

Issue 105 March 06 2024

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

I hope this message finds you well-rested and rejuvenated after the mid-term break. As we embark on this second half of the term, I trust that your child will enjoy a full and exciting programme.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to our incredible staff for their dedication and hard work. Your commitment to our children and their learning and well-being is truly commendable, and I am continually inspired by your passion and resilience.

To our children, I hope you had a fantastic break and are ready to dive back into learning. Remember, each day is an opportunity for growth and discovery, and I encourage you to approach each lesson with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Parents, your support and partnership are invaluable to us. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children. We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment, where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

As we resume our academic journey, let us continue to uphold our school values of respect, resilience, and responsibility. Let us also remember to be mindful of our health and I would urge you to keep any sick children at home.

I encourage you all to stay updated with our school's communications and actively participate in these activities. Once again, welcome back and let us make this second half of the term a period of growth, exploration, and success for all.

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to Oliver Wellman who entered the AKC (African Karting Cup) in South Africa recently. The Event had drivers from Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia and South Africa and we would like to congratulate Oliver on his participation.

Congratulations to Filip Birsan who was selected to represent Botswana in the recent International Blix-A-Thon Robotics Competition 2024. We are extremely proud of his achievements.

Our congratulations also go to Tiisetso Motshubi who has continued to show excellent form in her squash. As already communicated, Tiisetso continues to take part in inter-provincial tournaments in South Africa, where she is participating in the U16 age group category, even though she is still U11.

Also, the Garcin triplets (Chloe, Declan and Joshua) who have also been actively involved in squash and are really performing well in the various competitions in South Africa.

Staff News

It is with great sadness that I have to notify you that Mr Warwick will be leaving Thornhill at the end of Term 2. Mr and Mrs Warwick will both be leaving Botswana after dedicating themselves to education for over twenty years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Warwick for his dedication, commitment and outstanding service to Thornhill over the years. He will be sorely missed, but we look forward to the next couple of months before he relocates.

Std 6 Cake Sale

'You can't buy happiness, you can buy cupcakes and that's kinda the same thing!'

Children, parents, and staff eagerly contributed their baking skills, resulting in a mouthwatering array of cakes, cookies, brownies, and other delightful confections. Thanks to the generosity and support of

everyone, the cake sale surpassed all expectations, raising P10 000 for St Peters, AAP and African Haven in Old Naledi. As the last crumbs of cake were savoured and the event came to a close, there was a sense of satisfaction knowing that each slice served had made a difference in someone's life. The success of the cake sale serves as a testament to the power of collective action and the generosity of the human spirit within Thornhill. The ethos of it all: It's not just about satisfying sweet cravings; it's about making a difference and fostering a spirit of generosity and compassion among all involved.

French DELF Results 2024

Our French students from Std 5, 6 and 7 proved themselves once again at the international level when they sat for the International Delf Examination, which is set by the Ministry of Education in France.

Thornhill had a total of 45 candidates in the October, 2023 series. 20 candidates wrote the A1.1 level, 20 candidates wrote the A1 level and 5 candidates wrote the A2 exam level. We congratulate our candidates for their interest and tenacity in mastering and improving their skills over and above the school French syllabus. The A1.1 and A1 level had an average of above 80%.

Hats off to those Std 7 children, who continued to the Delf Prim A2, which is the highest and most challenging language level at this age group. This preparation required focus and dedication. Our congratulations go to Mengjing Qu, Raeesa Hoosan, Bianke Van Staden and Raymond Lee on their tremendous achievements. We look forward to more great news as this year's exams take place in November. Bonne chance, bon courage et bonne continuation.

News from Std 1

The 2024 Std 1 year started off very differently this year as, much to our delight, we now have four Std 1 classes, as well as two new teachers.

Ms Marais and I are thrilled to be working with the two new teachers, Mrs De Beer (1D) and Mrs Koch (1K). They are hardworking and very competent additions to the Std 1 team. They have 'hit the ground running' as at Thornhill we don't wind up slowly – we jump on the treadmill and we run and run! Both are enjoying the challenge.

Much to their amazement the children have learned quickly that they only have one 'outside play time' which means that they are now much more formally engaged in their classrooms, which has been a big adjustment for them. They have met the new challenges head on although they have felt and looked like wilted flowers by the end of some days. I suspect that they are exhausted and sleeping well.

It will be even busier for us now after mid-term as we are heading into our annual Concert practices, so as to be ready for the performances at the end of the term.

Std 4 Life Saving Presentation

Our Std 4 children were excited to interact with a Lifesaving facilitator. Ishmail Chandis a former Thornhill student who came to present Life Saving skills, as well as water safety advice.

He used interactive aids and resources, which were well received and enjoyed by the children. There was a lot of interaction, as the children learnt about water safety rules and techniques to prevent injuries and drowning in both the swimming pool and in nature.

The presentation was short and to the point, but incredibly effective and fondly remembered by the children.

House Captains 2024

Congratulations to the following children who have been selected as House Captains for 2024:



Shashe House

Captain: Olivia Pearce

Vice-Captain: Leila Dibotelo



Chobe House

Captain: Tawanda Graves

Vice-Captain: Nekutenda Kambarami



Notwane House

Captain: Liyah Blumin

Vice-Captain: Lorako Mokgosana



Limpopo House

Captain: Jaden Moskovic

Vice-Captain: Penelope Tabulawa

I would like to wish the above children all the best for their duties that lie ahead this year.

And finally, to finish off I have kept some wonderful work (a Valentine's Day Poem) presented Caitlyn Robertson in Std 7S:

When I imagine love, I think not
Of plump pink hearts and blood red roses,
Or tiny shiny boxes, and store bought cards.

I think of early morning wake-ups with a song,
Of patience and hugs when life is just too much,
I'll sit with you no matter how long.
No words, no time, just however long it takes.

I think of happy tears and sad smiles,
I see YOU, and your beautiful soul.
Of wildflowers picked by tiny hands and displayed with pride.
Of illegible scribbles... completely understood.

I see my parents' eyes and feel my siblings hands,
I hear quarrels mixed with care,
I taste cold watermelon and hot sweet tea,
I feel... LOVE!

I wish you all a wonderful March and April and I look forward to seeing you at the many events that are evident throughout the term. I leave you with these words from Franklin D. Roosevelt:

'The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.'

I Greaves

Headteacher

News from Std 5


Std 5 is always an exciting year for both the children and their parents - another year of growth, independence, self-reliance and tackling new concepts. Active parent involvement is a key part of our year and so far, the parents have experienced a few moments where their hands-on contribution to their children's learning has been summoned: In line with our English writing lessons, parents had to sit with their children and tell them fables from their own childhood.

This activity was well embraced and many parents enjoyed travelling down memory lane to the days when they would sit with their grandparents and listen to different fables. This not only helped the children with their writing, but was also an opportunity for their families to sit together and engage in conversation - something that is key to the children's language development and creativity skills.

When learning about seeds and seed dispersal in Science, families were yet again requested to take a walk into a bushy area with their children and see how seeds with spines and hooks attach to human clothes. The children had to wear socks over their shoes. Most of the children who participated shared how they not only enjoyed searching for seeds and studying them, but also, the time shared with their parents outside of the home environment.



Std 3 Roald Dahl Day



Std 3 kicked off half term with a burst of excitement as our Std 3 children celebrated the wonderful world of Roald Dahl on Thursday, 22 February. We have been covering snippets of his writing during our English lessons, so it only seemed fitting to celebrate Roald Dahl Day to end off the unit.

The corridors buzzed with excitement as children arrived dressed in costumes inspired by Dahl's iconic characters with a firm favourite being Matilda. The effort that went into their costumes was so wonderful to witness. Std 3 took inspiration from Roald Dahl's book "The BFG", and the children got to 'catch' their own dream in a dream jar.

The day seemed to have sparked an interest in many of the children to read some of Roald Dahl's books. The celebration not only marked a joyful start to the half term, but also reminded us that with imagination, anything is possible.



U9 cricketers have started their season off exceptionally well and although this is a young team, they have certainly acquitted themselves well at the beginning of the season.

Thornhill versus Broadhurst:

Thornhill 157
(Harry 22* and Jan Willem 20*)
Broadhurst 43
(Jan Willem 3 wkts for 4 runs)
Thornhill won by 114 runs

Thornhill versus Baobab:

Thornhill 165
(Vidyuth 50* and Harry 17*)
Baobab 31
(Udhman 3 wkts for 1, Eduard 1 wkt for 1 run)
Thornhill won by 134 runs

The Under 11 cricket team have made a good start to the season winning both of their opening matches. We have a nucleus of good players, so are building the team around them with the aim of improving the overall standard of U11 cricket by giving as many children as possible an opportunity to play.

Thornhill versus Broadhurst:

Thornhill batted first scoring 140 runs for the loss of 1 wicket.
Broadhurst were restricted to 38 for the loss of 8 wickets.
Thornhill won by 102 runs.
Aarush bowled a good line and length and was rewarded by taking 3 wickets for 3 runs

Thornhill versus Baobab:

Baobab batted first scoring 103 runs for the loss of three wickets in their 15 allotted overs. Again Aarush had a good spell of bowling taking 2 wickets for 12 runs.
In reply, Thornhill attacked the Baobab bowling and scored 109 for the loss of 1 wicket in 11 overs so winning by 9 wickets.

More Cricket

The U13 season got off to a great start and the team is practicing hard and this is paying dividends. The team this year is being led by Nathan Pieterse and the team is gelling well. Results to dates are as follows:

Thornhill versus Broadhurst:

Broadhurst - 14 all out

(Kayle 4 wkts for 6 runs and Nathan 2 wkts for 5 runs)

Thornhill - 38 for 1

(Ewan 12*)

Thornhill won by 10 wickets

Thornhill versus Baobab:

Thornhill - 218 for 1

(De Vrye 54*, Nathan 52*, Heinrich 26* and Ibrahim 21*)

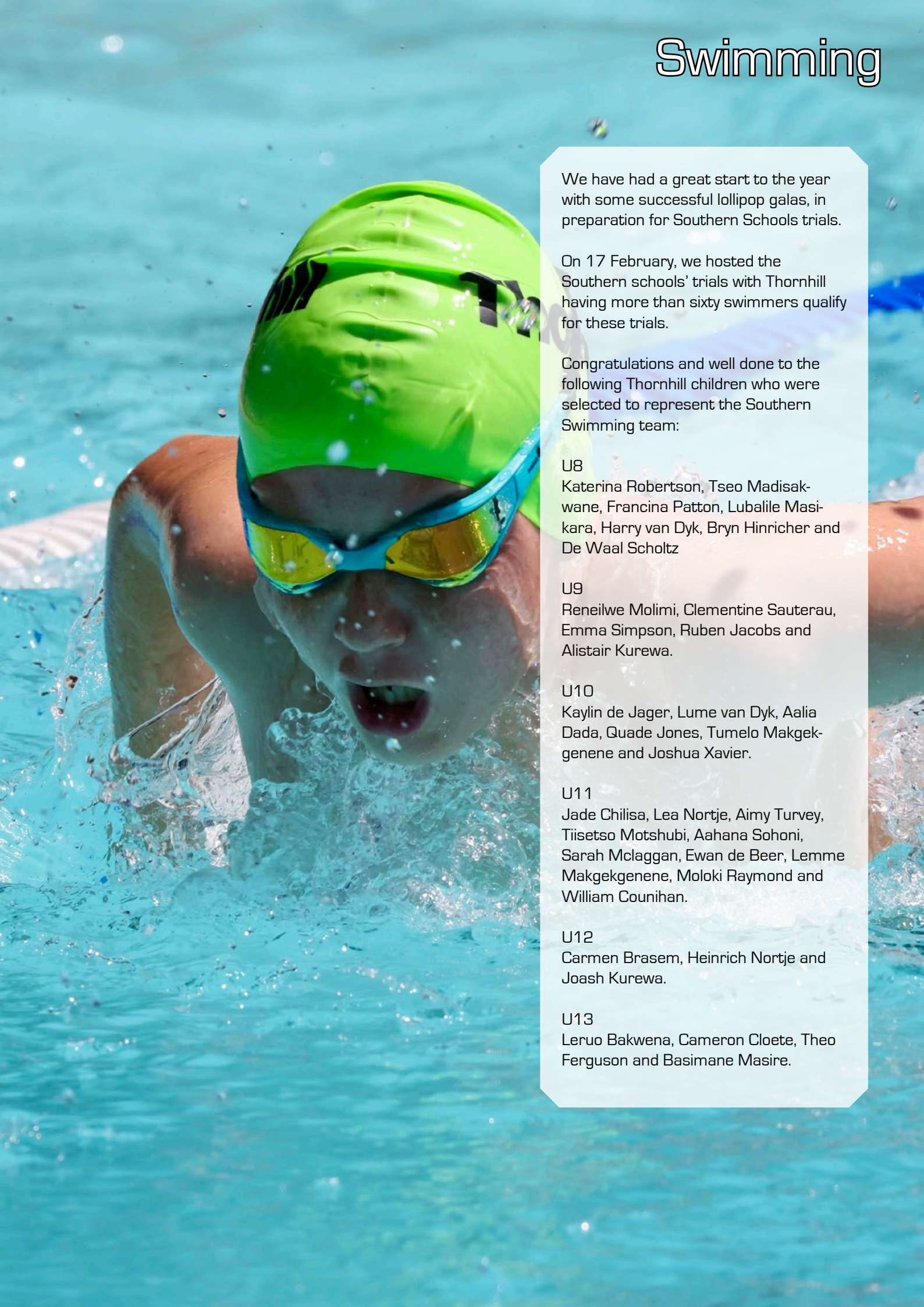
Baobab - 33 all out

(Kayle 5 for 4)

Thornhill won by 185 runs



Swimming



We have had a great start to the year with some successful lollipop galas, in preparation for Southern Schools trials.

On 17 February, we hosted the Southern schools' trials with Thornhill having more than sixty swimmers qualify for these trials.

Congratulations and well done to the following Thornhill children who were selected to represent the Southern Swimming team:

U8

Katerina Robertson, Tseo Madisakwane, Francina Patton, Lubalile Masi-kara, Harry van Dyk, Bryn Hinricher and De Waal Scholtz

U9

Reneilwe Molimi, Clementine Sauterau, Emma Simpson, Ruben Jacobs and Alistair Kurewa.

U10

Kaylin de Jager, Lume van Dyk, Aalia Dada, Quade Jones, Tumelo Makgegenene and Joshua Xavier.

U11

Jade Chilisa, Lea Nortje, Aimy Turvey, Tiisetso Motshubi, Aahana Sohoni, Sarah Mclaggan, Ewan de Beer, Lemme Makgegenene, Moloki Raymond and William Counihan.

U12

Carmen Brasem, Heinrich Nortje and Joash Kurewa.

U13

Leruo Bakwena, Cameron Cloete, Theo Ferguson and Basimane Masire.

Tennis

This term, our tennis team has played three fixtures to date. We started with Baobab and since it was our first match, we unfortunately lost, but only by a slim margin. We then played against Broadhurst and Legae, where we won quite comfortably.

Thornhill also sent eight children to the Southern Schools tennis trials. Four of our players managed to make it through to the second round and our congratulations are extended to: Kaia Coyne, Botho Monthe, Aone Mokgosana and Reene Sebebo.

The second round of trials was tough going and the standard of tennis was very good. Well done and congratulations to Kaia Coyne and Reene Sebebo, who were both selected for the Southern ISAB team to take on their Northern counterparts in March in Gaborone.



Cheerleading



Our children recently attended a cheerleading workshop and this is what Kyara Kenaope (6N) had to report:

'The cheerleading workshop was an amazing experience for all those who attended. We got to meet new people from other schools and also the different school coaches.'

'The coaches from America were so kind and helpful. They showed us their cool tricks and flips. Everyone was shocked and amazed at how they put on a brave face when doing some crazy stunts. They also taught us how to do basic stunts carefully.'

'We loved it when they tried to speak Setswana and were there to help and assist 'them' learn. They loved our amazing cheer routines that we presented from our school, and we got better and better every day. We got to play games like "Simon says" and Mohau in Std 4 won the "Simon says" challenge, even against the coaches.'

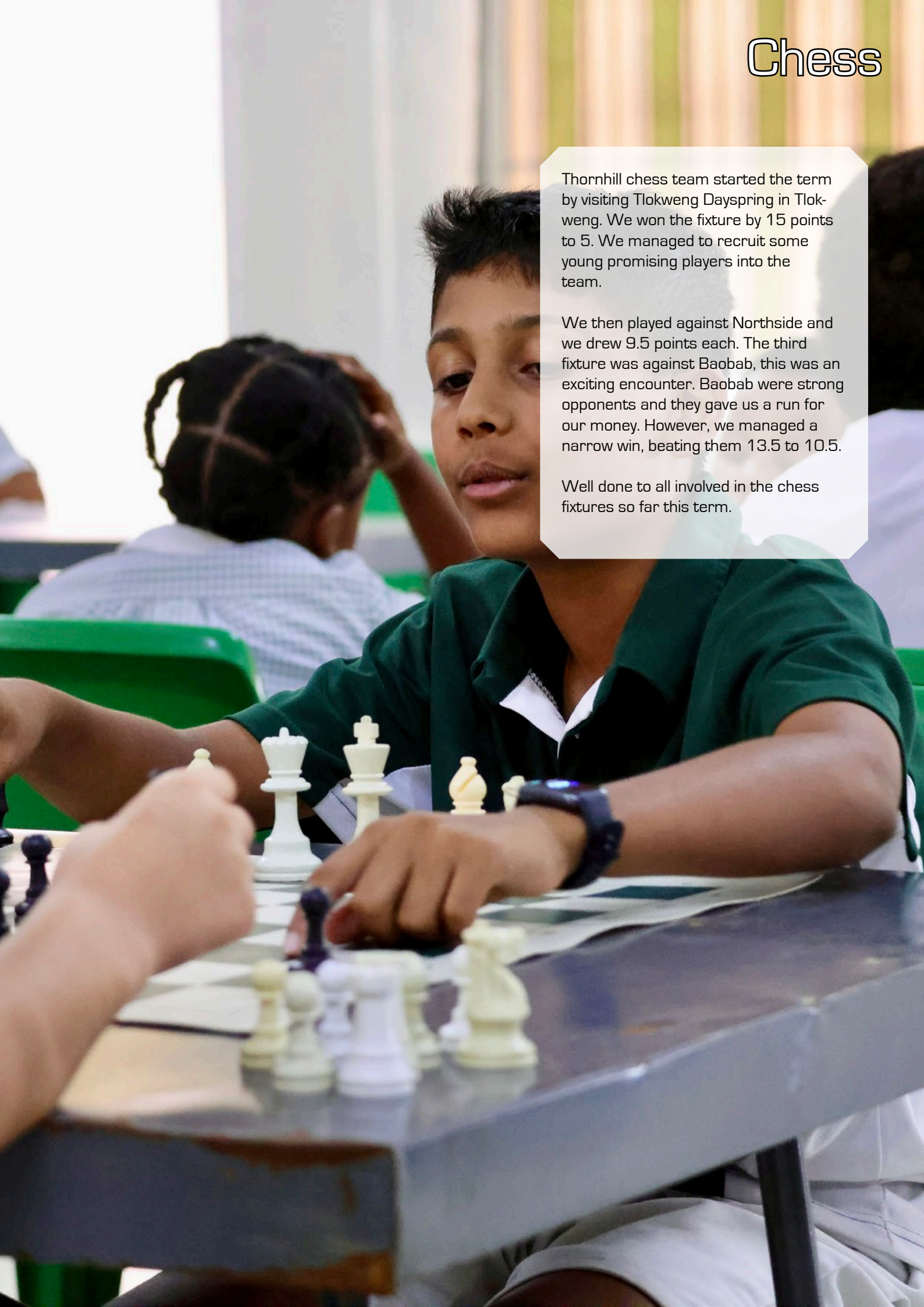
'We felt so happy and proud after the 'Family and Friends' show and our parents were surprised at our new skills. Unfortunately, that was our last day with the 'All America' Cheer and Dance coaches, and we all felt very sad to say goodbye. We took pictures with them because we wanted to keep a memory of this exciting event.'

Chess

Thornhill chess team started the term by visiting Tlokweng Dayspring in Tlokweng. We won the fixture by 15 points to 5. We managed to recruit some young promising players into the team.

We then played against Northside and we drew 9.5 points each. The third fixture was against Baobab, this was an exciting encounter. Baobab were strong opponents and they gave us a run for our money. However, we managed a narrow win, beating them 13.5 to 10.5.

Well done to all involved in the chess fixtures so far this term.



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Thornhill ICT Department



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