

Issue 64 April 10 2019

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

I cannot believe that we are already nearly finished Term 1, the start to the 2019 academic year is indeed a distant memory. I hope your term has been a productive one and that you have enjoyed the numerous activities that Term 1 holds.

Staffing

As already communicated, Mrs Warwick will be leaving us and taking up a Headship at Broadhurst from the beginning of Term 2. She has been at Thornhill since 1995 and has given her all to ensure that our children have had the best possible educational experience during their stay at Thornhill. She has moulded and shaped the lives of many children during her time here.

I would like to wish Mrs Warwick all the best of luck, as she takes on her new role in May. It is certainly not 'Goodbye,' but rather, until we meet again!

As you know, I love quotes, so I leave you with these words from Winnie the Pooh, Mrs Warwick: 'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.'

Std 6 Eco-brick challenge

Each year the Std 6 year group challenge the rest of the school to a recycling contest, where each class collects as much recycling material as possible. This is rather daunting for the class teachers, as their classrooms resemble the rubbish dump down the road!

This year we thought we'd try something different, and as you are all aware, the children, staff and parents are all busy making eco-bricks.

Some have really risen to the challenge; Std 4S has challenged 7S, which should be fun to watch. A member of 6C has already made 26 bricks and is still going strong – thank you and well done!

Those of you who do have eco-bricks, please stand on them to check that they are totally solid and can be used for building. We are planning to use the eco-bricks to build a garden shed at our school, which is needed for our horticulture plot. The Std 7 children are planning to take on this project.

This particular challenge has been extended, so keep building during the holidays.

Staff Development

Our academic and administration staff all recently attended a First Aid course held at school to update their respective training and certification. This is a very important aspect of school life and to revisit the necessary skills are essential.

Support 4 Learning (S4L) hosted yet other motivating 'Hands On' Practical Workshop for teachers at Maru-a Pula School on Saturday, 30 March. This workshop was well supported and enjoyed by teachers from many different schools in Botswana. These workshops are presented by various professionals and an array of educational topics is shared. This time the topics included: Mindfulness in the classroom, Early Reading, Teaching Maths with games, Impact of Social Media on Children, Assessment and Differentiated Instruction, Multilingualism, Learning through play and Acquisition of Literacy. The teachers leave these workshops inspired and encouraged to try new techniques in their classrooms. It was an enjoyable morning and was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

Skill Share with Shepherd English Medium

On Saturday, 16 March, another successful skill sharing workshop was held with the Shepherd School in Molepolole.

Our Setswana department set out bright and early to travel to Molepolole to meet with the Shepherd Setswana staff to discuss Literacy and the teaching of Setswana using the Breakthrough method.

The Shepherd Junior Primary Staff, the headmistress, Mrs Chikone, and their Library and Computer teachers then travelled to Thornhill to spend the morning in our Junior Primary Department. The idea was to circulate through the different classes, discuss trends in education and teaching tools as well as apparatus that can be used for the various subjects. Judging by the amount of chatter that ensued, it was obviously a stimulating mornings work.

We then visited the Library and the ICT Department to discuss the use of media in education. After a tea break and some more chatting, the Shepherd staff left for Molepolole and Joseph returned with our Setswana staff. Thank you to Joseph for making two trips to Molepolole in one day! We look forward to the next skill sharing morning planned for later on in the year.

Literacy Meeting with Reception Parents

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
Dr Seuss “ I can read with My Eyes Shut”

The Reception parents eagerly attended the Literacy meeting held in March. The feedback from our parents was 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. Mrs Gogoi shared aspects of the Reception Library programme and invited parents to make full use of this amazing school facility. 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 significant 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.

Std 7 Cheetah Conservation Presentation

On Monday, 11 March, a representative from Cheetah Conservation Botswana came to Thornhill to speak to the Std 7 children. Mrs Connie Sebati gave us an informative presentation about the important work that the Cheetah Conservation Organisation are doing. It was also an opportunity to award certificates to Mahira, Amy and Kevin for winning the design a logo competition that Cheetah Conservation ran last year.

Connie supported her chat with a short video and photographs highlighting the work that this organisation does. The sad and scary fact is that there are less than 7000 of these beautiful creatures left in Africa.

She concluded her presentation and visit by thanking Thornhill School and Std 7 children in particular for donating so generously every year towards cheetah conservation.

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations and well done to Anoushka Brahmhatt on winning gold at the recent Inter-Provincial tournament in South Africa during the mid-term.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to Kagello Malumo, who was recently selected to represent Botswana Tennis in an International Tennis Federation (ITF) tournament in Zimbabwe. Well done on your excellent accomplishment.

Our congratulations go out to Dayyan, who scored an unbeaten and impressive 102 not out against Northside recently. Dayyan was competing in the U11 team and he passed this milestone while his side posted a total of 193 for 2. This is a notable milestone for Dayyan and it has been a long time since we had a player scoring a century in the inter school programme. Dayyan has also backed this up with 54 (Broadhurst) and 55 (ISSA). All in all, an excellent achievement, Dayyan!

Uniform Shop Times

The Uniform Shop will be open as follows before school starts on Tuesday, 14 May:

09/05 - 12:00 to 15:00

10/05 - 12:00 to 15:00

13/05 - 12:00 to 14:30

14/05 - 12:00 to 14:00

Please ensure that you make use of the Uniform Shop this term, so as to beat the queues at the beginning of Term 2.

Administration Office Times:

The School Office will be open on the following days after school closes and prior to coming back in Term 2:

12/04 - Closes at 11:00

15/04 & 16/04 - 09:00 to 13:00

17/04 - The school will be closed

08/05 - 10/05 - 09:00 to 13:00

13/05 - 08:00 to 15:00

Normal office hours resume on Tuesday, 14 May as follows:

Monday to Thursday - Finance Office opens at 07:00 and closes at 15:30

Administration Office opens at 07:00 and closes at 16:00.

Friday - Finance closes at 13:30 and Administration Office closes at 14:00.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to thank all my staff for another excellent term. The dedication and commitment they give to our children is nothing short of excellent! My thanks must also be extended to the parent body for supporting their children and in so doing, creating such a wonderful atmosphere here at Thornhill.

I hope you have a fantastic holiday with your children and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday, 14 May. Always, remember, 'Love is spelt, T-I-M-E.'

Please follow us on Twitter as well @ThornhillBW252

I Greaves

Headteacher

The Thornhill WAY

You may have noticed our bold new signs on the way to drop your children off at school or on the way home.

What is the Thornhill WAY?

- **W**ith Respect
- **A**lways Responsible
- **Y**earning to learn

These are the core values of our school. Please continue to encourage and build on these values at home.


Being respectful means, greeting people, being courteous and polite and also being respectful of our environment and taking care of our heritage. Set a good example for your children and encourage them to pick up and clean up after themselves.

Being responsible includes looking after our own belongings and our school grounds. Ensure that all belongings are clearly labelled and set clear routines at home that prepare and allow your children to be more independent.

A yearning to learn should be nurtured and fostered at both home and at school. Help your children to set goals and supervise homework and try to listen to your kids read as much as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to connect with your child.

Let's all do our part to make sure that the Thornhill community strives to live their lives the Thornhill WAY!

Basarwa Day

A photograph of three young girls standing outdoors, smiling. They are dressed in traditional Basarwa attire. The girl on the left wears a brown and orange patterned dress with a pink beaded necklace. The girl in the middle wears a blue and white patterned dress with a white beaded headband. The girl on the right wears a blue patterned dress with a long wooden beaded necklace. In the foreground, another girl is partially visible, wearing a blue and white patterned dress with a blue beaded necklace and a red beaded bracelet.

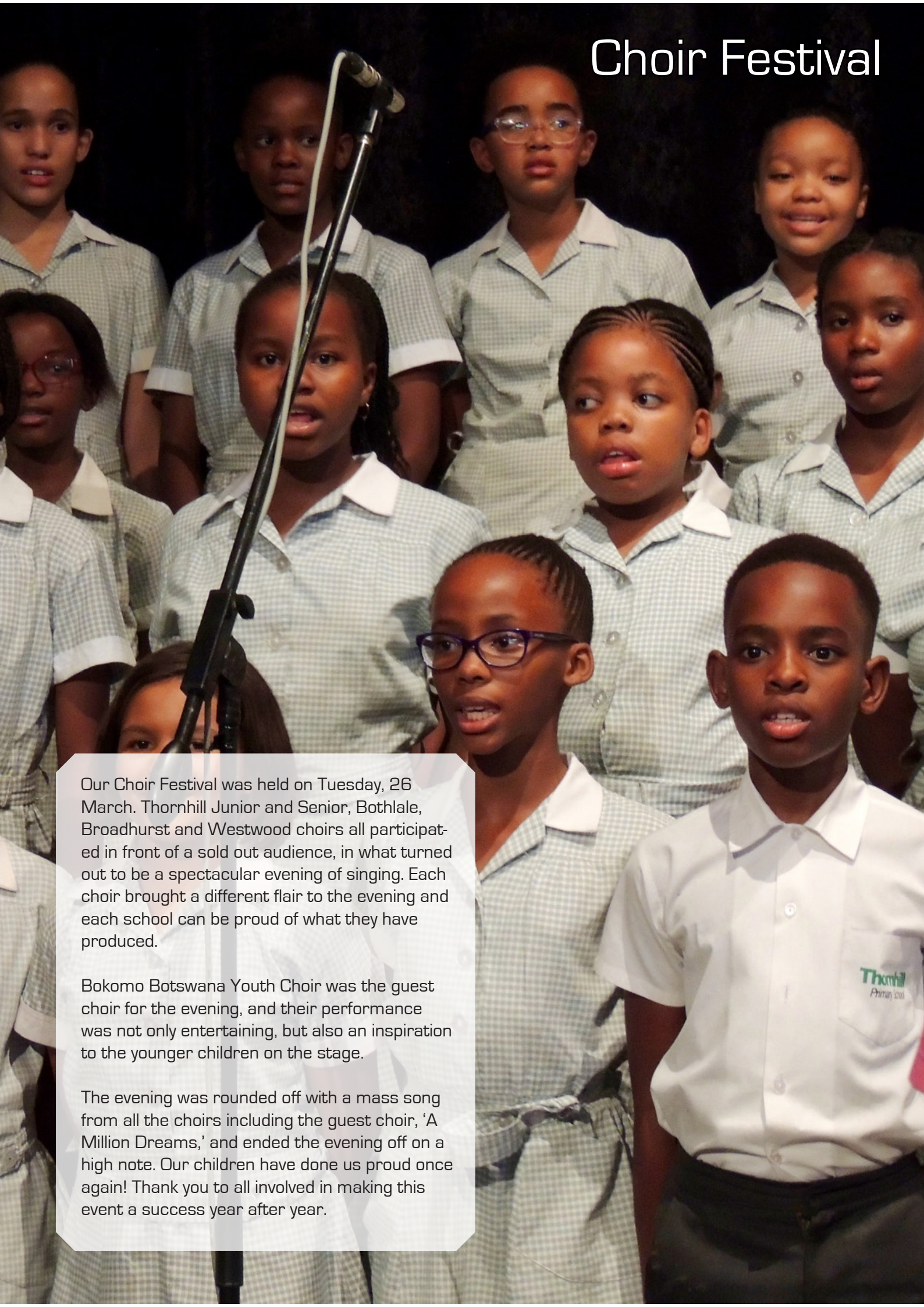
The Std 3 children have been learning all about the Basarwa and Inuit people. On Thursday, 21 March, the children came to school dressed in traditional dress, or any colours of the earth. They were all very excited as each Std 3 teacher was going to do various activities with them.

This is what they had to say about the Basarwa day: 'I came to school dressed in my traditional Basarwa dress. I was very excited. We first went to the hall to do an activity with Mrs van Wyk and Ms G, who showed us pictures of the Basarwa people. Thereafter Ms G showed us their traditional dance. After that, we practiced the dance and we had lots of fun. The dance was fast and energetic.' **Anele 3P**

'I really enjoyed making a necklace. Mrs Petkar gave us colourful beads and wire to thread our beads. She also put on some relaxing music while we were beading. The really exciting part was that we could keep the necklace.' **Daniel 3P**

'The best activity for me was carving out a fish. Mrs Watts gave us each a sunlight soap and a blunt knife. We first traced the fish onto the soap then we carved it out. The soap was soft, so it was easy to carve. It was a very good experience for me to do carving.' **Mari 3P**

Choir Festival



Our Choir Festival was held on Tuesday, 26 March. Thornhill Junior and Senior, Bothlale, Broadhurst and Westwood choirs all participated in front of a sold out audience, in what turned out to be a spectacular evening of singing. Each choir brought a different flair to the evening and each school can be proud of what they have produced.

Bokomo Botswana Youth Choir was the guest choir for the evening, and their performance was not only entertaining, but also an inspiration to the younger children on the stage.

The evening was rounded off with a mass song from all the choirs including the guest choir, 'A Million Dreams,' and ended the evening off on a high note. Our children have done us proud once again! Thank you to all involved in making this event a success year after year.

Std 5 Camp Nelu Trip

Once again, the Std 5's were able to enjoy their annual trip at Camp Nelu, situated at Hekpoort, in the Magaliesberg.

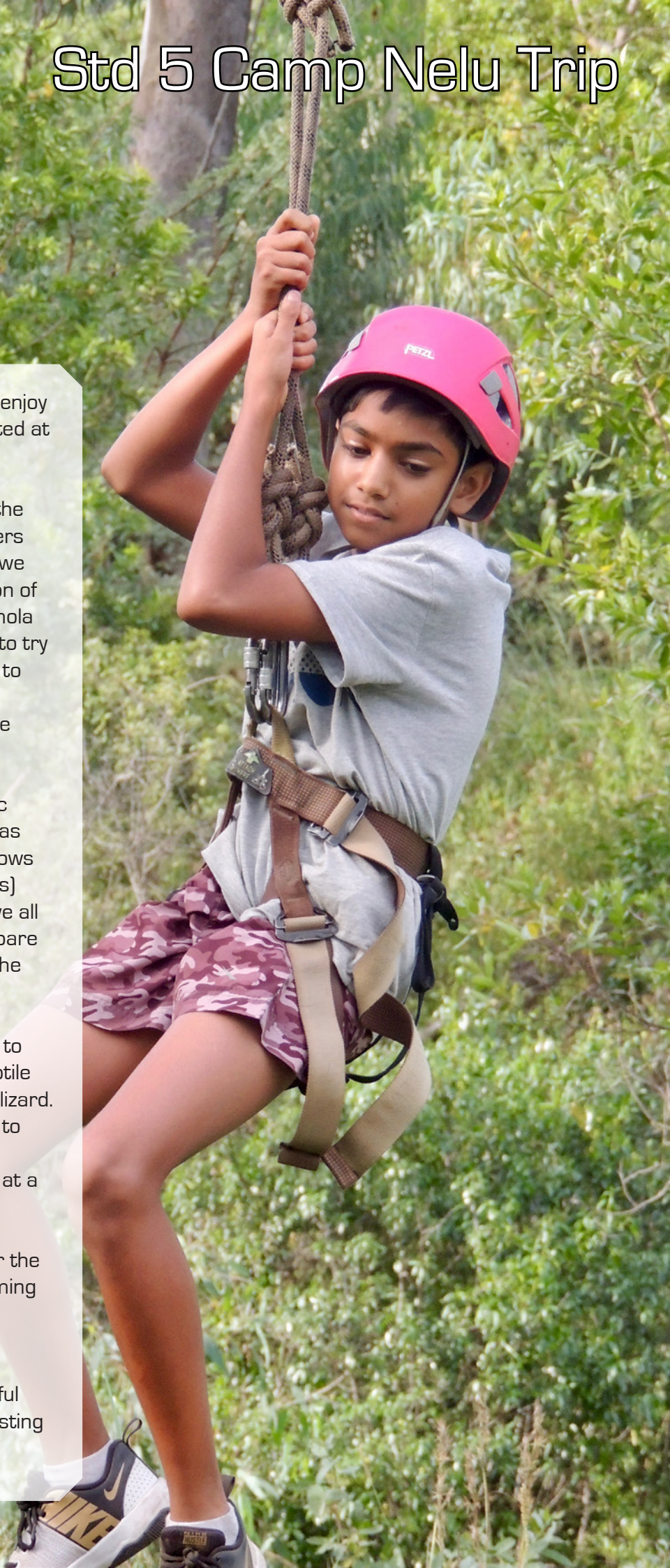
We enjoyed many activities such as the Giant Swing, where our team members pulled us to a great height, and then we were released and felt the exhilaration of flying through the air. Both Mr Serumola and Mrs Graves were brave enough to try this rather daring activity! In addition to this, we did Zip-line, which required courage to step off the deck and once again go flying through the air.

We also loved discovering our artistic talent in the outdoor cooking activity as we made 'smores' (burnt marshmallows squashed between two marie biscuits) as well as a fruit kebab and bread - we all thoroughly enjoyed it. We had to prepare table decorations using props from the environment.

This year, we were fortunate enough to see a green anaconda during the reptile activity, as well as a bearded dragon lizard. Low Ropes taught us to trust others to assist us, no matter what and Riflery and Archery tested our ability to aim at a target.

Free time consisted of relaxing under the shady trees, playing soccer or swimming in the refreshing pool.

The facilitators were caring and informative. Everybody had a wonderful time and we thank Camp Nelu for hosting us, we all really enjoyed it.




Std 1 Robots



We asked the Std 1 parents to participate in a “recycling/creative art” activity with their children. It is linked to our recycling initiative and our Reading Scheme. The children were encouraged to make their own robot after they had read the story about “Chip’s Robot”, in which Chip makes a robot out of boxes.

They were asked to build a similar robot out of recycled items such as cereal boxes, yoghurt tubs, cheese tubs, plastic milk cartons etc. The idea behind this project was to get the children and their parents to do a collaborative recycling project. The parents and children exceeded our expectations with their amazing creativity and handiwork, which we suspect, some parents had just as much fun doing, as their children. Because of this wonderful response we decided that all of the robots should be displayed in the Library.

Std 4 Mokolodi Camp



On Monday, 25 February, we packed our bags and waved goodbye to our parents. We were going to Mokolodi Educational Campsite and this was our first school camp.

We were very excited. We saw lots of different species of wild animals. We played a variety of games and we did so many activities. I really enjoyed the treasure hunt. We gobbled smores and listened to stories while sitting around the campfire.

We ate delicious food and we had a morning hike to the top of a 'World's View', at the same time, learning about woodland and wildlife.

Thank you, for a truly memorable trip to Mokolodi. **Calisto 4M**

Inter-house Competition News

Bonds and Tables:

Well done and congratulations to Limpopo House for winning the Bonds and Tables for 2019. Notwane came second and Shashe and Chobe were third and fourth respectively.

Tennis

The event was held in Week 12 and was closely contested with Limpopo pipping Shashe to win the the inter house this year. They were followed by Notwane and Chobe in third and fourth respectively.

Cricket

The final was contested between Shashe and Notwane this year. Shashe were put into bat and there was some excellent batting upfront from Daniel (22) and Advait (25), who put on 68 in 4 overs. The Notwane bowlers bounced back and Shashe ended with 98 for 4 off their allotted 10 overs, with Isa taking 3 for 5.

Notwane went into bat, but it was always going to be tough and in the end, Shashe won by 29 runs.

In the third and fourth place match, Limpopo won by 10 wickets, with Jordan scoring 20 runs in the process.



Tennis

vs TDS

U13 Boys won 5 - 1
U13 Girls won 8 - 0
U11 Boys won 7 - 0
U11 Girls won 7 - 2

vs Baobab

U13 Girls won 11 - 10
U13 Boys lost 11 - 10
U11 Girls won 11 - 6
U11 Boys won 20 - 7

A special mention must go to the following players who played consistently well; Nitya, Onalenna, Calisto, Bo-xiang and Arnav.

North vs South Tennis

This event took place in Maun and was hosted by Matshwane School. The six players who travelled fought hard and gave of their best. Sadly, due to an injury, Marko was unable to play, although he had been selected. The Southern team lost 21 - 10. However, the experience of playing at this level was beneficial to the whole team. The team also enjoyed the camaraderie experienced during this event.



vs International School of South Africa

U11 Thornhill 118 for 8 (Dayaan 55).
ISSA 78 for 8. Thornhill won by 40 runs

vs Crescent

U9 Crescent 50 all out (Dylan 2 for 2 & Nathan 1 for 2). Thornhill 53 for 0 (Druv 22 n/o).
Thornhill won by 10 wkts

vs Baobab

U9 Baobab 45 for 5 (Dhruv 3 for 2 and Dylan 2 for 2). Thornhill 46 without loss (Mohammad Yusuf 26 n/o). Thornhill won by 10 wkts

U11 Baobab 108 for 6 (Dhruv 3 for 10)
Thornhill 112 for 5 (Dhruv 22 n/o).
Thornhill won by 5 wickets

vs Broadhurst

U13 Broadhurst 74 for 6 (Rayhan 2 for 11 & Jordan 2 for 7). Thornhill 78 for 1 (Jon-Martin 52 n/o). Thornhill won by 9 wickets

vs Northside

U9 (Hard Ball) Northside 75 for 5 (Druv 2 for 5). Thornhill 77 for 3 (Dylan 14 & Nathan 12).
Thornhill won by 7 wkts

U11 at GCC Thornhill 125 for 4 (Advaith 36 & Liam 27). Northside 102 for 6 (Lerato 3 for 10). Thornhill won by 23 runs

U13 at GCC (night game). Northside 107 for 7 (Rayhan 2 for 13, Isa 2 for 16 & Ayush 2 for 19). Thornhill 108 for 7 (Daniel 54). Thornhill won by 3 wkts

vs Legae

U11 Legae 32 all out (Ali Kabeer 3 for 2 & Elliot 2 for 0). Thornhill 33 for 1. Thornhill won by 9 wickets

SCSA Cricket Selection

Well done and congratulations to the following boys who were selected to represent the SCSA cricket team: Daniel, Jaydon and Jon-Martin

Thornhill have enjoyed an excellent season, with all sides finishing off unbeaten. More importantly, I have witnessed the development of skills in all our teams and what a wonderful memory to watch the U9 team playing their first 'hard ball' game. A sincere 'Thank You' to the coaching staff for their time and commitment and to the parents for their unwavering support throughout the season.

Swimming

North vs South Gala

On Friday, 15 March, the Southern School's Swimming Team travelled to Maun to partake in the annual North vs South Competition. There was much excitement and an expectation of close competition and excellent swimming.

The crowds that attended were not disappointed. There was some excellent swimming with the South winning a lot of the U8 and U13 races and the North levelling it off in the middle age groups.

The North ended up final victors by 30 points. The South won 3 of the Victor/Victrix trophies with all of these being Thornhill swimmers. The swimmers winning these trophies were Jerone (U8), Kathryn (U11) and Jon-Martin (U13).

A big thank you to Spar for their continued sponsorship of this event and we look forward to going after this trophy again next year when the competition comes back to the South.

Inter House Gala

Inter House swimming gala took place on Thursday, 28 March. This relay gala allowed a lot of children to participate. All the houses supported their teams with much shouting, cheering and lots of colourful outfits. There was also a wonderful turn out and support from all the parents.

The gala was very exciting with only a couple of points separating the top contenders the whole way through. The final result saw a tie for the Inter House Gala between Notwane and Shashe. The spirit trophy went to Limpopo.

Well done to all those who participated and supported their houses.

vs Legae

Won 9 – 7, with Arnav, Anushka, Ali Kabeer and Shaan winning both their games.

vs TDS

Lost 10 – 8, with Arnav, Madhav and Marko winning both their games.

vs Westwood

Won 12 – 8, with Fariha and Madhav in Std 3 playing superbly well.

vs Baobab



Drew 9 – 9

Many of our regular team were on Std 5 camp, so some new and untried players were co-opted for this fixture. It was pleasing to see the team do so well, especially against opposition that are traditionally strong. Special mention must be made of Miles (Std 2), who was the only player to win both matches.



April 10 2019
Thornhill ICT Department



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