

Issue 66 July 09 2019

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

Schools, as organisations, don't function in isolation. There is a great deal of input from many different sources - both internally and from the wider community. Teaching in today's society is a collaborative act. This means that parents and teachers are both engaged in educating and teaching the same child. In the interests of the education of the pupil, the contact and cooperation between parents and teachers should denote a partnership.

I believe that we at Thornhill are fortunate in these partnerships, but we must not become complacent in this regard. It is in this light, I say thank you to all our parents for supporting their child in any way, big or small, in the daily activities of our school and we hope that it continues.

The term is going by at a blur and the Winter Solstice is something of the past, but there are so many more wonderful learning opportunities available for the children and I look forward to another five exciting weeks.

Reception 2020 Assessments

These assessments have been completed and the process of placement is underway. The staff involved in these assessments have put many painstaking hours into the process. The placement, acceptance and initial deposit phase will take us to the end of the term, whereby we should have our full compliment of children, who we will welcome in January 2020. The Reception Orientation Day will take place in November.

Cancer Awareness Civvies Day

Thank you to all our families who gave so generously to this wonderful initiative. The children were super excited and the school was full of colour. All money raised and a donation from school, will be donated to the Journey of Hope.

Foundation Cricket World Cup

The Foundation classes all attended an assembly whereby they each drew a country for the Cricket World Cup. This is inline with their theme for the Foundation Sports Day, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. The classes drew the following teams:

OR West Indies	1N England	2J Afganistan
OC New Zealand	1B Australia	2E Sri Lanka
OB South Africa	1P Pakistan	2K Bangladesh
OP India		

We look forward to announcing the winning class at the end of the tournament.

PTA vs Staff Bowls

The annual challenge between the staff and PTA moved away from the soccer and netball courts to the Gaborone Bowls Club. The teams even managed to sneak in a practice or two. It was a wonderful event where parents and staff were able to socialise away from the classroom and the atmosphere was fantastical.

In the end, it came down to the wire and one game, as the PTA ran out winners 17 – 15. I am sure this will be the first of many and we look forward to the return match soon. Thank you to Helen Williams and the PTA for always being 'game' for these kind of events. As for the staff, back to the bowling green and practice.

Setswana News

The Setswana department held an Open Day for parents and children in the HMM Hall on Monday, 24 June. The main purpose for the event was to bring awareness of the developments currently taking place in the department.

The Open Day showcased newly created booklets, flash cards, posters and readers designed for both first language learners and conversational Setswana learners. Parents were also introduced to the Breakthrough to Setswana program that has been newly implemented for the Std 3 classes. Parents had the opportunity to walk around the hall with their children, who led the session, explaining what activities they do in class and elaborating on the related resources.

The Setswana teachers were also available for questions and suggestions. The parents who attended the event gave positive feedback and were pleased with the initiative. There will be other events during the course of the year and we look forward to parents' continued support. Re a leboga. Le kamoso.

Eco-brick Challenge

Many of you will have seen the photographs of our wall of eco-bricks, this was an amazing effort from all concerned. It takes a lot of time, patience and muscle power to jam those plastic bottles full. A special thanks to our teachers for their efforts too. The response from the Foundation phase was incredible and our congratulations must go to the winning classes and the individual children who did so well. Well done to OC, 1B and 2K on their remarkable efforts – OC raised 94 eco-bricks and 1B and 2K raised over 80 bricks each. The winning classes in the Junior section were 6C, 6M and 3V well done to you all. Tahira of 6C deserves a special mention; she filled an impressive 25 bottles, well done. The winning classes received a pizza treat and the individual children received a bar of chocolate. We have already started building with the eco-bricks, and our first project is building a herb garden for the Horticulture Club, do pop in and see it sometime.

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Bianke (3V) on winning the award for the most promising 'string player' in the eight years and under category, at the recent Johannesburg Festival for Advancement of Music. We are all incredibly proud of this hugely talented young girl. Congratulations also to Nina (3V) for winning a silver medal in the Karate Gaborone Open tournament recently. We have another star in the making.

St Peter's visit and our Winter Warmer Campaign

This year saw another fantastic response from our Thornhill children and parents. We were able to send a full busload of warm clothes and blankets to the children of St Peter's last week. They, and their teachers are extremely grateful for our continued support. We trust that their winter will be a warmer one. This Outreach programme benefits us all, we are very impressed by the generosity and kindness shown by the Thornhill community. Our Std 6 visit to St Peters this term was also successful, with our children having a lot of fun playing with the little ones. There were plenty of games and activities including jigsaw puzzles, cars and dolls, sandpit activities and water fun.

We also took some chocolate biscuits as a teatime treat for their staff and children – these treats are always well received.

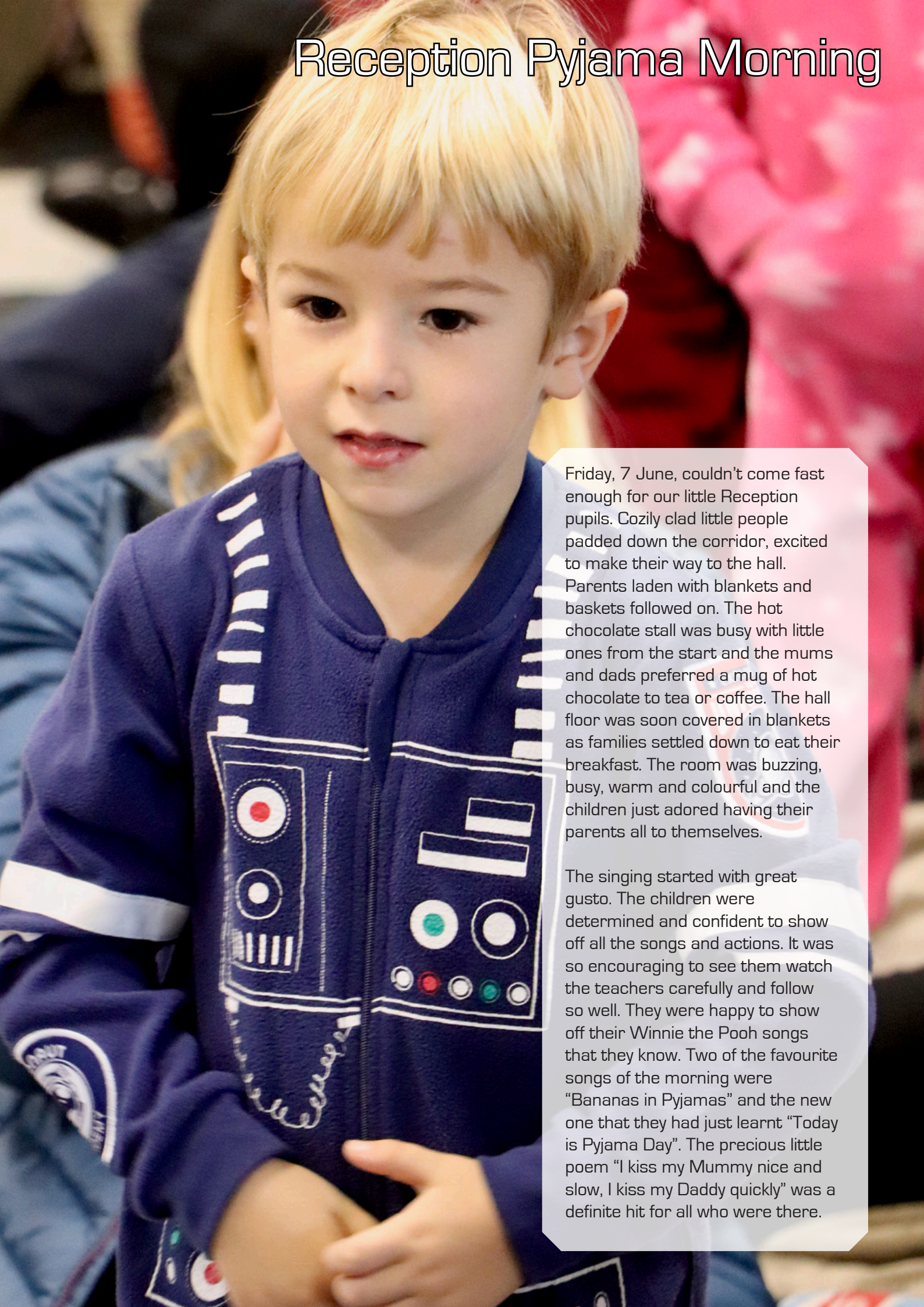
I leave you with these words of from Dr Seuss "Adults are just outdated children" and Margaret Mead "Children must be taught how to think, not what to think".

Have a wonderful last five weeks of our Winter term. Please follow us on Twitter as well @Thornhill-BW252

I Greaves

Headteacher

Reception Pyjama Morning



Friday, 7 June, couldn't come fast enough for our little Reception pupils. Cozily clad little people padded down the corridor, excited to make their way to the hall. Parents laden with blankets and baskets followed on. The hot chocolate stall was busy with little ones from the start and the mums and dads preferred a mug of hot chocolate to tea or coffee. The hall floor was soon covered in blankets as families settled down to eat their breakfast. The room was buzzing, busy, warm and colourful and the children just adored having their parents all to themselves.

The singing started with great gusto. The children were determined and confident to show off all the songs and actions. It was so encouraging to see them watch the teachers carefully and follow so well. They were happy to show off their Winnie the Pooh songs that they know. Two of the favourite songs of the morning were "Bananas in Pyjamas" and the new one that they had just learnt "Today is Pyjama Day". The precious little poem "I kiss my Mummy nice and slow, I kiss my Daddy quickly" was a definite hit for all who were there.

Std 2 Visit the Cultural Village



The Std 2 classes visited Bahurutse Cultural Village this week to experience a bit of traditional culture. They greeted the chief by the fire, learned about the harvest and thanksgiving, rode the donkey cart and fed the goats. They also tried grinding sorghum in the traditional way and made their own phaphatha. Here's what some of the 2E children said about the trip:

'I loved it when I was at the goats because I could pick up the baby goat and feed it.'

Quinne

'The donkey ride was great because I didn't have to walk all the way there.'

Andile

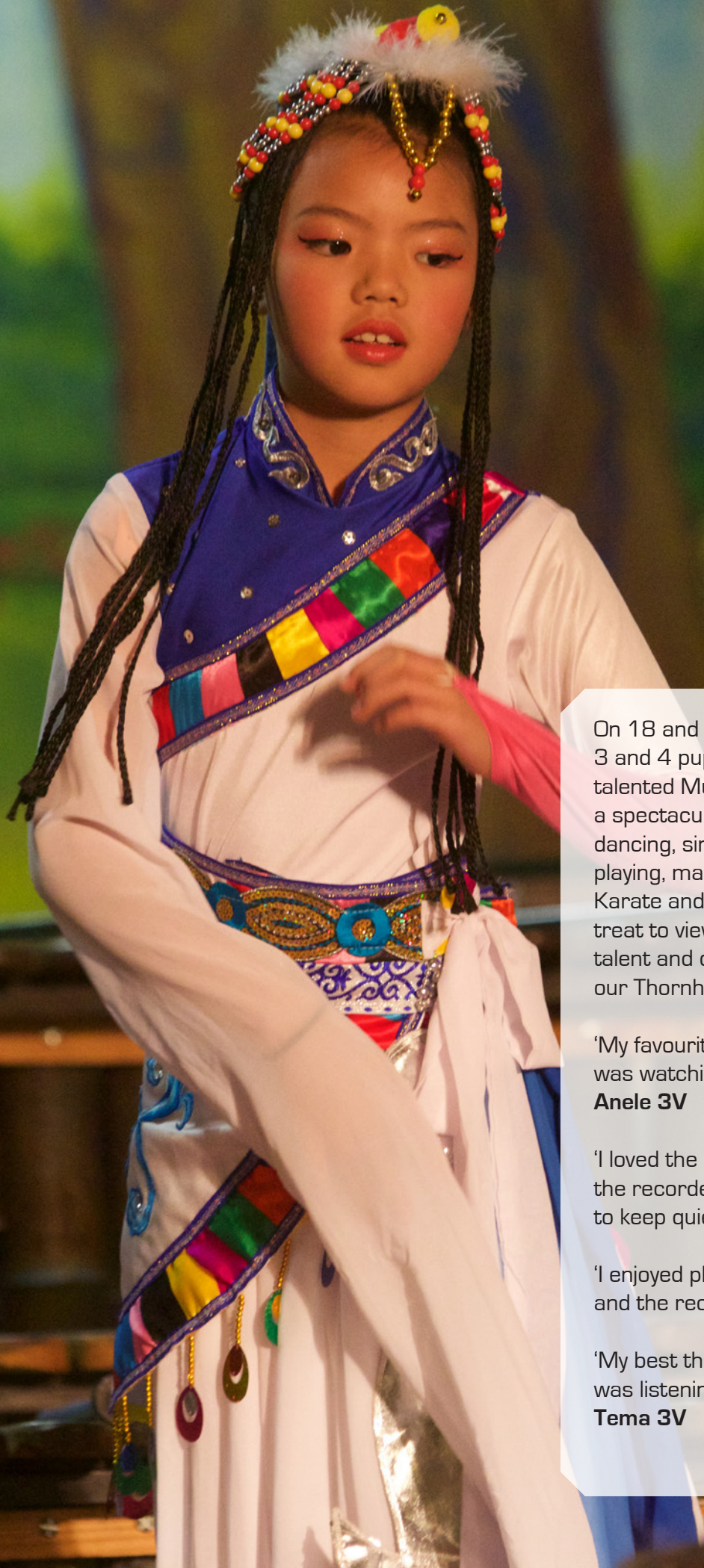
'I liked being close to the fire with the chief because it was nice and warm.'

Sawdha

'My best thing was to make a little sculpture with the clay and I made a pot.'

James

Std 3 & 4 Music Concert



On 18 and 19 June, the Std 3 and 4 pupils, along with the talented Music teachers, put on a spectacular show. There was dancing, singing, recorder playing, marimbas, as well as Karate and Judo! It was a real treat to view the abundance of talent and diversity of culture in our Thornhill children.

'My favourite part of the concert was watching my friends dance.'
Anele 3V

'I loved the dancing and playing the recorder. Everyone managed to keep quiet!'
Ntedzi 3P

'I enjoyed playing the marimbas and the recorder.'
Poeey 3W

'My best thing about the concert was listening to the saxophone.'
Tema 3V

Std 1 visit to the Farm

This term the Std 1 children have been learning about the farm. For our field trip we visited the Eco Fresh Farm in Oodi, owned and run by Fiona Manger. This Farm produces all the "Eco fresh" branded vegetables and fruits you may see in various supermarkets.

On arrival we watched some cows being milked and were able to touch the cows through the fence. Next they took us to their giant compost heap where the children learnt about what can and can't go into compost. Then the children went to the tortoise pen where they got to touch and have a close look at the tortoise's shells and scaly body parts. Many of the children had never seen a tortoise in real life, so this was a hit.

After that we ate our lunch under a Mopipi tree and were served fresh orange slices from the farm. We were then split up into groups where they did a rotation of three activities. One group of children rode on a tractor to the lettuce field where they picked heads of lettuce which they later fed to the cows. The second group did some fun interactive races such as a 'sack race' and a 'potato and spoon' race. The last group went to the small dam on the farm, where they have started a fish farm and are breeding bream.

Every child was given a lovely vegetable bag with a large cabbage, a punnet of cherry tomatoes, a bunch of onions and 12 free range eggs.



Trinity Music Exams

On Wednesday 5 June, our students sat their Trinity College London Music Exams. For some children, it was their first exam and they all did their very best.

The standard expected for these exams is extremely high and to achieve a pass, you must obtain 60 to 74 %. In order to achieve a merit, your mark must be between 75 and 86%, and a distinction is 87% and above.

Well done to all our children involved in these examinations – the Music Department is extremely proud of you.

The results were as follows:

Micaela Xavier	Initial Piano	Pass
Lianne Ardern	Initial Piano	Pass
Nicholas Fern	Initial Piano	Pass
Kaiyah Fortuin	Initial Piano	Merit
Carmen Brasem	Initial Recorder	Distinction
Samantha Chivazve	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Heather Chetty	Grade 1 Flute	Merit
Shubham Patil	Grade 1 Guitar	Merit
Kyra Brasem	Grade 1 Theory	Merit
Molly Sautereau	Grade 2 Piano	Merit
Thobo Motsu	Grade 2 Recorder	Merit
Dintle Sebedi-Plaatjie	Grade 2 Recorder	Merit
Kagello Malumo	Grade 2 Recorder	Merit
Joshua Bonna	Grade 2 Recorder	Merit
Segonyana Thupeng	Grade 2 Recorder	Merit
Kathryn Van Tonder	Grade 2 Recorder	Distinction
Sally-Louise Ingwe	Grade 4 Recorder	Distinction
Naledi Merafhe	Grade 4 Recorder	Merit
Bone Nkele	Grade 4 Recorder	Merit
Munopa Maunga	Grade 4 Recorder	Merit
Molly Sautereau	Grade 4 Recorder	Merit

Netball

vs Acacia

U13A	lost	6 - 17
U13B	lost	1 - 6
U11A	lost	2 - 3
U11B	won	6 - 0

vs Thuto

U13A	won	13 - 5
U13B	won	8 - 3
U11A	lost	0 - 3
U11B	lost	0 - 6
U9A	drew	6 - 6
U9B	lost	0 - 2

vs Broadhurst

U13A	won	21 - 1
U11A	won	5 - 2
U9A	drew	11 - 11





vs Acacia

U13A lost 0 - 5

U11A won 1 - 0

U11B won 5 - 1

vs Thuto

U13A drew 1 - 1

U11A won 2 - 0

U9 lost 0 - 2

vs Broadhurst

U13 lost 1 - 3

U11A won 5 - 1

U9A won 5 - 1

vs Newton

U11B won 7 - 2

U13 Soccer Festival

The U13 soccer boys played in a festival at Thornhill recently. They gave of their best and played some good football and won two, drew two and lost two. The event was good for the team to build cohesion and grow as a team.

U11 Soccer Festival

This was a good opportunity for the boys to develop an understanding of each other, assess individual strengths and weaknesses, and build partnerships with team mates.

The boys improved as the festival unfolded and by the end of the morning the boys had played 6 games, won 3 drew 2 and lost 1. Thanks to all involved and to the boys for putting up a spirited performance and acquitting themselves so well.

Inter House Athletics



Congratulations to Limpopo who were crowned champions at our inter house athletics meeting. They were followed by Notwane in second and Shashe and Chobe in third and fourth respectively. Limpopo also walked away with the Spirit Trophy.

The age group champions were as follows:

U9	Awetse - Limpopo	Daniel - Chobe
U10	Emelyn - Notwane	Ganda - Notwane
U11	Salma - Shashe	Matthew - Shashe
U12	Siyanda - Notwane	Ntsika - Notwane
U13	Kese - Limpopo	Jaydon - Notwane

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Thornhill ICT Department



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