



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

26 January 2026

Issue #2



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

"Perspective is not about ignoring what is difficult, but about recognising what remains good."

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."

Viktor Fankl

This week, as our city has navigated significant power and water outages, I write this newsletter on a Sunday (not the norm) from my office at school, with electricity, connectivity, and the reassuring hum of things that are "normal". I had thought to delay the newsletter by a day and not send it off on Friday, for a multitude of reasons – not sure if it was a wise move or not! I believe it was. We have a rehearsal for the school production in March. Rehearsals are in full swing and unfolding around me as I write this. I am excited about the Drama Department's passion and the cast's energy. More about that in the near future!

It is a simple observation, but a meaningful one. Things could be far more difficult – and for many families and communities beyond our immediate environment, they are. Moments like these call us to pause and consider perspective: to recognise what we have, to acknowledge what others may be facing, and to be quietly grateful for the stability we are fortunate to enjoy. Contexts are all relative.

Our theme for the year is **respect**, and it feels especially relevant in times like these. Respect begins with **awareness and empathy** – an understanding that our circumstances are not shared by all, and that gratitude should shape how we engage with one another and the world around us.

I want to stress that, as a school, we are thankful for what we have, mindful of those facing greater challenges, and committed to modelling respect through compassion, thoughtfulness, and care in our daily actions. I cannot overstate that enough!

The week that has been has been a happy one! As reflected on social media and in this newsletter, our Grade 7s and 8s (both significant years for various reasons) had a wonderful “orientation” camp, where skills and personalities were on full display. A good moment for both Hilary and me, respectively.

Today, Monday 26 January, another special day occurs as our Matric class of 2026 is acknowledged at their Tie Ceremony and “rites of passage moment”. I am excited about this moment. The ceremony marks a “rite of passage” for our Matric class each year, signalling the final phase of their school journey at Theodor Herzl High School. This moment will be captured and shared on social media shortly. From here, each of our Grade 12s (old Pot) will be paired with each Grade 8 (New Pot), assuming the role of guide and support as each Grade 8 commences their journey at high school.

I enjoyed attending our Grade 1 and 7 assembly this morning, where our Grade 7s will be formally inducted to serve as mentors to our little Grade 1s. The **mentorship pattern** is established and replicated at our Primary and High Schools. A special assembly awaits them all.

This past Friday’s High School Inter-House Gala was a great reminder of what school sport is all about. We were treated to some superb performances from our national and provincial swimmers, alongside many amateur and novice swimmers who stepped up for their Houses with confidence and pride. What really made the afternoon special was the atmosphere. There was plenty of encouragement, good-natured competition and a strong sense of togetherness. It was inclusive, energetic, and very much in the spirit of the respect we value as a school.

Another aspect of our school life, initiated by our Head of Sport, Mr Christo Scriven at the High School, is “Gees Week’ (“Spirit Week”), and this week sees the High School, along with special moments enjoyed by all of our schools (we are one school after all!) capturing the enjoyment of the “gees.” I am excited to see the “gees” of Theodor on display this week, culminating in the High School Inter House Athletics this Friday 30th January.

A reminder that our High School’s Open Day will be on the 12th of February (see flyer in the Newsletter). In addition, our Scholarship applications for Grade 7s remain open until the 20th of February. Please find the Link on our FB and Instagram pages.

At the beginning of a new week and the end of a hectic one, I include this article. An interesting one. My wish is that it makes us all think of the value of being part of an IEB school. Some sobering comments! The link is:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2026-01-14-the-sa-school-curriculum-isnt-broken-thethe-conditions-are-and-weve-designed-it/>

I wish you well in the week ahead. May it be a happy one.

Blessings to you all,

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Primary School

We proudly support our Sunrisers!



High School

What an incredible fun-filled, sun-soaked afternoon at our Inter-House Swimming Gala! From the cheers on the sidelines to the determination in the pool, it was a true celebration of school spirit, community, and teamwork. A huge thank you to our parents, pupils, and teachers for bringing the energy and making the day so special. CONGRATULATIONS to HOUSE WEIZMANN for TAKING THE WIN!



Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

Swimming:



Congratulations to **Milani Butau** on winning a gold medal in the 3km Open Water swim at Marina Martinique on Sunday.



Cricket:

Our Cricket players are excited for a term filled with competitive Cricket!

THEODOR HERZL
תפילה העברית נאמית

PRIMARY SCHOOL CRICKET TERM 1

January:
Wednesday, 28 January - u/13 B vs Verkenner (home)
Thursday, 29 January - u/11 B vs Clarendon Park (home)

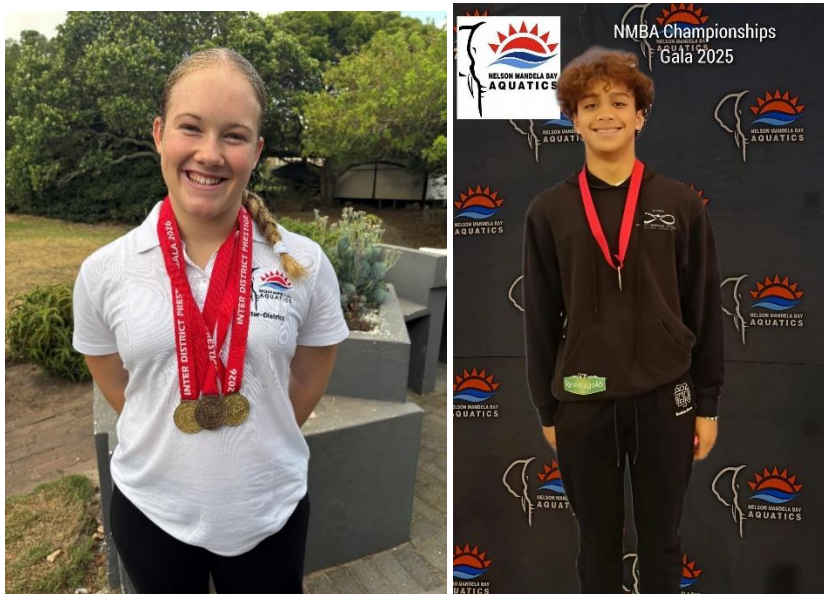
February:
4 & 11 February - u/13 B vs Mount Pleasant (away)
18 & 25 February - u/13 B vs Grey (home)
5 & 12 February - u/11 B vs Mount Pleasant (away)
19 & 26 February - u/11 B vs Grey (home)

March:
4 March - u/13 B vs Altona (away)
5 March - u/11 B vs Altona (away)

High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

Swimming:



Emily Geldart swam at NMBA Champs during December. She placed 1st in the 50m breaststroke and 3rd in the 100m breaststroke.

Emily Geldart, Jayden Viduya and *Carter Cruickshank* took part in the Inter District Gala held on 10 January 2026.

Emily placed 1st in the 50m breaststroke and 3rd in the 100m breaststroke and was part of the medley relay team that placed 1st overall.

Jayden placed 1st in the 200m IM, 100m Breaststroke, 100m Fly and 50m Freestyle. He placed 2nd in the 200m Medley Relay and 200m Free Relay.

Carter placed 5th in 50m backstroke, 4th in 100m Fly, 10th in 50m Fly and 12 in 200m Freestyle.

A few of our swimmers also participated in the Open Water swimming race at Marina Martinique: Results in their respective age groups.

- *Kellen Jones* - 1st 5km & 7.5km
- *Jayden Viduya* - 1st 3km 4th
- *Eli Kannemeyer* - 1st 1.5km & 3km
- *Aiden Green* - 6th 5km

At the League 5 - EP Biathlon 13 January 2026

U15 Boys - *Eli Kannemeyer* made a strong comeback after being out for most of the season after a knee surgery. He finished top of the leader board for League 5 with a solid run and swim time. He had personal best times in both the run and swimming, doing his best time ever for the 100m Free.

Equestrian:

Eva Pape and *Bella Muller* did very well at SANESA this weekend representing Theodor Herzl High School. Eva came 1st in the 60cm Show Jumping and a 1st for Level 1 Working Riding. Bella came 1st in Open Working Riding, 2nd in 90cm Show Jumping, 1st in Open Working Hunter and 1st in Intermediate Equitation.



Cross Country:



Talia Prahaladh started the year on a high last Saturday, 17 January, when she earned a first place in the women's division of the N2 City Bluewater Bay 5km.

Important Notices

Get ready for a night of laughter, great music and friendly competition! Our Music Trivia Evening promises toe-tapping tunes, brain-teasing questions and plenty of fun for music lovers of all ages. Gather your friends, test your knowledge

across the decades, and enjoy an evening filled with energy, camaraderie and memorable moments. Don't miss out - come and play, sing along and make some noise!

THEODOR HERZL

DANCE COM

presents

PRIZES LUCKY DRAWS & MORE

MUSIC TRIVIA 2026

19 March | **18:30** | **Maths Block**

Tickets Available NOW! Ask any DANCE COM member or Phone 041 5814244

Theodor Herzl Banking Details:
United Hebrew Institute
Standard Bank
Acc #: 080214754
Reference: MT & Surname

54%

R110 pp / R1000 per table of 10
Bring your drinks & snacks
Enjoy the music with us!

Turn on sound for best experience!

Please join us at our Theodor Herzl High School Open Day.



OPEN
DAY

Join us for the

THEODOR HERZL HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

12 February @ 18:00, HALL

Come experience the
Theodor Vibe, Energy &
Excitement!

041 5814244
14th Ave, Walmer
www.theodorherzl.co.za



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