place or the context, and our High School Ripple Camps (venues at Makhanda, Addo, Graaff Reinet/Nieu-Bethesda, Shamwari, and George) have proved this to be true. Each grade has experienced special moments on the Ripple Camps. On Friday, the last day of term, each grade “gives back to the community”, with each grade visiting an organisation (eg the Walmer Clinic, beach clean-up, One Life Child, painting a room for Bet Sheekoom). There is a richness of learning in these respective projects.

Our Primary School has seen much action and moments of learning too, with the Junior and Senior Primary Expressive Arts Evenings providing opportunities for our children to shine in the artistic and creative space. I congratulate **Miss Nezaan Henning** on her first production with the Primary School children! The Primary School Athletics Day, held on Wednesday at Theodor Herzl School, also provided a wonderful moment for many children as they showcased their raw athletic talent while also possibly providing them with the opportunity to learn about a talent that they did not know they had. Learning comes in various shapes and forms.

In the land of our Pre-Primary School, our Theodorables learn with each planned activity created by our teachers. There is no doubt that **play** is one of the most important ways that young children learn. It is known that playing is essential for their cognitive, physical, social and emotional development. Best of all, when children play, it doesn't feel like learning - it feels like fun! Baking crunchies, splashing in the water troughs on warm mornings, painting, drawing, climbing, running, building and riding bikes are just a few of the many activities our children have enjoyed this term.

Last week, our Grade R children held their annual Market Day, and we were incredibly impressed by all the lovely items the children made to sell. Each child chose what they wanted to make, using their creativity and problem-solving skills. The children crafted the items themselves and, in the process, strengthened their fine motor skills - skills that are vital for future writing. They also had the chance to bond and spend meaningful time with their parents while preparing their creations.

Beyond the fun, Market Day offered valuable entrepreneurship, communication and social interaction lessons. The experience was certainly educational and a joyful morning of "retail therapy" too!

School life is about finding and making "teachable moments" - I believe wholeheartedly that our teachers at our schools live out this belief daily.

Another opportunity to learn about life presents itself to our High School students who embark on their first-ever (in a long time) overseas tour to Germany. Accompanied by Mrs Duvenage, Mrs Pieters and Mr Hyam, I know our students will learn much from this unique trip and tour.

Last week, I attended the national SAHISA (South African Heads of Independent Schools Association) Conference in Nelspruit/White River. Exposed to top national and international speakers and presentations, it also provided a much-needed opportunity to network with fellow Heads. Common themes and trends emerge. The topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on education dominated many discussions and presentations. The reality is that we need to embrace it where appropriate, all the while preparing our children and students for the world of tomorrow. Hardly a new thought in education "circles."

I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Mrs Liezel Ristow**, who will join us in January. An experienced and passionate teacher, Mrs Ristow will teach Mathematical Literacy and Junior Mathematics. **Mr Louis Nel**, our present Mathematical Literacy teacher, sadly leaves us at the end of the year as he emigrates to Australia.

I thought the following article by Harry Wallop from "The Times," although not about education or schools, was fascinating, with some rather interesting perspectives about

the world of work. We certainly live in changing times. As stated earlier, we need to prepare our children/students for the future.

**<https://www.thetimes.com/business-money/companies/article/the-key-to-productivity-stop-measuring-work-by-time-v20m6lfrn#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThe%20truly%20valuable%20skill%20is,that%20the%20work%20remains%20unfinished.%E2%80%9D>**

All that is left for me to do, is to wish you a blessed time with your family during the following short holiday.

Viktor

**Viktor Kurz**  
**Executive Principal**

## Jewish Life



Baking Challah remains a highlight for every Judaica pupil. Wishing our Jewish families Shabbat Shalom.





## We feel Proud of...

**Carter Cruickshank** participated in a rubics cube competition where he competed in the 4 x 4, 3 x 3, and 2 x 2 cubes. The goal is to see how fast you solve the cube. The 2 x 2 and 4 x 4 events were side events, the 3 x 3 was the main event. In 2 x 2 he achieved a 7 second single solve personal best, and a 10 second average. For the 4 x 4 only, he achieved a 2:40 second average and a 2:23 personal best. In the main event, the 3 x 3, he qualified for African championships by reaching the semi-finals. He achieved a 23 second average with a 19 second personal best.



We wish this sweet duo, **Jemma Schewitz** on *The Beat*, well as they travel to Kyalami to represent the Eastern Cape in the 2024 SANESA National Riding Championships this holiday.





## Pre-Primary School News

The Grade 000s are learning about people who help us. A few budding Hairdressers tried out their skills.



## Primary School News

Our Grade 2 class had a wonderful trip to the Art gallery, where the children had the chance to explore vibrant paintings and sculptures. After the tour, they excitedly created their own 'printmaking' artwork inspired by what they had seen. It was a fun and creative experience for all!





Our Grade 4s had the best time on their outing to the Theescombe Wine Estate.



## High School News

Our High School once again embarked on a wonderful adventure called Ripple. “Ripple Week” aims to take the curriculum outside the classroom and for students to realise the inter-connectedness of the subjects they are learning and studying.

The Grade 8 Ripple theme was “Know Yourself.” They spent time in the Makhanda (Grahamstown) area, where certain curriculum elements were used to explore their pursuit of self-knowledge. The area’s rich history, cultural heritage and diversity was the perfect setting for objectives set.





The Grade 9 Ripple theme 2024 was “Walking in Nature”. Students embarked on four days and three nights of adventure in the Addo region. Activities included a Canoe Safari on the Sundays River, adrenaline-driven activities organized by Adrenalin Addo, a walk through the citrus orchards followed by an information session on the farming of citrus, a hike in the Zuurberg Mountains, bonfire and bonding activities every evening.



The theme for Grade 10 Ripple was "Arts and Culture". Their Ripple excursion was based in Graaff-Reinet. They explored the town and the surrounding area, including Nieu-Bethesda. They learnt about the rich history, both geographic and cultural, that the area has to offer.





The Grade 11s were exploring 21st-century careers during Ripple 2024. This is probably one of the most vital educational steps in a student's transition into the highly competitive adult world. They commenced their work-shadow experience with a night away at Shamwari Game Reserve, gaining exposure to the surprising diversity of employment opportunities found within a successful business of this caliber. A university tour at NMU provided our students with some insight into the life and the moving parts of any university. For the final two days, our students integrated into the life of 'work' by getting some work-shadow experience in a company or workplace of their choice.



The Grade 12s Ripple experience focussed on building skills and life experiences. They stayed just outside the town of George, close to Glentana. Students engaged in educational outings, team-building activities and reflective workshops. They were immersed in the natural beauty and tranquillity of the coastal setting, which fosters both personal growth and camaraderie.





## Sports' News

### Primary School Sport:

Our Grade 4-7 Inter-House Athletics Day was interrupted by rain, but it is Weizmann in the lead. We will announce the winning House next term.



Theodor  
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**ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART**