



Three Schools, One Campus

7 February 2020

Principal's Corner

Dear Theodorians

Compassion and Carrying Another's Burden



At the start of the year, Rabbi Furman presented to the campus staff a wonderful and moving talk on Compassion, our 2020 values theme. I was then introduced to the message of "nosei b'ol chaveiro". As Rabbi often jests, I suppose you want me to translate!

The phrase, "nosei b'ol chaveiro," refers to the notion that one should not aim at carrying one's friend's burden, but rather carry-the burden with him; that is, helping, rather than taking over.

During the Rabbi's presentation, I was particularly moved by the one comment on how we often try to resolve another person's problems rather than express compassion by just being there for them. That by being there for them, you penetrate the "dark cave of solitude", or as Rabbi so eloquently described, "sometimes the person suffering just needs you to join them in the lift going down and not to take that person to another lift in another building." Therefore saying, "I am here for you," rather than, "this is how you can solve the problem."

I think we can all acknowledge that everyone has some battle they have had to fight. They may appear to be fine, they may appear to have the perfect life, but deep beneath that seemingly calm veneer, there often lurks the need just to have someone to be there with them.

This year, 'Compassion' is our theme. It is value that, more than ever, needs to be cherished and nurtured. Tragic world events, the recent Coronavirus and possible marginalization, economic and conflict refugees, environmentally displaced people and local challenges in our beautiful country, all contribute to a society that needs to take cognizance of sharing the burden of others, to be compassionate and more importantly, act on it. Being compassionate is a verb after all!

Theodor Herzl School has propagated the value and need for compassion. This has been accomplished through

many outreach programmes. These have ranged, to name a few, from supporting orphanages, cancer support organizations and animal welfare societies, to caring for the environment.

During 2020, we will build on these established approaches and widen our scope of not just solving problems for others, but rather consciously, internally and externally, just being there for those in need.

Kind regards

John Alexander
Executive Principal

Open Day

Our three schools will be on display on the 18th of February.

Theodor Herzl Schools



Open Day 18 February 17:00–19:00

www.theodorherzl.co.za



Dear Theodorians, Parents & Friends of Theodor,

February, the month of love, is finally here. After what seemed like the longest January ever! Our three schools are all doing something special on the 14th of February to show Compassion.

The Pre-Primary learners are celebrating Red Heart Day by wearing red and supporting the *Choc Flip Flop initiative* – a national CHOC fundraiser.

The Primary School celebrates Friendship Day on the 14th when learners will wear civvies to school and in return make cash donations to make someone special's dream come true at the *Reach For A Dream Foundation*.

At the High School, learners will celebrate Friendship Day by supporting the *Choc Flip Flop day initiative* – a national CHOC fundraiser. Staff and learners will purchase a R10 sticker from the Interact Group and wear flip flops to work/school. The Interact Committee will also be selling Fizz Pop “hi fives” and “bunches of Fizz Pop flowers” for Friendship Day and all proceeds will also be given to CHOC. They will also send some sweets to the children of *One Life Child* in the Walmer Township. Please consider donations of sweets or small chocolates or even some money for the Interact Committee to purchase these for the children to let them know they are loved.



The safety of your Theodorians is a priority. At the Primary School After Care facility, a new sturdy boundary wall was completed.



The High School building is also undergoing some renovations: Some of the old wooden doors have been replaced with aluminum framed glass sliding doors.



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