

Issue 49 August 10 2017

Thornhill eneews



Dear Parents and Pupils

As I sit and write this eNewsletter, I am trying to piece together where the term has gone? While it has gone by in a blur, we can see from the content in this eNewsletter that we have a number of events that have showcased the school and more importantly, the growth and development of the children.

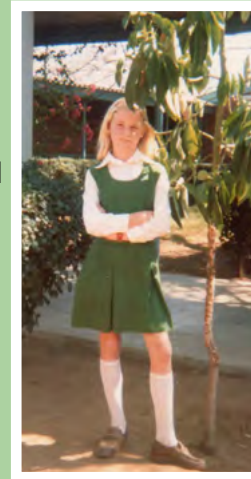
I am sure that you are all looking forward to not waking earlier than normal to do the school run on the dark and cold winter mornings and will cherish that 'sleep in' during the holidays. However, all in all, the term has been a fun-filled learning experience for our children.

Thornhill Alumni

We receive so many visits from past pupils during the year, but we had a special visit recently from Nicky Ackrill (Franklin) and she was kind enough to send us a mail, which read as follows:

Firstly, thank you very much for allowing my family and I to look around Thornhill School a few weeks ago. I was a pupil here from 1976 to 1979. It was wonderful coming back and although a lot has changed I was able to recognise the old classrooms, swimming pool and field area, it brought back many happy memories. We were extremely impressed with the standards of behaviour of the children, who were smart, polite and friendly. Here is the before and after photo!

Many thanks once again, it was a wonderful couple of hours!



Staff News

Congratulations to Priyanka Handa Ram on the birth of their son, Yuvaan! Priyanka worked at Thornhill during 2016 and we know that Yuvaan will bring much joy and happiness to the family.

Production 2000 Visit Thornhill

Once again, Production 2000 put on an outstanding theatre performance, that was received well by the audience, who laughed at all the right places and understood the overall message being communicated by the actors. This year's theme was "Set Goals and Never Give Up".

The characters were appealing and engaging and several people (children and teachers) were chosen for the audience to participate in the production. Oh what fun we had watching our teachers perform! The play was quite interactive. The audience had to answer questions, sing along to the theme song and make cheering noises when asked to. All this interaction made the play memorable and special.

Pupil Achievement:

Congratulations to the following boys and girls, who were selected to represent SCSA soccer and netball teams to play their Northern counterparts:

Netball

Rebolokeng Morwaeng
Helene Venter
Shamiso Matonhodze

Soccer

Patrick O' Connell
Roelof Naude
Aidan Lees
Bilal Tajbhai

Archery News

32 children from Gaborone and Lobatse took part in the NASP Africa All Star Archery Championship that was held in Namibia. Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe competed against each other.

Nazia Petkar won two silver medals for '3D and Bulls Eye Shooting' in the Junior team. Aamerah Osman and Saba Molosi won bronze medals for 'Bulls Eye' and '3D Shooting' respectively. Numair Harry, Bilaal Tajbhai and Isaac Molosi from Thornhill also competed in the tournament.

Bastille Day

When one learns a language, one inevitably learns its culture and on Friday, 14 July, there was much excitement to experience a celebrated holiday in France: The French National Day. This day commemorates the end of the French Revolution and the beginning of freedom and prosperity for the country. The French Department celebrated this by sharing the French gastronomy through a sale of various delicacies like: le chocolat chaud, les croissants au chocolat, les crêpes au sirop, les gâteaux. The event was well supported by many students and parents alike. It was surely 'Bon appétit' at Thornhill School.

Std 1 Maths Morning

The purpose of the Annual Math's Morning is to enlighten the Std 1 parents about Maths at Thornhill. Both Mrs Warrick and Mrs Stuart spoke to parents about the various teaching methods and about the apparatus used to teach their children, prior to their visit to the classrooms.

Meanwhile in the classrooms, the children were getting very excited about the prospect of their parents coming to watch them and were even more thrilled when their parents became involved in playing the games with them. The games are simple and fun to play and the children don't even realise that they are learning. Furthermore, most games are easy to make by reusing egg boxes and water container lids. The hope is that parents would encourage their children to make some of these games and that they spend quality time playing and learning as a family.

PTA News

Recently, our Thornhill families arrived in full force to take part in the annual Sponsored Walk. We had young and old out on the course and it was wonderful to see so many families out enjoying the morning. The real excitement came with the 'Colour Run' and the PTA were on hand to ensure that many of the walkers and runners changed colour very quickly.

All in all, those who attended had a fantastic morning and thank you to all our families for their continued support. Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all those parents who brought cakes and various wonderful 'goodies' to eat for the Tea Garden. We really do appreciate your generosity.

The draw for the Sponsored Walk will take place at the beginning of Term 3, so please watch out for more information on this!

Past Pupil News

James Freeman and Zinhle Bekker (Class of 2013), will be heading to Indianapolis, USA in mid August to compete at the FINA Junior World Championships. We are confident that James and Zinhle will once again make Botswana proud and we wish them all the best.

Mohamed Ali Hussain (Class of 2013) recently took part in the United Federation of Africa Karate Championships and was placed first in the Team Kata. Well done and congratulations Mohammed Ali!

I Greaves

Headteacher

Std 2 Cultural Village Visit



In the middle of June, the Standard 2 classes went off to Bahurutse Cultural Village near Mmangkodi. It's always a nice trip for the middle of winter, as the warmth of the people and phaphatha hot off the fire chase the chill away. The Std 2E children described their favourite parts of the visit:

'I liked it when I went on the donkey cart because I didn't have to use my legs.' **Liam**

'I loved making the phaphatha and turning it over.'
Bokani

'My best thing was playing with the skipping ropes.'
Botlhe

'It was cool when we bowed down when we were greeting the chief.' **Zaydaan**

'I liked it when I got a chance to control the donkey cart. It was not that easy!' **Suri-Jade**

'I liked grinding the sorghum on a flat rock.' **Leungo**

'I could carry the basket of sorghum on my head.'
Ona

Std 1 Pie City Visit

We went to Pie City. Mr Ross made us put on 'hair nets' and aprons. Mr Ross took us to the dough and we saw them put butter in the dough. We made chicken pies and watched them making pizza and juice. At school we ate our pizzas and pies and drank our juice. We had lots of fun. **Leona and Ushe - Std 1T**



Winter Warmer Campaign

This year's campaign was a great success thanks to our incredibly generous Thornhill community.


We received more than enough blankets for each child from St Peter's to take one home, which we were very happy about. We received mountains of warm clothing from boots and slippers to warm jackets and beanies. When St Peter's visited us last month we were able to fill their van and one of our bakkies to the brim with donations from our school.

Mrs Mudereri sent Thornhill a wonderful thank-you letter. She also mentions other donations, which have come from the school; the enamel dishes and mugs were bought with money raised in this year's Std 6 cake sales.

"For all these and other generous donations, we thank you. Your love and support keep St Peter's Day Care Centre thriving."



Std 3 Visit to the BSPCA



On Thursday, 22 June the Std 3 children visited the BSPCA and great fun was had by all. We learned how to care for our pets by making sure to feed and water them, as well as give them lots of love. The lady at the BSPCA spoke to us about rabies and how to read a dog's behaviour. For example, a dog's tail can tell us how it is feeling. If it is wagging, it is happy and relaxed, but if it is between its legs, it is anxious and afraid. We were taught to stay away from a dog if we think it is not happy, or feels threatened. We were also taught that dogs can multiply in numbers very quickly, if they are not sterilised. Our highlight of the day was playing with the puppies and the bunnies. The BSPCA was very thankful for our donations of pet food.

Art Exhibition



The Art exhibition is always a proud moment for Thornhill. The children get to see parents, teachers and peers appreciating their creative talent.

The theme this year was "The Elements" and we were treated to a show of stunning pieces in the four quarters of the hall – Earth, Wind, Water and Fire.

Overseeing it all was Mrs Scales, our fearless leader, fielding a seemingly never-ending barrage of questions from dozens of people. She managed to stay calm (outwardly) and handle the last minute emergencies that arose. Children and teachers all played their part for many hours – two terms in fact, of imagining, drawing, painting, gluing, sculpting and eventually hanging and displaying fantastic original art.

Mrs Van Tonder and Mrs Bruwer opened the exhibition on the evening of Tuesday, 25 July. Mr Greaves in his opening speech quoted Sydney Clemens - "Art has the role in education of helping children become like themselves, instead of more like everyone else.' It was beautiful to see how the children of Thornhill expressed themselves through this medium.

Foundation Phase Sports Day

The Reception, Standard 1 and Standard 2 children were very excited to have their families come to school for their Sports Day on Friday, 30 June. The excitement was enhanced when they saw the sports field marked out and decorated ready for the fun Nursery Rhyme races. There was such a good turn out of parents assembled on the stands, with the Junior school supporting along the sides and that made it all worthwhile. As the children looked out they saw Jack and Jill come down the walkway, Three Blind Mice came tapping onto the field, a few Jack Horners and Little Bo Peep was waiting to conduct the song. The music started and the Sports Day was under way.

The Foundation Phase soldiers marched smartly to The Grand Old Duke Of York, showing swinging arms and high knees; smiles and waves to the mums and dads, as they passed by. The children performed their Nursery Rhyme compilation with great gusto and made sure that the well-rehearsed actions were in time. The second rap song Humpty Dumpty, was fun, energetic and it was performed so well that we did not want them to stop. The children did us proud.

After the opening song and dance the children walked to their respective areas to show off their good ball skills, hand and foot eye coordination, running, jumping and great team work. They had fun with beanbag spiders, rugby ball sheep, the cow jumping over the moon and the well-thought out nursery rhyme relay races. All thanks goes to the PE Department for the ingenious ideas that were well executed.

Well done to Mrs Tweed, her team, the ICT department and the Music department for a sterling job as always.

Swimming History

Former Thornhill pupil, James Freeman (Class of 2014), made Botswana swimming history at the recent Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas. James secured a bronze medal in the 1500m Freestyle event, this is the first swimming medal for Botswana at a Commonwealth Games. James was one of the youngest swimmers at the Games, competing against boys nearly two years older than him. He obtained Personal Best's (PB's) in all the events he swam in and has already qualified for the Junior Youth Olympics in 2018 and a B qualifying time for the 2020 Olympics' 400m Freestyle event.

In welcoming the athletes back from the Commonwealth Youth Games, Assistant Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Cultural Development, Mr. Kefentse Mzwinila said, "Medals don't come with ease, medals don't come with luck, medals come with hard work and determination."



Marimba Workshop

On Saturday, 17 June, the Marimba Festival took place at Thornhill. There was a lot of fun and hard work! We got to play the mbira and sing with Mrs Chidhau, but playing was quite painful because the keys of the mbira are made of sharp metal.

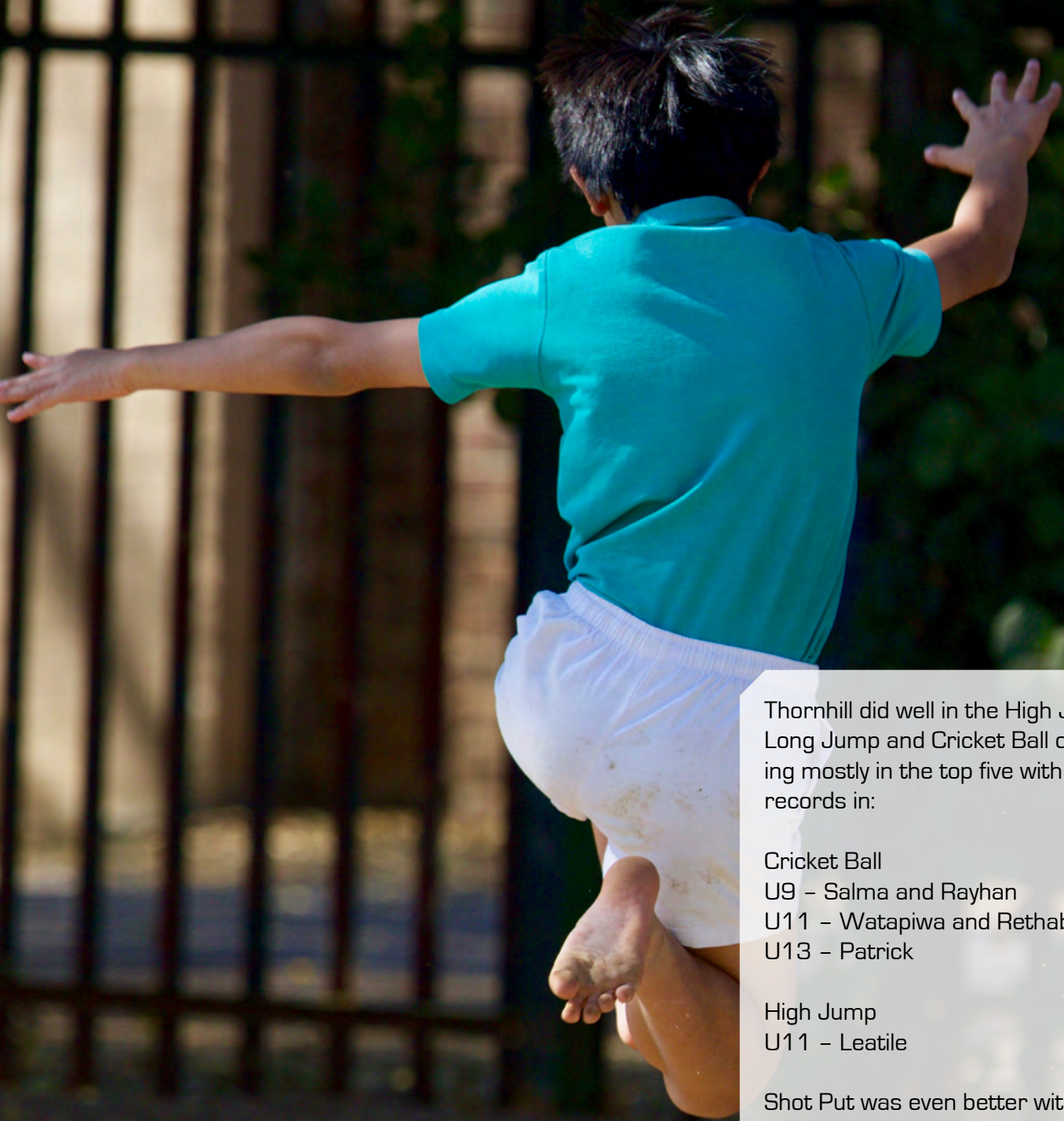
We got to dance with Sally, which although it was fun, it was excruciatingly tiring. We also did drumming and marimbas. We got to socialise with people from so many different schools throughout the day.

In the evening we had an awesome concert and all in all, every school's marimba band played exceptionally well.

Vatikomberera 7S



Inter Schools Field Events



Thornhill did well in the High Jump, Long Jump and Cricket Ball coming mostly in the top five with new records in:

Cricket Ball

U9 – Salma and Rayhan

U11 – Watapiwa and Rethabile

U13 – Patrick

High Jump

U11 – Leatile

Shot Put was even better with Thornhill placed either first, second, or third in all the age groups with new records from the following:

U11 – Leatile

U13 – Zander

Well done to all the athletes helping Thornhill to finish in first place. The points attained in the Field Events were carried forward to the Track Events, which took place at the National Stadium.

Inter Schools Track Events

What super competition starting off with all our 400m and 800m runners doing exceptionally well and getting us off to the best possible start. Following the longer distances, we had good performances in the sprints and our relay runners did us proud.

Notable performances were Yaone for her determination in her 800m race to try and beat her cross-country rival from Legae, she nearly caught her on the line; to Roelof Naude for his great spirit and determination in all his races and to our relay runners, who put into practice good changeovers. Finally, to the UB relay team, who unfortunately dropped the baton, chased it across the track, picked it up and finished the race! To the entire team, for their spirit and determination shown in winning the 'A' section schools.

Well done to all the athletes and to the captains in both the 'Field and Track Events,' Patrick, Rebo, Shamiso and Zander.





vs Northside

U13A lost 1 - 3
U13B lost 0 - 3
U11A drew 2 - 2
U11B lost 0 - 1
U11C drew 0 - 0
U9 won 1 - 0

vs TDS

U9 won 2 - 1
U11 drew 3 - 3
U13 won 2 - 1

vs Baobab

U13A won 1 - 0
U11A lost 1 - 4
U11B drew 3 - 3
U11C drew 0 - 0

vs Acacia

U11A lost 0 - 2
U11B drew 1 - 1

U9 Soccer Festival at Baobab

The boys drew three games against Baobab, Bothhale and Thuto and lost against Northside. Well done to them.

U13 Soccer Festival

The boys enjoyed a very competitive soccer festival and the team managed to draw three games and win two. Well done to all the boys, who participated in this festival.



vs Northside

U9A lost 2 - 8
U9B lost 2 - 9
U11A won 10 - 3
U11B won 7 - 0
U11C lost 0 - 1
U11D drew 1 - 1
U13A lost 6 - 12
U13B won 6 - 5
U13C won 9 - 0
U13D won 6 - 0

vs TDS

U9 lost 0 - 11
U11 won 9 - 6
U13 lost 7 - 15

vs Baobab

U13A won 9 - 1
U11A won 8 - 5
U11B won 5 - 0
U11C lost 0 - 6

vs Acacia

U11A lost 2 - 8
U11B lost 4 - 9

U9 Netball Festival at Baobab

Overall the girls had a great time. Although they lost all their games they handled it graciously and motivated themselves to do better in the next game. They played Baobab, Botlhale, Thuto and Northside

U13 Netball Festival

Congratulations to the U13 netball team, who performed superbly at the recent netball festival. The results were as follows:

TDS - won 2 - 0
Crescent - won 3 - 1
Botlhale - won 6 - 0
Acacia - lost 3 - 4
Thuto - won 5 - 1
Broadhurst - won 5 - 1

Inter House Athletics

The scene was set for an action packed Inter House this year and the children did not disappoint. The competition was fierce and Shashe ran out eventual winners, with Chobe in second and Limpopo and Notwane in third and fourth respectively.

Athletics Victor and Victrix Ludorum winners are as follows:

U9

Rayhan & Salma

U10

Thuso & Marang

U11

Leatile & Rethabile

U12

Kedi & Shamiso

U13

Zander & Maxine



Cross Country

The Inter-School cross country season kicked off with a successful meet at Thornhill, our entire team ran superbly and took first place overall, setting the pace and standard for the rest of the season.

Our children did not disappoint and kept up their winning streak, winning first place overall at all four of the other cross country meets at Raserura, Crescent, Thuto and Acacia. The children competed against at least six teams at every meet, running on tough courses in the bush and through the villages. The following children excelled at each of the meets:

At Thornhill:

U13 Boys – Shane (1st)

U13 Girls – Maxine (1st)

U12 Boys – Lefika (1st)

U9 Boys – Rayhan (1st)

At Crescent:

U13 Boys – Shane (1st)

U13 Girls – Maxine (1st)

U11 Boys – Tumo (1st)

U9 Boys – Rayhan (1st)

At Thuto:

U13 Boys – Roelof (1st)

U13 Girls – Maxine (1st)

U9 Boys – Rayhan (1st)

At Jwaneng:

U13 Girls – Michaela (1st)

U13 Boys – Shane (1st)

U12 Boys – Lefika (1st)

U9 Boys – Joshua (1st)

After a successful season, 14 Thornhill runners were selected for the Southern Schools Cross Country Team. Congratulations to: Imogen, Micaela Xavier, Rayhan, Marang, Leatile, Megan, Lefika, Sefi, Michaela Bradford, Abigail, Yaone, Shane, Roelof and Aidan.

North vs South Soccer & Netball

The soccer and netball players travelled to Francistown on 21 & 22 July. They played at John McKenzie School. It was a very well organised competition, however, the netball girls came up against some tough opposition. It had Mrs Scholtes scratching her head overnight to find some magic formula for the next day's games. All in all the North were too strong, but the girls all tried very hard. Well done to Rebo, Helene and Shamiso.

The boys drew one game and lost three. They also found it tough to beat their opponents, who were just too strong for them. However, well done to Roelof, Patrick, Aidan and Bilaal who represented the South from Thornhill.



August 10 2017
Thornhill ICT Department



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