

Issue 47 April 12 2017

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Parents and Pupils

I'm sure you will all agree that the first term has "flown by". But then, it is suggested that time flies when you're having fun! It certainly has been another busy term and I hope for all, a term of enjoyable and pleasant learning experiences.

I hope our new families have all settled well and are enjoying life at Thornhill. I have enjoyed watching our Reception children grow as individuals. They do bring so much character and energy to the school and it is a privilege to have them at Thornhill.

## Administration Office Times

The School Office will be open on the following days before school reopens on Tuesday, 16 May:

12/04	Closes at 11:00
13/04	10:00 to 13:00
10/05 – 12/05	09:00 to 13:00
15/05	08:00 to 15:00

Normal office hours resume on Tuesday 16 May, as follows:

Monday to Thursday	Finance opens at 07:00 and closes at 15:30 Administration opens at 07:00 and closes at 16:00
Friday	Finance Office closes at 13:00 Administration Office closes at 13:30

## Uniform Shop:

The Uniform Shop will be open as follows before school starts on Tuesday, 16 May:

11/05	13:00 to 15:00
15/05	12:00 to 16:00
16/05	12:00 to 15:00
17/05	12:00 to 14:30

The shop will revert to normal times from Week 2 of the term as follows:

Monday	12:00 to 14:00
Wednesday	12:30 to 14:30

Please ensure that you get as much winter uniform this term, so as to avoid the queues.

## Std 6 Cake Sale:

This year our cake sales have been a great success. The aromas from the classrooms in the early morning are tantalizing! The spread offered by our children and parents is always amazing, from the mounds of popcorn to the brightly decorated cupcakes and delicious samosas. The ice creams are a big hit and the queues are long, but quickly served.

The Std 6 children (and their parents) are to be thanked for supplying the goods for sale and for serving so efficiently. It is so encouraging to see our children taking on these challenges and succeeding. The cake sales have raised an impressive sum of money and this will be going towards the children of St Peter's in Mogoditshane, who are so appreciative of our help.

# Support for Learning Hands On Workshop:

Nearly 200 people attended the Support for Learning Hands on Workshop for teachers at Maru-a-Pula School on Saturday, 18 March.

Our Keynote speaker, Melanie Hartgill: Educational Psychologist, had to adapt her presentation as we had a power cut in the Maru-a-Pula area. Her talk on 'Accommodating Behaviours of the Disruptive Child' was practical, enlightening and reminded us of good sense, best practised.

After the keynote, delegates chose to go to three talks from the following:

Medical Conditions that can Disturb Learning: Dr Sarona Mathware: Paediatric Specialist  
Teacher-Parent Communication: Maleshwane Mauce: Developmental Psychologist  
Communication Aids for Children with Special Needs and Makaton: Retha Mori: Speech Therapist  
Handwriting / Grip: Mpho Rabasha/Alice Crosbie: Occupational Therapists  
Brain-breaks in your Classroom: Farai Makuyana: Teacher  
Health and Wellness: Keitumetse Makuku: Dietician

Although the power cut caused some changes to the programme, there was an enormous amount of positive feedback from delegates. They also expressed a wish that they could have attended all the workshops on offer.

Support for Learning's next event will be the bi-annual conference on Saturday, 17 June, at Cresta Lodge. The draft programme is as follows:

Keynote: Leslee Udwin UK Think Equal  
Russell Pengelly ICT  
Lizzie Harrison: Social Media Lawyer  
Gavin Keller: Head of Sun Valley schools, SA.

## Literacy Meeting with Reception Parents

Once again, the time with the parents at the Literacy meeting held in March, was well received and very productive. The attendance was very good and the feedback from the parents most encouraging. Building a strong relationship between school, teacher and parent from the onset ensures a strong support for learning from the Foundation Phase to the end of the school career. The beginning of reading and its complexities were discussed. To support reading, Letters and Sounds, the multi sensory phonic programme, was presented in the six phases and highlighting the principles of high quality phonic teaching. The Reception teachers shared the plan for the year and some fun activities that could be played at home to support the programme, impressing on mums and dads, to ensure that all the activities are fun, fun, fun! As we work together, we can only look forward to a year of success. We can ensure that each little learner has an equal opportunity to receive a secure foundation to learn to read, to love books and to take the success to the years that follow.

To read is to empower  
To empower is to write  
To write is to influence  
To influence is to change  
To change is to live  
More than a Tea Party, Jane Evershed 1994

**I Greaves**  
Headteacher

# Std 3 to 7 Recycling Challenge




After the Std 6 children threw down the gauntlet of, "Beat us if you Dare!" Thornhill classes took up the challenge with great gusto! It was not long before parents' cars were seen in the car park with bulging boots of recycling. The children were bent over double, carrying recycling to their respective classes and teachers' store room doors were bursting at the seams, as they made a gallant effort to solve the storage space problem. In fact, some classes became so full, that teachers took their classes outside for lessons!

This was typical of the Thornhill spirit, as each class tried to out do the other and each teacher encouraging their children to reach greater heights, as they to joined in this fierce competition, for the undisputed title, King of Recycling!

At last, the 'day of judgment' arrived. As they say, 'Cometh the man, so cometh the recycling.'

The Std 6 classes had to concede defeat, as Std 7S took the overall recycling honours! Runners up made a valiant effort, and 5V, 5M and 3P were suitably rewarded with sugar filled treats. The recycling challenge does not stop here, we should all now be in "recycling mode," so please continue to bring in your recycling and put it in the relevant bins around the school. Well done for a fantastic effort by all.

# Mixed Style Dance

A group of young girls, likely members of a school dance team, are captured in a dynamic dance pose. They are wearing white t-shirts and multi-colored, sparkly skirts. The girls are smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, other students and adults are visible, some holding up phones to record the performance. The setting appears to be an indoor school event.

It has been an incredible term for the Mixed Style Dance children, with over 80 participants this term! The children worked extremely hard throughout the term in preparation for their 'Dancing with the Stars' show. It proved to be a huge undertaking, ensuring that each child took part in at least three items. Mrs Graves, Mrs Smith and Mrs Tweed worked tirelessly with the children to achieve that goal. The show was fantastic! Sally's Dance Connexion group (all Thornhill children), TNT dancers and Chris's Hip Hop helped make the show exceptional. The show combined a variety of dances from the Latin classics like Cha-Cha and Jive to the modern-contemporary rhythms. Best of all, it was the children's passion and love for dance that was so apparent and made the show what it was. A wonderful way to end the term. Mixed Style Dance sadly says farewell to a set of children (now in Std 7), who were the first to be part of Mixed Style Dance a few years ago. To you all, Mrs Graves says, "I hope you keep dancing and thank you for sharing the joy of dance with me."

# Std 1 Farm Visit



Once again the Std 1 children visited the farm in Mochudi and as usual they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

My favourite part of the farm trip was:  
Juliette: "I loved the tractor ride."

Ayesha: "I loved going around the farm on the tractor-trailer."

Katlo: "I loved seeing the farm lady feed the baby calf."

Basha: "I loved seeing the dairy cows being milked while they were eating. The farm man put the suction tubes on the cows and then the milk came out of the udders into the machine."

Poeey: "I enjoyed the whole trip."

Mukundi: "I loved watching the cows getting milked."

# Easter Bunny Foundation Visit

On Tuesday, 4 April, the Foundation children arrived to find mysterious footprints in their playground. When realisation set in, there was great excitement, as the children followed the prints to try and find the Easter Bunny.

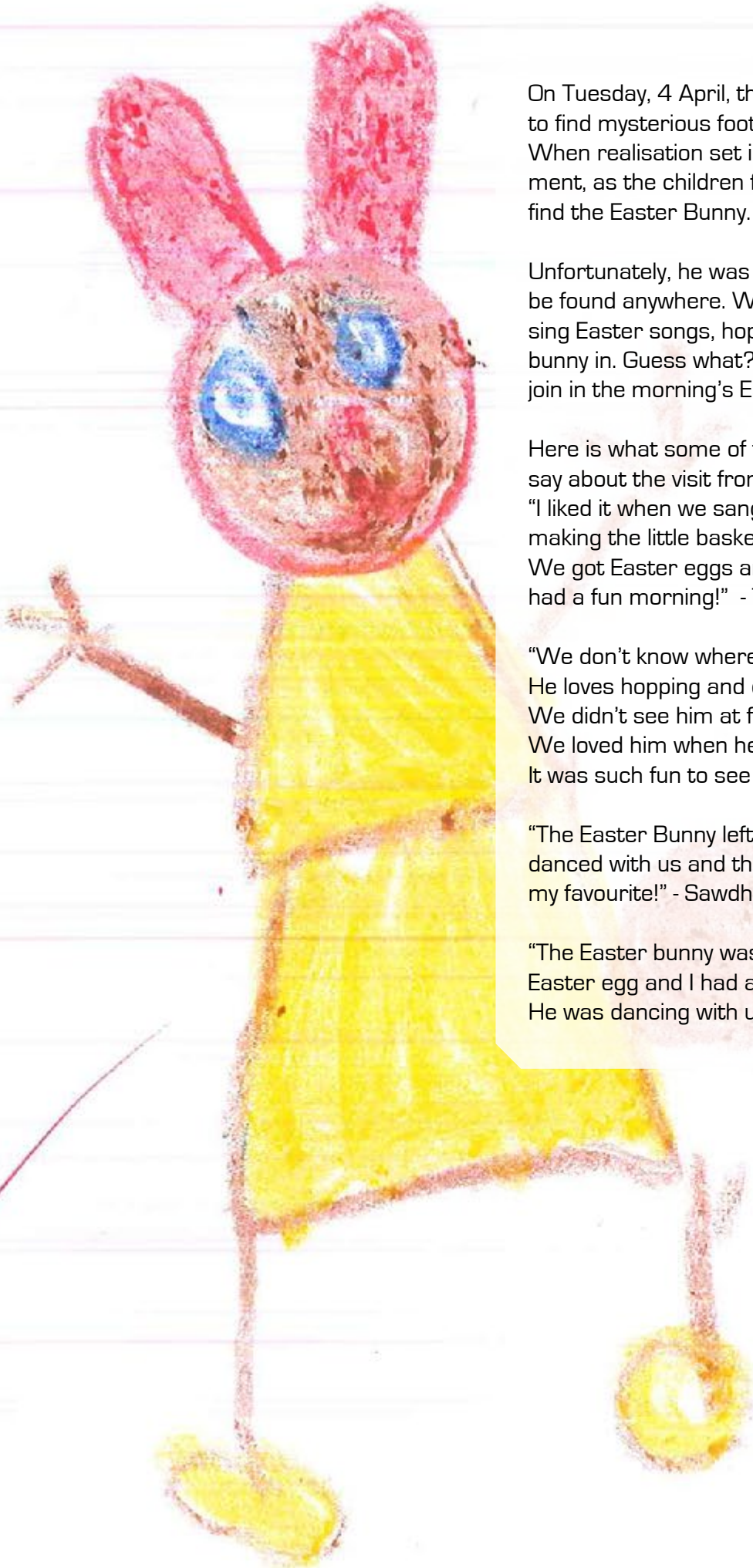
Unfortunately, he was far too discrete and could not be found anywhere. We decided to go to the hall to sing Easter songs, hop and dance to try and lure the bunny in. Guess what? It worked! In he hopped to join in the morning's Easter festivities.

Here is what some of the children from OB had to say about the visit from the Easter Bunny:  
"I liked it when we sang for the Easter Bunny. I loved making the little basket and Easter hat. We got Easter eggs and put them in our baskets. I had a fun morning!" - Tinashe


"We don't know where the bunny got our eggs from. He loves hopping and dancing. We didn't see him at first but we found his tracks. We loved him when he came to see us. It was such fun to see him." - Abigail

"The Easter Bunny left big footprints. He came and danced with us and then he gave us Easter Eggs - my favourite!" - Sawdha

"The Easter bunny was so big! He gave me an Easter egg and I had a photo with him. He was dancing with us. I loved it." - Leagile



# Thornhill Choir Festival



Monday, 3 April, saw around 200 excited children from Baobab, Botlhale, Broadhurst and Thornhill Junior and Senior choirs gather at Maitisong for this year's Choir Festival.

We rehearsed during the afternoon and by 6pm Maitisong was packed with parents and friends, eager to hear their children perform and they were not disappointed. All of the school choirs sang beautifully and we were also privileged to have the New Apostolic Church Choir perform for us as our Guest Choir. Their performance really gave our children something to aspire to.

We opened the Choir Festival with the National Anthem and then a mass item. 'We are The Young,' which involved all of the children singing together. It was a wonderful way to begin. The finale rendition of Glorious, with all of our choirs performing together, was also a very special moment.

Many thanks to the Thornhill Music Department, as well as everyone else involved in making the day such a success, and very well done to our Thornhill Choirs.



# Std 4 Mokolodi Camp



After much excitement and a little anxiety for some children, because we were sleeping out for two 'whole' nights away from home, Std 4S left early Wednesday morning for Mokolodi Nature Reserve.

Four facilitators from the Education Centre, welcomed us. Once the children had sorted out where they were sleeping and given a few safety rules, we climbed aboard a game-viewing vehicle.

The children worked in pairs and in groups and completed many interesting and fun activities learning about the environment, the animals and their local habitats.

By far the best activity was watching the children building habitats using local materials such as grass, sand, mud, bark and flowers. Making mud was so much fun!

Much to the children's horror they were woken up early and went on an early morning hike. They explored the different types of indigenous trees and much laughter was heard when they learnt that one of the trees was called the 'toilet paper' tree.

The children enjoyed fishing for water insects and animals in the river, while two giraffes looked on.

# Ella Enchanted

Enchanting from little Ella to the 'big' ogres. What a few nights of fun, dance, singing and acting on our stage. It was wonderful to see how our children embraced the show and knew all the key lines and the dances from all the classes. The children loved dressing and showcasing their talents and confidence to proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and extended family.

Special mention must go to Mrs Joguee, who wrote and produced the play, with Mrs Stuart at hand to add her touch of perfection to our stage, costumes and acting. How privileged we are as staff to have such talented ladies to work with. The children thoroughly enjoyed the 'giant' dance performed by our teachers, who seemed huge compared to little Ella on the stage.

Well done to the Foundation Staff, children and parents for supporting a wonderful three nights of fun and magical entertainment. A well deserved holiday for everyone involved in the play.

"All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players,  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts."  
Shakespeare



## **vs Baobab**

U9

Baobab 40 & Thornhill 70

Thornhill won by 10 wickets

U11

Baobab 66 & Thornhill 67 for 3

Thornhill won by 7 wickets

## **vs Westwood**

U13

Westwood 8 all out (Yusuf 2 for 1,

Roelof 2 for 2 & Eric 2 for 2)

Thornhill 64 without loss (Daniel

19\*). Thornhill won by 10 wickets

## **vs Northside**

U9

Thornhill 149 & Northside 50

Thornhill won by 10 wickets

U11

Thornhill 61 & Northside 60 all out

Thornhill won by 9 wickets (Game 1)

Northside 48 & Thornhill 110 for 2

Thornhill won by 8 wickets (Game 2)

## **vs Broadhurst**

U11

Thornhill 46 for 2 & Broadhurst 43

Thornhill won by 6 wickets

# SCSA Cricket



Thornhill hosted the North vs South at the Gaborone Cricket Club this year and it was a great success. The northern team arrived in Gaborone on the back of winning this event last year. Thornhill had seven players in the team and the boys performed superbly.

The Southern team won the practice match easily by 9 wickets with the pick of the bowlers being Yusuf, who took 4 wickets for 4 runs. On the batting front Patrick and Keagan scored 34 and 25 not out respectively.

Saturday saw the main match of the event take place and the scores were as follows:

South 147 for 6

(Aidan 27, Keagan 16\* & Ammar 15)

North 100 all out

(Yusuf 2 for 17 & Aidan 2 for 25)

South won by 47 runs

Aidan Lees received an award for the best batsman and the team played brilliantly throughout.

# SCSA Tennis

This year, the team played the North vs South at Kopano School. There was as much fun off the court as there was on, as the South Team was warmly welcomed by a musical presentation. The singles matches were keenly contested and eventually the South Team was proud to win the trophy back after a 22-13 win against the North. Many congratulations to the following players who represented the school in the Team: Boys – Shane Tapera, Aidan Lees Girls – Abigail Tuffek, Rebolokeng Morwaeng, Judith Mashokoto, Ashikasai Reddy (Reserve).

The Thornhill Tennis players have surely been a force to be reckoned with so far this season. Besides their local and provincial participation in tournaments, a number of players have been selected to play for the National Team in various ITF and SAT Tournaments and training camps. Congratulations to Shane Tapera, Batsomi Marobela and Abigail Tuffek, who were all selected.



# SCSA Swimming

On Friday, 17 March, the Thornhill bus left for Selibe Phikwe with the Thornhill swimmers representing the South. The bus trip was loads of fun with a very short stop at Mahalapye.

We were very warmly received at Kopano School, as the swimmers were all given their Spar sponsored kit and lunch of hamburgers and chips.

The evening programme began at 6pm, with the National Anthem and a Swimmer's Creed read by the head prefect of Kopano. The first set of events were the Individual Medleys, where our swimmers did exceptionally well – winning 4 of the first 6 races.

Our junior age groups found it tough to win their races, but our senior swimmers were taking full advantage of their superiority in the water.

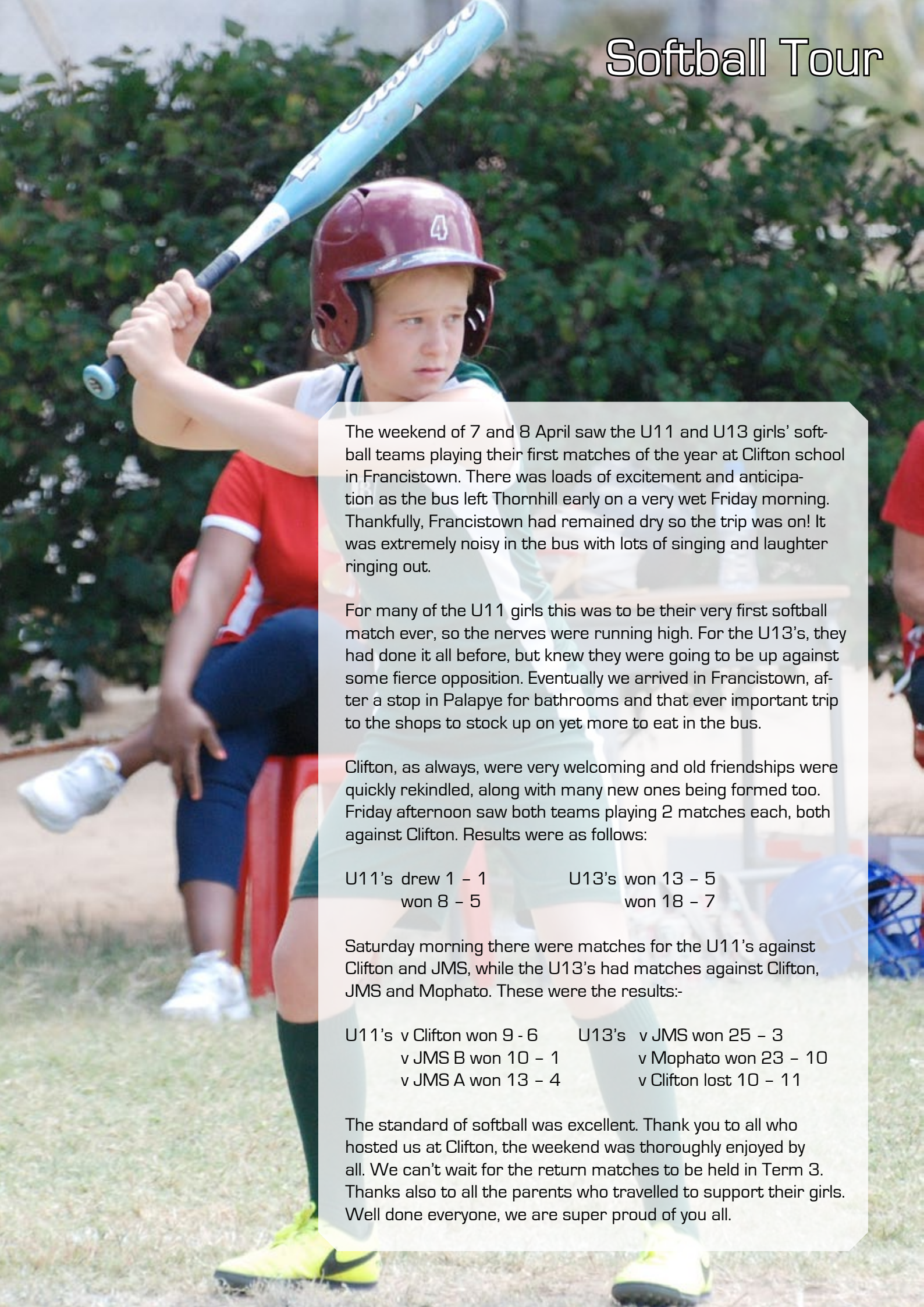
The final score after the 2 days of swimming was the North 636 and the South was 681.

The final age group championship winners were as follows:

U8 Boys	Josh Steenkamp
U9 Girls	Kathryn van Tonder
U12 Girls	Shamiso Matonhodze
U13 Boys	Roelof Naude
U13 Girls	Maxine Egner

Congratulations to all the above age group champions and it is wonderful to see that we have five Thornhill swimmers, who qualified as winners.

# Softball Tour



The weekend of 7 and 8 April saw the U11 and U13 girls' softball teams playing their first matches of the year at Clifton school in Francistown. There was loads of excitement and anticipation as the bus left Thornhill early on a very wet Friday morning. Thankfully, Francistown had remained dry so the trip was on! It was extremely noisy in the bus with lots of singing and laughter ringing out.

For many of the U11 girls this was to be their very first softball match ever, so the nerves were running high. For the U13's, they had done it all before, but knew they were going to be up against some fierce opposition. Eventually we arrived in Francistown, after a stop in Palapye for bathrooms and that ever important trip to the shops to stock up on yet more to eat in the bus.

Clifton, as always, were very welcoming and old friendships were quickly rekindled, along with many new ones being formed too. Friday afternoon saw both teams playing 2 matches each, both against Clifton. Results were as follows:

U11's drew 1 - 1  
won 8 - 5

U13's won 13 - 5  
won 18 - 7


Saturday morning there were matches for the U11's against Clifton and JMS, while the U13's had matches against Clifton, JMS and Mophato. These were the results:-

U11's v Clifton won 9 - 6  
v JMS B won 10 - 1  
v JMS A won 13 - 4

U13's v JMS won 25 - 3  
v Mophato won 23 - 10  
v Clifton lost 10 - 11

The standard of softball was excellent. Thank you to all who hosted us at Clifton, the weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We can't wait for the return matches to be held in Term 3. Thanks also to all the parents who travelled to support their girls. Well done everyone, we are super proud of you all.

# Inter House Swimming

A close-up photograph of a swimmer in a green cap and goggles, splashing water. The swimmer's face is partially obscured by water droplets and bubbles. The background is a clear blue sky.

Our Inter House Gala was as usual, a fun filled evening full of some excellent swimming. It was lovely to see not only team swimmers taking part, but those with lots of upcoming potential. There was a lot of effort put into either one length or two, which was great to see. Some of the relays also brought the crowds to their feet and what about the Parents' race, as it had everyone cheering loudly!

Well done to all our swimmers, parents and past pupils for their input to the gala.

The winner this year was Shashe followed by Chobe, Limpopo and then Notwane. The Spirit Cup went to Notwane.

Our Victor/Victrixes were as follows:

U9 Boy Rayhan - Notwane  
U9 Girl Kathryn - Notwane

U10 Boy Mthokozisi - Shashe  
U10 Girl Jacinda - Chobe

U11 Boy Jon-Martin - Notwane  
U11 Girl Watapiwa - Chobe

U12 Boy Jerry - Chobe  
U12 Girl Shamiso - Chobe

U13 Boy Roelof - Shashe  
U13 Girl Maxine - Chobe



# Inter House Cross Country

Inter House Cross Country was held on Tuesday, 4 April 2017.

We invited ten Std 2 children to join our junior school runners, as we use this run as a selection for our inter school team, which runs cross country in Term 2. These little runners did very well with Ganda from 2J coming 3rd overall in the U8 age group.

The age group winners were as follows:

U8 Boys	Joshua Steenkamp
U8 Girls	Imogen Evans
U9 Boys	Rayhan Khonat
U9 Girls	Amy Williams
U10 Boys	Thuso Ncube
U10 Girls	Marang Mmelesi
U11 Boys	Leatile Bakwena
U11 Girls	Kese Ramsden
U12 Boys	Lefika Tabulawa
U12 Girls	Kimberly Ingwe
U13 Boys	Philip Clark / Shane Tapera
U13 Girls	Adina Egner

All the runners ran well with some of the races being very closely contested. The U13 boys ended in a tie.

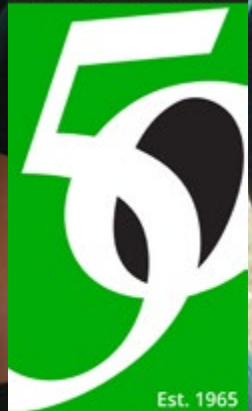
The overall winner of the event was Limpopo, 2nd was Shashe, 3rd was Chobe and 4th was Notwane.



April 12 2016  
Thornhill ICT Department



CELEBRATING



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