

Issue 78 March 25 2021

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family,

We are drawing near to the end of Term 1 and I am sure there are some of you that will thoroughly enjoy the morning alarm going off slightly later.

I was looking through a file and came across a reference of a book and I know I have used this extract in a newsletter many years ago, but I thought it apt to share it again, especially in today's world where we just seem to go, go, go.

An elderly man spent several hours rummaging through journals that he and other family members had written many years ago. As he opened one of his journals, the old man's eyes fell upon an inscription that stood out because it was so brief in comparison to other days. In his own neat handwriting were these words: "Wasted the whole day fishing with Jimmy. Didn't catch a thing." With a deep sigh and a shaking hand, he took his son Jimmy's journal of the same year and found the boy's entry for the same day, June 4. Large scrawling letters, pressed deeply into the paper, read: "Went fishing with my Dad. Best day of my life."

This story serves as the introduction to a book entitled "To a Child, Love is Spelled T-I-M-E" written by Lance Wubbels.

Administration Office Times

With the upcoming holiday, please note the office will not be open after the Easter weekend. With this in mind, the administration office times will be as follows:

01/04	Closes at 11:00
28/04 to 30/04	09:00 to 13:00
03/05	08:30 to 15:00

Normal office hours will apply from Tuesday, 04 May.

Uniform Shop Times:

The Uniform Shop will be open as follows prior to Term 2:

30/04	12:00 to 15:00
03/05	12:00 to 15:00
04/05	12:00 to 15:00

From 05 May, the uniform shop times will revert back to normal, namely 12:30 to 14:00 on a Monday and Wednesday.

Please ensure you follow the COVID-19 protocol by making an appointment to visit the uniform shop by contacting Ms Sally Chabedi and booking an appointment through the administration office.

News from Std 7

The Std 7 children have settled well into their Std 7 routine. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Bradley as a new teacher to our Std 7 year. As you all know, Mrs Bradley and her family have come to live in Botswana for a two-year period, and we are fortunate to have her in our Std 7 year group with her wealth of experience.

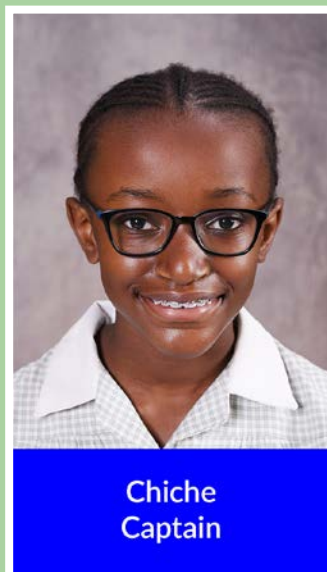
In our English classes, we have worked according to the themes of Suspense and Media. The children have loved sharing their stories which are full of suspense, and many of these developed into horror stories, the differences between being frightened of something and phobic, what makes us scared (and

there were some very unusual things here!]) and differences between fantasy and reality – these edges also being a bit blurry at times.

Working on media has involved the children designing and doing their own newspapers, interviewing imaginary and real people – with some surprising interviewees. They have learned about bias and how to be discerning when looking at printed and online matter and have studied different news channels. We have done group oral work – when doing this we have always been mindful of all our protocols.

In the near future, we will start looking at different hobbies, so if there are any parents out there who have interesting hobbies, or pastimes and are happy to share these with our pupils, we would love to hear from you. We can always organise a Google Meet, where you can speak to them virtually, or we could make a special arrangement for you to come and address them at school.


We have recently elected House Captains and Vice-Captains. Even though, at this stage, we cannot have any inter-house activities as we know them to be, it is important for the children to be able to assume the responsibilities they would normally have in their Std 7 year. We are obviously hoping that house activities can resume in some form later on in the year.



I leave you with these words from Nelson Mandela, 'The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.'

I Greaves
Headteacher

Std 3 Recorder Workshop

A young boy with short dark hair, wearing a green school polo shirt and white shorts, is sitting on a black mat on the floor. He is focused on playing a dark brown recorder. He has a white face mask hanging from his ears. In the background, other children in similar uniforms are sitting on the floor in a large, bright room with a checkered floor and green chairs.

The Std 3 children took part in a recorder workshop to give them a good grounding in recorder playing. The children learned many techniques, lots of music notation and also worked on rhythms using the drums.

This year's workshop was done differently. In the past, we invited parents to attend and participate in the workshops along with their children. However, due to COVID-19 protocols, this was not possible.

Crotchets, Minims, Semi-breve, Quavers and the Stave, what are these all about? The children learned about the different elements of music and the different notes and symbols used in music. Although there were no parents, the children still had lots of fun, playing drums in open air and learning a number of recorder pieces in a very short space of time. At the end of the workshop the children had more confidence in their recorder playing.

The workshop was very satisfying for us, as teachers, knowing that this was not just about producing music, but also an exercise in fine-motor development and hand-eye coordination. It also works as a brain exercise that can help children improve their problem solving abilities.



The Std 1 area has changed in many ways since the beginning of this year.

We have a lovely new stretch of artificial grass at the bottom end of the playground around the swings, jungle gym and the sand-pits, where last year it was still sandy and dusty.

We also have a lovely new domed, covered area over the walkway from the field gate up to our classrooms. This has given us much needed shade. The PE staff have kindly drawn a number of hopscotch grids under this area and the children are benefiting immensely from this.

The area directly outside of our classrooms is also due to be covered and this will give us a dry area to line up in during the rainy season.

Std 6 Spelling Bee

Well done and congratulations to the following children who were placed in the top three in their year groups at the Spelling Bee this year:

Std 3:

1st - Quentin Bechmann (3W)
2nd - Ivanka Puvimanasinghe (3O)
3rd - Adam Meyer (3P)

Std 4:

1st - Goutham Suresh (4S)
2nd - Vihren Troanski (4T)
3rd - Kimberly Maruping (4M)

Std 5:

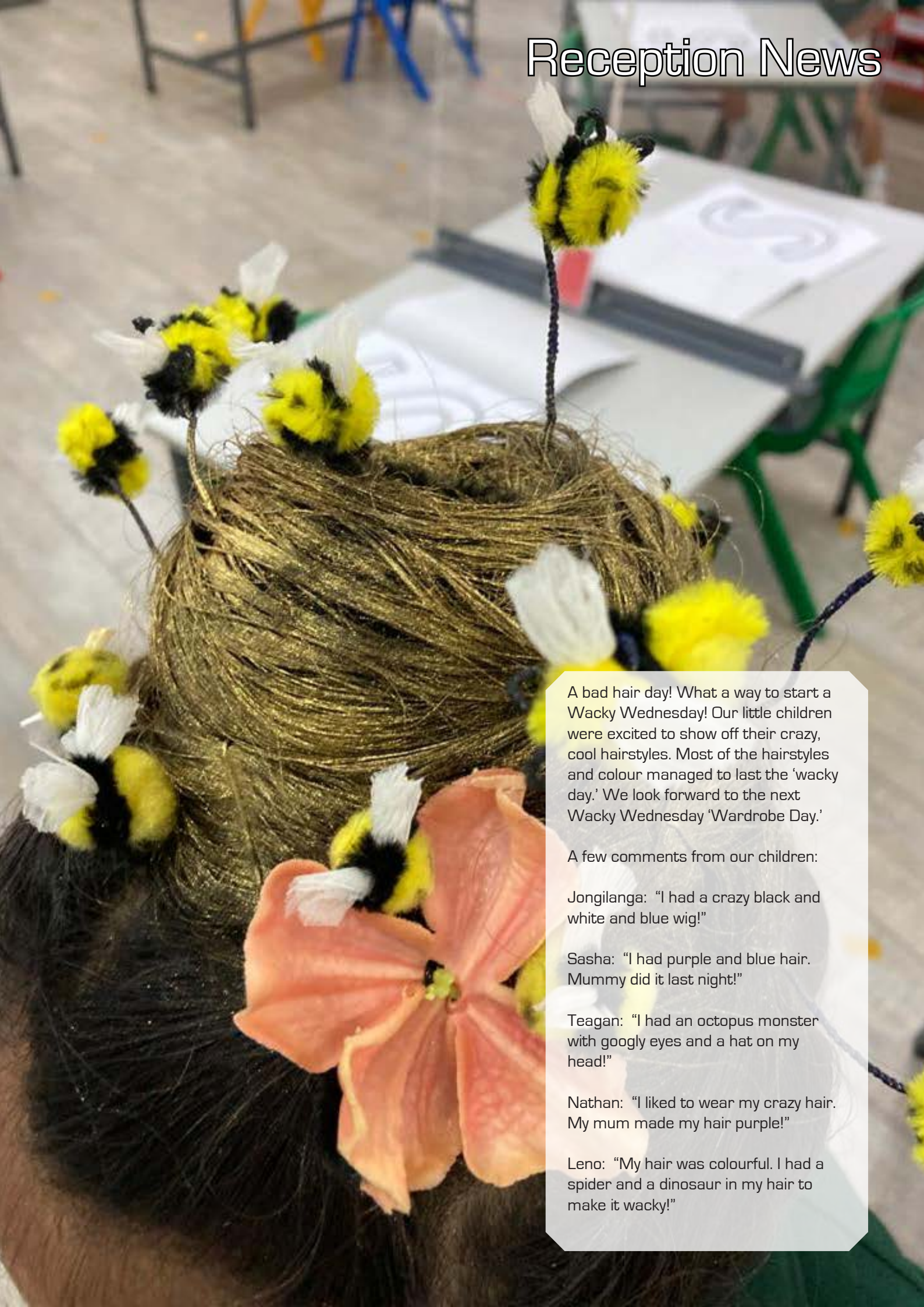
1st - Christopher Selato (5G)
2nd - Nina Luhanga (5J)
3rd - Alex Xiu (5A)

Std 6:

1st - Calisto Courage (6C)
2nd - Luca Braun (6B)
3rd - Kyra Brasem (6N)

Thank you to all the children who supported the Spelling Bee, which was organised by Std 6 to raise funds for their community service awareness for St Peter's. Over the years, Std 6 have done an amazing job by helping and assisting where possible at St Peter's.

Reception News



A bad hair day! What a way to start a Wacky Wednesday! Our little children were excited to show off their crazy, cool hairstyles. Most of the hairstyles and colour managed to last the 'wacky day.' We look forward to the next Wacky Wednesday 'Wardrobe Day.'

A few comments from our children:

Jongilanga: "I had a crazy black and white and blue wig!"

Sasha: "I had purple and blue hair. Mummy did it last night!"

Teagan: "I had an octopus monster with googly eyes and a hat on my head!"

Nathan: "I liked to wear my crazy hair. My mum made my hair purple!"

Leno: "My hair was colourful. I had a spider and a dinosaur in my hair to make it wacky!"

Std 5 Corona Can't Stop Me

#Corona can't
stop the fun
at TPS.

#Coronacantstop

- me from helping my dad
- my ideas
- us from being happy
- me from reading Harry Potter
- us from educating ourselves
- us from staying positive and determined
- me from being kind and giving
- me from breathing fresh, clean air
- children from reading, reading and reading some more
- my family and I from exercising

Parlez-vous francais?

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The French Department and pupils are celebrating Francophone Week, which is from 14 – 21 March worldwide. This is a week set aside to share information on the importance of the French language and bring awareness of just how widely spoken the French language is. So, pupils from Std 3 to 7 are doing various activities around this topic. Thus the question, 'Parlez-vous francais?'

Congratulations and well done to our current students and some past Std 7 pupils, who took part in their first International French language certificate last year. We are very proud of their results in the DELF examinations. The DELF examinations are facilitated externally and the results are as follows:

A2 Prime level: Marko Popovic; Magnus Macharia
A1 Prime level: Rania Modarresi; Shaila Thomas; Munopa Maungo; Gokul Kanak; Shaan Haddad; Mikael Rossenkhan; Srivats Sivaramakrishnan; Farah Kader; Shamit Velambath; Faizan Osman
A1.1 Prime level: Sara Dellow; Marang Mmesele; Naledi Merafhe; Nikita Kurewa; Layla Nchindo; Vaishnav Kolazy-Subeesh; Tatenda Kadzirange; Annika Smith; Nishita Shah; Segonyana thupeng; Rafiwa Kgari; Leah Kokabi; Kathryn van Tonder; Kagello Malumo; Molly Sautereau.

We look forward to more pupils from Std 5, 6 and 7 writing these exams in October, 2021.

Bravo et bonne continuation!

Std 3 Dr Seuss's Birthday

On Friday, 5 March, the children in Std 3 celebrated Dr Seuss's birthday.

Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known by his pen name, Dr Seuss was a writer and cartoonist, who published over sixty books. He published his first children's book, 'And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street' in 1937. Other books also written by Dr Seuss are, 'Green Eggs and Ham, How the Grinch stole Christmas, The Lorax, The Cat in the Hat, Fox in Socks' and many more.

The children came to school dressed up as their favourite characters from a Dr Seuss book of their choice. Some dressed up as Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2, Red and Blue fish, The Lorax, The Grinch and Fox in Socks.

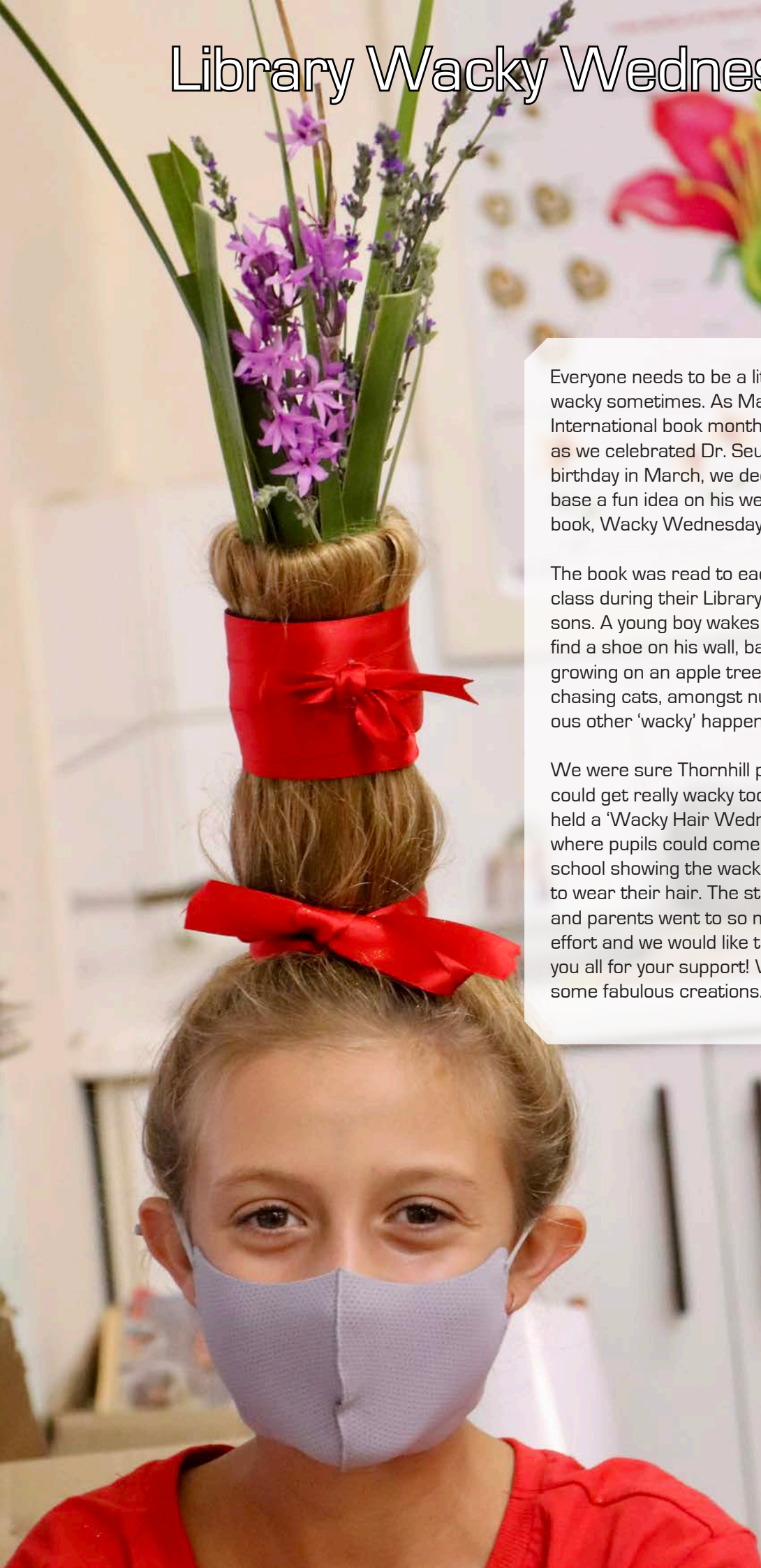
Later in the day, the children had to rehearse a playscript on Fox in Socks and perform it to the class. They also had to make hats for the Cat in the Hat. Thereafter, they all went to the field, where they had a fashion show, which showcased their hats. It was an exciting and fun filled day, where the children learnt so much about Dr Seuss.

Library Wacky Wednesday

Everyone needs to be a little wacky sometimes. As March is International book month, and as we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday in March, we decided to base a fun idea on his well-known book, Wacky Wednesday.

The book was read to each class during their Library lessons. A young boy wakes up to find a shoe on his wall, bananas growing on an apple tree, mice chasing cats, amongst numerous other 'wacky' happenings.

We were sure Thornhill pupils could get really wacky too, so we held a 'Wacky Hair Wednesday' where pupils could come into school showing the wackiest way to wear their hair. The students and parents went to so much effort and we would like to thank you all for your support! We had some fabulous creations.



COVID Protocols at Thornhill

Hopefully you are all aware of what protocols we use at Thornhill to try and ensure the safety of all who learn and work at Thornhill.

School opens at 06:50

Entry into the school is not predetermined, but the entries are manned and the flow and distance between each student strictly regulated. Masks are to be worn at all times, two should be provided for your child each day (unless there is a specific medical condition that prevents this). Students without a mask will be provided with a disposable mask at the point of entry to the school.

Students sanitise and have their temperature screened on entry into Thornhill. If a student's temperature is elevated (37.4°C or above) on entry then they are taken to one of three isolation rooms until that temperature normalises or a parent is contacted to take them home.

Before entering class, students are again sanitised and then they sit, read or catch up on work before 07:15 in their classrooms. At 07:15 registers are taken as are temperatures. These temperatures are recorded and absences noted. Temperatures are recorded on a shared spreadsheet so they can be accessed by Standard staff, administrators and the school nurse. Unforeseen absences are then followed up by class teachers or the front office. Any student with an elevated temperature or who is unwell is taken to the school nurse, where they are further assessed and either returned to class or taken home by their parents.

Desks are spaced to prevent close contact and in some cases they have a screen to prevent direct droplet spray.

Students must bring all their own equipment as there will be no sharing of equipment. In the case of the Foundation department they will be provided with individual stationery.

Each time a student enters a class they are sanitised, wherever they have come from.

Students stay within their class bubbles at break times and do not mix.

Temperatures are taken again after break and all students sanitised. These are recorded and if necessary the elevated temperature procedure is followed.

Movement between classes has been reduced to a bare minimum, but when this needs to be done; pre-positioned dots on the ground have been sprayed to ensure that students line up in a socially distanced manner. When moving we use the simple "check your front" rule. Students are responsible for their own distance from the person in front of them. They are also escorted by a staff member to ensure that they are adhering to our distance rules.

Entry into and exit from the class or learning environment is controlled and in a phased manner to ensure distancing is maintained at this time.

Classrooms are cleaned at least twice a day and the toilets areas are cleaned very regularly. Break time areas are sprayed down with sanitisers after each break. Classrooms and other indoor areas are fogged by a specialised aerosol machine on a regular basis and immediately in a case of a known infection within the school. Halls, ICT labs and other areas also are sanitised after each use by anyone.

Entry into Thornhill is strictly controlled and wherever possible meetings with parents and other stakeholders are conducted online.

Students are released from school in a predetermined and staggered manner and from predetermined exit points.

March 25 2021
Thornhill ICT Department



@ThornhillPrimarySchoolBW

#ThornhillBW252

/thornhillprimary

