



HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 7 – 5 May 2023

To all members of the Herschel Community

You're as cold as ice

You're willing to sacrifice our love

You never take advice

Someday you'll pay the price, I know

(*You're as Cold as Ice* – Foreigner, 1977) sung by Herschel's *High Maintenance* in the Battle of the Bands competition was superb! It may not have won them first place, but it rocked!



Rebecca Viljoen (Grade 12) envisaged a Battle of the Bands competition, consulted with Petra Conrads (Herschel's Head of Music) and together they made it happen! On Wednesday evening the inaugural battle took place – and what a battle it was! Congratulations to Westerford for winning the competition and being the first recipients of the beautiful trophy made by

Mr Viljoen. There was great variety in terms of the song choice, superb musical performances, stunning vocals and a very appreciative audience. I have no doubt that this event is here to stay!

The Battle of the Bands was a different musical experience to Music in the Mountains, hosted at the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School in the beautiful Champagne Valley. The Chorale travelled to Kwa-Zulu Natal to participate in the Splash Concert on Saturday afternoon – a precursor to the 'Drakies' Gala Concert on Saturday night. The girls, accompanied by Petra Conrads, Johan Swanepoel and Jan Gouws, enjoyed an enriching weekend of choir music and performed very well at the Splash concert, in front of a large audience in the Ken McKenzie Auditorium. The fun, friendship and the learning that happens on such tours enriches in ways that make a difference and shape perceptions. What a wonderful opportunity and exposure to professional choir practice this tour provided! Listen to their brilliant performance [here](#) [Chorale MIMS performances](#)



Moving on from “battles”, this weekend we are looking forward to our traditional derby against Rhenish in Stellenbosch. We have a full range of netball and hockey fixtures and are looking forward to watching the girls competing and enjoying their games. I look forward to seeing you there. I have met many parents at sporting events and fixtures, but there are still several I have not met. Please do introduce yourselves so that I can get to know you. I have been trying to connect more with parents across all grades – the pandemic made this quite challenging and while I will have met you as Grade 7 parents, or connected with you as Grade 8 parents, I may not have seen you face-to-face since the pandemic! This is especially true of the Grade 9 and 10 age-group parents.

Just before the long weekend, running over two nights, a small (and brave) staff cast, directed by Wesley Deintje, performed “Music and Murder”. Both evenings started with a wonderful repertoire by our talented preparatory and senior school music staff, followed by the play. The concept of providing some laughter (which thankfully there was) and entertainment and having some fun created good spirit. The rehearsals brought staff together and it is often these sorts of activities that create cohesion and build relationship. My thanks to Wesley (director/manager/producer/set-builder/actor) for bringing this to fruition and to all staff members who participated, some in big roles, others behind the scenes.



Looking ahead at the calendar, please note, Grade 9 parents, that we have parent/teacher meetings and a social function scheduled for the 23 May and look forward to seeing you all there. This evening allows you to meet with your daughter’s teachers and discuss how she is doing, and then provides an opportunity for connection with fellow parents and friends. We are also excited about the MADD (Music, Art, Dance and Drama) evening (17 May) in which the Grade 8s and 9s will be sharing their passions, talents and interests with us. The concept of providing a platform for cultural expression is an important and supported initiative and we hope that you will join us and enjoy what promises to be a diverse offering. It is always interesting to note where pupils start their journey and to then appreciate the growth and development that takes place during their high school journeys. This is what we celebrate!

My thanks to the Herschel community for completing the OISESA survey forms which provide feedback for the review process which the school is undergoing for quality assurance purposes through ISASA. As mentioned in the newsletter dated 24 March: “Working through a process of critical reflection and self-evaluation enables schools to affirm and celebrate their strengths and identify areas of vulnerability. Participation in the process also demonstrates a willingness to be held professionally accountable and enhances the school’s credibility with its stakeholders and the wider community”. At this point, we have a Senior School drive group working through the feedback applicable to the senior school, received via the OISESA office and we will be forming focus groups for further discussion in certain areas of school life/operation. Such feedback provides us with opportunities for growth and development and inspires discussion and debate, all of which is aimed at enhancing the holistic educational experience of each Herschel pupil and ensuring a dynamic and supportive working environment for staff and pupils.

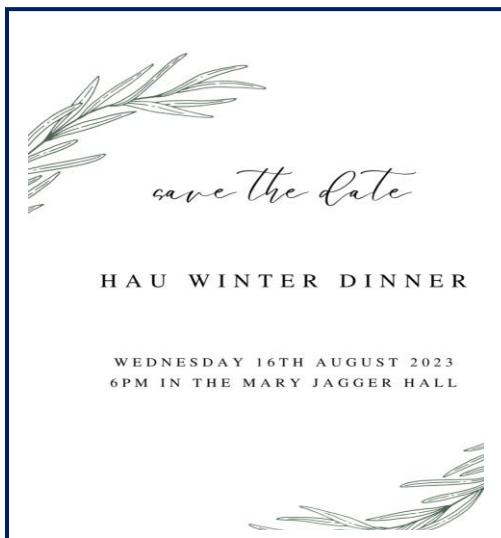
It has been brought to our attention by the local police forum that school sporting events have provided opportunity for theft of such items as cellphones, garments, devices etc. Because many people come in to support sport, it is easy for a person/s who are not part of the Herschel community to come in on the pretense of being supporters when they actually have ulterior motives. Some schools in the Southern suburbs have been targeted and we would like to make you aware of this so that you are vigilant and keep possessions in hand. This really is about creating an awareness.

I urge all our parents to read this very valuable article from this month's ISASA Magazine as it speaks to our academic philosophy. Please click here for the article: [Link](#)

Finally, in order to streamline communication, please see the flow chart at the end of the newsletter. We encourage parents to engage and connect directly with relevant staff.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead and looking forward to connecting with those of you who will be at Rhenish.

Heather



Grade 10 collab with Consumer Studies and Design

The Grade 10 Design and Consumer Studies pupils, have, over the past term, collaborated with one another to create uniquely themed and decorated cupcakes with individually designed flatpack packaging. This culminated in a vibrant pop-up cupcake sale where proceeds were donated to Cupcakes of Hope for Cansa.

The packaging and cupcakes were designed around the themes of nature, weddings, rock 'n roll and kiddies parties.





2023 HERSCHEL CAREERS EXPO!

We invite all high school students and their parents to the Careers Expo taking place on Friday, 19 May 2023.

To sign up for this exciting afternoon, please scan the QR code below.



World Book Day and Earth Day

On Tuesday the 25th of April, the school celebrated World Book Day and Earth Day by dressing up in their tutor groups with the 2023 Earth Day theme: *"Invest in your planet"*, and with an eventful assembly. The Library Team acted out scenes from their favourite books and the audience responded with great cheers and excitement as they all tried to guess the books to win a prize.

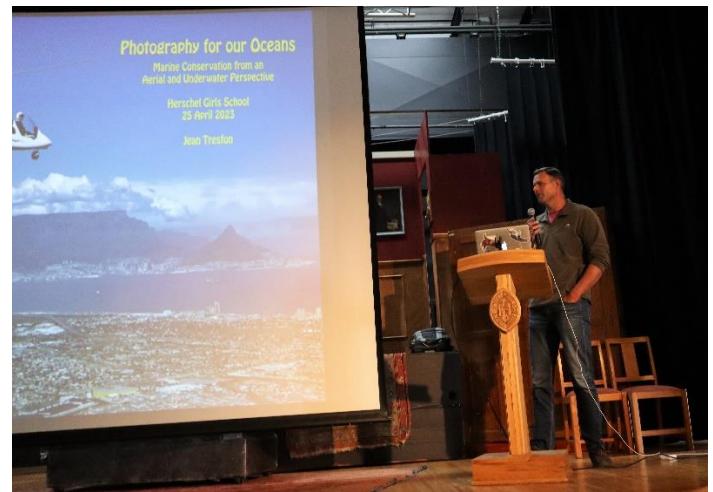
The Team then launched the book drive that will be ongoing for the whole of Term Two. Students are encouraged to donate their pre-loved books in good condition, promoting recycling and creating awareness of under-resourced schools and communities who could benefit from our book donations. The Earth Matters Club then explained the history of Earth Day and highlighted the progress that has been achieved through this global awareness day.

Our main speaker for the assembly was Marine Conservation Photographer, Jean Tresfon, who enlightened, educated and entertained us with his awe-inspiring, award winning photography and stories about the rare and unique marine wildlife that lives in our beautiful ocean. The presentation left everyone feeling positive and inspired to get into nature more often and help to protect our distinctive environment.

The Earth Matters Club held their first Thrift Sale on Wednesday to promote a move away from fast fashion.

Please remember to share the love of reading and books by bringing your pre-loved books to deposit in the box in the Library. (By Mrs Wendy Paterson)





Left to right – Tessa Bottomley (Earth Matters Club), Micah Engel (Sustainability Committee), Reece Corker (Sustainability Committee), Jean Tresfon (Marine Conservation Photographer), Ella Sales (Student Sustainability Leader), Wendy Paterson (Earth Matters Club and Geography Department).

SPORTS WRAP

Our **cross-country** team took part in the Jan van Riebeeck High School cross country race this week. A tough course, with steep steps followed by plunging depths and to add some extra spice, hay hurdles in the parking lot, saw our athletes tested to their limits.



Some 1st team **squash** action against Fish Hoek last week.



The Grade 8s and 9s will be participating in the annual **Shakespeare Schools Festival** on the 24th of May. The cast will be performing the timeless comic play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The festival gives the pupils the opportunity to engage with pupils from other schools and to perform under professional theatre conditions in one of Cape Town's premier theatre venues. This year, the festival is taking place at the Star Theatre (ex-Fugard Theatre). Tickets are available on Quicket!



COMMUNICATION CHANNELS: PARENT IDENTIFIES A CONCERN

