

Issue 103 December 11 2023

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Thornhill Family

As the school year draws to an end, it is with pride and joy that we reflect upon the incredible journey we have shared together. The halls have echoed with laughter, the classrooms have been filled with curiosity, and the playgrounds have been alive with the sounds of friendship and learning.

As we bid farewell to another academic year, we find ourselves filled with gratitude for the wonderful moments and achievements that have shaped our school community. It has been a year of growth, discovery, and shared accomplishments, and we are immensely proud of each and every child at Thornhill who has contributed to the vibrant tapestry of Thornhill Primary School over the 2023 academic year.

As we embrace the upcoming Festive Season, let us carry the spirit of unity and enthusiasm into the well-deserved holiday season, cherishing the memories we have made and looking forward to the exciting possibilities that await us in the coming academic year.

## Std 7 Leavers

As we approach the end of another academic year, it is with mixed emotions that I bid farewell to our incredible Std 7 year group. This transition marks a significant milestone in their educational journey, as they embark on the exciting adventure of secondary school.

To our wonderful Std 7 children, the time has come to bid adieu to our wonderful primary school leavers, who have filled our hallways with laughter, curiosity, and a genuine love for learning. Your time at Thornhill has left an indelible mark on our community, and we are immensely proud of the individuals you have become.

Thank you for your creativity, kindness, and the positive energy you brought to every corner of our school. As you venture into the next chapter of your educational journey, remember that you carry with you the support and well-wishes of the entire Thornhill community. Embrace the challenges, celebrate your successes, and never stop reaching for the stars.

Wishing each of you a bright and successful future. May your secondary school years be filled with exciting discoveries, new friendships, and continued personal growth.

## Reception 2024 Orientation

The Reception Orientation Day at Thornhill marked an exciting and pivotal moment as we welcome the new intake of five-year-old pupils. This special event aimed to ease the transition for both the parents and the children, providing them with an opportunity to meet the staff and spend an hour in the upcoming school environment.

When the gates opened on that Tuesday afternoon in November, we observed our group of new Reception children bursting to come through the gates. They confidently stepped into school and offered their names. I was impressed. The parents were just as excited to make their way to the hall to meet Mr Greaves.

Following the introductions, the children had the opportunity to spend time in their new classrooms and with their new teachers. The hands-on experience allowed them to familiarise themselves with the learning environment, fostering a sense of comfort and belonging. During the big group sing along in the Foundation Phase Hall, it was great to observe their love for singing and music and their knowledge of the songs and actions. The group of 80 little children were beaming with confidence and it was definitely heart-warming to observe.

The Reception Orientation Day proved a resounding success, creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere for the new little pupils and their families. It also set the stage for a successful academic year ahead, fostering excitement and anticipation for the educational adventures to come in 2024.

## **Pupil Achievement**

Congratulations and well done to Leruo Bakwena who attended the Bulawayo Amateur Swimming Association Senior Championship 2023 in Bulawayo recently. He was registered for ten races and he brought back ten gold medals. He also won trophies for the 200m Backstroke, 200m Breaststroke, 100m Fly, 50m Breaststroke, 50m freestyle and Victor Ludorum for his age group

## **Staffing 2024**

We bid farewell to Mrs Petkar who will be leaving Thornhill to further her financial studies next year. Mrs Petkar has been committed to our Std 3 year group for a number of years and she has dedicated herself to our children and I would like to thank her for her wonderful contribution to Thornhill.

The Pereira sisters will be relocating to Australia at the end of the year as they are going to further their teaching careers. I would like to wish them all the very best as they make this exciting and memorable change. They have been totally committed and dedicated to our Std 1 and 2 children who have made their way through the school.

To all those leaving we wish you well and we trust that you take a little of 'Thornhill' with you.

Please note that we have made the following additional placements to our academic team for January, 2024:

Mrs Heleen Koch and Mrs Nicole de Beer join our Std 1 team, so therefore making four Std 1 classes. Mrs Nikita van Wyk joins our Std 4 team.

The following internal placements take place:

Mrs Deandra Williams joins our Std 2 team.  
Mrs Belinda Scales will move to join the Std 3 team.


We wish all those joining us or moving internally good luck and we look forward to a wonderful 2024 academic year.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful December break and a New Year filled with good health, happiness, and prosperity.

**I Greaves**

Headteacher

# Foundation Nativity



In a heartwarming celebration of the festive season, the Foundation Phase students dazzled their parents with a spectacular nativity play held by the school pool on a picturesque evening. The enchanting performance unfolded against the backdrop of a setting sun, creating a magical atmosphere that complemented the joyous spirit of the occasion. Parents eagerly gathered to witness their little stars bring the Christmas story to life through charming costumes, spirited singing, and endearing acting.

The young actors, with beaming smiles and a sense of excitement, delivered a wonderful portrayal of the Nativity story, captivating the audience with their enthusiasm and creativity. Laughter, applause, leaving everyone with cherished memories of a delightful evening.

A huge thank you to our Mums and Dads for being a great sport and joining in with our choir.

# Annual Prize Giving 2023



**Thornhill** Primary School

Amidst a feeling of excitement and pride we held our annual Prize Giving Ceremony on Wednesday, 29 November. Parents, teachers and eager pupils filled the hall, marking a morning to honour dedication, perseverance and outstanding academic achievement in 2023.

Special mention must be made of the following pupils who scored an average of above 80% and received merit awards.

## **Standard 6:**

Ayanda Orapeleng  
James Cloete  
Kaia Coyne  
Olivia Pearce  
Reneilwe Mokgosi  
Suraj Dev Mudili  
Ayanda Luhanga  
Goutham Suresh Babu  
Miles Arthey  
Caitlyn Robertson  
Huzeifa Kala  
Liyah Blumin  
Rania Modarrisi


## **Standard 7:**

Bianke van Staden  
Reneilwe Kebonang  
Daniel Kemp  
Nina Luhanga  
Raeesa Hoosan  
Fariha Patel  
Mengjing Gu  
Suhail Dellow

Further to this congratulations to our major prize winners as follows:

Sportswoman of the Year - Diané Van Dyk  
Sportsman of the Year - Rory Walsh  
The Warwick Trophy - First place in Std 6: Rania Modarrisi  
Runner Up to Dux - Second place in Standard 7: Suhail Dellow  
Dillon Petyt Trophy for Dux - First place in Std 7: Nina Luhanga  
Headmaster's award - Bainke van Staden for Music Excellence  
The Greaves Fellowship Trophy - Diané Van Dyk  
Bruce Blewett Trophy - Bianke van Staden

# Std 4 Egypt Day



With the heat of the day matching that of the Sahara Desert, it definitely felt like we had been transported back to Ancient Egypt. All the children were dressed to the nines with many little Pharaoh's and Cleopatra's running around.

The highly anticipated day was eagerly prepared for by the children and they could not wait to show their parents and the rest of the school what they had learnt about Egypt. The Std 4 area was scattered with plenty of interactive stalls that had the youngest Reception children to the oldest Std 7 engaged in the different presentations. Lovely art pieces created by the children decorated the walls and the day culminated in the children enjoying some delicious Egyptian inspired cupcakes.

Thank you to the parents for joining us to make this such a wonderful learning experience for our children and your all your continued support throughout the year.

# Std 6 Concert



On Thursday, 9 November, the Std 6 children treated us to a musical extravaganza! The very proud parents were left in awe at the amazing performances from these extremely talented young musicians and dancers. The various musical instruments were played with such harmonious clarity, the songs were sung with passion and emotion and the dancers exploded onto the stage with so much zest and rhythm.

Liyah certainly had audiences rockin' and rollin' with her superb rendition of the Cha-cha mix No 033, whilst Surajdev had all the "Bollywood Moves," with a very rhythmic Indian Dance routine. The audience really stomped their feet to Rap Trio of Tawanda, Lorako and Enele, as they gave an excellent performance, titled Destination.

# Std 5 Camp

## Before Camp:

The Std 5 children set off for camp Tantebane in Tsamaya, early Monday morning. They had so many questions and were quite nervous prior to embarking on this exciting camp for three nights.

## The Journey:

There was singing on the bus, snacks and by the time we had gone past Mahalapye, the bus was very quiet as some of the pupils were sound asleep. On the final stretch of the journey into the camp we immediately spotted some zebras, waterbuck and giraffes. A welcome sighting.

## Activities at Tantebane:

The instructors immediately took over and had the students accustomed to the camp rules and regulations in order for some safe and exciting times. The learners had their first activities and later went for lunch. Activities carried on after the lunch. Dinner time came and passed and the students happily went to bed. There were enviro lessons, bundu walks, mud sculptures, rafting on the lake and game drives. Our final night, the students enjoyed a talent show and bonfire where they told stories, sang and reflected on their time at camp.

The children absolutely loved camp and are looking forward to similar experiences at Thornhill in the future.





# Std 6 Camp

Tantebane Camp 2023, was a special way to end the year. At 6 am on the 19 November, the school car park was a hive of activity as excited children waved their goodbyes to the equally excited parents! The camp took the children outside of their comfort zone through a highly organised activity programme which challenged all the children. These activities required both teamwork and leadership skills.

In the four days while we were there the children conquered the obstacle course, built their own rafts which needed to keep the participants afloat for at least five minutes, played a very entertaining game called water balloon volleyball and completed a camouflage exercise that required children to cover themselves in mud and hide. They did nature walks and went on game drives which they all thoroughly enjoyed. Perhaps the highlight of the week was the fishing. Most children had never baited a hook or even caught a fish. Every child caught a fish and no matter how big or small the look on their faces painted a thousand words!

Their cooking skills were put to the test when the children barbecued their own meat. That evening was filled with the aromas of the various cooking styles and the chatter of excited children.

The camp facilitators were absolutely brilliant and were very popular amongst everyone. The trip home, on the 23rd November, was relatively quiet. Sleeping children, a sign of a week well enjoyed.



# Std 3 French Breakfast



The Std 3 children concluded their year with one last event, French breakfast. They came to school all dressed in French clothing or wearing the colours of the French flag. The morning started off with a fun hour on the field playing traditional French games.

We continued to explore more of the French culture by having popular French foods. They enjoyed the cheese tasting, followed by orange juice and croissants. Their creativity was put to the test when they were asked to construct, in groups of four, the Eiffel tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. The end results were spectacular. It was a fun-filled day enjoyed by all.

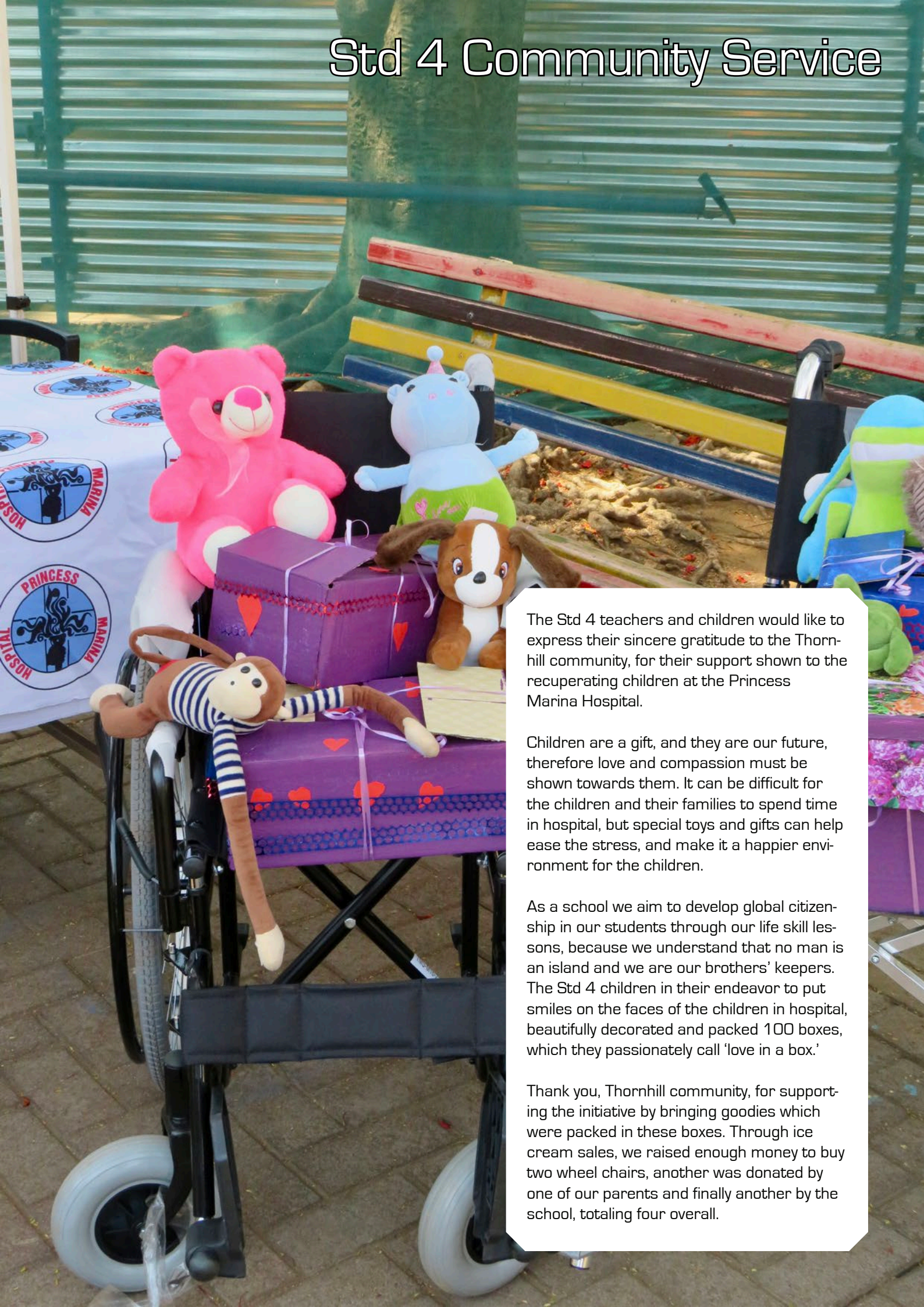
This is what some children had to say about their day:

'The best part of the day was building the Eiffel tower with my group.'  
Dominik

'I enjoyed playing the French games and learning new words in French.'  
Layla

'I enjoyed tasting the different cheeses and it was interesting to learn how cheese was made.'  
Shivonne

# Std 4 Community Service




The Std 4 teachers and children would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Thornhill community, for their support shown to the recuperating children at the Princess Marina Hospital.

Children are a gift, and they are our future, therefore love and compassion must be shown towards them. It can be difficult for the children and their families to spend time in hospital, but special toys and gifts can help ease the stress, and make it a happier environment for the children.

As a school we aim to develop global citizenship in our students through our life skill lessons, because we understand that no man is an island and we are our brothers' keepers. The Std 4 children in their endeavor to put smiles on the faces of the children in hospital, beautifully decorated and packed 100 boxes, which they passionately call 'love in a box.'

Thank you, Thornhill community, for supporting the initiative by bringing goodies which were packed in these boxes. Through ice cream sales, we raised enough money to buy two wheel chairs, another was donated by one of our parents and finally another by the school, totaling four overall.

# Std 7 Camp Nelu



In the heart of Bela Bela, where the wild whispers of adventure beckon, 63 enthusiastic Std 7 students embarked on a journey to Zwartkloof Game Reserve for a camp that would redefine their idea of 'wild fun.' Cheering erupted with every wrong entrance the bus took, transforming navigation mishaps into unintentional moments of comedic celebration.

Activities such as wall climbing, scaling the heights, these young mountaineers quickly learned that legs were the unsung heroes of conquering vertical challenges. They continued on with a culinary battleground that Gordon

Ramsay would envy. Armed with spatulas and determination, these budding chefs faced off in a cook-off. Archery followed, the twang of bowstrings resonated through the camp, creating a melody that echoed the victorious spirit of arrows finding their mark, or just flying past the camp guides, past the fence, into the bush.

Then came the seemingly impossible water problems. As if that was not enough, the grand finale awaited - the muddy obstacle course. Picture this: a landscape reminiscent of a chocolate fondue fountain, minus the strawberries. Mud, the great equaliser, turned the campers into champions of the muck. It was an obstacle course that left them resembling walking abstract art, splattered with earthy hues of adventure. Some of the campers may argue, the real main event unfolded at the predator park, where rare tigers and felines greeted them with a theatrical flair.

As the bus rolled away from the reserve, it carried not just tired bodies, but hearts brimming with tales of adventure, laughter, and the majestic roars that echoed in the wilderness. The Std 7 camp was not just a trip; it was a whirlwind of laughter, muddy mayhem, and triumphs that will be recounted with chuckles for years to come.

# Swimming

A close-up photograph of a swimmer in a pool. The swimmer is wearing a bright green swim cap and goggles with a pink strap. Their mouth is open, and they appear to be in the middle of a stroke. Water is splashing around their head and arms, creating a dynamic and energetic scene. The background is a clear, light blue color, suggesting an outdoor pool setting.

Week 10 was an exceptionally busy week with three galas taking place. The individual championship gala took place on Monday, 13 November. There was some excellent swimming during the morning with seventeen records being broken. The age group champions were as follows:

U8: Clementine Sautereau and Ruben Jacobs

U9: Kaylin De Jager and Joshua Xavier

U10: Jade Chilisa and Ewan De Beer

U11: Carmen Brasem and Joash Kurewa

U12: Stephanie Kadzirange and Leruo Bakwena

U13: Diane Van Dyk & Rory Walsh

On Tuesday, 14 November, the Inter Schools Relay Gala took place at Thornhill. Thornhill swam an A and a B team against Westwood and Northside. Our swimmers swam very well.

Our A team came first and our B team came third. Well done to all our fantastic swimmers.

Our last gala of the week was our final team gala – Pirates vs Sharks. There was a wonderful atmosphere at the pool and the swimming was outstanding with some very close finishes. The Pirates just managed to clinch a win in the last event of the evening. Well done to all the swimmers on an excellent season in the pool.



The Inter Schools tournament was well attended by six schools – Thornhill, Baobab, Northside, Tlokweng Dayspring, Rainbow and Legae. Players had great exposure to the game. They all enjoyed it and for most, it was their very first inter schools tournament.

The results were as follows:

Boys A: Thiwa Coyne - 2nd  
Boys B: Tema Malumo - 1st  
Girls A: Reene Sebego - 1st  
Girls B: Aone Makgosana - 1st.

Well done to the all who participated. It was also great to see parents who stayed the whole morning to support.

The U13 Inter School Development Tennis tournaments were brought back after many years. Schools that took part were Northside, Legae, Tlokweng Dayspring, Rainbow, Baobab and Thornhill School.

Congratulations to our Thornhill players who played in this tournament, gaining valuable experience.

Well done to Kaia Coyne who came second overall, in the Girls section, and to Surajdev Mudili, who came third in the U13 Boys' section.

On Saturday, 24 November, a group of courageous U9 children participated in their first ever tennis tournament. The tournament followed a round-robin format with tie-breaker scoring. Thornhill showed incredible enthusiasm as they arrived first, eager and ready to compete. Despite the scorching heat, our players remained undeterred. As the games commenced, initial nerves swiftly gave way to infectious excitement. Witnessing their enjoyment, irrespective of match outcomes, was truly heartwarming. Well done to all the players who took part in the tournament.

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Thornhill ICT Department



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