



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

11 August 2026

Issue # 15



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

“No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again.”

Anonymous

Despite the author being anonymous, I liked the quote above! There is something wonderfully hopeful about a new beginning.

A new chapter. A new season. A new opportunity to learn, to grow, to discover something about ourselves that perhaps we did not know before.

As I reflected on the happenings at Theodor this week, I was struck by how many of them represented exactly this: **students beginning something new, while others prepare to turn the page on an important chapter of their lives.**

In our High School, we announced our new **Head Prefects, Prefects and Forum Leaders**. This is an exciting new chapter for these students, but it is also an important responsibility. Leadership is not simply about a position or a title; it is about service, example and the willingness to make a positive difference to the lives of others. I wish our new leaders every success as they begin this journey, and I look forward to watching them grow into their roles.

Perhaps one of the most special moments of the week, however, came when our two Grade 1 classes, under the care of **Mrs Shaw** and **Mrs Klackers**, visited our Matrics to wish them well for the year ahead. The children did so with warm words and a very special gift. It was a wonderfully poignant moment.

For some of our Matrics, there was an added layer of meaning, knowing that they had themselves been taught by Mrs Shaw or Mrs Klackers when they were just beginning their own school journey. To see these young children now wishing them well as they approach the final chapter of their school careers was a beautiful reminder of the circle of education. The little ones are beginning their journey. The Matrics are preparing to complete theirs. And in between are all the chapters that make up a child's school life.

It is moments like this that remind us that a school is so much more than classrooms, lessons and timetables. **It is a community in which generations of students and teachers become part of one another's stories.**

Earlier this week, our Grade 7 Primary School students had the opportunity to showcase their Science Expo projects, sharing the fruits of their investigation, experimentation and curiosity. It was wonderful to see.

Curiosity does not suddenly appear when a child reaches high school or university. It begins much earlier. It begins with a question, a fascination, a "why?", a "how?" and a desire to find out more. Watching our Grade 7s investigate and present their ideas was a lovely reminder that the seeds of discovery are planted from an early age.

And our youngest students have certainly had plenty to discover this week! Our Pre-Primary children were entertained and educated about tortoises, learning about these fascinating creatures and having the opportunity to engage with something they might otherwise only have encountered in a picture or storybook.

They also enjoyed a visit from Atlas Security, who introduced them to the important work of security personnel, explained some of the principles of keeping ourselves safe and, much to the children's excitement, demonstrated how specially trained guard dogs are used in security work.

There was plenty of excitement on campus! But, more importantly, there was **learning in action**; the kind of learning that begins with an experience, stimulates a question and leaves a child wanting to know more.

Next week, I will share more about our **High School Cultural Extravaganza**, including the wonderful performances and talent that came together on stage.

It was particularly exciting to see old and new thespians, singers, poets and artists joining together. Students who have already discovered their love of the stage, alongside those taking their first steps into the world of performance.

Once again, we saw the magic of a new chapter beginning. A new student finding their voice. A new performer discovering confidence. A new talent emerging. And perhaps, for some, the beginning of something that will remain part of their lives long after they leave Theodor.

As I look across our three schools this week, from our youngest Pre-Primary children to our Grade 1s, our curious Grade 7 scientists and our Matrics preparing for their final year, I am reminded that **every student is somewhere in their own story**. Some are beginning. Some are growing. Some are discovering. Some are preparing to move on. And some are helping those who come after them to begin their own journey. That is the beauty of a school. We are constantly saying goodbye to one chapter while beginning another.

I am reminded that every new chapter and season carries **possibility**. And every new season brings with it the promise of something yet to be discovered. I believe that Theodor provides just that – hopefully every day! Possibility and hope! Powerful words and sentiments. Our children and the world need it more than ever.

A very special congratulations to **Mr Christo Scriven**, our Head of Sport, and his wife, Anneline, on the birth of their daughter, **Demi**. We wish them every happiness as they begin this wonderful new chapter as a family of four!

Speaking of “seasons”, Meeting Mr **Gareth Danker**, son of **Mr Merwyn Danker**, who served as Headmaster of Theodor from 1978 to 1986, was a particularly meaningful moment for me yesterday. Visiting from America, Gareth shared memories of his childhood and his life at Theodor during the 1980s, offering a fascinating glimpse into a very different chapter of our school’s history. Listening to his recollections was a wonderful reminder that the story of Theodor Herzl Schools is not only written in our buildings and archives, but also in the memories and experiences of the many families who have been part of our journey. It was a privilege to welcome Gareth back to a place that had once been such an important part of his life.

On that nostalgic and forward-looking note, I wish you a wonderful Shabbat/weekend and week ahead!

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Pre-Primary School

We were so lucky to have the Police K9 Unit and Atlas come and visit our Primary School! The children had the wonderful opportunity to meet three of their incredible working dogs and learn more about how these special dogs help the police in their important work. And, of course, Captain Atlas was also there to say a very special hello!



Primary School

Our Grade 7s transformed the school hall into a hub of discovery, innovation and scientific thinking during this year's Science Expo! From creative investigations and eye-catching displays to thought-provoking experiments, our children confidently presented their projects to teachers, parents and fellow Theodorians, showcasing not only their scientific knowledge, but also their curiosity, creativity and communication skills.

The standard of work was outstanding, and we are incredibly proud of the effort, dedication and enthusiasm displayed by every participant. Congratulations to our Grade 7s for embracing the challenge and proving that the future of science is bright!



Some school traditions are more than just traditions, they are little moments of heart, kindness and connection that stay with you.

Our Grade 1s had the special opportunity to wish our Matrics well as they head into their Matric Trial Exams, delivering a handwritten note, a pen and, of course, a KitKat to remind them to *take a break* when they need it!

What makes this tradition even more special is that, for some of our Matrics, this moment has come full circle. These very same Matrics were once sitting in the Grade 1 classroom, learning, growing and beginning their school journey with Mrs Klackers and Mrs Shaw! From little Grade 1s with big dreams to Matrics preparing for one of their final milestones at school... what a beautiful reminder of just how quickly the years pass.

To our Matrics: Good luck with your Trials! May your pens be full of ink, your minds be calm and your KitKats provide just the right amount of motivation!

And to our Grade 1s: thank you for helping us keep this wonderful tradition, because at Theodor Herzl Schools, we truly are a SCHOOL with HEART.



High School

Congratulations to the newly elected 2027 Prefect Body!



Images supplied by **Bryant An.**

Congratulations to the new Forum leaders:



Culture Forum: **Angella Tsatsire, Kirsteen Alt, Lemika Moodley, Qhayiya Madokwe**



Sport Forum: **Tatho Lekhelebana, Qhayiya Madokwe, Simo Mayekiso, Adrienne Schmidt, Angella Tsatsire, Jemma Schewitz-Chairperson**



Service Forum: **Lemika Moodley, Chloe Wiese, Aidan Miltz, Angella Tsatsire, Sisipho Madyibi, Shayna Price, Abongile Shiba, Sarah van der Merwe**



Judaica Forum: **Aidan Miltz, Jemma Schewitz, Shayna Price-Chairperson, Adrienne Schmidt**



JCC: **Kaitlin Petersen & Lamika Moodley**



House Captains: Ben Gurion – **Qhayiya Madokwe & Angella Tsatsire**, Weizmann – **Kai Bruinders & Adrienne Schmidt.**

Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
27 July	U11 Netball	Mt Pleasant	Lost 6-0
27 July	U12 Netball	Mt Pleasant B	Lost 7-0
27 July	U13 Netball	Mt Pleasant B	Lost 12-7
29 July	U14 Hockey	Kabega Park	Lost 3-0
30 July	U10 Netball	Mt Pleasant	Lost 7-2
4 August	U10 Tennis	St Josephs	Won 9-0
4 August	Open Tennis	Sunridge B	Won 20-8
5 August	U13 Soccer	Kuyga	Lost 13-0
5 August	U14 Hockey	Cotswald	Won 3-0
6 August	U11 Soccer	Young Park	Lost 6-1
6 August	U13 Soccer	Mosaic	Lost 1-0
6 August	U13 Netball	Piet Retief	Lost 17-1
Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
11 August	U10 Hockey	Greenwood	Lost 4-2
12 August	U14 Hockey	Sonop	Lost 3-0
13 August	U11 Soccer	St Josephs	Lost 7-0
13 August	U13 Soccer	Brylin	Won 9-2
13 August	U10 Netball	VP	Lost 4-3
13 August	U11 Netball	VP	Lost 8-1

High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

CHOIR:

The ECYC (Eastern Cape Youth Choir) took part in the Summa Cum Laude choir competition in Sun City last weekend. This competition was hosted by the Choral Celebration Network Foundation (CCNF) and it was the first time that the competition was hosted on African soil.

The ECYC was the only choir from the Eastern Cape that participated with 67 choristers and are represented by 16 schools from around the Nelson Mandela

Metro. **Carli Labuschagne** is the only chorister who represented Theodor Herzl High School.

The ECYC competed with choirs from Canada, Vienna, and Germany and achieved the following outstanding results:

- Gold Certificate
- Level III (Masterful) Rating
- Second place in the mixed choir category

They also qualified to participated in the Winners' Concert in the Sun City Superbowl!



SWIMMING:

Swimming Success at the Eastern Cape Short Course Gala

Our swimmers made an excellent start to the new season at the Eastern Cape Short Course Gala, hosted by DSG in Grahamstown on Saturday, 8 August 2026.

Aiden Green had a fantastic gala in the Boys 13-14 age group, earning five individual medals and winning the Mixed Ladder Relay 200m Freestyle. He achieved impressive time improvements in the 50m Backstroke, 200m Freestyle and 100m IM, including a 4.95-second improvement in the 100m IM.

Eli Kannemeyer enjoyed an outstanding first gala of the season, competing in five individual events and two relays. He achieved a remarkable seven gold medals, winning every event he entered, including the 100m Freestyle, 100m IM, 200m IM, 100m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle and both relays.

Jayden Viduya also had a superb gala, medalling in every event. He claimed gold in the 100m Breaststroke, 100m Butterfly and 100m IM, silver in both the Boys 15&O 200m Medley and Freestyle Relays, and bronze in the 400m Freestyle.

Carter Cruickshank also had a very successful gala, claiming gold in the 400m Freestyle and a silver in the 200m Freestyle.

Congratulations to all four swimmers on an excellent start to the season! Their hard work, determination and commitment are already showing, and we look forward to seeing what the rest of the season brings.

NETBALL:

Around 25 of our netball girls enjoyed a competitive outing away against Stedin College on Wednesday 5 August. Our Junior A team continued their excellent run of wins, while the Junior B and 1st Team fought hard but went down narrowly in closely contested matches. It was also a valuable experience for our girls, reminding us how privileged we are at Theodor Herzl High School to have excellent facilities, quality equipment, and dedicated coaches. Well done to all the players for their effort, sportsmanship, and determination!

CROSS COUNTRY:

A massive congratulations to our incredible junior cross country athlete, **Talia Prahaladh**, on a fantastic High School Cross Country League season! Through her consistent performances and determination, Talia alongside **Olivia Mukheibir** and **Abigail Els** accumulated valuable league points that helped **Theodor Herzl High School** achieve an excellent 6th place out of 19 schools in the Junior Girls' Division. They also competed in the EPA cross country event over the past weekend with Talia claiming a 3rd place in her age groups while Olivia and Abigail ran personal best times.

Girls, your hard work, perseverance, and commitment have made our school extremely proud. Thank you for representing Theodor Herzl with such passion and excellence.

SOCCER:

Our u16 Boys soccer team competed in the National Schools tournament at Urban Academy in Despatch over the weekend, playing against some of the best soccer teams in the country and walked away with 7th place overall making history for Theodor Herzl on the big stage.

SQUASH:

Our squash team kept up their winning streak by beating Alexander Road in a 3rd league clash 9-6.

Important Notices

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

THEODOR HERZL
PRIMARY SCHOOL

presents

Dear Edwina JR.

Original New York Production of
"Dear Edwina"
Produced by Daryl Roth

Music by
Zina Goldrich
Directed by
Nizaan Henning

Book and Lyrics by
Marcy Heisler
Musical Director
Candice Parkin

Dear Edwina JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4884 mtishows.com

SHOW DATES

15th SEPTEMBER 2026	18:30
16th SEPTEMBER 2026	18:30
17th SEPTEMBER 2026	18:30
18th SEPTEMBER 2026	14:30
19th SEPTEMBER 2026	19:30
20th SEPTEMBER 2026	13:00

VENUE
THEODOR HERZL
PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL HALL

Funny, heartwarming and full of heart!

TICKETS: R100 pp

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ON **Quicket**



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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE WITH HEAD AND HEART