



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

24 August 2026

Issue # 16



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

“We are not makers of history. We are made by history.”
Martin Luther King Jr.

There is something quite special about a school that remembers where it has come from while continuing to look confidently towards where it is going. I believe that Theodor Herzl Schools is such a school.

This week, I was reminded of that very strongly through a number of conversations and encounters. I had the pleasure of meeting **Mr Gareth Danker**, the son of one of our former Headmasters, Mr Mervyn Danker, who led Theodor Herzl from 1978 to 1986. I also spent time with **Mrs Karen Kingsley**, a member of the Class of 1990. Both have returned to Theodor with a genuine excitement about being here and reconnecting with the school.



There is something wonderfully affirming about that. Schools change. Buildings change, classrooms change, technology changes and, goodness knows, education changes. Yet something of the **spirit of a school** remains. The fact that former pupils, former families and those connected to our history continue to feel drawn back to Theodor says a great deal about the sense of belonging that this school has created over many decades.

Our heritage should never become something that simply sits in old photographs or yearbooks. It should provide roots that give us the confidence to grow.

That balance between remembering our past and preparing our children for the future is central to the work we do across our Pre Primary, Primary and High Schools.

At the High School, Judaicare's recent **Kindness Week** reminded us of a value that has always been central to the kind of community we want to be. Through our relationship with the **One Life Child organisation**, our pupils are reminded that kindness cannot simply be something we speak about within the boundaries of our own school. It has to extend beyond our gates and into the wider community. I thank **Mr Franklin** and **Mrs Williams** for making Kindness Week the success it was.

Kindness can sometimes be dismissed as a rather soft word. I believe it is quite the opposite. It takes strength to notice another person, to include someone who feels excluded, to help without expecting recognition, to listen rather than judge, and sometimes simply to choose not to add to somebody else's burden. In a world that can feel increasingly divided and impatient, kindness is not an optional extra. It is one of the values our young people, and indeed all of us, need more than ever. Another activity that has been wonderful to see flourishing across **all three of our schools is chess**. From our youngest children beginning to understand the movement of the pieces, through to our Primary and High School pupils competing and excelling, chess offers far more than a game across a board.

Chess teaches children to think ahead. It teaches patience, concentration, planning and the consequences of decisions. It requires them to recognise patterns, solve problems, adapt when a plan does not work and understand that sometimes the best move is not the most obvious one. There is also a valuable lesson in learning how to win graciously and how to lose, regroup and try again. These are skills that extend well beyond the chessboard, and it is wonderful to see so many of our children enjoying and succeeding in this area. To see chess expand at our three schools is hugely encouraging.

Of course, preparing our pupils for the future also means engaging with some of the enormous changes taking place in education. Few subjects are generating more discussion in schools and universities at present than **Artificial Intelligence**. The conversations are complex. How do we embrace a tool with extraordinary potential without allowing it to replace thinking? Central to me/us is: **how do we teach young people to use AI while still insisting that they read, write, question, wrestle with ideas and develop their own intellectual independence?**

This debate has some fascinating ironies and paradoxes, and I encourage parents (from Pre-Primary to High!) to read the article included in this week's newsletter. It raises important questions not only about AI at school, but about the world of further study and work our children will eventually enter. Our world is not their world. The link to the article is below:

<https://bit.ly/4hRXmej>

As with so much in education, I suspect the answer will not be simply to reject the new or accept it unquestioningly, but rather to teach our pupils how to use it wisely. That is the nub of the debate.

Perhaps that brings me back to where I began.

A school such as Theodor Herzl carries its history with it. The people who walked these corridors before us matter. The values built over generations matter. The memories and relationships matter. They shape who we are.

But heritage is most meaningful when it gives us the confidence to look forward.

From the little ones in our Pre Primary discovering the world around them, to our Primary School children developing their skills and independence, and our High School pupils preparing for a rapidly changing world beyond school, we remain rooted in what has made Theodor special **while continually asking what our children will need next.**

Important thoughts and considerations.

I wish you a good week ahead!

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Jewish Life

The 4th Judaicare Kindness Week took place on Thursday & Friday the 30th and 31st of July 2026. Members of Judaicare Club and One Life Child took part in a Kindness workshop with the theme: "Step out and shine." Much fun was had by all.



The 2nd Holocaust workshop for History teachers took place at THS on Monday/Tuesday the 17th/18th August 2026 in the Primary School Hall. Thank you to **Orli Bartlett** from the Cape Town Holocaust centre who facilitated the workshop and to **Mr Blake** and **Mr Franklin** for making all the arrangements.



Pre-Primary School

Two teeny tiny baby tortoises came to visit our Pre-Primary Theodorables.



High School



What an incredible achievement for our Music Department at the DESPATCH KUNSFEEES 2026 ! We are bursting with pride!

Summa Cum Laude:

Congratulations to **Liyabukwa Magigaba** for an outstanding Summa Cum Laude in Vocal!

Gold Award Winners – Voice & Tuned Percussion:

Graham Clarke • Shae Aukett • Imani Madikizela • Ikhimbali Sisulu

Our Steelbands and Marimba Bands also achieved an incredible collection of Gold and Summa Cum Laude awards!

A true celebration of talent, dedication, teamwork and musical excellence!

Our High School had an absolute blast at the newly elected Sport Forum's first Sport Assembly, filled with fun, laughter, plenty of school spirit and some entertaining Fun Awards! From celebrating our sporting talent to recognising the funny, unexpected and memorable moments that make school sport so special, the assembly reminded us that sport is about so much more than winning. It's about belonging, participation, teamwork and being proud to be a Theodorian.



Our ECO Club did their best in the Baakens Valley to eliminate some alien invader plants.



Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:



Iviwe Sizani is on fire! She secured Gold in the u/12 Category at a recent Chess Tournament held in Cape Town. She also attained a Silver medal at the Nelson Mandela Bay Closed Chess event held at Brylin.

Joel Tebbutt was awarded EP colours for u8 chess at only 6 years old!



High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

Please support our Inter-House activities this week!



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) 541-4684 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