



THEODOR  
HERZL  
SCHOOLS

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With HEART

# NEWSLETTER

24 February 2025

Issue #4



## Principal's Corner

### Dear Parents / Guardians

*"It's one thing to be a part of an organisation. It's another thing to be a part of the community."*

Travis Kelce

Walking around and witnessing **"community in action"** at our three schools in the past few days, I felt the need to highlight the immense value of our school community. A strong school community isn't just a nice-to-have; it's a vital ingredient in our students' and children's "success" and positive school experience. When we work together (parents, teachers, staff, and students), - at functions, activities, festivals etc, be intentional about it – we create a supportive and enriching environment where everyone thrives.

I love the photos below, captured spontaneously of our staff: High School staff enjoying an "affirmation balloon" activity linked to Friendship Day on 14 February. Our Primary School joined forces to encourage the Sunrisers Cricket Team, while our Pre-Primary team celebrated Red Heart Day!





The Tu BiShvat Festival (The Jewish “New Year of the Tree”) held recently, reinforced the unity in diversity with all 3 schools united in acknowledging this important day in the Jewish calendar. Community in action. Our Primary School joined our High School in commemorating this Festival, while our Primary School children entertained our Pre-Primary children in commemorating Tu B’Shevat. The Photos on social media capture the moments.

For me, a thriving and active “community” has so many benefits, and our Theodor community and family are no different:

- **Enhanced Learning:** Parental involvement has been proven to boost student achievement. When parents are engaged, students are more motivated and perform better academically.
- **Stronger Support System:** A connected community means more people caring for our children. This network of support helps students navigate challenges and build resilience.
- **Improved Well-being:** Feeling connected and supported reduces stress and anxiety, contributing to the overall well-being of our students and staff.
- **Enriched Experiences:** Community involvement brings diverse perspectives and resources, enriching the learning experience for everyone. From guest speakers to volunteer opportunities, the possibilities are endless.
- **Shared Responsibility:** A strong community fosters a sense of shared responsibility for our students’ success. We’re all in this together!

Personally, the “**wellness**” of our community (staff, children/students, and parents) must enjoy (and does) our highest priority at Theodor Herzl Schools. We are intentional at THS, that this wellness is nurtured and part of what we do daily. From “wellness”, everything else flows naturally. Needless to say, it is all underpinned by the **values of our School**.

Working together to strengthen our school community must be our collective aim. Your and our involvement, big or small, makes a difference.

You may have noticed that our front curved wall on the corner of Church Road and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue is in the process of an “upgrade,” with the main feature wall (facing the road) and the Memorial Wall (facing the Primary School) restored to its former glory!

We wish **Ms Carla Clarke** (Grade 2) well, as she embarks on exciting opportunities beyond the walls of Theodor Herzl, I thank her for her commitment to and passion for her role at Theodor Herzl for the past 5 years.



With my speech at our recent High School Prize Giving Ceremony still fresh in my mind, where I touched on AI and its ethical use in schools, I felt that the following article was worthy of repeating in this newsletter.

Entitled, “Does A.I. Really Encourage Cheating in Schools?” *New technologies are raising suspicions about students’ work, but the controversy—like so many others swirling around American classrooms— misses the point of what we want our kids to learn.* The link to the article is:

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/fault-lines/does-ai-really-encourage-cheating-in-schools>

I wish you a good week ahead!

**Kind regards**

*Viktor*

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

### We feel Proud of...

On 26 January 2025, **Jayden Viduya** participated in his first ever ocean swim, the Z-Mile, and finished in 7th place out of 57 male swimmers in the 1-mile event. On 31 Jan - 2 Feb 2025, Jayden swam at the Infinity Gala, which was held at Newton Park Swimming Pool. He achieved the following results in the 13 - 14 age group:

1st in 50m Freestyle

2nd in 50m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle 100m Butterfly, 200m Individual Medley

3rd in 100m Breaststroke

4th in 200m Breaststroke

He placed 3rd overall in the Boys 13 - 14 age group at the Infinity Gala.



## Jewish Life

We celebrated Tu B'Shevat at our three schools. Tu B'Shevat marks the beginning of a “new year” for trees, which is why we celebrated with a tree planting ceremony.



## Pre-Primary School News

**Mrs Carly Collett**, HOD Pre-Primary School, writes:

“Last week at the Pre-Primary has been a celebration! Everyone dressed in green to mark Tu B'Shevat— The New Year of the Trees. We all enjoyed helping to plant our brand new tree in our garden and we are looking forward to taking care of it and seeing it grow.





### Ingredients

- ☐ 2 cups cornstarch plus additional as needed
- ☐ 1 cup water
- ☐ 3 tablespoons green tempera paint (optional)

### Instructions

1. While it will take a little experimentation to get the proper consistency, a good starting place is to mix 1 ½ cups of cornstarch with 1 cup of water. I added 3 tablespoons of green tempera paint to color the suspension, but you can use more or less or leave it out altogether.
2. Mix the ingredients using your hands, adding more cornstarch or water as necessary. Note that you may need to use more cornstarch if you live at a high altitude. You'll know you've got the right consistency when it feels similar to honey or molasses, yet "tears" when you drag your fingers across the surface.
3. Store the oobleck in a covered container to play with again. The cornstarch and water may separate, but you just simply need to work them back together.

Then, on Red Heart Day, the school was filled with love as everyone wore red to celebrate friendship. Lisa taught a wonderful lesson in our big ring about being grateful. Ruth made pink oobleck for the children to play with and everyone enjoyed making "love bugs" during our baking. See picture for recipe for oobleck if you would like to make some at home for your child. Celebrating the people and traditions that we love is a beautiful way to strengthen our community and fill our hearts with joy."



## Primary School News

Our Grade 1s had an exciting first visit to the Museum, where they learnt more about Coelecanths.



## High School News

Congratulations to our Top Academic Achievers of 2024 who were recognized at our recent Prize Giving.

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### High School Top 3 2024 Academic Achievers:

Grade 8

  
Crystal van Tonder

  
Ruhi Doorgapershad

  
Camilo Ncoyo

Grade 9

  
Jade Meyer

  
Callan Crone

  
Lemika Moodley

Grade 10

  
Adri Fourie

  
Kira Olivier

  
Liyemah Funani

Grade 11

  
Sienna Scribante

  
Sibahle Tebelele

  
Rachel Honeyball



## Sports News

### Primary School Sport

#### Coach Petro Reports:

Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
19 February	U13 Cricket	Sunridge A	Lost by 3 wickets
20 February	U11 Cricket	Sunridge A	Won by 8 runs
20 February	Open Tennis	Collegiate B	Won 26-16



### High School Sport

#### Mr Scriven Reports:

#### Sport results

Week 17 – 21 February 2025

#### Cricket:

1<sup>st</sup> team vs Daniel Pienaar on Wednesday 19 February at Theodor Herzl. Theodor batted first and made 156 runs in their 20 overs. Best batsmen **Morgan Johnson** 56 and **Max Schewitz** with 36 runs. Daniel Pienaar got the runs with 2 balls to spare and 6 wickets down. Daniel Pienaar won this close battle by 4 wickets.

#### Squash:

Our top 8 Squash Team played their first friendly match against Harvest on Thursday 20 February and won! Congratulations to **Ukho Majali** who is through to the second round of EP trials on 16 March.

### Golf:

**Ana Weber** made Theodor Herzl very proud by participating in the 2025 South African Women's Amateur Stroke & Match Play Championships at PE Golf Club from 23-28 February.

### Athletics:

**Mason Wippenaar** represented Theodor Herzl at PE Schools in the Metro Athletics Championships that was held on 21 & 22 February.

### Swimming:

**Jayden Viduya** competed in the Provincial Trials in Port Elizabeth and we are waiting for final results.

### Equestrian:

**Jemma Schewitz** competed in the SANESA Core League Qualifier held in Grahamstown on the 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> of Feb and placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> on both The Beat and Callaho Liberty in the 1.10m Show Jumping category. The Beat placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Open Equitation class.



This past weekend two of our riders participated in the February Graded Show held at the PE Riding Club: **Jemma Schewitz** attained a 2<sup>nd</sup> place on Callaho Liberty in the 1.10m Show Jumping class and a 1<sup>st</sup> on The Beat in the Open Equitation class.

**Chloe Wiese** attained a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 60cm and another 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 70cm Show Jumping classes on Denny.



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**ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART**