



HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 4 – 11 March 2022

Dear Parents, students and friends of Herschel

***While we try to teach our children all about life,
our children teach us what life is all about!***

(Shanaya Tales)

On Friday evening 25 February, we hosted Carnival. It was the most wonderful evening filled with music, laughter, friendship, conversations, non-stop action and energy – especially wonderful following on a two-year pandemic. My mum has been visiting – she arrived during the week I was in Queberha attending the SAHISA (South African Heads of Independent Schools Association) Conference. I took her to Carnival, knowing how much she would love being a part of something vibrant, musical and communal. My husband, Gerry, and younger son, Mike, also came along and we experienced the friendliness and fun of the Herschel community as it came out in droves to participate, have fun, reconnect and celebrate. The food and drinks available were amazing – such a range, and utterly delicious! We chatted to various people – Herschel colleagues, friends, students and enjoyed the warmth and friendliness of the people around us.

The evening was marked for me, by two conversations in particular, the first with Ari Baloyi – 5 years old and all dimples and sunshine; a curious, engaging, intelligent, secure and assured little boy who asked us questions about what we liked, where we lived, who our favourite movie characters are and whether we enjoy living in Cape Town (we told him that we were from Durban). He is a charming

and beautiful little boy and, in that moment, he represented a hopeful future. We spoke about a play date with my grandson, Maison and discussed toys. When I told Ari that I only had a couple of books and some lego, he agreed that Maison should definitely go to his house for the playdate and assured me that he had plenty of toys and that he would share. This beautiful offer reminded me of my purpose and responsibility to young people as a teacher and a Head. This little boy carried with him such conviction and positivity and reminded me of why I do what I do and who I do it for. Thank you, Ari for clarifying and reigniting my sense of purpose!

The second conversation unfolded with a former student, who, having matriculated in 2021, remained uncertain about her path forward. We spoke about the volunteer work she is doing, about the structured gap year she has planned, including online courses and some tutoring and we spoke about self-kindness and her giving herself grace to find a path that would be right for her. It struck me how during this period of tumultuous disruption and change, it is entirely understandable that young people feel uncertain about what industries and fields to enter and that we need to support them in this, providing them with possible courses of action and approaches and being open-minded ourselves about emerging industries and the power of technology as an enabler and driver across multi-industries. I tried to convey to her the importance of remaining open-minded and of being receptive to possibilities so that she could find her way, without fear and without setting unrealistic parameters.

The reality is that the landscape has changed significantly and the paths that we may describe and advocate for exist alongside new and disrupted industries which require alternative approaches. We need to be mindful of not superimposing our expectations and ideas on this generation who need to view the world differently because it is different! What we need to encourage is foundational values, a strong and encompassing sense of self, the practice of reading for understanding, problem-solving strategies, the ability to commit, collaborative skills, the importance of developing good relationships, friendship, resilience and being kind, caring people. There's a lot to the concept of education and that is why we need to work together; parents and teachers, to support the future of our families and our country.

Sport, Matric Dance, Gala Dinner & Auction, Shrek and business as usual ...

Over the past few weeks, we have enjoyed a feast of sport and incredible success in this regard with all three water polo age-group teams featuring in the Ultima Cup, Morelli Cup and Waller Cup Finals respectively on Wednesday evening. The u16 team picked up a gold medal for the win, while the u14s and 1sts finished second with silver medals! An outstanding all-round achievement from the water polo teams! The support at SACS was incredible and it was wonderful to be on the pool deck surrounded by noisy and excited teenagers cheering on their teams and applauding excellence on all fronts. My thanks to our enthusiastic Spirit Committee and the large number of students who turned up for a late night of polo. I know that the players and coaches appreciated your support.

We hope that tonight will be a night to remember for the matrics! We wish them and their partners and friends a magical evening of fun, celebration, dancing and friendship. This year's dance is taking

place at Kenilworth Racecourse where the winner's circle and surrounds will be filled with our very own winners! This promises to be an elegant and very special occasion and we hope that the memories that are made are indeed happy and lasting ones.

Saturday evening sees us gather for the Gala Dinner & Auction at the same venue and we look forward to welcoming parents to this very special fund-raising event which is held in support of the awarding of bursaries to Herschel.

We value the support of all who have contributed to the evening by way of donations and prizes, as well as auction items. This is greatly appreciated.

If you haven't already heard 'the greatest fairy tale never told', please don't lose out on the opportunity to hear it at Herschel next week. *Shrek*, the musical, is being performed in collaboration with Bishops and runs from 16 – 20 March. This is a fantastic family show and the snippets that I have seen have been wonderful! To avoid disappointment, book soon! We look forward to welcoming you to the show. The effort, time, expertise and energy put into this musical by all involved – actors and actresses, musical and theatrical directors, sound and lighting engineers, set designers, costume designers, production managers, staff, assistants, IT, ticket sales and the families of all involved who have supported this production through the rehearsal stages – is hugely appreciated. Taking on a production of this size within the current times, and with Covid-19 protocols still applicable, has taken a lot of courage, vision and collaboration we are grateful for this. I know that you will not be disappointed!

Enjoy the weekend!

Heather Goedeke

CELEBRATING
1922-2022
100
YEARS
OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Founder's Day Celebrations





Shrek

It's showtime next week. Book your tickets now!



SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wednesday evening was the culmination of a great **water polo** season. Herschel reached the finals of the u14, u16 and Open age groups in the 2022 WPSWP League Knockouts tournaments.

In all three finals we met up with our fierce rivals Reddam. All three finals were intense, and some superb water polo was played. Both the u14 girls and the 1st team narrowly lost to Reddam, the u14s 5-7 and the 1st team 7-9.

We are extremely proud of the u16 team who won gold, winning 10-6.



Above: The u16 team celebrating their win against Reddam.

PGSGU GALA

The swimming team participated in the annual PGSGU gala this week, hosted by Springfield Convent School.

Herschel claimed the u14 and u19 trophies, as well the overall gala trophy!



PGSGU TENNIS

Herschel tennis players took part in the annual PGSGU tennis tournament hosted by Rustenburg. The Senior team were overall winners with the Junior u15 team gaining great experience and progress through each game.



Above: The Senior Tennis team

HERSCHEL WINS INTER-SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

The Herschel Indoor Hockey First Team last week won the Inter-Schools Tournament for the seventh time in nine years. With no hockey being played in 2021 due to COVID-19, it was so exciting to be back on the court and with spectators to cheer on the respective teams.

For the Matrics, it was their last Indoor Tournament representing the school, and we thank them for their service to Herschel indoor hockey.



SCIENCE COMES ALIVE!

Once a term, the Physical Science department will be hosting an informal talk by a leading scientist. This is a way to foster a passion for the subject and make science come alive! Parents and pupils will be able to listen to an interesting talk and then interact on a personal level.

Our first speaker this week was Dr. De la Harpe, who travelled to Antarctica as a medical doctor but used his scientific research skills in the fields of oceanography and physics. He walked us through his personal experiences in search of Shackelton's ship, The Endurance.



The **Earth Matters Club** held a civvies day on Wednesday this week to raise funds for PALESA PADS, a socially and environmentally sustainable organization. The theme was FLOWERS.



Chess Champions

Ameera Yacoob (Grade 10, bottom left) was selected to play for the Ladies Open team, representing WP in the Western Cape Inter Regional championships for 2021. The tournament took place this past weekend in Saldanha. She played as captain of the team at Board 1 and led her team to Silver, despite being severely underrated in comparison to the other teams participating.

Kelli Arendse (Grade 12, bottom right) played in the WP Central District Trials, representing Herschel, against other schools based in the southern suburbs. After a long weekend of competing she came third winning a bronze medal. Congratulations to both pupils!



Saturday evening is the much-anticipated Herschel Gala Dinner & Auction, the biggest fundraising event for the Herschel Bursary Fund. Unable to attend? Don't worry, you can still bid for items on our silent auction or even on our much-anticipated live auction.

There are only 10 live auction items and we are encouraging people to bid by proxy. Contact lauren@searll.co.za and she will arrange a representative to bid on your behalf with your maximum bid.

The Silent auction is officially OPEN! To place your bid on the Silent Auction items, use the following link:
<https://herschelgaladinner.co.za/silent-auction/>

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF LEARNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



*Dynamic,
hands-on
problem solving*

*Relational
teaching*

*A space where
young talent
can flourish*

BEING THE DIFFERENCE!

Grade 8 2023 applications are now open!
Visit www.herschel.org.za/senior/admissions/

#LearningtoMakeaDifference