

Issue 82 September 23 2021

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

Five weeks down and eleven to go in our extended term 3. I welcome you to another eNewsletter and I hope this correspondence finds all our families well and healthy. As communicated in the weekly newsletters, I would like to welcome all new and existing families.

Another term has started, which has afforded us all to take stock and re-evaluate our goals. As we do so, we acknowledge the fact that we have to do so with a critical and open mind. We also acknowledge that we have no option, but to be positive, not only for our own sake, but more importantly, for the sake of your children, our pupils.

A colleague recently shared a link to a webinar, where Naomi Holdt, a Psychologist, has some sage advice for parents on creating a calm and secure space for your child during all this uncertainty. She made mention that we must make time to talk and allow our children to talk. Let their questions be the guide on how much information we share with them. She goes on to mention that children don't need all the details, they just need to feel the safety of having a parent who is available to ask and a parent who is mindfully present when being asked.

She warns that it is very important to be aware of what you watch and listen to in the presence of your children. She further goes on to plead with parents not to let their children watch video clips, which circulate on social media. Rather let the factual information come from you in a safe, age-appropriate manner.

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to the following children who were announced as prefects at the beginning of Term 3. We are proud of their growth and leadership: Luba Moseki, Izolde Lombard, Segonyana Thupeng, Heather Chetty, Leah Kokabi, Aisha Khan, Etsi Morekisi, Tatenda Kadzirange and Thobo Motsu.

I trust you will enjoy the responsibility and I look forward to you growing in your role as a prefect.

Congratulations to Amaira Suri (Std 1M), who won her age group category (Level 2) for Math Junior Mental Arithmetic Championship for 2021. She receives the title of National Champion in her category and she participated against five hundred children in India and surrounding countries. She completed the one hundred questions in 16 minutes and 55 seconds and got all the questions correct. Well done on an outstanding performance, Amaira.

Some alumni news, congratulations to McDonald Ferguson who has just received a new contract to KF Tërbuni Pukë Football Club in Albania. We are very proud of McDonald's success and we wish him well and look forward to watching his career progress.

Please do share any news of past alumni with us, as we really do want to hear of their progress.



House Points

Congratulations to Limpopo House for winning the 'House Points' for Term 2. They were closely followed by Notwane in second place and Shashe and Chobe in third and fourth respectively.

Holiday Updates:

We were able to complete the following projects during the last holiday, as part of the classroom renovations as follows:

- New aluminum doors in Std 4.
- New doors and flooring along the Std 7 corridor, which includes the two learning support rooms.
- New doors in the Music Department.
- New floors in Std 3.
- Refurbishment of the classroom next to Mrs Stuart's office.

Reading Eggspress

The Reading Eggspress online reading programme was launched in Std 3 and 4 at the beginning of March. Each child completed a short assessment online to establish their ability, so that they could be given a starting point. They were then given a password and access to the site.



The children have been reading books and completing the quizzes online, as well as participating in lessons, which enable them to enhance their spelling and comprehension skills. Overall this has been quite successful although some children have not read as much as we would have liked.

Due to the pandemic and the school being unable to send home graded readers for homework, we have encouraged the children to make use of this programme for at least 20 minutes each day instead of their usual reading material.

We are running an inter-class and inter-standard competition to encourage greater usage of the platform and to try to get all the children to use this programme daily.


Reading and reading comprehension is the key to 'Lexile growth' and your child's ability to develop their academic skills and we ask parents to encourage their children to use this digital platform daily.

Please take care if you are travelling over the Independence break and do so safely. I leave with these words from Vivian Greene: 'Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.'

I Greaves

Headteacher

Std 7W News

A photograph of a classroom where several students are seated at desks. They are all wearing light blue surgical face masks. Many of the students have their hands raised in the air, indicating an interactive lesson. The classroom has large windows in the background, and a blackboard is visible on the wall.

It was pleasing to note that the vast majority of my class made it into my lessons during the online start to school. While it is not nearly the same as being in class, we were at least able to continue school with a semblance of normality. For those affected by COVID bubbles, an all too familiar experience.

Then came the Tuesday when the Std 7 children were allowed back into school and far from the jaded group that you might have expected to see I was greeted with the normal raucous sound of 7W choosing their seats, unpacking their books and generally getting back into their groove. We were missing a few here and there and still are, but we have hybrid teaching to keep them in the loop.

Lessons started immediately and off we went. The weather was not kind to us and my fellow 'draughtees' (those who sit in the wind tunnel between the two opposing doors) shivered our way into Term 3.

It has been good to interact face to face with my students again, but there have been times when I have sorely missed the 'Mute all' button from Google Meet. Our curriculum presses on and we have at least been able to have some time to work on drama, with students practicing and performing scenes from various plays in and around the classroom. The experience has been highly entertaining for all.

I would like to thank the students for their remarkable resilience over the last nine months and their parents for the assistance and patience they have shown at this difficult time. I will continue to endeavour to teach one and all online, or in class to the best of my ability and I hope to retire my AirPods, if not permanently, to a more leisure based activity. **Mr Warwick**

Spring Week



Our delayed start to the physical classroom in Term 3 got off to a happy one. The school was buzzing with the arrival of all the pupils including the Foundation Phase children, who literally skipped into school.

On Tuesday, 7 September, the Std 2 children arrived in colourful spring clothes. The cool weather did not detract from the excited responses at all the entry points. During the assembly, it was so wonderful to observe the eager interest and participation from the Std 2 children. Donned with floral headbands, they sang with gusto, enjoyed the discussion around Spring and happily dramatized the slow growth of a seed in spring. Against all the COVID restrictions, the Std 2 children have developed into amazing singers this year. The first load of food donations began and the Std 2 children individually added to the collection of tins and dried packets of foodstuff.

Receptions followed on Wednesday, 8 September. They had made the most delightful paper hats that cascaded down their faces. The sight from the front of the assembly was heart-warming. They too, were so keen to participate, sing, listen and learn all about Spring. They happily contributed to the food containers.

On Thursday, the Std 1 pupils arrived in their colourful clothes to enjoy the excitement of the Spring Week. Lots of food items arrived too, adding to the containers that were overflowing with contributions from our generous families. The children were eager participants in assembly and it is definitely reassuring to see the pleasure that these small efforts make in their young lives.

Getting back to school in this fun and colourful way gave us the encouragement to confidently take up the challenges of the last term of the 2021 year. It's the buzz and children's voices in the classrooms and playgrounds that make it very worthwhile for all of us at Thornhill.

Finally, thank you to all the children and parents for supporting this initiative so generously and all donations received, were sent to St Peter's Day Care Centre and African Haven. Both were extremely grateful to the Thornhill community for the amazing contribution to assist them in their feeding schemes.

Std 5A News

In 5A, we have been finishing off our Vikings Topic by looking at dragons. The creativity of the children at home led to some fantastic artwork and writing. Their artwork was based on a four view study of a dragon, where each quarter of the page focused on a different aspect of the dragon such as its eye, wing, claw and scales.

After looking at many images of dragons, we collected a word bank and used this to write detailed descriptions of dragons. We also learned what Kennings were (two word descriptions of a noun, such as 'morning bringer' for the sun, or 'life destroyer' for a sword) and used these to make a Kennings poem about these winged beasts.

Luckily for Mrs Burkett, all this beautiful work became a 'ready made' display to brighten up the walls on our return! Here are some examples of the Kennings poems:

Dragon McFierce by Logan

Death daggers
Fierce vision
Bone crusher
Fire breather
Jaw smasher
Fright giver

The Dragon by Pamela

Lizard like
Man hunting
Blood thirsty
Wealth giver
Fierce leader
Mind reader
Protective feature
Majestic creature

OUI, JE PARLE FRANÇAIS



Not all pupils in schools have the opportunity to learn a foreign language in primary school, where children are so adept to learning languages.

At Thornhill School, all pupils have this opportunity and have indeed taken to the opportunity with enthusiasm. Project work, learning and practicing question and answer activities, helps them not just write the language or understand grammar rules, but they can learn to SPEAK the language.

Well done to our Thornhill children, as many of our Std 5 to Std 7 pupils have challenged themselves to sit for their first International French certificate (DEL F), in October.

We would also like to congratulate Ame-Grace, who sat this exam and passed with flying colours in May. Bravo Ame-Grace, and best wishes / bonne chance to our many Delf candidates!

Std 2E have recently performed some creative writing art work on the following; A Machine to Stop Cats and Dogs Fighting.

Some of the inventions and descriptions are as follows:

'My machine does read the dog mind's weakness: blue berries! I covered my cat in the blue berries so the dog likes it. Then I brought them to my friend Natalie. And used her friendship with her cat and dog as an example. Then they were friends.' - William 2E

'How my machine works: Take cat and dog. Put cat in the machine. Turn on the machine. Give the dog cat food. Give the cat dog food. Then take the dog. Put the dog in the machine. Travel back in time to when they were puppies and kittens. Then leave them together and let them grow up again. And they will be friends.' - Seneo 2E

'How my machine works: First the cat goes up the ramp. Then I pull a lever that lifts a conveyor belt up to the bone-launching button. The cat slides down on a conveyor belt. The cat lands on a cushion at the bottom of the conveyor belt. Meanwhile the dog chases the bone so the cat can safely get away.' - Aled 2E



Std 5G Poetry

Ocean life by Luba

When I look at the sea
I can hear the splashes and the waves
whispering to me
You can feel the sun on your back
And that sure it's time to relax

My heart is the ocean
Full of colour and dreams
I really find myself at sea
The deep sea, the deep blue sea

I wonder the deepness of the sea
So many mysteries, many I tell you
But oh! The biggest one
Is how the sea was created
As I grow I shall find out
The truth behind the deep blue sea

UEFA by Yashe
UEFA, UEFA, Scotland our team
If anything, it would be a meme
The players are slow as snails
Ugh! I wonder about their nails
The team goes and goes, and it scores!
But wait, it was Croatia and all grouped in fours

UEFA, UEFA, we wanted France
No team would stand a chance
Talented people, all in one team
Will never be a meme
They go and go and leave with a smile
That will go hundreds of miles

UEFA, UEFA, teams have showed us dust
Playing every four years is a must
Please play prodigiously well
And we will ring a bell

The lady's hat by Nicholas

An old lady sat down for a rest
She wore a hat which was dodgy at best
The wind lashed and blew the hat away
For the old lady to wear another, someday

The hat was splashed, bashed and mashed
Until suddenly it CRASHED!
It was left on a tree for hours
Sometimes the old lady needed flowers

but the old lady kept trying
And the hat kept lying
So, the lady went to rest
And the hat made a much better birds' nest

Chocolate Cake by Bianke

I love the taste of chocolate cake
Especially the ones I bake
The creamy layers melt in my mouth
I love it more than the shop just south

I hear the 'ping!' of the oven
As loud as my screaming cousin
It is a rollercoaster not to burn
It is a lesson to learn

The chance of a colourful creation
Is better than passing an equation
The cake is so big
It could feed a whole pig!

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Thornhill ICT Department



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