

Issue 44 December 08 2016

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

While we are all undoubtedly looking forward to the holidays and to all the excitement that is attached to the Festive Season, there is the sadness that we shall soon have to bid farewell to a number of our children, who have become important and valued members of the Thornhill family. As most now look forward to moving on to secondary school, there will be many who will later look back on these Thornhill years, as being the happiest in their lives.

I would like to thank all our leavers for the many contributions they have made to life here at Thornhill. I wish them all success and happiness, as they move on to the next chapter of their young lives.

To the many parents leaving, we shall miss you too, and wish you well. Thank you for entrusting your children to us for these important foundation years and for your valued support.

I also need to pay tribute and take this opportunity to thank my entire staff, whose support, dedication, commitment and innate nurturing of the children, makes Thornhill the school it is today. To all my Thornhill staff involved in this very special school, I thank you. It is, and will always be, a privilege working alongside you.

PTA News

The PTA Raffle was concluded with the draw on Friday, 25 November 2016, and the winners were as follows:

Japhetti Opiende - Samsung Microwave
J Joseph - Kitchen Aid Blender
Ntjengeti Mbikula - LG Home Theatre System
Salim - Case of drinks for a year
Irena Dorey - Hi Sense 40" LED TV
Patrick Lerotho - 3 nights for 2 at Mogotlho
Silas Motheo (7J) - Free terms school fee
Kato Seretse (1T) - iPad Lucky Draw

Thank you to all the parents for your kind and generous support of the raffle. The final amount raised was P116,040.00.

Std 4 - Old Naledi Collection

The Standard 4 classes held three very successful cake sales over the last few weeks. The money raised during the sales will be handed over to Old Naledi Children's Club representatives. The recipients will hold a Christmas party for the underprivileged children in Old Naledi.

Thank you to all the children who supported the Standard 4 cake sales and this worthwhile initiative.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for a fantastic and productive year and I trust that you all enjoy the holiday with your children. If you are travelling, then please do so safely and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday, 18 January 2017.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a Festive Season filled with blessings and a New Year of peace, happiness and health.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Std 4 Visit to Livingstone Kolobeng



This year's visit to Livingstone Kolobeng Memorial Centre was terrific. The children were thrilled to find the centre beautifully done up, with a magnificent structure at the entrance and a warm welcome from the guides.

The visit started with a very informative and engaging tour by Mpho. The children then had a picnic and a 'show and tell' session on the single item each had packed as an explorer, explaining their choices to the group. This was a fun activity that showcased the children's oral presentation skills. The day ended with a walk through the bushes, over rocky mounds, to get back to the buses.

Std 7 Camp

On Sunday, 13 November, we left bright and early for our Std 7 trip. As has become a Std 7 tradition, our first activity was going to the pantomime, which this year was Robin Hood, at the Johannesburg Theatre. It was just the entertainment we needed after sitting on the bus for much of the day.

On Monday, we visited the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre, where we saw the good work that is being done in ensuring the continuation of this magnificent species. We've collected money all year for cheetah conservation, so it's good to see how money such as ours is utilised. From there, we went "caving", going to the Sterkfontein Caves and gaining a greater understanding of our ancestry.

Tuesday, involved a trip to the Johannesburg War Museum, where we could see some of the weapons, uniforms and other artifacts of some of the things we have learned about in History. We needed a bit of a breather after this, so visited the wide, open spaces of the Johannesburg Zoo. After these more educational visits, it was time for some retail therapy! Clearwater Mall provided the perfect place.

Gold Reef City was our next port of call. First of all we went down the mine. It was exciting going down a "real" mine and seeing the conditions the miners worked under. Of course, the real thrill came with going on all the rides. What an adrenalin rush it was. The worst thing that came after that, was the number of Strepsils consumed – our voices were so tired after all the screaming we had done – this was of course, all "happy" screaming!

There was barely time for our voices to recover, as on Thursday we headed out to Sun City and the Valley of the Waves. It was perfect weather for a good day at the "beach!" The slides and wave pool were amazing, and if swimming was not enough, there was a dance competition too. It was go, go, go! It truly was a trip that we will always remember.

Std 2 Visit to the Organic Farm

In mid October, the three Standard 2 classes visited the organic farm in Notwane, run by Mrs. Julia Farmer. The children were impressed by many things on this wonderful outing, including the dogs, the vegetables, Mrs. Farmer's colourful hair and the use of recycled materials.

Here are the views of some 2E children:

'I like how Mrs. Farmer recycled bottles and built stuff like a bed for the plants with the roof sheets from when her house burned down.' Heather

'I liked how Mrs. Farmer grew so many vegetables without putting any chemicals on them.' Daniell


'I think it was pretty strange to see a house made out of bottles. You don't see one of those every day.' Jack

'It was weird seeing the spinach with different coloured stems.' Ameeca

'I liked the way she said when my house burned down, I don't really need all that stuff that I had. I have everything that I need.' Madison



Seaside Day



With much awaited anticipation, the Seaside Day began with excited Reception children singing their seaside songs for impressed mums and dads in the hall.

Once the assembly was over, the children were involved in various fun activities including; examining and touching real fish in the science lab, water and bubble play, building sandcastles in the sandpits and fun on lilo's and playing with pool toys during swimming time. To end off an eventful day, ice-lollies were the final surprise!

Maru-a-Pula Maths Festival

On Tuesday, 22 November 2016, a team of nine Standard 5 children participated in the Maru-a-Pula Sixth Annual Maths Contest. Thornhill competed against Northside Primary.

Upon arrival at Maru-a-Pula School, the Maru-a-Pula staff, and student volunteers welcomed the children. Our children were placed into teams of three and each team was given a series of ten-minute challenges to work through. The challenges included many different aspects of Mathematics and the teams found these quite challenging. The teams worked well together and approached each task conscientiously.

The prize giving ceremony was an exciting event, as our teams had placed first and third respectively. Well done to all the children involved.

Std 3 French Breakfast



The Standard 3 children have been learning French for nearly a year now. They had a lot of fun at the annual French Breakfast recently. The children came to school dressed in the colours of the French flag and spent the first hour of the day making hats for the occasion. They then went to the field with the French teachers where they played a variety of French games. After that the children had fruit juice and chocolate croissants for a late breakfast. Yum!

After break they watched an Asterix movie. The children all enjoy reading Asterix books in English, but it was first written in French. The following day the children had a lot of fun trying to construct the Eiffel Tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. It was not too successful, as the weather was extremely hot and the marshmallows tended to melt. However, the Std 3 children had a lot of fun trying.

Trinity Music Examinations



On Wednesday, 9 and Thursday, 10 November, over 100 very nervous, but excited students sat their Trinity College Music Exams. For many it was their first group or individual exam and they all performed extremely well.

Well done to all of our ensembles – the Senior and Junior Marimba Bands, Choir and Orchestra, who all achieved Distinctions, as well as very high praise from the examiner from the UK who was most impressed with them.

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, you must achieve between 75% and 86% and a Distinction is 87% and above.

Well done to everyone involved in these exams – the Music Department is very proud of you.

Trinity Examinations Results

The complete results were as follows:

Thornhill Choir	Foundation Choral Certificate	Distinction
Thornhill Orchestra	Foundation Certificate	Distinction
Junior Marimba Band	Intermediate Certificate	Distinction
Senior Marimba Band	Advanced Certificate	Distinction

Ruben Peters	Initial Piano	Merit
Puleng Mothelesi	Initial Piano	Distinction
Naomi Walsh	Initial Piano	Distinction
Rohan Santilale	Initial Guitar	Distinction

Gape Makuku	Grade 1 Piano	Pass
Morgan du Toit	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Tinashe Rugara	Grade 1 Piano	Merit
Katlo Dipeba	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Patricia Mangana	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Naiko Lisenda	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Kese Ramsden	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Anusha Rao	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Tsetsa Makuku	Grade 1 Recorder	Distinction
Victoria Lee	Grade 1 Flute	Distinction
Mrs Holzapfel	Grade 1 Violin	Distinction
Etienne de Klerk	Grade 1 Violin	Distinction
Zoe Charles	Grade 1 Guitar	Distinction
Ashika Nalamalapu	Grade 1 Guitar	Distinction

Sienna Gavrielides	Grade 2 Piano	Pass
Chloe Xavier	Grade 2 Piano	Merit
Advait Panicker	Grade 2 Guitar	Merit
Wanjing Tang	Grade 2 Guitar	Distinction
Megan Freeman	Grade 2 Guitar	Distinction

Megan Freeman	Grade 3 Piano	Merit
Adrian Cornet	Grade 3 Guitar	Distinction

Lara Hart	Grade 4 Saxophone	Pass
Jerry Yu	Grade 4 Piano	Merit
Etienne de Klerk	Grade 4 Recorder	Distinction

Andrew Hart	Grade 6 Flute	Merit
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Mrs Price	Grade 8 Recorder	Merit
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Congratulations, and well done to the Music Department and the children, who participated in the examinations. Your hard work, time and dedication paid off.

Basketball

vs Baobab

U13 Girls won 18 - 12

U13 Boys lost 8 - 14

vs Westwood

Boys won 16 - 6

U13 Festival

U13 Boys won two lost one

U13 Girls won one drew one

Vs Dayspring

U13 Girls won 28 - 16

U13 boys won 22 - 8



Softball

vs Broadhurst

U11 Girls won 10 - 7
U11 Boys won 12 - 2
U13 Girls won 20 - 5
U13 Boys won 15 - 5

Pecanwood Tour

vs Pecanwood won 14 - 5
vs Pecanwood won 5 - 1
vs Pecanwood drew 1 - 1
vs Heronbridge won 5 - 4 & 1 - 0

vs Northside

U11 Boys lost 5 - 11
U11 Girls won 10 - 1
U13 Girls won 14 - 5
U13 Boys won 22 - 3

vs Westwood

U11 Girls won 19 - 2
U11 Boys won 14 - 2
U13 Girls won 21 - 0
U13 Boys won 15 - 5



SCSA Softball



Well done and congratulations to the following children who were selected to represent Southern Schools at the annual North vs South tournament in Francistown:

Girls:

Tebogo Pillar
Megan Freeman
Abigail Tuffek
Natasha Keakile

Boys:

Anthony Brink
Calvin Van Zyl
Jack Tuffek
Brandon Rouse

The annual North vs South Softball took place in Francistown, which saw the South win the girls' and the North win the boys' sections respectively. Well done to all involved and congratulations to the following, who received individual awards:

Megan Freeman – MVP
Natasha Keakile – Best Fielder

The third term was once again a really successful term for the Thornhill Chess Team. They won all their matches; results, which they can be really proud of.

The final fixture of the term was the Southern Chops Open Chess Tournament that was hosted by Northside Primary School. Thornhill entered a team of five boys (Ahmed Ali Hussain, Tumo Matija, Ethan Carstens and Shayan Gogoi) and two girls (Wathobo Butale and Tanusree Potulapati). Both the girls and boys played extremely well. After seven rounds of chess, the girls managed to be placed second and third with Wathobo winning a silver medal and Tanusree winning a bronze medal. Ahmed Ali won the boys' section and a gold medal. What made his achievement truly remarkable is that he did not lose one match in seven rounds and that was in a group of 52 boys. The other boys also played well and got good exposure to the tournament atmosphere.

Once again, well done to all the chess players for their commitment and enthusiasm.



Tennis

The Thornhill Tennis Championships was played as a 'knock-out' tournament. For some, this was the first time to participate in this type of tournament. All U11 and U13 team players, regardless of their age were able to enter and see who would be the eventual winner.

There was an excellent display of skill and determination throughout the tournament. This year, we had a number of players competing for the girls and boys title and both finals were a very closely contested battle. Abigail Tuffek and Megan Freeman swapped positions from last year. Megan ended the year in style, as winner and Abigail was runner-up in the Girls' section.

In the Boys section, the runner up was Batsomi Marobela, who lost in the final to Shane Tapera.

Well done to Shane and Megan and congratulations to all who participated in the tennis championship.



Swimming

Inter Schools Relay Gala

The Thornhill Swim Team are very pleased to announce that they won the Inter Schools Relay Gala on Tuesday 8 November. This was very exciting for us because Thornhill has not won this event for over 15 years. A big thank you to all our Team Swimmers for an excellent result.

Final results for Inter School Relay Gala were:

Thornhill
Northside
Westwood and Baobab
Broadhurst

Sharks and Pirates Gala

This is the Swim Teams final gala of the year. A reward gala for all the hard work they put into their training throughout the year. This is possibly the swimmers favourite gala. Everyone is very excited and bodies are covered in warnings and fake tattoos. For weeks before this event there are many predictions on who will win. The atmosphere is electric and it is good to see so many children so happy and excited. In fact 133 Team Swimmers. The competition was fierce through out the evening with the Sharks being the final victors.

A very big thank you to our swimmers for all the hard work and effort they put into the Team. For those who leave us and move on to high school, thank you for your dedication over the years. You will be missed. Finally, a very big thanks to our parents for their continued loyal support.



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Thornhill ICT Department

