

Issue 101 October 20 2023

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

The first six weeks of this term have gone by in a blur and as we head very quickly through October, I trust that your child has enjoyed all the wonderful learning opportunities. We have been blessed with many events, both in and out of the classroom to date and we look forward to the many more that traditionally lie ahead during the final term of this year.

I trust all our new families have settled in well and that you are enjoying your time at Thornhill. To our Std 7 children who are in their final term of primary school, make this term your best experience and ensure you achieve all your goals.

Academic Merits – Mid Year

Congratulations to the following students (Std 6 & 7) who received an academic merit award at the final assembly in Term 2. These children have maintained an average of 80% or more during the first semester and are as follows:

Std 6

Rania Modarrisi
Suraj Dev Mudili
Ayanda Luhanga
Goutham Suresh Babu
Miles Arthey
Kaia Coyne
Huziefza Kala
James Cloete
Ayanda Orapeleng
Abigail Campbell
Caitlyn Robertson
Reneilwe Mokgosi
Olivia Pearce
Caleb Hassam

Std 7

Nina Luhanga
Suhail Dellow
Fariha Patel
Daniel Kemp
Raeesa Hoosan
Mengjing Qu
Bianke van Staden
Katlo Manale

An excellent achievement from the abovementioned children and I look forward to a successful final semester.

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Eita Ikegami (6M) who has been selected for Botswana to participate in the International Mathematics Olympiad in November. This is an incredible achievement and we would like to wish Eita good luck for the upcoming competition.

House Captain

Due to Diako leaving Thornhill to relocate to the United States at the end of Term 2, a place opened up for vice-captain for Chobe House. Congratulations to Rory Walsh who was appointed in this position.

House Points Trophy – Term 2 2023

Congratulations to Chobe who narrowly won the House Points Trophy for Term 2. They were closely followed by Limpopo in second and Notwane and Shashe in third and fourth respectively.

Thornhill Alumni News

Simphiwe Charama has been nominated as a Deputy Head Girl at the Learning Centre. Well done and congratulations to Simphiwe.

Staff News

We received wonderful news that Kerri-Lynn Hall (Std 3) is expecting and we would like to congratulate her and Brad on the fantastic news.

Std 7 Jeans for Genes Day

As the morning sun bathed the classroom in its golden glow, following the Monday haze of nebulous clouds, the students of Std 7 paraded in wearing an impressive array of jeans. From distressed denim to bootcut brands, it was a denim fashion show like no other. Some students waltzed in wearing jeans that seemed to have more holes than a block of Swiss cheese.

Forget designer jeans for a moment, think - real MVP's—our DNA! You know, those tiny genetic instructions that tell our bodies how to operate. On this particular day, we celebrated those little genetic quirks and variations that make each of us one-of-a-kind. Whether your genes have a penchant for polka dots, or a love for plaid, it's all part of the grand genetic fashion show we call life.

The students came armed with colorful flashcards, brilliantly designed Science posters and creative visual aids, leaving everyone in awe and more educated about the world of genetics. The main event of the day was the debate on genetic cloning. The students were divided into two teams, each passionately arguing their stance on whether or not cloning should be allowed.

It was spirited, and at times, even hilarious. One student who is a bit of a joker, quipped, and I quote, 'Imagine cloning your annoying little brother. One of them is trouble enough!' Laughter filled the room, reminding everyone that even the most serious of topics could be tackled with humour.

Finally, however, the debate didn't definitively settle the matter of genetic cloning, but it did encourage critical thinking and a lively discussion among these future leaders.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of 'Jeans for Genes Day' is its celebration of inclusion and diversity. Whether you have freckles, dimples, or even an extra toe (hey, it happens!), 'Jeans for Genes Day' is a reminder that we are all part of the same gene pool. So, the next time you slip into those comfy jeans, take a moment to appreciate the unique genetic code that makes you, 'YOU!'

I leave you with these words by Thomas A. Edison: 'Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.'

I Greaves

Headteacher

Ensuring Safety at Collection Times

A Shared Responsibility

We hope this newsletter finds you well. As we continue to prioritise the safety and well-being of our students, we want to draw your attention to a matter of utmost importance – driving safely during collection times. The school grounds are bustling with energy, as we eagerly welcome you to drop-off and pick-up your children each day, but it's crucial that we do so in a safe and in an organised manner.

Why Is Driving Safety Important?

The safety of our students is paramount at Thornhill Primary. The morning and afternoon can be a hectic time, with vehicles and pedestrians coming together in a relatively confined space. We want to ensure that every child leaves our school premises with a smile on their face and arrives home safely and so do you as parents.

Our Shared Responsibility

Driving safely at collection times is a responsibility shared by all of us - parents, guardians, and the school community. By working together, we can create a safer environment for our students.

Safety Tips

Slow Down and Observe Road Signs

Please observe the speed limit within and around the school zone which is 40 km.

Observe your Surroundings

Please be mindful of children and parents walking to and from pick-up zones and vehicles, particularly when you are reversing and exiting the car park areas. You are urged to give-way to all pedestrians in the parking vicinity.

Be Patient

It's understandable that everyone wants to collect their children promptly. However, patience is key and ensures the safety of our children.

Park Responsibly

Follow the guidance of our school staff who are there to help and assist you. Double-parking or blocking driveways can create hazards.

Seat Belts

Ensure that all passengers in your vehicle are wearing seat belts, no matter how short the journey.

Teach by Example

Children learn by observing adults. Model safe driving behaviours for them.

School Initiatives for Safety

We have repeatedly engaged with the City Council regarding speed humps, redoing the roads markings and putting in new signs. This is obviously all designed to ensure the safety of our children. We are currently again in consultation with them. We will relook at the drop off zones at the field gate and the Std 5 gate, as well as looking at opening the gate near the cricket nets in the morning and the afternoon. I will update you on this by mid-term.

Your Cooperation Matters

We kindly request your cooperation in following these safety guidelines and encouraging other parents to do the same. By working together, we can ensure that every child's journey to and from school is a safe one.

Std 4 Science Displays

As part of our curriculum this year, the Std 4 children are learning about the Earth and its habitats. The children were required to make a model of either a volcano erupting, one having erupted, or alternatively, a tsunami.

The purpose of this project was to bring out the children's creativity after researching information about earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. The children and parents worked very hard during the holidays, in order for them to produce such remarkable work and we truly appreciate all the support from home.

On display was a variety of models worthy of being displayed in a museum. Well done to the children who also were able to eloquently present to their parents and the school during their display.



PTA Sponsored Walk

I would like to sincerely thank all our Thornhill families who supported this event so generously during the second term. We held our prize giving during the final week of last term and congratulations to the following:

Samsung 10.5" tablets (4) were won by the following;

In the Lucky Draw category:

In the Reception to Std 3 year groups our winner was Axel Hinze (3J)

In the Std 4 to Std 7 year groups our winner was Kutlo Molomo (5W).

For the child who raised the most money category:

In the Reception to Std 3 year groups Fatema Zahraa Hussain (1M) raised the most money.

In the Std 4 to Std 7 year groups Joshua Matthews (6C) raised the most money.


A special mention and congratulations goes out to De Vrye van Dyk who walked the most number of laps on the day.

Well done to Std 3P for being the first class to return their money and forms and to Std 6C, who raised the most money overall. Both classes won a pizza lunch, which they enjoyed in the first week this term.

We raised a memorable and magnificent P 314,868.90. during this year's event. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all our Thornhill families for your incredible support.



Foundation Spring Day



The arrival of Spring brought a burst of colour and kindness during the annual Spring Day assembly for our Foundation Phase children. Draped in cheerful Spring hues, these young children embarked on a heart-warming journey of generosity, brightening the lives of others.

Parents flooded the event and the Helen Mathole Memorial Hall was transformed into a spring paradise with colourful trees and decorations. The atmosphere was enchanting. The children, after many rehearsals, sang joyous Spring songs with infectious enthusiasm, filling the hall with joy and leaving the parents beaming with pride.

However, the assembly's heart lay in the act of giving. While singing their Spring songs, each class made their way to the main stage, where they carefully laid out donations of tinned food and dry rations. It was a powerful sight, these young children with the help of their generous parents, contributing to a cause greater than themselves, symbolizing Thornhill's commitment to nurturing kindness and empathy within the community.

The Spring Day assembly was an important reminder of the power of community. It was a demonstration of the children's willingness to make a difference in the lives of others and it served as a beautiful reflection of the Thornhill spirit of kindness and unity.

Rhino Awareness Day

This term, we recognised, 'World Rhino Day' by having a civvies day and all wearing red and black. The money raised will go to the Khama Rhino Sanctuary, to support the work they do in protecting these endangered animals.

Std 7 did a presentation on rhinos in their assembly. The children were reminded just how precarious their existence is, as there are so few left, especially the Northern white rhino in Africa (where there are only two females left), the Javan and the Sumatran rhino.

We also heard about a rhino orphanage in South Africa, where there is an adoption programme, and we learned about Benji who has been adopted by Mrs Van Wyk (one of our locum teaching staff members). He is a young orphan who has suffered serious trauma, but has been rehabilitated by the orphanage and their vets.

It was a meaningful assembly and our thanks must go towards the Std 7 teachers and children for their input and commitment in sharing this presentation.

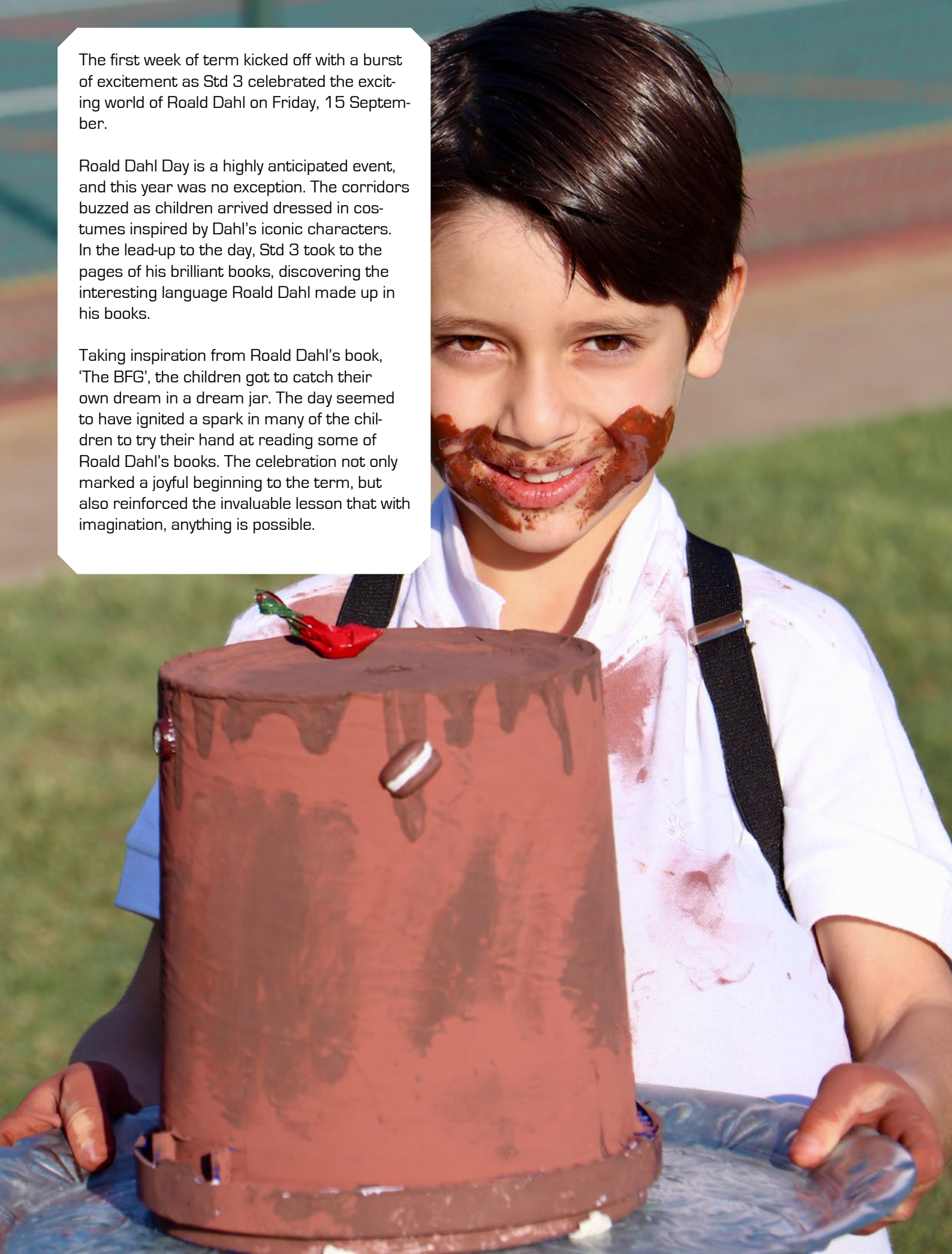


Std 3 Roald Dahl Day

The first week of term kicked off with a burst of excitement as Std 3 celebrated the exciting world of Roald Dahl on Friday, 15 September.

Roald Dahl Day is a highly anticipated event, and this year was no exception. The corridors buzzed as children arrived dressed in costumes inspired by Dahl's iconic characters. In the lead-up to the day, Std 3 took to the pages of his brilliant books, discovering the interesting language Roald Dahl made up in his books.

Taking inspiration from Roald Dahl's book, 'The BFG', the children got to catch their own dream in a dream jar. The day seemed to have ignited a spark in many of the children to try their hand at reading some of Roald Dahl's books. The celebration not only marked a joyful beginning to the term, but also reinforced the invaluable lesson that with imagination, anything is possible.





Our French students from Std 5, 6 and 7 proved themselves once again when they sat for the International Delf Examination, which is set by the Ministry of Education in France. Thornhill had a total of 70 voluntary candidates in the October, 2022 series.

49 candidates wrote the A1.1 level, 18 candidates wrote A1 level and 3 candidates wrote the A2 exam level. The language and the level in the school is definitely growing in popularity. We are very proud of each of the students, and a big "bravo" to the Std 7 group, who went all the way to the highest Delf Prim level, A2. There was a 100% pass rate, with more than 50% of the students attaining above 80%. Congratulations to all the pupils.

This year, in May, Shengen Tang and Yati Sun joined the 'lauréats' when they wrote the A1.1 examination and performed pleasingly.

To honour their efforts, the children were invited to a Prize Giving ceremony at the French Residence on the first Friday of the term. This was a great boost to their moral, as many of them are preparing to write their next level during the final term. At the ceremony, the students were encouraged to keep improving their knowledge of the language as this opens doors of communication to many countries around the world. They also enjoyed many sweet and savoury treats and drinks.

Photography Competition

The prize giving for this competition was completed at the final assembly of Term 2 and the proud winners were as follows:

1st Sophia Trendifilova
2nd Nathan Pieterse
3rd Logan Colley



Basketball



vs Northside

U13 Girls lost 18 - 8

U13 Boys won 11 - 8

vs TDS

U13 Girls lost 24 - 18

U13 Boys won 21 - 5

vs Baobab

U13 Girls lost 20 - 18

U13 Boys won 6 - 1

Individual Chess Championships

On Saturday, 23 September, our chess players took part in an Individual chess tournament at Tlokweng Day Spring.

This tournament was used to choose players to represent Southern Schools for the upcoming and first ever, North versus South Chess Tournament.

Thornhill sent ten players and all the students played five rounds each. Below are the results of some of our students who competed. Please note, the maximum points scoreable on the day was five:

Goutham - 4.5

Miles - 3.5

Fariha - 3.5

Maya - 3

Suhail - 3

Surajdev - 3

Letshego - 3

Joash - 2

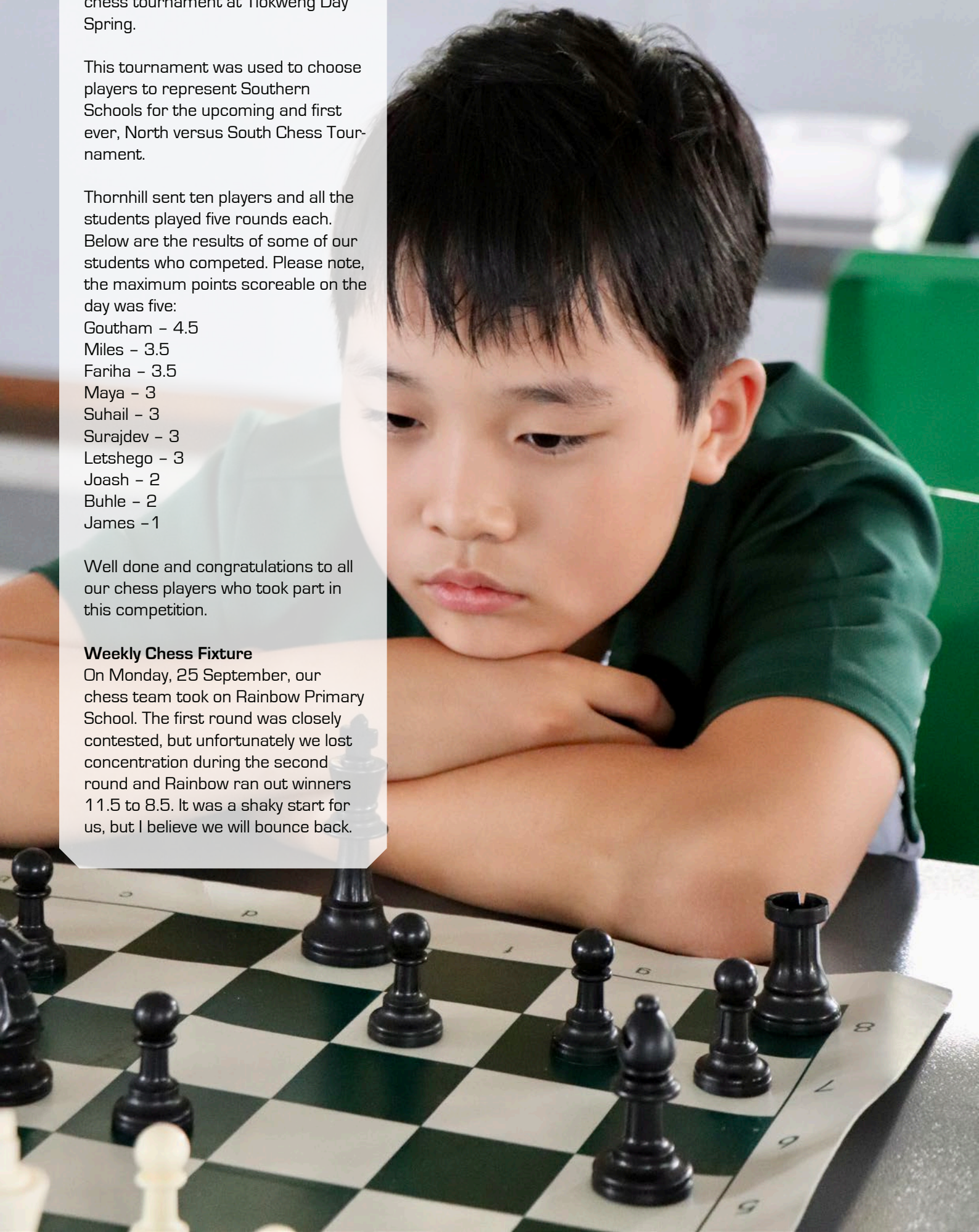
Buhle - 2

James - 1

Well done and congratulations to all our chess players who took part in this competition.

Weekly Chess Fixture

On Monday, 25 September, our chess team took on Rainbow Primary School. The first round was closely contested, but unfortunately we lost concentration during the second round and Rainbow ran out winners 11.5 to 8.5. It was a shaky start for us, but I believe we will bounce back.



U13 Softball Festival



Thornhill started the term off when they hosted an U13 softball festival on the first weekend of the term. John Mackenzie (JMS), Clifton, Baobab and Tlokwenng Dayspring School were all in attendance. The objective was to immerse the players in competitive softball from the outset, in order to grow the game at schools.

I am pleased to say that our teams took the learning opportunity and there was a great deal of development throughout the weekend. Thornhill played 5 games over the course of Friday and Saturday and the results were as follows:

Boys Results:

Thornhill vs JMS - won 7 - 2

Thornhill vs TDS - won 11 - 4

Thornhill vs Clifton - won 6 - 2

Thornhill vs Baobab - won 9 - 3

Thornhill vs Clifton - won 7 - 3

Girls Results:

Thornhill vs JMS - lost 5 - 7

Thornhill vs TDS - drew 5 - 5

Thornhill vs Clifton - lost 2 - 10

Thornhill vs Baobab - drew 6 - 6

Thornhill vs Clifton - lost 2 - 10

Well done to our two teams and good luck for the rest of the softball season. Thanks must also be extended to the parents for their wonderful and unwavering support.

U11 Softball Festival

The U11 boys and girls softball teams travelled to Francistown on Friday, 22 September, to play in a festival against Mophato, John McKenzie (JMS) and Clifton School.

Thornhill played two games on Friday afternoon. They played against Mophato School first and the boys played really well and were much stronger and won convincingly 15 - 1. The girls had a very evenly matched game against Mophato, which was very exciting and they managed to draw 5 - 5.

The next game was against Clifton and once again the boys won convincingly, 16 - 2. The girls played exceptionally well against Clifton in a super exciting game with many more hits and some excellent fielding, winning 7 - 4.

Saturday morning saw Thornhill play first up against JMS and then Clifton once more. The boys continued to play very good softball and overpowered both schools, 15 - 1 and 13 - 6, winning with lots of home runs. The girls won against JMS 16 - 3, but narrowly lost against Clifton 5 - 6.

Well done to all the children who travelled and I trust that you all enjoyed the experience. The tour was very worthwhile with the children learning so much, giving them a good start to the season ahead.



Softball Results & News

vs Baobab

U11 Girls won

U11 Boys won

U13 Girls won 8 - 4

U13 Boys won 14 - 6

Well done and congratulations to the following children who were selected at the recent softball trials to represent the western zonal side at the upcoming Southern school trials:

Girls

Phalana Pule

Katlo Manale

Diané van Dyk

Luba Mokobi

Reneilwe Kebonang

Keruntse Mere

Anaya Mere

Stephanie Kadzirange

Remofilwe Ntoltlang

Yashe Masomosomo

Boys

De Vrye van Dyk

Nathan Pieterse

Johan van Tonder

Logan Colley

Poeey Ngada

Rory Walsh

Rhys Meyer

Nicholas Fern

Kulani Tibone

Kayle Marais



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Thornhill ICT Department



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