



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

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With HEART

NEWSLETTER

31 July 2026

Issue # 14



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

“A deep sense of love and belonging is an irreducible need of all people.”

Brené Brown

Over the past week, one word has returned to me again and again: **belonging**.

At its heart, a school is about far more than buildings, classrooms, lessons and results. It is about the feeling that this is “my place.” It is knowing that I am seen, valued and accepted, and that I am part of something greater than myself. From this sense of belonging grows pride, loyalty, responsibility and a genuine care for one another.

Our recent Founders' Weekend brought this home to me in a particularly meaningful way. It was fitting that the weekend was linked to Shabbat Nachamu, with its message of comfort, reassurance and hope. As we celebrated the history of our school, we were reminded that Theodor is not simply a place that we attend. It becomes part of our story, just as each one of us becomes part of its story.

The inaugural High School Winter Ball, organised by our High School Prefects and the “Can-Do” Committee Moms, was a special part of the weekend. I remain enormously grateful to this group of mothers who give so generously of their time, energy and creativity. Their contribution reaches far beyond the organisation of an event. Through their involvement, they help to strengthen the bonds within our community and reinforce the sense that we all have a part to play in the life of our school.

The Ball itself was a wonderful evening of fun, laughter and connection. More than anything, it provided an opportunity for those who attended to spend time together away from the usual routines of school life. There was a genuine sense of warmth in the room and a lovely spirit of friendship. It became one of those occasions that reminds us that belonging is often built through shared experiences and the memories we create together.

The Reunion Brunch was equally special and, at times, deeply poignant. We welcomed former teachers and pupils ranging from the Class of 1974 to the Class of 2016. As they shared stories about their teachers, friendships, adventures and experiences at Theodor, the years seemed to fall away. The laughter was easy, the memories were vivid, and the affection for the school was unmistakable.

What struck me most was that, regardless of when they had attended Theodor, each person still carried something of the school with them. Their time here had helped to shape them, and returning allowed them to reconnect not only with old friends, but also with an important part of themselves. That is the enduring power of belonging.

I do believe that this sense of belonging begins from the earliest years of a child's journey at Theodor. In our Pre Primary, our teachers create an environment filled with warmth, security, curiosity and joy. Children learn that school is a place where they are known, encouraged and cared for. Through play, exploration and daily interaction, they begin to understand that they are valued members of a community.

In our Primary School, this foundation is strengthened. Our teachers work deliberately to create classrooms in which children feel included and supported. They encourage pupils to contribute, to take pride in their efforts, to celebrate the achievements of others and to understand that every person has something worthwhile to offer. Children thrive when they feel safe enough to ask questions, make mistakes, try again and be themselves.

The opening of the new mini astro at the Primary School is another reason for us to feel proud. It is, of course, a wonderful new facility for our children, but it also represents something more. It speaks of new beginnings, fresh opportunities and a school that continues to grow and evolve while remaining true to its roots.

Every generation adds another chapter to the story of Theodor. The new mini astro is part of that continuing story. It reflects our commitment to providing our pupils with spaces in which they can learn, play, connect and flourish. We honour the history of our school not by standing still, but by building thoughtfully upon the foundations laid by those who came before us.

I have often spoken about the deep sense of belonging that I personally feel at Theodor. It is a small school with a very big heart, a school that cares deeply about its people. That sense of connection is one of our greatest strengths, but it is something that we must continue to nurture. Belonging does not happen by accident. It grows through kindness, participation, shared responsibility and the knowledge that each person matters.

We also welcome four new members to the High School Staff. They are already part of the Theodor family! **Mrs Noma Matyobeni** our campus psychologist,



Mr Jannie Louw as Head of Academics and LO teacher, **Mrs Nadine Swart** as Head of CAT and **Mrs Joanne Fourie** teaching Business Studies.

My hope is that every child, parent, staff member and alumnus will always feel that Theodor is a place where they are known, where their contribution is valued and where they can say with genuine pride:

This is my school. This is my community. This is where I belong.

I wish you a good weekend ahead!

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Primary School

Every great project is built on the generosity of a caring community and we would like to say thank you to the incredible individuals and families who have helped make our new fencing project possible.

A special thank you to **Warren Furniss (Theodor Herzl Class of 2020)** and his company, **Steel Pipes and Fittings**, for generously donating our new fence and gates, which are currently being installed. We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the following donors for their generous contributions towards this project:

- **Transfire** (the Nel family)
- **Zahra Groenewald and family**
- **Zanri De Beer and family**
- **The Collett family** and their company **Pinion ZA**
- **Two families who chose to remain anonymous**



High School

Congratulations to our Term 2 Top 5 Academic Achievers:



**THEODOR
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High School Term 2 Top 5 Academic Achievers:

Grade 8



Nicholas Shone



Rija Altaf



Zingce Nxiweni



Angelique Mentoer



Logan Gouws

Grade 9



Jayden Viduya



Daniella du Toit



Isabella du Toit



Tanishka Reddy



Mykah Adams

Grade 10



Ruhi Doorgapershad



Crystal van Tonder



Luke Tucker



William Greenwood



Kirsteen Alt

Grade 11



Sarah van der Merwe



Jade Meyer



Tobi Adeleke



Ella Scheepers



Fiona Wu

Grade 12



Liyemah Funani



Haroon Aslam



Nicholas Pitsiladi

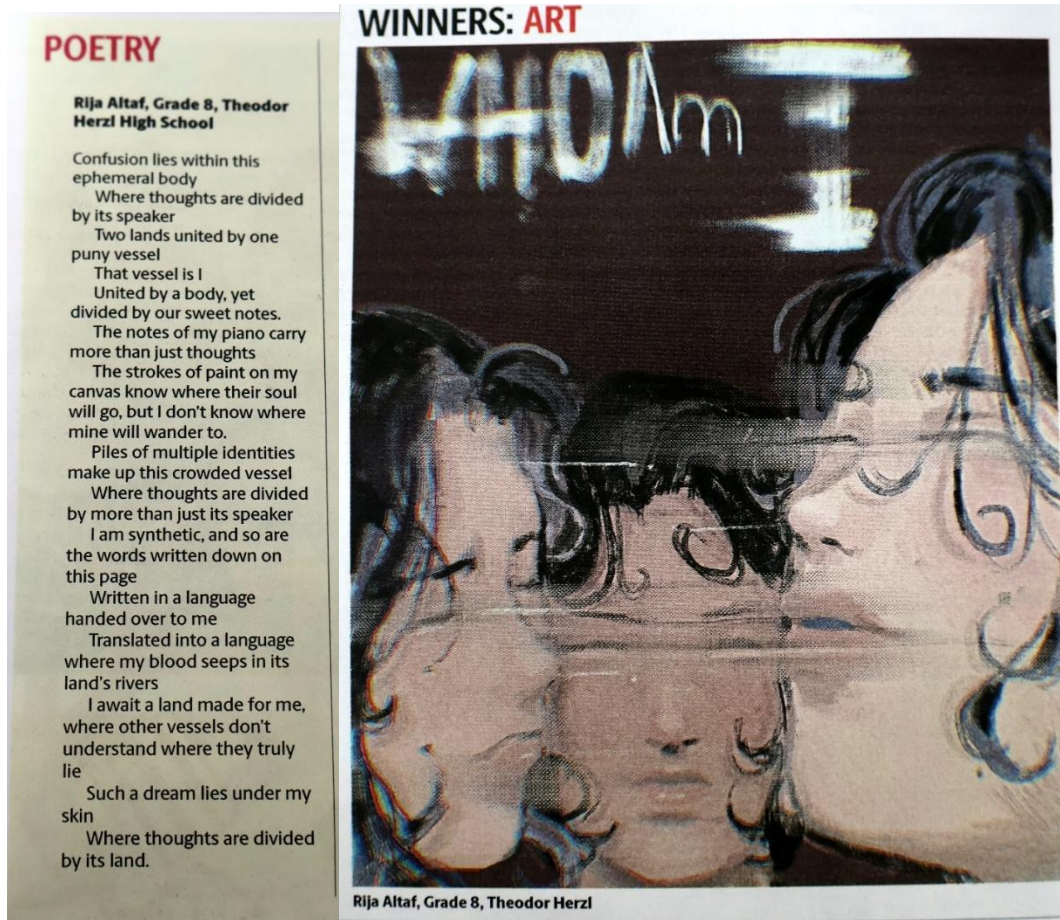


Kira Olivier



Rebecca Jensen

Congratulations to **Rija Altaf** who entered The Herald Youth Month 2026 Competition. Rija won the Grade 8 Poetry and Art Categories!



As part of our Founders' Day celebrations, we had the privilege of welcoming some of our cherished Old Theodorians back to Theodor Herzl Schools for a special High School assembly and Alumni Brunch. Founders' weekend was filled with warm smiles, heartfelt conversations, treasured memories and the joy of reconnecting with friends and teachers who have all played a part in our school's remarkable journey over the past 67 years.



Our very first Theodor Herzl High School Winter Ball was an incredible success! From dazzling outfits and unforgettable dance moves to laughter, great music and memories made with friends, it was a night to remember. A huge thank you to our Can-Do-Moms who made this beautiful evening possible.

Images supplied by **Abongile Shiba**.



Sports News

High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

SOCCER:

Mason Wippenaar captained the Eastern Cape U/17 Boys' Football Team to an outstanding 4-1 semi-final victory over the Free State before leading his team to gold at the SA Winter National School Sport Championships with a victory over Mpumalanga in the final. To top off an unforgettable tournament, Mason was named Player of the Tournament – a remarkable honour that reflects his exceptional skill, leadership and dedication on the field.



EQUESTRIAN:

A very special congratulations to **Isabella Muller** and her incredible pony, **Jon Jon**, on an outstanding performance at the 2026 SA Equestrian Championships in Shongweni:

- 🏆 SA Working Hunter Pony Champion
- 🏆 Reserve SA Working Riding Pony Champion
- 🏆 SA Eventing Pony 85cm Champion

CROSS COUNTRY:

Talia Prahaladh represented EP in Athletics South Africa's 1-mile (1.6km) champs on 27 June at Pollock beach. It was a humbling experience to run amongst the country's best and she achieved a good time, finishing in 6:21min. She also placed 2nd in a time of 19:02min in the 4km XC at Strelitzia Park on 11 July.

FOUNDERS DAY SPORT FESTIVAL:

A Celebration of Sport, Heart and Community

Our Shabbat Nachamu Sport Festival, held during our school's Founders Weekend from 26-28 July 2026, was a wonderful celebration of sport, friendship, and community. Over three action-packed days, our campus came alive as players, coaches, supporters and families embraced the true spirit of the festival.

The festival welcomed approximately 180 boys competing in soccer and 120 girls competing in netball. Joining us were Herzlia from Cape Town, along with six local schools, creating an exciting atmosphere of competition and camaraderie. While the matches were fiercely contested, the festival was never about trophies or medals. Instead, it was built on a simple but meaningful vision: to play with heart, compete with passion, and enjoy the experience alongside teammates and opponents. Every match reflected these values, with players showing determination, resilience, respect and outstanding sportsmanship.

As a school founded on the values of heart and care, we also wanted the festival to create opportunities for schools that do not often have the chance to participate in events of this kind. Seeing every team enjoy the opportunity to compete in a welcoming and encouraging environment was one of the highlights of the weekend.

The success of the festival would not have been possible without the dedication of many people working behind the scenes. We extend our sincere thanks to Mariska Schewitz, Maarten Schnetler and Bevan Franklin, whose commitment and countless hours of planning as members of the organising committee helped bring this vision to life. Thank you to every player, coach, official, volunteer, parent and supporter who contributed to making the inaugural Shabbat Nachamu Sport Festival such a memorable occasion. The enthusiasm, sportsmanship and sense of community displayed throughout the weekend perfectly captured the spirit of our school. We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back in 2027 for another unforgettable Shabbat Nachamu Sport Festival!

Images supplied by **Donna Schewitz**



Important Notices

Tickets are available from the office at the High School.



The Primary School will be presenting “Dear Edwina Jr” in September. Tickets are available on Quicket.



Theodor
Herzl
Schools

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART