

Issue 22 April 11 2014

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

The first quarter of the year has come and gone and, as we look forward to the holidays, I trust that you have managed to achieve many of your goals.

I would like to draw special attention to the topic, Friendship and Faithfulness. It is always a special joy to observe children in action on the school campus each day. So many of those deeper 'learning for life' experiences and related character development happen during the many informal and relaxed times associated with general play, casual interaction, playground socialising, and just children being children together. It is particularly, in these early primary phases of learning, that we need to support and guard the essential and overlapping virtues and qualities associated with friendship and faithfulness. Qualities that have all too often been diluted or undervalued in a modern world that seems to place so much on face-value appeal, superficial 'what's in it for me' relationships, and egocentricity. Please join with us, and your children, in encouraging them to look for opportunities to play their part in building each other up, and to honour their side of the friendships that are made here at school.

St. Peter's Fund Raising

As one of the many fund raising events for the St Peter's Orphanage, Std 6 had their annual cake sale. There was an array of sweets, drinks, ice-cream and samoosas. The tuckshop was well supported and all money raised by the Std 6 classes will be used for St Peter's community service. A big thank-you to the Thornhill children for making this fund raising effort a wonderful success!

Chayanne , Akshay and Andile

Std 7 Old Clothes Collection

The Std 7 children were involved in a community project, collecting used clothes for Cheetah Conservation, Botswana's involvement with a needy community in the Ngwaketse area. The response was excellent and many children brought extra things, such as toys and stationery, as well. In fact, the response was so good, that it took Std 7J three trips to take all the packets to the van! I know that the villagers in the Ngwaketse area will be delighted with all the clothes that they will be receiving. A big thank you is extended to the parents and pupils of Thornhill for contributing.

Mrs Schaerer

MaP Headteacher Visits Thornhill Std 7

Mr. Taylor, the head of Maru-a-Pula spoke to the Std 7 children about high school and the essential tools required for success. He is an excellent speaker and is able to make interesting analogies and often humorous anecdotes about life at high school in general, and Maru-a-Pula in particular. His talk also came at an opportune time, as the Std 7 children are currently involved in the important task of high school selection and entrance examinations. His presentation was well received, judging by the endless list of questions posed by the children at the end.

This is a crucial time for our leavers and, as mentioned at the meeting with parents at the beginning of term, parents and their children need to be actively involved in the choices that are made. I would like to urge parents to keep in close contact with your child's teacher in matters regarding high school and the decisions taken.

Mr Jogee

Secondary School Applications

I would like to urge all Std 7 parents to ensure that they have applied for secondary schools for their children. I know that a large number of schools are involved currently, in the selection process for 2015 and trust that all parents have submitted all necessary applications. As mentioned by Mr Jogee, please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

PTA Braai

The PTA hosted the Annual Braai last week and it was great to see so many families attend. It almost tried to rain again, but we managed to host a successful evening. Thanks to all those families who attended and I look forward to the next event.

Register for eNews and SMS Alerts

Type in: www.thornhillprimary.ac.bw/datacollection.html and follow the prompts.

Important Information for Effective Communication

The weekly diary is now available to all parents on the Thornhill Blog. You can access this by using the following address: thornhillprimary.wordpress.com

Reception Literacy Meeting

Building a strong relationship between school, teacher and parent from the onset ensures a strong support for learning from the Foundation Phase to the end of the school career. The beginning of reading and its complexities were discussed. To support reading, Letters and Sounds, the multi sensory phonic programme was presented in the six phases and highlighted the principles of high quality phonic teaching. The Reception teachers shared the plan for the year and some fun activities that could be played at home to support the programme, impressing on mums and dads to ensure that all the activities are fun, fun, fun!

As we work together, we can only look forward to a year of success as we ensure that each little learner has an equal opportunity to receive a secure foundation to learn to read, to love books and to take their success to the years that follow.

Mrs Y Stuart - Foundation Phase Coordinator

Pupil Achievement

James Freeman recently participated in the South African National Level 3 Gala in Cape Town. This is the top age group gala in RSA and also included swimmers that had qualified from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya and Namibia.

James swam in 7 events and made the finals in all his races and was awarded medals for coming 2nd in 400m freestyle, 200m freestyle and 100m butterfly. James came 2nd in the 200m freestyle by 7 hundredths of a second. Other results from his finals were a 3rd in the 100m freestyle, 4th in 50m butterfly, 5th in 200m individual medley and 5th in 50m butterfly.

Congratulations and well done on a fantastic performance, James! We are exceptionally proud of your achievements.

Administration Office Times

The School Office will be open on the following days before school reopens on Tuesday, 13 May:

11/04 – closes at 12:00

14/04 to 16/04 – 10:00 to 14:00

07/05 to 09/05 – 10:00 to 14:00

12/05 – 08:00 to 15:00

Normal office hours will resume from 13/05 – Finance closes at 15:30 and Administration at 16:00

Uniform Shop Times

The Uniform Shop will open on the following days only:

12/05 – 09:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00

13/05 – 11:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 16:30

Please note, due to stock taking, the Uniform Shop will NOT be open the week prior to school starting. We apologise for any inconvenience. There will be a Thrift Shop on Friday, 16 May. The Thrift Shop will sell, at a discounted rate, all second hand clothes in stock. A reminder will be sent out at the beginning of the new term.

Hair

Please may I draw your attention to the following pointers regarding hair:

Boys - Hair must be reasonably short, tapered, neat and off the collar. No exotic hairstyles or bleached hair is allowed. **Girls** - Girls with long hair should always have it tied back. No bleached or exotic hairstyles. Although braids and extensions are allowed, they need to be presentable and able to fit inside a swimming cap. Please ensure that all children return to school at the beginning of the term presented as stated above.

I would like to thank all parents for their commitment and time they have given in supporting their child throughout the term. I hope you have a wonderful holiday as a family and I look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Tuesday, 13 May. Here's wishing you all some peaceful family days to rekindle, recharge, and renew.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Maitisong Choir Festival

Tuesday, 1 April, saw many excited children from Thornhill, Baobab, Bothale, Northside and Westwood choirs gather at Maitisong for this year's Choir Festival.

We rehearsed during the afternoon and by 6pm, Maitisong was packed with parents and friends eager to hear their children perform and they were not disappointed. All of the children sang beautifully and we were also privileged to have the PPC National Youth Choir perform again for us as our Guest Choir. The finale involved all of the children singing together and their renditions of "Friends On Our Left And Friends On Our Right" and "Children Of The World" were very special.

Many thanks to everyone involved in making the day a success and very well done to the Thornhill Choir.

Mrs Price



Std 1 Farm Visit



The class was very excited when they boarded the school buses and headed for the farm in Mochudi. Mr Arbi showed us how to plant seeds to make seedlings and the children explored the green house tunnels.

“The best thing about the farm visit was that we went into a cave.”

Makanakah

After this came the most exciting, milking of the cow and the bull even came to visit us. Mr Arbi told us that a new calf had been born the night before and that the children could feed her milk.

She was friendly and all the children got to pat her and she even sucked some of the children’s fingers.

“The best thing about the farm visit was when the baby calf sucked my fingers.”

Phala

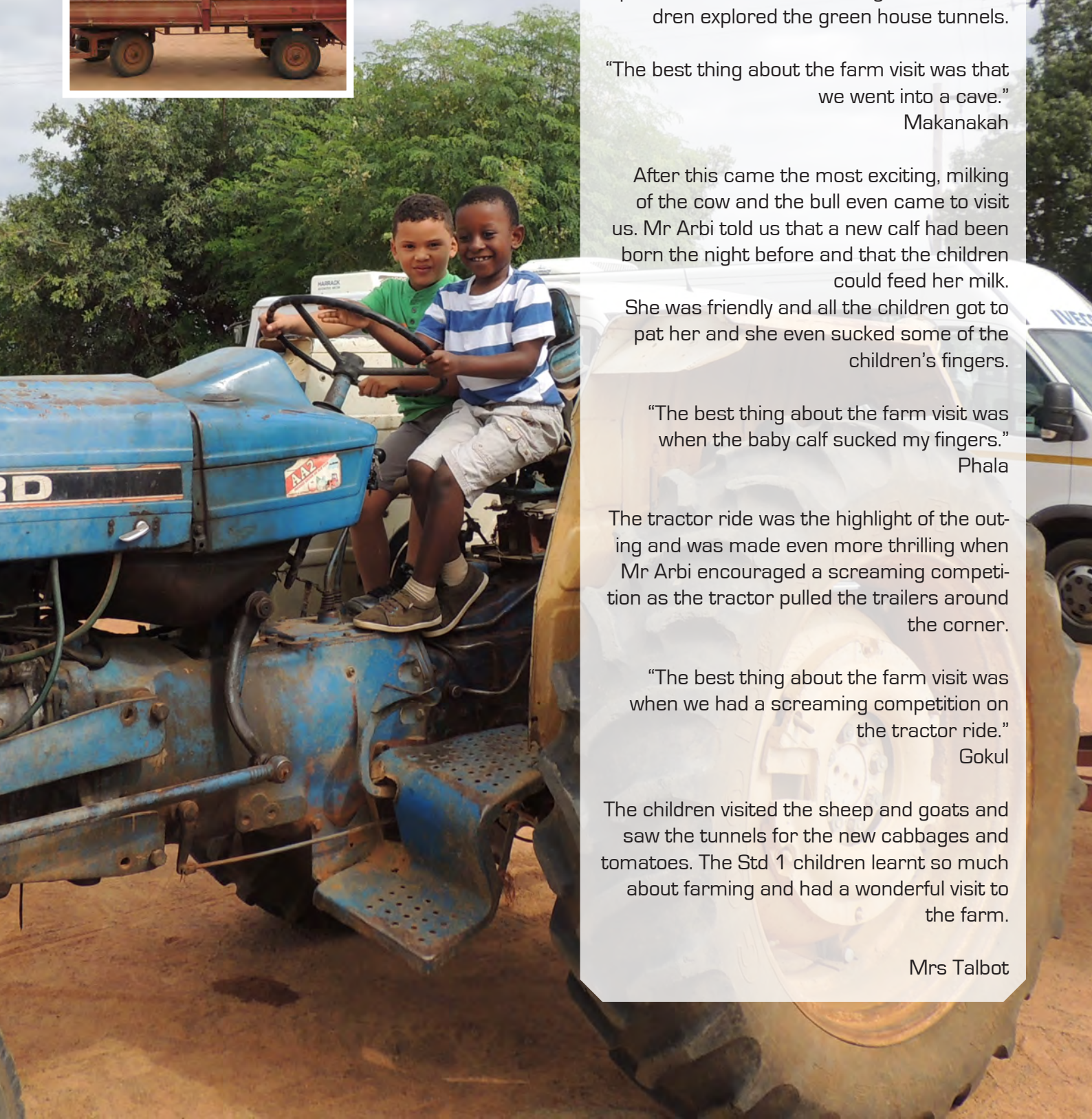
The tractor ride was the highlight of the outing and was made even more thrilling when Mr Arbi encouraged a screaming competition as the tractor pulled the trailers around the corner.

“The best thing about the farm visit was when we had a screaming competition on the tractor ride.”

Gokul

The children visited the sheep and goats and saw the tunnels for the new cabbages and tomatoes. The Std 1 children learnt so much about farming and had a wonderful visit to the farm.

Mrs Talbot



Std 4 Mokolodi Camp



As part of our outdoor education program, the Std 4 classes went to Mokolodi during week 9 and 10. This was a very successful, eventful and enriching time for our children.

Upon arrival, each class was offered a welcome snack and after introductions and games on nature related issues, the children were taken on a drive through the park to the aquatic area, located in one of the most beautiful and serene parts of the park, which is well hidden from the public eye. The children were allocated groups and in these groups had to use nets to capture various aquatic animals and identify them on a chart. This was a great hit with the children. The activity was totally hands-on and engaging for them. Their competitive nature became evident when they were told that the group with the most animals captured and identified would win house points. Don't worry; each animal caught was immediately put back into the water. No harm was inflicted on the creatures; a very good lesson for our children to be compassionate about all forms of life.

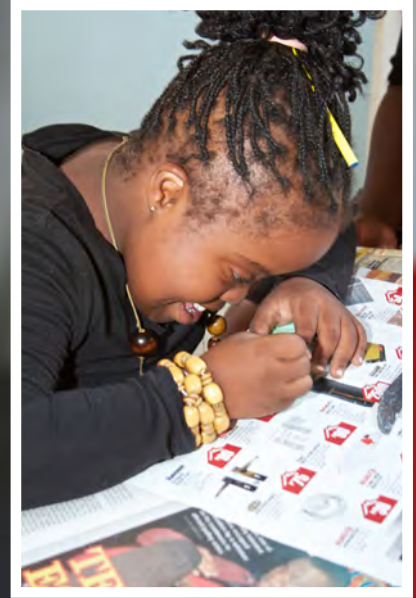
After lunch and a well earned play in the playground located at the education centre, the children were engaged in activities such as the skull study whereby real life skulls of a giraffe, buffalo, hippo and kudu were given to them to do a mini-project on. You should have seen their faces! Another favourite was the game drive and 4G in particular was very fortunate as they saw almost all the different kinds of animals in the park. 4A had a brilliant talk on Cheetah Conservation. A highlight for 4F was the visit to the snake enclosure. Those children who were brave enough, even put a python around their necks.

Evenings were very eventful. From the See-Run-Do games testing the children's listening, reactive and memory skills, to Setswana traditional games and roasting marshmallows, the children were totally captivated.

Overall, this was a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience life away from home, to spread their wings a little, discover a bit more about themselves and their strengths and weaknesses away from their usual environment, especially without mum and dad.

Mrs Graves

Basarwa Day



On Thursday, 27 March, the Std 3 children enjoyed Basarwa Day, where they came to school dressed up in traditional Basarwa or Inuit costumes.

During the course of the morning the children were involved in a series of art and craft activities, such as beading and soap carving. The children had lots of fun and learnt so much about the different cultures.

I dressed up as a hunter for Basarwa Day. We went to Mrs Petkar and made a necklace using beads, thereafter we went to Mrs Watts and did soap carving using sunlight soap. Lastly, we went to Mrs Freeman where we learnt how to do cave drawings. I really had lots of fun and learnt many new things about the Basarwa and Inuits.

Yusuf 3P

Std 6 Parliamentary Elections

The Std 6 children recently held Class Elections and congratulations to the following children who have achieved leadership positions:

6W

President - Lebopo

Vice President - Nikhil

Minister of Finance & Health - James

Minister of Arts & Culture - Alexander

Minister of Foreign Affairs - Mcdonald

Minister of Education - Chelsea

6C

President - Letlotlo

Vice President - Nikhil

Minister of Environment & Health - Andile

Minister of Arts & Culture - David

Minister of Foreign Affairs - Ona

Minister of Education - Akshay

6B

President - Clarissa

Minister of Environment & Health - Ricardo

Minister of Arts & Culture - Chiyedzah

Minister of Foreign Affairs - Madison

RUN
FOR
**STUDENT
GOVERNMENT**

Thornhill on Broadway

On the nights of April 7, 8 and 9 the children of Thornhill's Foundation Phase took their parents for a musical stroll down Broadway. There were tiny leopards and lions doing their best to be fierce rather than cute in the Lion King, smiley pirates from Peter Pan and shimmering little mermaids so delighted with their costumes that they almost forgot to sing! Yodelling boys and girls brought the Sound of Music to the stage while chimney sweeps gave us a taste of Mary Poppins. Little Orphan Annie and her friends lamented the 'Hard Knock Life' and met up with the orphan boys from Oliver who sang enthusiastically about food, glorious food. Creeping, stretching cats brought the show to a resounding end with Mr Mistofelees. A show such as this is often made all the more delightful by the one small chap who sings much louder than all the rest and for the little reception child so awed by the lights and the audience that they fail to do much of anything at all! This year was no different, but it was thoroughly enjoyed by children, staff and parents alike.

Mrs Egner



Inter-House Bonds & Tables

We held our Inter-house Bonds and Tables competition and the results were as follows:

- 2E 1st Kese
2nd Lefha
3rd Wame
- 2P 1st Carlotta 2nd in Std 2
2nd Ebuka 3rd in Std 2
3rd Tshimologo
- 2J 1st Naiko 1st in Std 2
2nd Faiz
3rd David

House winners:

- Std 3 Chobe Usaid 2nd in Std
Limpopo Puleng
Notwane Tej
Shashe Shawn 1st in Std
Hariharan 3rd in Std (Chobe)

- Std 4 Chobe Sangamithrai & Findo
Limpopo Chad
Notwane Sotiris
Shashe Lekgotla

- Std 5 Chobe One
Limpopo Kalidas 3rd in Std
Notwane Minakshi
Shashe Sharan 1st in Std
Malaika 2nd in Std (Shashe)

- Std 6 Chobe Thuo
Limpopo Krishnan 2nd in Std
Notwane Ricardo
Shashe Chando 1st in Std
Letlotlo 3rd in Std (Shashe)

- Std 7 Chobe Leungo 1st in Std
Limpopo Antonia 3rd in Std
Notwane Hannah 2nd in Std
Shashe Akofang

Well done and congratulations to all the children involved. Congratulations to Shashe on being placed first overall, with Chobe in second place, followed by Notwane and Limpopo in third and fourth respectively.

Cricket



vs Broadhurst

U9 won by 5 wickets
Thornhill 135 for 5
Broadhurst 62 for 6
Man of the Match – Ammar

vs Northside

U9 won by 10 wickets
Northside 61 all out
Thornhill 64 without loss
Man of the Match – Ammar

U13 B won by 8 wickets

Northside 56 all out
(Benjamin 3 for 5)
Thornhill 62 for 2

U9 Festival

Thornhill U9 B and C cricket teams attended two cricket festivals recently. These festivals are used to give the players who do not play weekly the opportunity to participate. Baobab and Broadhurst hosted the two festivals and the games were met by great excitement and enthusiasm from our players. This gave the children the opportunity to showcase bowling, batting and fielding skills in a more relaxed atmosphere and lots of fun was had by ALL involved.

SCSA Cricket Trials & North vs South

Five boys, Nikhil, Gareth, Ronan, Dale and Rhys were sent to the Southern Botswana Cricket Trials recently. The purpose of the trials is to select a representative Southern Botswana Cricket team to play in the annual North versus South match.

Congratulations to Nikhil (vice-captain), Dale and Rhys who were selected.

The cricketers played in their Annual North South fixture at JMS in Francistown and our Thornhill boys performed superbly well and received the following prizes:

Nikhil – Best Batsman
Rhys – Best Fielder

Well done and congratulations to all involved and to the South who scored a convincing 40 run victory.

Thornhill U11B vs Thornhill U13B

We played two matches this season against each other and it was a delight to watch the children grow in confidence.

The U11B team won the first game in a closely contested match and won the bragging rights for the week. The second game went the way of the U13B team, but the children really enjoyed the competition and camaraderie. The scores in both games were as follows:

Game 1

U11B
79 for 5 (Calvin 11)
U13B

74 for 8 (James Clarke 18*)
U11B won by 5 runs

Game 2

U13B
87 for 8
U11B
67 for 7

U13B won by 20 runs

Tennis

vs Northside

U11 - Thornhill won 9 - 7
U13 - Thornhill won 11 - 1

vs Crescent

U11 - Thornhill won 11 - 1
U13 - Thornhill won 5 - 0

Inter-House

Each house had two mixed couples, as far as possible, making eight couples in total. Games were played in a round robin format so the children got to play a lot of tennis - just ask Alta and Asmita who had to make up for another couple as well.

Chobe were the winners with some very strong players in their team, with Limpopo second and the other two houses tied in third place. Congratulations and well done to all who participated.

North South Tournament

This tournament took place on 19 and 20 March, at Babab School. Congratulations to Silas, Farai, Alicia, Sebaga and Leungo who represented the South. This year saw very stiff competition from the North, and a high level of tennis. The South eventually ran out 13 - 11 winners. Special mention to Alicia and Silas who played as top seeds in their teams and Leungo, who was selected to be the Girls' Captain. Well done and congratulations to all those who participated.



Inter-House Cross Country

There was great excitement for this event on a fresh and crisp morning. The children all ran very well and the following were awarded a medal for coming first in their respective age group:

U8	Renee	Hugo
U9	Unami	Kediretswa
U10	Maxine	Philip
U11	One	Chando
U12	Alice	Nikhil & James
U13	Hannah & Savannah	James

Well done and congratulations to all those who participated in this event. Shashe narrowly won the Cross Country from Chobe, and Notwane and Limpopo were placed third and fourth respectively.



Swimming

Interhouse Gala 2014

This year the competition was fierce. The squadron was a very exciting finish to an exciting afternoon, with Limpopo winning the squadron. Shashe was awarded the Spirit Trophy and ran out eventual winners.

Points and Placing as follows:

Shashe 588

Chobe and Limpopo 564

Notwane 526

Congratulations to the following Age Group Champions:

- U8 Tashata and Tinaye
- U9 Lindiwe and Tumo
- U10 Maxine and Philip
- U11 Tabitha and Andile
- U12 Madison & James Clark
- U13 Cameron & James Freeman

North vs South Gala 2014

This year Northside hosted the Annual North South Gala on 21 and 22 March. Northside were excellent hosts and ran a very well organised event.

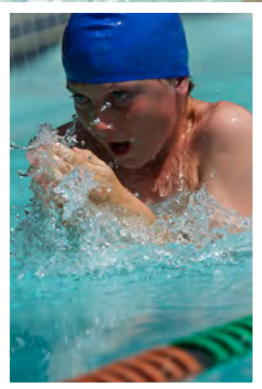
There was a wonderful atmosphere, especially amongst the parents, who contributed by joining in on the war cries of each team as well as wearing team colours.

Our Southern Team was very strong this year and ran out convincing winners with points for Southern's 746 and Northern's 598.

Congratulations to Andile, Cameron and James who won age group Victor and Victrix awards.

Thornhill had 26 children in this team, the largest contingent ever.

(U8) Carlotta, Mikaela, Hugo, Samuel
(U9) Lindiwe, Kimberley, Tina, Keagan, Tumo
(U10) Maxine, Megan, Roelof, Philip, Samuel
(U11) Tabitha, Andile, Alexander, Brandon
(U12) Madison, Timika, James C
(U13) Cameron, Hannah, Nicola, Adrian, James F



Inter-House Soccer

Lots of little boys and some girls running around after a round ball for two hours was the scene for this year's Inter-House Soccer. As always, the children had a wonderful time and it was lovely to see the true passion for the game, although some were a little rusty! Around 75 children turned up to represent their house and the results were as follows:

U11

- 1 Notwane
- 2 Shashe
- 3 Chobe & Limpopo

U13

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

Hopefully, during the holidays, all the children will work on their soccer skills so Thornhill can field good competitive teams for the Term 2 fixtures.



Chess

On Saturday, 15 March, five members of the Thornhill Chess Team took part in the annual SCSA Chess Team Tournament. We played against 5 other schools in a round robin format. Rounds lasted for 30 minutes. All our children played really well. At the end of the morning all the points were added together and Thornhill came third overall, winning the bronze medals. Well done and congratulations to Akshay, Theo, Minakshi, Luke and Sidharth.



MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

SAT 17TH MAY
THORNHILL FIELD
1730 HRS



Bring your own chairs, drinks, blankets
& a picnic basket and enjoy some music
under the stars with us.

Thornhill Primary School