



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

11 September 2026

Issue # 19



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

Alvin Toffle

Our Primary School is a hive of activity as the Senior Primary children prepare for their Major Production. There are lines being learnt, songs being rehearsed, costumes being organised, entrances being missed, entrances hopefully being found again...and, somewhere in the middle of all of that, *Dear Edwina Jr!* steadily taking shape.

A major school production is always exciting, but I sometimes think we underestimate just how much learning happens when children put on a show.

Of course, there is the obvious: learning words, music, movement and stagecraft. But underneath all of that sits something perhaps even more important. Children have to **work with other people**. They have to listen. They have to communicate. They have to take direction. They have to arrive prepared. They have to realise that somebody else is relying on them to do their bit properly.

And, occasionally, the hardest lesson of all, they discover that they are not always the main character!

Those are not simply theatre skills. Increasingly, they are workplace skills too.

When we speak about preparing children for the world of 2030 and beyond, it is tempting to imagine that everything revolves around particular qualifications or highly specialised knowledge. Those things certainly matter. But employers are also placing increasing value on qualities such as **communication, collaboration, creative thinking, problem-solving, adaptability, curiosity and the ability to work productively with others**. Research into the future of education increasingly makes the same point: academic knowledge remains essential, but it needs to sit alongside a broader set of human skills.

And these skills do not suddenly appear in Grade 12.

They begin in Grade 000 when a child learns to share the blocks, wait for a turn, explain an idea or work out how three people can somehow all be the doctor in the same imaginary hospital.

They develop through Primary School when children perform together, play sport together, create together, solve problems together and begin discovering their own interests and strengths.



And they become increasingly important as our students move into High School.

This was particularly relevant recently as our Grade 9 students and their parents considered **subject choices for the senior phase of High School**. At 14 or 15 years old, choosing subjects can feel remarkably serious - almost as though one wrong tick on a form will condemn you forever to a career you never wanted!

Thankfully, life does not quite work like that - and we do not subscribe to that approach or thought!

Subject choice matters, and it deserves careful thought. We want our students to keep appropriate doors open and to make choices based on ability, interest and possible future pathways. But equally important is what they learn through those subjects: how to think, analyse, communicate, question, create, calculate, investigate, and solve problems.

The world our Grade 9s will enter after school will keep changing. Some careers they eventually pursue may not yet exist in quite the form they will know them. Our job, therefore, cannot simply be to prepare children for a particular job title.

It must be to develop young adults capable of **learning, thinking and contributing**, whatever that workplace eventually looks like.

In that sense, a Primary School musical and a Grade 9 subject-choice evening are perhaps not as far apart as they first appear.

Both are about discovering strengths and involve choices. Both require commitment and remind us that education is much bigger than marks on a report.

For parents interested in this idea, I found this recent Brookings Institution article particularly worthwhile. It explores why education needs to develop communication, collaboration and creativity alongside traditional academic learning:

For parents who would like to read a little further on this topic, this Brookings Institution article explores why education needs to develop communication, collaboration and creativity alongside strong academic learning:
How to reimagine education for the 21st century

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-to-reimagine-education-for-the-21st-century/>

On a slightly different educational “stage” (pun intended) , Mrs Hillary Goldberg and I are looking forward to attending the annual national conference for heads of independent schools – hosted in Durban this year. With more than 300 delegates expected, it promises to be an important opportunity for school leaders from around the country to meet, share ideas and grapple with some of the significant educational issues facing South Africa.

Conferences can occasionally involve an impressive amount of coffee and an equally impressive number of PowerPoint slides, but their real value lies in conversation: hearing what other schools are experiencing, challenging our own thinking and bringing useful ideas home.

Whether you are four years old building something with a friend, performing in *Dear Edwina Jr!*, choosing Grade 10 subjects, or preparing to leave school after Matric, the ability to **think well, work with others, communicate clearly and contribute meaningfully** will never go out of date.

I came across the following article, which is worthy of sharing. The World Economic Forum’s recent *Future of Jobs Report 2025* makes for interesting reading. Looking ahead to 2030, it highlights the growing importance not only of technical knowledge, but also of skills such as analytical thinking, creativity, curiosity, collaboration and lifelong learning - many of the very skills our children develop through experiences well beyond the classroom.

The article is entitled, “*Future of Jobs Report 2025: What’s shaping the future of the global workforce?*”

The link is: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2025/01/future-of-jobs-report-2025-whats-shaping-the-future-of-the-global-workforce/>

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, as we approach Rosh Hashanah, I would like to wish all our Jewish families a **Shanah Tovah U'Metukah** over this weekend. May the new year be a sweet one, filled with peace, good health, happiness and many blessings for you and your families.

To everyone, have a blessed weekend and week ahead!

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Jewish Life

A successful Rosh Hashanah assembly was held on Monday the 7th of September. Each person present was given an opportunity to reflect over the year, the people that we are grateful for, the friendships that have grown, the ability to forgive and the responsibility for one's actions; to resolve to be a better friend and colleague in the year ahead. Wishing all a Shana Tova U'Metuka. May we all be inscribed for a year of good health and happiness.



Primary School

Who are these fascinating characters??? Find out when you enter the world of advice columnist, Edwina Spoonapple! Theodor Herzl Primary School proudly presents "DEAR EDWINA! Jr" – a musical feast of fun for the whole family! Directed by the talented Nizaan Henning with vibrant musical direction by maestro Candice Parkin, this show promises all the "feels" and a whole lot of wisdom for all ages. Have you booked yet? The show runs from 15 – 20 September – book on QUICKET



High School

Our Prefects are excited to introduce our brand-new High School mascot:

Theo the Herzl Hound!

Theo represents school spirit, pride, unity and belonging. Whether we are competing on the sports field, performing on stage, taking part in a Quiz competition, or cheering from the sidelines, Theo is there to remind us that we are all part of the same school. We are Theodorians!

Our Husky was chosen for more than just his adorable looks! Huskies are known for being strong, energetic, intelligent and incredibly determined. They are team players, fiercely loyal to their pack and always ready for an adventure. These are all qualities that reflect the spirit we want to nurture at Theodor Herzl.

Theo also has his very own notice board, ***Theo's Barkboard!*** Whenever Theo heads off on an adventure with one of our teams, clubs or groups, photographs

will be taken and shared on his Barkboard. This will allow everyone to see where Theo has been, who he has supported and the memories he has helped create.

Over time, we hope that Theo's Barkboard will become a wonderful little history of Theodor Herzl school spirit, filled with teams, achievements, friendships, competitions, celebrations and unforgettable memories.

The Legacy Collective: Kai Bruinders, Tobi Adeleke & Jemma Schewitz



Our High School **Sport Forum** took the initiative to turn Bokke Friday into a celebration of all things South African rugby. From proudly showing off our Bokke colours to the excitement, energy and school spirit buzzing around campus, you've definitely scored a ***try for school spirit!***



Mr Christo Scriven reports:

Results from last week's Interhouse matches:

Interhouse E-Sports – Congratulations BG!



Interhouse Debating – Congratulations Weizmann.



Important Notices



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