



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

22 September 2025

Issue #21



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and
I may remember, involve me and I
learn."*

Benjamin Franklin

What a wonderful couple of weeks it has been at Theodor Herzl Schools! Franklin's words have echoed through so many of our recent events, reminding us that real learning happens when our children are fully involved and engaged, and that has certainly been the case across our school community.

The past two weeks have been filled with energy, inspiration, and a wonderful sense of community at every level of our school. Each occasion has reminded me of the richness of life here at Theodor Herzl and the value of learning that goes far beyond the classroom.

Mrs Hilary Goldberg and I had the privilege of attending the **National Conference of Heads of Independent Schools in South Africa**, where leaders from across the country came together to share ideas, debate current challenges, and celebrate the future of independent education. It was deeply affirming to see how our school stands shoulder to shoulder with the very best in South Africa, and to bring home insights that will benefit our students. It is exciting to bring back fresh perspectives and ideas that will help us strengthen our own school.

Education is constantly changing, and schools like ours need to keep an eye on the big shifts shaping how young people learn and prepare for the future. As mentioned by the CEO of ISASA, Mr Lebogang Montjane, I'd like to share some of the important **trends in education** that are influencing schools around the world — and in time (if not already), will influence us too.

1. Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom

AI is no longer just a buzzword. It's beginning to make a real impact in classrooms, from tools that help teachers personalise learning to systems that support students with feedback and practice. While it will never replace good teaching, it can enhance it in exciting ways.

2. Learning Beyond the Classroom

The idea of a "learning ecosystem" is growing. This means that education doesn't only happen in school. It's also shaped by families, communities, online resources, and even after-school clubs and activities. The best learning happens when all of these pieces work together.

3. Education Driving the Economy

Schools are increasingly working alongside businesses and communities to prepare young people for the world of work. By developing local talent, schools can help build stronger regional economies — a development that is especially important for South Africa.

4. Students as Change-Makers

Today's young people are not just learners, they're also problem-solvers. We see students taking the lead on social, environmental, and community issues, showing that they want to be part of shaping the future.

5. Skills for Life

In a fast-changing world, the ability to adapt is crucial. This means our children will need to keep learning new skills throughout their lives, not just at school or university. Curiosity and flexibility are as important as knowledge.

6. The Human Touch

As technology takes on more routine tasks, skills like creativity, empathy, teamwork, and communication are becoming even more valuable. These "human skills" will be essential in the future workplace — and they're ones schools must nurture.

7. Growth of Education Technology

The global education technology industry is booming and is expected to more than double in size over the next few years. From online learning platforms to interactive apps, technology will continue to shape how children learn.

8. Shifting Demographics

Populations are changing: in some parts of the world, people are living longer and having fewer children, while in places like Africa, the youth population is growing rapidly. These shifts affect how schools plan for the future and ensure education remains accessible and sustainable.

9. Vocational Training with a High-Tech Edge

There is growing demand for practical training linked directly to jobs. Partnerships between schools, colleges, and businesses are being created to prepare students with the technical and digital skills employers need.

These trends remind us that education is never static. As a school, we are committed to keeping our eyes on the future while ensuring our children are grounded in the values and skills that matter most today.

Our High School students recently experienced the **Ripple Camp**, where the curriculum is “collapsed”, and learning takes place in fresh, creative, and challenging ways. It is always inspiring to see how young people respond when allowed to think differently, to work together, and to discover the power of learning outside the four walls of the classroom.

In the **Primary School**, the Athletics Day brought a wave of excitement, healthy competition, and community spirit. Days like these remind us that every achievement—big or small—deserves celebration.

At the heart of it all, our youngest learners in the **Pre-Primary** delighted everyone with their concert. Their joy, innocence, and enthusiasm filled the Pre-Primary garden and reminded us why we do what we do. There is no greater reward than seeing children so proud of themselves, and families sharing in those precious moments. Good moments indeed.

I am pleased to announce that **Mr Paul Blake** has been appointed as the Head of History from January 2026. A man of immense experience in and passion for his subject and teaching, I look forward to the impact he will make on Theodor Herzl School. I know that, as Mrs Adina Pieters has done as she has so ably led the History Department over the years, the subject and department, along with our children, will thrive under Mr Blake’s guidance.

Finally, as we move into the time of **Rosh Hashanah**, I wish our Jewish families, and indeed our whole community, a time of peace, renewal, and blessing. As the sun sets on Monday the 22nd of September 2025, Jewish communities around the world prepare to welcome Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. This holy day which marks the beginning of the Hebrew month of Tishrei, is more than just a celebration; it is a time of deep reflection, renewal, and reconnection. Rich with spiritual meaning and family customs, Rosh Hashanah traditions are rooted in thousands of years



of history. Each practice, from tasting apples and honey to hearing the sound of the shofar, symbolises themes of forgiveness, renewal, and hope for the year ahead. May the year ahead be filled with health, joy, and opportunity.

I thank you for your ongoing support of our school. Together, we continue to nurture not only academic excellence but also the spirit, creativity, and character that will carry our students forward into the world beyond Theodor Herzl Schools. Not always a certain world!

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Pre-Primary School

Our Pre-Primary Theodorables were absolutely Adorable in the Annual Pre-Primary School Concert!



Primary School News

Our Grade 1s spoke with confidence and pride when they presented their “Pirate” Orals last week.



High School News

Congratulations to all our Co-curricular Awards Winners.

THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS **SCHOOLS with HEART**

School Term 3 Sport Awards:

SENIOR MERIT: CHESS SENIOR MERIT: NETBALL


Richard West


Khumo Rammutla

SENIOR MERIT: SOCCER SENIOR HONOURS: SOCCER


Anda Nongogo


Adrienne Schmidt

SENIOR HONOURS: EQUESTRIAN SENIOR HONOURS: GOLF


Jemma Schewitz


Ana Weber

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School Term 3 Culture Awards:

SENIOR COLOURS: QUIZ


Haroon Aslam


Morgan Johnson


Charlotte Marran


Liyemah Funani

SENIOR MERIT: MUSIC


Ané Becker


Ella Scheepers


Aiden Zeelie

SENIOR COLOURS: MUSIC


David Daniel


Max Schewitz


Aidan Miltz

SENIOR HONOURS: MUSIC


Brooklyn Murphy

THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS **SCHOOLS with HEART**

School Term 3 Sport Awards:

JUNIOR HONOURS: EQUESTRIAN


Isabella Muller


Chloe Wiese

Junior HONOURS: GYMNASTICS


Emily Geldart

Junior HONOURS: Swimming


Jayden Viduya


Kellen Jones

THEODOR HERZL SCHOOLS **SCHOOLS with HEART**

School Term 3 Culture Awards:

JUNIOR MERIT: MUSIC


Rohan McLachlan


Isabella Du Toit


Sophia Gatangi


Camilo Ncoyo

JUNIOR COLOURS: MUSIC


Bonukukhanya Makamba

Junior HONOURS: MUSIC


Jayden Viduya

Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

Iviwe Sizani took part in a 2-day Chess tournament this past weekend where she played with top players in the EC U10 Girls and maintained her 2nd place in the province, coming home with a Silver medal.



Nuha Jeeva took part in her first-ever showing show at PE Riding Club this weekend. She came 2nd in the newcomer's show riding class and reserve champion in the championship show riding class on her pony, Riverview Kenya.

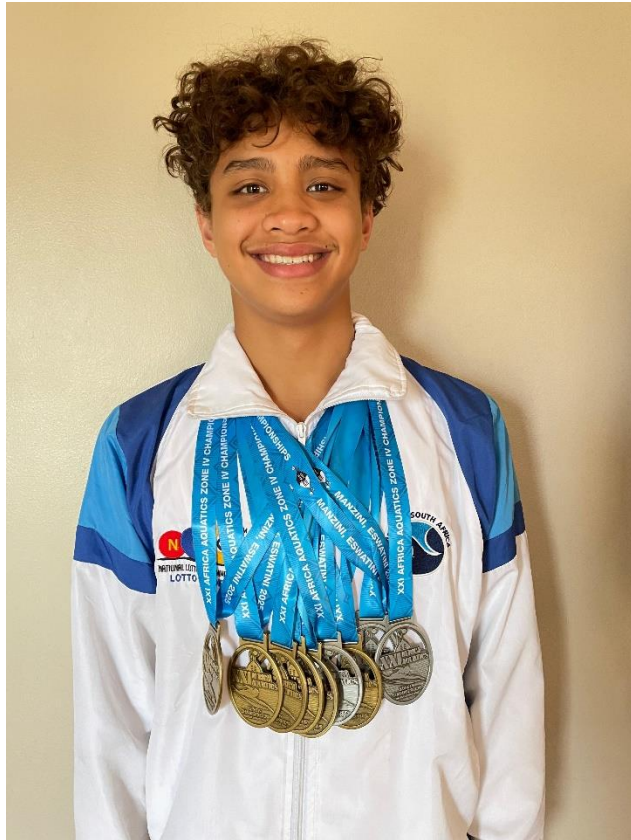
Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
8 September	U13a Netball	Moregrove C	Won 14-0
8 September	U13b Netball	Moregrove U12	Won 12-1
9 September	U9 Soccer	Nasruddin A	Lost 6-0
10 September	U14 Hockey	Greenwood	Won 1-0
11 September	U11b Soccer	Al-Azhar A	Lost 3-1

High School Sport

Mr Scriven reports:

Cross Country

Talia Prahaladh at the Despatch Road Race last Saturday (1 September) where she completed the 5km race in a personal best time of 24:18 min.



Swimming

Jayden Viduya represented South Africa at the 21st Africa Aquatics Zone IV Championships in Eswatini from 3-6 September 2025.

Individual Results:

- Gold – 50m Breaststroke – 31.76
- Gold – 100m Breaststroke – 1:06.77 (New Championship Record)
- Silver – 200m Breaststroke – 2:29.99
- Silver – 50m Freestyle – 25.39
- Silver – 200m Individual Medley – 2:18.72

Relays:

- Competed in 4 relay events – all Gold.

In total, Jayden earned 7 Gold medals and 3 Silver medals

Squash

Our squash team beat Harvest 11-5 in their final league match. It was the first time that Theodor participated in a school squash league. They were unbeaten in the 3rd league.

Gymnastics

Emily Geldart took part in the third and final EC trials. She placed 1st overall and will now be preparing for Nationals.

Mila Schumacher has qualified for National Gymnastics Championship after a 1st and 2nd place in the Eastern Cape trials in level 6. She is proud to represent the Eastern Cape in Johannesburg on the 7th of October.



Equestrian:

A few of our Equestrian Riders participated in the PERC Spring Show this weekend.

Chloe Wiese on her horse Callaho Summerlove attained 1st places in the Novice Show Hunter and Show Riding classes, 2nd place in the Best Canter and 90cm Show Jumping classes, 3rd place in the Best Rhree Gaited class.

Jemma Schewitz on her horse Callaho Liberty attained a 2nd place in the 1.20m Show Jumping class.

Isabella Muller on her pony Jon-Jon attained 1st places in the Working Hunter, Working Riding & Show pony classes. They attained 2nd places in the Open Show Pony and Open Show Riding classes.



Important notices

To our High School Theodorians who supported the Pad Drive and our Primary School Theodorians who supported the “Bag of Donations” for the Cleary Estate Cheshire Home we say THANK YOU for your generous donations. Your kindness has brought comfort and hope to those in need, reminding us all of the power of community and compassion. Every contribution makes a difference, and we are deeply grateful.



Theodor
Herzl
Schools

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART