



No. 9 – 2 June 2023

HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

There is no substitute for hard work (Thomas Edison)

It is that time of year ... June examinations for the Grade 10s and 11s and Portfolio Assessments for the matrics. The school takes on a different 'flavour' at this time and The Tuckshop is a hive of activity with the coffee and hot chocolate queues longer than usual. We hope that this exam session goes well and that it provides the girls with an opportunity for self-reflection, growth and learning as they move into the second half of the academic year.

It's been cold this past week and this, as happened last year, has coincided with the start of the assessments. The Sports Centre which is now operating as a centralised assessment venue is a rather cold and draughty place and so we have told pupils to dress warmly and wear their school tracksuits (with comfortable trainers/takkies) so that they are warm and comfortable while writing. The tracksuit will allow them to layer up according to their needs.



You will note the pleasing results in the winter sports update. We are hugely proud of the 1st Squash Team players who have qualified for the Top Schools Tournament. Well done to the players and coaches for achieving this. Both the u16 and u18 hockey age-groups are through to the top schools tournaments which take place in August and we are proud of them too! We are equally proud of the achievements of the hockey players who gained selection to the Western Province age-group sides. We have also enjoyed success on the netball courts. The strength and conditioning programme in place for the various teams has been working well and the gym is a place of high energy at 06h00! I have no doubt that over time the players will reap the benefits of this programme and that this will also reduce injury and ensure that when players are returning from injury, they will experience a graded return with the support needed to ensure that they return to full fitness.

We met recently with a representative from *My School* and we would ask that you please support this initiative whenever/wherever you are, simply by swiping the card with purchases made. Many of you swipe your cards, and the money that is then channeled back to Herschel is put towards the learnership programme in the Preparatory School. This income makes such a difference, and we would ask that you please consider linking your cards to the *MySchool* initiative.

What we know matters, but who we are matters more.
(Brene Brown)

This month is International Pride month, and the senior school pupils enjoyed a quiz that the Pride Club prepared for us during this week's assembly slot. Pride is a cultural concept within the LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex) community and presents solidarity and allyship, inclusivity and identity as well as resistance to discrimination, violence and marginalisation. The Pride Club will be holding a bake sale after exams, the proceeds of which will go towards a women's shelter. Since this sale takes place on the day of mark reviews, I have no doubt that it will be very well supported!



June is also Youth Month. The theme for 2023 is *Accelerating collaborations and opportunities to improve the lives of the youth.* I will write further to this in the next newsletter, since there is a lot to consider in terms of the origin of this day in South African history and the impact of this on the liberation of South Africa.

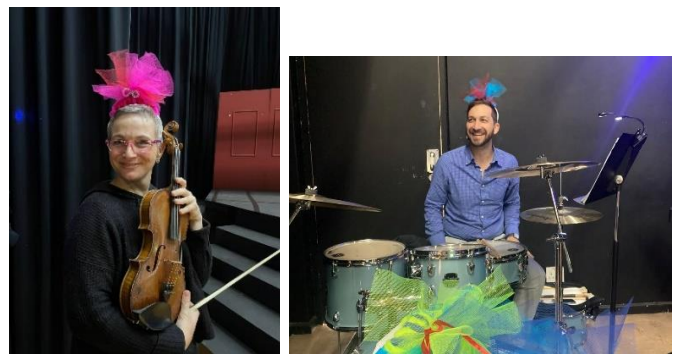
In closing I would like to wish the Preparatory School girls and staff everything of the very best for the production which takes place next week. It has been an eye-opener seeing the extensive rehearsal schedules unfolding and the colourful parade of costumes and characters walking through the senior school campus en route to the Theatre and Ilex this past week. A production of this scale with so many young people involved, takes a huge amount of time, energy, vision and plenty of grit and we are excited that this is now coming together in time for the performances next week. We look forward to welcoming families and friends into Herschel next week to enjoy this colourful, delightful production.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Warm regards
Heather

Our AWESOME band bringing our production to life!!

Piano: Rachele Pretorius
Keyboards: Sonja Bräsler, and Johan Swanepoel
Drumkit/Percussion: Devin Jones
Flute: Petra Conrads
Violin: Annamarié van der Vyver



Celebrating Africa Day – 25 May 2023

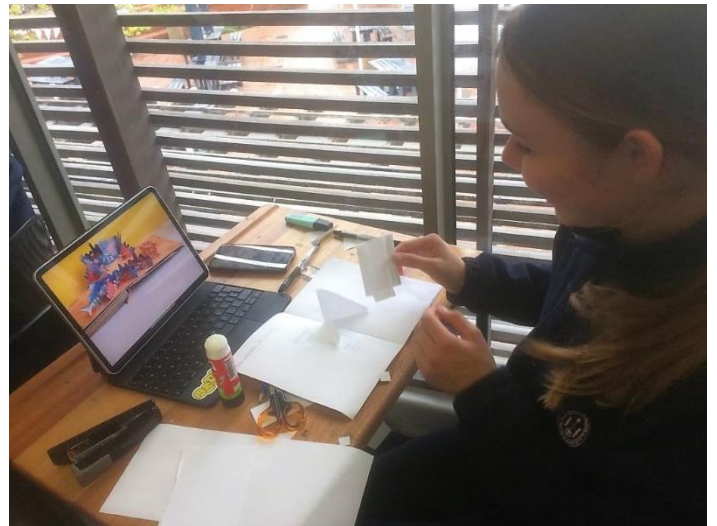
Two of the Grade 8 Elective classes, “Hello Africa! Tell Me How You’re Doing” and “Travelling in Africa with Avi and Kumbi”, worked on projects to display in the Atrium in celebration of Africa Day. Africa Day celebrates the formation of the Organisation of African Unity which later became the African Union. The aim of the project was to learn about the formation and purpose of the African Union. The task involved either researching people, projects or organisations in Africa working towards promoting democracy, peace or education, or to research culture, environment or resources in order to celebrate the richness and diversity on our continent.

Presentations of the projects included posters, models, baking and TikTok videos and animations. On the 25th of May the display was ready in the Atrium for pupils and teachers to learn from. The Baking Club also had a bake sale to raise funds for Ikhaya le Themba (a non-profit educational support organisation in Hout Bay) and some of the Elective pupils sold “South Africa cake” to raise funds for the Siya Kolisi Foundation. The display will be up until the 9th of June.



“A Journey Through Time to the Anthropocene” Pop-Up book project

The Grade 8 “Anthro” Elective class is busy working on their final project of the semester, the Pop-Up Book Project. Pupils can choose any topic that relates to the elective curriculum and research it to understand their topic well. This information is then communicated in a Pop-Up book, using predominantly visuals and pop-ups to explain their research. The class is finding the project challenging and fun as they grapple with research skills, being creative and building pop-ups from card. Some of the topics chosen this semester include dinosaurs, climate change, extinction, space and continental drift. Keep an eye out for the finished projects later this term!



Shakespeare Schools Festival

On 24 May, Herschel Girls School (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) shared the stage with Queens Park High School (*Macbeth*) and Victoria Park Primary (*King Lear*) at the 13th Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Star Theatre in District Six. Herschel has been an active member of the festival, having staged productions every year since its inception in 2012. The festival encourages our pupils and teachers to engage with conceptual thinking around how the ideas of the play can be translated into fresh and exciting choices around costume, set and theatre tech.

This year, we focused on bringing the fairy magic and fantasy of the play to life with glittering fairy lights, the use of colour and texture to identify the human and fairy worlds, wirework, physical theatre and dance – to the instrumental music of Billie Eilish, Lorde, Boo and the Nomads.

All hail to our Grade 8 and 9 pupils who ended the evening on a veritable high note! The play was an inclusive collaboration between the disciplines of Drama and Dance, with the actors delivering beautifully physical and comical performances. All actors who auditioned received roles: as important as it was to create a theatrical product of which we could be proud, the most important thing was to facilitate a space where our younger pupils could build their confidence, find their voice, make personal connections and thrive.

The teachers (Alexandra February, Sheldon Cross and Sarah McArthur) combined their creative strengths and worked together to bring out the best in the pupils and the text. We are so proud of our pupils for their incredible work!





Cultural Assembly and Eisteddfod Launch

We held our termly cultural assembly on the 23rd May. This term we focused on our junior performers in order to encourage participation, belonging and to establish their rightful place on our Herschel stage. The pupils delivered beautiful work which ranged from piano performance and contemporary singing to drama and dance. It was also a lovely opportunity to share snippets of performances from other concerts (Herschel Unplugged, Shakespeare Schools Festival) with the whole student and staff body.

We also launched our annual Eisteddfod, which will take place in the third term (8 August). The Eisteddfod gives our pupils a chance to spend the whole day performing and participating in a range of activities and disciplines. Staff set creative and exciting challenges and create opportunities for our pupils to take part in things they are passionate about. Pupils can try new things, get valuable feedback from internal and external professionals and celebrate and support the work of their peers. This year the categories are: Art, Dance, Design, Drama, Debating, Music, Photography, English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa and French. Entries for the Eisteddfod are done on the Herschel intranet. Entries close on 1 August.



Sports Wrap

Lifesaving

Eve Abrahams (Grade 9) participated in the Lifesaving South Africa Inter-Provincial Competition on Friday 26 May. Eve placed 1st in the beach flags event, 2nd in the beach sprint and 1st in the beach relay. Lifesaving Western Cape won the Youth Division and the overall combined competition. Eve has been selected to represent South Africa at the ISRC Championships in Texas, USA in September 2023. Congratulations Eve, we are very proud of you.



Cross Country

The very talented, dedicated, and passionate Herschel Cross country runners have successfully competed in six races thus far and are well on their way to qualifying for the Zonal Competition. The runners are: Jorja Gomes, Anna van Aarde, Charlotte Jacobs, Emma Coenen, Alice Bailey, Charlize Karimi, Nicole Downard, Kirsty Buissonne, Isabella Tooley, Alice Kuhn, Leah Faurholm, Ella Sales, Jessica Miller, Romy Myers, Kerry Buissonne, Jemma Van Stolk and Kayleigh Campbell.



Herschel Gym

With great excitement, the Herschel Gym opened in Term 2 and has been a positive addition to Herschel sport. Not only are the pupils enjoying the gym sessions, but they are also recognising their own individual progress with each of the sessions. These sessions improve the pupils overall conditioning, strength, muscle endurance and will also contribute to injury prevention.



HERSCHFIELD 2023

26 - 28 July

Exciting addition to the sports line-up:

*Cross-country

*Soccer

*Squash





WHEN YOU SHOP AT WOOLWORTHS AND OTHER MYSCHOOL PARTNERS - PLEASE SWIPE YOUR MYSCHOOL CARD!

Help raise funds for our **Herschel Learnership Programme** with your MySchool card, without it costing you a cent. Herschel has up to three learnership staff annually. These staff receive a small monthly salary, university tuition and prescribed textbooks all paid for out of the MySchool proceeds. Once qualified, they can take up permanent teaching posts and have the benefit of teaching experience.

MySchool raises over R8 million for schools, and charities, every month! The best part: it does not cost you as a supporter a cent to make a difference.

How does MySchool work?

You can make a difference, just by shopping at one of the many MySchool partners.

These include Woolworths, Engen Quick Shop, Loot.co.za, Netstar, Worksheetcloud, to name just a few.

Every time you use your card at any of the partner stores, a percentage of your purchase value will be given back on your behalf to our school, at absolutely no cost to you!

To view a more comprehensive list of local business partners [click here](#).

Support a beneficiary close to your heart!

How to become a supporter?

To become a supporter, you need to be registered with MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet and select Herschel as your beneficiary.

- Our Virtual MySchool Card is now on your phone!

Download for FREE on the App Store or Google Play Store, sign in, and scan your virtual card at till points to give back every time you shop.

- Sign up online: Get your free card now: <https://www.myschool.co.za/portal/register>
- Call MySchool client services: 0860 100 445
- Email MySchool client services: cs@myschool.co.za
- Scan the QR code below to join now
- Link your existing Woolworths card to MySchool: <https://www.myschool.co.za/portal/login>

