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# HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 10 – 23 September 2021

Dear Parents

## **There is something special about the noise in a school during the last week of term ...**

What a wonderful experience it was listening to the incredible sounds of music and watching the high energy dance routines of the Herschel students who participated in the Eisteddfod on Wednesday. Despite the restrictions that governed dance routines and musical repertoires and the limited time that there was for rehearsal, the standard and range of the items presented was superb! It was also really pleasing to note the number of students who stayed on to watch the performances. It was uplifting and beautiful to watch and to listen to! Enjoy the accompanying visuals. They will give you a glimpse into what we were so privileged to experience across a range of artistic and creative pursuit. My thanks to all who entered the Eisteddfod and to their teachers and to those who have nurtured, inspired and grown these young women into the performers, artists, musicians and creatives that they are. They make the world a happier place!

We are so proud of what the students and staff have managed to accomplish under difficult circumstances; not just the Eisteddfod, but the Fusion Concert, Matric Music Recital, Sport matches and results and selections, the pleasing standard of the Matric preliminary results, Debating, Film Festival, Spring Day and Olympiad results – all indicate that we are learning to live with the

pandemic and have adapted where possible. The recent adjustment to Lockdown Level Two has given us some hope with respect to the extramural programme for Term Four and we plan to pack in as much as is possible.

On Tuesday night, the boarders enjoyed laser tag in the gardens and again I was reminded of the unique energy that signals the end of a term. It was wonderful to hear the sounds of laughter and the voices ringing in the night, especially knowing that they were having fun.

Last week I referred you to the Parent Hub but did not provide the link which allows you to access it directly while reading this letter: <https://herschel-dat-peae.blogspot.com/> The theme for Term Four is mental health and there will be an array of topics, materials and resources linking to the theme. We hope that you find these interesting and helpful.

It was disappointing to note how few parents attended the online presentation by Verlie Oosthuizen, Social Media Lawyer and POPIA expert. Given the issues that arise through the misuse or irresponsible use of social media platforms and the laws and regulations governing this space, we thought it would be an interesting and relevant presentation. It is possible that the timing (18h00 – 19h00) may not have been convenient for many. We will consider this going forward.

Term Four is not far off and begins with special rite of passage functions and events for the Grade 12s: the matric dance, the special persons and daughters' lunch and Prize-Giving and Valedictory. We hope that these occasions and milestones will be memorable, special and meaningful to the Class of 2021 and to their parents and guardians and all who have carried them this far. We look forward to sharing in these occasions before the NSC Final Examinations see the matrices completing their senior school careers to start new chapters in new spaces. It is worth remembering at a time such as this that what feels like the end is often just the beginning.

I will be communicating with you regularly from this point on in respect to the school's Centenary Year! The main birthday celebrations will take place in February 2022, and this is not far away when one considers the fact we are a whisper from October. We have a number of functions / events planned and we will communicate these through the House Representatives so that the entire Herschel community is aware of what we have planned for all age-groups and across the school. There will be opportunities to get involved in the school's centenary celebrations and we will communicate these with you.

Importantly, as we embark on our short school holiday, we should pause to remember that the significance of tomorrow's Heritage Day public holiday is especially important in light of the state of our nation currently. On this day we are encouraged to celebrate our culture and the diversity of our beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a South Africa that belongs to all its people. Historically, the 24 September marks 'Shaka's Day', a day which commemorates King Shaka Zulu who played an integral role in uniting Zulu clans into one cohesive Zulu nation in Kwa-Zulu Natal. The new South African Parliament did not initially include Shaka's Day in the Public Holidays Bill which led to an

objection by the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), a South African political party with a large Zulu membership. After lengthy discussion it was decided that a national holiday would be created where South Africans of all cultures and creeds could come together and celebrate their diverse cultural heritage.

In his Heritage Day address in 1996, the late former State President Nelson Mandela said, "When our first democratically-elected government decided to make Heritage Day one of our national days, we did so because we knew that our rich and varied cultural heritage has the profound power to help build our new nation".

Tomorrow, Friday 24 September 2021, let us remember the purpose of our rich and varied cultural heritage and keep a focus on how we can build community, starting with our Herschel community and also contributing to and within the communities from which we come. Enjoy the day your way with family and friends.

We wish you a wonderful holiday break – as short as it might seem – and look forward to welcoming the girls back to school on Tuesday, 5 October.



## Eisteddfod

Congratulations to all our students who took part in yesterday's Eisteddfod.





Our Grade 10 Consumer Studies students held a **Market Day** yesterday, with several yummy treats on offer.





A fun-filled day at the Senior School campus today during our *Spring House Day*.

