



No 01- 20 Jan 2023

## HERSCHEL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to 2023. We would like to wish all our Herschel families a happy and fruitful year. Our hope is that you all enjoyed the festive season and had a wonderful holiday with your families and loved ones.

### New Families

We would like to extend a special welcome the new families that have joined us this year. We are excited to welcome you and trust that your time here with us will be happy.

- Grade 1: Duncan and Naidoo families
- Grade 2: Meyer and Thomas families
- Grade 3: Lee, Mackay and Naidoo families
- Grade 4: Stokes and Arnold families
- Grade 5: Pana and O'Hagan families
- Grade 6: Khan family
- Grade 7: Aheebwa and Isaacs families

### New Girls Tea

It was wonderful to meet all the new girls who joined the Prep School this year. I was joined by the Mrs Alexander, our school, Counsellor, Zazie Khan Foundation Phase HOD and Alison Baikoff, Intermediate and Senior Phase HOD. It was lovely getting to know them a little better. I believe that they will soon feel at home in the Herschel environment.

- Grade 1: Lily Duncan and Jessa Naidoo
- Grade 2: Isabella-Rain Meyer and Kate Thomas
- Grade 3: Genevieve Lee, Lucy Mackay and Abbey Naidoo
- Grade 4: Rosie Stokes and Rebecca Arnold
- Grade 5: Zimi Pana and Harper O'Hagan
- Grade 6: Soha Khan
- Grade 7: Amy Aheebwa and Rahma Isaacs



## New Staff

We welcome new staff members who have joined us this year.

Ms Bronwyn Ralph joins our Prep Administration Department as the Admissions and Marketing Secretary. Bronwyn was previously at the International School of Cape Town with many years of experience in a similar role.

Miss Phelokazi Masango, Intermediate Phase Intern Teacher joins us as a newly qualified BEd graduate and will be gaining more experience in the classroom in our Intermediate and Senior Phase.

Mrs Jodi Evans, Bouncing Bunnies class teacher, joins us from Camps Bay Primary and has over 20 years of teaching experience.

Mrs Karen Meyer is a very familiar face to us here at Herschel. She will be the part-time Maths teacher in the Senior and Intermediate Phase. She will be teaching Grade 4 and 5 Mathematics.

I have no doubt that they will soon feel a part of our special Herschel family.



Ms Bronwyn Ralph



Miss Phelokazi Masango



Mrs Jodie Evans



Mrs Karen Meyer



## Pre-Prep

We are back and having so much fun already. Our playground is abuzz with sand and water play, balancing activities, and so much more. The smiles and laughter is what we missed the most. Our new girls have really embraced their new space. We welcome all our new Pre-Prep parents to the Herschel family.



# Foundation Phase



welcome!

our first day of Grade One



GOOD VIBES



Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
January	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
February	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
March	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
May	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
June	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
July	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
August	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
September	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
October	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
November	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8



school





## Intermediate Phase

We are so excited for our Trolls adventure to begin! We are currently auditioning and will announce the lead and supporting character roles within the next two weeks.

Goodluck to all the girls auditioning, or as we say in theatre...

Break a leg!



# Spirituality

## Living Our Values in the Kingdom of God at Herschel

As a school community, we strive to live by a set of core values that align with the teachings of the Kingdom of God. These values include the principles of respect, equality and equity, integrity, empathy, authenticity and kindness. But how do these values relate to the Kingdom of God and what does it truly mean to live them out?

To live in the Kingdom of God is to live according to God's will and to reflect his love and righteousness in our actions and attitudes. When we live our school values, we are living in the Kingdom of God. These values reflect the heart of God and they are the foundation of his reign. When we love others, we are reflecting the love of God. When we are compassionate and forgiving, we are reflecting the compassion and forgiveness of God. When we serve others, we are reflecting the servant heart of God.

Living our values in the Kingdom of God requires us to be intentional in our actions and attitudes. It requires us to be mindful of the impact we have on others and to strive for justice in all that we do. It requires us to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to be obedient to the will of God.

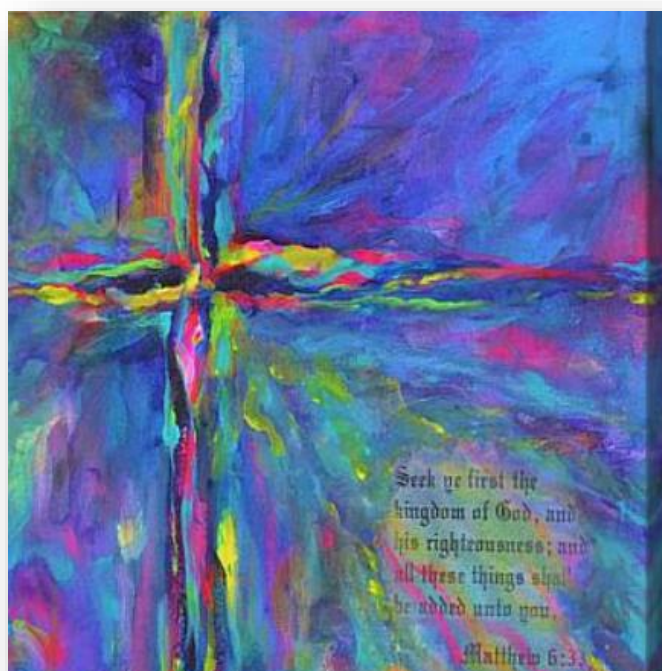
As a school community, let us strive to live our values in the Kingdom of God. Let us seek to reflect the servant heart of God in all that we do, and to make a positive impact on the world around us.

Our Spirituality Policy states we affirm God's love and grace for all, irrespective of race, sexuality, beliefs, gender identity or economic status. This, along with our values, are the foundation of our Anglican character and they shape the way we see the world and our place in it.

Let us all make a commitment to live by our values, not only within the walls of our school but also in the world beyond it.

With every blessing for 2023 from Mrs Juries and myself.

**Reverend Lorna Lavarello-Smith**





# Music

## Music Activities Week 2

### Music Theory:

- A reminder for girls to sign up for Theory Groups as per link in Music Information Letter emailed to parents

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
07:10	Grade 1 Music Theory class	Grade 6&7 Ensemble: Singing Room <hr/> Guitars: Meet Mr Gary Craig in Music Block Foyer	Grade 4&5 Ensemble: Upstairs Singing Room <hr/> Gr4&5 Percussion Ensemble: Music Auditorium	<b>(7:30)</b> Junior Choir: Upstairs Singing Room	Senior Choir: Ballet Studio*
14:30	General Music Theory Class <hr/> Grade 6&7 Percussion Ensemble with Mr Nambassi	Grade 1 Music Theory class	General Music Theory Class	General Music Theory Class	

\* Any pupils in Grade 4 – 7 who would like to be a part of the Choir, can audition with Mrs Pretorius. Sign up on the Music noticeboard.

### Looking ahead:

- Friday 27 January: 13:30 – 15:00 Orchestra afternoon
- Saturday 28 January: 09:00 – 10:30 Choir morning (see term planner)



## Sustainability

### Cape Bird Club Birding Big Year Challenge

Many of you may have heard about the Cape Bird Club Birding Big Year Challenge. Perhaps you heard John Maytham's interview with Mike Buckham on Cape Talk about 8 days ago (<https://www.capetalk.co.za/podcasts/476/good-morning-cape-town-with-lester-kiewit/686444/trendspotting-thursdays-virtual-influencers>). (Mike Buckham, CBC Chairman, is one of our parents)

If you are interested in learning more about this challenge and the excitement it is generating, please ask Mrs Roebert for more information on [mroebert@herschel.org.za](mailto:mroebert@herschel.org.za).

What is interesting is that on our Herschel bird outing to Rondevlei last year many girls saw the beautiful Greater Painted Snipe. It is a very shy bird and is seldom seen in the South Western Cape. It is still there and many of the birders involved in the challenge are rushing to Rondevlei to see it! But the members of the Cape Bird Club, together with our Herschel girls, were the first to alert everyone to its presence.

For once the female is the prettier bird with her bright rufous chest, neck and head and painted white eye-liner! On 9 February 2023, interested girls are invited to join our nature ramble to Rondevlei. More details will follow closer to the date.



### Recycling

Please continue recycling at home and bring it to school every Wednesday. This can be dropped underneath the lamp post at the front gate.

These items can go in your recycling bags, as long as they're clean and dry.

- Plastic bottles & containers. Clean and dry containers, then put the cap back on before tossing in the bag
- Food & beverage cans
- Paper
- Flattened cardboard & paperboard
- Food & beverage containers
- Glass bottles & containers

**REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE**



## Eco Outings and Activities to diarise

02 February	World Wetlands Day Eco Outing to Liesbeek River
09 February	Nature Outing to Rondevlei
11 February	13 Peak Challenge Hike (whole family outing)
11 March	13 Peak Challenge Hike (whole family outing)
23 March	Can Collection Day
24 March	Snorkelling at St James

Details to be released closer to each date.



# Library

## Happy New Year, Happy More Reading

Dear Reading Families, WELCOME BACK!

What better time than at the start of a new year, to be reminded of not only THE IMPORTANCE OF READING, but the importance of READING **WITH, AND TO**, our children.

Have a look at the suggestions on how to make your reading time together, even more wonderful. My personal favourite is re-reading favourite books (and yes, I know it sometimes drives us mad).



HAPPY READING!

Mrs Moritz

### READING at Home with Your Child

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS AND IDEAS TO HELP CULTIVATE A LOVE OF READING AT HOME!

- Let them hold the book as you read
- Allow them to turn the pages
- Invite them to read with you
- Let them finish the sentences if reading with you
- Point to the words as you read so they associate words with reading
- Model reading in front of your child
- Go to the library
- Encourage them to read the pictures and talk about them
- Read the same 2-3 books every day for a week, then switch.
- Read to them daily
- Designate a "reading time" where the whole family sits down to read
- Allow them to choose books
- Talk about the books after reading them
- Be excited about reading with your child. It's contagious!

"CHILDREN ARE MADE READERS ON THE LAPS OF THEIR PARENTS." — EMILIE BUCHWALD

Amanda Richardson 2016

I appeal to all parents to please feel free to assist in the Prep Library. Volunteers for covering books etc are also always greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to sharing magical stories and wonderful books with you and your children this year!

## THE READING IS POWER MANIFESTO

**GROWTH**  
When we find good books, we find ourselves

**CHOICE**  
Curiosity has no age limit and neither do books

**POWER**  
We read today, for a powerful tomorrow

**KNOWLEDGE**  
Books give us the knowledge to own our futures



## Herschel Prep Sunsmart Policy

As part of our ongoing implementation of Herschel Prep's 'SunSmart' policy and the dangers of exposing our skin to the harmful rays of the sun we are insisting that the girls apply sunscreen at home before school and wear hats when they go out for breaks. Please remind your daughter to have her hat at school every day. Class teachers will put reminder stickers in the Homework books of girls who forget their hats. As parents, we request your assistance to ensure that your daughters are adequately protected from the sun. A copy of the SunSmart policy can be found on the School Communicator D6 Resources. Girls who do not have hats for break time will be required to eat their lunch in the Studio.



**SUNSMART**

## Chess Club

Shane Willenberg, who is currently involved with Chess at the Senior School, has offered his services at the Prep from 2023. Coaching will start on Tuesday 24 January.

Pupils in Grade 1 and 2 will have a session from 13:10 and pupils in Grades 4 – 7 will be accommodated from 14:30.

Shane is also able to do one on one lessons with the pupils at their own scheduled time, should they not be able to be available on a Tuesday.

If you are interested in signing your daughter up for this new extra-mural, please contact Shane directly, either on his cell number or email: [shanewillenberg4@gmail.com](mailto:shanewillenberg4@gmail.com).

A vertical poster for chess coaching. At the top, it says 'CHESS COACHING' in large, bold, brown letters, with a chess king and queen piece on either side. Below that, it says 'TUESDAYS AT 1:10PM' in smaller brown letters. The center features a graphic of two chess rooks facing each other on a chessboard. Below the graphic, it says 'BENEFITS OF CHESS:' in bold brown letters. Underneath, there is a list of benefits: 'DEVELOPS CREATIVITY', 'BUILDS SELF-CONFIDENCE', 'IMPROVES MEMORISATION SKILLS', and 'STRATEGIC THINKING AND PLANNING'. At the bottom, it says 'COACH SHANE WILLENBERG: 084337908'.



**GR 1 - 7 FORMAL PARENT  
INFORMATION EVENING  
WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2023**

- 17:30** Welcome drinks for new parents in the Hall
- 17:40** Welcome drinks and snacks for all Gr 1 – 7 parents on Hall veranda
- 18:00** Parent information feedback and PA elections in the Hall
- 18:30** Grade 1-7 Parents will move to classes for address by individual teachers

Please note that there will be supervision for Herschel pupils in Gr 1 – 3 in the library from 17:45 for those parents who are unable to make alternative arrangements.



## Parking and Traffic

As it is the beginning of the year I thought it would be an appropriate time to remind parents of our efforts to lessen traffic congestion in Kenmar Road. The way we use this road affects us all and so cooperation by the whole Herschel family needs to be a priority.

Whilst we depend ultimately on your patience while lifting your children, we do however need to follow some basic rules and show the appropriate respect to our neighbours and the public. We have consequently created traffic rules which are pertinent to Herschel parents ONLY. This includes using Kenmar Road as a one-way during peak periods in the direction of Highwick Road. (Please remember that this is a Herschel request to our parents and that we do not have the authority to prescribe road usage to residents and the broader public.) If your child is not ready to be fetched, you should do the full circle and re-enter Kenmar as this will maintain traffic flow.

A further request is that parents do NOT park on the opposite side of the parking embayment outside the tennis courts and Music School as this narrows the road and prevents traffic flow in the area. Moreover, this is illegal as it is not a One Way for the general public. The One Way is meant to be in the one lane only and not a double carriage way. Again, we request that you are also mindful of our neighbours and treat them with respect and do NOT park across their driveways or obstruct them in any way. The traffic department has also been made aware of the misuse by parents.

We know that we will never eliminate traffic congestion, but we are sure that with your support, we will definitely make it less frustrating. Our Security guards have been instructed to enforce these “rules” and I ask that you treat them with the respect and consideration that they deserve. After all they are doing this in your best interests! Our security staff therefore have every right to insist that you do not park on the wrong side of the road facing the wrong way. This is illegal and the broader public do not know of our own internal rules.

## School starting times

Parents are reminded that the school day for girls in Gr 1 – 7 starts at 07:30. Please can we request that girls arrive at school timeously so that they can be in their classrooms by 07:30. This is essential so that they can unpack and the class teachers are able to connect with their classes, in order to be ready for the first academic lesson which begins promptly at 07:40.

We have compiled an information handbook which can be accessed on the link: [Herschel Girls Preparatory School Handbook 2023](#). This handbook contains general information such as school times, drop off and pick up points for each grade and so much more. We encourage all parents to read the handbook as it is a great tool to refer to from time to time during the school year.

We look forward to a fantastic year together and to seeing you all on Wednesday evening at the Gr 1 – 7 Parents Evening.

*Linda Martin*  
*Acting Head of Preparatory*

