



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

24 January 2025

Issue #1



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

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"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."

[Alan Watts](#)

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Welcome to 2025 and the new academic year. I love Alan Watt's perspective of change – we are all facing "change" in one way or another. Our children are no different: changing grades, moving from Grade R (Pre-Primary) to Grade 1, Grade 7 (Primary) to Grade 8 (High School) and Matric, to the tertiary world of work and study.

At all three schools, we are excited to welcome a number of new students to Theodor Herzl Schools. In particular, we welcome the Grade 1s to "Big School" and our Grade 8s who have begun their High School journey. I also welcome our "new" Moms and Dads as they start their journey with us as part of the Theodor Herzl family.

The beginning of each year is always a frenetic time. It is "go-go-go" from day 1 and this year is no different. Today and next week Friday see our High School students participate in the annual Inter-House Swimming Gala and Inter-House Athletics, respectively. There certainly is talent galore, with Trials having taken place in both sports. Our Grade 8s enjoyed a team-building camp from Sunday – Tuesday, while our Grade 7s will enjoy their annual camp next week. These are exciting times for us all, as new friendships are forged.

Our **High School Open Day** is an ideal opportunity to hear and see the world of the High School. Reflected in our social media pages, it takes place on the 18th February. Invitations have been sent out and **we are excited to tell our story!**

As you may know, “HUMILITY” has been chosen as the **value-word** for Theodor Herzl Schools in 2025. When I reflect on the world and its people, leaders, etc., I could not think of a more fitting word. It is a **noble value**, encompassing so many other important values. Teaching our children and students this value through our actions and behaviour is vital. At a recent school assembly, I shared some thoughts on the value and made reference to this quote by C.S. Lewis on the topic of humility:



“Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it’s thinking of yourself less.” It is the art of focusing on other people rather than yourself and being self-aware of your **own strengths and weaknesses**. Being humble doesn’t mean you are weak or stupid, as some people assume; it shows your strength for yourself and others.”

As social media has reflected, we are exceptionally proud of the results of our matric class of 2024. As always, it is teamwork: staff, students and parents coming together to encourage and support our students as they strive to achieve results of which they can be proud. As a school, although holistic education is our aim, growing the **whole child**, academics will always be the core business. Our “heart” remains focused on each unique individual. There is no place for a “one-size-fits-all” approach.

I welcome the following new staff to Theodor Herzl Schools, who joined us at the beginning of the year:



Left to Right, Back row: Matt Everest, Christo Scriven
Front Row: Leigh Pizzo, Lindi Louw, Liezel Ristow



Jason Sheehan

With numbers growing, our second Grade 00 class has opened. **Ms Leigh Pizzo** is teaching this class. An experienced teacher, she has slotted right in!

Mrs Lindi Louw joins us as our Primary School Art teacher. An experienced and passionate teacher, Lindi is looking forward to inspiring our children.

No stranger to Theodor Primary School is **Mr Matt Everest**, who has changed roles from last year and been appointed into the role of the Grade 4 teacher. Passionate about teaching and having an impact on young lives, he has embraced the change with vigour!

Mrs Liezel Ristow, also no stranger to many at the High School, joins us to teach Grade 8 and 9 Mathematics, along with being our Mathematical Literacy teacher. We are excited about the impact we know that she will have on our students!

Mr Christo Scriven has been appointed as our Head of Sport. As a former Head of Sport from Framesby High School, Mr Scriven brings a wealth of experience with him and is excited about sharing this with our students (and staff).

Mr Jason Sheehan, a student teacher in his final year of study at NMU, joins us for the better part of the year at the High School, teaching and gaining practical experience in the Mathematics and Physical Science Departments.

I wish each of them a happy stay at Theodor Herzl Schools. They have already slotted into the rhythm of life at Theodor Herzl Schools and know that each will make an impact in the lives of our children and students.

My wish for each of you is that 2025 is a year of significance. The year's journey has begun! I am excited about the year that lies ahead.

I wish you a good week ahead!

Kind regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz
Executive Principal

We feel Proud of...



Emily Geldart took part in the Inter-District Prestige Gala, representing NMBA. She swam in the 13-14 year section.

Emily came 2nd in the 100m breaststroke and 1st in the 50m breaststroke. She was also part of the medley relay team which placed 1st.





Kellen Jones in Grade 9 won the 3km and the 5km races at the Nelson Mandela Bay Open Water Swimming Championships in the 14 - 16 age category. At the Nelspruit Grand Prix he came 1st in the 200m Open Butterfly category and 3rd in the 200 IM.



Jayden Viduya in Grade 8 also swam in the Nelspruit Grand Prix and came 1st in the 200 IM and 100m Breaststroke in the u/13 category. He came 2nd in the 100m Freestyle, 100m Butterfly and 50m Freestyle.



Immy Artz in Grade 3 completed her nippers Life Saving level 1 test at Kings Beach Life Saving Club. It comprised of a 400m pool swim in under 8 min, ocean run, swim, run and a Malibu surf paddle and theory test.



Pre-Primary School News

Play is essential for young children, as it nurtures their creativity, social skills, and emotional well-being while laying the foundation for lifelong learning and development. Our Pre-Primary Theodorables absolutely LOVE their Playground.



Primary School News

Our Grade 1s met their Grade 7 Buddies this week. Our “Buddy” system fosters mentorship, community, and mutual learning within our Primary School. We believe in this system, because our Grade 1s gain confidence and feel supported as they navigate new experiences with the guidance of their Grade 7 Buddies. At the same time, our Grade 7s develop leadership, empathy, and communication skills.



High School News

The Grade 8 Camp is always a valuable experience that fosters personal growth and strengthens connections with peers and their teachers. It provides an opportunity to develop independence, teamwork, and resilience through outdoor challenges and shared adventures. This year our Grade 8s had a wonderful time at African Imprint.



We are exceptionally proud of our Matric Class of 2024!

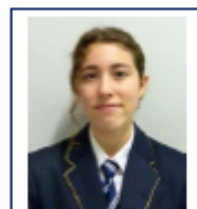


**THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS**

Achieving Excellence with Head and Heart



Zunaira Ansari



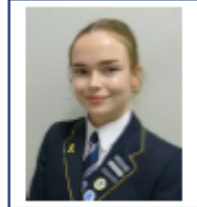
Amber Joubert



Nabil Aslam



Robert Ferguson



Daena Franklin



**Muhammad
Ahmed**

Congratulations Class of 2024!

IEB MATRIC FINAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

We congratulate our cohort of 26 Grade 12 students, who have once again made us incredibly proud with their excellent results.

STATISTICS OF THE CLASS OF 2024:

- A 100% pass rate
- 100% Bachelor passes
- 89%: the aggregate of our top 2 students :

Zunaira Ansari and Amber Joubert

Amber was also awarded the IEB Commendable Achievement Award, an award bestowed by the IEB for a student who has achieved in the top 5% in the country in 5 subjects, along with an A aggregate for Life Orientation - the only student in the Eastern Cape to achieve this result!

Both *Amber and Zunaira* were also placed in the top 1% of candidates in the country for Life Sciences.

- 4: the number of students who obtained a full-house of A symbols (7 Distinctions) and an A aggregate/over 80%:

*Zunaira Ansari
Amber Joubert
Nabil Aslam
Robert Ferguson*

- 2: the number of students who obtained 5 subject distinctions and an overall A aggregate/over 80%:

*Daena Franklin
Muhammad Ahmed*

Daena Franklin was also placed in the top 1% of candidates in the country for Life Orientation.


- 85%: students who obtained an overall aggregate above 60%.
- 1.8: average number of subject As (above 80%) per student.

The Theodor family celebrates with you all!

Important Notices

The following useful document is being used by our staff to teach students about the ethical use of AI:

GENERATIVE AI FOR SCHOOL WORK



by: Miriam Scott
scottybreaksitdown.com

ETHICAL USE

CONCEPT EXPLANATION
Can simplify complex concepts

RESOURCE CREATION
Can create flash cards, revision activities, analytical tools

IDEA GENERATION
Can stimulate creative thinking and ideas as a starting point

FEEDBACK & EVALUATION
Can provide instant feedback on work to improve quality before submission

BRAINSTORMING
Create ideas or topics for work to provide different suggestions or perspectives

REVISION
Create activities to help with better understanding and recall

PRESENTATION SKILLS
Can provide suggestions to improve presentation skills

CITATION & FORMATTING
Can provide correct referencing and in-text citation advice

LOCATE SOURCES
Can use to find sources to help with research. Similar to using Wikipedia or Google

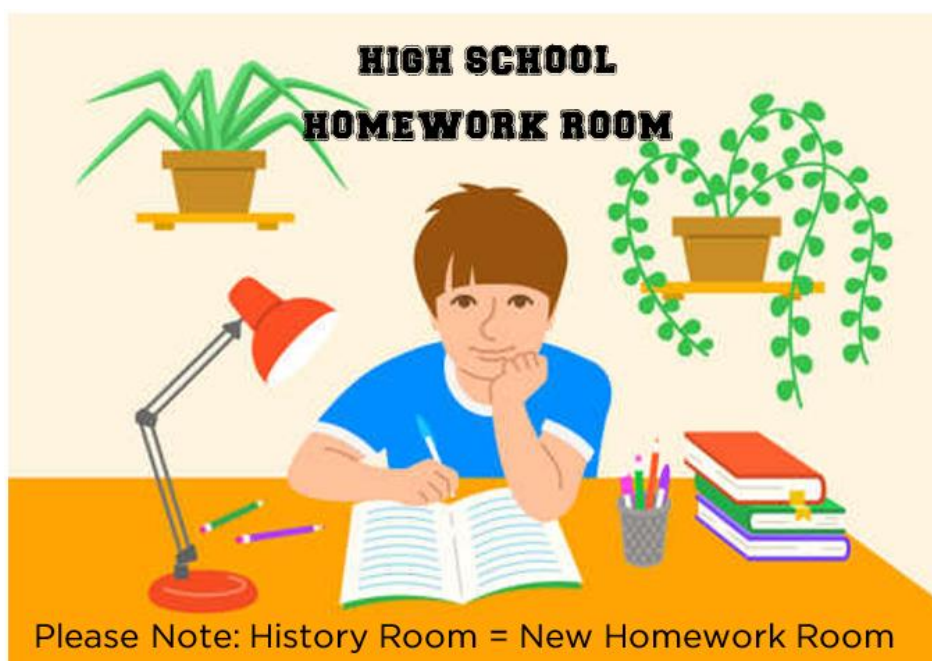
UNETHICAL USE

PLAGIARISM
Using AI-generated content verbatim without proper citation or presenting AI-generated work as your own is unethical and is plagiarism. This would be the same if you took a definition from a Google search.

ASSIGNMENT OUTSOURCING
Using AI to create assignments, essays, or projects without any personal input or understanding undermines the learning process and is considered academic dishonesty. This is the same as a tutor or parent creating your work and you claiming it as your own.

MISREPRESENTING ABILITIES
Using generative AI to complete tasks that are beyond your understanding and presenting the results as your own. This is the same as copying someone's assessment or paragraph and tweaking it to make it look different.

IMPROPER REFERENCE CHECKING
Asking to source references and not checking the validity of the information and relevance. Example: Claiming this is where you sourced information, but you only used ChatGPT






YOGA
With Nel-Maré

RYT 200
yoga
alliance

200-hour
ashtanga-vinyasa-teacher-qualification

Weekly classes @ Theodor Herzl High
061 799 2828



**Attention all High School
Maths, Math-Lit & Science Peeps**

Mrs Schmidt is available for extra help!
Visit the **Bio Lab** (Mrs Goodall's lab)

**Mondays to Thursdays
07:00 – 07:40**

Bring your questions and get extra help.
Come for as long as you like,
When you like!

Be **THERE** or be **SQUARE**

We kindly request that our *Primary School parents* consider each other and adhere to the DRIVE THROUGH procedure explained below: Our Guards will be directing traffic and we ask that you will treat them with the respect that they deserve.

Primary School Parents **CAUTION**

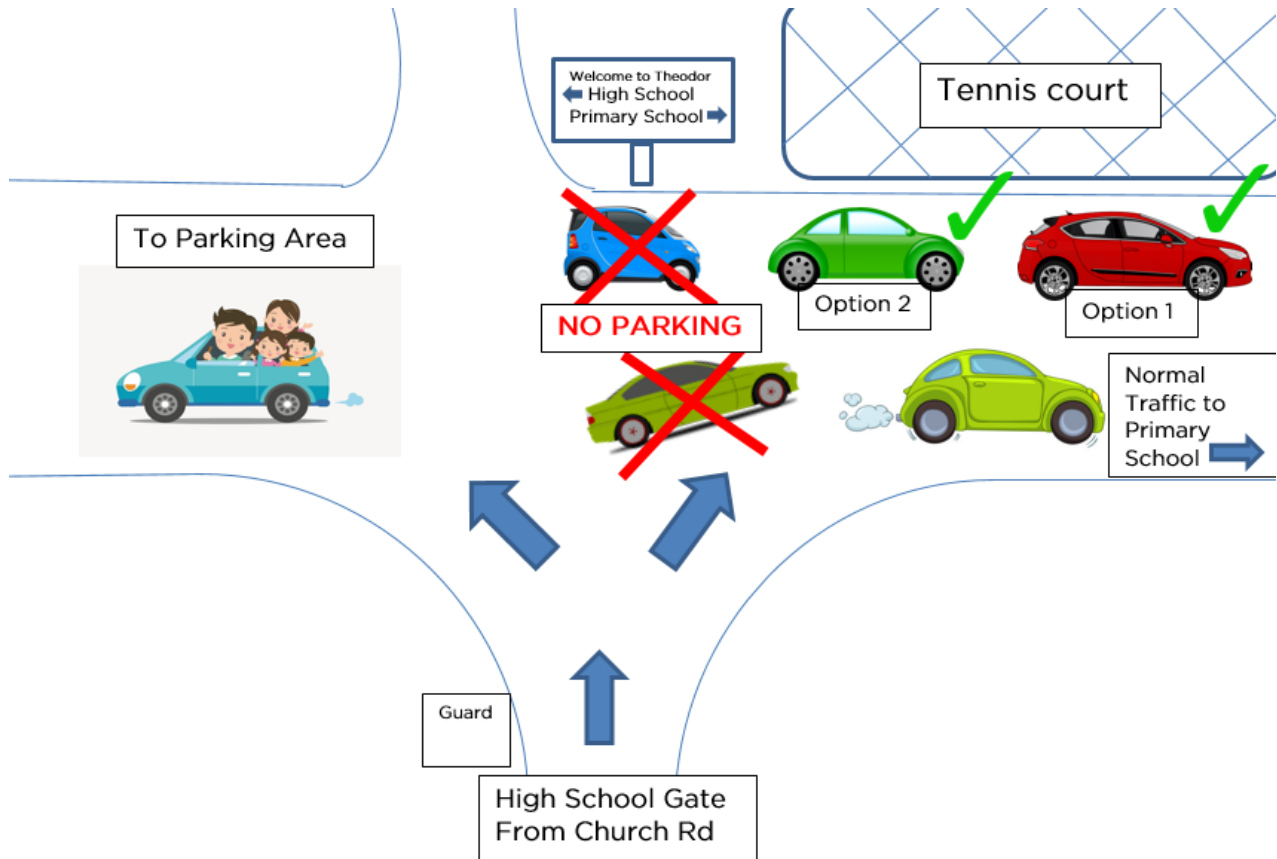
Should you wish to use the DRIVE THROUGH, adhere to these rules:

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.

We kindly ask that our *High School parents* follow the drop-and-go suggestions depicted below: In summary, parents who turn right at the gate from Church Rd can stop in “Option 1” to drop off their High School child. “Option 2” may be used ONLY when a car is already parked at “Option 1”. NO vehicle may be parked in the “NO PARKING” spots. Parents are welcome to use the parking area to the left. Our Guards will be directing traffic.



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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART