



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

20 May 2025

Issue #10



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

“In school, you’re taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you’re given a test that teaches you a lesson.”

[Tom Bodett](#)

As our high School students move into examination mode this week, I thought Tom Bodett’s quote was appropriate. There are so many life lessons to be learned at school. Ensuring that these “lessons”—academic and “other”—remain relevant to our children/students - remains a priority for us at Theodor Herzl Schools.

Having re-read Jim Collins’ book “From Good to Great,” which is worthy of a read and applicable to any context, I have reflected on a simple yet powerful question: *What makes a good school?* I acknowledge that the question is a broad one. Over the years, I’ve come to know and believe that a “good (or great) school” is not defined by test scores (yes, academics will always remain “core business”) but it is also known by the strength of its relationships, the consistency of its values, and the growth it fosters in **every** student.

At Theodor Herzl Schools (Pre-Primary, Primary and High School), we continually strive to achieve the status of being a “great school” – not meant arrogantly.

A good school is where children feel safe, seen, and supported—where curiosity is encouraged and character is just as important as academics. It’s where teachers care deeply, not just about delivering lessons, but about shaping lives. It’s where families and staff work hand in hand. I believe that **strong partnerships between the school and home** are vital.

While no school is perfect, and we are constantly striving to improve, I believe our school embodies many of these qualities. Our staff, families, and talented children/students bring life to our mission every day. The **small acts of kindness** in the passages of our schools, the thoughtful questions in classrooms, and the laughter on the playground are daily reminders that we are on the right path. I believe that fervently. Our children/ students are reminded of that at every turn.

A few highlights this past week: this past Friday, our High School had its annual “Slipper Day”, which raised funds for the “Reach for a Dream Foundation”. Thanks to everyone who wore slippers and donated money for this worthy cause. I am delighted that our High School has finally entered the High School Chess League. They’ve won both matches that they have played – an added bonus! Our High School Quiz Team participated in “The Herald on the Go Quiz Competition”. They won their first 2 round matches and have advanced to the final 16. I am proud of them!

This week, we continue to focus on our School Board and each member’s impact on our school’s legacy. I acknowledge and thank **Mr Geoff Mendelowitz**, our Vice Chair, for his role in this legacy.

I thank you for your continued support as we work together to make our school not just good, but **great in the ways that matter most**.

I wish you a good week ahead!

Kind Regards

Viktor

MR VIKTOR KURZ
Executive Principal

Jewish Life

We celebrated Lag B’Omer around the bonfire and a meaningful Pesach Sheni 2025. “Second chances”



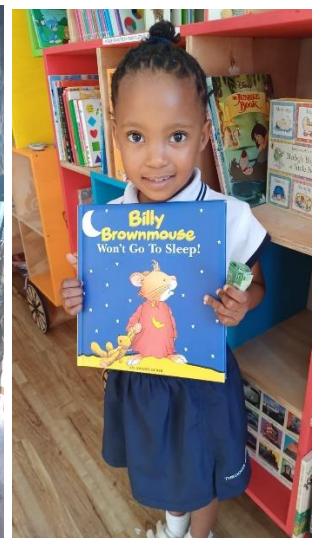
Pre-Primary School News

At our preschool, we believe that play is one of the most powerful ways young children learn and grow. Sand and water play are not only fun—they're also essential tools for learning in early childhood! When children scoop, pour, dig, and experiment with sand and water, they are developing important skills and concepts. These activities help build fine motor strength, encourage problem-solving, and introduce early math and science concepts like volume, cause and effect, and measurement. At the same time, children are learning to share, take turns, and communicate with their peers—supporting both their social and emotional development.



Primary School News

On the outing to “My Magic Words”, our Grade 1s enjoyed a Dino Story, painted fridge magnets and bought a book for their class.



High School News

Our High School Chess Team entered the High School Chess League for the first time. We are excited to have won both our league matches thus far! Chess is alive and well at our Primary and High Schools.



The High School Quiz team seen participating in "The Herald on the Go Quiz competition". Having won both rounds, they have progressed through to the final 16.



Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
9 May	Junior Chess	Sunridge	Won 7-0
12 May	U13a Netball	Westering	Lost 7-3
12 May	U13b Netball	Westering	Won 8-1
13 May	U10 Hockey	Clarendon E	Draw 2-2
13 May	U9 Soccer	Walmer	Lost 3-0

13 May	U10 Tennis	St Josephs	Won 14-1
13 May	Open Tennis	Sunridge B	Won 22-6
14 May	U11a Soccer	Happy Home	Lost 1-0
14 May	U13a Soccer	Happy Home	Lost 3-2
15 May	U13a Netball	Sydenham	Won 11-7
15 May	U13b Netball	Sydenham	Lost 5-2
15 May	U14 Hockey	Curro Westbrook	Won 2-0
15 May	U11b Soccer	Eduplanet	Lost 6-0

High School Sport

Mr Scriven reports:

Equestrian:



Bella Muller competed in the Woodridge Eventing Competition last weekend, where she and **Jon-Jon** came 1st in the EV75 class. She also entered the Western Cape Eventing Show in George this past weekend. Bella on her pony Jon-Jon had a wonderful show and placed 2nd in the EV75 class.



Jemma Schewitz competed in the Eastern Cape JNR Riding Championships held in Bathurst this past weekend. She attained a 2nd and 3rd place in the 1.10m Show Jumping classes and became the EC Open Equitation Champion on her horse **Callaho Liberty**.

Netball: League matches

THS vs Harvest: u/15 team won 8-3
1st team won 17-12

THS vs Brylin: u/15 team won 7-5
1st team lost 12-8



Soccer: League matches

Girls vs Alexander Road draw 3-3
Boys u/16 vs Brylin won 6-0
Boys 1st vs Brylin won 3-2

Soccer: Inter-house match

BG vs WS
BG won 3-2

Cross Country:

Congratulations to **Talia Prahaladh** and **Camilo Ncoyo** who participated in the Inter-Schools Cross-Country League for the first time. They ranked in the top third of the field!

Hockey: Friendly

THS Mix team vs Brylin won 6 – 0



Meet our Board Vice Chairman

Mr Mendelowitz writes:



Geoff Mendelowitz

The Mendelowitz family—Geoffrey, Janice, Daniel, Beth, and Joseph—plus our furry four-legged kids—arrived in Port Elizabeth from Johannesburg some 18 years ago. This was the result of an opportunity offered to me to relocate, manage, and grow an Eastern Cape-based Consulting Engineering practice.

We first rented a house in Summerstrand—as close to the sea as possible, being the overriding attraction for sea-starved “Gautengers.” However, with three school-going children in tow, and as a Jewish family, Theodor Herzl Schools was always going to be the natural choice for us.

And what a choice it was! We swiftly moved to a permanent home in Dormy Place (which has a door directly onto the fields), thereby ending our car/school commuting days.

However, the convenience of location pales into insignificance when compared to the value of education and life skills provided to my children by the wonderful Theodor system.

As a professional Civil Engineer with an MBA, I was enlisted to assist with Theodor Herzl Schools’ further growth and management. Over time, I replaced the emigrating Chuck Volpe as Chairman of the United Hebrew Institutions Trust (UHI), the Organization that founded and continues to oversee the School Board.

I also assumed my present role as vice chairman of the school board and assisted on the building committee, which has seen a number of new classrooms and facility upgrades. The school campus is a very different place compared to when we first saw it in 2007. The buildings and facilities are much improved, and I applaud all who assisted in making our vision of dual streaming in the Primary School, along with all the new classroom upgrades, become a reality.

Joseph matriculated in 2020, so my direct involvement at Theodor ended. However, I have remained involved and committed to what I believe is a unique, world-class example of a school with truly great universal values and ethics passed onto our learners.

Having “retired” 9 years ago, I have remained active in a Property Management Business. I also assist with a Management Development Programme for professional engineers through Consulting Engineers of South Africa (CESA)



Theodor
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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART