



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

31 January 2025

Issue #2



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

||

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Eleanor Roosevelt

||

The theme of "new beginnings" (and with that, the recurring theme of looking forward and being part of a positive "change", being positive about the future and living one's dream) seems to be an apt one. The 2nd week of school has continued where the previous week left off – at a happy sprinting pace! There is a sense that 2025 is going to be a good year. We claim that!



Our Grade 1s being paired with their Grade 7 "buddies/mentors"), is replicated with our Grade 12s partnering with a selected Grade 8 student (Old Pot /New Pot) and reflects our intention to grow our respective "fledglings". It's been heartwarming to see these inter-generational connections blossom. The older students take their mentoring roles seriously, offering guidance and support to their younger buddies. This program fosters a sense of community and belonging within our school, and we believe it's incredibly beneficial for both the mentors and the mentees.



The new beginnings are also reflected in our vibrant and active Pre-Primary School. The various photos reflect our children are learning all the time, be it through “play,” self-discovery and other specifically designed activities aided each time by our dedicated teachers. I loved the images of the family picnic in the beautiful gardens of the PPS.



Speaking of new beginnings, **Mr Danzel van der Merwe**, our Head of the High School Accounting and EMS Department, has launched **squash** as a new sport for High School students. An EP Squash coach himself, I look forward to seeing this sport grow. Twenty new students signed up, mostly beginners, but ready to learn and grow in this brand new sport. Watch this space.



Our Grade 7s are at Hobbiton on Hogsback at the annual Grade 7s beginning-of-year camp. Learning about themselves and each other in the full sense of the word is important as they settle into the various leadership roles that are available for each of them to learn and grow. Camps like these are invaluable for building resilience and teamwork, while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

I chose to pick up on a tennis story about our Boys' High School Tennis team participating in the Interschool Tennis League, which takes place in the first term. Although we have always participated in the leagues, this year, our participation and preparation for it has been ramped up. Seeing our Boys' Team playing in a strong league and winning their first match against Nico Malan (Humansdorp), a strong tennis school, is lovely. New beginnings!



Talking about learning in action and making learning hands-on and real, our Grade 11 Science class investigated kinematics (movement studies – looking at “forces influencing movement, along with understanding acceleration, inertia, friction etc.) with our school bus and cars being used as “vehicles” to illustrate the experiments.



For a while now, the issue of social media and its impact on our lives (be we adults, children or students) has been discussed at length, with some countries/states etc. banning classroom-use altogether. The reality is that there are no easy solutions w.r.t policies. We remain ever vigilant at policies and strategies that make logical sense. Theodor High School and Primary School have cellphone policies, allowing for flexibility while not compromising the learning process. I found the following article interesting, as it expands on the much-referred topic.

The link is... <https://www.ieducation.co.za/forty-days-without-cell-phones/>

Another interesting and ever-growing popular author on the topic of social media usage, is *Jonathan Haidt*, the author of a book I would encourage you to read (teachers, parents, etc.) Entitled “*The Anxious Generation*,” it makes for fascinating and sobering reading. The book is reflected alongside.

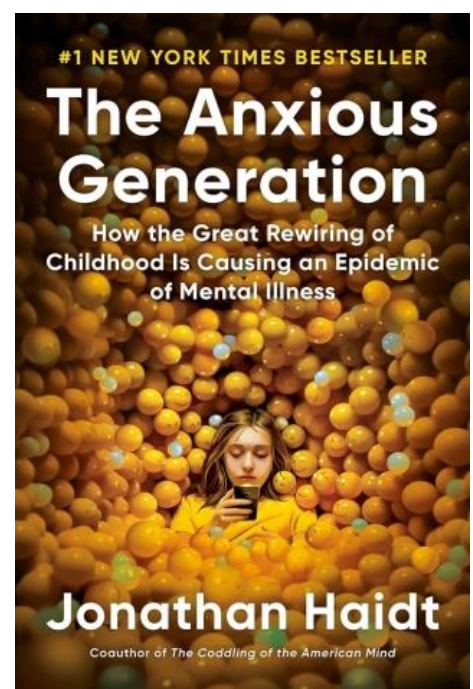
Our High School Inter-House Athletics takes place this afternoon. Will I be running? I doubt it! But I do look forward to being a part of the fun and seeing many of you supporting our budding athletes.

Have a happy weekend and week ahead!

Kind regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz
Executive Principal



We feel Proud of...



Two of our Grade 8 students participated in the first Tennis South Africa Tournament of the year: The Gauteng North Wilson Tournament. We are proud of **Liya Magigaba** who won the u14 division, while her brother, **Lavela** came 4th! An outstanding achievement for our two tennis stars who are also members of the EP Tennis Team. Bright futures lie ahead for **Liya** and **Lavela**...and for tennis at Theodor Herzl!



Jemma Schewitz entered the first Graded Show Jumping Show of the year at PE Riding Club last weekend. What a lovely start to the year with a 2nd and 3rd place on Callaho Liberty in the 110m Class and a 4th place on The Beat in the 1m Class.



Our very own High School Mathematics teacher, **Mrs Weatherall-Thomas** braved the waters and completed the 800m River Mile at Hobie Beach last weekend. **Kellen Jones** in Grade 9, came FIRST in the Full Mile (1.8Km) in a time of 16 min18sec!

Pre-Primary School News

Our Annual Pre-Primary School Family Picnic is always so special!



Primary School News

Our Grade 7s head back today from their Leadership Camp at Hogsback. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to develop essential skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving while building confidence and resilience in a supportive environment.



LEVEL UP YOUR LIFE

THEODOR HERZL HIGH SCHOOL:
WHERE LEARNING GETS LIT
AND FUTURES SHINE BRIGHT!

Let us tell you our
Theodor Story



Join us for

OPEN DAY

@ THEODOR HERZL HIGH SCHOOL

18

February

@ 17:30

SCHOOL HALL




**LEARN MORE BY
FOLLOWING US**



☎ 041 581 4244

🌐 www.theodorherzl.co.za

📍 4th Avenue, Walmer



**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.

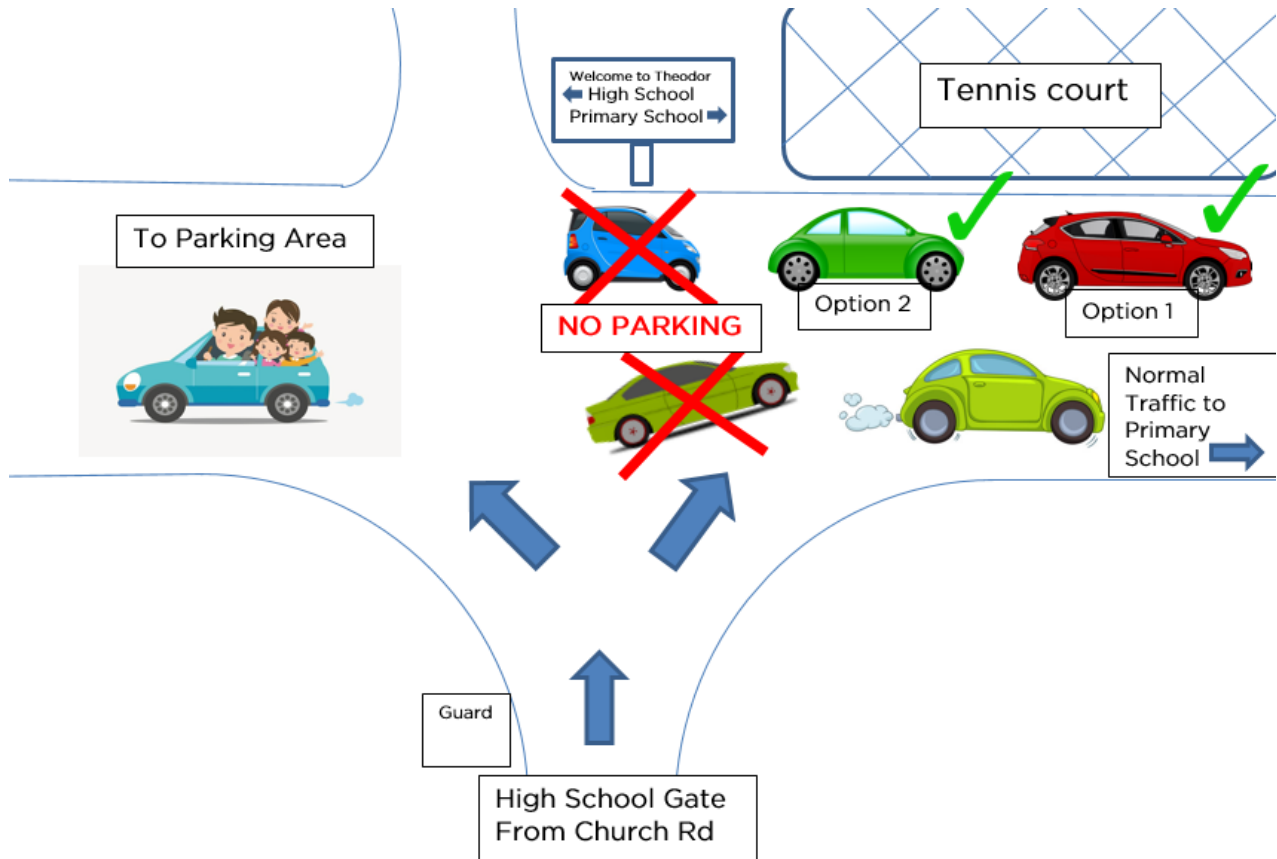
Primary School Parents **CAUTION**

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.



Theodor
Herzl
Schools

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART