



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

31 August 2026

Issue # 17



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

“Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit.”

Henry David Thoreau

I am not quite sure how we have arrived here so quickly, but suddenly another week has passed, and September is virtually upon us.

Perhaps that is one of the realities of school life. We work according to terms, weeks, timetables, seasons, fixtures, examinations and holidays. Before we know it, a Grade 1 has become a Grade 7, a Grade 8 is choosing subjects for Grade 10 and a matric student is contemplating life beyond school.

There is something quite powerful in Thoreau's reminder to **“live in each season as it passes.”** Each season of school brings something different, and our responsibility is not simply to rush through it towards the next one, but to recognise the opportunities contained within the one we are in. With my own two children of 33 and 29 respectively, I speak from experience.

This week has provided some examples.

At the High School, our inter-house activities continue to bring a wonderful energy to school life. A season of healthy competition.

I have always believed that healthy competition has an important place in schools. We should not be frightened of wanting to win. There is nothing wrong with wanting your house to come first, running a little faster because someone is alongside you, thinking a little harder because another team has challenged you, or cheering a little louder because you feel part of something bigger than yourself.

Competition, when it is healthy, teaches us a great deal. I would like to believe that at Theodor, it is “cool to be good at something!”

It teaches us to prepare. It teaches us to persevere. It teaches us to cope when things do not go our way. It teaches us that somebody else succeeding does not diminish our own worth. Perhaps most importantly, it teaches us both **how to win graciously and how to lose graciously**.

That last lesson is an important one.

As reflected in this week’s newsletter and on our social media, our inter-house competitions are therefore about far more than points on a board. They create **identity and belonging**. They allow students who may not always shine in the classroom, on the sports field or on the stage to discover another opportunity to contribute. They encourage collaboration across grades and remind our students that sometimes we compete against one another while still ultimately belonging to the same team: Theodor.

Yes, the trophy matters. But the spirit in which we compete matters even more.

Our Grade 9 Parent and Student Subject Choice Evening is another reminder of how quickly the seasons change. I remind Grade 9 parents to check their email about this important season of “subject choice.” Meetings are scheduled this week, as per our calendar.

It seems a relatively simple administrative exercise: choosing subjects for Grade 10. In reality, it represents something much more significant. Our Grade 9s are beginning to make some of the first meaningful decisions about the direction their future might take.

For young people, that can feel daunting. The world of work they will enter will be significantly different from the one we, as their parents, entered. Without being dramatic, the World Economic Forum’s *Future of Jobs Report 2025* predicts that almost **40% of the skills required in the workplace are expected to change by 2030**. While AI, big data and technological literacy are growing rapidly in importance, employers continue to place enormous value on very human qualities: analytical and creative thinking, resilience, flexibility, curiosity, leadership and the ability to work with others.

That is worth remembering.

Without “*beating the same drum*”, our responsibility as Theodor Herzl School cannot simply be to prepare children for a particular job title because some of the jobs they will one day do may not yet exist. Rather, we need to develop young people who are adaptable, curious, confident enough to learn something new and resilient enough to begin again when circumstances change.

For parents of our Grade 9s (or a child in any other grade), subject and career choice is therefore important, but it should not become frightening. It is an

important decision in one particular season of one's child's journey. It is not a decision that determines their entire life.

On a different tack, our Interact Club's Pet Donation Project reminds us of another important part of education: looking beyond ourselves. A sincere thank you to all the families who have already contributed. Projects like these may seem small against the many needs in our community, but their value lies in the habit they create. We want our young people to notice. To recognise a need. To understand that they have the capacity to respond to it.

Our Primary School upcoming Art Exhibition celebrates something quite different, but equally important.

I love seeing children's artwork displayed because every piece carries something of the child who created it. Art gives children permission to experiment, interpret, imagine and create without there necessarily being only one "correct" answer.

In a world increasingly influenced by technology and AI, creativity will **not** become less important. I believe it will become even more valuable.

The exhibition also reminds us that education should never become so focused on marks, examinations and measurable outcomes that we forget the joy of making something simply because we imagined that it could exist.

With Spring on our doorstep, I am reminded (yet again) of the notion of seasons. There is a season for competing and a season for creating. A season for making decisions and a season for simply enjoying being a child. A season for receiving and a season for giving. To those of you who have donated flowers and plants on Spring Day, as organised by the Can-do-Moms, my grateful thanks! Our gardens will enjoy the benefit of your generosity!

A season for striving to win and another for recognising somebody else's achievement. And so I look forward to acknowledging their respective achievements at our Matrics' final Prize Giving and valedictory function.

From our youngest children in the Pre-Primary, taking those early steps towards independence and discovery, through our Primary School children finding their talents and interests, to our High School students increasingly confronting choices about who they are and who they hope to become, **each stage matters**.

The article below is interesting. I encourage you to read it. I suppose it captures no new information, but it reminds us *how education can adapt to prepare learners for tomorrow's demands*. The World Economic Forum published it. It is a thought-provoking reflection on how education needs to prepare young people for a rapidly changing future. The link is:

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/education-and-skills/future-of-education-and-skills/>

Perhaps our challenge this week is simple: as we plan responsibly for the season ahead, let us also appreciate the one we are living in now.

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

High School

Our High School **Cultural Extravaganza** was an unforgettable celebration of creativity, talent and school spirit! From entertaining **House Plays** filled with laughter and energy, to incredible musicians, talented bands and captivating solo performances, our students truly took centre stage. The evening showcased the remarkable range of talent within our school, with students inspiring us, entertaining us and proudly sharing their passions. What a wonderful reminder that our school is filled with HEART, creativity and young people who aren't afraid to shine!



Images supplied by **Abongile Shiba**

Sports News

Primary School Sport

Coach Petro reports:

Date	Sport	Opponents	Result
24 August	U10 Netball	Westering	Won 10-0
24 August	U11 Netball	Westering	Lost 5-2
25 August	U10 Tennis	Newton Park C	Won 9-6
25 August	Open Tennis	Handhaaf C	Won 21-7
26 August	U14 Hockey	VP Grey	Won 1-0
27 August	U12 Netball	Westering	Lost 5-0
27 August	U13 Netball	Westering	Lost 18-3





Images supplied by **Bronwen Tudehope**

Young **Iris Deseta** won Gold at this weekend's Eastern Cape Provincial Gymnastics Trials. She has also been selected to represent the province at the GSA National Gymnastics Championships 2026 in September.



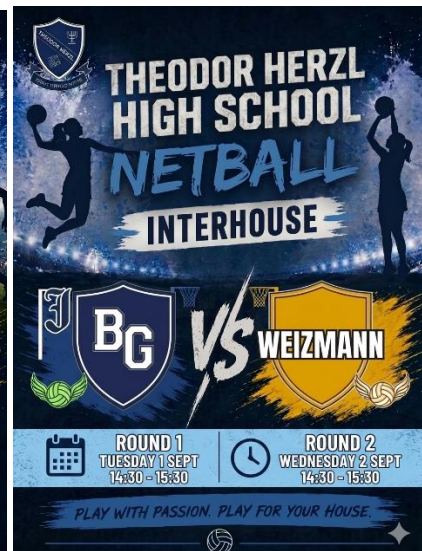
High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

A huge thank you to Deon Schoeman from Klinikare Pharmacies for the sponsor of 8 first aid kits to Theodor Herzl High School.



Please support our Inter-House activities this week!





Results from last week's Interhouse matches:

Interhouse Girls' Hockey - Congratulations Weizmann!



Interhouse Chess Round 1 – Congratulations BG



Interhouse Squash Round 1 – Congratulations BG



Images supplied by **Jessica Hickman**

Important Notices

A close-up photograph of school uniforms, including a dark blue jacket with the school crest and a yellow and white tracksuit top.



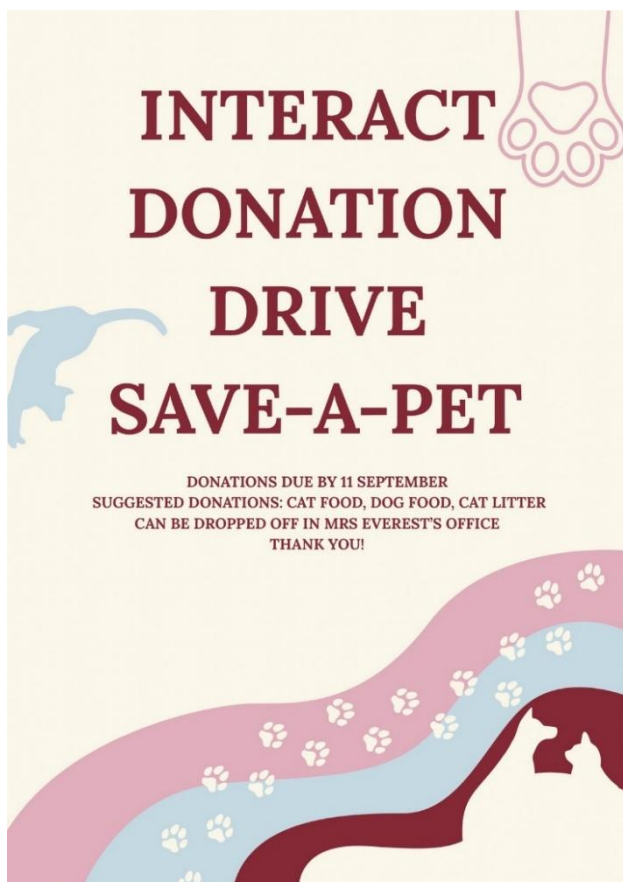
**THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS**

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We have stock of shorts, skorts, tracksuit tops, tracksuit pants and rain jackets.
Please WhatsApp Mrs De Maine on 071 687 6567
To make an appointment to view stock.

PRICES:
Shorts /Skorts – R80.00
Tracksuit Pants – R120.00
Tracksuit Tops – R150.00
Rain Jackets – Price on Request

Cash/Card facility available
Limited sizes and quantities available.





**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 mtbshows.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**