

Issue 104 February 02 2024

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

Welcome to all our Thornhill families to our first eNewsletter of the 2024 academic year. As we embark on this new chapter together, we extend our warmest greetings and heartfelt gratitude for entrusting us with the education and growth of your children. Whether you are joining us for the first time, or returning for another year of partnership and learning, we are thrilled to have you as integral members of our school community.

As we stand on the threshold of a fresh academic year, brimming with endless possibilities, let us unite in our commitment to fostering a nurturing and stimulating environment where every child can thrive and flourish.

House Points Trophy – Term 3 2023

Congratulations to Limpopo who won the Term 3/2023 House Points trophy at the final assembly. They were closely followed by Chobe in second and Notwane and Shashe in third and fourth respectively.

Allister Stewart Trophy for 2023

Chobe were crowned winners of the Allister Stewart Trophy for 2023 – well done and congratulations to all those who contributed in any way during the course of the year. They were followed closely by Limpopo in second place and Shashe and Notwane in third and fourth respectively.

Marimba Band Captains for 2024

Congratulations to Nsha Sebeo who was selected as Band Captain and her Vice-Captain for 2024 is Gabriella Maruping. I trust you will lead by example and have a hugely successful year.

2024 Thornhill Calendars

We still have 2024 calendars on sale (P50) and should you wish to purchase one, or come in and view them, then please see the staff in the administration or finance office for assistance.

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to Tiisetso Motshubi who again participated in the Scottish and British Junior Squash Open tournaments (in the U11 category) during our December break.

Tiisetso performed extremely well, coming third at the Scottish Junior Open and reaching the quarter finals of the British Junior Open, which is the largest junior tournament in the world. An incredible achievement and well done, Tiisetso.

One of our very brave children, Alexa Mckee recently shared with me one of her exhilarating experiences and I have asked her to share it with you.

'During the recent Christmas holidays, I was lucky enough to do a crocodile cage dive at the Cango Wildlife ranch in Oudtshoorn, Western Cape. I have been waiting for ages as I had to be 12 years old or 1.5m tall, well I was 12 before reaching 1.5m.'

'I was very excited when the day arrived and I could not wait. We were the first ones to arrive and I got to go through all the safety measures with my dad (I had to take him along to protect me). We got put into a big cage and lifted up in the air with a crane and was then slowly lowered into a pond, they opened a divider and before I knew it there was an enormous 5-meter Nile crocodile looking straight at me.'

'The most amazing part was being able to be so close to the crocodiles that I could see their toenails.'

They came up right to the cage and bumped their noses on the sides of the cage, it was super exhilarating. When I was done, I got some pictures of my experience and a shirt to prove it!

'I was not scared at all, but boy that water was COLD!! For anyone who is ever in that area, go visit the Cango Wildlife Ranch, they are Amazing, you can cuddle boa's, sit with lemurs, pet baby cheetahs and learn a whole lot about the conservation they do.'

What an incredible experience, Alexa – you have so many tales to tell already and I hope that you have more to come.

Alumni News

Congratulations to Michael Badenhorst who has been selected for the Botswana Cricket Team who recently participated in the ACA Africa Cup Finals, where they finished third overall.

Current Thornhill Pupils and Alumni Achievements:

Please will you keep me informed of any competitions, accolades, or events that your child (present or past children from Thornhill) have taken part in, or achieved well at, so I can share it with staff and on the eNews with the Thornhill community.

Staffing

Welcome to the following staff who have joined our Thornhill team and family for 2024 and I hope that their time with us will be both memorable and exciting:

- Mrs Koch and Mrs de Beer join our Std 1 team.
- Mrs van Wyk joins our Std 4 team.

The following internal placements have also taken place and we wish the staff all the best in their new roles:

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

Their presence brings a wealth of knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm that will undoubtedly contribute to the positive and nurturing learning environment we strive to create for our children at Thornhill.

CIE 2023 results overview:

Cambridge Exams, 2023, saw the Std 6 students, along with others worldwide, become the first children to be examined on the new syllabus. This in itself was a challenge. However, we as teachers are exceptionally proud of the children as they rose to the challenge and through diligence and hard work provided a set of outstanding results. As further proof, to their commendable achievements was the fact, that their marks were considerably higher than the world average. The school and Std 6 teachers are justly proud of them and they are to be congratulated for setting such high standards.

Please note, a separate email has been sent out (last week) to all parents from our Head of Curriculum, Mr Warwick, highlighting the results. I have also sent out an email highlighting our high achievers and the wonderful results received by the year group as a whole.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Holiday Upgrades

An aerial photograph of a school campus. The buildings have green corrugated metal roofs. Large arrays of solar panels are installed on several of the roofs. The campus is surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. There are some outdoor seating areas with green umbrellas. A white van is parked on the right side of the image.

We are happy to update parents on the following upgrades that took place during the past holiday:

- Upgrade and creation of a fourth Std 1 classroom.
- Upgrade and new toilets for the HMM Hall and our Std 7 year group.
- New ClearVu fencing around the swimming pool area.
- The installation of solar panels, which will be commissioned shortly.
- General painting of classrooms and buildings.
- Installation and upgrade to our CCTV cameras.
- Rebranding of our school busses.

Reception 2024 New Arrivals

Our new Reception intake for 2024 started their Primary School journey on Wednesday, 17 January. Wide eyed Thornhill Legends looked the part in their new school uniforms, ready for a busy day. After a quick introduction to the various Reception classes, the children enjoyed discovering the playground equipment, where they were very excited to meet their friends from nursery school. A quick, early morning snack, followed by more playtime was a lovely treat for all. We look forward to a fun filled year, making special memories with our new Reception children.



Reception Bell Ringing

Reception 2024 pupils ring the bell: On the first Friday of term, our Reception children met with the Std 7 pupils in an assembly. It marked a significant milestone in fostering a sense of community and camaraderie within the school.

The purpose of this assembly was to formally introduce the newest members to the Thornhill family, emphasizing the importance of unity and shared responsibility. The assembly commenced with both year groups gathering in the Foundation Phase Hall. The atmosphere was charged with interest and curiosity, as the older and younger filled the hall. It began with each year group singing a familiar song, and the little ones displayed their innate love of singing. The Std 7 pupils sang the school song 'We are happy children' reinforcing a shared identity and instilling a sense of pride in being part of the Thornhill community. The singing echoed the school values and traditions.

To symbolize the commencement of their 8-year long journey at Thornhill Primary School, a unique activity was introduced - the ringing of the bell. This activity holds great symbolic value, signifying the beginning of a new academic adventure. Each Std 7 pupil was paired with a Reception child, fostering a mentorship dynamic aimed at making the younger pupils feel supported and welcomed. They patiently guided their Reception 'buddy' out of the hall and each little pupil rang the bell. The bell ringing activity provided a truly memorable initiation for Reception 2024 pupils. We warmly welcomed them to "Team Thornhill", and wish their years be fruitful, fun and memorable.



News from the Library




Welcome to 2024 in our newly refurbished Library.

Join us in fostering a love for reading. Our library is a haven for young minds to explore the world of literature and here amidst our shelves, Thornhill pupils can embark on countless adventures, unlocking doors to imagination and discovery. Our Library is not just a space filled with books, it's a place where stories come alive; where parents and pupils can be part of a literary journey, embracing curiosity and discovering the magic in books. We encourage you to spend time with your child in this cozy environment reading and browsing together.

Pupils from Std 2 upwards have the opportunity of borrowing books during their Library lessons and parents of Reception, Std 1 and Std 2 pupils are welcome to come into our Library between 12h30 and 13h00 Mondays to Thursdays to read and borrow books. Standards 3 to 7 have a specified day of the week in which they may come to the Library at break times too and we encourage you to use this opportunity to its fullest.

Std 6 Community Service



The beginning of the school term for Std 6 students was marked by an inspiring and impactful venture into the community. In a heartwarming display of compassion and commitment, the Std 6 students recently engaged with young learners from St Peter's preschool. St Peter's is one of the community service projects the Std 6's will be engaged with this year and will be visiting termly to play and interact with the children there. The students were accompanied by Mrs Scales, Mrs Moremi and Miss Michael to take some yummy snacks, puzzles, books, markers and new eating utensils. On the bus ride back to school the students took a moment to reflect on their experiences, expressing a newfound appreciation for the impact they can have on the lives of the children. Many shared stories of connecting on a personal level to some children and even how they taught them new football skills and singing new songs.

This experience definitely left an indelible mark on the students, imparting valuable lessons about appreciating what they have in life. Students learned that every small effort made to actively interact with the children, created lasting memories.

The Std 6 community service initiative is aimed to instil a sense of social responsibility and civic duty in the young minds of the Std 6 students. A huge thanks goes to Mrs Whitfield for always being the backbone of the Std 6 community service campaign.

Trinity College Music Exams

A group of children in green school uniforms are playing recorders. They are sitting in rows, and the focus is on the children in the foreground. The background is slightly blurred, showing more children and their recorders. The overall atmosphere is one of a school music ensemble.

The Trinity Digital Music Exams are a very exciting innovation and I am very pleased with the outcome so far. With the help of the music teachers, the children recorded their exam recitals in the school, thereafter, we submitted the recordings to Trinity College London for grading.

The standard expected for these exams is extremely high and to achieve a pass, you must obtain 60 to 74 %, to achieve a Merit your mark must be between 75 and 86% and a Distinction is 87% and above. Well done to everyone involved in these exams – the Music Department is exceptionally proud of them.

The results were as follows:

Initial:

Seneo Moampe Initial Violin - Distinction

Hala Kina Initial Violin - Merit

Reneilwe Kebonang Initial Piano - Merit

Grade 1:

Nsha Sebege Grade 1 Recorder - Distinction

Ayanda Luhanga Grade 1 Recorder - Distinction

Zhenghao Li Grade 1 Violin - Distinction

Leo-Marius Kamwi Grade 1 Recorder - Distinction

Grade 2:

Masa Merafhe Grade 2 Piano - Distinction

Grade 3:

Liseli Kamwi Grade 3 Recorder - Merit

Nina Luhanga Grade 3 Recorder - Distinction

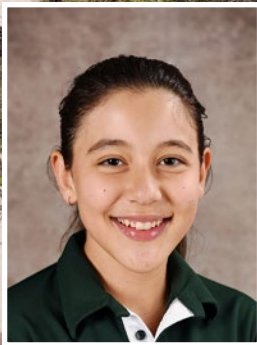
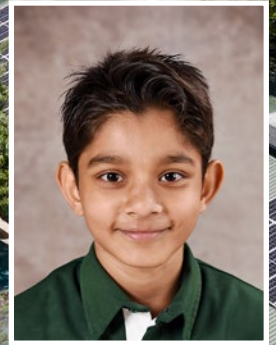
In closing, I hope that your child has the most amazing and special term ahead filled with many happy memories.

'You're off to great places. Today is your day, your mountain is waiting, so get on your way.'

2024 Prefects

At our final assembly last year, prefects for 2024 were announced and I would like to congratulate the following children and wish them all the very best, as they take on their new leadership role:

Ayanda Luhanga
Ella Klein
Gabiella Maruping
Miles Arthey
Nathan Pieterse
Kaia Coyne
Tawanda Graves
Lorako Mokgosana
Reneilwe Mogosi
Olivia Pearce
Liyah Blumin
Huzeifa Kala
Melodi Mosinyi
Caitlyn Robertson
Nsha Sebeo
Penelope Tabulawa



SAFE DISCOVER HONESTY
POSSIBLE KINDNESS
CORNHILL
ACHIEVE LEARN

February 02 2024
Thornhill ICT Department



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