

Issue 90 August 04 2022

Thornhill enews



Dear Thornhill Family

As we draw near to the end of another very successful term and we look forward to the last few days, I would like to touch on the topic of 'Thanks.'

On the topic of thanks, I would like to highlight our wonderful teachers and would like to pay a sincere tribute to them all. Teaching is often not an easy job, but one that they all absolutely love. I would like to thank them for the unbelievable commitment and dedication that they give to our children and for always going the 'extra mile.' They are fantastic individuals and I am certainly privileged to be part of this awesome Thornhill team, as well as the greater Thornhill community.

I would also like to thank our administration, finance and estate staff for the incredible job they do, in ensuring that this school functions smoothly and effectively.

Finally, to you the parents, my sincere thanks for working with us during the first two terms, for respecting our protocols around Covid and for supporting your children when we were able to open the doors and have you on campus at the various events.

As we work our way back as a country from the effects of the pandemic, we all hope that it is onward and upward and I look forward to a wonderful and exciting third term.

Pupil Achievement

Recently, some of our Thornhill boys took part in the Motorbike Off Road Race at the Gabs July event. The three Thornhill boys took all the podium places in the 65 CC Class. They are part of their own established racing team called the DIRT BROS.

Positions were as follows:

1st Place - Tommy Jayden (Std 3)

2nd Place - Lourens (Std 4)

3rd Place - Adam (Std 4)



Well done and congratulations to all the abovementioned boys on their fantastic performance.

Staff vs PTA Bowls

The PTA challenged the staff to a game of bowls on Friday, 17 June. It was a cold Friday evening, but every one turned up determined to have a lot of fun - due to the fact we hadn't had our normal bi-annual challenge due to Covid restrictions.

It was a hard-fought contest with both sides pulling out all the stops to win bragging rights.

The first round matches were drawn and the teams got busy pacing up and down the green, willing their bowls to get closest to the jack. A shift in match opponents was made and the second round of matches began. A bit of focus had been lost by both teams, as most people wanted to get into the club house to get warm.

The final score on the night was a draw, which is a good indication of the fun and camaraderie, which we had experienced as a group of Thornhill staff and parents.

Pupil Achievements

My name is Amelia and last week I went skydiving. My family and I drove up to the Makgadikgadi Pans. I was supposed to skydive on Friday last week (01/07), but unfortunately I was delayed until Saturday.

It was finally time to jump and I was so excited. I was lucky because it was for 12 years and above, but I was able to do it. We were taken in a bus to the airport. We waited for about half an hour and then we got into a little aeroplane. We flew high up into the sky and I was first to jump. I jumped out with a professional skydiver who had done more than 10,000 jumps. When the parachute opened everything went quiet and it was so exciting and so much fun.

As soon as I landed I was so amazed and a lady came up to me and asked if she could have an interview with me. After the interview, I realised that the President of Botswana was also watching me and I got to meet him too. It was the best time of my life.



Reception Readiness Assessment for 2023

Another round of Reception Readiness Assessments for 2023 has just completed at the end of June with 10 sessions taking place over a period of two weeks.

It was wonderful to see so much excitement and anticipation on their little faces as the school gates opened. The strings of brightly coloured bunting welcomed the children into the Reception playground. The new intake spent a happy hour at "Big school" doing lots of different fun age appropriate, readiness activities before being collected by their parents. We look forward to welcoming lots of the new faces to the Thornhill Family in 2023.

Please look out for final eNewsletter, which will be sent out on Thursday next week and will report on the events of the past four weeks of term.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Std 3 Boxitect Day

On Friday, 24 June, the Std 3 children were all excited and full of chatter, as they came to school ready for Boxitect Day. During the course of the week, they watched a video on Boxitects and were then put into groups to come up with some interesting ideas on making items using only boxes.

Lots of different shapes and sizes of boxes were brought to school along with some fancy decorations. While planning and making the items, they learned how to work as a team and to communicate with each other in a respectful and responsible way. They made some amazing items such as cars, houses, a castle, a dog robot and even an oven.

Here is what some of the Std 3 children had to say about Boxitect day.

'We had lots of fun creating and decorating our oven. We had to work together and change a few of our ideas, but in the end it all worked out and our oven looked amazing. We even baked some cookies in our oven.'
Illektra, Lea and Ava - 3P

'We got to build what we wanted to with the boxes we brought to school. It was lots of fun with our friends designing and making swords, axes, as well as a shield from the Minecraft game.'
Raphael, Chad, Zuri and Tumisang - 3H

We really enjoyed working with our team. We each came up with different ideas and were excited to put the final masterpiece together. It was an adorable cute robot dog with wings.
Deeyanah, Gabriel, Declan, Johren, Josh and Aahana - 3W



Std 3 Music Concert

"Sometimes music is the only medicine you need"

One exciting item we had this term was the Std 3 concert. Here the children were able to showcase what they have been learning during their music lessons. We enjoyed three different recorder pieces, as well as an upbeat marimba rendition that had many feet tapping. Some children were brave and showed their own musical talents by playing piano, violin, dancing and singing.

There certainly is a wealth of talent in Std 3 and it is going to be wonderful watching them mature, and to see how far they will take these skills. It was especially wonderful having the parents join us in person, enjoying the show live.

This was particularly evident from the children's responses about the concert. The most common response to their favourite part was performing for mom and dad. The children put in a great deal of effort practising their pieces and could not wait to show off their hard work.

Thank you to the Music department for the many hours spent preparing and all the practising, it was a wonderful show.

A few words from some of the solo performers
'It was exciting performing on stage for an audience.' - Maya 3H

'It was nice being able to perform in front of my mom and dad. I was so nervous.' - Ahaana 3W



Std 1 Robots


There was an atmosphere of excitement, as we began introducing the book 'Chips Robot' to the Std 1 children. During the holidays the children were asked to use the book as a guide to create their own robots from recycled materials.

The children couldn't wait any longer and brought their robots to school and they were put on display in the library for the rest of the school to see. We as Std 1 teachers were amazed at the level of creativity and effort put into the building of their robots.

Thank you to all the parents for their hard work in making this project a success.



Day of the African Child



The Day of the African child day commenced with activities on the field, which saw involvement from the entire school. This served as a prelude to a fun filled week, which was organised by our Setswana Department and our wonderful children.

The children marched down to the field with an air of excitement. With each class assigned a country, they arrived dressed in their respective African country colours, the pupils paraded proudly and showed off their creations in an impressive spectacle. Our thanks must be extended to the parents for their support in helping their child prepare for this day.

All the performances were well prepared and showcased the natural talents of our children. A lot of learning happened too, as the day explored themes of diversity and growing up in Africa.

Thank you to the Setswana department for such an amazing day and the parents for their continued support.

Std 2 Creative Writing

My Teacher is Missing!

The children in 2E were asked to exercise their imaginations and write a story about a day when they came to school and found their teacher missing.

On Wednesday we all went to school but something was wrong. Mrs Egner was not here. I told the children let's go and find Mrs Egner at PE. When we went to PE we found a note. It said if you don't give me Mr Greaves in 24 hours or I'll put Mrs Egner in an active volcano!

Everyone!... after school we will find Mrs Egner and the thief. Time went by. We saw a hatch. 6 boys went inside. We saw Mrs Egner. But the thief saw me and the 6 boys. The light was off. 4 boys disappeared and the thief must of taken them. Oh no! We untied Mrs Egner and she saw a net. Thuo got the net and we went to the mysterious tunnel. We saw a light and a boy sitting on a rock. It was Affan so he told me where to go. Then we untied him...

and we carried on. Soon after we saw a pit of water full of electric eels and there was a piece of wood. We can put the piece of wood across the pit. Soon we got across the pit and the tunnel ended. We saw a door but it was locked. Then we saw the bricks behind us were moving down. We were trapped! Oh no!" I said, "Look for the key." Thuo found the key so we put it in the door and we put the key down. Then we saw the thief and the 3 boys. Mrs Egner grabbed the net. We got the thief and we took his mask off. It was Mr Greaves! I wanted for him to tell me why did he do it? He said, "I was jealous of Mrs Egner because she was a good teacher. I want her great class." So they swapped jobs and 2E got extra break. **Thomas**

Senses of the Sea

The sea sounds peaceful and calm and it sounds like rain. It hisses like white noise. I heard whooshing and it sounds like an aeroplane engine. It smells salty and fishy. It smells strong. It smells good and smells like sand. The waves look like snow and clouds and it's glittery. They look like ice and are bubbly and foamy. **Thuo**

Blending In

Std 2P did a Pobble based story about 'blending In.' It was about a zebra that was cast out from her herd for being different. We discussed situations where one might feel left out or invisible and what they could do to overcome such a situation, we related it to their real-life experiences.

The following were some experiences from three children in the class:

I have felt the same as the zebra once. When I first moved to Botswana, I had to come to a new school and make new friends, it wasn't easy. I felt weird, sad, nervous and lonely all at the same time. The advice I would give to others is be kind to others and show that you can be a good friend, then they will make you feel included. **Magnolia**

I joined Thornhill in Term 3 of 2021, I felt awkward, nervous and out of place on the first day. I thought everyone would bully me and nobody would want to be my friend, but it was the opposite, they all wanted to be my friend. When it was home time, I even felt sad, I did not want to leave because I was having so much fun. What I would say to somebody feeling different or left out is, it is okay to sometimes feel that way, and it's okay to be different, that's what makes you special, just be kind. **Shathiso**

I felt very left out when I moved here to Botswana from Germany. Everything felt brand new, I was anxious and scared to go anywhere alone because I felt like I didn't fit in and I wouldn't have any friends. I stayed very close to my mom and dad wherever I went. After about a month, I made new friends and I felt much happier and more comfortable, like I finally belonged. I would suggest to other children, that you should just be who you are and look for things you have in common with others and always be friendly and respectful. **Filip**

News from Std 7

The Std 7 children have been very busy and are making full use of all our extended activities.

Academically, the last few weeks have involved extensive preparation for the exams and then the actual writing of them. In our Cambridge orientated exam papers, we have been pleased to see how well the pupils have adapted to the new curriculum. In Geography and History, they have been tested on a wide variety of skills and topics giving them a great background for their future years.

A rather amusing comment from Layla of 7S regarding the exams: "My favourite part of this term was looking around the class right before the exams and all I could see was the sheer panic on everyones face, as they waited for the exam to be placed on their desks."

We would like to congratulate Micaela, Wedu and Zaydaan for their recent participation in the international Maths Olympiad. To represent Botswana in this is a tremendous honour and the experience gained from the high competition is invaluable.

The afternoons have been full of sporting activities and have seen the start of inter school matches. It is important for our Std 7 children to get an all-round education and to see the benefits of keeping fit as part of a healthy lifestyle. They have also been set a challenge of participating in a "Polar Bear Swim". This involves swimming in the early morning across the small pool. They have to do this three times. There were eighteen who braved the freezing water during the first swim on a very cold morning. It sounds easy, but you ask those who did it, and they'll tell you how tough this actually is. We look forward to seeing them do the next two swims, and during the last one, they'll be accompanied by Mr Greaves.

Samantha has also represented Botswana playing tennis for her country. Hearty congratulations to her. To be selected at national level and to play internationally is something to be very proud of and shows her commitment to the sport. Well done, Samantha.

The Std 7 year group have been thrilled to get their 2022 "hoodies". They have been aptly named, "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Santa Claus" by various members of staff. They certainly stand out and are enjoying a Std 7 privilege.



Inter House Athletics



The field and track events went off exceptionally well and the children enjoyed both events. There was great competition in most of the age groups and the final victor and victrix winners were as follows:

U9

Girls – Gabriella Cloete & Lea Nortje
Boys – Jozua Bruwer

U10

Girls – Masa Monowe
Boys – Joash Kurewa

U11

Girls – Yashe Masomosomo
Boys – Leruo Bakwena

U12

Girls – Leneo Gaopotlake
Boys – Diako Thupayagale

U13

Girls – Isla Shand
Boys – Ganda Butale

Congratulations to our 2022 winners, Shashe House. They were followed by Notwane in second and Chobe and Limpopo in third and fourth place respectively. Well done to all our children who participated in the field and track events.

Congratulations and well done to the following children who have been selected for the zonal Football team:

Ganda Butale
Calisto Courage
Tema Modirelabangwe
Diako Thupayagale
Katlo Ramagaga
Atang Thekiso
Katlo Ramagaga
Logan Dobrowsky
Omogolo Linchwe
Poeey Ngada
Atang Kelatile



Netball

Congratulations and well done to the following children who have been selected for the zonal Netball team:

Victoria Graves
Micaela Xavier
Chloe Kaddu
Wedu Chilume
Leneo Gaopotlake



Chess



Over the last weekend Thornhill took 8 children to compete in a 6 round chess tournament at TDS. There were 2 categories, being an U10 section and an U13 section.

Nitya and Goutham won 4 games out of 6 in the U13 section and Kavan was the only U10 who won 4 games out of 6.

There also was Buhle (3 wins), Masa (1 win), Abaleng (2 wins), Zuri (1 wins) and Ayush (3 wins) in the team. All the children did so well in their games. They enjoyed the tournament and are looking forward to another one.

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Thornhill ICT Department



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