



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

5 September 2025

Issue #20



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

"The arts are not a frill; they are the heart of what it means to be human." — **John F. Kennedy**

Sitting at last night's high school Cultural Evening, was nothing short of inspiring. Walking through the exhibition of our students' visual art in the hall foyer, then experiencing the energy of the music and drama performances, reminded me of the magic of Theodor Herzl Schools. My challenge to Mrs Niqui Cloete-Barrass (Head of Drama), Ms Ros Dorfling (Head of Visual Art), Mr Siya Xotyeni (Head of High School Music) and Mrs Candice Parkin (Head of Music) is that this evening becomes an annual event.

Last night was a showcase and a celebration of creativity, collaboration, and the courage our young people demonstrate when they share their talents with the school community.

Last night was a powerful moment; it was a proud moment - on many levels.

The stage was set earlier in the week, when I attended the Senior Primary Public Speaking competition at Theodor Primary School. With talent galore, it was a reminder of the talent that exists in the classrooms and outside of them at Theodor Herzl Schools.

The painter, Henri Matisse had it correct when he said, *"Creativity takes courage."* That was on full display last night - and in abundance.

The arts must always occupy a central place in education because they nurture qualities that no textbook alone can teach. Through painting, sculpture, music, or theatre, our children and students learn to see the world from multiple perspectives, express their ideas and emotions authentically, and collaborate with others in a spirit of trust and imagination. These are lifelong skills—empathy, discipline, and creative problem-solving—that enrich every future path our students may follow.

At Theodor Herzl Schools, we are privileged to have teachers who cultivate these gifts with patience and passion, guiding students to refine their technical skills while also encouraging self-expression. The vibrant arts programme here—whether in the studio, rehearsal rooms, or on stage—affirms our belief that education must engage both heart and mind.

“The arts are not a frill; they are the heart of what it means to be human” – meaningful and accurate words by John F. Kennedy – and so very true for about the heart of Theodor Herzl Schools.

In a change of direction regarding the topic, I thank those of you who attended our Board AGM two weeks ago. It was an informative evening, meeting the board, hearing from each member and then being part of the strategic thinking of our school – “what will our child/ren of 2030 look like and how are we equipped to meet their needs.”

I confirm the names of our Board members for 2026:

United Hebrew Institutions: elected at the UHI general meeting.

Ian Meyer, Chairman.

Geoff Mendelowitz, Vice Chairman.

Alan Goldberg, Treasurer.

Bevan Franklin, Judaica

Gary Schewitz, Security.

School Parents: elected at the AGM

Paola Horak (ex officio, co-opted)

Dr Emma Gardiner, Education.

Prof Subeshini Moodley, Education.

Debbie Schkolne, Education.

Murray Price, Finance.

Dr Thuli Maphalala, Education

I am sincerely grateful to our School Board for the vital part they play in guiding the strategic direction of our school. The leadership by our Chairman, Mr Ian Meyer is hugely appreciated on many fronts. The Board’s insight, encouragement, and willingness to ask the right questions keep us moving forward with confidence. Behind the scenes, they give generously of their time, balancing busy lives while ensuring that our decisions remain firmly centred on what is best for our children/students and that our values

remain entrenched in all that we do at Theodor Herzl Schools. We are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated Board walking this journey with us.

I wish you a good weekend ahead, filled with fun and good family time.

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Pre-Primary School

Our Theodorables welcomed Spring with a Spring Hat Day celebration!



Primary School News

The Primary School Music Assembly was an absolute TREAT! An opportunity to display their talents and the best way to start the week.



Congratulations to our Senior Public Speaking Award winners: **Jake Schewitz** 1st, **Sachiv Moodley** 2nd and **Mako Chetsanga** 3rd.



Congratulations to our Junior Public Speaking Award winners: **Isaac Mbube** 1st, **Ngobile Peter** 2nd and **Rachel Lourens-Fan** 3rd.

High School News

Our Hiking Club children enjoyed a truly memorable hiking experience in the breathtaking Kouga Mountains, based at Mooigedacht Farm.



Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
2 September	U9 Soccer	Nasruddin B	Lost 3-1
4 September	U11a Soccer	Greenwood B	Won 4-3
4 September	U13 Soccer	Greenwood B	Won 4-1
4 September	U11b Soccer	Wesbram	Lost 3-0

High School Sport

Mr Scriven reports:

Squash:

1st team kept their unbeaten record with an 8-6 win over Kirkwood on Friday.



Gymnastics:

Emily Geldart took part in the 2nd Eastern Cape gymnastics trials. She placed first overall in level 7 for the 14 & over age group. This means she has been selected to represent Eastern Cape at National Championships on the 6 October 2025 and been awarded her Eastern Cape colours.



Hockey:

Our Hockey Girls competed in the 5-a-side Tournament at Framesby. While the team didn't come home with a win this time, what they showed was far greater than any scoreboard could measure.



We are very proud of **Jayden Viduya** who competed in the XXI AA Zone IV SC Championships held in Eswatini. He earned GOLD in the Boys 13-14 50 SC Metre Breaststroke!

Important notices

Please support our Judaicare/Interact fundraiser which concludes with an Assembly this Monday the 8th of September. Thank you in anticipation of your kindness.



Last chance to enter your Teams! The prizes are amazing.



 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!



Theodor
Herzl
Schools

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART