

Issue 56 June 20 2018

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

Welcome to the second term and I hope you have got used to the chilly and dark start in the morning. Any thoughts of the past holiday are but a distant memory and we look forward to a busy term. I would like to welcome all the new families that 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.

Staff Development

On the 24 and 25 of March, Thornhill staff attended a Cambridge Primary Training workshop. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Cambridge Curriculum. We were given the opportunity to interact with teachers from other schools, not only trying to implement this curriculum, but who were invested in ensuring the standards remained at an international level. Cambridge is focused on encouraging an ethos in all children and teachers, ensuring they learn in a reflective, responsible, confident, engaging and innovative manner.

We were given the opportunity to work through the schemes, frameworks, guides and assessment tools. After two days of sorting, questioning and learning, we left with the understanding that Cambridge is not only a solid curriculum, but one that is progressive enough to adapt and succeed as we prepare children for life in the ever changing 21st century.

Std 7 Donation to VulPro

Each year our Std 7 group raises money in support of various organizations as part of our community awareness programme. The Std 7's have elected to promote the protection of our environment. One of the organizations we have chosen is VulPro (Vulture Programme).

The aim of this organization is to see to the conservation of African vulture populations for the benefit and wellbeing of society. VulPro approaches vulture conservation in an integrated and multi-disciplinary fashion, combining education, rehabilitation and conservation activities with networking, capacity building and knowledge generation.

Our Std 7's have donated an amount of P8 000.00 to VulPro. This has enabled us to adopt a breeding pair of White-Backed Vultures. We are currently in the process of running a competition, giving the children a chance to name the pair of vultures. We are also organizing a guest speaker to come and elaborate on the importance of vultures. Finally, at the end of the year, we are visiting the Rehabilitation Centre to see our pair and to learn more about their work. Thank you to everyone who supports the Std 7's fund-raising activities.

Marking Clothes and 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.

Merit Tea

The following Std 7 children attended a merit tea at the beginning of the second term. These children have shown an exceptional work ethic and have produced sound results during the first term. Well done to the following: Megan, Chloe, Michelle, Katlego, Avani and Nadine.

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to the following children who received excellence awards in the final assembly:

Sporting Excellence: Anoushka Bramhbatt
Roelof Campher
Tumo Matija

Music Excellence: Bianke Van Staden

Congratulations also to Leatile Bakwena took part in the 4th Hallelujah Taekwondo Championships in Pretoria, South Africa from 26 to 29 April, 2018, where he represented Botswana. He won all of his fights. Further to this, Leatile was ranked as the best Outstanding Cadet in Sparring (Fighting) and the best Outstanding Cadet in Breaking (Boards). He was placed first in the region and in the category, 13 years and under. Congratulations and well done to Leatile on his outstanding performance.



Dance News

The Thornhill dance children AKA Dance Connexion, were invited by Wally from the BSPCA to come and perform at the Craft Market Fundraiser which was held at Lady Masire Foundation in Gaborone West. Having never performed there and not knowing what the stage would be like, we arrived there feeling rather optimistic only to find that we were performing outside, in the sand and dust. Well, we did not let that get us down and when our turn came to perform, we did our best, performed all the steps, missed a few counts here and there, but otherwise, pulled off a good performance. Thank you to all who came and supported or watched and we look forward to many more performances this term.

Cancer Civvies Awareness Day

Even though it was a little chilly on Friday, 1 June, Thornhill embraced the Cancer Awareness civvies day with great enthusiasm. I would like to thank the entire Thornhill community for their kindness and generosity in supporting this very worthwhile cause. All money raised will be donated to the Journey of Hope, as we again will sponsor a rider in 2018.

Students from University of Botswana

Thornhill would like to welcome students from the University of Botswana for their practical teaching. These students have been assigned to certain year groups and will gain valuable knowledge and experience, as they observe our staff in the teaching environment. The students are assigned as follows:

Ms Cross and Ms Pilane in Reception

Mr Mbise and Ms Kgang in the Physical Education Department

Mr Arrisol is attached to our Management Team (Mr Arrisol is a Deputy Headteacher in the Seychelles and is currently studying Management and Leadership)

We trust that they will enjoy their stay with us and relish the opportunity to learn.

I hope you enjoy an exciting and successful Term 2 with your children and I hope to see you supporting them in their activities and events. I leave you with these words by William Pollard: **'Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.'**

I Greaves

Headteacher



This year's campaign has been extremely successful, thanks to the parents and children of our school. We have enough blankets for each St Peter's child to take one home, so that they are warm at night. We also have an amazing collection of warm clothes for every age group.

The St Peter's children will be visiting us on Wednesday 6 June to play with our Reception children. We sent the bakkie and trailer laden with everything we have collected to their school in Mogoditshane.

We would like to congratulate Mahira Khan, who held a fund raising event with her family, and raised enough money to buy 50 blankets for St Peter's. Well done, Mahira, we are proud of you.

Once again, our thanks to the pupils and parents of Thornhill Primary School for their immense generosity, the children of St Peter's benefit tremendously from the donations that our school provides.

Std 2 Cultural Village Visit



There was great excitement amongst the Std 2J children who were eager to go on their trip to the Cultural Village. Vicky and her staff greeted the children with songs and chants (Bomme ba ba duduetsang) and the children were attentive and participated enthusiastically in all the activities that followed. Here are some stories from the class:

Freddie – I woke up excited about our trip to the Cultural Village. I got up early and changed into my school uniform so quickly. I went into my parents' bedroom. They were fast asleep and I said "Mum, dad get up it's time for school." It was 5:30 in the morning.

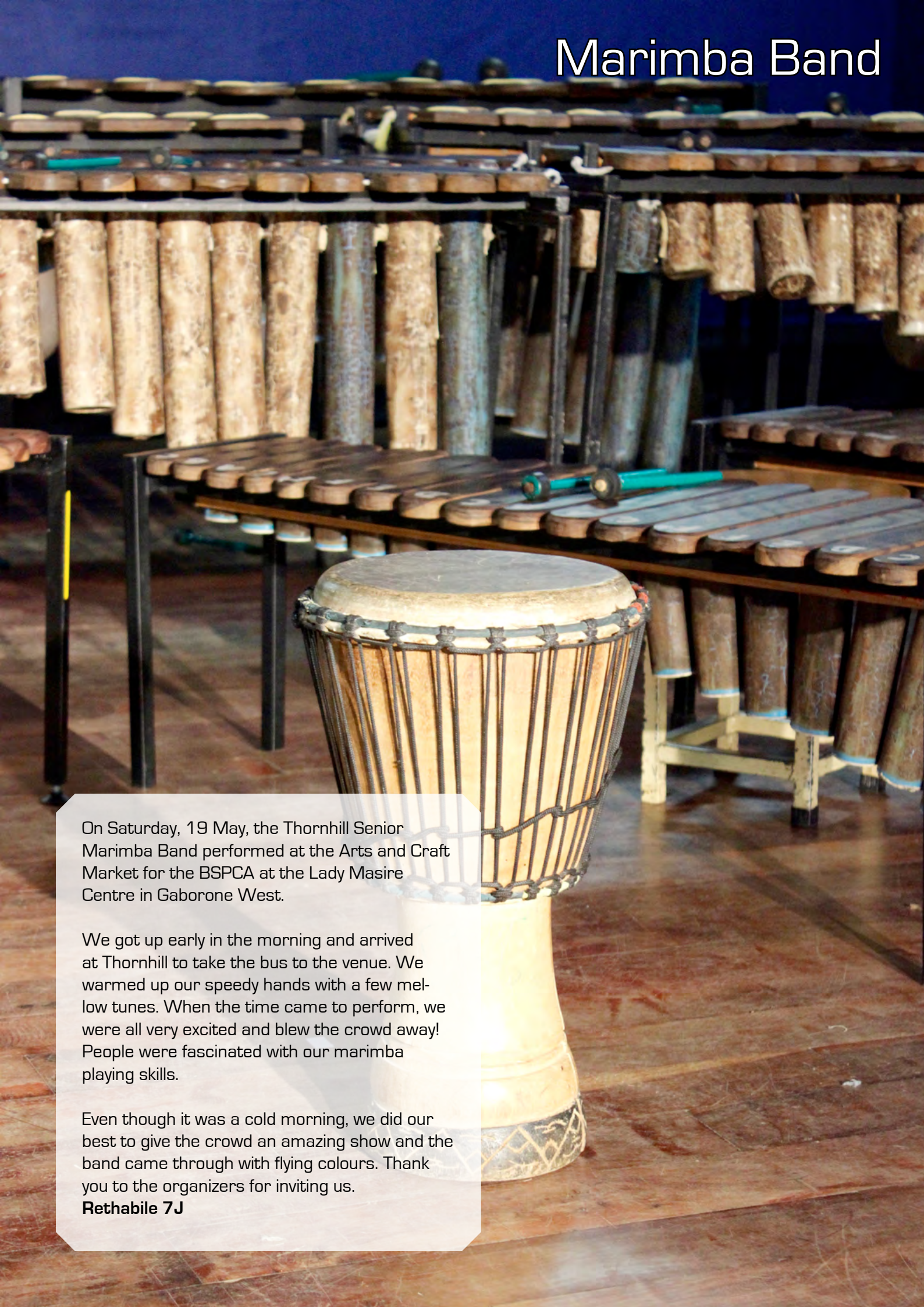
Basha – I enjoyed feeding the goats. First a female goat charged me and then stopped. She started licking my hands with her sticky tongue because she wanted the food so badly. I was not scared.

Rory – I made a small cooking pot out of clay and I enjoyed pounding the sorghum with a mothse.

Katlo – I enjoyed the dances and the traditional story. We made phaphatas and it was so delicious.

Ayesha – I enjoyed making a small clay bull and a cooking pot. I loved decorating it. I also enjoyed the dances. We carried baskets on our heads and gave the chief all the food.

Marimba Band



On Saturday, 19 May, the Thornhill Senior Marimba Band performed at the Arts and Craft Market for the BSPCA at the Lady Masire Centre in Gaborone West.

We got up early in the morning and arrived at Thornhill to take the bus to the venue. We warmed up our speedy hands with a few mellow tunes. When the time came to perform, we were all very excited and blew the crowd away! People were fascinated with our marimba playing skills.

Even though it was a cold morning, we did our best to give the crowd an amazing show and the band came through with flying colours. Thank you to the organizers for inviting us.

Rethabile 7J

Cross Country

On Tuesday, 29 May, the Thornhill Cross country team ran in the first cross country meet of the season, hosted by Thornhill. 7 schools from the Gaborone area came to the venue to take part. Thornhill ran exceptionally well, coming first overall.

We also had some outstanding individual results:

Muhammad Yusuf	2nd	U8 Boys
Imogen	1st	U9 Girls
Lorato	1st	U10 Boys
Matthew	2nd	U10 Boys
Jack	3rd	U10 Boys
Heather	3rd	U10 Girls
Tefelo	1st	U11 Girls
Marang	2nd	U11 Girls
Leatile	1st	U12 Boys
Lefika	1st	U13 Boys
Ryan	2nd	U13 Boys
Tumo	3rd	U13 Boys
Tina	1st	U13 Girls
Puleng	2nd	U13 Girls

Netball

The U9 netball camp took place on Saturday, 19 May. Mrs Graves facilitated the camp, with help from the PE Department.

The camp was divided into two main areas: Theory and Practical. The children watched videos and went through basic rules in netball. They also studied the court and its positions.

The practical session included ball skills, movement around the court and identifying one's position on the court. This was then followed by a mini tournament between the children, who had been split into teams.

The children were actively engaged and at the end of the camp, took a booklet home to read, as a review of their camp.



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June 20 2018
Thornhill IGT Department