

Issue 88 April 08 2022

Thornhill enews



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Dear Thornhill Family

I cannot believe we have come to the end of Term 1 and my hope is that your child has thoroughly enjoyed their learning experience. It was fantastic to have afternoon activities back and our recently held inter-house cross country was a huge success and we even managed two cricket fixtures against Northside. We truly hope and pray that we will be able to continue this during Term 2 and we look forward to inter-school fixtures as well.

I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to my amazing staff for their unwavering commitment to the children and their resolute motivation to provide the children with excellent learning opportunities. I sincerely thank them for the extra mile they go, every day. To the parents, thank you for your continued support towards your child/ren and the school. I hope you have a wonderful holiday with your child and that you create many wonderful memories. I know you will not miss the 'early school run'.

Pupil Achievements

There was an MX event at Two Rivers recently and some of our children participated in this event. It was an off road/cross country event. The race requires them to navigate a 27km loop through the bush by following different colour coded stickers in the bush. They need to cross river beds, road crossings and look out for animals.

Tommy 3P and Jayden 5L received a 2nd place and Lourens (4S) received 3rd place for the 65CC class. The boys had lots of fun and were even interviewed by BTV after the prize giving event. They were very proud of their achievements. Various boys and girls from Thornhill participated. Kazz (5W) received 4th, Adam (4K) 5th and Pieter (3P) 6th. Unfortunately, Gustav (4K) got injured in the race and could not finish.



Tiisetso (4S) took part in the Bloemfontein Junior Open Squash tournament recently. She was up against stiff competition, as she competed in the U11 Girls section. Tiisetso managed to show very good determination, as she ended up winning the final by two sets to one. Well done and congratulations on another outstanding performance, Tiisetso.



Well done and congratulations to Bo-Xiang (7W) on his Botswana U14 tennis selection. Bo-Xiang travelled to Egypt to attend the African Junior Championships.

Alumni Achievements

In the last eNewsletter, I reported on Tamika Visser and how well she had done with her life saving. Following on from that, Tamika took part in the South African National Open Water Lifesaving Championships and performed superbly, as she won the Victrix Ludorum for the U17 Girls section and four individual events along the way. We are all exceptionally proud of her achievements.

In closing, if you are travelling, then please do so safely and I hope you enjoy your children during this first term break. Stay safe, take care and 'Happy Holidays.'



'You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.' Zig Ziglar

I Greaves

Headteacher

Francophone Flag Art

On Monday, 14 March, Ely and I represented Thornhill at the Alliance Francais for the Francophone Week competition. We were given different flags of countries that are French speaking and had to recreate the flags within 45 minutes. It was challenging, but we had lots of fun participating. We competed against Al-Nur, Regent Primary, Baobab and Westwood.

Some of the items that we used were pasta, aromas, split peas, black seeds, leaves, chillies and sweets to recreate the flags. The flags that we were given were Canada, Senegal, Seychelles and Belgium.

We were very proud of our creations and we were extremely happy that we had won. It was an honour to be chosen and to compete in such an extraordinary event.

Maleeyah 6B

Reading Rocks

Teachers, staff and students alike, took a turn in a rocking chair in the Library as Thornhill Primary celebrated Book Week with a "Reading Rocks" event. The aim was to have someone from the school in the rocking chair, reading continuously for a week. And we did it! Everyone arrived for their ten minute slot and rocked!

Thornhill rocks at reading!



Digital Citizenship - Rianette Leibowitz

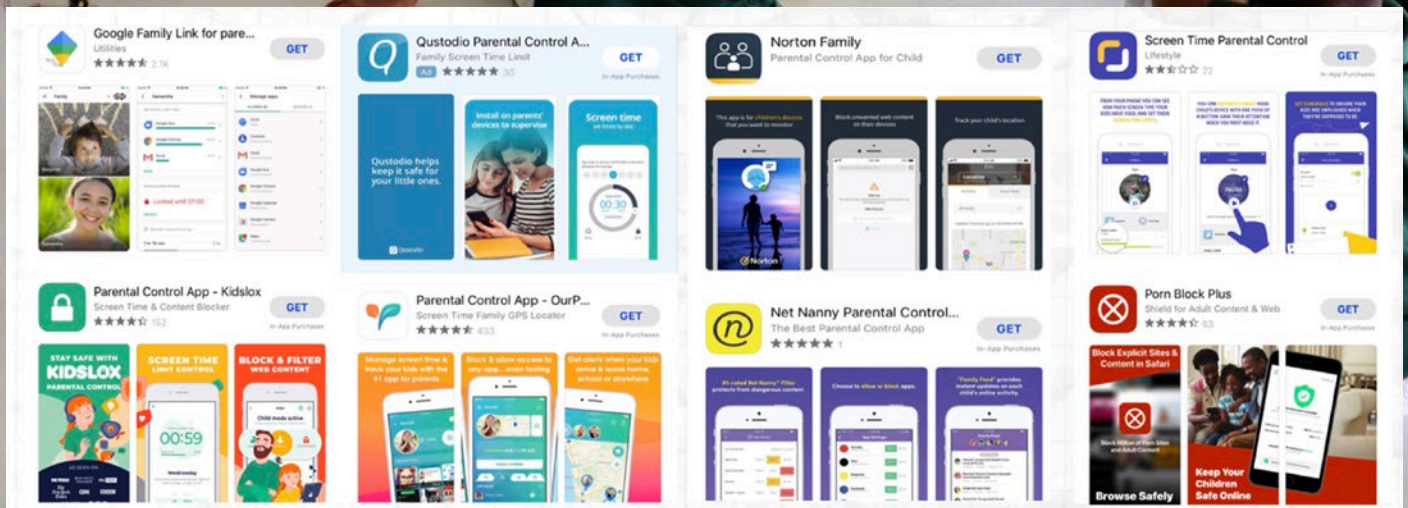
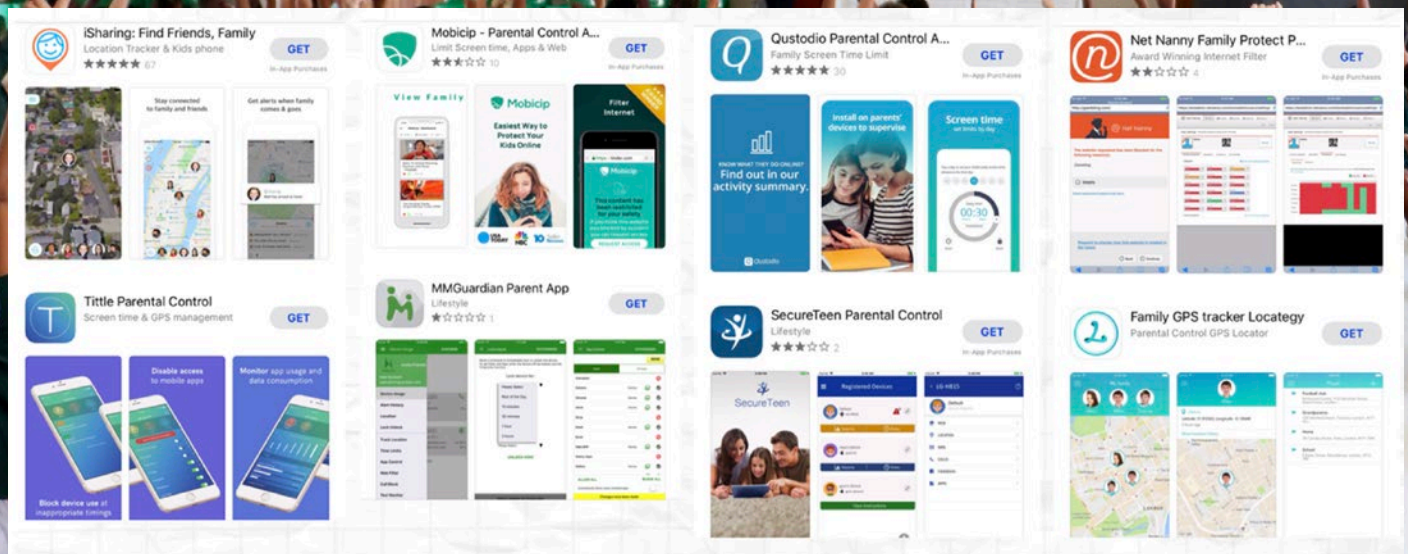
Rianette Leibowitz, a Cyber Wellness and Online Safety speaker, recently visited Thornhill School where she presented to both parents and pupils, on how to ensure that families understand both the risks and opportunities presented by the internet and social media.

A good digital citizen protects their personal information, uses good judgment, and treats others with respect. Whether you're posting on social media, sending an email, or commenting on an online discussion. Practicing good digital citizenship makes our online world a more welcoming place for everyone.

Be mindful:

- Of what you say online – is it appropriate?
- Of what you read online – is it appropriate?
- Of what you watch online – is it appropriate?
- Of what you share online – is it appropriate?

Some useful Apps to assist in helping you and your child make the right choices:



Std 3 Dr Seuss

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.” Dr. Seuss

On 5 March, Std 3 celebrated the author Dr. Seuss with Dr. Seuss Day. There was certainly a buzz in the air on the day, as the children came to school dressed as their favourite Dr. Seuss character.

One of the activities had the children designing and making a hat out of recycled material. These hats presented themselves with a number of unexpected challenges, but through determination and a few adjustments the final results were outstanding. A hat parade showing off their hard work ended the day on a high.

It was not just one day that was used to celebrate Dr. Seuss, but the whole week leading up to it. We celebrated the author through reading, writing, poetry, and even art. Our children tried their hand at writing some “Green Eggs and Ham” poetry in pairs. There was such excitement finding rhyming words to add in the poem, a task that was a lot more difficult than they expected.

Dr. Seuss was not only an author, but also an illustrator too. We would not be doing this celebration of his work and life any justice if we did not add some art into the mix. We painted, drew, cut and pasted some Dr. Seuss inspired art pieces.

To top off the week of celebration, the children put their creative writing to the test. After reading “The Lorax”, they were asked to write a response to what they would do, if they were given the last Truffula seed. Their writing has come along nicely and the responses were mature. We could have a few budding authors on our hands. It was a fun week of learning for Std 3 children.

So tell us, what would YOU do with the last Truffula seed?



World Maths Day

This was held on Wednesday, 23 March and the teachers geared their Maths and other subject lessons towards having 'more' fun in Maths - it was a great success, as was the Civics day and there were some very impressive outfits. Here are some comments from the various standards.

"I liked painting my shape pizza" - Amina

"I liked looking for the Numicon in the sticky orbies." - Safia

"I loved the flashcard race!" - Marang

"I liked the speed test!" - April

"I enjoyed drawing myself in 2D shapes." - Charlie

"I learned there are more shapes than I knew about." - Declan

"We did Roman Numeral Clocks - we cut and stuck and made the hands. Then we had a competition to guess what the numbers look like beyond X up to XXV. We had Louise online who took us into her kitchen where there is a Roman Numeral clock and she just loved being able to show us around and discuss her clock and tie up what the numerals meant."

In Std 5, the students worked out the 'estimate mystery' from Steven Wybourny and looked for Maths facts in today's date. They also listened to Maths songs and identified number facts. The classes worked on tessellation using 2D shapes. The day was completed with a game of dice from NRICH where the children worked in pairs to round decimal numbers to the nearest whole numbers.

"I learned how to do the Magic Squares and I found the number bonds triangle most fun, as it was kind of complicated, but I worked it out after a while." - Mengjing

"I found Sudoku the most fun and it is not as easy as it looks, especially not on a 3 X 3 grid." Nina

"Maths - makes awesome things happen." - Ganda 7S

"Fun practical activities made for a special day." Ayush 7S

Maths Olympiad

Last week 25 of our Std 5 to 7 children wrote Round Two of the Maths Olympiad. The results have been sent to the Botswana Olympiad committee, and they will let us know the outcome in due course.

At the Primary School level and Junior Secondary School level, eight pupils will be chosen to represent the country and will go forward to take part in the World Maths Olympiad International competition. One is to be a virtual competition and the other is planned to be held in Oslo, Norway. These will be held in June and July this year.

We are proud of our budding young mathematicians.



News from Std 5



The week kicked off on an all-time high as the children took part in the Amazing Race at the field. All the students dazzled in their "Std 5 Rocks T-shirts". They collaborated superbly in their respective teams.

In between these activities our Std 5 children wrote some 'humorous' poems and performed their own poetry.


Many treats, donated by parents kept, everyone looking forward to the breaks between activities and we thank all our wonderful parents for their generous support and donations.

On Thursday morning, one could feel the excitement in the air as the students marched to the field to relish the obstacle course that the PE Department had so meticulously set up. Teams cheered for each other and there was some healthy competition amongst the classes.

Later in the week, as the camp week came to a close, the children showcased their many hidden talents, which ranged from dancing, singing, stand-up comedy and some magic tricks. I must say, this week will be a memorable week for all the Std 5 children and teachers too.

Thank you to all the children involved in making this week such a success.

PTA Golf Day

A photograph of a golfer in the middle of a swing on a golf course. The golfer is wearing a yellow bucket hat, a beige and white striped polo shirt, light-colored shorts, white socks, and white and grey sneakers. He is holding a golf club with both hands. The background shows a green golf course with trees and a building with a thatched roof under a cloudy sky.

With the easing of Covid restrictions, it was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic golfers out to take part in one of the most popular events on the Thornhill School calendar.

Come rain or shine, it was a glorious morning and once again there was no shortage of food, beverages and fun activities on many of the holes. With lots of good sportsmanship and also a lot of laughs, it was a fabulous day enjoyed by both good, not so good and want to be good golfers.

Well done to all who took part, but especially the unsung heroes of a popular day like this, including staff on the course, Thornhill's PTA, organisers, caddies and our generous sponsors. Once again The Thornhill Golf Day lived up to the expectations that we all have come to enjoy and look forward to.

Our sincere thanks is extended to Mrs Williams and her PTA committee.

News from Std 1

Recently, the Std 1 children were shown an intriguing picture of a toadstool in a forest during the Pobble focus week. They were poised with open ended questions and given the freedom to answer them on their own.

Here are a few responses from Std 1S:

"I think a lizard lives in the toadstool. He is strong and he eats a lot of food there. He has brown hair and he is tall with a long body. He likes to play. I would like to live in the toadstool because I like eating too." - Nathan

"I think a witch lives in the toadstool. She has dark blue clothes and she likes to fly on her stick. She has grey long hair. When she is at home she likes to make potions and smell flowers. I would not like to live in the toadstool because it is dirty and there are no friends."

"I think a fairy lives in the toadstool. The fairy has rainbow hair and pink eyes. She is short and she has sparkly wings. She likes to sing. I would not like to live in a toadstool because it is stinky." - Harper

"I think a fairy lives in the toadstool. She has rainbow hair and purple eyes. She is tall. She has a pretty face. She wears lipstick and she likes to swim. I would like to live in a toadstool because it will be fun to play in the garden." - Gisandi

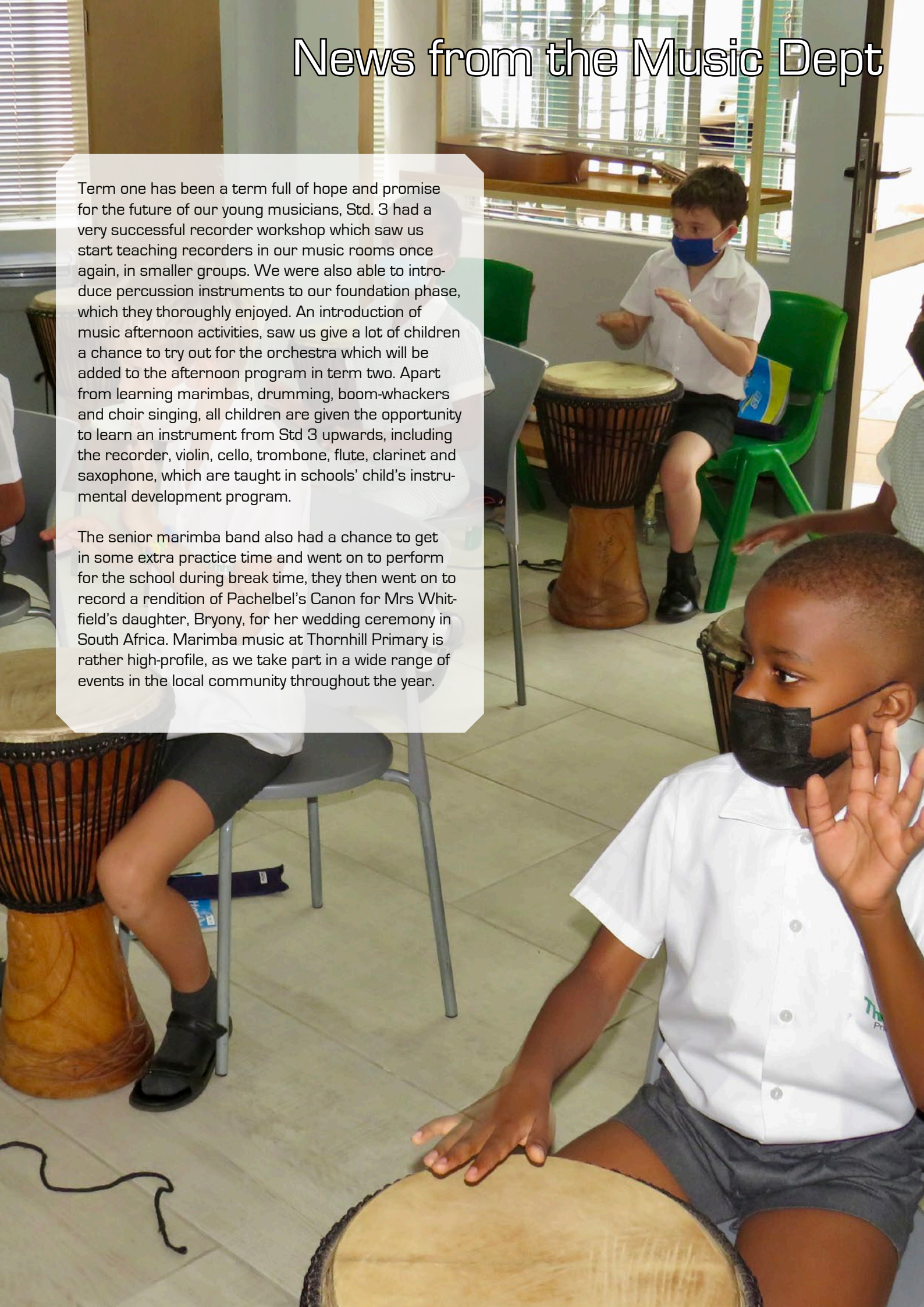
"I think a fairy lives in the toadstool. She has rainbow hair and she has pink eyes. She likes to wave her wand. I would like to live in the toadstool because I love the toadstool." - Han Xuan




News from the Music Dept

Term one has been a term full of hope and promise for the future of our young musicians, Std. 3 had a very successful recorder workshop which saw us start teaching recorders in our music rooms once again, in smaller groups. We were also able to introduce percussion instruments to our foundation phase, which they thoroughly enjoyed. An introduction of music afternoon activities, saw us give a lot of children a chance to try out for the orchestra which will be added to the afternoon program in term two. Apart from learning marimbas, drumming, boom-whackers and choir singing, all children are given the opportunity to learn an instrument from Std 3 upwards, including the recorder, violin, cello, trombone, flute, clarinet and saxophone, which are taught in schools' child's instrumental development program.

The senior marimba band also had a chance to get in some extra practice time and went on to perform for the school during break time, they then went on to record a rendition of Pachelbel's Canon for Mrs Whitfield's daughter, Bryony, for her wedding ceremony in South Africa. Marimba music at Thornhill Primary is rather high-profile, as we take part in a wide range of events in the local community throughout the year.



Std 4 Dragonologists

A child is shown from the side, wearing a brown dinosaur mask with yellow teeth and a black dragon costume with grey wings. The child is looking towards the left. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

Another year gone by with COVID still lingering over our heads meant yet another year that the Std 4's couldn't go on their annual camping trip to Mokolodi. However, the many sad 'Aaaahhs' at the thought of not going, to camp were met by lots of excitement and anticipation of a great 'Dragon Adventure Day'!

The day kicked off with news reports of dragon sightings, which we definitely wanted to get a glimpse of too! In efforts to get closer to hopefully spotting the dragon, the children embarked on a scavenger hunt. This scavenger hunt had the children following different clues and riddles leading them scrambling all around the school grounds in search of the next clue bringing them to the final golden treasure. The hunt came with a lot of challenges for some of the teams, but overall, great teamwork and cooperation was shown amongst all the teams.

After all the treasure was found, the children sprawled out on their picnic blankets for a feast with all their friends! This was definitely a sight to see as all the children were dressed up as mythical creatures. Some of the outfits were spectacular! Lots of sweet treats later, tummies full and energy restored, the children all got to wade through the mystical river (swimming pool) diving through hoops to find any treasure the dragon may have left underwater.

As future dragonologists, all the children designed and drew out their own maps to help others in their quests to seek out dragons. Throughout the term, the children worked on creating their own trump cards with their own different dragons that they had come up with. All the dragons strengths and powers were put to the test with a Dragon Trump Tournament to end the day! All in all, the children had a wonderful time, testing their wit and using their imaginations and this day was a great success! One of the children even went on to describe this day as "The best day of my life!"

Inter House Cross Country

There was great excitement at the recent inter house Cross Country and the children really enjoyed the competition. Well done and congratulations to the following who placed first in their respective standards:

Std 2: Quade Jones
Lume Van Dyk

Std 3: Jozua Bruwer
Masa Manale

Std 4: Joash Kurewa
Carmen Brasem

Std 5: Leruo Bakwena
Tana Courage

Std 6: Diako Thupayagale
Lillian Bruwer

Std 7: Atang Kelatile
Isla Shand

Well done and congratulations to Shashe who are our 2022 champions and Chobe were second, followed by Limpopo and Notwane in third and fourth respectively.

Finally, well done and congratulations to Limpopo for winning the Spirit Trophy at the event.

How nice it is to report on a competitive match since the restrictions were lifted recently. In exactly two years and 7 days, Thornhill took part in their first sporting fixture since the beginning of Covid-19. The U13 cricket team travelled to Northside to play a 20 over match and we had exceptional support from our parents who came to watch.

Ayush won the toss and elected to bowl first. You could certainly see that we had not played competitive cricket for a long time. We battled with our channels and lengths, but managed to restrict Northside to 91 for the loss of 2 wickets in their respective 20 overs. The pick of the bowlers was Ayush, who was ably supported by Nathan and our two young Std 4 players, De Vrye and Johan. Nathan also bowled well up front.

Thornhill went in to bat and got off to a blistering start with Nathan (33*) and Dhruv (13*) setting a good platform. Both batsmen retired and Liam (14*) and Advait (18*) went on to close out the match, which saw Thornhill win by 10 wickets.

The man of the match went to Nathan for a good all round performance. Well done to Lillian who played her first game of cricket.

We then hosted Northside at Thornhill during the last week of term and won the toss and sent them into bat. We did not create enough pressure with the ball, but managed to restrict Northside to 100 for the loss of 4 wickets.

Thornhill's response was clinical as we notched up the winning runs in the eleventh over, with Nathan (24*), Liam (19*) and Advait (18*). The result was that Thornhill won by 9 wickets.

I hope the team has enjoyed the fixtures and we look forward to building on this foundation in the second term. Congratulations to Liam who was 'Man of the Match.'



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Thornhill ICT Department



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