



THEODOR
HERZL
SCHOOLS

SCHOOLS
With HEART

NEWSLETTER

15 October 2026

Issue # 21



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

[Jane Goodall](#)

Looking through the photographs and stories in this week's newsletter, I couldn't help but smile at the wonderful variety of things happening across our three schools. There are academic achievements, sporting

successes, cultural activities, community projects and, of course, plenty of proud faces. It's really lovely to see how involved our students are and how many opportunities they have to explore their interests and talents.

But as I looked through these pages, something else struck me. For every achievement we celebrate, many other things happen at Theodor Herzl that seldom attract much attention, yet they are every bit as important.

We are very good at celebrating our successes, and rightly so. Our children and students work hard, our teachers invest enormous time and energy, and as parents, you make countless sacrifices to support your children. Those certificates, medals and trophies represent dedication, commitment and, very often, quite a bit of perseverance! However, I have always believed that what makes a school special goes well beyond what we achieve in the classroom, on the sports field or on the stage.

Sometimes it is the simplest things that tell us the most about a school and its people.

In this edition, for example, we celebrate our Primary School students who have taken responsibility for recycling, as well as those who have put their creativity to good use by designing a logo for our Theodor Cares initiative in support of Animal

Welfare. These may seem like relatively small contributions when compared with some of the wonderful achievements elsewhere in the newsletter, but I think they are particularly meaningful. Here are young people learning that they can make a difference, that their actions matter and that by contributing to something beyond themselves can be enormously rewarding.

We also acknowledge the wonderful generosity of Raymond Nel, whose donation of grandstands to our school is another example of someone quietly making a difference. I suspect there will be many grateful parents and spectators who appreciate somewhere to sit during those long sporting afternoons! It is a lovely gesture and one that reminds us how fortunate we are to have people who are willing to give of themselves for the benefit of our school community.

Our recent Sukkot celebrations also gave us a chance to reflect on the value of the moments we share with one another. In the busyness of school life, it's easy to overlook these moments, yet they often become the memories that stay with us long after the school year ends.

And then there are the people we don't always see in the photographs. The teachers who spend hours preparing students for performances and competitions, the coaches who give up their afternoons, the staff who make sure everything runs smoothly, and the parents who are always willing to lend a hand. There are also wonderful everyday moments when a student helps another, includes someone who might be feeling left out, or simply notices someone needs a little encouragement.

None of these things necessarily earns a certificate or a place on the podium, but they contribute enormously to a school's character. In fact, I sometimes think we could introduce an entirely new awards category for the people who quietly get things done without being asked. We would probably need a rather large trophy!

At Theodor Herzl, we often speak about being **Schools with Heart**. I love those words because, for me, they describe something you can't manufacture with a slogan or display on a noticeboard. It has to be lived. It is reflected in the way we treat one another, in the care we show, in our willingness to help and in the genuine sense of belonging we want every student, parent and staff member to experience.

Of course, no school gets everything right all the time, and ours is no exception. We have our difficult days and our challenges, as any busy school community does. But I have always felt that how we respond to those moments, support one another, and work through our differences says a great deal about who we are.

I recently read an interesting article from the Greater Good Science Centre at the University of California, Berkeley, entitled [*Three Lessons for Bringing Gratitude Into Your School*](#). It explores how recognising and appreciating the contributions of others can strengthen relationships and create a greater sense of belonging within a school. What appealed to me was the simplicity of the message. Sometimes a genuine thank you, a little recognition or simply acknowledging someone's efforts can mean far more than we realise.

As we move through this final term, with all the activity and excitement that accompanies the closing weeks of the school year, I hope we continue to notice and appreciate those little things that make Theodor Herzl what it is.

The achievements we celebrate are important, and we should never stop striving for excellence. But when I think about what makes me proudest of Theodor Herzl, it is not only what our students accomplish. It is the people they are becoming and the community that helps them along the way.

That, to me, is what being a School with Heart is really all about.

Enjoy the weekend that is almost upon us ... and the week ahead!

Kind Regards

Viktor

Viktor Kurz

Executive Principal

Jewish Life

The Judaica Department enjoyed a week of learning about the festival of Sukkot. We learnt that we should make use of each moment in our lives and live life to its fullest potential. May we all be blessed with a year full of good health and happiness.



Primary School

Stuart Clarke and **Ivakele Mase** were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their exceptional work in recycling in 2026. An entire new group underwent training in preparation to be recycling monitor in 2026.



In September, we held a spelling bee. 24 Children took part in this competition. Our senior winner was **Luphawu Masiza**. In second place was **India Dames**. And in third place was **Lidia Ann**. Our junior spelling bee winner was **Tarhu Machava**. **Summer Dames** was in second place. **Nkanyezi Ncube** was in third place. Thank you to Mrs. Lindy Louw for the wonderful opportunity.



Public Speaking 2026: Congratulations to our senior winner, **Enzo Bands**, for a wonderful presentation on the topic, LIFE! The runners-up were **Stuart Clarke**, **Milani Butau**, and **Nikita Naidoo**.

In the Grade 4 and 5 Junior Public Speaking, we congratulate **Hanna Ahn** on first place and runners-up, **Gia Fourie** and **Aleena Mamoojee**, on wonderful presentations regarding the topic: SCHOOL.



Congratulations to this group of Grade 7 young ladies and gentlemen who achieved academic awards in Grade 7 on Monday.



Congratulations to these three students: **Leo Tebbutt**, **Luisa Licinovic** and **Harper Ratz** for winning the "Design Competition" for our Theodor Cares Program in aid of Animal Welfare. The combination of your designs will be our logo! Thank you!

High School

We celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2026 at the prestigious annual Theodor Herzl High School Matric Prize Giving.

Academic Awards: 3rd in Grade 12 with Academic Excellence awarded to **Kira Olivier**, 2nd in Grade 12 with academic excellence awarded to **Haroon Aslam** and 1st in Grade 12 with Academic Excellence & Isaac and Riva Freedburg Dux award - congratulations to **Liyemah Funani**.

Premier Awards: IRWIN HANSRAJH TROPHY FOR GOOD FELLOWSHIP IN SPORT & the SHLOMO LEVIN MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN PURSUIT OF THE TORAH awarded to **Max Schewitz**.

SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL awarded to **Joshua Parkin**.

THE RITESH HARIBHAI MEMORIAL AWARD celebrates *Carpe Diem* “seize the day” was presented to **Ana Weber Albaitero**.

HEADMASTER’S TROPHY FOR SPORTSMANSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP awarded to **Haroon Aslam**.

THEODOR HERZL HONOURS SHIELD awarded to **Isabella Price**.



Our lovely **Carli Labuschagne** was shining her talent in the Impact Theatre production of JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT!



Congratulations to our High School teachers who have been selected as IEB Matric Markers for 2026.

Sports News

Primary School Sport **Coch Petro reports:**

CHESS:

At the Eastern Cape Closed Chess Championships in Jeffreys Bay, during the school holidays, **Iviwe Sizane** was awarded the 2nd Best Female Player in the u/12 age group in the entire Eastern Cape! Her team, consisting of some of the Top 10 players in Nelson Mandela Bay, claimed 1st place, officially making them the best team in the province! Two incredible achievements, countless hours of dedication and another beautiful chapter in her chess journey!



CRICKET:

Aiden Groenmeyer in Grade 3 was signed to the East Coast Mariners team for the EPL 2026 cricket tournament. The tournament took place during the third term school holidays. Aiden performed very well during the tournament and made a high score of 44 not out, taking two wickets, two catches and a run out. We are so proud of him!

SOCCER:

Stuart Clarke and **Paul Licinovic** participated in the PEFA Knock-Out Cup Finals at Fairview Sports Field. Stuart played and captained for the U13 Callies Premier team. They played Ebhayi and won 1-0 after extra time. Paul played for the U15 Callies Premier team. They played GQ Saints and won 1-0.



SWIMMING:

Michaela Makase took part in the Port Elizabeth Amateur Gala in September. She achieved a third place in breaststroke, a second place in freestyle and a first place in backstroke.

DANCING:

Ruby Collett and **Kasey Carlsen** took part in the Nelson Mandela Bay Dance Festival and achieved wonderful accolades for their dances.

High School Sport

Mr Christo Scriven reports:

SWIMMING:

Freda Barnard Gala:

Emily Geldart:

1st 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke
3rd 50m fly and 50m freestyle

Eli Kannemeyer:

6 golds: 100m Freestyle , 50m Freestyle + 4 relay golds

3 silvers: 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, 50m Fly

4 bronzes: 100m Backstroke, 200 IM, 200 Freestyle, 400 Freestyle

Jayden Viduya:

6 golds:

* 50m Breaststroke — Gala Record

* 200m Breaststroke

* 100m Freestyle

* 200m Individual Medley

* 50m Butterfly

* 100m Breaststroke

* 50m Freestyle

2 Silver:

* 50m Backstroke

* 100m Butterfly

4th Place:

* 800m Freestyle

Relay Events

Silver:

* Mixed 200m Medley Relay

Bronze:

* Mixed 200m Freestyle Relay

A major highlight was Jayden breaking the gala record in the 50m Breaststroke.

Ocean Series Open Water Swimming:

Carter Cruickshank

1 st place 2km event

DANCING:

Alison Rennie competed at the South African Irish Dance Championship held in Johannesburg from 25 – 27 September 2026. She danced beautifully, placing 1st in 4 dances and 2nd in 2 dances on the Friday. Ali continued to compete over the weekend and went on to win the 3-round Championship (aged 13 -15years) and was crowned SA Champion for the third consecutive year. Ali impressed the 3 international adjudicators and was chosen to represent South Africa at the forthcoming World Irish Dancing Championship to take place in Belfast, N Ireland in March 2027. We are extremely proud of Ali – Keep up the training!



Important Notices

Thank you to **Raymond Nel** for his generous donation of 2 Theodor Herzl Schools Grandstands. We appreciate your generosity.





Raymond Nel

Director

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🌐 www.transfire.co.za

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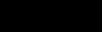









SUBSIDIARIES




Please support ***Mrs Dorfling*** and her phenomenal High School Art students.

EXHIBITION: 13 NOV - 21 NOV
OPENING NIGHT - TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER AT
17:30 FOR 18:00, DRESS COCKTAIL.

**Art
Exhibition**
The Things We Carry

ART ON TARGET GALLERY - WALMER
(BOTTOM OF TARGET KLOOF)

THEODOR HERZL HIGH SCHOOL

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