

Issue 83 October 22 2021

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Thornhill Family

Over the past few years, 'resilience, grit and adaptability', to mention but a few, have become catchphrases within schools around the world. I was reading a school article a while back and it made for interesting reading and I'd like to share it with you. The article made references to the word 'grit' and this is the focus.

Grit can be described as a combination of passion, resilience, determination and focus that allows a person to maintain the discipline and optimism to persevere in their goals, even in the face of discomfort and challenges. Angela Duckworth, a leading expert on the subject, found that the one consistent predictor for success, across various contexts and situations, is grit. Duckworth goes on to say that grit matters more than intelligence and talent for those in reach of their full potential.

'Unlike IQ and talent, which is 'relatively' fixed, grit is a skill that can be learnt and developed. Some children may naturally have more grit than others, but there are five core elements that can further develop grit in our children.'

1. Model a growth mindset.
2. Place children in activities out of their comfort zones.
3. Teach our children that failure is not the end.
4. Praise effort and not accomplishments.
5. Let your child find a passion.

As we draw near to the end of the 2021 academic year, I know that our children (and the Thornhill community) have really shown true resilience and adaptability throughout and in so doing, this will benefit us all moving forward into 2022.

## Staff News

Congratulation to Mrs Parry and her husband Steve on the birth of their son, Calum Anthony Parry on 04/10/2021. He is a wonderful addition to our Thornhill family and all are healthy and well. Our best wishes are also extended to Mrs Phillips on the arrival of her new grandchild. Congratulations also to Mrs Schubert on the arrival of her first grandchild, Ryan. All are doing well and we wish both families many years of happy memories. Congratulations to Mrs Moremi as she is expecting a 'new arrival' in 2022.

## Pupil Achievements

I have highlighted the achievement of our children across the school who have participated in any competitions of late. I know there were children who also participated in the BSSA Gala, but they have not shared their results with me, so unfortunately they do not appear. Please share any of your child's achievements with us, as we would love to highlight them in our eNewsletters.

Congratulations to Bo-Xiang Hosseini (6N) who was selected to represent Botswana at the ITF/CAT Southern African Team Competition for ages 12 and under in Zimbabwe on 12 to 16 October. I would like to wish Bo-Xiang all the best of luck, as he represents Botswana. We are exceptionally proud of you.

Well done to Aahana Sohoni (2J) for taking part in the BSSA Gala on Saturday, 09 October. Her results were as follows in the U9 section: 1st Breaststroke, 3rd Butterfly and 3rd Freestyle.

Bianké Van Staden (5G) continues to excel in her violin journey, despite music performances and competitions being put on hold over the last few months. This year she entered for not only the Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of music in South Africa, but also for the prestigious Hubert van der Spuy music competition held annually in Cape Town, South Africa

The Johannesburg Festival for the Advancement of Music has over 500 participants and this year the competition was held online from the 19 July to 3 August. Every instrument has their own category. Bianké excelled and won the trophy for the Best Junior String Player. The Hubert van der Spuy competition does not have different categories for instruments and all instruments fall under one. Children between the ages of 7 and 13 are allowed to enter, although this year the age was pushed to 14, due to the fact that the competition was postponed last year. Bianké was one of 52 participants who made it through to play in the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Parow. The competition was held from 19 to 23 September. Bianké made it through to the Top 20 (semi-finals) and was the youngest participant to do so. We look forward to see what the future holds for her and we are immensely proud of what she has achieved. Well done Bianké.

## Alumni News

Congratulations and well done to Tahir Khonat who has been selected as a school prefect, Deputy Head Boy of the College for 2022. Tahir also excelled academically and was awarded academic honours at his recent Grade 11 Prize Giving at St Charles College. An excellent and well deserved achievement, Tahir. We would love to hear news on our alumni, so please feel free to share with us via email at [adminsec@thornhillprimary.ac.bw](mailto:adminsec@thornhillprimary.ac.bw)

## House Points

An update on House Points to date sees Chobe in first place, followed closely by Shashe in second and Limpopo and Notwane in third and fourth respectively. Keep working hard and giving of your best everyone.

## Reading Eggspress Competition Std 3 and 4

We have run an interclass and inter-standard reading competition for Std 3 and 4 in order to try and boost interest in Reading and Comprehension on the digital platform. The competition has been very successful and the children have participated enthusiastically and with a wonderful sense of competitiveness.

The winners of the July lollies were Std 3O  
The winners of the August lollies were Std 3O  
The winners of the September lollies were Std 4M

We will continue the competition in October and November, so as to encourage the other Std 3 and 4 classes, who were so close, to keep reading! I am pleased to report that the number of books being read has increased dramatically in September and I hope to see it continue to grow.

## Good Work

Weekly, children are sent to me to present their 'good work' in various areas of the curriculum. I would like to share this piece of work which I think you might enjoy:

My smarties are purple like the swings at the picnic place. It reminds me of the wind blowing on me while running through the fields. The feeling reminds me of the smooth beach sand on a warm summer's day. The taste reminds me of drinking my hot chocolate with marshmallows. The sound reminds me of the leaves crunching on the floor. The smell reminds me of yummy pizza oozing with melted cheese. My smarties are pink like strawberry ice cream. It reminds me of swimming with the sting rays and the octopus. The feeling reminds me of the smooth and soft sea shells at the beach. The taste reminds me of chocolate cake with chocolate icing. The sound reminds me of the wind whistling through the trees. The smell reminds me of cupcakes coming straight from the warm oven. Mandisa - 3

**I Greaves**  
Headteacher

# Gola Botswana

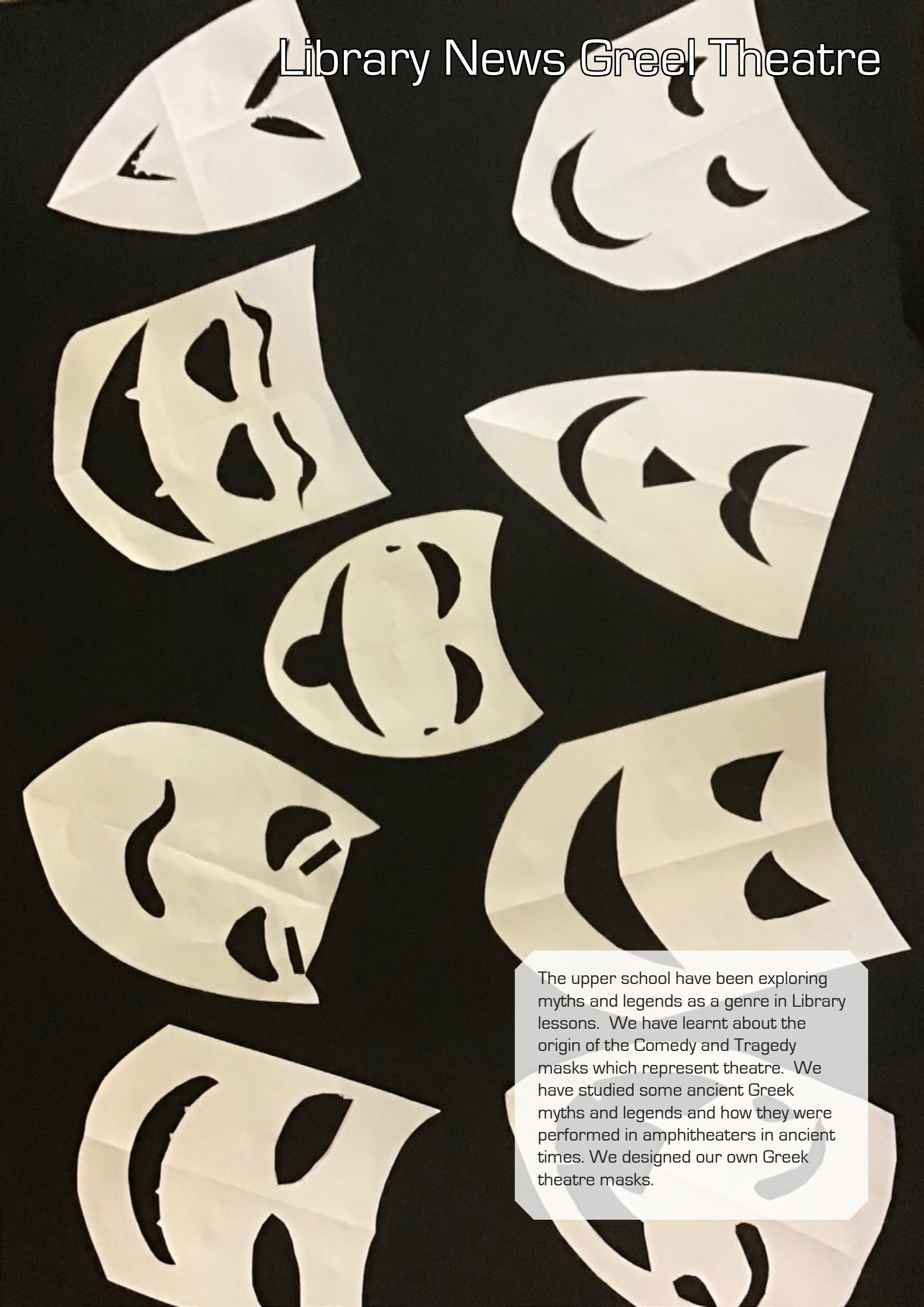
We celebrated our 55th independence celebration in style, under the theme "our culture, our pride." Giving a small background of how far the country has come in its 55 years of independence which the children demonstrated in a variety of ways.

Dressed in their Setswana traditional outfits the children looked amazing. They danced, they had poetry, ululated and also showed how a traditional Setswana wedding is performed.

Letsatsi le ne le le lentle thata.  
Botswana o ne a gola. Re ipelela  
dingwaga di le 55 tsa Boipuso jwa Botswana.  
Re ne re kgabile re ntse bantle thata.  
Re bone lenyalo la Setswana,  
poko ka bana ba lekwalo la bosupa  
le dipina tsa Setswana di opelwa. Re  
itumelela letsatsi le ka le re ruta go le  
gontsi ka lefatshe la rona.

Gola Botswana, gola!!!!

# Library News Greel Theatre



The upper school have been exploring myths and legends as a genre in Library lessons. We have learnt about the origin of the Comedy and Tragedy masks which represent theatre. We have studied some ancient Greek myths and legends and how they were performed in amphitheatres in ancient times. We designed our own Greek theatre masks.

Thornhill has introduced Pobble to the children. Pobble, in a nutshell, provides images that are thought provoking to inspire and spark ideas to write creatively. Attached to the various images, are story starter prompts and questions that children can answer, these are fairly open ended questions to encourage free writing. The children were shown a picture of 'Fluffy' a floating sheep attached to a rope and asked to write a story explaining how the sheep began to float, what her thoughts/feelings were and finally, how she was brought back down.

Here is a story from Magnolia in Std 1S:

Fluffy the Floating Sheep:

One day at a farm, a sheep named Fluffy ate some weird grass and started floating. She could see the whole farm from how high she was. Then she saw her farmer looking up at her. She tried to tell him what happened, but sheep can't talk! The farmer saw everything that happened and already knew what was going on. He pulled the rope on the sheep's leg so she could return down. The farmer felt nervous it was going to happen again. Fluffy was happy to be down, but not too happy because she wanted to do it again.





In Std 30, we had an opportunity to learn about Deserts as an extension to our curriculum topic on 'Plant and Animal Adaptations.' Our task was to pair up and put together as much information as we could about either a hot or a cold desert plant or animal adaption.

This three week project that started off with blank A2 cardboard paper, quickly morphed into posters with pictures and Wikipedia facts that appeared to be printed off while researching was taking place. On days when the weather was kind to us, we'd go outside to converse and deliberate on how to make each poster, and to present it boldly and, of course, share research. The children were ready to share all their facts; funny facts, interesting facts, weird facts and cool facts. In fact, we all agreed that deserts aren't as boring as they may appear to be.

Thanks to our experience with 'Boxitech Day' and 'Roald Dahl Day', we are getting really good at working together to make something great. You could tell how much we miss socialising with one another and this opportunity allowed us to continue learning how to be reasonably opinionated with friends, patient with one another and to find creative ways to polish our presentations.

The collaboration coupled with the incessant reminders to social distance, made for a boisterous activity. When the children were done with their posters, they had to present them in front of the class and stand a chance to win 20 house points each, if they were confident, maintained eye contact, spoke clearly and audibly and gave each other a chance to speak.

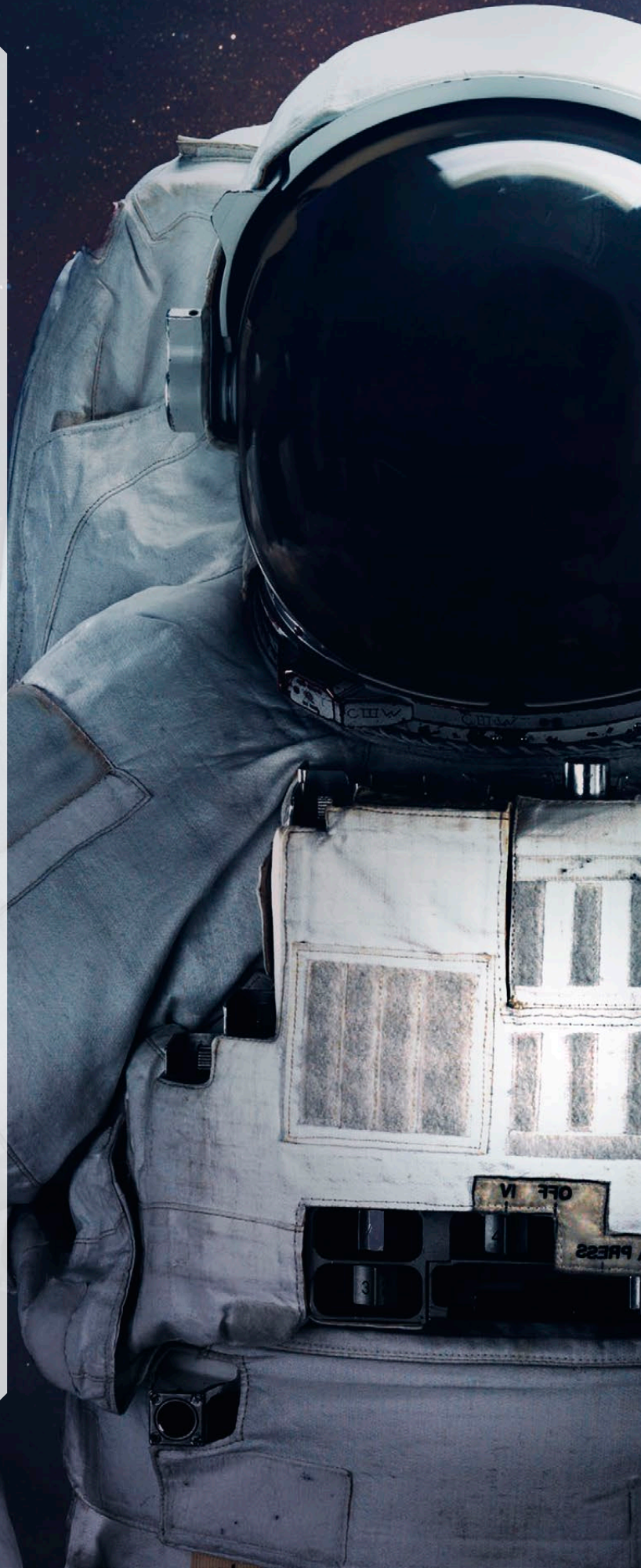
The children really enjoyed the challenge and the experience.

Std 2P recently went on an imaginary trip to Space. Here are some stories from a few children about their adventure.

Once upon a time I packed everything, took my family and went to my rocket. We blasted off to space. We went around the sun, then we went to Mars. We climbed out with our astronaut suits on. It was so hot, in fact it was hotter than Botswana during summer. So, we got back into the rocket and took off again, we stopped at Saturn this time, my brother and I jumped on to the ring but we fell right through it, but luckily my parents saved us. Then we went to the moon, we climbed out and we were all floating, it was so much fun. We found some moon rocks to take back home with us. After that, we made a quick stop at Jupiter, but it was too gassy. So, we headed back home to Earth. - Lané

I dreamt of a place far away. I packed my astronaut suit, a helmet and my dog. Can you guess where we are going to? We are going to Space. Zoom, we took off and arrived in space. We jumped out of the rocket. I took my back pack to catch some stars and take back to school for Miss Pereira. We landed on the moon and we had a picnic. During our picnic we met some aliens, we asked them to join us and we shared our picnic with them. After that, we got back into our rocket, I made sure my dog was with me and the stars were safely in my back pack, and just as we zoomed back home to Earth I woke up, my space adventure was over. - Aimy

Once upon a time, I had a dream I went to Space. I grabbed my family and teacher and we hopped into my rocket and set off into Space. First, we landed on Mars, we ate a space banana there, I didn't like it. We set off again, and landed on Jupiter, we couldn't breathe there, so we left and went to Uranus, but it was too cold, so we left. Next, we stopped on Saturn, I sort of liked it there, so we decided to stay and have a holiday. Everyone helped take out the picnic and we had a feast. After that, we brushed our teeth and watched some space television and then we fell asleep. - Anele





# World Rhino Day



Imagine, far into the future you decide to take a trip to Africa. When you get there, you decide to buy a postcard to show your grandchildren when you get back home. You drag your aching joints over to a shop that sells postcards and start looking through them. There is a postcard of an elephant, a giraffe, a lion, a crocodile and more, but there doesn't seem to be anything of a rhino. You turn to the young shopkeeper and ask them if they have anything of a rhino. They give you a puzzled look and ask you to repeat the question. 'A rhino?' you ask again. They still have no clue what you're talking about. 'Children these days,' you think to yourself, 'they have no clue what a rhino is. I guess people don't care about animals that are extinct, do they?' Just imagine how terrible that would be.....

That is why we have World Rhino Day, to bring awareness to the ever dwindling rhino population at the hands of poachers. Rhinos are wrongfully killed by poachers and sold on the black market because some people believe that a rhino horn will make them stronger. Obviously, this isn't true, but many people are still willing to pay a lot of money for a rhino horn, which is essentially made of the same things that your fingernails are made of.

Rhinos are most commonly found in South Africa and Botswana. In Botswana, they are mostly found in the north, in game reserves. The white rhino is most common in Botswana, they have a square lip, which is great for munching on grass. The black rhino has a more pointed upper lip, which they use to eat off of trees, bushes and even fruit.

We celebrate Rhino Day on 22 September, and we do this to bring awareness to poaching. Even though there are some solutions to poaching, none of them are fool-proof, and rhinos are currently closer to extinction than they have ever been. So, it is very important that we take notice and try to fight against it. Esné [7S]

In Std 7 we have enjoyed studying the Science Fiction genre, particularly considering what could go wrong with overly intelligent machines, such as HAL in 2001 Space Odyssey. We wrote our own short stories inspired by these, and even included some of our own technology designs. Here are some extracts from 7B:

It opened the door, which made an eerie sound as it opened, and walked slowly towards Mia's sleeping pod. Homehelper07 sinisterly said, "I will seek revenge on you and make you regret the horrible actions you have committed against me," as its eyes turned crimson red. With all its force, it punched the protective glass and wrenched Mia out, throwing her out the door. - Siki

While driving to the race track, Ayatollah customises the car to his own preference; changing its colour; trying out different modes and speeds. At first the car drives smoothly, but then something unusual occurs. Everything turns red except the outside of the car. Confusion and anxiety engulfs Ayato, as he did not touch the remote to change any colours after he customised it. - Hamza

The robots, who were built by mankind, have taken their creators hostage and most of the world too; the AI's have been dominating for three years, out of the few that escaped after being hunted for disagreeing with the robots' views, there is only one fighting human and robot - Zay and Pab1o (Pab-one-o).

Trotting in, a robot came to report news to his master, who was currently petting his cat and waiting for information.  
"S-sir, they g-got away a-again," it stuttered.  
"Again? I want them finished! I have given you so many opportunities. Rain on them with full force! Now!" roared the Alpha Robot. His soldier retreated, while his eyes transitioned from a blue to a menacing scarlet. - Shaan

The notification from the toilet says it appears to be clogged, which was odd as it was perfectly fine when she had left this morning. Running up the stairs like she was flying, she dashed toward the toilet and frantically checked for any blockage. There appeared to be no problem, unexpectedly the toilet said, in a monotone voice, "You should call a plumber so I can commence my plan. I mean, understand the situation."

She leaves the room suspecting her toilet is planning something behind her back. - Lebo



October 22 2021  
Thornhill ICT Department



@ThornhillPrimarySchoolBW

#ThornhillBW252

/thornhillprimary

