

Issue 38 March 24 2016

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Parents and Pupils

This term has literally 'flown' by and as we finish Week 10, there is much to report.

I have used this before in a previous newsletter, but decided that it was worth another read, as it portrays such a strong message. We are so busy each and every day and we sometimes forget the impact that a little 'special time' goes such a long way.

An elderly man spent several hours rummaging through journals that he and other family members had written in years ago. As he opened one of his journals, the old man's eye fell upon an inscription that stood out because it was so brief in comparison to the other days. In his own neat handwriting were these words: "Wasted a whole day fishing with Jimmy. Didn't catch a thing." With a deep sigh and a shaking hand, he took his son Jimmy's journal of the year and found his boy's entry for the same day, June 4. Large scrawling letters, pressed deeply into the paper read: "Went fishing with my Dad. Best day of my life."

This story serves as the introduction to the book entitled, "To a Child, Love is Spelled T-I-M-E! written by Lance Wubbels and Mac Andreson.

## Valentines Civvies Day

There was no guessing that Friday, 12 February, was Thornhill's celebration of Valentine's Day. The only visible colours were red, white and pink! Everyone had made a superb effort to dress up in these colours and the school had a festive look about it. This was all part of an effort to raise money for Support For Learning.

## Valentines Disco

It wouldn't have mattered if there had been load shedding on Friday, 12 February, as Thornhill was very brightly lit with children wearing luminous colours and flashing psychedelic adornments. This was all part of this year's "Glow in the Dark" Valentine's Disco. As usual the disco served a double purpose. It was used as a means of raising money for our Standard 7 trip and charities of Cheetah Conservation Botswana, our two adopted rhinos in the Khama Rhino Sanctuary and our support of vultures in Botswana. It was also a celebration of Valentine's Day and everyone certainly had a lot of fun in marking this occasion. There was non-stop dancing from six to nine and various competitions were held. The hall was beautifully decorated transforming it into a great entertainment venue for the evening. Great fun was had by all and a worthwhile amount of money was raised.

## Nutrition Talk

During our recent Life Skills lessons in Std 6, Mrs Osman, a nutrition specialist, came to talk to us about healthy eating. She taught us about calories and how many calories specific foods contain. For instance, two slices of bacon contain 92 calories and two eggs, 204 calories. She also talked to us about the importance of fibre, which helps your food move through the body. If you do not have fibre, your colon could get blocked! Food with 4 grams or more of fibre is very high in fibre and is very good for you. Mrs Osman was brilliant and taught us so many new facts about healthy eating. I hope she can share her great knowledge with other children. (Sarah Freeman 6W)

## Standard 6 Cake Sales

Friday morning, 4 March 2016, ended our fund raising cake sale for all our friends at St. Peter's Daycare Centre. Due to all the marvelous tasty goodies made by our wonderful parents and pupils we broke all previous records by raising a whopping total in excess of P6000. A big thank you to the Thornhill Family for their generous support of this worthy cause.

# News from Our Learning Support (LS) Department

The Learning Support department at Thornhill is an integral part of the school. During their time at Thornhill most children will receive some support from the Learning Support staff either academically, socially or emotionally. Through analysis and assessment of the children's needs, and by monitoring the quality of teaching, standards of achievement and setting targets, the LS Department develops effective ways of overcoming barriers to learning and sustaining effective teaching. The staff work proactively with outside professional specialists including Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Psychiatrists and Medical Specialists in identifying, assessing and meeting the Learning Support needed.

The LS Department also assist with our top achievers and help to extend their learning experience. With the help of professionals we are able to support children further. Please note that all medication is only given under instruction from medical specialists.

On Friday and Saturday 19 and 20 February 2016, two of our Learning Support team, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Van Wyk, were able to attend a SAALED (Southern African Association for Learning and Educational Differences) conference in Johannesburg. The title of the conference was "Towards Pedagogies For All".

We were fortunate to hear presentations by:

Gavin Kellar, a passionate and dynamic educator from Cape Town, who spoke about a brain based approach to understanding barriers to learning. He encouraged us to refer to barriers in learning and in life, as road blocks, as these can be passed through and it is our job as teachers to guide the children through such road blocks effectively.

Professor Lani Florian, a member of the American, British and European Educational Research Association. She has extensive international experience in special needs education and her research interests include models of provision in meeting the needs of all learners.

Debbie Silver, a bubbly American teacher and University Professor, who motivates her audiences to interact with students on a deeper level. Her presentation on "Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers" encourages teachers to explore strategies, management tips and inspirational lessons for addressing individual differences and needs. Her mission is to remind teachers of how important they are in the lives of children. She emphasised the importance of this quote: "It is about the heart of teaching and the art of teaching." Her newest book release, Fall Down 7 times, Get Up 8: Teaching Kids to Succeed, is a fresh approach to getting kids to work smarter and better, not in terms of achievement or intelligence but in terms of effort and meeting challenges with courage.

It was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet other educators from around Southern Africa who share our passion for inclusive learning and to have gained knowledge from our speakers who presented research from around the globe.

## PTA AGM

This event went off smoothly and the new PTA Executive Committee for 2016 is as follows:

<b>Chairperson</b>	Ouida Pieterse	<b>Treasurer</b>	Sian Williams
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	Harsha Jinabhai	<b>Secretary</b>	Corlia Peters

I would like to thank our outgoing Chairperson Mrs Holzapfel and her 2015 committee, for the enormous time and effort they put into making 2015 a successful year. The commitment to the school is always greatly appreciated.

**I Greaves**  
Headteacher

# Std 3 Recorder Workshop

From 1 to 3 February, the Standard 3 children, along with some of their parents took part in a recorder workshop to give them a good grounding in recorder playing. The children learned many techniques, lots of music notation and also worked on rhythms using drums. We were fortunate to have some of our top Standard 7 recorder players leading some of the sessions and the Standard 3 children really enjoyed being taught by them. The workshop ended with a short 'concert' to showcase all they had learned. The Standard 7 children also played for them to show how well the children will be able to play in the future, if they work hard.

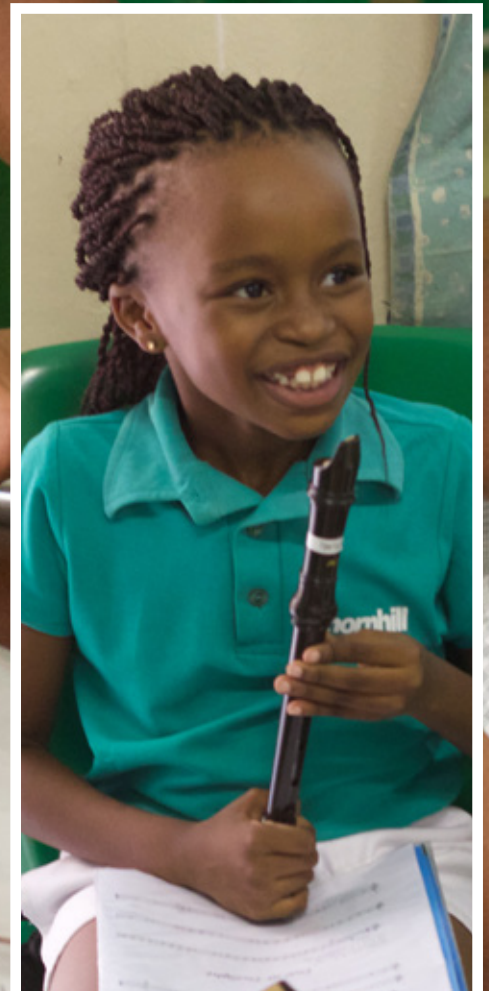
Many thanks to all the parents who attended parts of the workshop - it means a lot to your children to have you there and we hope you will continue to learn to play the recorder along with them.

These are some comments from children in 3P:

We had a music workshop. My favourite part was learning B Groovy. I had lots of fun. I love playing the recorder.  
(Sally-Louise)

It was really fun. I loved the part when the Std 7 children played their song at the concert. It was beautiful. I also liked when the parents played the drums. (Changu)

The best part was when my mum and dad came. We learned the notes B and A. I enjoyed myself and it was so much fun. (Zandile)



# Std 4 Outdoor Education Trip



During the course of the last two weeks, the Std 4 children visited Mokolodi Nature Reserve, as part of their Outdoor Education program. Each class stayed at Mokolodi for two days and two nights. Our days were filled with exciting activities and games.

The focus of the program was on learning more about our natural world. We went on an eco walk to study the spoor and droppings of animals found in the environment. A visit to the reptile park and rescue center was a definite highlight. We became more aware of the plight of the vultures and eagles that are being poisoned by farmers. Some of us were a little scared of the snakes, but it was still interesting to learn about their habits and habitats. During the game drive, we got the opportunity to learn about mammals like the giraffes and zebras and their place in the food chain.

Not only did we learn about the natural world, but we also had a lesson on what to do if we ever got lost in the wild. We learned to make string from plants that can be used for many different purposes.

This is what Arjun in 4A said about their trip:

"I liked visiting Mokolodi because the boys had cool dorms. I loved the early morning hike. The reptile park was awesome. We saw vultures, owls, snakes and lizards."

# Std 2 Visit the Game Reserve

The Standard 2 classes recently visited the Gaborone Game Reserve. The children always enjoy this trip and gain a good deal of knowledge about wild animals, habitats and conservation.

Some 2E children had the following comments about the trip.

'There were ostriches and I saw some red hartebeest.' Dintle.

'The zebras were very interesting. We just found them drinking water.' (Daniell)

'I liked the scavenger hunt. I liked finding all the feathers and beetles.' (Ameeca)

'We saw a leopard tortoise going actually very fast.' (Lefa)

'I liked seeing the dung beetle rolling the ball of dung.' (Chukwu)

'The scavenger hunt was interesting. There were so many fun things to find.' (Jack)

'It was a good experience to see all these animals because they aren't things you can see every day.' (Madison)



## vs Broadhurst

U9

Thornhill 93 for 6

Broadhurst 71 for 9

Thornhill won by 22 runs

U11

Broadhurst 87 all out

Thornhill 89 for 2 wickets

Thornhill won by 8 wickets

U13

Broadhurst 69 all out

(Bilal 4 wickets for 8 &

Ahmed Ali 3 wickets for 4)

Thornhill 82 for 2

Thornhill won by 8 wickets

Men of the Match: Roelof and  
Bilal

## vs Baobab

U11

Baobab 48 all out

Thornhill 49 for 1 wicket

Thornhill won by 9 wickets

U13

Thornhill 201 for 3

Baobab 54 all out

Thornhill won by 147 runs

Man of the Match: Calvin

## vs ISSA

U11

ISSA 69 all out

Thornhill 70 for 3 in 9 overs

Thornhill won by 7 wickets

## vs Northside

U11

Northside 78 for 6

Thornhill 127 for 4

Hugo 64 runs

Result won by 49 runs

U13

Northside 77 all out

Thornhill 98 for 2

Thornhill won by 8 wickets

Man of the Match Jack Tuffek

## U9 B&C Cricket Festival

Friday afternoon, 19 February 2016, we left for Baobab to participate in the eagerly awaited U9 cricket festival. The excited chatter in the bus was all about how many sixes, and fours would be hit! How many catches, and wickets would be taken. It appeared that the opposition was in for a torrid time!

Spectator participation was at a premium, as coaches, parents and fellow teammates screamed words of cricket advice and wisdom! This included the shouts of correct action and suicidal single.

At the end of the day, we all had a great deal of fun. We all left as better and happy cricketers.



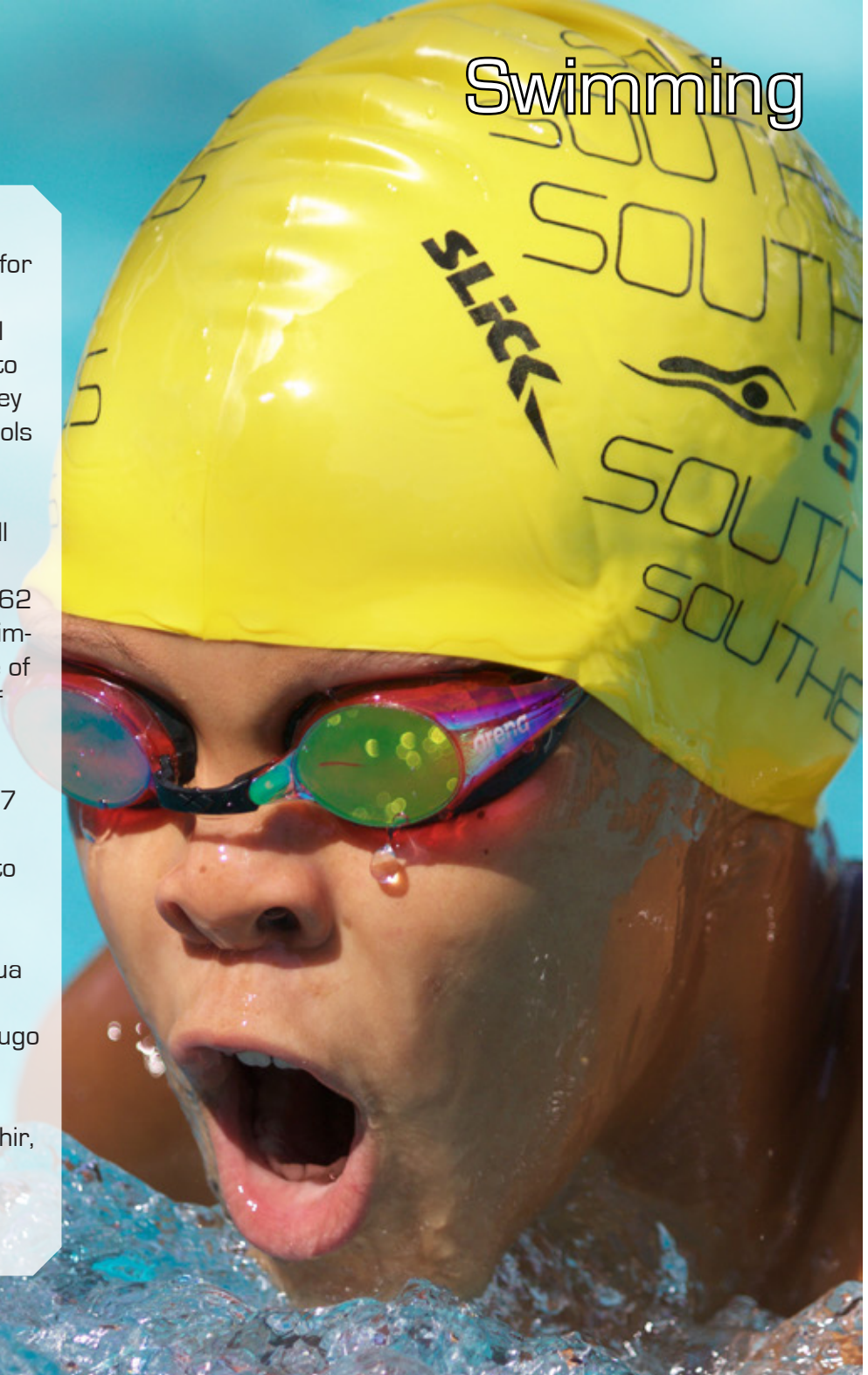
# Swimming

Thornhill hosted two and went to Northside and Westwood Schools for two Lollipop Galas. Our swimmers all swam well at these galas as they were trying to get good personal times so that they could qualify for the Southern Schools Swimming Trials.

On Saturday, 20 February, Thornhill hosted the Southern Schools Swimming Trials Thornhill entered 62 swimmers, a record number of swimmers to trials. The children all gave of their best and we are very proud of their performance at the trials.

We also had a record number of 27 children making the Southern Swimming Team. Congratulations to the following:

- U8 Kathryn, Uyapo, Eben, Joshua
- U9 Abigail, Ella, Jacinda
- U10 Puleng, Carolotta, Tinaye, Hugo
- U11 Shamiso, Kimberly, Lindiwe, Megan, Tumo, Jerry
- U12 Maxine E, Sarah F, Philip, Tahir, Roelof
- U13 Tabitha, Yaone, Megan F, Brandon, Anthony





# SCSA Tennis

Congratulations and well done to the following children who were selected to represent the South against their Northern counterparts on, 16 and 17 March, at Thornhill Primary:

Abigail Tuffek  
Megan Freeman  
Shane Tapera  
Jack Tuffek





March 24 2016  
Thornhill ICT Department