

Issue 87 March 10 2022

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Thornhill Family

The end of February brought about the mid-term and I trust you all had an exceptional time with your child. It is always wonderful to share in building memories and it is my hope that we are able to play our part in this.

We have been provided with revised Covid-19 protocols from the MoHW, which will see us move back to an 'open' break time, revised afternoon activity programme and maybe even a family picnic towards the end of March. I am sure you will join me, as we all long to see school life return to a semblance of what we were used to.

## Alumni Achievements

Congratulations and well done to One Kenosi, who performed superbly in her recent matric examinations, obtaining 7 distinctions.

Congratulations and well done to Tamika Visser who has recently received her provincial Lifesaving and Swimming colours. Her times put her in contention for the Top 8 Lifesaving and if she qualifies, then she will go to the World Championships. This is a magnificent effort from Tamika.

## Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Wedu Chilume (Std 7O) and Samantha Chivaze (Std 7S) who have been selected as Marimba Band captain and vice-captain respectively, for the upcoming 2022 year. I would like to wish them well for their year in leadership.

Tiisetso Motshubi (4S) won the Girls U11 Section of the Johannesburg Junior Squash Open at Parkview Squash Centre recently. Tiisetso also participated and won the Girls U13 section of the Wilson Easterns Junior Squash Open held in Boksburg.



During December 2021, Leruo Bakwena (5L) attended the Botswana Swimming Nationals and got 7 Gold Medals and 1 Silver. He was also the U10 Victor Ludorum. Leruo also qualified to compete in the SA Level 3 Swimming Competition, which takes place from 18 – 20 March in Johannesburg.

## House Points To Date

The House points to date see Chobe in the lead with Shashe close behind on their heels. Limpopo and Notwane are in third and fourth position respectively. Keep working hard and accumulating those house points.

Have a marvelous March with us and we look forward to many more exciting learning experiences. I leave you with these words:

'Life is a journey with problems to solve, lessons to learn, but most of all experiences to enjoy.'

**I Greaves**

Headteacher



# Foundation Curriculum News - Numeracy

This year in the Thornhill Primary's Foundation Phase, we have introduced Power Maths, as a basis of our maths lessons. This is an exciting mastery approach, that works for every child. It also supports the Cambridge Curriculum. At the heart of Power Maths is the belief that "Every child can do maths". It is built around hard work, practice and a willingness to see mistakes as learning opportunities.

## The Power Maths teaching model

- The curriculum is broken down into core concepts, taught in units e.g. addition and subtraction, etc.
- Each unit is then divided into small learning steps – lessons.
- Each lesson is sequenced in the same format as follows:

Power Up – Discover – Share – Think Together – Practice – Reflect

## Power up!

We begin each maths lesson with a 'Power Up' activity designed to support fluency in all key number facts. Power Ups reinforce the two key things that are essential for success: times tables and number bonds.

## Discover

The 'Discover' part of the lesson kicks off the core concept being taught in the lesson.

It is a practical real-life problem that the children work in pairs to try to solve. It is encouraged that children use concrete objects during this part of the lesson and gives them time to play, explore and discuss possible strategies.

## Share

The 'Share' section allows the children to share and celebrate their solutions and strategies that they used to solve the problem from the 'Discover' section. The online toolkit shows how the concrete apparatus that the children used to explore the math concept, can then be explored using pictures.

'Share' is the "seeing" stage. It encourages the children to make a mental connection between the physical object they just handled and the abstract pictures, diagrams or models that represent the objects from the problem.

## Think Together

This section of the lesson allows children to explore new problems using the mathematical strategies they have learnt from the 'Share' section.

The questions promote child independence and an 'I can' attitude by following an 'I do, We do, You do approach'.

## Practice

The children have their own practice book and they work independently, following the same learning that has been explored through the 'Discover', 'Share', 'Think Together' sections. The questions in the practice book follow small steps of progression in order to deepen their learning.

## Reflect

This section allows the teacher the opportunity to check children's understanding and how deeply the children have understood the maths concept being taught.



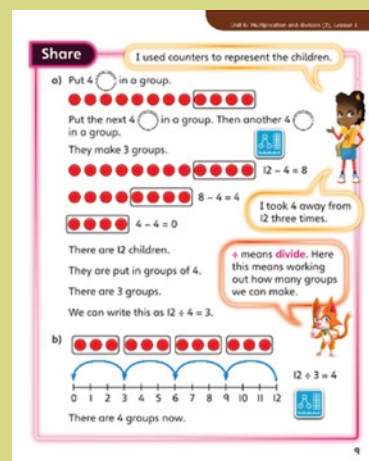
**Making equal groups**

**Discover**

**DISCO**




1 a) 12 children want to dance in groups of 4.  
How many groups are there?

b) The 12 children now dance in groups of 3.  
How many groups are there now?

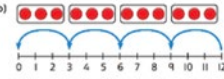


**Share**

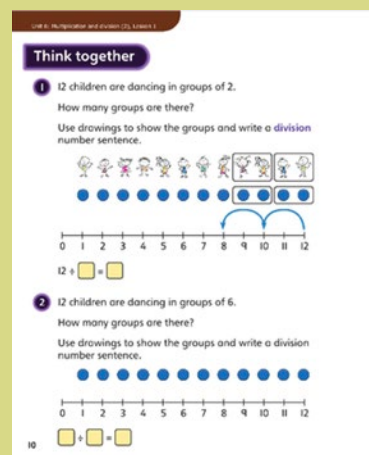
I used counters to represent the children.

a) Put 4  in a group.  
Put the next 4  in a group. Then another 4  in a group.  
They make 3 groups.  
 $12 - 4 = 8$   
 $8 - 4 = 4$   
 $4 - 4 = 0$   
I took 4 away from 12 three times.

There are 12 children.  
They are put in groups of 4.  
There are 3 groups.  
We can write this as  $12 \div 4 = 3$ .


b)   $12 \div 4 = 3$   
There are 4 groups now.

$\div$  means divide. Here this means working out how many groups we can make.

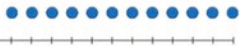


**Think together**

1 12 children are dancing in groups of 2.  
How many groups are there?  
Use drawings to show the groups and write a division number sentence.

  $12 \div \square = \square$

2 12 children are dancing in groups of 6.  
How many groups are there?  
Use drawings to show the groups and write a division number sentence.

  $\square \div \square = \square$

## How can you help at home?

You can continue to help your child by talking about maths positively at home. Children are influenced by those around them – if they hear people say they can't do maths, or they hate maths, they may develop a more negative attitude towards the subject. This can negatively affect their performance in the subject and their development of important life skills. It's important to help your child develop a growth mindset in mathematics too.

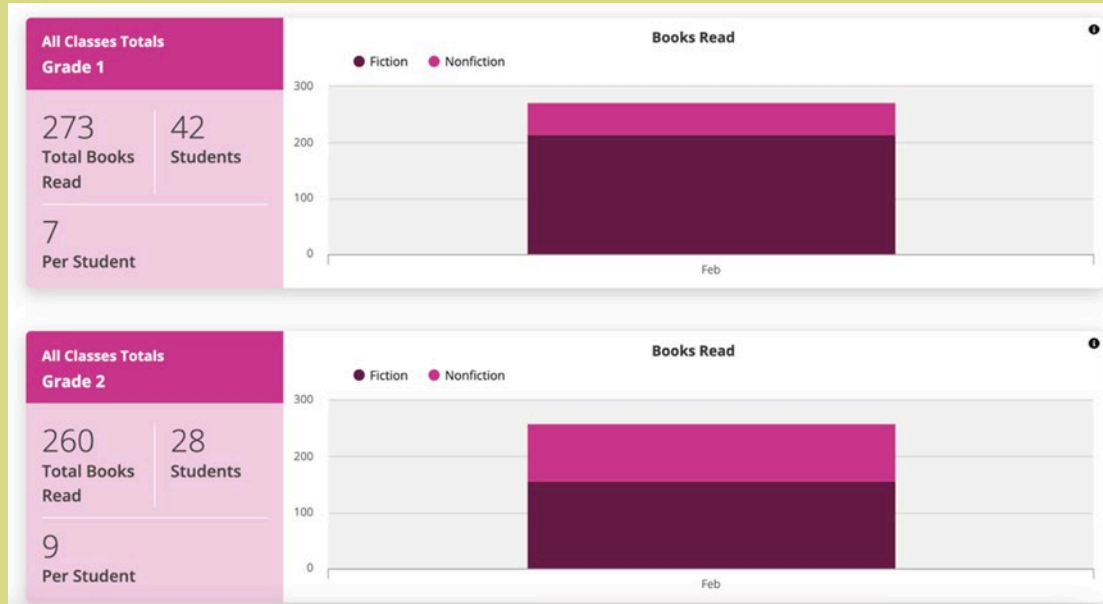
### Ideas!

- Make the most of shopping trips and other outings – talk about spending money and calculating change. Does your child understand the offers they see on signs or adverts in shops?
  - Maths is a broad subject, and encompasses topics like measure and shape! Can your child recognise shapes in their everyday surroundings? Can they tell the time, or use weighing scales?
  - Think about how you can involve your child in everyday problem solving. You may be planning a party, or cooking dinner. Many tasks involve sharing, or using fractions!
- Maths will be exciting this year and we hope to see the children thrive, enjoy and succeed. Have a great year.

## Reading Eggs in the Foundation Phase

We introduced Reading Eggs a year ago to our Thornhill pupils. Reading Eggs, being a vast and comprehensive learning tool has enabled children to keep progressing through phonics, word skills and reading practice. Last year's results showed that the platform definitely supported early reading. The Reception children in 2021 excelled. The pace has been slower so far this year, but the new Std 1 children are showing keen interest in the resource.

Data for the month of February 2022 for Std 1 and 2:



We have challenged the Std 2 pupils to complete the lessons and books in their Reading Eggs programme because they can achieve it and also to focus on getting to the Reading Express library as soon as possible. We issued 10 Reading Eggs certificates to Std 2 pupils in Week 6 to children who have completed the 121 lessons and read up to 345 books which was the highest achievement by one pupil. We will continue to reward the children with certificates as they progress through the programme.

Thank you for assisting your child each day. It is very much appreciated.

Mrs Y. Stuart



# House Captains

Congratulations and well done to the following on their election as House Captains for 2022:

**Notwane:**

Captain: Calisto Courage - 7S  
V/Captain: Onalenna Mokgosana - 7S

**Shashe:**

Captain: Nicko Maritz - 7O  
V/Captain: Reagile Kgari - 7S

**Limpopo:**

Captain: Mira Iyer - 7W  
V/Captain: Leungo Giddie - 7O

**Chobe:**

Captain: Victoria Graves - 7S  
V/Captain: Samantha Chivazve - 7S

I would like to wish them good luck as they take on their new roles.





# The Solo Runner



## **The Solo Runner – The Untold Story of Isaac Makwala**

Recently, we had the privilege of having one of our national athletics hero's, Isaac Makwala at Thornhill Primary School. He is currently launching his book, 'The Solo Runner' and he has been exceptionally kind and generous by donating copies to our school library.

He handed over copies to Mrs Withey and we are extremely grateful to him for thinking of us at Thornhill and I am sure the children are excited to read this fascinating book.



# Std 6 Spelling Bee

Two weeks ago, a Spelling Bee was organised to raise money for the Std 6 charities. The pupils from Std 3 to 7 competed, and many brought in a donation.

We raised over P7500 for which we thank all the generous and kind donors. Well done to Standard 6C and 3P, who raised over P1000 each.

The prize winners will receive vouchers to spend as they wish, and we would like to congratulate them on doing so well.

We would also like to thank the teachers for their unflinching support. The results are as follows:

## Std 3

- 1st Reneilwe 3H
- 2nd Luke 3P
- 3rd Masa 3W

## Std 4:

- 1st Fatima 4K
- 2nd Ivanka 4M
- 3rd Carmen 4S

## Std 5:

- 1st Huthaifah 5L
- 2nd Goutham 5G
- 3rd Vihren 5W

## Std 6:

- 1st Mukundi 6N
- 2nd Katlo 6B
- 3rd Ely 6C

## Std 7:

- 1st Calisto 7S
- 2nd Hardit 7W
- 3rd Ayaana 7O

Well done to all our children who participated in this event and well done to the children who performed exceptionally well.



# Std 3 Recorder Workshop



On 15 & 16 of February, the Std. 3 children took part in a recorder workshop. The workshop was held at school with the music teachers. Not only did the children learn to play the recorder, they also had some theory, how to read music, and rhythmic lessons.

During the theory part of the workshop they learnt about other woodwind instruments such as the flute and clarinet. They then got to play on some drums during another lesson in the workshop. During their music lessons, the Std 3 children have been learning how to read music. In the workshop they were able to use their bodies to make a human stave, treble clef and notes.

It was a well-rounded workshop, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children. The Music department will share an informative link, which will pass information on to show parents what the children learnt during the workshop.

This is what the children had to say:

"It was fun and I learnt a lot of new things" - Maya 3H

"It was interesting learning about new instruments" - Jasraj 3H

"It was really fun because we got to learn a lot and play a lot of recorder" - Joshua 3W

"It was really fun and Mr Kamwi was really funny, the drums were fun too" - Deeyanah 3W

"I liked the workshop because playing on the drums was fun and making the human body stave was also fun" - Lea 3P

"The workshop was fun because the drums were a lot of fun" - Mopatho 3P



# News from Std 7

We've been excited to begin our new Cambridge curriculum in English, Maths and Science. There have been quite a few additions to the curriculum, which has been very much in keeping with one of our primary aims of our Std 7 year – preparing our pupils for secondary school. All these new additions will give them a much broader base for secondary school, so they should adapt more easily. The changes have also streamlined our programme making it easier to present. And finally, the changes have added new dimensions – giving our pupils more challenging exercises, giving them more exposure to oral work and covering more aspects of environmental issues.

We have new text books for Maths and Science to cover all the changes. We ask that all the books be covered in plastic to offer them that extra protection.

Alongside the academic programme, we've been pleased that our leadership programme has also begun. Mr Greaves has announced the prefects, house captains and vice captains. We now have a full range of leadership skills on show and the pupils have taken up their new roles with enthusiasm. It is good to see how pinning a badge on a collar, can give the child that extra confidence and assist in their growth. Please remember, that we are continually watching out to add new people to our list and no child must feel disheartened if they have not yet been appointed in a leadership role.

It has also been good to see the pupils increase their programme by once again being able to take out library books and begin afternoon activities. It's almost been worth going through the restrictions, because when they are relaxed a bit, there is a palpable sense of excitement.

Mrs Schaerer





# Back at School in Std 2

The children in Std 2 have settled in well to life at Thornhill and here is some of their commentary:

"The playground is the best thing about Std 2. I like when we can swing and slide." - Skyler 2E

"I like Miss Pereira. She's fun!" - Corlea 2P

"My best thing is the spelling test and I'm trying so hard." - Shawn 2S

"Honestly, the best thing about Std 2 is maths. I can do maths the whole week!" - Zingisa 2E

"I like playing and having fun with my friends in Std 2." - Zachary 2P

"My favourite thing in Std 2 is handwriting. You can draw pictures and colour other things." - Mmarona 2S

"I like doing maths. I like breaking numbers into tens and ones." - Lile 2E


"I like learning maths on Valentine's Day doing addition and subtraction." - Grace 2P

"I like Std 2 because I like to work at maths." - Vidyuth 2S





# News from Std 5



Term 1 started off with a lot of excitement and settling into new routines and expectations, but the children are coping well. We have been pushing writing and reading through various activities outside of our English lessons, such as writing messages to the world. These messages are inspired by our Life Skills lessons, where we learn about different children from across the world, who have influenced their societies and the world at large.

When writing their messages to the world, children in Std 5 are expected to adhere to the writing rules studied in their English lessons and apply strong vocabulary and figurative language.

We have also introduced an exciting activity called 'Culture Bites', where we look at significant aspects in art, music, architecture, food and travel. So far, we have looked at the Sydney Opera House, The Scream, Elvis Presley and the Burj Khalifa - so you may be surprised by your child giving you information and their own analysis on these.

The Scholastic reading platform has kicked off very well and children's reading log books are impressive; thank you parents for your assistance.

Over the next few weeks, we will be preparing ourselves for our upcoming camp week, which replaces the currently suspended school trip. This gives our children something to look forward to. Details on the week will be shared soon, and we look forward to your support this year.

Mrs Graves



March 10 2022  
Thornhill ICT Department



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