

Issue 39 April 15 2016

Thornhill eneews



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.

Standard 6 Creative Writing

An introduction to a story written by one of our Std 6 pupils titled "Lost!"

Cold. If there was one word to describe this place it would be cold. Our footsteps echoed down the street, alerting every creature of the dark that Gianna and I were approaching. The dim light of the eerily flickering street lights only added to my fears. "Shay", Gianna called out, "What if we never get back?"

"That's my name, Shay. Short for Shayne Maidele, meaning 'beautiful girl' in Hebrew. "

"Don't say that GiGi, we will make it back home."

An icy blast of wind sent our hair whipping back. I shivered. The thin material of my dress wasn't enough to encase my body heat. Clang! I was shaken from my thoughts as Gianna slammed into something. I looked up and some hope was restored. Gianna had crashed into a gate, meaning that we had found a house.

This was no ordinary house though. It was massive. Tall spires crawled upward, almost as if trying to claw at the sky. Twin gargoyles stood guard at the gate, their hideous faces set in matching grimaces. The house looked ancient, as if it belonged in the Victorian Era, but it was beautiful. An oak set of double doors stood beyond the gate, glistening black as if freshly painted.

by Vati 6C

Pupil Achievements

On Saturday, 19 March 2016, Leatile took part in the Taekwondo Championships at Sir Seretse Khama CJSJ with 7 schools competing. He claimed 1st place for Sparring and 1st place for Breaking. He qualified to represent Botswana once again in South Africa in August.

Ahmed Ali Hussain has been selected to represent Botswana at the Dubai Karate Open 2016 in April. Ahmed Ali also got a bronze at the Southern Nationals and gold at the Gabz Open recently.

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 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, 15 May. Here's wishing you all some peaceful family days to rekindle, re-charge, and renew.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Thornhill Choir Festival



Thursday 31 March, saw many excited children from Botlhale, Northside, Westwood International & Thornhill Junior and Senior choirs gather at Maitisong for this year's Choir Festival.

We rehearsed during the afternoon and by 18:00 Maitisong was packed with parents and friends eager to hear their children perform and they were not disappointed. The addition of our Junior Choir was very successful and the solos from Kaiyah and Elisha delighted everyone.

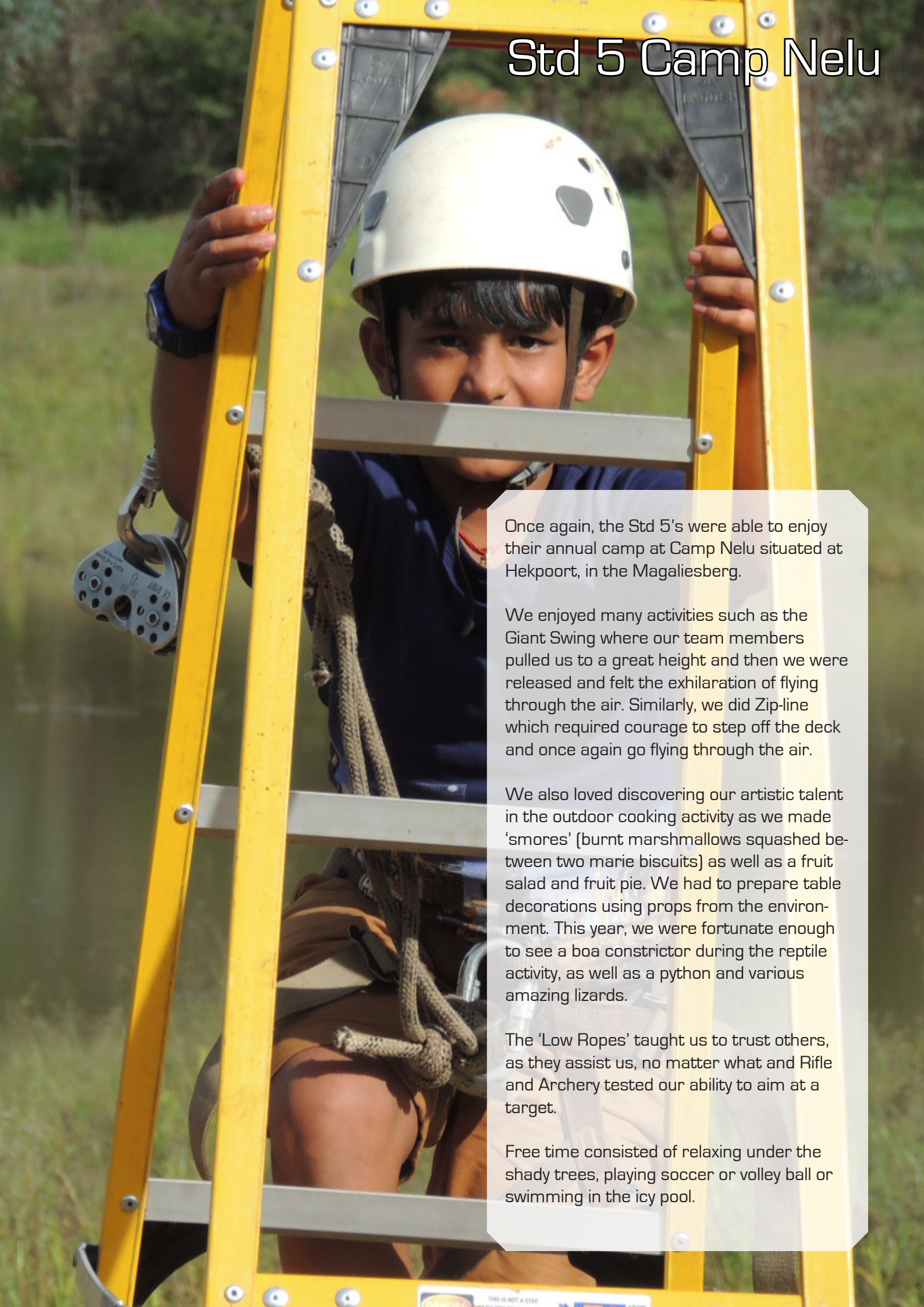
All of the school choirs sang beautifully and we were also privileged to have the New Apostolic Church Choir perform, as our Guest Choir. Their performances really gave our children something to aspire to.

The finale involved all of the children singing together and their renditions of 'Our World' and 'We Belong' were very special.

We were thrilled to have BTV recording the festival and it was exciting to see it aired on BTV.

Many thanks to everyone involved in making the day such a huge success and well done to our Thornhill Choirs.

Std 5 Camp Nelu



Once again, the Std 5's were able to enjoy their annual camp at Camp Nelu situated at Hekpoort, in the Magaliesberg.

We enjoyed many activities such as the Giant Swing where our team members pulled us to a great height and then we were released and felt the exhilaration of flying through the air. Similarly, we did Zip-line which required courage to step off the deck and once again go flying through the air.

We also loved discovering our artistic talent in the outdoor cooking activity as we made 's'mores' (burnt marshmallows squashed between two marie biscuits) as well as a fruit salad and fruit pie. We had to prepare table decorations using props from the environment. This year, we were fortunate enough to see a boa constrictor during the reptile activity, as well as a python and various amazing lizards.

The 'Low Ropes' taught us to trust others, as they assist us, no matter what and Rifle and Archery tested our ability to aim at a target.

Free time consisted of relaxing under the shady trees, playing soccer or volley ball or swimming in the icy pool.

Fun Day



On Tuesday, 12 April, Std 7 held a Fun Day for the children from Std 3 to 6. This was part of the Standard 7 Lateral Learning Week where a great deal of planning and preparation went on. The Standard 7 children came out with some creative ideas and activities for the children to take part in. There were many innovative games and the field was a hive of activity.

The Standard 7 group also had to test their baking skills and a variety of food was brought for the tuckshop. Those with a sweet tooth spent many of their tickets enjoying all the "goodies".

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a worthwhile amount of money was raised, some of which goes to our two charities, Cheetah Conservation Botswana and helping our two rhinos in the Khama Rhino Sanctuary. The Std 7 children themselves have also benefited with a good addition to their camp funds.

Std 1 Farm Visit

The Std 1 classes went on a school trip to the farm. Mr Arbi, the farmer, came out to meet us. He took us to see how cows are milked. They used a milking machine. Next we went out to feed the lamb. We gave it some of the milk from the cow because its mother died at birth. The lamb was so hungry it gobbled up the milk. It was so cute to see.

We went over to the greenhouse to see the seedlings and the herb gardens. There we saw thousands of little cabbage seedlings. On our way to the greenhouse we saw many fruit trees in the orchards and tried to identify some of these. There were banana, mango, lemon and orange trees. We also looked closely at the Moringa trees. The farmer told us that this was a special tree because it bore fruit that helped us to make medicines.

We had our snack-time in the shaded area and straight after that we went on a tractor ride. The tractor had two trailers, one for the boys and the other for the girls. We really enjoyed the trip around the farm in a tractor. We saw the cows, goats and sheep that Mr. Arbi has on his farm. After our ride we jumped into the school buses and came back to school. We really enjoyed our farm visit.



Std 7 Lateral Learning

To give the Std 7 children a chance to develop their creative sides, a Lateral Learning Week was held during the last week of Term 1. The week began with the children working in their chosen groups to develop their entrepreneurial skills by organising activities and food for our Std 3 to 6 Fun Day. The actual day involved setting up their individual stalls and ensuring that they had prizes and items for the tuck shop as well. The games were well run and there was enough food to keep hungry tummies at bay. This is a useful exercise in planning and execution.


Wednesday saw a time for discussion and debate on current issues. It is important to make the children aware of current affairs and how these impact on our everyday lives. There was also time to do some improvisation and drama. Many children love to perform in front of others, but for those who are shy, it gives a chance to grow in confidence.

Our final activity was our 'Egg Challenge.' In preparation for this, the children were told to collect things that we would normally throw away. They were then given the challenge, which was to construct something that would carry an egg for at least a distance of 3 metres. Much time was spent working in groups and constructing a vehicle. There were many ideas and a whole variety of vehicles, but the winner of the challenge was Giano's group who created a simple vehicle made from two CD discs and the egg attached to the axle with a blob of plasticine.

During the course of the week, various problem-solving activities were worked on in Maths as well.

A week like this one, often gives the more "out of the box" thinkers a chance to excel, and combines a great deal of fun with innovation.

Thornhill's Got Talent

A group of children are performing a dance on a stage. They are wearing black sleeveless tops and yellow skirts with a black geometric pattern. They also have yellow headbands with black patterns. Some children have white face paint on their cheeks. They are all smiling and clapping their hands. The background is dark with some stage lights.

Wow - that is an under statement!
There is talent in abundance at Thornhill. From the very tiniest of 'Re'sh'eptions' to the largest of the Std 1's and 2's. Each and every child in the Foundation Phase had a role to play in the concert, be it big or small.

The Receptions always charm the audiences with the "cute factor" which leaves a smile on the faces of many a father and a tear in the eye of many a mother! The Std 1 and 2 children remind their proud parents of just how much they have grown since their Reception year.

The various guest dancing groups from the Thornhill Junior Phase also show cased their talent in some very quick and jazzy dances. Girls and boys alike had people stomping and clapping to the beat.

To boot – the funny antics and the fast moving rhythm of the teachers is so entertaining to watch! This is especially so for the younger pupils, who can never imagine that teachers have a private life let alone, that they can dance!

Once again, Mrs Stuart (with the help of Mrs Jogee and Sally Chabedi), has pulled off a wonderful, feel good show for Thornhill. Thank you Foundation Phase children for giving us all happy memories with which to end Term 1.

Girl Guides




The Botswana Girl Guide Association is a full member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. As part of W.A.G.G.S., The Botswana Girl Guide Association will be taking part in Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, 90th 'Birthday Beacons,' as one of the Commonwealth countries.

Thornhill Primary School and its Guiding Unit have been chosen by the National Girl Guides Association Executive to host this historical event on 21 April 2016. The ceremony will start at 15:00 in the HMM Hall and will later move to the Setswana area, where the Beacon Bonfire ceremony will take place.

To all involved, good luck and I trust that it will be a very successful event for the Thornhill Girl Guides.

North vs South Cricket



The North hosted the annual North versus South cricket match this year at Clifton Primary in Francistown.

Thornhill was represented by Aidan Lees, Brandon Rouse, Calvin Van Zyl, Jack Tuffek and Tahir Konat. Brandon had the honour and distinction of captaining the South and being chosen as the best fielder of the match. He also scored 59 runs on Friday in the practice match. Well done, Brandon. Jack returned to form with the bat and made a useful 28 on Saturday.

Calvin was his usual busy self in the field and set the bar high. A big thanks to Aidan for willingly taking up the keeping duties - a difficult and specialist job, which was not made any easier by the bowlers who conceded 28 extras! Tahir was economical taking 1 wicket for 22 runs in his 5 overs. Some important cricketing lessons were learnt, as we lost to the better team on the day.

Thanks must go to Coach Blessing who accompanied the team and provided much needed enthusiasm and encouragement. A big thank you to the parents who travelled up to give much needed support to the boys. Thanks also to Abel who drove us to and from Francistown safely.

Well done to the all the boys - despite losing, you showed great fighting spirit and we are all very proud of you.

North vs South Swimming

This has always been a well-contested event and this year was no exception. The gala took place at Thornhill Primary School on 18 and 19 March. It was a very colourful event with the southern parents making a huge effort to dress in the 'colours' of the south. The children all swam their hearts out and the result was probably one of the closest in years. The individual champions for each age group were as follows :

U8 Girls	Bea van der Merwe	(North)
U8 Boys	Merwe van der Merwe	(North)
U9 Girls	Anna Zylstra	(North)
U9 Boys	Angus Hill	(North)
U10 Girls	Elzaan Van Wyk	(South)
	Elizabeth Pigford	(North)
U10 Boys	Mmusi Matthews	(South)
U11 Girls	Shamiso Matonhodze	(South)
U11 Boys	Enzo Nogueira	(South)
U12 Girls	Tselane Matthews	(South)
U12 Boys	Yuanquan Hu	(South)
U13 Girls	Monique Potgieter	(North)
U13 Boys	Brandon Rouse	(South)

We had a record number of sponsors namely, Spar, Stanbic, Spur, Cell City, Aluminium 2000, DMSS, Gaborone Aquatic Centre, KBL, PR Green Paradise, Linga Longa, Sir Juice, Safari, Safari Distributors, Megapave, RAK, Kenzo, Bokomo and Senn Foods. Many of these sponsors being from our own Thornhill family. I hope we will be able to continue a long, happy relationship with many of these sponsors.



North vs South Tennis



This year, the tournament took place in the South on the 16 and 17 of March and was hosted at Thornhill Primary School. Congratulations to Shane Tapera, Jack Tuffek, Abigail Tuffek and Megan Freeman, who were selected from Thornhill to represent this team.

There was a very high standard of tennis and right from the onset the South faced stiff competition from the Northern Team. At the end of the first day, the score was 4 - 4. The following day, the games were interrupted by heavy rains and despite all efforts to dry courts and continue with play, we only managed to finish the Doubles and Mixed Doubles rounds. The final score was 8 - 4 to the Southern Team, which was enough to claim the trophy back from the North. The players enjoyed the competition and many wonderful memories were made.

Interhouse Soccer

The Inter House Soccer matches took place in Week 12 and there was healthy competition and all involved enjoyed themselves.

U11 Boys

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

U13 Boys

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

Results were added together and the overall winners were as follows:

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



Interhouse Tennis

The Inter-House Tennis took place in Week 10 and 11.

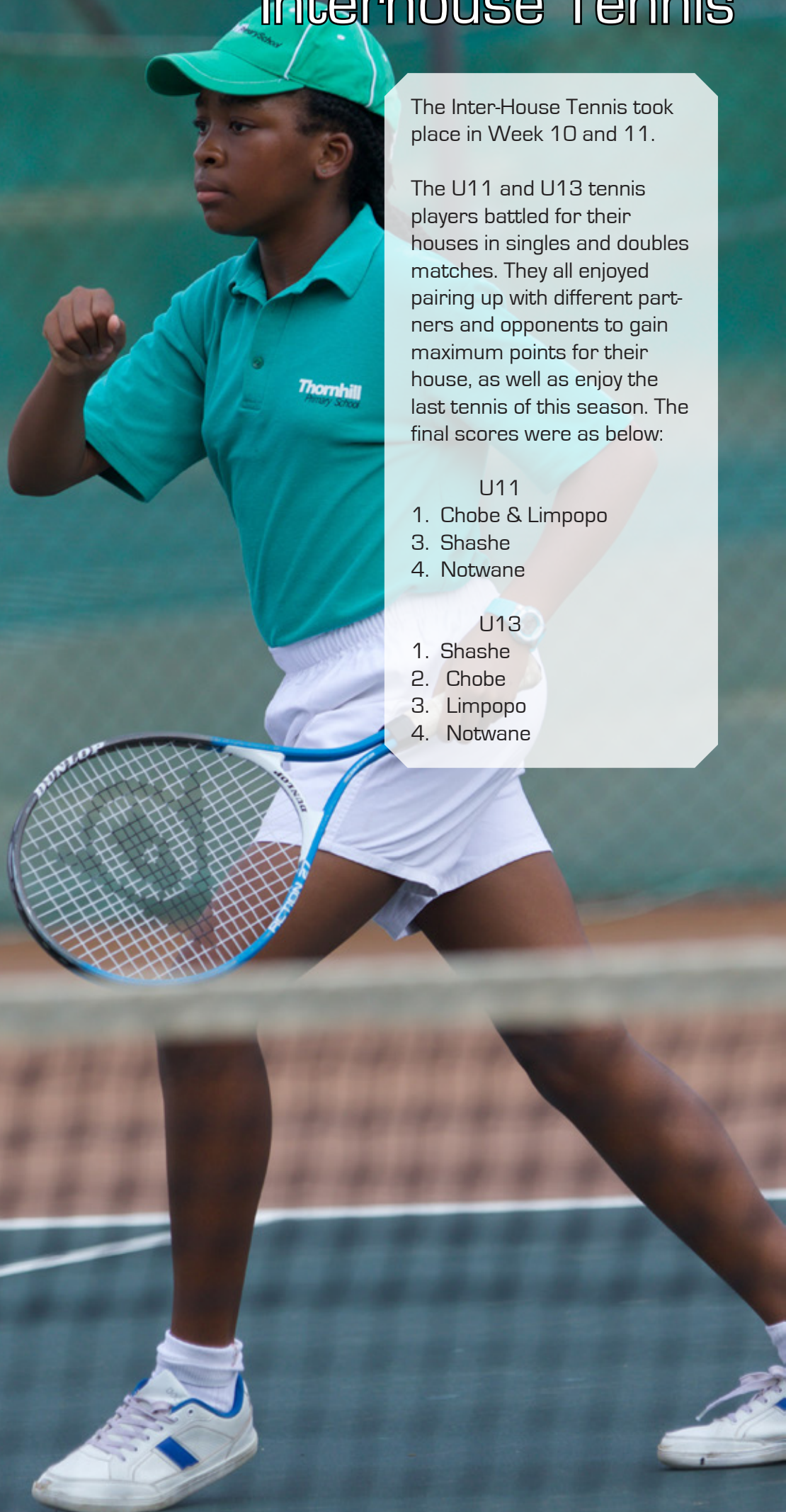
The U11 and U13 tennis players battled for their houses in singles and doubles matches. They all enjoyed pairing up with different partners and opponents to gain maximum points for their house, as well as enjoy the last tennis of this season. The final scores were as below:

U11

1. Chobe & Limpopo
3. Shashe
4. Notwane

U13

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




Chess

Congratulations to the Thornhill Chess Team
(Ahmed Ali Hussain, Advait Panicker, Apele Butale, Wathobo Butale, Letang Kereng and Minakshi Kelat)

The team was placed second overall in the Inter School Chess Championships. The players performed superbly and enjoyed the experience.



Interhouse Gala

A close-up photograph of a young swimmer in a pool. The swimmer is wearing a bright red swim cap with the word 'SPURT' and a logo on it. They are also wearing blue and white swimming goggles. Water is splashing around their face and mouth, which is open. The background is a blurred view of the pool and other swimmers.

We had the best weather ever for our 2016 Inter House Gala. The atmosphere was lovely and festive, with many parents wearing house colours in support of their children. This was also our first event that the whole school wore the new house T-Shirts. The children looked very smart and uniformed creating a great impact.

All the children swam well fighting hard for their house. The cheerleaders did not let up for the entire 3 hours. Many records were broken. Well done everyone!

Shashe won this gala followed by Chobe, Limpopo then Notwane.

Congratulations to our Victrix and Victor Ludorum winners this year as follows.

U9 Abigail and Joshua
U10 Watapiwa and Hugo
U11 Lindiwe and Tumo
U12 Maxine E and Roelof
U13 Tabitha and Brandon

CELEBRATING



**THORNHILL
PRIMARY**



April 15 2016
Thornhill ICT Department