



HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 11 – 29 July 2022

WELCOME BACK TO TERM THREE!

I hope that you have all enjoyed a break from the school run, and importantly, some time out with family and friends. Of course, this is not always possible, in this busy world we live in, but hopefully everyone has had something of a break! For sports lovers, what a feast there was with tennis, cycling, rugby, soccer, cricket and athletics! Watching top athletes perform and thinking about the preparation, commitment, and self-discipline levels required to support their performance is something that I find inspiring. It was such a treat to have some time to watch and appreciate this.

Mr Joel Carelse leaves us today. Joel has worked as a member of the IT Department, overseeing AV and sound requirements in the school. We shall miss his calm manner, expertise and presence at Herschel and wish him well in his move to Durban.



We welcome back Mr Geoff Kieswetter, who is well known at Herschel. Mr Kieswetter is teaching English this term. We are always pleased to welcome him back to Herschel. He is highly experienced and well respected by staff and students alike. We also welcome Mrs Steffy Delmage-Loxton, who has joined our French Department, as well as Ms Annemie Klopper who joins us as the School Medic. We wish them both a long and happy stay at Herschel.

The Senior School started the term off on the 18 July with a workshop on values, where we looked at the six values that staff and students have identified as being important in the support of growth and learning: accountability, authenticity, empathy, equality and equity, kindness and respect. Of course, there are several additional values that could be included, but these are the values that emerged from tutor/student discussions and it makes sense to start with these. Personal growth and learning, and collective growth and learning are equally dependent on sound foundational values and this provides a solid basis for understanding ourselves better in order to relate to and connect with people around us more fully. We will be working on embedding our values at Herschel and practicing them with a view to becoming a kinder, more reflective, accountable and connected school community.

The Old Herschel Association has been renamed the Herschel Alumna Union. We like the idea of a union – of being joined together with a common interest or purpose. This has been officially communicated within the HAU, and I thought it important that our school community be made aware of this centenary-year name change.

Additional centenary-year news is that the publication capturing one hundred years of Herschel will be released in October. Co-creators, Leah Nasson and Neil Veitch have been hard at work, and I am grateful to both for their extensive involvement in seeing the project through to this point.

On Wednesday, I spent the day with the Grade 11s and a number of staff members at Rocklands, in Simonstown. It was wonderful to be in a beautiful place, connecting with the Grade and getting to know everyone, especially now that connection is face-to-face, and not hindered through the wearing of masks. This is a vibrant, talented, diverse, courageous and dynamic group of young adults and it was great to see them interact with each other through a number of activities and icebreakers. I am always grateful to staff who give of their time to accompany and support students, and I know that they do this because they choose to and because they value the time and connection with their students outside of the classroom. I was sorry that I had to leave in the early evening and return to school and meetings!

“Every woman’s success should be an inspiration to another: we’re strongest when we cheer each other on.” Serena Williams

August is Women’s Month and we are super-excited about our ***Empowered Women Empower Women*** workshops for Grade 8 – 11 students on 12 August. Twenty-five women (mostly Herschelians) have generously volunteered their time, experience and expertise and will be sharing their stories, discussing

their careers and providing authentic perspective with regard to challenges, failures, successes and achievements and how they have journeyed to the spaces/positions that they occupy currently. This promises to be a morning of excitement, learning and growth, celebrating the impact of women across diverse fields.



It was John Dewey who said “***...Art is the authentic expression of any and all individuality. Those who have the gift of creative expression in unusually large measure disclose the meaning of the individuality of others to those others. In participating in the work of art, they become artists in their activity***”.

There is something transformative about the Arts, for both the performer and the viewer – it transports us temporarily and allows us to escape the routine ‘stuff’ in our daily lives. The cultural evening, (*Herbish*), co-hosted by Herschel and Bishops in the Herschel Theatre last Thursday, did just this. Featuring a number of ensembles, individual and group performances, high energy dance routines, a Capello harmonies, skilled musical items and collaborations, the audience was treated to a spectacular show.

The collaboration between schools and the inclusion of Wynberg Boys' High, Rustenburg and Groote Schuur High School added to the pool of talent. It was a wonderful evening, well conceptualised by the students and supported by their teachers.

Throughout August, we will be ramping up our collection for sanitary products in support of students who sometimes miss school for 3 – 5 days each month when they menstruate. This campaign creates awareness of an endemic socio-economic issue, one which impacts girls significantly. With each donation of sanitary pads or tampons, one girl gets to attend school without missing 3 – 5 days of instruction. The collection boxes are in The Atrium just outside the library to facilitate easy drop-offs. We welcome all contributions in support of it.

We wish our 1st Squash Team everything of the very best for the National Top Schools Squash Tournament this weekend. The team left for East London yesterday, accompanied by Coach, Warren Lawrence and Manager, Mrs Silvana Scarola. We hope that they achieve their personal goals, play competitive squash and enjoy a weekend in the company of fellow squash players as they participate in a tournament where competition will be tough.

Next week, our hockey teams will be participating in the u14, u16 and u18 Top Schools Hockey tournaments, with the 1st Team travelling to Bloemfontein, while the u14s and 16s play locally in Stellenbosch and Paarl respectively. We wish them well and hope that they too enjoy their time away, bonding as teams and gaining valuable experience as players.

To our cross-country runners, who will be competing in a big meet next week, we hope that you perform your personal bests and that you enjoy your run. I have noticed the training that you have put in and hope that you will find that extra gear when you need it for the competition next week.

In closing, I wish all our Herschel Muslim staff, students and families best wishes for Al-Hijira the Islamic New Year, this Saturday.

Kind regards

Heather



WELCOME TO HERSCHEL:



Mrs Steffy Delmage-Loxton and Ms Annemie Klopper

Steffy was born in Mauritius and completed her schooling there. Her home language is French, and she has always had a passion for languages, especially French and its culture.

When Steffy moved to South Africa a couple of years ago, she studied psychology and languages at the University of Stellenbosch. She also lectured French at the University of Stellenbosch for a few years, whilst teaching French to teenagers and adults at the *French Alliance of Stellenbosch*.

In 2018 she started the French department at *HMS Bloemhof*. What Steffy enjoys the most about teaching is sharing her knowledge and values with the pupils, while the learners have fun.

Steffy met her husband at the University of Stellenbosch while they were both studying. They got married two years ago in the week where COVID 19 was announced in South Africa.

She loves animals, in particular cats, and fostered a few cats during the pandemic. Last year, she finally adopted a cat (Lily-Rose) for the first time and it was one of the best decisions she ever made.

During the week, Steffy enjoys long walks in nature, and on the weekends, she loves exploring new places, coffee shops, restaurants or markets.

Annemie enjoys studying!! She obtained 4 degrees (Honours Biokinetics, Honours Sport Science and PGCE degree) while recently completing her fifth namely, MSc degree [Title: *"The investigation of cognitive function and clinical symptoms in high school athletes that report a history of concussion and those with no history concussion as measured by the Cogstate baseline test"*] with specialization in Sports-related concussion. Additionally, she qualified herself in the emergency medicine field as a Paramedic-AEA.

Annemie was at Hoerskool Waterkloof in Pretoria before she joined the Herschel team. Her 11 years of passion and experience in helping people and ensuring their safe participation in sport will be an asset to Herschel. She loves sport especially tennis and hockey, and also coaches goalkeepers.

If not working, Annemie is a wife and a mother of an 11-year-old son and two lovely wired-hair terrier puppies. She loves cheering her son next to the rugby, hockey field and in the ORFF, or playing tennis with him, family and club members. She still tries to beat her son at computer games but has failed and accepted defeat on many occasions. However, CATAN seems to be the game she wins the most when on a lucky streak.

GRADE 11 CAMP

Happy times this week for our Grade 11s as they attended camp at Rocklands in Simonstown.



CULTURAL EVENING

The Cultural Evening in collaboration with Bishops set the tone for a great cultural term. High energy dancing, singing, poetry reading and much more made this a most memorable evening.





On 17 August, Herschel will be taking part in the annual **Shakespeare Festival** at the Baxter Theatre. A regular feature and highlight of the cultural calendar, the festival allows our students to perform on a professional stage and share this process with schools from across the socio-economic spectrum. This year, Herschel's Grade 10s and 11s are staging 30-minute adaptations of 'Twelfth Night' and 'Macbeth'.

Our version of 'Twelfth Night' is staged in the energetic and visual theatre style of Comic Book Theatre that blends elements of film and physical performance to tell its story of ambition, heartbreak, mistaken identity and love in a form that is both comical and contemporary.

Similarly, the cast of 'Macbeth' have chosen to play with stylized visual theatre and embraces the genre of horror. Using masks, lighting and costume the cast have reimagined a version of Shakespeare's bloodiest play as a modern urban phantasmagoria of tarot cards, neon lights, dance music and death.

Tickets are available on webtickets:

<https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/Event.aspx?itemid=1513749284>

INTERHOUSE DANCE

TELL YOUR STORY			
IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S MONTH			
<i>11 August 2022</i>	18:00	<i>Herschel Girls School Theatre</i>	
BOOKINGS ON Quicket		QUICK ONLINE TICKETS	
A MINIMUM DONATION OF R10 AT THE DOOR			