

Issue 43 October 27 2016

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

Term 3 has begun and is gathering momentum, as we prepare our children for the final run in to the 2016 academic year.

We recently celebrated World Teachers' Day and the Senior Management at Thornhill would like to develop awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and child development.

Teaching is a profession of truly talented people, of significant value and vision, who are drawn to the vocation because of their desire to give our children the best start in life.

But what does that mean; the best start in life? The skills needed in the 21st century are not the same as those needed in the 20th century. The rapid development of globalization and communication has had an enormous effect on our lives and will continue to do so.

As such, the role of teaching also has to change continually. But how on earth can we prepare children for a future that does not yet exist?

Mark Klucow, on his last visit to Gaborone, intimated that on average, adults retiring today will have worked for 4 or 5 employers during their lifetime. When the children, currently in Reception, enter the job-market it is expected that they will have worked for at least 25 different organisations by the time they are 38. Companies will no longer be looking for committed people to train for life, instead they will be offering short-term contracts to develop key areas as needed.

The future looks daunting because we are not prepared for it or comfortable in such an environment. It is different and that is unsettling. In order to ensure that our children feel comfortable and are prepared for the future, teachers must develop the following skills.

Our children need to be:

- Self-confident
- Adaptable
- Creative
- Aware of strengths and weaknesses
- Capable of building relationships quickly, effectively and often virtually
- Able to think for themselves

Our children need to be prepared to:

- Take risks
- Ask what if
- Take chances
- Keep exploring (become life long learners)

'We have a moral obligation as teachers to ensure that every child we teach believes they have the ability to learn and the self-assurance to solve problems and overcome difficulties. It is our responsibility to inspire and enthral, so that children develop a desire to learn that is borne out of the magic of discovery.'

Richard Gerver, Educationalist

Not just on World Teachers' Day, but each and every day we would like to recognise and celebrate the talented, innovative and committed group of individuals that are Thornhill Teachers.

Thornhill Senior Management Team

First Aid Course

All staff have successfully completed a Basic First Aid Course update, while others have completed the Advanced First Aid course. This proved to be a very worthwhile and important workshop.

Pupil Achievements

On 27 and 28 August, Leatile Bakwena attended the 1st Unyahawu KZN Taekwondo Championships in Durban, South Africa. He got a Gold Medal for Sparring and a Gold Medal for breaking Board.

He has been selected by the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) to attend a two week training programme in Korea. He will be leaving early in December.

Well done and congratulations Leatile!

Staff Achievements

In celebration of Bot50, Mail & Guardian Africa along with Gabz FM, hosted a nationwide search for 50 Batswana Change-Makers, under 40, who have made significant contribution and positive change within their communities. Nominees were selected from various fields such as Leadership, Mining, Health, Agriculture and Education (to mention but a few). One of Thornhill's teachers, Priyanka Handa Ram, was honoured with the award for Education for her work at her organisation, REWA.

REWA has been involved in youth work, remedial education, early childhood programmes, literacy development and adult trainings since its inception in 2010.

Well done and congratulations to Mrs Handa Ram – we are very proud of your achievements!

PTA Social Evening

On 17 September, the Thornhill PTA hosted a Wild West evening in the Helen Mathole Memorial Hall. The scene was set with blue checked dressed hay bales, lanterns, cactuses, photo booth, the mechanical bull and DJ Homie.

The dance floor was opened with a line dance and everyone joined in and tried their best, but line dancing proved rather challenging to some. Food was served by Absolute Berlin, shawarma's and burgers were on the menu, and were truly mouth-watering.

The mechanical bull was great fun and lots of challenges flew back and forth for the Cowboy/girl, who could ride the bull the longest. We saw many interesting moves on mounting the bull, unfortunately some never made it up while others mounted the bull with grace and precision.

The evening was a huge success, the PTA Social team had outdone themselves with the organisation and decoration of this function.

A comment from one of the cowgirls: "We attended last week's function and would like to congratulate you on a wonderful event. The music was great; the DJ should be told he reads people well with a great mix of music. The ladies who supplied the food was also excellent. Please hold another function soon. Although we do not even have children ourselves neither did any of our party have children at the school, we would like to support you in the future. Congrats! It was excellent! Thank you!" Sophia Spires


PTA Golf Day

This successful event took place recently at the Gaborone Golf Club. We had a full field and were privileged to have an excellent compliment of sponsors. The PTA members were enthusiastically on hand to provide golfers with food and drinks.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Fun Sports Day



This is the day children get to do a whole lot of activities in teams made up of both boys and girls. The children love this event because they get involved in the activities. This year we changed some events, but all in all, the children had tons of fun and enjoyed their day. Competition was also good this year with the top 3 houses not having a big difference in their scores.

Final scores were as follows and well done to all involved:

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

Std 3 Sleepover



A very excited group of Standard 3 children arrived at school at 5pm on the afternoon of Friday, 23 September. The girls made their beds up in the library and the boys made theirs in the hall. After that, the girls had their turn in the swimming pool first and the boys played football on the field. They then swapped over. When it was getting dark, they came back up to school and got changed and ready for dinner. They were all so hungry after all that exercise. They ate a lot of pizza and ice-cream! Next, they went back to the field and played a very exciting game, which helped them to burn off some more energy. When they were starting to get tired they brushed their teeth and got ready to watch a movie. After the movie they went to settle down in their sleeping bags. Even though the lights were off there was a lot of whispering before they finally fell asleep. They were all awake very early the next morning, even before the birds! They packed up and had breakfast and it was not long before their parents arrived. The Std 3 children had a great time and happy and tired children returned home.

Std 5, 6 & 7 Concert

The Standard 5, 6 and 7 Concert took place on the evenings of 26 and 27 September. It was a wonderful showcase of the musical talent here at Thornhill with all the children singing and playing the marimbas and recorder, as well as many other fantastic items including dancers and singers. There were also items involving flutes, saxophone, violin and guitar, as well as a mass-drumming item. The hard work from all the children was very evident and the great variety of items displayed their talent to the full.

Here are some comments from Std 7J:


The Std 5, 6 and 7 concert this year was the best and almost magical. I enjoyed the dances the most, especially the different moves and catchy songs. I will definitely miss being part of these amazing concerts. Tanusree

I enjoyed my last concert as a Thornhill Primary School pupil because all the acts were marvelous and everyone was cheerful. Nthepha

I liked 7W's marimba performance. The things I am going to miss are the recorders and marimbas and I am also going to miss Mrs Smith's eyes when looking at us misbehave. I will miss Thornhill's concerts when I leave. Kao



Junior Engineers for Africe



During what has become an annual event, the children at Thornhill Primary School were exposed to the innovations and mechanics of JEFA. The excellent facilitators again provided interesting theory lessons, supported by excellent practical exercises, in which the children made a number of working mechanical models, centering around cogs, pulleys, and other various pieces of equipment. Children were challenged and encouraged to think beyond their normal thought processes. The successful completion of the models made all the head scratching and discussions worthwhile. All in all it was a very worthwhile and successful week.

Botswana Independence

A group of children, likely students, are dressed in blue and black uniforms and hats. They are standing in a line, some holding flags. The scene is outdoors, and the children appear to be participating in a celebration or event. The text on the right side of the image provides context for the event, which is the 50th anniversary of Botswana's independence.

Wednesday, 28 September, the school was abuzz with excitement and anticipation! We had been notified that Thornhill School was one of the primary schools that would be privileged to welcome the roving torch that had been travelling throughout the country in recognition of Botswana celebrating its 50th year of Independence. All the children were dressed in their Botswana colours and created a Guard of Honour, while waiting for the torch to arrive. We heard its arrival before we saw it, as there were sirens and ululating in its wake. The mayor of Gaborone gave a speech before handing over the torch to Mr Greaves, who then followed the trail of students to the field where he handed the torch to one of our Standard 7 pupil's, One Kenosi. One gave a heartfelt speech, which really highlighted positive points of being a student in Botswana and her pride at having an opportunity to be a part of this momentous occasion. The children all cheered as the torch was lit and One walked among the children carrying the torch. She handed it back to Mr Greaves, who then escorted it back to the Mayor who was waiting at the school gate. All in all, it was a joyous occasion, and as Thornhill, we are proud and privileged to have taken part in Botswana's 50 years of Independence celebrations.

Cultural Day

The Bahurutshe Cultural Village Organisation from Mmankgodi facilitated the 'Cultural Day' at Thornhill, as part of the Bots50 celebrations. Std 4 to 7 classes took turns to visit the 'Setswana House,' to partake in and observe the procedures of the day. The activities included song and dance, grinding of corn using large stones, pounding of sorghum using wooden pestles and mortars, an activity that the children thoroughly enjoyed. It was a great thrill to watch the children skip rope and sing Setswana songs. The children demonstrated the knowledge and comprehension of the songs and actions described in the songs, showing the skills learnt in their Setswana classes. The Bahurutshe organisation was tremendously impressed.

To wrap up this event, the Std 7 children performed a reenactment of Dikgafela (handing over of locally grown crops to the chief after a harvest). The children did so gracefully and with admirable respect of the tradition.

The Thornhill community that was present enjoyed a fun, yet informative day!



Spring Assembly

On the first Wednesday of the term the Foundation Phase pupils were well prepared for Spring! They arrived at school in their most colourful clothes and did not forget to bring fruit and vegetables for children less fortunate than us.

The children gathered in assembly with beautiful spring hats and with their generous offerings of fruit and vegetables that were donated to St Peter's and the Naledi Kids Club feeding programmes. Our children are learning kindness from an early age. The children sang a compilation of spring songs with great gusto and were happy to bring the fruit and vegetables to the stage.

It was a special way to start the term and our Wednesday morning. Thank you to our creative teachers and kind and generous families, who always give willingly and make the success of these days possible.



Inter House Maths Olympiad

On Friday, 16 September, Std 4, 5, 6 and 7 pupils were selected from each class, to represent their respective Houses, in a Maths Olympiad, held in the HMM Hall.

The teachers from each standard set challenging, lateral thinking, problems to be solved. Each group was given only 10 minutes in which to solve the given problem. Groups who completed the set task within the 10 min could increase their score by solving a Bonus problem.

Everyone had a great deal of fun!

The winners were:

Std 4	Notwane
Std 5	Shashe
Std 6	Notwane
Std 7	Shashe

Basketball

vs Crescent

Girls won 48-0

Boys won 28-0



Softball

vs Dayspring

U11 Girls won 20 - 1

U11 Boys won 21 - 2

U11 Girls & Boys Softball Festival

The girls played three games, won two and drew one.

7 - 6 v Broadhurst

9 - 1 v Dayspring

4 - 4 v Crescent

The boys also played against Baobab, Acacia and Legae and won all 3 matches.

Well done to the children who played in this event and we look forward to the rest of the season!



Thomas Moore Cricket Tour

Thomas More recently toured to Gaborone with both U11 and U13 cricket teams. We combined teams from Northside and Thornhill and played under the banner of 'Thornside.' This is a tradition that was started 7 years ago.

Day 1 - 25 overs for U13 and 30 overs for U11

U11: Thornside 172 all out (Daniel 33) Thomas More 174 for 4
Thomas More won by 6 wickets

U13: Thornside - 185 for 4 (Brandon 50* & Patrick 50*)
Thomas More - 145 for 9 (Roelof 3 wkts for 8 & Ahmed 1 wkt for 6)
Thornside won by 40 runs

Day 2 - T20 for U13 and 25 overs for U11:

U11: Thomas More 148
Thornside 149 for 3 (Ammar 63* & Daniel 55*)
Thornside won by 7 wickets

U13: Thomas More 120 for 9 (Jack 4 wkts for 22)
Thornside 123 for 2 (Brandon 53*)
Thornside won by 8 wickets

Day 3 - Declaration Game:

U11: Thomas More 263 for 8
Thornside 225 for 5 (Ammar 103)
Match Drawn

U13: Thomas More 208 all out (Jack 4 wkts for 20 and Ahmed 2 wkts for 18)
Thornside 212 for 7 (Patrick 33 and Aidan 31)
Thornside won by 3 wickets

The standard of cricket was good, and the boys can be extremely proud of themselves. The games were played in tremendous spirit, new friendships were made, and Thornside players can only benefit from this experience.

CELEBRATING



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Thornhill ICT Department