



**THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS**

SCHOOLS
With **HEART**

NEWSLETTER

17 April 2026

Issue #9



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

"Children are not things to be moulded but are people to be unfolded."

Jess Lair

Welcome back to the 2nd Term! I hope the holidays brought a change of rhythm and, in some way, a chance to reset.

There's always something quite special about the start of a new term. The campuses come

back to life quickly; chatter in the corridors, energy on the fields, and that familiar sense of purpose returning across the Pre-Primary, Primary and High Schools. It doesn't take long before routine settles in again.

I trust that the holidays have also given you a slightly different window into your child(ren). Without the structure of the school day, we see more of their interests, their independence, and sometimes even their frustrations. As we return to school life, there's value in holding onto some of those observations. They often tell us a great deal about where our children are at the moment.

As a school, our focus remains consistent across all three phases.

In the Pre-Primary, it is about nurturing curiosity and confidence - encouraging children to explore, ask questions and feel secure in their environment.

In the Primary School, the emphasis shifts towards building independence and developing solid learning habits.

And in the High School, the work becomes more layered, supporting our students as they balance academic demands with the development of judgement, resilience and perspective.

At the start of a term, it is tempting to think only in terms of what lies ahead: academic goals, assessments, activities and achievements. These matter, of course. But just as important is what sits beneath them: habits, relationships, curiosity and resilience.

It was also good to be part of our recent Primary School assembly, where we had the opportunity to acknowledge several important milestones. In particular, the announcement of our four Grade 7 student leaders, as well as the academic awards for our Grade 4-7 students, was a reminder of the growth and effort taking place across the Primary School. These moments matter! Wonderful opportunities to be recognised and encouraged.



Back: Stuart Clarke, Annika Olivier

Front: Milani Butau, Natalie Akweya

There is also much to celebrate in the High School. Our swimmers and lifesavers, whom I mentioned at the end of last term, have gone on to perform exceptionally well at the national championships, representing Eastern Province with distinction.

In addition, **Alison Rennie** represented South Africa at the International Irish Dancing Championships - a remarkable achievement. It is encouraging to see our students excelling across such a wide range of pursuits, each carving out a niche for themselves. I look forward to recognising our top five High School academic achievers for Term 1 at our academic assembly next Thursday. We are proud of the work that **Lemika Moodley** (Grade 11) does, as our student representative on the Junior City Council. She is certainly making her presence felt at the JCC. It is a reminder of the many different parts of our school in action.



Alongside this, I want to take a moment to acknowledge a group of parents who quietly make a meaningful contribution to school life. Our Can-Do Committee of moms continue to give generously of their time, stepping in wherever help is needed and playing an important role in supporting fundraising initiatives across the school too. I had the opportunity to meet with our High School moms earlier this week, and they are brimming with ideas for the terms ahead. Their energy and willingness to get involved are deeply appreciated, and they make a real difference to our community. Please watch out for correspondence from them.

One of the things that consistently stands out in education is the importance of partnership between school and home. It doesn't require grand gestures — often it's the small, consistent things that matter most: showing interest, asking questions, and being present. These moments add up in ways that are not always immediately visible, but are deeply significant over time.

Speaking of that partnership, I hope our Senior Primary and High School parents enjoyed the recent opportunity to meet their children's teachers and found those conversations about "things academic" both useful and reassuring.

As we look ahead to the term, there will be much to engage with: academically, culturally and on the sports fields. Not every moment will be smooth, and that is part of the process. What matters is that, through both the successes and the challenges, our children continue to grow in confidence, resilience and self-awareness. Again, this afternoon's first-ever High and Primary School Derby Festival, featuring sports and cultural events against St Mark's, provides a wonderful platform to participate in a healthy yet competitive environment.

Thank you, as always, for your support and for the role you play in the life of the school.

Wishing you and your families a meaningful and productive term ahead.

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Primary School

The Grade 2s were studying rock pool creatures last term. They learnt about the endangered African Penguin and had a tour of the SANCCOB sanctuary. They went onto the beach to look at the rockpools and also had a treasure hunt on the beach.



Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

SOCCKER:

Congratulations to Aiden Groenmeyer in Grade 3 who was selected for the u/9 Port Elizabeth Football Association (PEFA) District Team.



High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

SWIMMING:

Our Grade 8 Swimmers had a very competitive & successful swimming holiday.



Aiden Green

South African National Junior Swimming Results:

- 7th place in his age group for the 800m at SA Nationals
- 6th place in his age group for the 1500m freestyle at SA Nationals.
- Aiden was part of the relay team that took 3rd place in the 4 x 50m Freestyle relay.

Lifesaving SA Nationals Results:

Surf:

- 7th place in the Run Swim Run
- 7th place in the Surf Swim
- 8th place in the Iron Nipper

Stillwater:

Aiden was part of the relay team that took 1st place in the 10m ball throw.

Shah Eli Kannemeyer competed in three different disciplines within just 11 days.

On **21 March 2026**, Eli competed at the **South African Biathlon in Oudtshoorn**, representing Theodor Herzl High School and the Eastern Province, achieving:

- **3rd Place Overall** in the **U15 Boys Division** (Bronze Medal)
- **1st Place** in the **100m Swim**

From **22–25 April 2026**, Eli participated in the **South African National Junior (SANJ) Championships** at Newton Park Swimming Pool, where he excelled:

- **Gold** in the **50m Freestyle**
- **Gold** in the **100m Freestyle**
- **11th place** in the **100m Backstroke**
- **10th place** in the **50m Butterfly**

Eli then represented at the **SA DHL Lifesaving Championships at Kings Beach 26 March – 1 April 2026**, delivering outstanding results:

- **Silver Medal** – Beach Flags
- **Bronze Medal** – Beach Run
- **Gold Medal** – Beach Sprints
- **6th place** in the **Board Race**
- **Bronze Medal** – Iron Nipper
- **Gold Medal** – Run-Swim-Run
- **Bronze Medal** – Surf Swim
- **Gold medal** – Sprint relay
- Awarded the **Surf Victor Ludorum**, a prestigious accolade marking a triumphant conclusion to his Nippers career as he transitions to the Juniors next season.

In the **Stillwater events**, Eli added **six more medals**, narrowly missing out on the Stillwater Victor Ludorum title by just one point.

Altogether, Eli achieved an extraordinary tally of **16 medals** across Lifesaving competitions.

BOYS SOCCER:

Term 2 kicked off with our 17 and 1st soccer teams playing their first league matches of the season. Results is as follows:

u17 Boys drew 2-2 vs Lawson Brown (away)

u19 Boys drew 2- vs Curro Westbrook (away)

CROSS COUNTRY:

Talia Prahaladh respresented the school at the first leg of the High Schools league and ran a fantastic time on the 4km route, averaging 4min36sec per km. We look forward to what she can do in the next race.

EQUESTRIAN:

Bella Muller and Jon Jon competed in the Bathurst Agricultural Show during the holidays.

Showing results: 1st Open WR Pony - Champion, 1st Open WH Pony - Champion & 1st Open Show Hunter.

Show Jumping results: 1st 90cm A2, 1st 90cm Accumulator and 1st 90cm Champion Pony.



Eva Pape and Jimmy competed in Plettenberg Bay at the Misty Morn SA Eventing Championship. Eva attained a 1st place in the 65cm Show Jumping Category and after the Dressage and Cross Country challenges, attained an overall 3rd place.



ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART