

Issue 81 August 04 2021

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

We came to an abrupt end of Term 2 and there were so many things that were still to take place, with the art exhibition being one of the main events. The children and staff have all worked so hard to ensure that this virtual event would be as spectacular as those, which have been onsite pre-Covid. We will continue to deliver on this, but have moved the timeline to the beginning of Term 3.

Reports will be sent out as per the original calendar on Friday, 06 August, which was our original date for the closure of Term 2. These will be posted via SIMS, so please look out for them.

Once again, this term we have all had to embrace new changes and we have had to be adaptable and be flexible. I have been so grateful for how the staff, children and parents have adapted to change, and have been able to make changes, sometimes at short notice. We have had to be strong, positive and hopeful. I want to highlight the following quote, by film director, Jeethu Joseph:

“What is luxury? They made us believe that luxury was the rare, the expensive, the exclusive, everything that was unattainable. Now we realise that luxury was those little things that we did not know how to value when we had them, and now that they are gone, we miss them so much. Luxury is being healthy. Luxury is not stepping into hospital. Luxury is meeting with the whole family, with your friends. Smiles are a luxury. Hugs and kisses are a luxury. Luxury is enjoying every sunrise. Luxury is the privilege of loving and being alive. All this is luxury and we did not know.”

Administration Office Times

The administration office times will be as follows:

11/08 – 13/08	09:00 to 13:00
16/08	08:30 to 15:00

Normal office hours will apply from Tuesday, 17 August, which are as follows:

Monday to Thursday	06:50 to 15:00
Friday	06:50 to 14:00

Uniform Shop Times

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

12/08	12:00 to 15:00
16/08	12:00 to 15:00
17/08	12:00 to 15:00

From Wednesday, 18 August, 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.

I trust you are all enjoying your holidays and I hope you are all staying as safe as you can. As per the President's address, we are due to reopen schools on Tuesday, 17 August, but we will complete a full evaluation prior to sending out more information on this. Our first priority is ensure the safety of our community and this will be our focus.

I Greaves
Headteacher

Std 2 Setswana Day

Due to Covid, we could not travel and visit our normal traditional village, so we brought the village to Thornhill.

The activities and lessons organised by the staff covered the following:

Dikgafela - Taking the harvest to the chief. They sang a song - "Re a bidiwa kwa kgotleng" as they were walking to the kgotla.

Pounding (Go thuga) - They pounded sorghum and they sang, "Mabele butswa, Mabele butswa."

Grinding (Go sila) - They grinded sorghum and sang, " Sila! Sila! mmele mmele ngwana wa batho."

Sweeping of the yard - The children learnt how to sweep using our traditional brooms.

The day was wrapped up by playing the drums. Thank you to all the staff involved in ensuring this wonderful activity was available to the children.



Foundation Phase Fun Day

Our fun day took place over 3 hours, each dedicated to a standard. With the help of the very able Std 7 pupils, they were taken around the different activities. It was fun to see them jumping over, crawling through, zig zagging, throwing, running and aiming. Lots of energy was expended and fun was had by all.

Here are a few comments from Std 1S:

"It was so much fun and I loved crawling through the tunnels. My favourite activity was long jump."

Layla

"My favourite activity was running with the ball and the cone (ice-cream) and trying to balance it while going under the ropes." **Rui Lin**

"I loved the obstacle course and the hoola-hoops. It was fantastic." **Thoriso**

"My favourite activity was the obstacle course, I loved jumping over the barrier and running in-between the poles." **Sato**

"I thought it was awesome and so much fun jumping over the big barrier, my favourite part was the cone and ball course." **Thiwa**

"I liked running and hitting the sticks and the lava game with the ball and cone." **Letso**

"Jumping over, jumping up and down, throwing the ball was lots of fun!" **Lenitiame**

Std 1 Snake Visit

The Std 1 children decided to have a 'Snake Morning' this term, as we do 'living and non-living' aspects for Science.

Uncle Sean "The Snake Man" and Mr Thomson (Caitlyn in 1P's dad) brought some snakes and tortoises for us to see.

There were some brown house snakes, which are non-venomous, and some baby pythons, also non-venomous. The one python had the most incredible blue eyes because he was in the process of shedding his skin.

Children were allowed to handle the snakes and many were delighted to do this, but a few had to be encouraged. Some of the teachers were not that eager to touch a snake either.

We learned a lot about tortoises and snakes on the day and the children loved every minute of it. Since then, some children have become obsessed with snakes and now visit the snake farm called, 'Madison Square' regularly.



Std 3 Boxitect Day



The Std 3 children listened to the Boxitects story all about Meg, who was a boxitect. She just loved making things out of boxes. She went to 'maker school' to improve her skills. Along the way she not only improved her Boxitect skills, but learnt that working together always achieves better results.

We had our own Boxitects day where the children worked together to design and create something entirely out of cardboard boxes. It was so much fun and the final creations were amazing.

The link to the story is below if you would like to watch it and maybe try some Boxitect work yourself.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PYOCaOb0Bo

Maths Olympiad

During this term some of our std 5, 6 and 7 children took part in two preliminary rounds for the International Mathematics Olympiad.

We are exceptionally proud to announce the following results:

The Std 5 children obtained three silver medals and one bronze medal. Our Std 6 participants obtained one gold, three silver and three bronze medals, and the Std 7 competitors achieved three gold, four silver and one bronze.

We have to commend not only the pupils on their excellent results, but also the staff, who have nurtured their talents throughout their time at Thornhill. The three Std 7 children, who were awarded gold medals were Thobo Motsu, Ishaan Modak and Kathryn van Tonder.

These three pupils (only six children selected in the country) were chosen to represent Botswana in the International Mathematics Olympiad. We are exceptionally impressed and proud of their achievements.

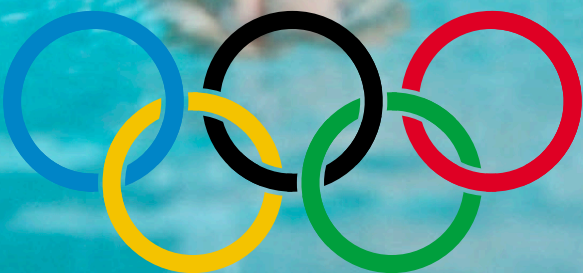
Unfortunately, due to a positive case of Covid-19 within the team and the stringent rules around the international competition we had to withdraw. Nonetheless a privilege to have made it this far and done the full preparation as a team.

James Freeman



The Tokyo Olympics saw the participation of our very own James Freeman, Thornhill Alumni and now Olympian! Congratulations James on the realization of a lifetime dream, we are extremely proud of you.

James currently trains at the University of Minnesota, in the USA and is studying architecture. His swim team is called the Gophers. We look forward to following your success in the future.







August 04 2021
Thornhill ICT Department



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