

Issue 32 April 17 2015

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

"I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me." Max Lucado

If the whole school community, learners, parents and educators were to take a quiz and the last question was, "What is the first name of the lady who cleans my child's classroom?" Maybe try the security guard at the gate, the maintenance person who cleans the swimming pool, the toilets, the tuck shop owner, the teaching assistant or the school drivers? How many of us would make the grade?

Kindness has many facets, but its essence is simple. Kindness requires less effort and is therefore an economical attitude because we can save the energy that we would waste on suspicion, worry, resentment, manipulation or unnecessary defence. By eliminating these, kindness will bring us back to the simplicity of being.

In our daily lives, we meet many people, all of them are significant. They deserve our attention and care, a simple smile, greeting or words of thanks. This brings to mind the story of a four year old boy who calmly watched the transition of his dog, as he was euthanised.

As the adults pondered out aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives, the little boy piped up. "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life – like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right? Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long." (Today Magazine June 2007)

Let this be an encouragement from our small ones, to soak up the positives in life and sift out the negatives. As the term has come to an end, why don't we display an act of gratefulness by living simply, loving generously, caring deeply and speaking kindly?

If you can give kindness freely and with pure intentions you will leave a lasting legacy behind you. Let us all be an example to our children and each other! Today will never come again. Why not change someone's world today with a random act of kindness?

Maybe read these:

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate." ~ Albert Schweitzer

"Don't underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring. All of which, have the potential to turn a life around." ~ Leo Buscaglia

Staffing

We sadly bid farewell to Mr Dipeba at the end of term 1. Mr D, as the children affectionately know him, will take up a position in the Sports Department at the University of Botswana. Mr Dipeba has been a dedicated staff member at Thornhill for the past eight years and has added real value to our Physical Education Department. Mr D has been a magnificent team player and his knowledge and expertise will be sadly missed. I would like to wish him well as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

We also bid farewell to Mrs Clarke, who has been a part time staff member in our Learning Support Department. Mrs Clarke will be relocating to the UK and we wish her all the very best. I would like to thank Mrs Clarke for her commitment and expertise that she has brought to this department, while at Thornhill.

Administration Office Times

The School Office will be open on the following days before school reopens on Tuesday, 19 May:

17/04 – Closes at 11:30

20/04 – 22/04 09:00 to 13:00

13/05 – 15/05 10:00 to 14:00

18/05 – 08:00 to 15:00

Normal office hours resume on 19/05 – Finance closes at 15:30 and the Administration at 16:00.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open as follows before school starts on Tuesday, 19 May:

15/05 12:00 to 16:00

18/05 11:00 to 15:00

19/05 12:00 to 15:00

The shop will revert to normal times from Wednesday 20 May as follows:

Monday – 12:00 to 14:00

Wednesday – 12:00 to 14:30

Registration for eNews and Bulk SMS

Judging from the survey conducted at Parent Teacher consultation, many parents have not yet registered on our new website. I would urge all parents to register immediately, or you will miss out on important communication from the school in future. Should you have any problems then please mail: mg@thornhillprimary.ac.bw

PTA News

On Thursday, 02 April, the Foundation Phase was greeted with huge bunny footprints! The children were all running around with great excitement trying to find where the bunny was! The footprints stopped by the wall, and everyone could see that bunny left, but after a few Bunny Mails the PTA managed to get him back! He came to visit the Foundation children and was greeted by some exciting songs, while he danced with them. Afterwards, each child got a special bunny hug and an Easter egg, and waved goodbye to Easter Bunny as he hopped off to his next adventure.

To my Staff

As an instructor to learning, confidant and friend, trusted care-giver, and as moral guide, amongst a host of other responsibilities, it is you, the primary school teacher, who more often than not, is being called upon to manage and oversee so many vital and contributing attributes of a child's holistic well-being.

There is no doubt that, individually and collectively, the Thornhill Staff measure up as being some of the very best in the world. It is my privilege, as colleague, and headmaster, to acknowledge, affirm and congratulate you all on the wonderful work that each of you has done during another memorable term, where child-centred growth and development has been the order of the day. Your commitment to the children and the school is wonderful to see and I thank you for the tireless hours you put into the development of our children.

I know you all put in a great deal of time and effort and this takes you away from your families - please pass my thanks on to them and enjoy your family this holiday!

To the parents, thank you too for your constant support during this term. I hope you enjoy the holiday with your children and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday, 19 May.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Std 1 Farm Trip

This is our first independent attempt at story writing!

I saw how to milk a cow and I saw a bull. Then I saw dogs and I saw goats and sheep. I saw a garden. The trailer was full of tomatoes. We got very dirty. **Shaan**

I saw a trailer full of tomatoes and I learned how to milk a cow. Cows give us lots of milk. I saw a bull. We saw a goose. We went on a tractor ride. I saw a goat. I had lots of fun. **Maya**

I saw a bull and cows and baby calves and a dog. We went on a tractor ride. **Etsi**

I saw a goose and a bull. I saw two dogs and goats. I saw baby calves. I saw plants and I rode on a trailer. I saw many goats running.

Uyapo



Thornhill Choir Festival



Wednesday, 8 April, saw many excited children from Thornhill, Baobab, Botlhale and Northside 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 for us again, as our Guest Choir. The finale involved all of the children singing together and their renditions of 'Music Is My Life' and 'A World of Difference' were very special.

My thanks must be extended to everyone involved in making the day such a success and very well done to the Thornhill Choir - Mrs. Price is very proud of you all!



Mixed Style Dance



In term 1, we decided to continue the Mixed Style Dance afternoon activity with the children who had already been involved in the program the previous year. This was to enhance the skills they had acquired, and the tremendous growth was evident at the children's dance show.

Learning more than ten new dances in only seven sessions and having to perform in front of an audience, is a daunting task for anyone, but the children masterfully showcased their skills. Beyond the obvious confidence and eagerness the children needed, they also had the passion and love for dance, making it easier for them to do well. The Term 1 Mixed Style Dance show was a great success and well done to every single child who participated.

Dance as we all know, has huge benefits and we continue to embrace it at Thornhill. It offers the children an opportunity to express themselves, to channel their seemingly boundless energy, to be physically active and healthy and, of course, an opportunity to socialise and build their self esteem. One of the lessons passed on to the dance children was that one should never miss a chance to dance. When you hear music and it touches your soul, let your feet move. In the words of Mia Michaels, a judge from 'So you think you can dance,' "If you dance with your heart, your body will follow."

Cinderella

The Foundation Phase team has done a magnificent job yet again! The production, a well-known fairy tale, 'Cinderella' was an absolute delight to watch and all the diligent preparation that went into it paid off. A team of parents assisted by meticulously painting the stage backdrop with the front of stage beautifully draped and adorned with gold lettering 'Once upon a time'.

Our children always amaze us. They eagerly set about learning words and the dance moves and their excellent efforts were well received by the audiences who sat in awe. Six beautifully turned-out choruses narrated our story. The white mice were the cutest and stayed true to their role in defending Cinderella to the hilt. Cinderella played by Mariyana Dimitrova, depicted the gentle, caring girl who was subject to unfair treatment of a stepmother and two stepsisters. Marang Mmesesi, superbly played the former. Her daughters were true to form too. Our headmaster Mr Ivor Greaves performed the role of King Grumble-Knees and brought the humour and fun to the play. Lerako Morwaeng who cleverly joined in the King's banter played his royal servant Snitwick. Marli Whoolery played the Fairy Godmother with absolute commitment, as she pranced around on stage making magic with her sparkling wand, chanting Bippity Boppity Boo! Our most gracious Prince Charming was played by our dashing, Jonathan Cornet and the story ended with a beautiful wedding. Mister Sez-So played by Anoushka Bramhbahtt, announced the arrival of the royal family and introduced beautiful fancy ladies to meet Prince Charming.

Dances performed by mice, maids, birds, butterflies, fairies and elves, toddlers pumpkins and soldiers supported the storyline and brought fun pop music, colourful costumes, and choreographed moves.



North vs South Swimming

On February, 20 and 21, the South went up to Maun to swim in the annual North/South swimming gala. It was a great adventure and I think the highlight for our children was the overnight stop in Ghanzi at the Kalahari Arms, both on the way there and on the way back. The children had midnight tag games in between the chalets only to be caught by Mrs Freeman (that is what memories are made of). Much fun was had by all the children who attended.

Thornhill had 26 swimmers representing the South. We had a few of our swimmers ending the gala as age group champions. Tumo Matija was the U10 Boys champion and Andile Bekker was the U12 Boys champion. Abigail Jamu was the runner up to the U8 girls Victrix and Lindiwe Haitsma was the runner up to the U10 girls Victrix.

The South did very well in the gala, emerging winners over the North. The final total was the North on 641 and the South on 695.



Inter House Gala

Our Inter House gala took place over two days. On Thursday 9 April, the Individual Medley was swum at the end of the morning with the rest of the events on Friday, 10 April, which was well supported by our parents.

This year the competition was very close with the top two houses battling it out throughout the gala. Overall, a very good standard of swimming with lots of close finishes.

Congratulations to Shashe for winning the gala, closely followed by Chobe, Limpopo, Notwane. With Notwane winning the Spirit Award.

Congratulations to the following Age Group Champions.

U8 Abigail
U9 Puleng & Hugo
U10 Lindiwe & Tumo
U11 Sarah and Philip
U12 Tabitha & Andile
U13 Madison, Patrick & James





vs Baobab

U9:

Baobab: 102-6 after 17 overs

Thornhill: 103-2 after 9 overs

Thornhill won by 8 wickets

U11:

Thornhill: 211 for 4

Baobab: 47 all out (Wezi took 4 wickets)

Thornhill won by 164 runs

U13:

Baobab: 36 all out

Thornhill: 36 for 2

Thornhill won by 8 wickets

vs Northside

U9:

Thornhill 139 for 2

Northside 93 for 5

Thornhill won by 46 runs

U11:

Thornhill: 153 for 1

Northside: 37 all out

Thornhill won by 116 runs

U13:

Thornhill: 133 for 8

Northside: 119 for 4

Thornhill won by 14 runs

North vs South Cricket

Thornhill hosted this annual event and the boys played some good and exciting cricket. Our own Nikhil Iyer, who was chosen as the captain, led the South and Ronan Hope was rewarded with the award for best bowler. The scores in brief were as follows:

South - 171 for 6
North - 45 all out
Southern Botswana won by 126 runs

Well done and congratulations to the following on their selection:

Nikhil Iyer (captain)
Ronan Hope
Gareth Kemp



Inter House Soccer

We had an outstanding afternoon of soccer recently and the children played good smart soccer.

U11

1st Shashe
2nd Notwane
3rd Limpopo
4th Chobe

U13

1st Shashe
2nd Notwane
3rd Chobe
4th Limpopo



Softball Tour



A wonderfully successful tour to Francistown was had by the U13 & U11 girls. We left early on Friday morning all dressed in our smart white t-shirts kindly donated by Melissa's Mum.

The U11's played first against Clifton and played so well, winning their game. This was followed by the U13's who had a very tough game and they drew against Clifton.

The softball continued on Saturday morning with games against John Mackenzie School and Clifton.

Our girls were well hosted by Clifton parents or their relations. We thank them all so much for their kindness and hospitality.

This was a very good trip, a great fun experience and one, which we would like to do again.

Results:

U11 v Clifton won 12 - 0 and lost 1 - 22

U13 v Clifton won 5 - 4 and lost 8 - 14

U11 v JMS won 12 - 6

U13 v JMS drew 8 - 8



Inter House Cross Country

This event took place on Wednesday, 15 April, and the standard of cross country running was excellent. We started off the morning with the U8 race, which consisted of many Std 2 children. They excelled and there is a bright future for these young runners.

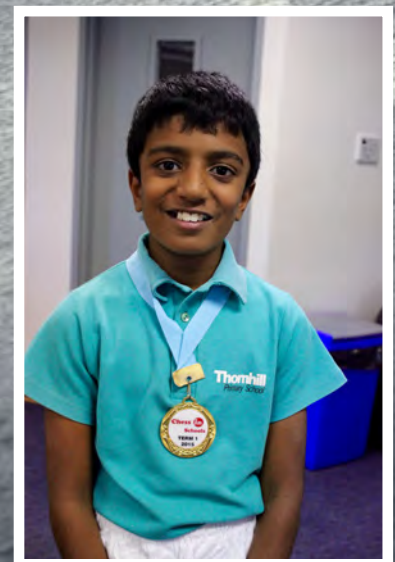
The lead changed hands a number of times throughout the morning, but at the end of the U13 race, Shashe were declared winners. Chobe were placed second, followed by Limpopo and Notwane in third and fourth respectively.

Well done to all those children who participated and good luck to the children who go on to represent Thornhill in Term 2.



Chess

On Saturday, 21 March 2015, the Thornhill Chess Team competed in the annual Southern Chops Chess Team Tournament. The seven best players from Crescent, Broadhurst, Tlokweng Dayspring, Northside, Baobab and Thornhill played the tournament that was hosted by Tlokweng Dayspring. Thornhill was represented by Theo, Kalidas, Akshay, Ahmed Ali, Krishnan, Advait and Minakshi. The scores were quite even and it came down to the wire in the last round when all the Thornhill players had to win all their matches against Crescent to have a chance to come first. Everybody brought their A-game to the table and Thornhill managed to win gold! Baobab came second and Northside third. The players conducted themselves extremely well and they can be very proud of their performance.





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April 17 2015
Thornhill ICT Department