

Issue 94 December 09 2022

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Thornhill Family

Where has the year gone? I cannot believe we completed another academic year and I would like to thank you all for an incredible term, albeit a busy one. There were an innate amount of memories made and for a long time, it seemed like Thornhill of old, away from Covid.

Looking back on the year, I can confidently say it has been challenging, rewarding and successful in all spheres. Schools do not function in isolation or in a vacuum. In order for schools, as organisations, to be successful, a team effort is required. It is in this vein that I would like to thank all our parents and friends of Thornhill for their continued support and all the extra effort put in, for both the children and the school.

To the Std 7 children who leave and take up the challenge of secondary school, my hope is that part of this special school goes with each and every single one of you. Make sure that you always continue to dream and reach for the stars. May your lives be exciting, wonderful and successful, and treasure your happy memories of life with the Thornhill family, as it is such a privilege. Remember the words of A.A. Milne, 'You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and loved more than you'll ever know.'

To the many parents leaving, we shall miss you too, and wish you well. Thank you for entrusting your children to us for these IMPORTANT years and for your support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my entire staff, whose support, dedication, commitment and innate nurturing of the children, makes Thornhill the school it is today. To all my Thornhill staff (academic, admin and estate) involved in this very incredible school, I thank you. It is, and will always be, a privilege working alongside you.

## Standard Six Outreach Programme

This year the Thornhill community answered our appeal for Christmas presents with its usual generosity and kindness. We received hundreds of gifts, all beautifully wrapped and labelled. These presents will make a happier Christmas for many children less fortunate than our own.

Some Std 6 children went to St Peters in Mogoditshane last week to deliver their gifts, and we had a party with them. The cakes were generously baked by the parents and children of Std 6 and we used money we had raised previously to buy more party food. We played games with the young children and entertained them with the Std 6 recorder piece from their concert. We spent a wonderful morning there, and came away realising how fortunate we are, and pleased that we had made new friends and a difference.

We have many presents left to send to the other charities that we support. One collection will go to the children of Africa Havens in Old Naledi and the second collection will go to AAP in Broadhurst, who look after orphans mostly in the rural areas.

Our thanks must go to everyone who made these donations possible, thank you once again for always supporting us.

## Prize Giving

Congratulations to all the children who received awards at the annual Prize Giving this year. Your hard work, commitment and diligence paid just reward. Further to this, well done and congratulations to the following major prize winners:

**First in Std 6:** Alex Xiu

**Dux:** Wedu Chilume

**Fellowship:** Calisto Courage and Wedu Chilume

**Runner up to Dux in Std 7:** Mira Iyer

**Headmaster Award:** Mira Iyer

**Bruce Blewett:** Samantha Chivazve

## Kindness Week

World Kindness Day was on the 13th of November. For the past two weeks Thornhill celebrated Kindness Week, teaching the children and reminding them about the importance of being kind. Small acts of kindness create feelings of self-worth and belonging. Classroom notice boards were decorated beautifully emphasising kindness. Fun activities were done across all the standards. Dance along with songs, reading stories and written activities by the children of what it means to them to be kind. We also started a "caught you being kind" kindness tree which is blooming from all the random acts of kindness that happened at school. We hope that it was a memorable experience for the children and that they will always remember to show kindness in everything they do.

It was amazing to see how generous the kids at Thornhill can be. All over the school grounds you could hear and see children being kind to each other and their teachers. We hope that they take these acts of kindness to the next level and display them in their everyday lives, and not just during kindness week.

## Reception 2023 Orientation

Our Reception Orientation for 2023 took place on Wednesday, 16 November. Selected Std 7 pupils ushered our new parents to the Helen Mathole Memorial Hall and the future 'Thornhill Legends' were led to the Foundation Hall, which was beautifully decorated with our current Reception children's Christmas strings.

Mrs Schubert played her guitar and the teachers and children sang a few Christmas songs to break the ice. The children were divided into 4 groups and went into the classrooms to have an hour of fun with the teachers. They went home, wide eyed, excited and with a sense of confidence, which will mark the beginning of their primary school career. We are looking forward to welcoming our new group of children in January, 2023.

I trust that you will all have a wonderful holiday and, if you are travelling, then do so safely. I look forward to seeing you all when school reopens on Tuesday, 17 January 2023.

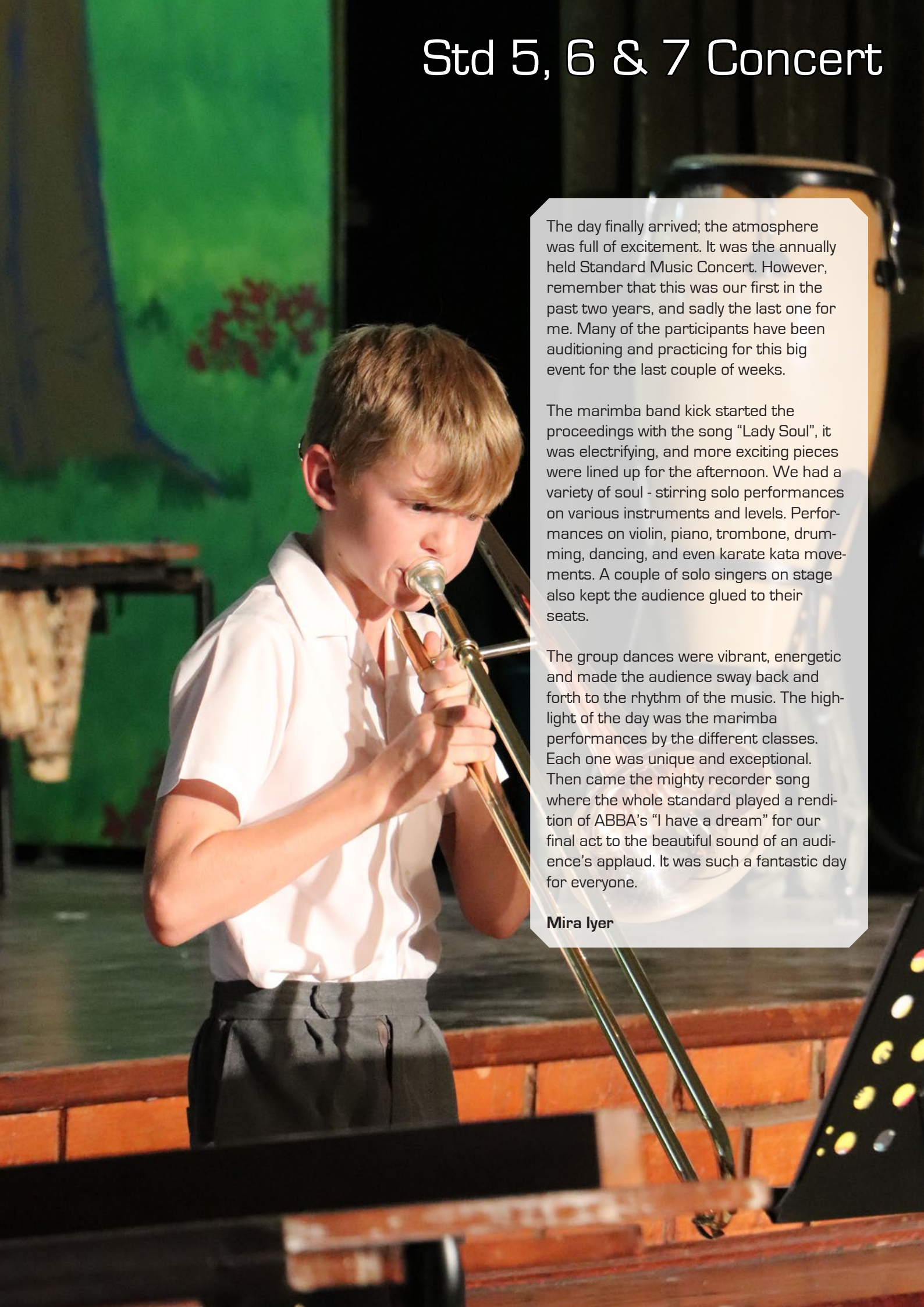
I leave you with these words:

'What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments but what is woven into the lives of others.'

**I Greaves**

Headteacher

# Std 5, 6 & 7 Concert

A young boy with light brown hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and grey trousers, is captured in profile, playing a trumpet. He is standing on a stage with a brick wall in the background. The lighting is warm, highlighting his concentration. To the right, a marimba is partially visible.


The day finally arrived; the atmosphere was full of excitement. It was the annually held Standard Music Concert. However, remember that this was our first in the past two years, and sadly the last one for me. Many of the participants have been auditioning and practicing for this big event for the last couple of weeks.

The marimba band kick started the proceedings with the song "Lady Soul", it was electrifying, and more exciting pieces were lined up for the afternoon. We had a variety of soul - stirring solo performances on various instruments and levels. Performances on violin, piano, trombone, drumming, dancing, and even karate kata movements. A couple of solo singers on stage also kept the audience glued to their seats.

The group dances were vibrant, energetic and made the audience sway back and forth to the rhythm of the music. The highlight of the day was the marimba performances by the different classes. Each one was unique and exceptional. Then came the mighty recorder song where the whole standard played a rendition of ABBA's "I have a dream" for our final act to the beautiful sound of an audience's applaud. It was such a fantastic day for everyone.

**Mira Iyer**

# Foundation Nativity



So, after a two year Covid enforced hiatus from performances of any kind on the school campus we were able to present the Nativity Concert again. The children were very excited and after a number of much needed practices, the day of the show finally dawned.

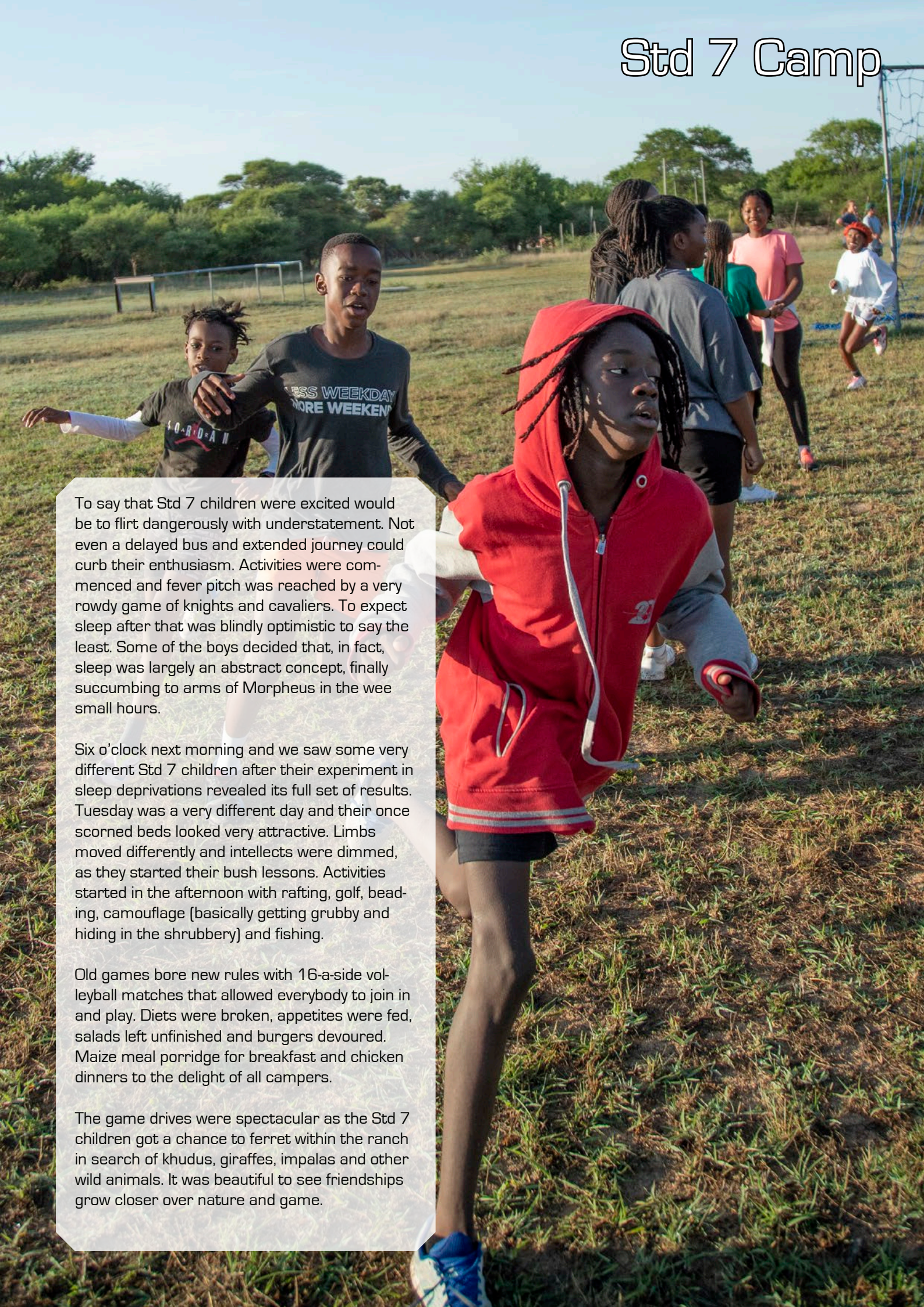
As usual the pool deck looked beautiful with the floating stars and candles as well as all of the light jars and wire balls around the pool. There was not an inch of seating left anywhere – ‘no room’! The children skipped in happily to the tune of Rethabina Hosana, accompanied by two of our teaching assistants, Maungo and Kedi. The children looked resplendent in their costumes and the narrators did their teachers proud. The Receptions brought out the ‘cute’ factor with their acting and gave us a few chuckles to boot – for example the camels head hanging backwards over Babirwa’s shoulder!

The choir outdid themselves as usual and we were treated to a performance from our guest singers – Tshenolo and Henry as well as performances by teachers - Mrs Moremi, Mrs Holzapfel and Mrs Koch. Bianke’s rendition of Silent Night on the violin was superb. The Thornhill orchestra including some parents and some teachers did a sterling job throughout the evening.

We also said a sad farewell to Mrs Majola, who is retiring after 42 years in the Thornhill Finance Department. All in all, the evening was an enormous success and was enjoyed by parents and children alike.

May everyone at Thornhill have a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

# Std 7 Camp

A group of children are running on a grassy field. In the foreground, a girl with braids is wearing a red and grey hoodie and running towards the right. Behind her, several other children are running in the same direction. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky. A soccer goal is visible on the right side of the field.

To say that Std 7 children were excited would be to flirt dangerously with understatement. Not even a delayed bus and extended journey could curb their enthusiasm. Activities were commenced and fever pitch was reached by a very rowdy game of knights and cavaliers. To expect sleep after that was blindly optimistic to say the least. Some of the boys decided that, in fact, sleep was largely an abstract concept, finally succumbing to arms of Morpheus in the wee small hours.

Six o'clock next morning and we saw some very different Std 7 children after their experiment in sleep deprivations revealed its full set of results. Tuesday was a very different day and their once scorned beds looked very attractive. Limbs moved differently and intellects were dimmed, as they started their bush lessons. Activities started in the afternoon with rafting, golf, bead-ing, camouflage (basically getting grubby and hiding in the shrubbery) and fishing.

Old games bore new rules with 16-a-side volleyball matches that allowed everybody to join in and play. Diets were broken, appetites were fed, salads left unfinished and burgers devoured. Maize meal porridge for breakfast and chicken dinners to the delight of all campers.

The game drives were spectacular as the Std 7 children got a chance to ferret within the ranch in search of khudus, giraffes, impalas and other wild animals. It was beautiful to see friendships grow closer over nature and game.

# Std 5 Maths Olympiad

On 8 November, 2022, the children representing the Std 5 classes excitedly boarded the school bus to head to Mara-Pula to honour their invitation for the Maths Olympiad. The children were put into teams:

Team A was made up of Miles, Ayanda and Goutham from 5G

Team B had Suraj Dev, Ayanda and Kaia from 5W and 5L

Team C with Jaden, Huzeifa and Rania.

Upon arrival, one could already see our three excited teams slowly becoming more serious and a bit nervous not knowing what exactly to expect. The children's nerves were soothed by the delight of being greeted by some familiar faces from other schools and Thornhill alumni who are now studying at Maru-a-Pula. The Maruapula students had volunteered to run the Olympiad and it was pleasing to see their confidence and leadership skills on display – key skills our children learnt from the event.

The Olympiad was divided into different engaging sections, which included games such as, do you want to be a millionaire, card games, airstrip landing (which the teachers equally enjoyed) and some problem-solving activities. The students worked very hard and relished every moment of these activities. It was a welcomed surprise that they were only expected to play games and collect as many points as possible.

The Thornhill Teams were placed 4th, 5th and 6th respectively out of 9 teams. We are very proud of the way our children handled themselves and how they demonstrated their collaborative skills throughout the competition.



# Std 4 Egypt Day

This is the day each child in Std 4 looks forward to. Either on the first day or during the first week of first term, Std 4 teachers begin to get questions from their students such as, "When is Ancient Egypt Day?", "Should we start making our costumes for Ancient Egypt Day?" This is an indication that the anticipated day perfectly rolls out to be the highlight of Std 4.


This year, the day was well celebrated by the children. They were dressed up in a variety of immaculate costumes of royal colours, which replicate what ancient Egyptians wore. The costumes suited the mood brought by the popular song, 'Walk like an Egyptian.'

With the combination of effort, talent and determination, the children managed to produce and exhibit brilliant pieces of art.





# Carols by Candlelight



Carols by Candlelight was hosted at the Avani Hotel and saw both our choir, orchestra and marimba band taking part.

The setting was beautiful under the trees and the stage looked amazing with Christmas lights and Christmas trees, and it was sure to put young and old in the festive spirit for the upcoming holidays.

Unfortunately, due to the weather our Marimba's were unable to play, but the carols continued and our children performed extremely well, singing and playing their hearts out even while it rained on them. Santa handed gave out lollipops and the wet weather could not put a damper on the festivities.

Well done to all who participated and made the evening successful.

# Softball

The softball season went off well and the results for the final rounds of the league were as follows:

## vs Baobab

U11G	won	10 - 8
U11B	lost	8 - 12
U13G	won	16 - 6
U13B	won	22 - 2

## vs Broadhurst

U11G	won	20 - 6
U11B	lost	8 - 10
U13G	won	11 - 1
U13B	won	20 - 1

## vs Westwood

U13G	won	20 - 4
U13B	won	18 - 6

## vs Northside

U11G	won	12 - 6
U11B	won	8 - 6
U13G	won	8 - 6
U13B	drew	3 - 3



# Swimming

## **Relay Championship Gala**

November was a busy month for the Thornhill Swimming team. We took part in the Relay Championship Gala held at Thornhill on Tuesday, 15 November. Our swimmers swam fantastically and dominated in the pool. We won the gala with Northside coming second, and Bao-bab and Westwood were tied third.

## **Top 6 Gala**

On Friday, 18 November, we took a very small group of swimmers up to Maun to swim in an invitational gala against five other schools from around Botswana, namely, Clifton, JMS, Matshwane, Broadhurst, Northside and Thornhill. The gala took place at Matshwane School on Saturday, 19 November, and it was a very well organised and competitive gala.

Our children did us proud winning 24 of the 53 events. They came second in 11 events and third in 8 events. We would like to send out a very big thank you to all our parents who travelled up to Maun and supported both the school and their children.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2023 season, where we will once again be involved in the North South clash at the end of the first term.

## **Reception to Std 2 Open Day Swimming**

During the third week of November, we hosted swimming open days for the Receptions, Std 1 and Std 2, so that we could show case what the children have been up to in the pool this year. It was a pleasure to see the turnout of parents, who came to see their children in action during our swimming lessons.



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