

Issue 54 March 01 2018

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

We have had a very busy February and the children have excelled in many areas. We are exceptionally proud of our Cambridge results, as we continue to score above the international average, while our tennis players and swimmers have showcased their skills with a large number of children being selected for the various southern teams.

I hope all of our new families have settled into life at Thornhill and that your children are enjoying their time at school. Should you have any queries, then please feel free to contact your child's teacher, or alternatively come and see me.

The rain has been wonderful of late and although it has played havoc with sport practices and fixtures, we are only too happy to be blessed with it.

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations and well done to Anoushka Brahmbhatt for her performance at the recent Gauteng judo rankings, where she won all four of her fights to take the gold medal. Further to this, Anoushka is now ranked first in the region in the category, 11 years and under 36kg. This is an excellent achievement and we are very proud of her.

New Parents Evening

All new parents to Thornhill met for a social at the end of Week 2 and we had a very enjoyable evening together. There were many games, which required the parents to interact in different groups and this helped break the ice.

The PTA was on hand to help and assist and Thornhill staff facilitated the groups. There was much fun, laughter and banter throughout and we hope that all those who attended enjoyed themselves.

High School Expo

Many secondary schools descended on Gaborone to present at the High School Expo that was hosted by Northside and Broadhurst respectively. Selecting a secondary school that will meet your child needs is vitally important and daunting at the same time. Should you have any questions, or simply like to discuss this topic moving forward, then please feel free to come and see me at any time.

Marimba Band News

Our Senior Marimba Band had the amazing opportunity to showcase their talent to the guests who attended a function at the Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino recently and Rethabile reported as follows:

The Thornhill Senior Marimba Band was invited to perform at the Avani Gaborone Resort and Casino on Saturday, 03 February. The invitation to play was extended by Ladies Circle International.

We started off the evening by welcoming the guests with the band's entertaining songs. The crowd was delighted with our playlist and the ladies were soon showing off their gorgeous dresses, as well as their dance steps.

We all had a wonderful time playing at the event and I think those attending enjoyed our performance. Thank you to Mr Kamwi and our Estate Staff for their time and effort in taking us to this event.

Presentation by Mark Kluckow

The Std 7 pupils were fortunate to be given a presentation on Leadership Skills by Mark Kluckow, a clinical psychologist from Zimbabwe. He started off by asking the children what their definition of a leader is and this summoned up some good answers. He then questioned them on who they considered to be good leaders and besides the more obvious answers, there were some interesting selections!

They were then divided into groups and given an interesting practical problem to solve. This caused a great amount of thought and considerable hilarity, but not one group was able to solve the problem. He then told a group of children, who had been told the solution, to go and advise. Even then, only a few managed to solve the problem. The lesson learned from this, was that even if you have been given a position of authority, it doesn't necessarily mean that you can lead a group, but that anyone armed with a bit of knowledge, can be a successful leader.

The main thrust of the talk was a reinforcement of one of our main Std 7 aims - that is, that everyone is a leader. The rest of the school look up to each Std 7 pupil to be a role model. He stressed that you do not have to be loud or domineering, but showing care and concern, is the form of leadership we should all aspire to.

We were also privileged to have a session on bullying with Mark Kluckow with all children from Reception to Std 6. The important message here was that, whilst very few of us will escape some form of bullying throughout our lives, at school, it is something which can easily be eradicated.

The session was interactive and Mark initially asked the children the meaning of a 'Bully.' The responses were good and a wide variety of definitions were given, pertinent ones too, in our age of social media.

The practical aspect came when Mark used himself as an example of a bully, and his wife, Joy, was used as the victim. This naturally caused much laughter, but the underlying advice was quickly absorbed. He then used various children from the floor to come to the assistance of Joy and in this way showed the children that no matter how strong the bully is, if there are sufficient numbers coming out in support of the victim, the bully will be beaten!

He gave the children an easy slogan to learn, that of ABC – Anti-Bully Champion. The children latched on to this immediately! The other acronym he taught us was TAT – Tell A Teacher. He stressed that to tell your teacher of bullying that is going on, is NOT telling tales, but is the responsible thing to do, in order for positive action to be taken. We hope that ABC and TAT will become part of all our children's subconscious.

We trust, that with the excellent advice given to us by Mark, that any form of bullying will quickly be stamped out.

North vs South

The annual North vs South dates are set for March with Tennis 14 & 15 March and Swimming 16 & 17 March, both being at Thornhill. I would like to wish all our representatives good luck for these events.

Mid-term is upon us and the school will be closed on Friday 2 and Monday 5 March. Please note, the administration office will close at 13:30 on Thursday 1 March and if you are travelling then please do so safely. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Tuesday 6 March.

Let your dreams be bigger than your fears and your actions be louder than your words. Unknown

I Greaves

Headteacher

House Captains



Congratulations to the following children who have been announced as Head of House:

Limpopo House:

Captain – Gabriella

Vice-Captain – Puleng

Chobe House:

Captain – Watapiwa

Vice-Captain – Michael

Notwane House:

Captain – Megan

Vice-Captain – Roelof

Shashe House:

Captain – Rethabile

Vice-Captain – Yusuf

I hope that your leadership skills continue to grow during the course of the year and that you are able to be an excellent role model for your house.

Std 2 Game Reserve Visit



This year the trips were affected by monkeys and rain, but nothing could dim the children's enthusiasm. The need for this trip was demonstrated when we first saw some small warthogs and a child shouted out, 'hedgehogs!' This was followed by a sighting of two large warthogs wallowing in mud and another child shouted out, 'hippos!' The Std Two children had this to say:

'We saw lots of impala with horns and babies.'

Akeelah

'When we got to the picnic site it was full of monkeys.'

Ushe

'The warthogs stick their tails up so their mummies can see them in the bush.'

Tema

'At the picnic site we had a fun scavenger hunt and we had to pick up twigs, leaves, a wild flower and animal dung.'

Juliette

'We saw rock dassies. They live in rocks and they were jumping from rock to rock. They look like bunnies without big ears.'

Miles



Recorder Workshop



The Std 3 children had a three-day recorder workshop in the first week of February. They had sessions with all the music staff, as well as selected Std 7 children, where they learned all the basics on how to play their recorder. The parents were invited to join in and the children loved to see their parents learning to play a song or two as well.

The Std 7 children imparted their knowledge by working with small groups of children at a time. On the final day, we ended off the workshop with a concert for the parents, where the children showed off their new skill and where the parents also showcased their new recorder and drumming skills. Everyone had a fantastic time and the workshop was a great success.

Sd 6 St Peter's Visit



Mrs Whitfield and the Std 6 children started the term off with a visit to St Peter's and she reported this.

Our first visit this year was a great deal of fun. Mrs Scales came armed with her art equipment and the children (ours and theirs) had a successful printing session with impressive results.

The other children played on the swings and slides, in the sandpit and on the trampoline. The children in the classrooms did jigsaw puzzles and built with 'lego,' as well as racing around with cars and trucks.

There was a great spirit and we ended with a biscuit and a cool drink with our friends from St Peters.

Skill Share



On Saturday, 10 February 2018, a group of Thornhill teachers set out for Molepolole in the school bus to meet the staff of the The Shepherd English Medium School, which was founded in 1986 by Mary Merriweather, the wife of the missionary Dr Alfred Merriweather, next door to the site of his mission hospital.

The school still stands on this historical site and is an interesting visit. The original mission home dating back to 1907, is still kept in its original state and now houses the school offices and library.

However, as we had visited the school to share new and practical teaching ideas, we broke up into three groups and teachers worked together in two sessions over the course of the morning. We were then treated to a lovely lunch and some lively discussion between the two schools. We returned home after a very worthwhile day and look forward to our next meeting.

Cricket

Inter House Cricket – Round 1

Congratulations to Shashe and Notwane, as they got their inter-house cricket off to a winning start. These two teams will meet later on in the term to determine our overall winner and Limpopo and Chobe will play for third and fourth place respectively.

vs Westwood

U9

Westwood 75 all out

Thornhill 145 for 2

Thornhill won by 10 wickets

U13

Thornhill - 183 for 1 (Yusuf 45* & Michael 30*)

Westwood 49 all out (Yusuf 2 for 2 & Kushal 2 for 2)

Result: Thornhill won by 134 runs

Man of the Match – Yusuf

vs Broadhurst

U9

Broadhurst – 49 all out

Thornhill 146 for 2 (Mohammed Yusuf 44*)

Thornhill won by 10 wickets

Unfortunately, the U11 and U13 matches against Broadhurst were cancelled due to the rain, as well as the fixtures against Northside and Pioneer Academy.



Chess

vs Baobab

Thornhill lost 4 - 16

vs Legae

Thornhill lost 6 - 18



Tennis

The first fixture of the season was against Northside, who traditionally have been tough opponents and this year was no different. Our tennis players acquitted themselves superbly and the results were as follows:

U11 Girls Thornhill won 7 - 0

U11 Boys Thornhill lost 3 - 5

U13 Girls Thornhill won 4 - 2

U13 Boys Thornhill won 6 - 3



Southern Schools

Congratulations and well done to the following children who have been selected to represent the SCSA swimming and tennis teams:

Tennis

Roelof, Judith, Simphiwe, Nikoleta and then Tefelo who was selected as a non-travelling reserve.

Swimming

U8 Boys and Girls:

Nikita, Miles, Rory, Tema, Leruo, Bakani and Jerone

U9 Boys and Girls:

Imogen, Arriana, Joshua, Elliot, Otsile and Advait

U10 Boys and Girls:

Kathryn, Naledi, Uyapo, Rayhan, Marko and Jack

U11 Boys and Girls:

Ella, Jacinda, Abigail, Anoushka, Siyanda, Ntsika and Mthokozisi

U12 Boys and Girls:

Puleng, Watapiwa, Victoria, Rethabile, Jon-Martin, Jaydon, Leatile and Tinaye

U13 Boys and Girls:

Tina, Megan, Naomi, Nikoleta, Judith, Kese, Tumo and Lelentle

Thornhill has 42 swimmers who will represent the South in the annual gala (16 & 17 March) and this is an amazing effort by all involved.

March 01 2018
Thornhill ICT Department

CELEBRATING



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