

Issue 106 April 11 2024

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

As we bid farewell to Term 1, we are filled with immense gratitude and joy for the incredible journey we have embarked on together. This term has been nothing short of amazing, thanks to the unwavering support and dedication of our remarkable staff, the continuous involvement and trust of our parents, and the boundless enthusiasm and growth of our cherished children. From engaging events to invaluable learning opportunities, every moment has contributed to the vibrant tapestry of experiences that define our school community.

Staffing

We are extremely happy to welcome two new additions to our Thornhill family during the month of March. Ms. Hall (Std 3) gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Finley and Nurse Grace gave birth to a healthy girl, Waishe. We are extremely grateful for these two additions and we wish both families well.

Applications are closed for the Deputy Headteacher vacancy and the relevant interviews will take place. I shall keep everyone updated once a candidate is confirmed.

Std 7 Visit by Capital Bank

On Monday 18 March, various employees of First Capital Bank (including an ex-Thornhill pupil) came to do a presentation for our Std 7 group. This was part of Global Money Week which is a worldwide initiative aimed at promoting financial literacy among young people. The theme for this year's Money Week was "Protect your money, secure your future".

Initially, the children were asked many questions about what they understand about saving and the importance of saving. The speakers were surprised by how many of the children had their own bank accounts. The theme was highlighted by the speakers focusing on the importance of adopting a responsible and informed approach to personal finances by being aware of potential risks in the financial sector and protecting one's hard-earned money.

Games were played to further explain concepts discussed and there was great excitement when various prizes were handed out for participating in the games and giving pertinent answers. There was also an explanation of the difference between saving and investing.

The children benefitted from the hour spent on discussing the theme and we hope that this goes a long way in making them more aware of the importance of saving and being financially literate.

Pupil Achievements

On the 22 February 2024 Leruo Bakwena attended the 18th Botswana National Swimming Championships, which was also an Olympic Qualifying Event. Leruo was registered for 17 Individual races and 4 Relays. He managed to win 17 Gold Medals for all the events he was registered for with a New Record in 1500m Freestyle, swimming it in a time of 21:40,52. He also qualified for SANJ (South African National Junior Championships). In the relays, his team managed to win two golds and two silver medals. Well done to Leruo who was awarded the Victor Ludorum in his age group, as well as the award for, junior champion.

Leruo also qualified to attend a SA Level 3 Swimming Championship in Germiston in South Africa. The competition was tough and Leruo received four gold medals in the 100m butterfly, 50m butterfly, 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke. He received silver in the 50m backstroke.

Congratulations to the following boys who were selected to represent the ISAB Southern Cricket Team:

Nathan Pieterse	De Vrye van Dyk
Heinrich Nortje	Kayle Marais
Ibrahim Sheik	Joshua Garcin
Ewan de Beer	

Pre-Primary Workshop

A very informative and constructive afternoon was had working with the Nursery school teachers from various schools in Gaborone. The Thornhill teachers split into 3 stations, sharing and exchanging ideas and working together to get our little people ready for big school.

The groups comprised of Letters and Sounds introduction, Fine motor activities and Gross motor activities. A productive afternoon was had by all and teachers left with confidence in that we all striving for the correct goals for pre-school children.

International Maths Day

Every year on 14 March the world comes together to celebrate International Maths Day, a day dedicated to appreciating the beauty and importance of Mathematics in our lives. This was not any different to Thornhill Primary as learners were given the opportunity to engage in exciting and interactive activities that not only enhanced their mathematical skills but also fostered a love for the subject.

From fun games to challenging puzzles, the Thornhill teachers used various strategies to make Maths enjoyable to all students. Learners had the opportunity to play four in a corner and have fun while practicing their time tables. The whole school had inter-house bonds and tables and the children worked very hard to earn points for their particular houses. Teachers shared interesting Maths facts and the children were amazed at some of these facts.

Letters and Sounds Presentation to our Reception Parents:

The Reception Parents participated in the Literacy meeting, eager to receive ideas and information to support their Reception children. Building a solid, transparent relationship between school, teacher and parent, from the onset, ensures a strong support for learning from the Foundation Phase to the end of the school career.

The importance of language and the fine-tuned listening skills were discussed. To support our teaching of reading, the Letters and Sounds multi-sensory phonic programme was presented in the six phases and highlighting the principles of high-quality phonic teaching. Our well-resourced school library will be the support and treasure this year to fill their lives with good books.

The Reception teachers shared the plan for the year and some fun activities that could be played at home to support the programme, impressing on mums and dads to ensure that all the activities are relaxed, focused and fun, fun, fun!

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating break ahead, filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones. I leave you with these words:

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
Dr Seuss.

I Greaves
Headteacher

Std 3 Recorder Workshop

The Music Department had its annual Std 3 recorder workshop, which took place from 5 February to 7 February. It was 3 days of fun for the children and the parents. The objective of the workshop was to highlight the importance of recorder playing. Some selected Std 6 and 7 pupils came on board to demonstrate their skills and to inspire their juniors.

On the last day of the workshop, parents and their children displayed what they had learnt over the three days. The mass recorder playing sounded great, all the squeaky notes were suddenly fixed. Even the parents played a tune and entertained us with some drumming.

Here is what some children had to say about the workshop:

'We learnt so much over the three days. We even had some Std 6 and Std 7 children who were helping us. I think our parents had fun too. They even got to play the recorder. We ended off with a little concert where we got to play all the songs we learnt.' Riley Gibson 3H.

'My favourite thing about the music workshop was working with the Std 6 and 7 children and the drumming. My favourite songs were. 'B A Dood and B Really Groovy.' B Groovy was way too easy and I'm still working on the other song (Two at twilight). I'm hoping to play other instruments like the guitar, piano, flute and marimbas.' Leru Matilo 3J.

'The recorder workshop was thrilling and exciting, I enjoyed it very much. I liked going to all the Music Teachers. Learning the notes with the parents was fun and having them play and watch us play was the best.' Teagan Strugnell 3S.



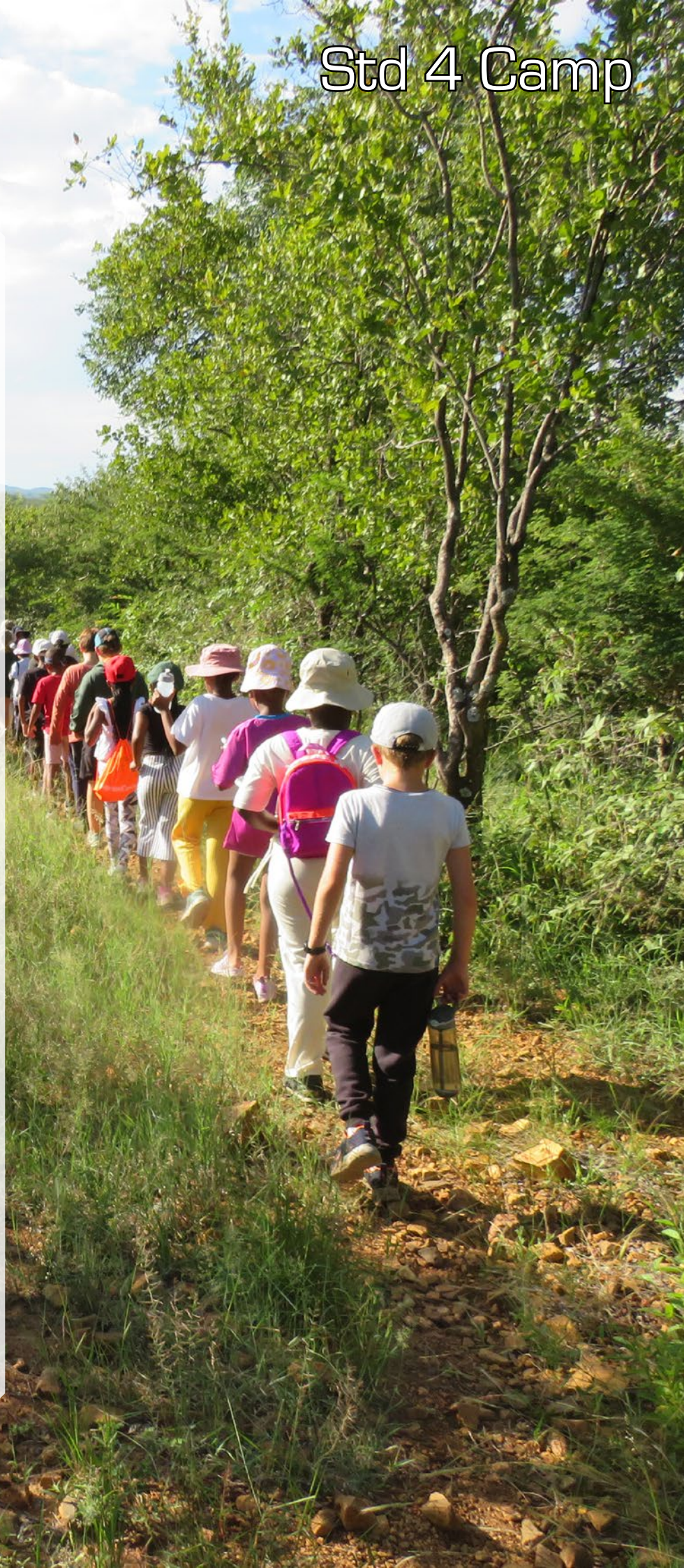
Std 4 Camp

As soon as the children were aware of their trip, the countdown began. From getting onto the buses at school, to leaving on the final morning, the children thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. Here are some accounts from the camp:

'We went to Mokolodi on Monday 18 March. We studied ecology and made food chains and food webs. We even did an aquatic study. We learnt about the 5 most dangerous snakes in Botswana and the whole class held a snake. We practiced our survival skills by going on a nature walk and climbing a hill. The next day, it was Faizaan's birthday so we sang 'Happy Birthday' and had cupcakes. Thank you Mokolodi for letting us come.' Amani 4V

'Mokolodi was the most mesmerizing experience I've ever had at Thornhill. I will never forget it. Personally, my absolute favourite thing was the game drives and animals. The food was phenomenal. The dormitories were so amazing because they had bunk beds. I will never forget Mokolodi because it was the most amazing school experience ever!' Itai 4M

'The Mokolodi trip was actually one of the best experiences of my life! I loved all the animals and nature around me. My favourite part was probably the nature walk and hike. Most people in my class probably thought it was hot and tiring, but I thought it was very peaceful and the air was fresh. I'm so glad I went on the trip and I will never forget those 3 days and 2 nights at all!' Magnolia 4K



Inter House Bonds & Tables

Every year on World Mathematics Day, the school, from Std 2 upwards, engages in a bonds and tables competition. These are broken into the four rules: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. These are timed exercises and they test the student's ability in mechanical maths.

The overall results of each house and standard are far too long, 72 students, to fit on a page, but they have all received certificates for their outstanding performance in an assembly.

Here are the top three placed students in each standard:

2E	Haoyu Bai	1st in Std 2
2E	Le Xuan Wang	2nd in Std 2
2W	Arisha Mudili	3rd in Std 2
3J	Leru Matilo	1st in Std 3
3H	Sima Zetola	2nd in Std 3
3J	Eyana Akanyang	3rd in Std 3
4K	Axel Hinze	Joint 1st in Std 4
4K	Shathiso Motlhabani	Joint 1st in Std 4
4V	Luo Sun	Joint 1st in Std 4
5W	Maya Iyer	1st in Std 5
5W	Anele Ntime	2nd in Std 5
5G	Jasraj Ruprah	3rd in Std 5
6M	Kgato Dikgang	1st in Std 6
6C	Mia Panova-Qu	2nd in Std 6
6N	Aarush Sunil Urath	3rd in Std 6
7O	Yibo Wang	1st in Std 7
7O	Lewatle Matilo	2nd in Std 7
7O	Yati Sun	Joint 3rd in Std 7
7S	Hala Kina	Joint 3rd in Std 7
7S	Huzeifa Kala	Joint 3rd in Std 7

Here are the overall House positions:

- 1st Limpopo
- 2nd Notwane
- 3rd Shashe
- 4th Chobe

Choir Festival



The Thornhill Choir Festival was held on Thursday 21 March, at Maitisong Theatre. The Festival is an event that brings together children from different schools to showcase their vocal talent and celebrate the art of music.

This year we had choirs from Thornhill, Northside, Broadhurst and Baobab. Each school performed their own repertoire of three songs and as a mass the choirs performed "I Remember, Colors of the Wind" and "Better Place Together" with the Gaborone Community Orchestra in front of a sold-out audience.

The Orchestra added an extra flair to the evening and adding the voices of all the children created a magical atmosphere. The audience were thoroughly entertained and the children had an amazing vocal experience.

Francophone Week

Recently, our French lessons have been abuzz with excitement as we celebrated Francophone week, an event dedicated to explore the diverse cultures and languages of French speaking countries around the world. It was a vibrant and enriching experience for both students and teachers as we delved deeper into various activities aimed at fostering cultural awareness and appreciation.

Students engaged in a myriad of activities designed to immerse them into Francophone culture. One activity was the drawing of flags of French speaking countries. From the bold colours of the French Tricolore to the intricate design of the Haitian flag, our students showcased their artistic talents while learning about the nations represented.

As our week drew closer, we organised a mouth-watering food sale featuring delicious culinary delights from French speaking countries. On Friday, the aroma of freshly baked Croissants and Pains au Chocolat filled the morning air. We were lucky to savour the flavours of France with classic dishes such as Quiche Lorraine and Vol-au-Vent, while enjoying the vibrant flavours of Senegalese / Ghanaian cuisine: Jollof rice with chicken / beef stew and a side of plantains!



North vs South Swimming



Thornhill hosted this year's North vs South Gala on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March. It was a very festive occasion with the school being decorated in blue and yellow and black and orange, and the anticipation of strong competition was in the air. RocoMama's provided burgers for the children near the tennis court area and there was face and nail painting to help add lots of colour to the event.

The event was made possible through our very generous sponsors – Spar, Pharma Group, Nissan, Marlin Kids, PST, RocoMamas, YM Online and TGA. We would like to thank all the above sponsors for generously supporting swimming in Botswana.

We had a large contingent of swimmers, with 35 out of the 65 children, who represented the South, coming from Thornhill.

The gala was very competitive and swum in very good spirit.

The following children from Thornhill were age group champions:

U11 Girls	Jade Chilisa
U11 Boys	Ewan De Beer
U12 Boys	Joash Kurewa
U13 Boys	Leruo Bakwena

The Southern team were the overall winners of this gala and our thanks to all involved in the planning and organisation of this gala.



vs Crescent

U9: Thornhill batted first and scored a total of 145 runs. Top bowlers: Vidyuth with 2 overs for only 2 runs. Top batsman: Vidyuth and Zaydan with a total run score of 20. Zaydan, receiving man of the match. Crescent managed a total of 67 runs. Thornhill won by 78 runs.

U11: Crescent scored 56 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in their allotted overs. Jasraj bowled very well to take 4 wickets for 8 runs in three overs.

Thornhill replied by scoring 57 runs for 3 in 6 overs. Heinrich was given the chance to open the batting and played some delightful cover drives in his innings. Thornhill won by 7 wickets.

U13: Thornhill scored 234 for 0, with De Vrye scoring 42n/o, Kayle 35n/o and Nathan 36n/o. Thornhill bowlers bowled excellently and restricted Crescent to 29 all out with Kaene taking 2 wickets for 5 runs and Alexander taking 2 wickets for 4 runs. Thornhill won by 205 runs.

vs Westwood

U9: Westwood batted first, scoring a total of 44 runs. Top bowlers: Eduard with 2 wickets in 3 over. Top Batsmen: Harry and Vidyuth with Vidyuth scoring 16 runs before being retired. Thornhill scored the winning 45 runs.

Thornhill won by 10 wickets.

U11: Westwood batted first and scored 60 runs in their allotted overs with Aarush taking 2 wickets for 3 runs. Thornhill replied by scoring 61 runs for the loss of 3 wickets. Thornhill won by 7 wickets.

vs Northside

U13: Northside batted first scoring 100 for 3 wickets in their allotted 20 overs. The pick of the bowlers was De Vrye taking 2 wickets for 13 and Heinrich taking 1 wicket for 8 runs. Special mention must be made to Ibrahim and Heinrich who bowled superbly in the middle overs, restricting Northside to 17 runs in 8 overs. Thornhill made short work of the chase to win the match with Nathan scoring a blistering 70n/o and De Vrye 16n/o.



Our tennis matches this term have proved to be exciting and successful. We had an exciting match against TDS and we won comfortably. Our next opponent was Rainbow where we managed a comfortable win as well. Our final match of the term was against Northside. They had some good young players, however we again managed to secure a win and ending the term on a positive note.

North vs South Tennis

This event took place on the 23 and 24 of March in Gaborone, hosted by Northside Primary School.

The Southern team had players from Thornhill, Northside, Broadhurst, Rainbow and Baobab schools. Congratulations to this team of ten boys and girls. We were especially proud of our Thornhill players Renee Sebege and Kaia Coyne.

The whole team played very well and after a number of years being unable to conquer the Northern team, the Southern side was finally triumphant, winning back the trophy by 24 - 7 matches.

We would like to thank all the parents for their support, our generous sponsors for creating wonderful memories for our players, the organising committee and the officials.



This season our chess team has faced some difficult competition from all our opponents.

We lost by a narrow gap against Thuto Primary School. We lost 15.5 to 16.5 against them.

We then played against TLC, where we managed to get a draw. We drew 11.5 points each. It was a good match because we came back after losing the first round and the team spirit was excellent.

Our last match of the season saw us host Legae Primary School, who were determined to finish their season strong. They beat us 13 points to 9. I would like to thank all the children who took part in all our fixtures this term for their commitment and dedication and we look forward to more chess fixtures in the months ahead.

Inter House Swimming



Inter House swimming gala took place on Wednesday 27 March. This gala is made up of relays only, therefore allowing more children to participate. All the houses supported their teams with much shouting, cheering and lots of colourful outfits. There was also a wonderful turn out and support from all our parents.

The gala was very exciting with only 5 points separating the top contenders the whole way through. The final result saw Shashe taking the trophy, with Limpopo in second and Chobe and Notwane in third and fourth respectively. The spirit trophy went to both Notwane and Shashe.

Well done to all those who participated and supported their houses.

April 11 2024
Thornhill ICT Department



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