



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

25 July 2025

Issue #14



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

*“Gratitude makes sense of our past,
brings peace for today, and creates a
vision for tomorrow.”*

[Melody Beattie](#)

And just like that, Term 3 is upon us, and we are in the latter half of 2025. I trust that the school holidays have been a good time to spend at least a little quality time relaxing with family and friends.

Personally, Melody Beattie's words (above) could not be more apt for me. I am most certainly on the road to recovery and am immensely grateful on so many levels. My cardiologist is a miracle worker. My faith has certainly played a significant role in my healing and recovery, too. It is in times of a crisis that the community comes together, and I thank each of you for the thoughtful emails and messages you sent to me. Each of them has meant a great deal to me and my family. The “heart” of Theodor Herzl Schools is a tangible and real one.

At our high school academic and beginning-of-term assembly earlier this week, I spoke about the topic, concept and **power** of “yet.” It is a small word with enormous power. It's a word that turns failure into growth, discouragement into hope, and limitation into possibility. Its **power** contains a mindset applicable to all of us – **no matter our age or context.**

There's a big difference between saying “*I can't do this*” and saying “*I can't do this... yet.*” That single word, “yet,” holds the promise of improvement, of progress, of a future that is not fixed. It reminds us that learning is a journey — and every challenge is a step forward, not a wall in our way.

We live in a world where quick results are celebrated. But the truth is, the most meaningful success comes from effort, persistence, and the courage to keep going even when things get tough and also “failing.” I thought that the image of the chickens alongside captured the message appropriately.

One might say:

- “I’m not good at maths... yet.”
- “I haven’t made the team... yet.”
- “I don’t understand this topic... yet.”



That mindset — a *growth mindset* — is what separates those of us who stay stuck, from those who rise.

It was a reminder that even the most successful people we all admire, once struggled. But, they didn’t just stop. The reality is that they used every failure as feedback. They understood that the brain, like a muscle, grows stronger through use and challenge.

The power of ‘yet’ embodies this notion and encourages us to believe in our **ability and potential to improve**. My challenge to our students (and adults) was to change the narrative one is telling oneself. And not to give up just because something is hard. Lean into it. Ask for help. Try again. A lesson for all of us...

SAVE THE DATE! According to the calendar and correspondence, our Shabbat Nachamu weekend is just two weeks away. This weekend celebrates and **commemorates our school’s birthday**. Sunday 10th August is a fun-filled day of sport and age-appropriate activities (sporting and otherwise) for children, students and parents. It is a day (essentially the morning) for the whole family to enjoy. More detailed information will be communicated to you early next week.

Another date to diarise is **Thursday 21 August**. It is our **School Board’s AGM**, an important opportunity to meet the Board, learn about their respective roles, and its value in the fullness of our school life. The evening will be an informal one, with refreshments (we envisage a cheese-and-wine style evening). The evening will include informal presentations on relevant and useful topics pertinent to you as parents, and provide opportunities to learn more about an aspect of Theodor Herzl Schools that may have intrigued you- all in an informal, convivial setting. We encourage you to be part of the evening! It will be a worthwhile one to attend – and not miss. Further details will follow in the days ahead.

After an association of more than 24 years with Theodor Herzl Schools, first as a part-time teacher, then a full-time staff member and until relatively recently, a member of Management at the high school, ***Mrs Adina Pieters*** retires at the end of this year. A valued member of staff, with a wealth of experience on many levels and who has served the school with distinction, appropriate tributes and functions will be held in the months ahead as we bid her farewell.

Despite the weather forecast for the weekend looking decidedly bleak, I trust that it will nevertheless be a happy and restful one for you.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'V. Kurz'.

Mr Viktor Kurz
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS

Primary School News

Our Grade 7s have been presenting their Science Expo Projects this week, in preparation for the Science Expo Evening next week. Hope to see you all there!



High School News

Congratulations to our Term 2 Top 5 Academic achievers.



THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS

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High School Term 2 Top 5 Academic Achievers:

Grade 8				
				
Mila Schumacher	Jayden Viduya	Isabella du Toit	Tamishka Reddy	
Grade 9				
				
Ruhi Doorgapershad	Crystal van Tonder	Camilo Ncoyo	William Greenwood	Tsebo Maliehe
Grade 10				
				
Jade Meyer	Sarah van der Merwe	Oluwatobi Adeleke	Ella Scheepers	Adrienne Schmidt
Grade 11				
				
Liyemah Funani	Kira Olivier	Haroon Aslam	Nicholas Pitsiladi	Ashley Filtane
Grade 12				
				
Sienna Scribante	Chloe Smith	Sibahle Tebelele	David Horak	Janreu Oosthuizen

Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:



Hudson Venter participated in the *Fishing for Life* competition held on the Kowie River in Port Alfred and was awarded the prize for Top Junior River Angler!

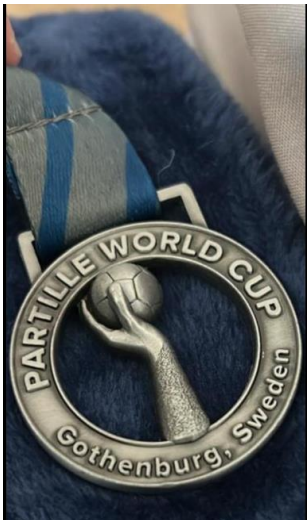
Iviwe Sizani has been working hard during the holidays and is currently no.2 in the EC Region for the U10 Chess Girls. Her team came 3rd in the Team Section and Nelson Mandela won the trophy for best Chess Team in the region!



High School Sport

Mr Scriven reports:

Handball:



Enzo Luvizeto won a silver medal in both the Swedish and French Handball Championships held during the holidays!

Adrienne Schmidt was selected to represent South Africa in the U20 Women's National Soccer Team. They competed in the COSAFA Region 5 Tournament in Namibia, where South Africa took on Zambia, Eswatini and Angola. A significant achievement for a 16 year old girl in the u/20 division.

Soccer:



Equestrian:

Our Theodor Herzl Equestrian Team did very well at the SA Youth Championships in Kyalami during the holidays:

Bella Muller on *Jon-Jon* competed in the 80cm PR Show Jumping Category and earned a 1st, 3rd and 5th place and our EC Team came 2nd. She placed 3rd, 5th and 7th in the Working Hunter and Working Riding classes and placed 2nd in the 85cm Eventing Championship and our EC Eventing Team came 1st.

Chloe Wiese competed on **Denny's Gift** in the 80cm JNR Show Jumping category and earned a 14th and a 7th place (out of 72 riders) in the 2 Phase class, and our EC JNR 80cm Team came 3rd! Chloe also competed on her new horse **Callaho Summer Love** in the 80cm SANESA competition held at PE Riding Club and came 2nd.

Jemma Schewitz on **Callaho Liberty** competed in the 1.1m Jnr Show Jumping category against 94 competitors across SA and earned a 1st, 1st and 3rd place and was named Victor Ludorum! Our EC Team placed 2nd. In the 1m Jnr SJ class with 93 competitors on The Beat, she came 7th and our EC Team placed 2nd. In Equitation Jemma and Liberty represented the WC/EC mixed Team and earning the highest scores in the Team and WC/EC placed 2nd. Jemma also competed in the Robberg Callaho Stud World Cup Qualifier and placed 1st in the 1.10m A2 SJ class on Callaho Liberty and 1st in the 1m A2 SJ class on The Beat. Jemma and Liberty are currently ranked 1st in SA in the 1.10m JNR category on SASJ. We wish her well as she moves to the 1.20m class in this weekend's show.



Important notices

THEODOR HERZL & MIGHTY KINGS
BOWLS DAY
 WESTERN SUBURBS BOWLS CLUB
 Friday 26 September 2025
14:00
R600 PER TEAM
4/TEAM
 LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE
CONTACT CHRISTO
 sport@theodorherzl.co.za

Great Prizes to be won!

PLEASE HELP OUR INTERACT CLUB
SHARE THE WARMTH!
BLANKET DRIVE
BRRRRR... IT'S GETTING CHILLY!

Our High School INTERACT Club is collecting blankets.
 Please donate any gently used/new Blankets.

To say THANK YOU for your support,
 You get to wear your favourite HOODIE to school on 31 July!

Beneficiary: Bread of Life (Walmer Methodist)
 For Airport Valley Community

THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS
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FAMILY
 10 August
 09:00-13:00
 Theodor Sports Field
FUN DAY
 For the whole family.
 Join us for a Family Fun Walk, Soccer, Netball, Hockey, Tennis, Chess, Golf (chipping/putting contest), Dad's vs lads, Moms vs daughters & Fun races for our Pre-Primary Theodorables!

Meet the Board



Mr Murray Price

We have been part of the Theodor family since all of my children joined Theodor in 2016.

All 3 of my children joined Theodor in grades 1 & 2, respectively. They have been educated in a school that cares deeply about its children, teachers, and families. It is a school that is inclusive of all and allows its children to produce excellent results without fear of failure.

By profession I work as an operations manager specialising in the FMCG environment. I have worked in the agriculture sector, ready-to-eat foods as well as frozen desserts and commodities for the last 30 years.

I was elected to the Board of Theodor Herzl Schools in 2022 and have served on the board for 3 years. I accepted the nomination onto the board as I believed that with my experience and management skills, I could add value to the school. I also wanted to learn and understand how a school operates. Since I have been on the board, I have learnt a great deal about our school, and it has been a significant addition to my life to be part of this team.

I have witnessed the complexities that our school regularly faces and the thought and care that go into all the decisions that need to be made. Fairness is at the core of all that the school does and decides for all 500 of our children and families. By sticking to its core values, the school and board have the ability to stay true to all concerned.

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be part of the Theodor family, and without a doubt, I believe it is the best school for our children in the Eastern Cape.



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART