



**THEODOR  
HERZL  
SCHOOLS**

**SCHOOLS  
With HEART**

# NEWSLETTER

17 February 2026

Issue #5



## Principal's Corner

### Dear Parents / Guardians

"Let me love you a little more before you're not little anymore."



The image below, shared with me a few days ago, resonated as I sat down to write this newsletter last Friday! To be frank, this newsletter has been written in parts. As mentioned, I started with this newsletter last Friday, and for reasons beyond my control, it has taken a few days to complete! A first for me!

Whether we be teachers, parents or guardians, we are all in the "game of parenting, guiding, nurturing and loving."

It captures something we all know in our hearts: childhood moves quietly, steadily, and far more quickly than we expect. There is a tenderness in those ordinary moments - the lingering hug at the car door, the bedtime story requested "just one more time", or the hand that still instinctively reaches for ours. Whether in Pre-Primary, Primary, or High School, we at Theodor Herzl Schools have the privilege of walking alongside you through these formative years as we watch your children grow.

On a personal level, my wife and I became grandparents around midnight this past Sunday, when our granddaughter was born. This is our first grandchild - an exciting phase of our lives and those of our respective families. Hence, the attached image. I do believe that we can all relate to that image in one way or another.

This whole new phase has got me thinking about the various chapters in our lives - and in particular, life at Theodor Herzl Schools. There is something profoundly beautiful about childhood - not as a single chapter, but as a journey of unfolding phases. Each stage complete in itself. Each one is preparing the way for what comes next. At Theodor Herzl, we have the privilege of witnessing that unfolding every single day.

In our **Pre-Primary**, childhood is still wonderfully close to the heart. Mrs Carly Collett and her team of teachers create moments which, amongst many other things, include stimulating imagination without inhibition, laughter without self-consciousness, and learning that happens through play, rhythm, colour, and story. Here, the foundations are laid quietly but powerfully - confidence, kindness, curiosity. These are the years when children still feel very small in our arms and yet they are already beginning to grow in ways that matter deeply.

In our **Primary School and High School**, Hilary Goldberg and I begin to see the steady strengthening of identity. Skills sharpen. Friendships become more defined. Effort begins to translate into achievement.

It has been good to see, over the past weekend and in the days ahead, a growing number of our Primary and High School students on the cusp of, or already achieving, Eastern Province representation in Life Saving, swimming, and athletics. These moments do not arrive by chance. They are the fruit of discipline, resilience, early mornings, long afternoons, and the steady encouragement of parents and coaches. We are immensely proud of them - not only for the colours they may wear, but for the character they are developing in the process.

By the time our students reach High School, childhood has taken on a deeper dimension. It becomes reflective. Purposeful. Their talents become vehicles for expression and impact.

Having said that, at the end of this term, our High School production, "*Dreams of Anne Frank*," promises to be a significant and profound experience for our entire community. With its universal message of hope for young people worldwide, it reminds us that even in the most challenging circumstances, the voice and spirit of youth endure. For our students to engage with such material - thoughtfully and courageously - speaks to the maturity and depth that this phase of growth invites. Please watch out for the advertisements in social media and elsewhere showcasing the production!

As we reflect on these stages of development, it is also important to consider the environment in which our children are growing - particularly in the digital age.

I would like to gently remind our High School parents of the digital device policy currently in place. Our Grade 10-12 students are permitted to have their phones with them during the school day. However, phones may not be used during lessons, between classes, or during break time. The phone should not be visible. If a student needs to contact you, they should ask a teacher for permission. Our staff are understanding and supportive, and we will absolutely allow contact when it is genuinely necessary. The Grade 8 & 9s' phones remain locked in pouches.

Are there teething problems? At times, yes. Are there loopholes and occasional inconsistencies? We are aware of these and remain committed to refining and strengthening our policy's implementation. The reality is that where there is pushback, it often reflects just how strong the pull of digital devices is! In many ways, that reinforces the need for thoughtful boundaries. Encouragingly, we have already seen a marked improvement in focus and engagement during lesson time.

Childhood is fleeting. Each phase - from the wonder of Pre-Primary to the growing independence of High School - **deserves protection, guidance, and wise boundaries** from all of us. We are determined, to the best of our abilities, to put those measures in

place. Together, as school and home, we have the responsibility and the privilege of shaping not only successful students but also balanced, resilient, hopeful young people.

And so, with that, somewhat “philosophical” newsletter behind me, I wish you a good week ahead!

**Kind Regards**

*Viktor*

**Viktor Kurz**

**Executive Principal**

## Primary School

*Polly Plus* arrived unexpectedly at our Primary School: The Grade 1 children were delighted!



## High School

On Friday, 13 February 2026, our brave band of 13 hikers set off to tackle “Antjie se Pad”, tucked away in the beautiful heart of the Kouga area. Day one gave us 12 km of rain-soaked adventure, followed by the real reward - a braai, gooey marshmallow s’mores, and plenty of laughter around the fire.

Day two... well, let’s just say our enthusiasm got the better of us. Instead of the planned 10 km, we accidentally turned it into a very ambitious 22 km journey! Somehow, spirits stayed high and not a single smile disappeared. This is proof that this group runs on determination, humour, and good company.

A huge shout-out to all our hikers for their incredible positivity and willingness to keep going when things got tough and Mrs Ros Dorfling and Mr Paul Blake for accompanying

our students. And an especially big thank you to Mr Herman Stoffberg, who came to our rescue on day two and went far beyond what anyone could have expected. We have awarded him a true hero status!



## Sports News

### Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
10 February	U9 Cricket	Willow	Won by 31 runs
10 February	Open Tennis	Clarendon C	Won 29-5
11 February	U13 Cricket	Mount Pleasant A	Lost by 17 runs

## High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

### EC Life Saving Championships

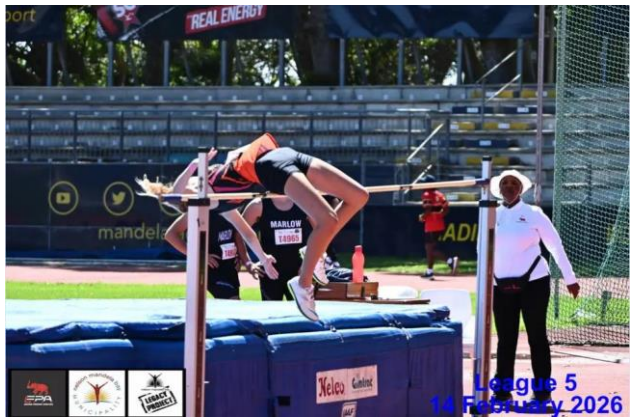
*Aiden Green* and *Eli Kannemeyer* proudly represented us at the EC Lifesaving Championships this past weekend and delivered outstanding performances. Aiden had an exceptional competition, securing 1st place in multiple events, including the coveted “Iron Nipper” title. His dominance across the board earned him the prestigious U14 Male Victor Ludorum award – a remarkable achievement that reflects his dedication, versatility and competitive spirit. Eli, despite only being able to compete on day two due to EC swimming trials on Saturday, made his presence felt in a big way. He walked away with an impressive four medals, showcasing his resilience and determination to perform at the highest level. We are incredibly proud of both Aiden and Eli for their commitment and excellence. Well done, boys – you continue to raise the bar! Both of them will be competing at the Nationals that will be held at Kings Beach from 26 March – 1 April.



### Athletics: Eastern Province League 5 meeting

*Talia Prahaladh*, *Ruhi Doorgapershad* and *Olivia Mukheibir* proudly represented us at the Eastern Province League Meeting this past weekend, and their hard work truly paid off with outstanding performances all around. Ruhi delivered a strong run in the 400m, earning an impressive 2nd place finish. Talia dominated the 1500m, claiming a top 5 finish with a superb performance that showcased her endurance and determination.

Olivia had an exceptional meet, finishing 1st in the 100m, 200m and High Jump, and adding a 3rd place in the Long Jump to round off a remarkable weekend. We are incredibly proud of these athletes for their dedication, commitment and competitive spirit. Your hard work continues to shine through – well done girls!



### Swimming:

Four of our swimmers proudly represented the school at the NMB District School Swimming Trials this past weekend, where teams are being selected for the Provincial Trials on 28 February in East London. *Jayden Viduya, Emily Geldart, Carter Cruickshank* and *Eli Kannemeyer* competed fiercely against the very best school swimmers in the district. With Kellan Jones already qualified, our swimmers did themselves and the school incredibly proud as we now await the final team selections.

The results speak for themselves:

Eli Kannemeyer – 1st place in all five of his events

Jayden Viduya – 4 x 1st place and 2 x 2nd place finishes

Emily Geldart – 2 x 1st place and 3 x 3rd place finishes

Carter Cruickshank – 3 x 1st place, 2 x 2nd place and 1 x 3rd place finish

These performances are a testament to their dedication, discipline and competitive spirit. We are extremely proud of each of you and wish you all the best as we look forward to the provincial team announcement!

### Cricket

Our 1st Team Cricket Boys played their third league match on Wednesday, 11 February against Pearson in Summerstrand, and delivered an excellent all-round performance to bounce back after last week's defeat. Showing great character and composure, the boys were sharp with the ball and disciplined with the bat, securing a convincing 6-wicket victory. It was a strong team effort and a positive response that reflects their resilience and determination.

## Netball

We kicked off the netball season with great excitement as three of our teams played warm-up friendly matches against Pearson last week at Theodor Herzl. All the matches were played in excellent spirit, with fantastic netball on display from both schools – especially considering it is only mid-February. The quality of play showed just how much hard work the girls have already put in. With the dedicated coaching and support from the *Netball Divas Academy*, their commitment, structure and growing confidence on court were clearly visible. It was a very positive start to the season, and we look forward to building on this momentum. We return the favour on Wednesday, 18 February, when we travel to the Pearson campus for the next round of friendly matches.

## Equestrian

*Eva Pape* competed in her first Cross Country Eventing Show at Woodridge on the 7th and 8th of Feb. Following the show she has been selected to participate in the Inanda Country base in Johannesburg in March.



## Tennis

Congratulations to our First Boys' Tennis team who had an awesome game against Grey High School yesterday and won 3-1!

