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# HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 3 – 21 May 2021

Dear Parents

We look forward to hosting members of the IEB Executive team to an information evening on the 27 May, at 18h00. The purpose of this evening is to present the IEB Curriculum philosophy and to provide a clear outline of the workings of the IEB.

There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers. This evening is targeted at our current Grade 7, 8 and 9 parents.

For parents who would have liked to attend this evening, but who could not secure seats owing to the Covid-19 protocol restrictions that apply to venues, please note that we will record the presentation and post the link on the intranet for easy access.

Should you have questions that you would like to ask of the IEB, please email them to Chris McEwen at [cmcewen@herschel.org.za](mailto:cmcewen@herschel.org.za) by 12pm on Wednesday, 26 May, and we will endeavor to include them in the Q&A session.

The staff will meet with the IEB representatives in an afternoon session to find out more about the training and support that will be provided in the transition phase.

Warm wishes,  
Heather Goedeke

## *FAREWELL, DEAR FRIEND*



It is with great sadness that we bade farewell to **Mr Zolile Dibela** from the Grounds Department (he has been employed at Herschel since 2017) in a Memorial Service held at the school for his family, friends and colleagues. He had been ill for a few weeks.

Mr Dibela was a respected and much-loved colleague and those who spoke at the service all reminisced about his jokes, his 'naughtiness', his commitment to his work and his general friendliness to all that met him.

In his eyes he was responsible for a critical area of the school near the fountain and was proud that he was in charge of this space, as he knew that this was an area that all visitors and parents often found themselves. For Mr Dibela impressions were important!

A memory I will not forget was his enjoyment at the Council Dinner where we all dressed up and were able to spend time together on a social level as an extended Herschel Family. That night he told me how much he loved working at Herschel and how appreciative he was to work in this environment. In fact, it was more like how lucky we were to have him working at Herschel!

*Siza kukukhumbula, mhlobo wethu! Enkosi kakhulu ngazo zonke izinto osenzele zona!  
INkosi inga ingaba nawe ezulwini! Ubuyintsikelelo kuthi sonke apha eHerschel Girls School, Zolile.  
Iintliziyo zethu zikunye nosapho lwakho. Uphumle ngoxolo ngoku!*

*We are going to miss you, our friend! Thank you so much for all the things you have done for us!  
May God be with you in heaven! You were a blessing to all of us at Herschel Girls School, Zolile.  
Our hearts are with your family! May you rest in peace now! (Andrew Scott)*



## DR LWAZI LUSHABA GUEST LECTURE

On Thursday 6 May, Herschel's senior History students attended a guest lecture by Dr Lwazi Lushaba at Herschel, entitled '*Can there be non-racialists in a racist society?*' Over the course of his discussion, Dr Lushaba outlined the historical roots of racism and provided arguments for what he believes are the most practical, possible and ethical relations we can have with one another in a country reckoning with racism and the legacies of a racist past. It was an afternoon well spent; indeed, many are still deep in thought, a full 2 weeks later!

In conversation with the students after the lecture, it was clear that it had been a deeply meaningful experience. The students expressed much appreciation for the opportunity to hear someone speak with great authority and purpose on issues which are complex and multi-faceted. It was unanimous amongst them that they found him a compelling and interesting speaker, who challenged them, and 'really made them think'. Many also said that they simply loved the experience of attending a 'real lecture'.



Dr Lushaba expressed how meaningful it was for him too – in particular, he found the students candour and integrity refreshing, saying that this was because he 'was conversing with minds that were not actively resisting what they were hearing.' (*Lindsay Wills*)

### VOX

Herschel's by-students-for-students social justice and current affairs club, **VOX**, has been busy lately.

Vox is a place for students of all ages to discuss important topics and learn from one another. It prides itself on being a judgement free space and welcoming people regardless of how far along they are on their transformation journey and encourages its members to make and learn from their mistakes.

Recently, sessions have been held on Racism Towards Asians (where we discussed yellow peril, microaggressions, and the current rise in hate crimes towards Asians), how WhatsApp's new privacy policy will affect its users, and a deep dive into Russian history to get a better understanding of its current political tension.

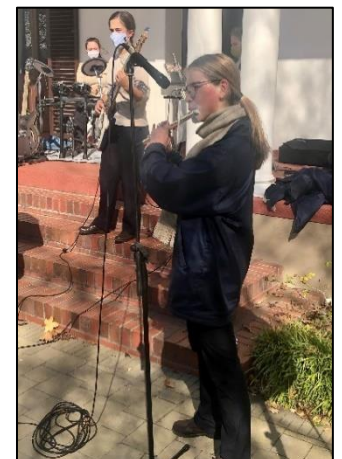
Sessions take the form of discussions with the support of the program *mentimeter*, which is similar to Google Slides, but allows for anonymous audience participation, through polls, multiple-choice and open-ended questions. This has been especially useful in generating dialogue since it can be nerve-racking to voice your thoughts out loud on delicate issues and there has been a noticeable increase in participation since we began to use it.

When fighting oppression, small steps have to be taken first, through challenging ideologies and shining a light on topics that are rarely discussed, and by having and continuing to have these thought-provoking and complex discussions, Vox is doing exactly that. (*Grace North, Grade 11*)



# MUSIC

## HERSCHEL INHOUSE BAND POP UP PERFORMANCE



***Herschel Unplugged*** was a sold-out event held at Café Roux that featured the school's guitar students and was planned and put together by their teacher Gary Craig. Held on the evening of Sunday 16 May, this performance allowed guitarists and vocalists to collaborate in creating an intimate evening of contemporary music.

Singers ranged from those who take formal lessons at school, to those who sing for fun. Under Gary Craig, the event has grown from a small coffee shop performance to a show at one of the city's most celebrated music venues, featuring not only solos and small groups but the full electric Herschel Band. Performing at Café Roux allowed the students' work to be shown in its best light and afforded the musicians the opportunity to perform under professional conditions. The music was carefully chosen and arranged to suit each performer's style and the musicians really enjoyed this chance to share their work with a warm audience of family and friends. *(Sarah McArthur)*





#PROUDLY PINK

Herschel congratulates our very own *Kevin Smuts* on his amazing achievement as the Composer for OSCAR & BAFTA winning Best Documentary “My Octopus Teacher.”

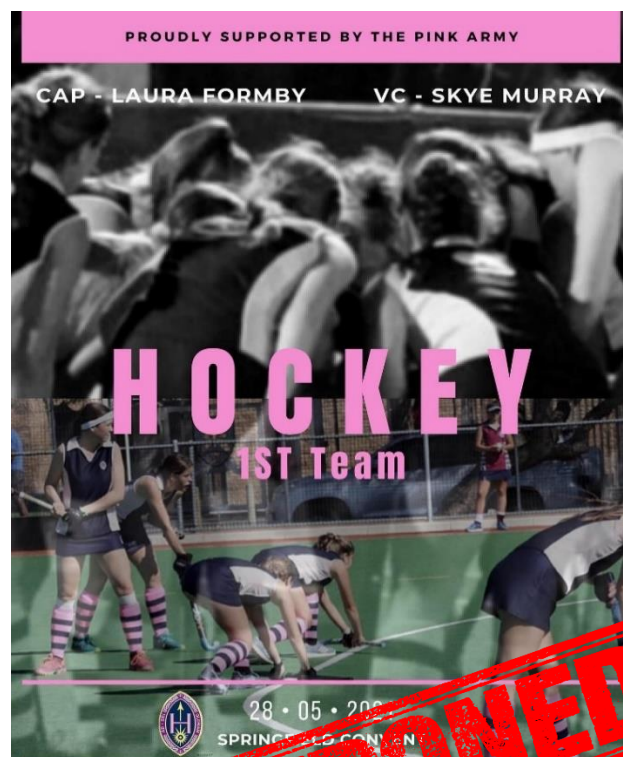
In taking home the Best Music Score for his work on *My Octopus Teacher*, Kevin told Cape Talk Radio: “We’ve been on this wild ride of award after award. It’s completely blown our minds, the response worldwide. It’s just incredible.”

Smuts says both the production and success of the film have been an unexpected journey. He describes *My Octopus Teacher* as the pinnacle of his career and his proudest work.

Well done Kevin, we are so proud of you!



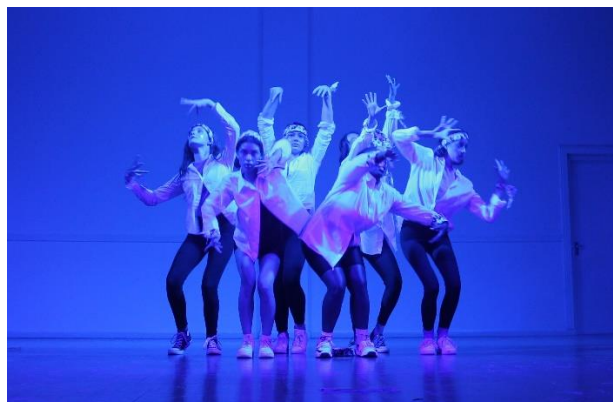
CALLING THE PINK ARMY..IT'S HERSCHFIELD TIME!



The **Interhouse Dance competition** took place this week. This spectacular evening was a celebration of dance, and house spirit and joy was evident in all the performances.

The Most Promising Junior Dancer went to *Okuhle Sopam*, with *Zeeka Sellidon* winning Most Promising Senior Dancer.

The overall house winner by a very narrow margin was: **MERRIMAN** 🏆





## HOUSE SYSTEM AND VERTICAL TUTOR:

Part two of our series of “Meet the House Team”:

### DEPUTY HOUSE DIRECTOR: SENIOR PHASE

The Deputy House Director: Senior Phase is responsible for assisting the House Director with House events, as well as the looking at the pastoral care and academic concerns for Grades 10-12.



## CARTER

### DEPUTY HOUSE DIRECTOR: SENIOR PHASE – SHARMILA GORDON

**Who am I?** I am Capetonian through and through and a descendant of the Indonesian slaves who were brought here to work for the Dutch. I am also a mom of three boys (yes ... husbands fall into that category too!) Being the eldest of three siblings from a

single-parent home has meant that I have always had to be the responsible one and this is why caring for others while providing guidance comes so naturally to me.

**In my free time I like to:** Free time?? I am a teacher and a momma so I have no idea what that is, but when I do make the time, I love travelling around our beautiful country, especially exploring the town and villages of the Western Cape.

I also make beaded cutlery and jewelry.

**Fun fact about me:** Even though I share a birthday with the late Michael Jackson, I never learned to Moonwalk 🕺 I cannot keep plants alive and this Cape Malay mom cannot bake to save her life!

**What I love most about being a teacher:** I love that I get to experience the wonder of life through the eyes of our youth in an ever-changing world, on a daily basis. The curiosity of my students and their passion for life is exciting and keeps me on my toes. I love that I get to make a difference – every day.

**Why I became a House Director:** I understand the value of a House system, which is the building of relationships. The camaraderie and the sense of family that stems from a House systems allows me to build relationships with all the pupils in my pastoral care and gives me the opportunity to become a better teacher and ultimately, a better person.

**My message to the Carter pupils:** Everyone you know is fighting their own battle, so Be Kind. Always.



# JAGGER

## DEPUTY HOUSE DIRECTOR: SENIOR PHASE – HANNEKE DE BRUIJN

**Who am I?** I am an energetic, resourceful, fun-loving, and independent human being who has quite strong opinions and beliefs! I enjoy challenges and, in some ways, I am quite brave. I share my house with my dog – sometimes she is in charge and sometimes I am!

**In my free time I like to:** Plant things in my garden and watch them grow; Eat, chat and laugh with friends; Take walks on the beach at low tide (at high tide it's a bit of a schlep); Cook, bake and eat: food is big in our family! Knit and think/meditate; Watch TV: sport, cooking programmes and programmes on house interiors/gardens.

**Fun fact about me:** I am adventurous: I have lived and worked in 4 countries on 3 continents. I have travelled to more than 40 countries in Africa, Europe and Asia, mostly as an independent traveller, rather than a tourist. Adrenaline moments include bungee-jumping and white-water rafting at Vic Falls. Two happy travel memories: hitch-hiking for three weeks through Malawi with friends (in the 1980s) and swimming with dolphins.



**What I love most about being a teacher:** Watching pupils grow and develop – intellectually and as human beings - from grade 8 to grade 12; Having kind, wise and considerate students in my classes; The fun-loving enthusiasm and energy girls often bring to classes – especially when we go off topic and into life (or play games); In my teaching itself: connecting literature to real life and making the complex in language both simple and logical (and the focused silence as girls follow my thought processes.); All the extras in Herschel life that make it a vibrant, fulfilling, and happy place.



**Why I became a House Director:** I have opportunities to listen, help, encourage, give advice and give perspective. To be a fellow human being to other human beings. Maybe, it is an opportunity for me to be a “mother” to the children of others.

**My message to the Jagger pupils:** Focus on the enjoyment of being fully immersed in the moment; enjoy the process (of anything) rather than worrying about the outcome AND...Just do it – like you always do!



# MERRIMAN

**HOUSE DIRECTOR: DEPUTY HOUSE  
DIRECTOR: SENIOR PHASE – JAN GOUWS**

**Who am I?** Jan Gouws

**In my free time I like to:** Crotchet, watch Netflix, compose, read, cuddle and talk to my cat (Scarlett) and spend time with friends.

**Fun fact about me:** I love 'Dream' chocolate – my favourite!

**What I love most about being a teacher:** Watching how students implement what I teach into their own lives.



**Why I became a House Director:** To spread my wings beyond the music department, and my genuine care for learners who have personal, emotional, and academic issues or problems.

**My message to the Merriman pupils:** Live in the moment and be grateful for everything you have, does not matter how big or small those things are.



# ROLT

## DEPUTY HOUSE DIRECTOR: SENIOR PHASE – YAASIEN KERBELKER

**Who am I?** I am firstly a father, a son, a husband and a grandfather who adores the company of diverse people and of course a good plate of curry.

**In my free time I like to:** Cook food for my family, play with the dog and watch YouTube videos of American chat shows, especially Bill Maher.

**Fun fact about me:** I love singing songs from the 60s and 70s.

**What I love most about being a teacher:** Seeing the bright eyes of Grade 8 students looking so eager to learn and contribute to the lesson.

**Why I became a House Director:** It allows me to connect to my house and establish a bond between myself and the pupils.

**My message to the Rolt pupils:** Take a risk as you may never know what great happiness may lie in the unknown.

