



No. 12 – 4 August 2023

HERSCHEL SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Pupils

Sportsmanship is not just about being nice. It's about realizing that you could not compete without an opponent and that she has the same goals as you.
(Stephanie Deibler)

Herschfield provided us all with a wonderful reminder of what holistic education includes, and of how important it is to participate, support and compete to feel a sense of belonging and connection! For parents new to Herschel, this is an annual derby between Springfield and Herschel. It is a much-anticipated calendar event and the spirit between the two schools is absolutely phenomenal!

Despite some challenges which included a power outage on Wednesday which meant that the two Music Departments had to reschedule the Cultural Concert, and the inclement weather on Friday which led to the hockey being postponed to a later date, there was a wonderful turn-out. The spirited rivalry and wonderful support for the players in the Herschel Indoor Sports Centre where the netball games were contested, provided a great atmosphere, and certainly challenged the umpires! All in all, it was a great success and kudos to the netball players and coaches on their performances and results. As soon as we have a date for the hockey derby, we will share this.

The Spirit Committee inspired the pupils to support, generating an enthusiastic sideline presence. We do not make this event “compulsory” so to speak,

because we do not need to. We ask that each pupil and staff member offer their support wherever and whenever they can, and I think that this has encouraged people to be there. What a wonderful turn out! I would like to extend a warm thank you to Mr Geoff Quinn and the Springfield community for hosting this year's derby. Thank you to all parents and grandparents, family members and friends who joined us in support. Herschfield, 2023 was special!

SuperSport filmed the Herschel versus Oakham Netball u16 and 1st Team matches in front of a very enthusiastic crowd in our indoor sports centre on Wednesday 26th July. (Oakham School, from the UK, is in South Africa on tour). The games were played at pace with both sides giving their all! The u16s came out on top and the 1st Team lost by a goal in a match that was fiercely contested from start to finish.





The Winter Orchestra and Ensemble Music tour to Oakhill in Knysna was a resounding success! Two massive tour buses left Herschel early on Friday morning, 21st July, loaded with musical instruments, and excited musicians. Pupils and staff enjoyed a weekend of musical collaboration at Oakhill and were wonderful ambassadors for Herschel. I think it is so important for the pupils to have the opportunity to tour beyond the usual sports tours and camps and I am thrilled that Herschel's Music Department is an adventurous one!



Last week, as you may have seen on the Herschel social media pages, the Herschel Art Department exhibited the works of Grade 10 – 12 pupils. Ms Nicola Jordan, the Art teacher, invited pupils and staff to visit the department during breaks and after school to view the work of the pupils. This enriching and interesting experience gives us some insight into the conceptualization and creative thought processes that inspire art works. The talent, creativity and diverse styles of work was clearly evident, and it was exciting to meet Abbey Morrow who was in the art room at the time of my visit. Abbey discussed her powerful artwork with me, helping me to understand her intention and the creative thought processes behind it. I left feeling enriched and enlightened. My thanks to Mr Kerbelker (Mr K) for the video that he created to showcase the art. [Art Exhibition Video](#)

We hosted Ms Barbara Houghton (OISESA mentor) for the OISESA audit at Herschel last week. This quality assurance process will provide us with constructive feedback, an overview of our performance across standards measured via certain indicators, and affirmation in certain areas, where pupils, staff and parents are happy with how they are experiencing Herschel. We will share feedback once we have received the Final Report from OISESA and the clearance certificate from ISASA. The process has been rigorous, and I am grateful to the teams across the school who drove the process and collated the evidence needed to support operations, policy, governance and compliance.

The Music Ensembles Concert held on Monday evening this week provided our talented musicians with a platform for performance and the evening was a great success. Our musicians and their teachers spend many hours rehearsing and it is important that they have the opportunity to perform in front of an audience, especially an appreciative one! Bravo to all who performed!

The Parent/Teacher meetings held on Tuesday evening provided an opportunity for important communication regarding our core business: teaching and learning. It is important to participate in your daughter's educational journey and to partner with us in supporting her in the best possible way.

I am writing this just before heading out to the Grade 11 Camp in Simon's Town; a camp which focuses on the girls' personal growth and development and on their self-awareness and social awareness. It also provides a team-building experience which prepares the grade to work together in their capacities as pupil leaders in the school during their Grade 12 year. Beyond this it is also a time for the grade to **just be** and to have some fun together. This is an important aspect of the camp which leaves the pupils with special memories and friendships. I hope it provides all of the above for this year's Grade 11s and that they return enriched and inspired.



August is Women's Month and in keeping with this, Ms Heather Oosthuizen, accompanied by four matrics: Emma Lewis, Salma Moosa, Holly Brickles and Mia de Graaf, attended the Coronation Women's Month Breakfast at The Mount Nelson Hotel on Wednesday morning. This empowerment and networking initiative provides an opportunity to learn through the experiences of successful and impactful

women such as British writer and teacher, Lucy Kellaway, OBE. We are looking forward to our Women's Month assembly too.

The theme for International Women's Day which was on 8 March is 'Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future'. This theme is based on the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women priority theme 'Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'.

Empowerment is in and of itself a complex concept in a country which has stark socio-economic disparity, and inequity but the lens into equal rights and opportunities for women is an important one; because it does highlight issues and provide discourse and intentional action towards equal access, opportunity and representation for women. In a girls' school such as Herschel, we are invested in providing a holistic, empowering and relevant education to prepare our pupils to enter this discourse with their eyes wide open and to make a difference in whatever ways they can (big or small) towards creating opportunity for themselves and women with whom they work and connect.

Enjoy catching up on the last two weeks of life at Herschel!

Heather



LO DAY

This week concluded the long standing LO Days which have now become a thing of the past as we transition to the IEB. Our Grade 12 pupils eagerly participated in the physical assessments and much fun and laughter was had, despite the competitive nature of our pupils! In addition, workshops were held to prepare our matriculants to write their final LO examination in September.

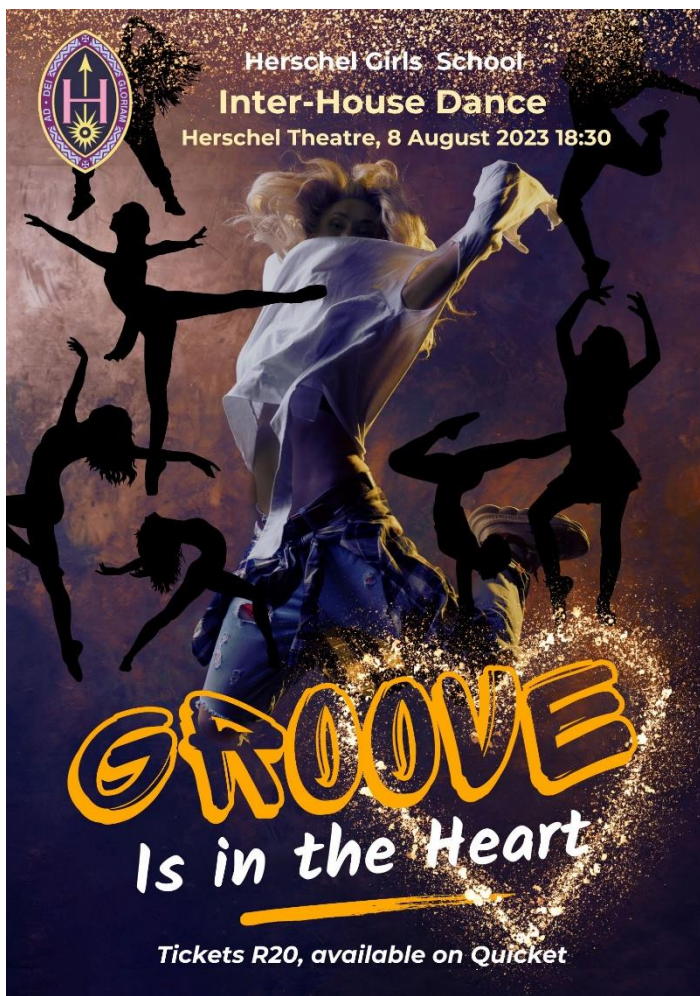


ART EXHIBITION

A recent exhibition at St Thomas Church provided a wonderful opportunity for two of our very talented Grade 12 Art pupils, Lucy Edelstein and Ray Olmesdahl, to share their superb artwork with the public. These exciting art works serve as a small sample of what we can look forward to next term with the Grade 12 Art exhibition.



Interhouse Dance: 8 August



Tickets are on sale for this year's Interhouse Dance competition. Join us for a celebration of Dance under the theme, 'Groove is in the Heart.' Our four houses Carter, Jagger, Merriman and Rolt will battle it out over three categories: Small group Junior, Senior and Large group Mixed. Tickets are R20 and are available on Quicket.

<https://qkt.io/nV46cD>

The Things We Left Behind: Design & Drama Collab: 15 August

The Grade 11 Design and Drama pupils will be staging their performance of their Term 2 20th Century 'isms' project on the evening of the 15th August in the Theatre at 18:00. The Grade 11 Design pupils spent last term exploring three of the most visually exciting 'isms', creating theatre costumes and headpieces inspired by **Surrealism, Dada and Symbolism**.

Their ideas were taken up by the Grade 11 Drama pupils who found and adapted pieces that spoke to the ideas in the costumes. The performance will be a chance for our pupils to marry their ideas in an evening of **poetry, movement and performance**.



MUSIC WRAP

Music Ensemble Tour

The Music Department was thrilled to go on their first ever Ensemble Tour on the weekend of the 21st – 23rd July. 48 pupils from the String, Wind, Guitar and Jazz Ensembles were accompanied by five teachers as they left for Knysna and George. We enjoyed a dinner and collaborative concert with Oakhill School in Knysna on Friday evening which culminated in both groups on stage together performing the *Johnny Clegg Celebration Medley*. The next day the group headed to George where the South Cape Music Academy hosted a concert for us on the beautiful NG Moederkerk grounds in George. The South Cape Children's Choir shared the stage with us, and the audience was treated to a wonderful programme. It was a fantastic experience for pupils and teachers alike and we are immensely proud of the way in which our pupils conducted themselves; both off and on stage.



Herschfield

The Cultural Department was thrilled to announce an addition to the Herschfield event this year in the form of a Cultural Concert! Springfield hosted our Dance group and various music ensembles and it was a truly happy evening. The two Rock Bands ended the concert with an impromptu jam session performing *Love Rock 'n Roll*. It was fantastic to see the collaboration before the rivalry on the sports field commenced!



Winter Concert

Parents and friends of our Music Ensembles were invited to a concert on Monday evening to enjoy the performances of the tour group. A huge thank you to the teachers involved, Ms Rochelle Klassen, Mrs Carla van Wyk, Mr Gary Craig, Ms Sky Dlala and Mr Lilavan Gangen. The dedication in the teaching of music is evident in these performances. There are not many school orchestras and ensembles that can produce a programme of such a high and varied standard and we are very fortunate to have staff that are as invested and passionate as they are. It is also necessary to thank the parents and families of the pupils for their support and patience amidst many hours of rehearsal and practice.

[Guitar ensemble](#)

Brava to all Performers!



Bishops-Herschel Ballroom Dance Society

Ballroom dance allows us to express ourselves through step patterns, and rhythmic moving all while expressing the characteristics of music. One of the greatest powers of ballroom dance is helping one get in touch with your true nature and become more authentic.

The Ballroom Dance Society is a group of 20 Herschel and 20 Bishops pupils who meet three times a term to have loads of fun while learning some basic ballroom dance moves.



Sports Wrap

Water Polo

We are very proud to announce that Morgan Christian has been selected to the Women's Junior National Water Polo team who will be participating at the World Aquatics Junior Women's Water Polo World Championship 2023, in Coimbra, Portugal from 2 to 10 September.

Congratulations Morgan and all the best for the championships.



Karate

Kiara McLean and Emma Gordon represented South Africa at the KSI Karate World Championships held in Cape Town in June.



Kiara advanced to the semi-final of the Girls Cadet Kata contest and Emma won Silver in the Girls Youth Kumite contest. Well done to Kiara and Emma.

Herschfield 2023

Herschfield 2023 burst onto the scene with lots of energy. Thursday afternoon was a whirlwind of excitement as our fearless cross-country runners dashed through the fields, and the squash courts buzzed with electrifying matches that had everyone on the edge of their seats. But wait, that was just the beginning! As the sun set, the Herschfield Cultural evening took center stage, dazzling us with a mesmerising display of talents from both schools.

Friday was a full-throttle joyride, rain or shine! Soccer, netball, and hockey took the spotlight, turning the sports arena into a symphony of cheers and high-fives. The weather tried to play spoiler, but did it succeed? Not a chance! Even with a venue change and postponed hockey matches due to the rain, the spirit was unbreakable. Our very own Pink Army made sure the vibes were sky-high, while the netball teams wowed the crowd with their incredible skills.

Thank you to Springfield for hosting the event. We are looking forward to an even better and bigger Herschfield 2024.







LOST PROPERTY!!

We would like to bring everyone's attention to the overwhelming number of items being placed in lost property. This becomes incredibly wasteful especially when pupils rebuy their misplaced items. Additionally, lunch boxes become mouldy and unhygienic – which creates an unpleasant atmosphere for nearby classrooms. If pupils have lost an item, they should immediately go to lost property to see if it has been placed there. However, to avoid this, please could all parents urge their daughters to label their things and take care of their belongings throughout the school day.

These are some pictures of the current state of lost property: we try our best to keep it tidy, but it becomes unmanageable when there are just too many items and pupils do not collect their belongings. We would like to draw attention to the amount of unnecessary waste that comes when someone loses an item and does not collect it.



Please could pupils place their belongings in their assigned lockers to avoid misplacing them. Bags should not be left around campus during the school day, rather pupils must take them to classes with them so that they can take care of them.

(From the Sustainability Portfolio)



Most common items found in lost property:

- Herschel lunch boxes
- Other lunch boxes
- Jerseys
- Fleeces
- Blazers
- Rain jackets
- Textbooks/files
- Tupperwares/containers
- Tog bags
- School shoes

