

Issue 76 December 07 2020

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family,

What a year it has been, so different from what we had perceived in January 2020, or ever experienced before. My heart goes out to the children, especially our Std 7 children, who may have had their goals set out for 2020, but swiftly saw them disappear with Covid-19. I really do hope (maybe too prematurely), that we will begin to be able to co-exist a little more 'actively' with the pandemic, but January 2021 will tell us more.

We have put in a proposal through Business Botswana, to see whether the Ministry of Education will allow us to return to 'some' activities in 2021, but we await the outcome of this. Our first priority is obviously keeping the Thornhill community, our children and staff safe.

Whilst we have had positive cases in 2020 since re-opening in June, our Estate, academic and administration staff have done a fantastic job at keeping the pandemic at bay. My thanks must be extended to everyone, as well as you as parents, who have supported all our initiatives, responses and procedures to the fullest.

The year has required all of us to use our creativity and problem solving skills to find new solutions. Our children have shown us their sheer determination, a committed and positive approach, as they have changed their learning styles and carried on with a smile on their face, in all they have done.

I have always referred to the privilege of being part of this Thornhill community and none so much as this year, when I have seen the incredible resolve in our community and commend you and your family for facing this year with dogged determination and resilience beyond all end.

Std 7 Class of 2020

Due to Covid-19, this year was no Valedictory Assembly, where we bid farewell to our Class of 2020, but we did manage to host the children at our Std 7 Farewell Lunch last week.

So, in context to the year that we have had, I would like to wish our Class of 2020 a fond farewell. They started the year with a huge injection of energy, competing superbly well on the sporting front where they were unbeaten on the cricket field and on the tennis court. Many were selected for Southern Botswana for all three major codes for Term 1 and were victorious in two before lockdown stopped the third from happening.

They took part in our wonderful cultural programme that Thornhill has to offer, performing in the orchestra, choir and marimba band with distinction. Unfortunately, we did not get to see their performances on stage, as we were unable to hold our senior production and various other cultural festivals.

This was obviously short lived, due to the pandemic, but their resilience and determination has gone unquestioned. They had to learn about the virtual classroom and the associated skills and this was performed and taken in their stride. They had to learn what the 'new normal' looked like on returning to school and they led the way as true examples. They learnt to smile through their eyes, all still with enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and tenacity, which has been their trademark throughout.

They will certainly leave their own legacy and footprint in this 2020 year, one of resilience, creativity, problem solving, mindset change and adaptability to mention but a few. Well done to each of you. I am confident that you will go on to your secondary schools, ready and able to make a difference, to play your part and to build on the foundations that have been laid here at Thornhill over the years. I have no doubt that down the road, you will be noticed and looked up to as young leaders and global citizens, of character, integrity and principle. Go well and may God bless you all.

Std 7 Parents and all Leavers **SIMS Information Download**

Please note, as of 31 December 2020, children leaving the school will have no further access to their SIMS account. This means you will not be able to download reports etc, so please ensure you have all necessary documentation required from your child's SIMS portfolio.

Leaving Parents

To our parents that are leaving at the end of 2020, may I thank you for allowing us the privilege to shape and mold the lives of your children, while they have been here at Thornhill. Thank you for your support, care and companionship throughout the journey and I wish you all well until we meet again.

Staffing

2020 has been a year of adapting and learning for our staff and I am very proud of what they have accomplished. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the curriculum has been completed and the children were catered for in every way. I have received some wonderful emails from you thanking them, as they have stood in the 'front line' and performed with distinction and I commend them for this. I have written many a mail to you as parents highlighting and thanking them for their enormous input, but it would be unfair not to say it one more time.

2021 will see some changes, as we have made some internal movements as follows:

- Mr Jogee will move to Std 5
- Mrs Botes will move to Std 6
- Mrs Makuyana will move to co-teach in Std 7 with Mr Warwick
- Mrs Bradley will join our Std 7 team from the UK
- Ms Marais will co-teach in Reception with Mrs Ross
- Mrs Vinen will move into part time Mathematics Support in Std 3 and 4

I wish the abovementioned staff all the best as they prepare for the change and I look forward to them adding real value to their respective teams next year.

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations and well done to Bianké Van Staden, who recently participated in the Johannesburg Festival of Advancement of Music and was awarded the Diana Neille Trophy, for the best performance for 'recital' on the violin. This is an outstanding achievement for this exceptionally talented pupil.

Jozua Bruwer took part in his first motocross event and won the 50cc Pee-Wee category. He also took part in the 50cc senior category (which was for the bigger children with bigger bikes) and came 3rd in that category. Congratulations on a wonderful achievement, Jozua.

Leah and Lillian Bruwer took part in a mountain bike event - 20km VEREC, Fox Ranches MTB Kgale Challenge, and came first and second overall in the Under 12 mixed category and were placed second and third in the women's category. Congratulations to these two sisters, who have consistently performed exceptionally well in recent events.

Rhys Meyer also took part in the same mountain bike event as above and won the U12 Boys section. Well done on a superb performance, Rhys.

Office times 2021

Wednesday	06/01	09:00 – 13:30
Thursday	07/01	09:00 – 14:00
Friday	08/01	09:00 – 14:00
Monday	11/01	08:30 – 15:00
Tuesday	12/01	08:30 – 15:00

Please note, from Wednesday, 13 January, the School Office reverts to normal hours and will open at 06:50, when the gates open and the Finance and Administration offices close at 15:30. Please note on a Friday, the Finance and Administration offices close at 14:00.

Uniform Shop Times

The Uniform Shop is now closed for 2020.

Times and dates for 2021 will be as follows:

Thursday	07/01	12:00 – 15:00
Monday	11/01	12:00 – 16:00
Tuesday	12/01	12:00 – 16:00

A reminder to all parents, in order to purchase school uniform, please make an appointment with Sally Chabedi in the administration office. Nobody without an appointment will be able to go to the Uniform Shop. Further to this, please use the administration pedestrian gate to gain access and proceed to the office, where you will be assisted.

Virtual Events

I would like to thank Mr Gibson for the many hours he has sat and edited the various virtual events that we have been able to provide and share with you as parents. I hope it has given you the ability to see your children and the school in action. I am sure that you join me in thanking him for his immense time and effort that he has put in to make this possible.

Before closing off, may I take this moment to single out my Senior Management Team for their unflinching commitment during this often difficult and unsure year. Your support, expertise and guidance has been sincerely appreciated.

To our Medical Committee, my thanks and appreciation to you all for giving up your time (day or night) to assist, give advice, or merely listen. The school has benefited from your expertise and I thank you all sincerely.

Finally to the Thornhill Board, who have worked exceptionally hard to keep everything afloat during this pandemic year. They have their own lives and businesses that they run, but they still find time to give back by sitting on our Board. My sincere thanks and appreciation to all the members.

And now, as I bid farewell to you all, I trust that you will all have a wonderful holiday and, if you are travelling, then do so carefully and safely. I hope you are all blessed immensely during this holiday and I look forward to seeing you all when school re-opens on Wednesday, 13 January 2021.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Love in a Box & Feeding Scheme



Thank you to all those families who have so generously given to this cause. It is wonderful to see the caring community we belong to and this will go a long way in making certain children enjoy the day a little more.

Thank you to the staff and parents who contributed to the feeding scheme, as this is such a worthy cause and again will brighten up the day for families in and around Gaborone.

I have been overwhelmed by the positive response of the Thornhill community and thank you all sincerely once again.

Estate Staff Hampers



As in previous years, we have again given all our Estate staff hampers, to say a huge 'Thank You' for their efforts and for looking after the school so well. They always have a smile on their face and get involved in helping and assisting in many different areas of the school. On behalf of everyone at the school, I would really like to thank them for their amazing contribution to Thornhill.

Cheetah Foundation Art



As already corresponded to you in a previous newsletter, the Cheetah Foundation ran a challenge early in the year for 'Conservation Botswana Art' to illustrate scenes from the adventurous story, 'Xabe: The Cheetah Hero.'

They were on-hand this week to come and hand out the respective prizes to our worthy winners as follows:

- Udochukwu Emeh (7W) - Scene 4
- Molly Sautereau (7J) - Scene 6
- Neo Bell (4T) - Scene 10
- Kristyn Xavier (7W) - Scene 11

Well done and congratulations – we are all exceptionally proud of you. All the above mentioned pupils will receive a copy of the book once it is published.

Prize Giving

This was certainly a very different affair due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we recorded the event and sent it out as a link to parents. Unfortunately, as I said to staff, there were no smiles (due to the mask) and no excited parents cheering from the audience, which was sad for me, as this is a time to celebrate.

Due to the pandemic, we did not hand out any of the major prizes, with the exception of the Dux (Std 6&7) and Runner-up to Dux in Std 7, which are all academic prizes. Std 7 staff could hand out Headteacher awards.

Congratulations to the following Std 7 children, who all received the following subject prizes:

- Udochukwu Emeh - English
- Nabeel Khan - Maths
- Molly Sautereau - Science
- Kristyn Xavier - History
- Sesame Mokgosi - Geography

Academic Merit in Std 7 (aggregate of 80% based on the entire year):

Sesame Mokgosi, Molly Sautereau, Naledi Sikala, Udochukwu Emeh, Sally-Louise Ingwe, Munopa Maunga, Tawanda Garebamo, Taylor Turner, Kristyn Xavier, Farah Kader, Nabeel Khan, Waabo Ntshebe, Sophia McLaggan, Magnus Macharia, Aaliyah Desai, Dreyer Oberholzer and Kirsten Els.

Academic Merit in Std 6 (aggregate of 80% based on the entire year):

Kathryn Van Tonder, Srivats Sivaramakrishnan, Esné Campher, Subham Patil, Chiche Mpoloka, Hamza Hoosan, Vaishnav Kolazhy Subeesh, Kagello Malumo, Erin Dennehy, Joshua Bonna, Joshua Steenkamp, Aisha Khan, Shaan Haddad, Leah Bruwer, Ishaan Modak, Matthew Arthey, Dayyan Chand, Tinodana Makandwa, Matthew Nasha, Lorato Ramsden, Shaila Thomas, Nishita Shah and Farhaan Kala.

Headteacher's Awards went to:

- Tawanda Garebamo
- Wangu Nkanga
- Munopa Maunga
- Kristyn Xavier
- Zandile Tyolo

Warwick Trophy for 1st in Std 6:

- Kathryn Van Tonder

Runner up to Dux:

- Molly Sautereau

Std 7 Dillon Petyt Dux Trophy:

- Sesame Mokgosi



Prize Winners 4T



Prize Winners 4S



Prize Winners 4M



Prize Winners 5C



Prize Winners 5A



Prize Winners 5B



Prize Winners 6M



Prize Winners 6N



Prize Winners 6C



Prize Winners 7J



Prize Winners 7S



Prize Winners 7W



December 07 2020
Thornhill ICT Department



@ThornhillPrimarySchoolBW 
#ThornhillBW252 
/thornhillprimary 