

Issue 48 June 22 2017

# Thornhill enews





# Dear Parents and Pupils

I would like to welcome all the new families who joined Thornhill Primary School at the beginning of Term 2. I trust you will all enjoy your time at this wonderful school and that you have been made to feel welcome.

Should you have any queries then please feel free to come in and see me.

I used the 'Parent Job Description' in an earlier newsletter, but I think that it is so apt that I will again share it. It is tongue-in-cheek, but also carries many true words and sentiments.

As parents, you play such a critical role in your child's everyday development – the guidance and the love you bring to them is critical. However, it is not an easy task and we don't always have all the right answers and the benefits are long term. So, to all you parents, thank you for what you do for your child: they are all amazing and your love and support is greatly appreciated!

## Parent Job Advertisement

### JOB DESCRIPTION

Long term, team players needed, for challenging, permanent work in an often-chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments! Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required. Must be happy to be referred to as Mum, Mom, Mommy, Mama, Ma, Dad, Daddy, Dada, Pa, Pop etc

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs P250. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 kph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have the ability to plan and organise social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best, but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

### POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTION

None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

### PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

None required, unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

### WAGES AND COMPENSATION:

Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

## BENEFITS

While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life if you play your cards right.

## APPLICATION

For all the PARENTS, in appreciation for everything they do on a daily basis, letting them know they are appreciated for the fabulous job they do... or for anyone thinking of applying for the job.

FOOTNOTE.... THERE IS NO RETIREMENT - EVER!!!

## Staffing

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Gibson and Mrs Majagoba to the Thornhill staff. Mrs Gibson joins our Physical Education Department from Northside and I trust she really enjoys her stay with us.

Mrs Majagoba joins our Finance Department and will take up a position of Financial Manager at the end of June. Mrs Majagoba will take over from Mrs Raman, who will be leaving us at the end of June, when she departs for the UK. I hope that Mrs Majagoba enjoys her stay with us.

## Pupil Achievements

During the past holiday, Anoushka Brambhatt travelled to RSA with her Judo group and won silver at the Sedibeng Open Tournament and Gold in the Cape Town National Ranking Tournament. Anoushka is now ranked first in RSA for her weight and age category. Well done and congratulations, we are extremely proud of your achievements, Anoushka.

Congratulations to Nadine Holzapfel on being selected as a Librarian for 2017.

Congratulations to Leatile Bakwena who won gold at the National Taekwondo Champions Challenge Cup, which took place in Zimbabwe recently

Calvin Dickinson (ex Thornhill Primary pupil) recently played his first class debut game for Hampshire against the South African "A" cricket team. Calvin made 99 runs and took four catches behind the wicket. Well done and congratulations to Calvin!

Michaela Bradford has received a major scholarship to Uplands College for 2018. Well done and congratulations to Michaela, on her tremendous achievement.

## Reception 2018 Readiness Assessments

The above process is in full swing and we have had an enormous number of applications. To give you an idea, there have been over 400 applications, we will assess over 250 and we have places for 80 children with 58 current siblings. It is an extremely difficult process that culminates with offers being made from 10 July.

## Cancer Civvies Day

The whole school was dressed in pink, as the children and staff remembered those who are suffering from cancer at the annual cancer civvies day. I would like to thank all the Thornhill families who gave so generously and supported this awareness initiative. All money raised will be donated to the Journey of Hope.

**I Greaves**

Headteacher



# St Peter's Community Service

On Wednesday 7 June and Thursday 8 June, St Peter's made their annual mid-year trip to Thornhill Primary School. The trip has two purposes. Firstly for the Std 6 classes to entertain these small children in the Reception play area, where they were treated to some hot chocolate, apples and scrumptious sausage rolls! The second reason was for St Peter's children to receive the amazing collection of clothing and blankets that the Thornhill children and community had collected for these very special children. The response was overwhelming. To see the smile of enjoyment and gratitude on their faces was indeed heart warming. Their time with Thornhill, though short, is indeed very special. The fun they had, and the sound of laughter in the play area is a time when they can forget their hardships for a while, whilst at the same time it allows the Std 6 children to experience the art of giving.

The ladies of St Peters, led by Gladys Mudereri, do an amazing community service, and are dedicated to giving the children all that young children of this age deserve. Besides teaching, loving and caring, they help clothe them along with providing four meals a day. They rely totally on donations from the public, and therefore it was very sad to hear that in these tough economic times, donations have dwindled to an all time low. They fear that they may be forced to close this vital service after many years of dedication, and are therefore denying these small children the chance that they need in life.

Finally, once again, Mrs. Whitfield deserves a very special mention for the amazing amount of time and energy she spends in organising collections and assisting this very worthy cause.





# Std 3 & 4 Concert

"Wow!" What an amazing evening with such budding talent.

On 30 and 31 April, the Std 3 and 4 classes joined together and presented an excellent music concert for their parents in the Helen Mathole Memorial Hall. Much practice had taken place during music lessons with Mrs Price, with Mrs Moremi teaching recorders and drumming, and Mr Kamwi teaching the Marimba pieces and recorder. The dance routines and individual song and musical items had been practiced at home and during break with the music department.

Much excitement was in the air and our children were absolute stars. To think our Std 3 children only started playing the recorder last term.

Quotes:

Sally 4S:

I enjoyed the Std 3 and 4 concert a lot. The different styles, routines and music activities were exciting and such a joy to watch. I can't wait to do it again.

Kgotla 4S:

At the concert I felt nervous, but it was such fun. I loved the drumming - especially when Mbaki danced to our rhythm.

Faizan 4S:

At the concert I felt nervous at first, but then my Mum and Dad encouraged me and before I knew it, I was fine.

Mbaki 4S:

The thing I liked about the concert was the excitement, the energy and most of all, the smiles.





# PTA Camp Out

It was with great enthusiasm that the Thornhill campers pitched their tents on Friday 19 May. Campers young and old were playing catch, soccer while others just ran around on the field. The evening was rather chilly, but did not dampen the atmosphere. Fires were lit and many braai masters were gathered preparing their dinner. Little ones got together around the big screen to watch Sing. Gas heaters provided by PTA members kept them warm and toasty. Marshmallows, tea and coffee were available to end the evening.

The next morning everyone lined up for coffee, hot chocolate, tea and muffins before packing up. It was a night to remember, we will definitely camp again!





# Trinity College Music Exams

On Friday 9 June, some very nervous, but excited students sat their Trinity College Music Exams. For many it was their first individual exam and they performed well.

The standard expected for the individual exams is extremely high and to achieve a pass, you must obtain 60 to 74%, to achieve a Merit your mark must be between 75 and 86% and a Distinction is 87% and above.

The Music Department is very proud of everyone for all their hard work.

The results were as follows:

Jonathan Cornet	Initial Guitar	Pass
Lefika Smith	Initial Piano	Merit
Anoushka Brahmbhatt	Initial Piano	Merit
Jada Rugara	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Hrithika Patel	Grade 1 Violin	Merit
Kushal Patel	Grade 1 Violin	Merit
Sahana Sivaramakrishnan	Grade 1 Violin	Distinction
Tsetsa Makuku	Grade 2 Recorder	Pass
Patricia Mangana	Grade 2 Recorder	Merit
Naiko Lisenda	Grade 2 Recorder	Distinction
Etienne De Klerk	Grade 2 Violin	Distinction
Avani Arora	Grade 3 Recorder	Pass
Wanjing Tang	Grade 3 Guitar	Pass
Victoria Lee	Grade 3 Flute	Pass
Carlotta Hatzipetros	Grade 3 Piano	Merit
Chloe Xavier	Grade 3 Piano	Distinction
Etienne De Klerk	Grade 5 Recorder	Pass



# Farewell to Mma Raman

Mrs Raman arrived at Thornhill Primary in 1989 and it is with a very sad heart that we bid farewell to her. Mrs Raman has been very dedicated to Thornhill Primary School and due to her efforts, visioning and expertise, Thornhill has been in a financial position to develop extensively over the years.

For Mrs Raman, Thornhill has always been more than just a job in the finance office, rather she has championed the school with passion and dedication. Her attention to detail and initiative, has resulted in the children always benefitting to the fullest.

Mrs Raman remains in my eyes, 'an institution' and has always been on call 24/7, when the well-being of Thornhill was at stake. And now, as she relocates to the UK, it is with great sadness that we have to bid her farewell.

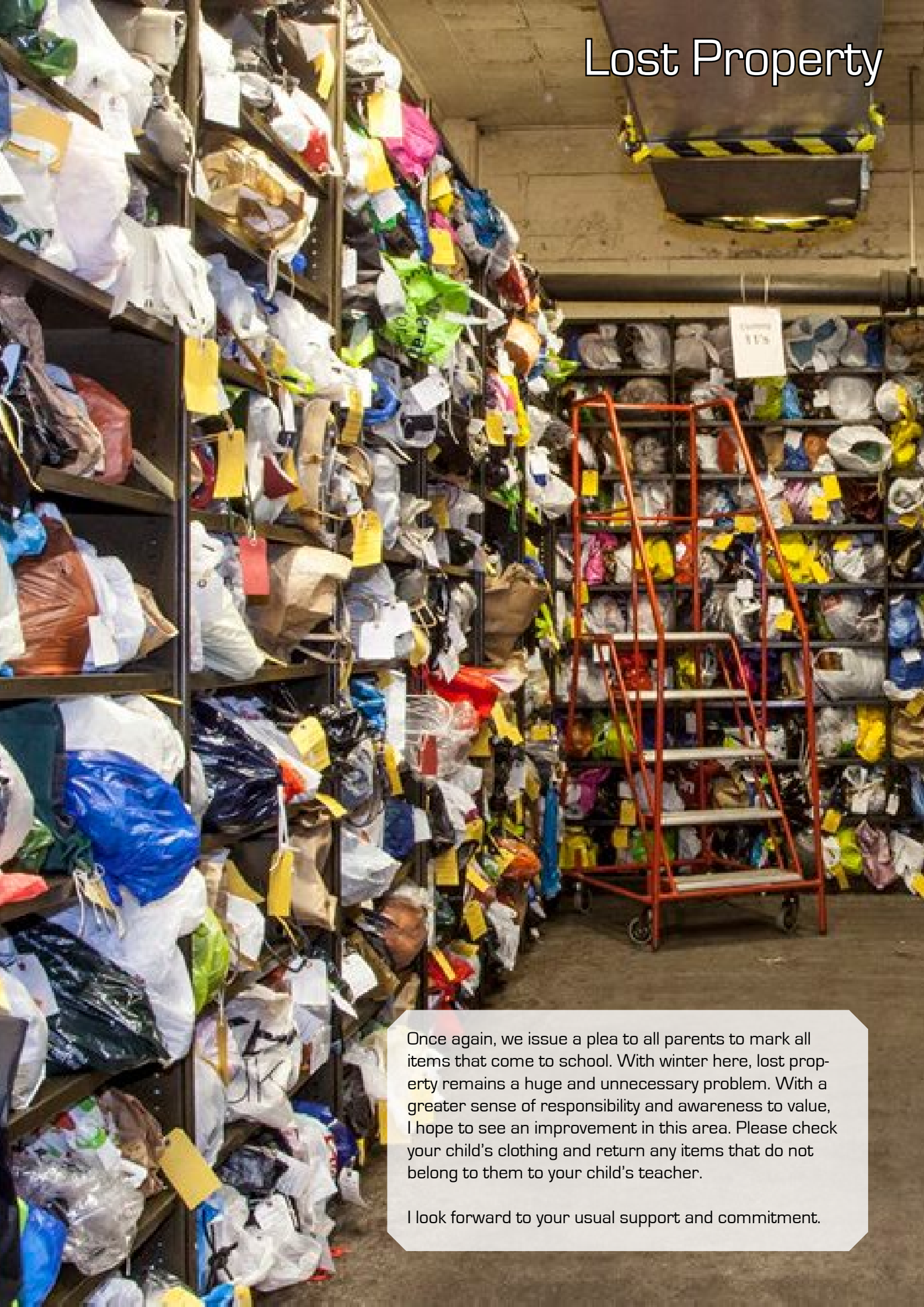
The script was never planned or written this way, but our prayer is that she will settle well in the UK and it is my belief and hope that she will find her way into a school, which, will embrace and value her talents and expertise. Thornhill's loss will certainly be another's gain!

Mrs Raman – on behalf of the board, parents, staff and children, I would like to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation – words will never quantify your value and input.

Farewell until we meet again. Tsamaya Sentle, ha re kitla re go lebala.



# Lost Property



Once again, we issue a plea to all parents to mark all items that come to school. With winter here, lost property remains a huge and unnecessary problem. With a greater sense of responsibility and awareness to value, I hope to see an improvement in this area. Please check your child's clothing and return any items that do not belong to them to your child's teacher.

I look forward to your usual support and commitment.



# Cross Country

The school is abuzz every Monday and Wednesday with loads of children coming down to participate in the afternoon cross country programme. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm, especially from the little ones who slog it out, around the route laid out for them.

Tuesday 6 June, saw our first cross country meet against seven other schools from the greater Gaborone area and Lobatse. Our children ran fantastically, ending first overall.

Rayhan (U9 Boys), Lefika (U12 Boys), Shane (U13 Boys) and Maxine (U13 Girls) came first in their respective races.





# Inter House Soccer & Netball

Inter House Netball and Soccer: Excitement ran high as the inter house netball and soccer took place during the first week of the second term. The players displayed good skills and the overall results were as follows:

## Netball:

1. Shashe
2. Chobe
3. Notwane
4. Limpopo

## Soccer:

1. Notwane
2. Shashe
3. Chobe
4. Limpopo





# Soccer

## vs Westwood

U13 - Drew 0 - 0

U11 - Won 3 - 0

U9 - Drew 5 - 5

## U11 Festival

U11 soccer team drew 2 and lost the last 3 games.





# Netball

## **vs Westwood**

U13 - Won 21 - 1

U11 - Won 21 - 0

U9 - Lost 5 - 0

## **U11 Netball Festival**

On Saturday 10 June, Thornhill hosted the U11 Soccer and Netball festival and twelve schools participated, namely; Acacia, Baobab, Botlhale, Broadhurst, Crescent, League, Northside, Raserura, Tlokweng Day Spring, Westwood, Thuto and Thornhill.

The going was tough, but the children gained invaluable experience, which will stand them in good stead for the rest of the season.

The U11 netball team lost their first two games and won their last three.

I trust that you enjoy the rest of the term with us and I look forward to watching you supporting your children.







"Mrs Ross is how old?"

