

Issue 52 December 08 2017

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

This term is always a very busy time for the teachers, parents and pupils. It is a time for us all to reflect on what has been achieved and whether these achievements are to our satisfaction. It is also a time of joy when we see how each child has developed and grown.

As we draw the curtain on the 2017 academic year, I would like to thank all parents who have so willingly supported the many events, community projects and the school in general. Your support has always been fantastic and I trust that your children have enjoyed their year at Thornhill.

Leavers

In keeping with every other year, the Class of 2017 leavers have touched the life of our school in their own really special, highly energetic and remarkably talented way. From the classroom and the sports fields to the cultural pursuits and their areas of leadership and service, they have worked hard to stake their claim as a senior class above the norm. Their many and varied achievements and awards certainly bear testimony to their praiseworthy successes and to a legacy that will prove to be both significant and long lasting.

I am confident that they will go on to senior schools ready and able to make a difference, to play their part and to build on the foundations that have been laid here at Thornhill over the years. Remember the words of A.A. Milne, 'You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and loved more than you'll ever know.'

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 years and for your support.

Uniform Shop Times

The Uniform Shop will open as follows in January 2018:

11, 12 & 15 January 2018	12:00 to 15:00
17 January 2018	12:00 to 14:30

After the above dates, the Uniform Shop hours revert to normal weekly times as follows:

Monday 12:00 to 14:00 and Wednesday 12:00 to 14:30.

Administration Office

The Administration Office will be open as follows:

11, 12 & 13 December 2017	09:00 to 14:00
10, 11 & 12 January 2018	09:00 to 13:00
15 & 16 January 2018	08:30 to 15:00
17 January 2018	07:00 to 16:00

After the above dates, the Administration Office hours revert to normal weekly times Monday to Thursday 06:55 to 16:00 and Friday 06:55 to 14:00. The Finance Office hours revert to normal weekly times as Monday to Thursday 06:55 to 15:30 and Friday 06:55 to 13:30.

Reception 2018 Orientation:

Lots of very happy, excited and anxious children arrived in the hall ready to meet the new teachers for our 2018 Orientation Day. Parents remained in the hall while new children left with the Reception teachers. We spent a short while singing with the children and then they were split into four groups and they went off happily to 'work' and play in their new classes. We look forward to welcoming our new children and families to Thornhill in January 2018.

Kindness Week

"No kind action ever stops with itself. One kind action leads to another. Good example is followed. A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves." - Amelia Earhart

In the week leading up to International Kindness Day (13 November 2017), Thornhill School explored the virtue of kindness. Each class participated in various kindness activities which helped remind us all of the importance of kindness. The school staff also had an activity to do, they had to be secret agents of kindness to another staff member. This week was a great opportunity to encourage acts of kindness and to realise that kindness can be shown in many different ways. Hopefully, this reminder will empower us to express kindness more openly and freely on a day-to-day basis.

Foundation Fun Day

The children always look forward to the Fun Day and can't wait to find out what activities they will be able to take part in.

The excitement builds when their tickets are handed out. The Std 7 children always think out the most interesting activities. This year the children enjoyed throwing water balloons at the Std 7 children. The slip slide and kicking the ball, racing cars and of course, five-a-side soccer were some of the favourites. The dancing stand showed the talents of many of our small super stars. The children returned to the classes tired, having enjoyed the Fun Day and looking forward to the event next year.

Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (PBIS)

This year, Thornhill Primary School has introduced a new Life Skills programme focusing on Character Education, which we feel is important in this day and age. The character traits that we have covered this year are; respect, courtesy, honesty, forgiveness, fairness, determination, cooperation, helpfulness and gratitude. We also discussed kindness and celebrated International Kindness Day on 13 November 2017. The children have been able to take part in a variety of creative activities and interesting discussions. We hope they are more aware of how to practise these traits in the community, both locally and globally. Please embrace all opportunities to practise and develop them at home. We are also proud of the 'word cloud' that has been put up on the Std 4 wall next to the Science room as it displays all the things that we value as a Thornhill Community. Please stop and have a read next time you are in that vicinity.

In closing, I would like to 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.

To all those travelling, please do so safely and I look forward to welcoming you all back to Thornhill on Wednesday, 17 January.

I leave you with these words, **"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments but what is woven into the lives of others."**

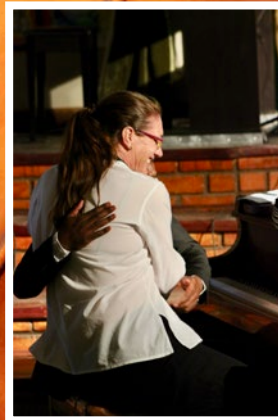
I Greaves

Headteacher

Orchestra Concert



Our Orchestra concert was held on Tuesday 5 December. The outside area of the hall was turned into a beautiful setting welcoming guests with something to eat and drink along with the sound of marimbas. The concert did not disappoint either as it was jam packed with various musical talent. The orchestra played their heart out and was outstanding. Their Christmas songs together with the choir was fantastic. A major part of the evening was a tribute to Mrs Price who will be leaving us this term. A few former students returned to perform and show their appreciation. The highlight of the evening was the finale with the choir and orchestra performing together in, 'As long as I have music.' What a wonderful way to end the year with talented children and beautiful music.



Std 4 Egypt Day



The Std 4 area was once again transformed as the children came to school dressed as Ancient Egyptians. The were stalls on a wide variety of topics that the children had prepared and various activities for the other standards and parents to take part in. There were pyramids, a real life 'mummy' in his tomb and all sorts of wonderful things on show during the day.

Inter House Quiz

After a couple of preliminary rounds, the final participants for the Inter House quiz were chosen to represent their houses. The following children achieved the highest general knowledge scores in their standard, and earned the honour of representing their house:

Chobe – Ndimma 5M, Aditi 6W & Etienne 7W
Limpopo – Arjun 5V, Gabrielle 6C and Sayi 7S
Notwane – Lepe 5V, Sarona 6W & Vati 7S
Shashe – Max 5M, Shawn 6C & Michaela 7J

These children are to be congratulated on a very brave performance – always a daunting prospect to have general knowledge questions fired at you. The teams fared very well, answering questions on current events, various categories of general knowledge, pop music, as well as completing a relay event and matching photographs of feet to the teachers the feet belonged to.

A fun event was enjoyed by all participants and audience members. Shashe is to be congratulated on their victory.



Foundation Nativity

Our annual Nativity was held on Tuesday 28 November 2017 and it turned out to be a perfectly still evening. The flickering stars looked extra beautiful as they floated on the school pool surrounded by white lanterns on white and red fabric. As always there were so many eager parents that came to support their children.

Wedu, Samuel, Leungo, Sarona and Wenzl narrated the story of a visit by Christmas angels. The programme opened with 16 little angels dressed as beautiful ballerinas tiptoed on to the scene and danced to "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" by Tchaikovsky. The Reception pupils acted out the story of the birth of Jesus. Mary, Joseph and the donkey had a long slow journey to Bethlehem with the angels following them. When the couple were safely in Bethlehem, many shepherds, sheep, and children, and three wise men visited them.

The Thornhill School Choir and Orchestra supported the Foundation Phase children with Christmas carols that were beautifully performed. Our talented Std 1 pupil Bianke Van Staden played "Away in a Manger" on her violin and the Std 1 children sang along with her. It was one of the memorable highlights of the evening. The Orchestra's rendition of the First Noel was excellent. We were excited to hear our amazing Mums sing "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" and our incredible Dads sang "We Three Kings of Orient Are" with great gusto. The evening events ushered in the spirit of Christmas and enjoyed by the children and adults alike.



St Peters Christmas



The Std 6's organised the annual St Peter's Christmas Party earlier this term. The children had wrapped presents and prepared gifts as well as food for the children at St Peter's.

There was lots to eat and an amazing present for each child and teacher. All this would not have been possible without the help of our big-hearted Thornhill community. Our thanks must go to each and every one of you for your generosity. The Thornhill community spirit is alive and well in Gaborone.




Std 4 Love in a Box

Std 4 students, with the support of their teachers, began an initiative of raising funds through cake sales, with the aim of buying wheelchairs for the Children's Wards at Princess Marina Hospital. The response from their fellow students was overwhelming, as the cake sales were successful. The children in hospital will be treated with festive season boxes filled with a variety of goodies, which were generously donated by Thornhill students. This project involved all the Thornhill students, from Reception classes to Std 7 classes. The teachers are grooming the children to be socially aware and responsible citizens.



Reception Seaside Day



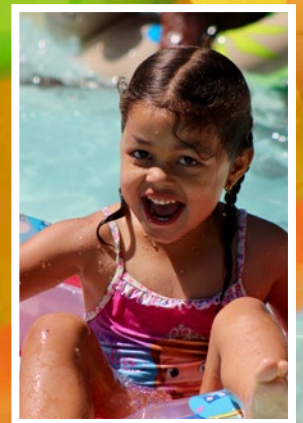
Excited children dressed in their best beach clothes and filled the Foundation Hall on Thursday 2 November. Equally excited parents joined us, eagerly waiting for our assembly to begin. Our Reception children thrilled their parents with their angelic voices, singing 'Under the sea' and reciting a poem. The fun part of the day started with the children moving around to four rotational stations.

Stage 1: The pool looked like a beach with lots of flags, beach toys and fun activities for the children to enjoy in the pool.

Stage 2: The Science room was prepared with real fish, starfish, anemones, a shark skull, an octopus, a prawn and lots of shells were closely investigated by the children.

Stage 3: The sandpits were wet and the children had fun building sandcastles with their buckets and spades.

Stage 4: Lots of fish and other toy sea creatures were covered in foam for a tactile experience. This station provided much excitement, as the children thoroughly enjoyed this experience.



Carols by Candlelight

On Sunday, 26 November, Thornhill took to the stage at The Grand Palm for Carols by Candlelight. The Marimba Bands entertained young and old with their magnificent playing and set the tone for a magical evening. With an amazing African sunset behind them, the choir took their places ready to perform with all the favourite Christmas carols. Angelic voices and candle light filled the night sky with everyone singing Silent Night, Joy to the world, Hark the Herald and all-time favourites; Jingle Bells and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Little faces lit up when Santa arrived in a rather modern version of a sleigh and the stage was filled with each one wanting to have their moment on Santa's lap for a photo while giving a present to him to give out to children less fortunate.

A truly magical evening, made extra special with a Thornhill touch that only Thornhill children can give.



Std 3 French Breakfast

On Friday, 24 November, the Std 3 children had a French Breakfast. They came to school dressed in the colours of the French flag. First they went to the field to play some French games then they had delicious chocolate croissants and juice for breakfast.

After break, they had some french toast and some blue and brie cheese. Then they settled down to watch a french movie called Asterix. The children thoroughly enjoyed the morning.

This is what some of the children had to say about what they liked most about the French breakfast.

I enjoyed playing all the different French games.

Kathryn

I enjoyed the chocolate croissants the most.

They were so yummy. **Matthew**

I enjoyed the movie as it was funny. **Heather**

The blue cheese was bitter and had a weird after taste. **Kagello**



Std 7 visit Alliance Française

As a way of exposing our children to French outside of Thornhill and incorporate more of the French culture and language into their learning, the Std 7 classes visited the Alliance Française de Gaborone, situated just opposite the University of Botswana. Most pupils enjoyed the outing and found it beneficial. Here are some of their views:

I enjoyed the memory game, when we had to memorise words in three minutes, and then answer questions about them. It was interesting and fun.

Maxine

It was a short bus ride to the cultural centre. Three French ladies told us what they did there, we visited the library and played a game to look at features on a book and how to understand what the book is all about. We went into the classrooms and watched two videos about France and the Olympics, in their classrooms. We had fun learning about the French culture. **Suchitra**



Aliance Française



Trinity College Music Exams

The individual results were as follows:

Shayan Gogoi	Initial Piano	Pass
Maia Rugara	Initial Piano	Pass
Mrs Gogoi	Initial Piano	Merit
Sophia McGlaggan	Initial Piano	Merit
Molly Sautereau	Initial Piano	Distinction
Avani Arora	Grade 1 Piano	Pass
Udochukwu Emeh	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Lerako Morwaeng	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Janisha-Aryana Jinabhai	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Naledi Merafhe	Grade 1 Recorder	Merit
Jonathan Cornet	Grade 1 Recorder	Distinction
Sally-Louise Ingwe	Grade 1 Recorder	Distinction
Bone Nkele	Grade 1 Recorder	Distinction
Munopa Maunga	Grade 1 Recorder	Distinction
Molly Sautereau	Grade 1 Recorder	Distinction
Ashikasai Nalamalapu	Grade 2 Guitar	Merit
Sahana Sivaramakrishnan	Grade 2 Violin	Merit
Philip Clark	Grade 2 Flute	Merit
Isabelle Zoe Charles	Grade 2 Guitar	Distinction
Zaara Haddad	Grade 3 Piano	Pass
Chloe Xavier	Grade 3 Piano	Merit
Mrs Holzapfel	Grade 3 Violin	Merit
Etienne de Klerk	Grade 3 Violin	Distinction
Wanjing Tang	Grade 4 Guitar	Pass
Jerry Yu	Grade 5 Piano	Pass

Thornhill Tennis Championships 2017

The end of year Thornhill Tennis Championship was open to all players this year, regardless of their age. There was huge interest and about 50 players signed up to play. Many players participated in their first knock out tennis tournament, and learnt a lot of new tennis vocabulary and how to deal with game pressure, as they battled to win the Price Trophy for Boys and the Bhagat Trophy for Girls. There was an excellent display of skill and determination. Finally, in the Girls section, the runner up was Rebolokeng Morwaeng and the winner of the Bhagat trophy was Abigail Tuffek. In the Boys section, the runner up was Batsomi Marobela and the winner of the Price Trophy was Shane Tapera. Shane won this trophy for the third time in a row and had the honour of receiving it from Mrs Price, as she bids farewell to the sport that she has supported for many years in the school.

Tennis Tour to Zimbabwe

A team of 15 players from the U11 and U13 School team took to the road on 3 November 2017, for a weekend of tennis in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The team was hosted by Whitestone School, with teams from, Petra School and Carmel School. The players played till they literally dropped, and had a wonderful learning experience. Players also enjoyed a swim, a visit around the city, lovely hostels and meals at Whitestone and a very warm welcome from all the schools, teams and parents involved in the Festival.

The final scores were:

- 1st Thornhill School
- 2nd Whitestone
- 3rd Petra & Carmel School



SCSA Round Up

Thornhill is extremely proud that this year, over 50 of its students participated in various SCSA teams, many of them being selected for more than one team and some in up to five teams.

The season started with tennis and swimming, hosted by the North. The SCSA Tennis Team, which included five Thornhill pupils won the Championship 22-13. The following two days saw 31 Thornhill swimmers contribute to the amazing win for the South at the North vs South gala, with 8 of our swimmers being named their respective age group champions. The first term ended with the North vs South cricket final, played at the Gaborone Cricket Ground. Once again, Thornhill pupils dominated the team with 7 players selected and were instrumental in the convincing victory against the North.

In the second term the netball and soccer teams battled it out in Francistown, Thornhill had 3 netball representatives and 4 soccer players. Unfortunately, both sporting codes faced tough opposition and lost the Championship. The winter term finished with 14 of our cross country athletes from U8 to U13 competing against the North in Jwaneng. The course was tough and once again our children did us proud. The South lost narrowly by a few points.

The year ended with the Softball Championship at Northside. Both the girls' team and boys' team won all their matches, beating the North 3-0, 3-0. Once again, Thornhill was well represented with 4 girls and 5 boys.

2017 was an extremely successful year for SCSA winning five of the eight Championships. A huge congratulations to all Thornhill pupils who participated in the various sporting codes.



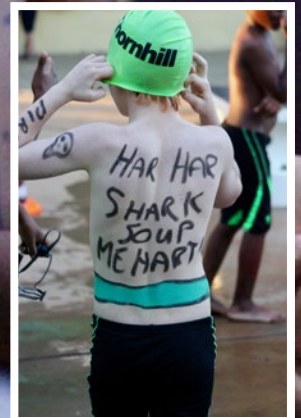
Sharks vs Pirates Swimming

This year's Pirates and Sharks gala took place on Thursday, 16 November. Unfortunately, after a week of extreme heat the chosen evening turned out to be freezing cold and the swimmers really battled to get warm between races. This unexpected cold did create a bit of hype amongst the children, but everyone swam well and seemed to enjoy themselves despite the cold.

As usual we saw the children covered in creative artwork from head to toe in permanent marker, in support of their team.

The gala took the form of a relay gala and all the team and squad swimmers got to swim a number of events to finish off the swimming season. Everyone swam well, but the Sharks emerged victorious by a mere 4 points. This year the result was extremely close and I am sure next year will see the Pirates coming through with a win.

I would just like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the swimmers that have swum in inter school fixtures this year. Our swimming has continued to go from strength to strength and all the coaches are very proud of the effort and enthusiasm put in by all the swimmers.



December 08 2017
Thornhill ICT Department



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