



HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 2 – 11 February 2022

“A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey where she will become strong.”
(The power of positivity)

There are so many advantages to being in an all-girls school. That ‘edge’ that is often referred to when one considers that all leadership roles available are filled by girls, the fostering of girls voices, the building of self-confidence and the nuance within curriculum choices tailored to stretch and invoke curiosity. Add to this, the cultivation of a phenomenal work ethic, the inspirational environment which puts girls at the centre, the opportunity to mentor, the intentional negation of the societal norms that perpetuate stereotyping, the encouragement of high aspirations and greater cultural and community competency, and it is easy to advocate for an ‘all girls’ education.

There is significant research data on the subject of an ‘all girls’ education, and this goes way beyond the demonstration of greater academic achievement. In the past four weeks there have been numerous occasions on which I have observed all of the above. The rhythm of school life enables continuous engagement and development; opportunities for meaningful interactions; ongoing learning and growth.

But, and there is a ‘but’; there is also a potentially damaging and concerning intersect that occurs where pressure, performance and perfectionism

‘collide’. The wellbeing of our girls in an ‘all girls’ school needs to take into consideration the enormous amount of pressure that girls place on themselves, added to which, there is an unspoken but felt pressure that comes with not wanting to be ‘that’ grade that lets the school down (following the traditionally outstanding NSC matric results achieved by Herschel over the years).

In a session that I had with the Grade 11s last year, this was one of the pressure points discussed. The pressure to perform and to perfect certain skills, and to work with intensity to ensure a consistently excellent standard of work can also mean that girls spend an unhealthy amount of time on their work; to the point that this becomes competitive, with comparisons being made in respect to what time they have gone to bed because of working late! This is not healthy. It is not what we want for our students. As adults and mentors, we need to demonstrate balance, to be intentional in prioritizing time and space for wellness and to ensure that our connections are authentic and compassionate, instilling reassurance and love.

I would ask that you remind your daughters regularly of the need for balance in their lives; and balance includes rest, time-out with friends and family, reading for fun, sleeping and just being. They need to be as intentional about building in time for wellness, as they are about planning the week’s work schedule, or their weekends!



Times of school day for the week:

14 February	07:40 – 13:15
15 February	07:40 – 15:00
16 February	07:40 – 15:00
17 February	07:40 – 15:00
18 February	08:45 – 13:15

Founder's Week 14–18 February: Kicking off the Centenary Celebrations at the Senior School

14 February – A fun Summer House Day

A day filled with activities where grades and Houses get to bond over the shared experience of fun activities across our campus. We end the day with everyone around the pool for an Inter-house Gala.

16 February – Learning to make a difference

The focus on learning and reflecting as we educate ourselves on what authentic and sustainable community engagement looks like, especially when working from a place of privilege. We have a guest speaker coming to help us navigate this as a school and give us the tools to build on this in the future.

18 February – Founder's Day

We will host a Senior School Assembly where our three Head pupils will speak to us on #100 years of learning to make a difference, followed by our special birthday service held at St Saviour's Church. The festivities will culminate with the traditional welcoming arch around the fountain and the singing of the school song.



Herschel Awarded First Place in the NSC Examinations in the WCED.

Last week at the WCED awards ceremony, Herschel was awarded first prize in the Western Cape in the NSC 2021 examinations. Despite the uncertainty and disruption which the Matrics experienced for the past two years, they performed exceptionally well, and we celebrate the courage, motivation and determination they have shown.

Special mention was made of Jessica Prevôt as a top achiever in Mathematics and she also received an award for excellent all-round pupil achievement in the WCED.

Several of our academic subjects have received special mention for their overall achievement in the 2021 NSC examinations.

We have said this before, but mention must be made again, that while we do celebrate this wonderful achievement and the exceptional and excellent results, we do so with humility and gratitude as we are aware of the unequal access to education and resources in South Africa.

We would like to thank the whole Herschel team who have supported our Grade 12 pupils in their success. This is a 12-year journey and there are many role players along the way. The academic teachers and pastoral team specifically; but not limited to them, as every member of the school team has played an important role whether it be ICT, grounds, maintenance, administration, catering or security staff.



Kerri-Lyn East (Deputy Head: Academics) and Jessica Prevôt



OPEN DAY

It was wonderful this week to be able to welcome back onto campus parents and Grade 6 & 7 students from neighbouring schools. There was an excited buzz and the campus was alive with sporting, music, cultural and academic presentations.



If you have family or friends who would still like to come on a campus tour and see what Herschel has to offer, please ask them to contact Hillary Morusi at hmorusi@herschel.org.za

World Read Aloud Day

On **Tuesday 2 February** Herschel Library joined the rest of the World in celebrating **World Read Aloud Day**. This special day is celebrated in over 173 countries, uniting the World in a shared, special activity. It encourages children and adults to grab a book, find an audience and read aloud!

Sharing a story through your voice is what the day is all about and our Senior girls did exactly that! A few library monitors bravely weathered the rain to read to the Prep girls during their lunch break. We are not sure who had more fun, the Senior or Prep girls!



The **more** that you read, the **more** things you will know. The **more** that you learn, the **more** places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss

Daily Quotes/ talgroup.net

LIBRARY BOOK DRIVE

THE HERSCHEL BAXTER RESOURCES CENTRE IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE #100BOOKDRIVE.

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR CENTENARY YEAR, WE ARE CHALLENGING THE HERSCHEL COMMUNITY TO HELP US IN OUR DRIVE TO COLLECT GENTLY USED OR NEW BOOKS THAT WILL GO TOWARDS DESERVING SCHOOLS. WE ARE LOOKING TO DONATE BOOKS THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR TEENAGERS AND YOUNG ADULTS.

BOOKS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL RECEPTION WHERE WE WILL TAKE THEM TO THE BOX OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY.

#100YEARSOFLEARNINGTOMAKEADIFFERENCE
#PROUDLYPINK

CELEBRATING
1922-2022
100
YEARS
OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Shrek

From 16-20 March, Herschel Girls School and Bishops Diocesan College will be taking audiences on a fairy tale journey, far far away...

Continuing a tradition of collaboration between our schools that has spanned many years, we will be staging Dreamworks' iconic tale, 'Shrek'. Inspired by the much-beloved film, 'Shrek The Musical' by David Lindsay-Abaire and Jeanine Tesori is a funny, wonderfully irreverent frolic though fairy tale and folklore. At its heart, the message to love and accept others no matter who they are, where they come from or what they look like and - just as important - to learn to love yourself.

The show promises to be an uplifting celebration of song, dance and theatrical spectacle, the perfect kick off to our Centenary year. Tickets will go on sale through Quicket on 1 March.



From left to right: Paballo Mphepya (Fiona), Jesse Barth (Shrek), Gigi Stewart (Fiona), Thandolwethu Kumalo (Donkey)



FROM THE HEAD: SHREK REHEARSALS

These are in full swing, and, living opposite the Mary Jagger Hall I can assure you that there is a lot of energy being put into these late-night sessions. It is just as busy at the opposite end of the campus – the Inkwenkwezi Music Centre – where the musical direction rehearsals are unfolding. I want to thank you, as parents and guardians, for the incredible support you give your daughters, for the late-night lifting to and from Herschel after a busy day! It is so appreciated and especially exciting since things have been so quiet over the past two years because of the pandemic. I am very grateful for the dedication of our staff (Herschel and Bishops staff cohorts) and the large cast rehearsing for **Shrek**. We look forward to this production in March!

CARNIVAL IS BACK!!

We are excited to invite the Herschel community to the
2022 Herschel Centenary Carnival.

For ticket booking, please visit:

<https://herschel.howler.co.za/carnival2022>

