

Issue 102 November 15 2023

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

As we find ourselves with only three weeks left in this academic year, we can't help but reflect on the remarkable journey we've embarked on together. It has been a year filled with challenges, growth, and countless excellent achievements. The remaining weeks are a crucial time for us to make the most of the academic, sporting and cultural opportunities that lie ahead and to celebrate the successes we've achieved so far.

As we prepare to close out this academic year, let's work together to finish strong, support one another, and look forward to the bright future that awaits us. There are many events that are synonymous with the end of the year and I hope to see you all at these in the days that lie ahead.

PTA

The fete, which is an annual event on our school calendar, is a time when our Thornhill community comes together to celebrate and enjoy an evening filled with fun, food, and festivities. This eagerly anticipated event was overwhelmingly well supported and it marks a focal point for fostering community spirit and raising funds for the PTA for ongoing projects within the school.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for their unwavering support and dedication to our school community. The PTA plays a crucial role in enhancing the educational experience of our students, and their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. Through fundraising initiatives, organising events, the PTA has made a significant impact on the lives of our students and the success of our school. Their commitment in bringing the community together and fostering a positive and nurturing environment for our children is truly commendable. We are immensely thankful to them for their time, energy, and passion in ensuring that our school continues to thrive.

To Helen Williams and her hard working and dedicated PTA team, your partnership is invaluable, and we thank you all most sincerely, as we look forward to 2024 .

Pupil Achievement

I am happy to announce that Maya Iyer 4K came second (she was tied and lost the first spot during a sudden playoff) in the PGA – B Junior Golf Under 11 Category. This is a monthly event held at the Gaborone Golf Club which will culminate with the African Junior Championships in April 2024. We are hoping she can put in more hours of practice on the golf course to win the Junior Championship and make our country and school proud. Maya has been training under Coach Mpho Kelosiwang.

Reception 2024 Orientation

The Reception 2024 Orientation event at Thornhill is a much-anticipated occasion that marks the beginning of an exciting educational journey for both children and parents. This event serves to convey information on the important bridge between the pre-school and the primary education.

It offers parents and children the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school's facilities and receive valuable information to the beginning of 'Big School' for their children. This event eases the transition into the formal school environment and ensures that everyone is ready and geared for January 2024.

The Reception Orientation event is a wonderful way to create a sense of community and collaboration between the school and parents, setting the stage for a successful, fulfilling and exciting start to their journey.

Brains and Breathing – Mandy Herold

On Thursday, 21 September, we were fortunate to have Mandy Herold visiting Thornhill from Johannesburg. She gave us a most informative presentation on “Brains and Breathing”. What this meant in practical terms, is that we need to recognise that our brains are like “magnets” attracting things, unfortunately attracting negative things in far greater quantity than the positives. We need to make a conscious effort to counter this and push the positive things to the forefront. Mandy concentrated on three areas of the brain and how they impact the way we approach things. Instinctively, our brains are there to protect us and to make us safe. We then have an emotional part with an innate desire to be wanted. What we need to be most conscious of is the part of our brain that teaches us to learn from our experiences. Tempering the more emotive responses we have, involves the technique of deep breathing and forms of meditation. As a final summary, we need to take responsibility for our own actions and not blame others or shift the focus. The children were very involved in the whole presentation and came away with much practical advice and steps to follow.

Std 4 Ice Cream Sales

The month of October saw the Std 4 children raising funds for their annual community project through ice cream sales. All the proceeds made will be used to purchase wheel chairs for the children’s ward at Princess Marina Hospital. The children had plenty of fun selling the ice creams, while gaining some philanthropic experience. We received generous contributions and donations from some parents that we are grateful for and their support in all our projects is thoroughly valued. With temperatures steadily rising, I’m sure the whole school appreciated the cooling effect brought about by the ice creams, all for a good cause.

The Sweet Relief of Exams Being Over, CIE 2023

Exams, the dreaded period of stress, sleepless nights, and endless cramming, have finally come to an end, not only for students or teachers but parents as well. The Std 6 students have worked extremely hard manoeuvring through a new curriculum and have shown remarkable resilience, determination and an unbelievable commitment to writing their Cambridge Exams.

As the students walked out of the exam hall a palpable weight lifted off their shoulders and the stress dissipated because the world felt brighter again, as the idea of gloomy exams didn’t hover over anyone’s head anymore. The sense of accomplishment that comes from completing a challenging exam is both gratifying and liberating. They did it, and that’s worth celebrating!

Now Std 6’s can scream “Exams are over!” It’s the moment of immense relief and a reason to celebrate but here’s food for thought, exams may come and go, but the joy of celebrating their end is a memory that will stay with them for a lifetime. Enjoy this time and let the world be your playground, for after the storm of exams comes the sunshine of freedom and fun.

As we approach the final stretch of this term with a little under three weeks remaining, it’s incredible to reflect on the growth and accomplishments we’ve achieved together. From academic milestones to extracurricular triumphs, our community has shone brightly. Let’s continue to support and encourage one another in these last few weeks, making the most of every opportunity for learning and collaboration.

As we wrap up this term, let’s celebrate the journey we’ve undertaken and look forward to the exciting adventures that await us in the future. Wishing you all a successful and fulfilling conclusion to this term, and may the spirit of curiosity and camaraderie continue to guide us forward.

I Greaves

Headteacher

PTA Picnic & Fete

Nothing says 'Summer is here' more than our school picnic. The buzz one hears from the moment they park their car, walk through the gates and choose one's picnic spot is a very exciting. The live music is always appreciated and enjoyed by all. The best moments include watching our children gather around the stage to sing and dance along with Liesl Graham.

This year's picnic did not disappoint: Thornhill community turned up en masse and it was lovely to see former students walking about and getting the random hugs, filled with excitement. The atmosphere made for a relaxed time under the stars and the weather was agreeable. The laughter of boys and girls playing soccer in one corner of the field was a pleasing sound. It reminded us of how long it had been since our children had had the opportunity to run freely, tackling each other to the ground without a worry.

The annual fete, is a time when our Thornhill community comes together to celebrate and enjoy an evening filled with fun, food, and festivities. This eagerly anticipated event marks a focal point for fostering community spirit and raising funds for the PTA for ongoing projects within the school.

This is what our Std 2 children had to say:

'When I got to school the field was CROWDED!! Like full!' - Harper (2S)

'I liked going to Funtopia. It was good. I liked eating and I was eating lots of food.' - Khaya (2S)

'My favourite part were the games and when my mum bought me a big bucket of play dough. I also enjoyed the food'. - Lenitame (2P)

'I really enjoyed the dangerous ride, it was scary and fun at the same time. I wanted to stay on and keep going but I had to get off.' - Lindani (2P)



Reception Seaside Day



One of the highlights of the Reception year is Seaside Day. Another fun filled day was had by all the children on an extremely hot Tuesday morning on 24 October.

Our children enjoyed 4 stations of learning and exploring:

1. The Science Lab where they explored sea creatures touching a shark's jaw, sea sand, fish, octopus, starfish etc.
2. The swimming pool which was set up to look like the sea.
3. The sandpits where the children had wet sand to build sand castles.
4. Playing in shaving foam with toy sea creatures and shells.

The most popular activity was the swimming pool filled with blow up boats and floating beach toys. The flower sprinkler on the lawn was a fantastic treat.

Here are some thoughts about Seaside Day from our children:

Mila - "I liked the frozen popsicles we got at the end of the hot, fun day."

Ellie - "I liked looking and touching the fish in the Science room."

Amara - "I liked singing because my Mum was watching me. The swimming pool was also fun."

Mobashir - "Swimming was the best, I liked jumping on the floaties and the boat. The flower sprayer was very fun."

Bo Xuan - "I liked having the ice pop, it was nice and cold."

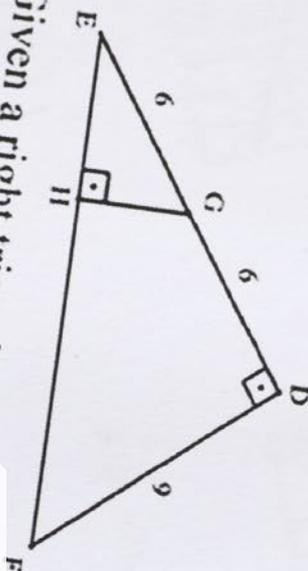
Nenyasha - "I liked the crazy flower at the swimming pool."

Maths Collaborative Contest

16) Given below PRS, $|PR| = |PS|$. "If I draw an altitude to SR, then I divide triangle PRS into two congruent triangles." Is this statement true? Justify your answer.



17)



Given a right triangle DEF
 $[DE] \perp [DF]$ $[GH] \perp [EF]$
 $|DF| = 9\text{cm}$. Find $|GH|$?
18) "If two triangles are congruent, then they are similar." Is this statement true? Justify your answer.
19)

Nina Luhanga was part of the team at this event and she has reported as follows:

During the term, four of our very own pupils represented Thornhill in this contest. There were eleven schools competing and our team members were Daniel, Nina, Mengjing from Std 7 and Eita from Std 6. The competition consisted of three parts. The first part was a group problem, where we had 45 minutes to solve three questions. Then we had a relay, where the team would sit one behind the other and your answer would help the person in front of you.

Finally, there was the Maths sprint, where we had ten minutes to solve ten questions and we had to run to our facilitator to drop off each answer and collect the next question. All in all, it was lots of fun.

The results were as follows:

1st Al Nur, 2nd Westwood, 3rd Legae and tie 4th Thornhill and Northside

We are very proud of ourselves and the results we achieved.

Given the equilateral triangle
 $|AD|$ $|EB| = |BF|$
 $|BF|$?
22) "If two triangles are similar, then they are congruent." Is this statement true?



Std 3 Sleepover

The day had finally arrived - the long-awaited sleepover for the Std 3 children. With great anticipation, both boys and girls eagerly filled the school Helen Mathole Memorial Hall and library, claiming their spots for the night. The excitement continued as they headed to the pool and field for a quick swim and to burn off some energy on the field.

By six o'clock, dinner was served, and the children were thrilled to indulge in pizza for dinner, followed by ice cream for dessert. Of course, a sleepover wouldn't be complete without a movie and popcorn.

Everyone gathered in the library to watch 'Matilda: The Musical'. After such an exhilarating few hours, some eyelids were starting to droop. It was time to brush teeth and settle into bed. There was a sudden burst of excitement and chatter among the children, as they nestled next to their friends. As the conversations gradually faded and the giggles grew softer, they drifted off to sleep for a couple of hours.

At around half past five, the chatter began again, this time in hushed tones. They got up, tidied up their areas, and headed out for a breakfast of milkshakes and muffins. It's safe to say the sleepover was a resounding success, and the children had an absolutely fantastic time.



Std 1 Snake Park Visit

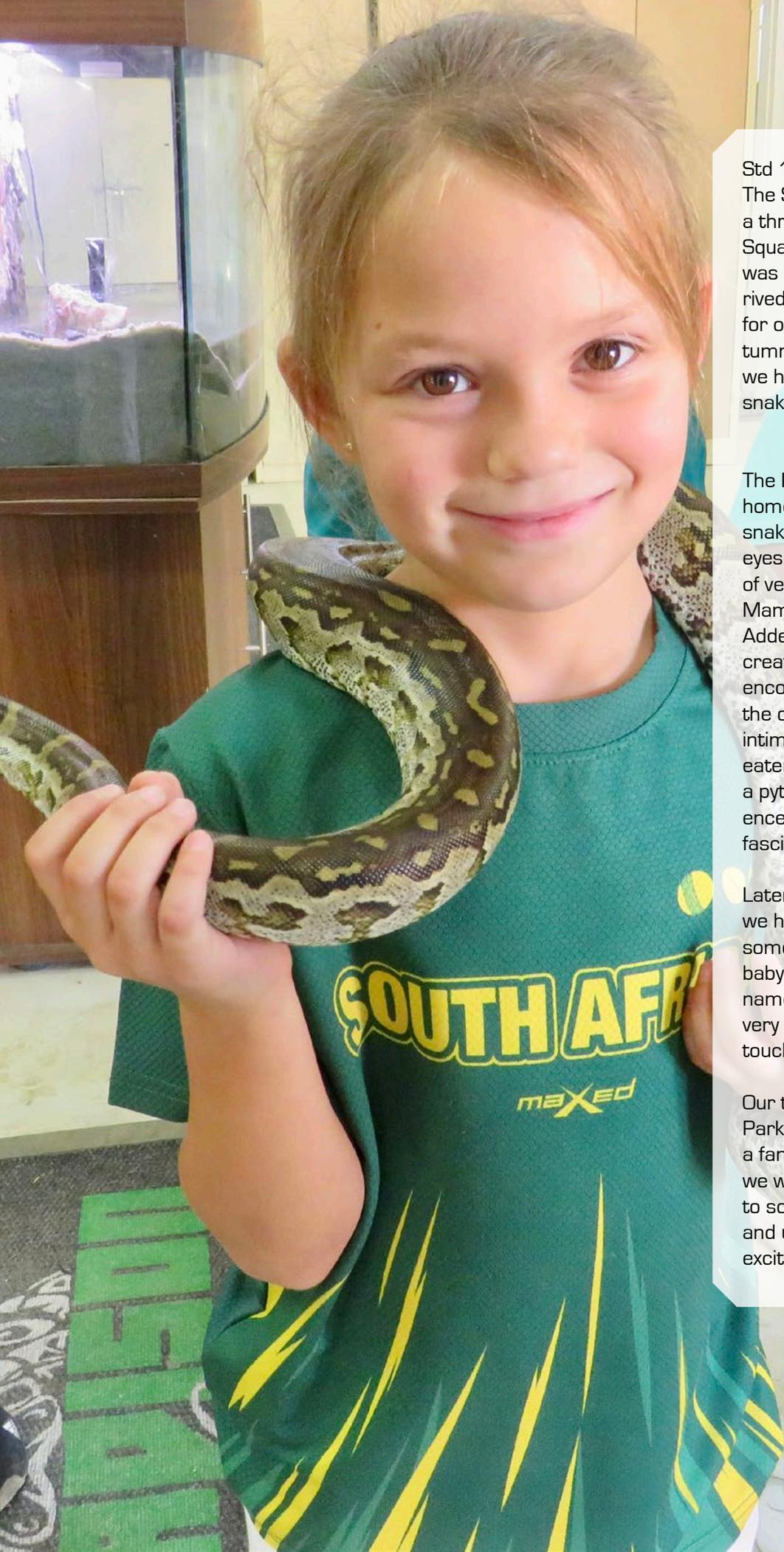
Std 1 Visit to the Snake Park:

The Std 1's recently embarked on a thrilling adventure to the Madison Square Snake Park. The school bus was abuzz with excitement as we arrived. We gathered under the shade for our snack and after satisfying our tummies, it was time for the moment we had all been waiting for – the snakes!

The Madison Square Snake Park is home to an incredible collection of snakes. As we entered the room, our eyes widened as we got a glimpse of venomous snakes. We saw Black Mambas, Snouted Cobras, Puff Adders, and many other slithery creatures that we hope to never encounter in the wild. We were given the opportunity to hold some less intimidating reptiles, like the egg-eater, a brown house snake, and even a python. It was an incredible experience to touch and learn about these fascinating creatures up close.

Later, we ventured outdoors, where we had the chance to interact with some not-so-scary animals. We met baby mice, tortoises, a hedgehog named Sonic, a friendly donkey, and a very big pig. It was amazing to see and touch these animals.

Our trip to Madison Square Snake Park was not just an adventure; it was a fantastic learning experience that we will cherish forever. We returned to school with newfound knowledge and unforgettable memories of our exciting day.



The Story Teller



A captivating storyteller recently graced our school, enchanting students from the Foundation Phase to the junior phase with animated tales woven with music. With a magical blend of imagination and melody, this storyteller transported young minds to extraordinary worlds, leaving them spell bound and eager for more.

Here are a few comments from some of the Std 2 children:

'I liked when the storyteller sang and played his guitar. The story was also very good, I was amazed that the tiger had spots. I hope we'll see him again soon.' - Releagile 2S

'My favourite part was when he sang the song about the man that went to town, and the best part was when his apples fell off and turned to gold. I was so shocked and entertained in that moment. - Lenitame 2P

Boipuso



Boipuso ke lengwe la malatsi le ka lone re ipelelang tswelelo pele ya lefatshe la rona. Go tswa fela kwa go 1966 go tla go tsenda ngwaga o wa 2023 Botswana o gatetse pele. Mo sekolong sa rona re ruta bana ka bothokwa jwa ngwao ya bone. Re dira seo ka go ba ruta metshameko e e farologanyeng ya Setswana.

Bana ba rata metshameko e thata. Re bo jele, ra ipela dingwaga tse 57 tsa go ipusa.

A celebration of Botswana's 57 years of independence at Thornhill, this happens to be one of the days filled with fun, joy and laughter as the children get a chance to interact and play together. All the children were dressed in their different attires and it highlighted the significance of the day. What a beautiful day it was and to have been part of the school celebrations.

Happy Independence, Botswana.

Basketball

With every bounce of the ball, these young athletes are not only honing their skills but also mastering the art of teamwork and taking on the challenge of constant learning. The last few games have truly been a testament to their dedication and resilience.

You never truly understand the intensity until you're on the court. A rollercoaster of emotions, missed possessions leading to sprint backs, desperately trying to rectify mistakes. Foot-on-the-line calls and the unyielding scoreboard that challenge your determination. And the exhaustion, oh, the exhaustion. Doing everything right, following the coach's instructions, playing your heart out, yet the lead remains stubbornly unaltered. It is as if time itself conspires to stand still. But it was in these moments that players learn the true meaning of persistence and resilience.

These players are not content with sitting idly and waiting for the weather to cool down either. No, they are begging to at least shoot the ball, to dribble, and to practise their moves. The sun beating down, sweat pouring off their foreheads, yet the heat does nothing to dampen their spirits; it's almost as if the fiery sun above is merely a reflection of their burning desire to improve and excel.

Blowout wins, blowout losses, close games and the occasional one point deciding games have become a common occurrence, and this has sparked passionate discussions in the corridors the morning after.

But what's even more amazing is witnessing the transformation of the once-new players into confident contributors. The once hesitant players have not only found their footing but have also become quite vocal in their opinions. At times, they've been known to correct not only their peers but even the coaches in a light-hearted and humorous manner.

So, as the ball keeps bouncing and the laughter keeps echoing through the courts, one thing is clear: they're having a blast, and they're on the path to greatness, one bounce at a time.

vs Legae

Boys lost 15 - 22

Girls won 42 - 18

vs TLC

Boys won 12 - 11

Girls lost 16 - 31

Chess

vs Legae

Thornhill won 16.5 - 3.5

vs Thuto

Thornhill won 18.5 - 3.5



vs Northside

U11 Girls won 12 - 2
U11 Boys won 12 - 0
U13 Girls lost 10 - 12
U13 Boys won 19 - 2

vs Bothale

U11 Girls won 19 - 2
U11 Boys won 19 - 3

vs TDS

U13 Girls won 17 - 7
U13 Boys won 20 - 4

U11 Boys Softball News

The U11 boys' softball season kicked off with our annual trip to Francistown to participate in a softball festival organised by Clifton school. The participating schools included Clifton, Thornhill, Mophato and John Mackenzie. The team showcased their skills, sportsmanship, and team spirit throughout the festival. Pitchers and fielders demonstrated excellent control and coordination while batters exhibited impressive hitting skills, with solid contact. They managed to secure wins in all their games.

U13 Softball News

Our U13 teams participated in the Western trials, where they performed superbly and both squads were selected for the respective Western team.

At the subsequent East versus West fixtures, which doubled up as Southern School trials, both sides again performed excellently with the following being selected to represent the Southern Schools teams:

Girls: Luba Mokobi, Yashe Masomomo, Keruntse Mere, Remofilwe Ntlotlang, Katlo Manale, Diané van Dyk and Stephanie Kadzirange.

Boys: Rory Walsh, Nathan Pieterse, De Vrye van Dyk, Poeey Ngada, Johan van Tonder and Rhys Meyer.



Swimming

The third term is a relay term which allows for a lot of swimmers to be involved in the galas. Unfortunately, our first gala was rained out so we have only managed to swim one gala this term.

Our A team swam at Broadhurst and did very well with all our swimmers winning most of their races. Our B squad swam at Thornhill and also performed very well.

We look forward to a busy week ahead with the InterSchool Relay Gala, Thornhill Championship Gala and Pirates and Sharks galas that lie ahead.



November 15 2023
Thornhill ICT Department



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