

Issue 42 August 12 2016

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

As we draw to the end of another successful and busy term and look forward to the holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my entire staff for their tireless effort and commitment to the children. They continue to ensure that the children are nurtured and taught with so much kindness and care and they always go the 'extra mile' for the wellbeing of each little individual. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation for all they do.

Looking back, I am not quite sure where the last 13 weeks have gone, but we managed to accomplish so much in this productive and successful second term.

In line with Botswana turning 50, I would like to send out a challenge to all our Thornhill parents, to spend 50 quality, uninterrupted minutes with your child and to document it in photographs. I would request you to share these with us on our Thornhill Twitter site. Remember, uninterrupted – no cellphones, no, “just hold on while I do something quickly,” etc etc etc.

Administration Office Times

The administration office will close at 13:30 on Thursday this week and as follows for the holidays:

Monday 15/8 to Wednesday 17/8	10:00 to 13:00
Wednesday 7/9 to Friday 9/9	09:00 to 13:00
Monday 12/9	08:00 to 15:00

Normal administration office times will resume on Tuesday, 13 September namely:

Administration:	Monday to Thursday	07:00 to 16:00
	Friday	07:00 to 14:00
Finance:	Monday to Thursday	07:00 to 15:30
	Friday	07:00 to 13:30

Uniform Shop Times

Monday 12/9	11:00 to 16:00
Tuesday 13/9	12:00 to 15:00
Wednesday 14/9	12:00 to 14:30

Normal uniform shop times will resume from Monday, 19 September namely:

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

PTA Wild West Event

This will take place on Saturday, 17 September in the Helen Mathole Memorial Hall. Tickets will be available from various PTA members during the holidays, please contact Ouida via e-mail (ouida_pieterse@yahoo.com) for enquiries.

Ticket prices are P150.00 per ticket (this includes a meal, welcome drinks, bull rides and dancing). Bring your own drinks @ P50 per coolerbox, as there will be no drinks on sale.

Independence Holiday – Change of Dates

Please note, we have received information that Thursday, 29 September, has been declared a holiday. This will mean that school will close on Wednesday, 28 September and not on Thursday, 29 September, as stipulated on our website. Please also note, Monday, 3 October, will now be a normal school day. I apologise for any inconvenience.

Standard 1 Maths Morning

Recently, the Std 1 parents were invited to attend an information morning about maths equipment and games used in Std 1.

Firstly, the parents attended a talk presented by Mrs Stuart and then they proceeded to the classrooms. In each Std 1 class the children were divided into groups and were playing maths games. These games are used to reinforce concepts such as; number value, ordination, bonds, more and less etc. Most of these games can be made with goodies the parents have at home, such as egg boxes and bottle tops.

The children enjoyed playing the games and showing their parents how to play. Many parents joined their children and played the games, having great fun in the process. A fun educational hour was well spent.

Julliard Visit

Recently, Julliard, the School of Dance from New York, visited our school. The Std 7 pupils were lucky enough to be taught by three of their students, Austin, Katy and Sean. They learnt to pli  , first to fifth positions for both arms and legs, pirouettes and many other exercises. They also learnt classical and contemporary ballet. For most of them, it was the first time learning ballet and it was quite a challenge. The boys soon realised how strong you have to be to do ballet and that it is something that both boys and girls can do! They even had Mrs Schaerer refreshing her ballet moves! The students also spent time discussing what it is like to go to Julliard and emphasised how important it is for us to follow our dreams.

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to Anusha Rao on her appointment as a prefect.

Pirates of the Curry Bean

Thornhill community had the pleasure of viewing Pirates of the Curry Bean. At first entering the hall, the atmosphere was set for adventure on the high seas with magnificent ships and seascapes, along with seagull calls and compelling music. Lighting captured the fierce storms and gentle swells. The play was a humorous play on words, with exceptional singing and captivating dances. Each actor is worth noting. The pupils performed very well, growing into their roles, and taking on the persona of the characters with passion and confidence. It has been a valuable experience for our young actors. As the end of the production was reached, the audience was left wanting more.

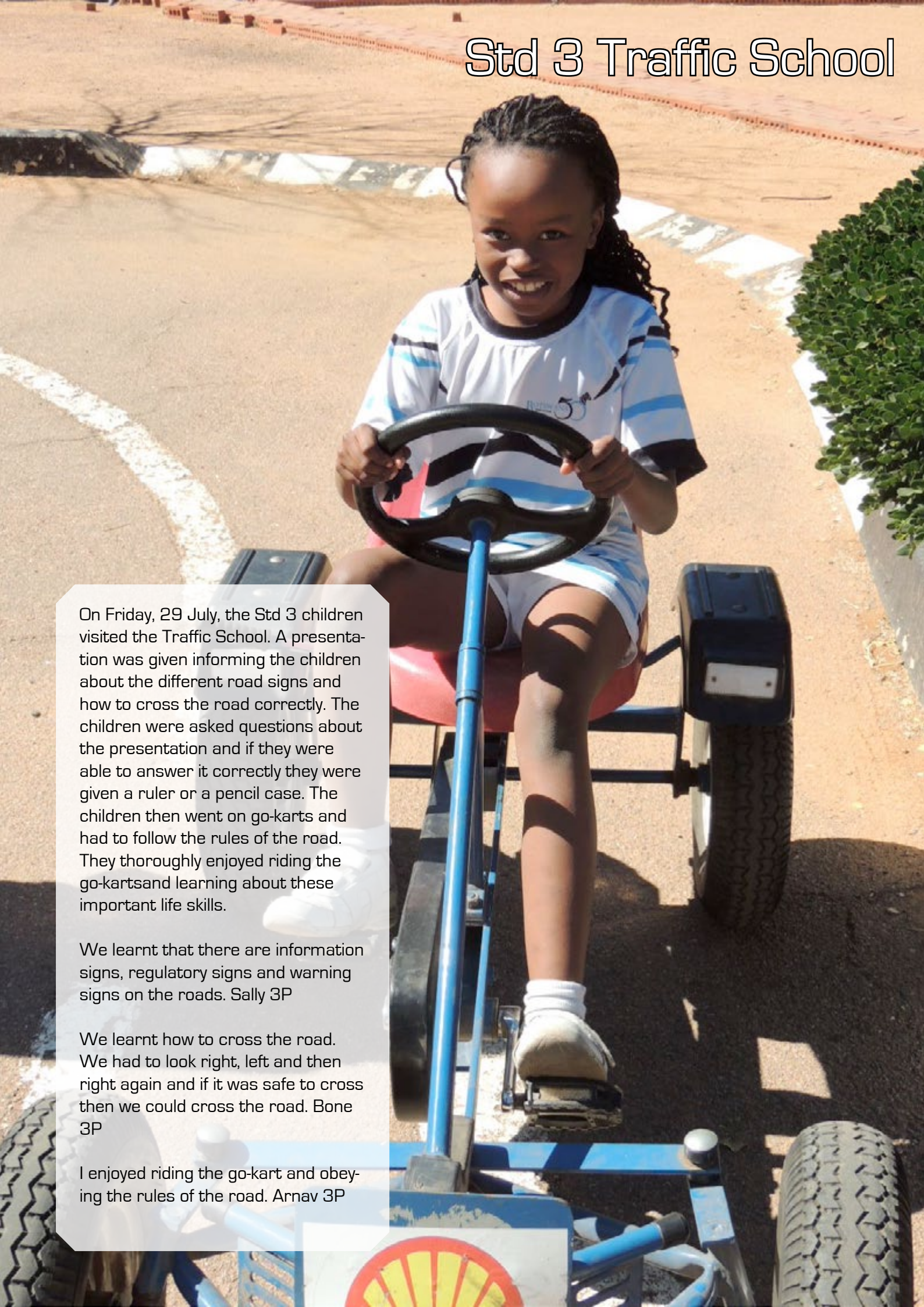
Thornhill's music department needs to be thanked for their tireless, selfless efforts in producing a play so enjoyable to watch, and be part of. Thornhill is left feeling sad that it has all come to an end.

In closing, enjoy a wonderful holiday with your family! To all those travelling, please travel safely and we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday, 13 September.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Std 3 Traffic School




On Friday, 29 July, the Std 3 children visited the Traffic School. A presentation was given informing the children about the different road signs and how to cross the road correctly. The children were asked questions about the presentation and if they were able to answer it correctly they were given a ruler or a pencil case. The children then went on go-karts and had to follow the rules of the road. They thoroughly enjoyed riding the go-karts and learning about these important life skills.

We learnt that there are information signs, regulatory signs and warning signs on the roads. Sally 3P

We learnt how to cross the road. We had to look right, left and then right again and if it was safe to cross then we could cross the road. Bone 3P

I enjoyed riding the go-kart and obeying the rules of the road. Arnav 3P

Pirates of the Curry Bean



Taking on the complete production of the 2016 Thornhill play was a very daunting and challenging task for the Music Department and Sally.

It began with auditions in term 1, when more than 80 children took to the stage. We selected a cast of 50 and it was great to see them grow into their characters as term 2 progressed, culminating in amazing performances over the last few days, when every single child on stage took heed of all the tips and advice we had given them and really excelled. To see it all finally come together over these last 2 weeks and to see the children enjoying themselves so much, made all the sleepless nights worthwhile! From the fearless pirates, to the mop dancing sailors, our rats, monkeys, and natives, our health and safety officers, Captains Redbeard and Cod, Admiral Hornhonker, Stanley, Pearl, Jack and Liza, our narrator Deadeye, the comedy duo of Scuttle and Slack and our very entertaining parrot, the confidence they all had on stage was a result of all their hard work and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them.

Sir Ketumile Masire

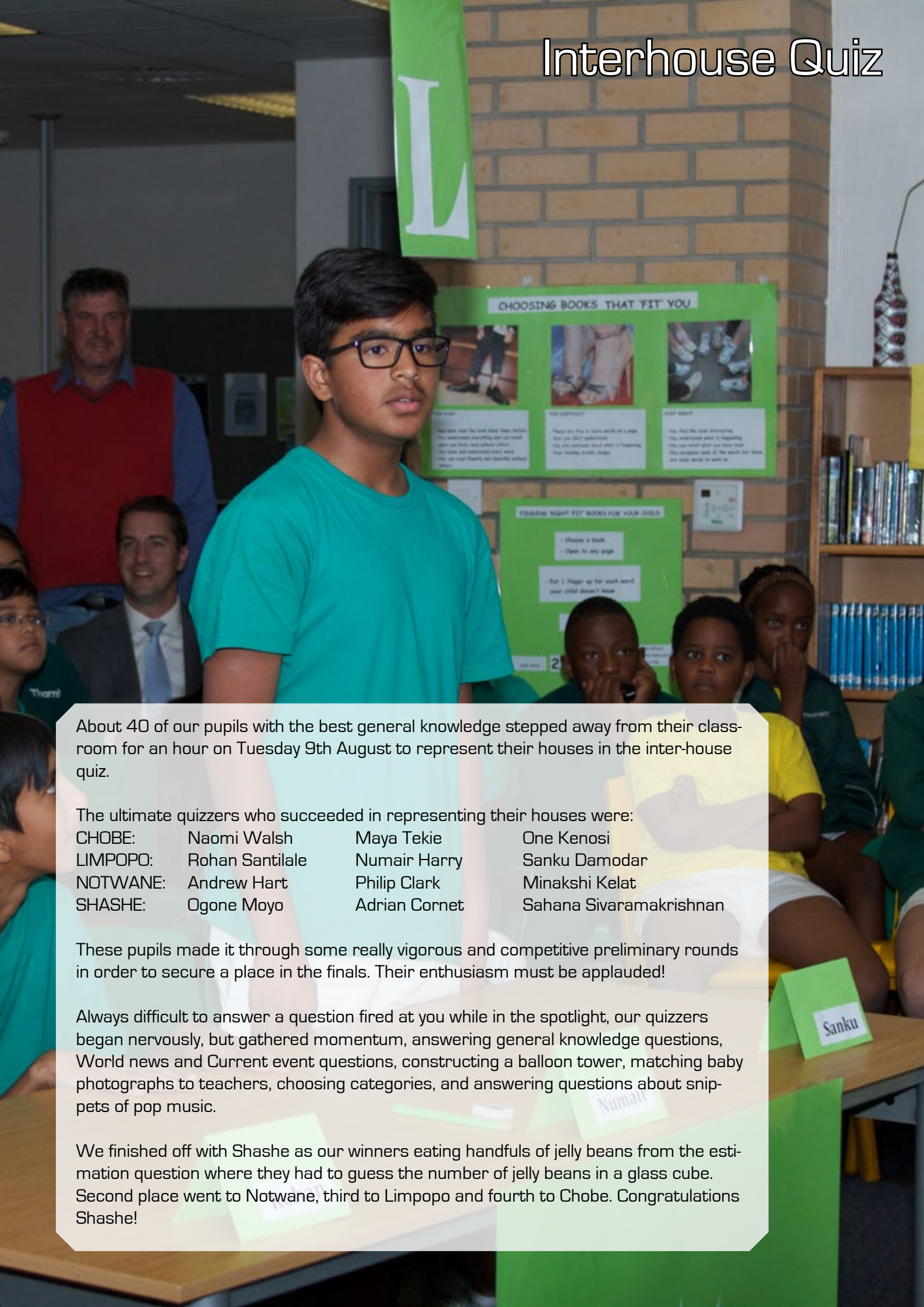
A photograph of Sir Ketumile Masire, an elderly man with a balding head, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is seated and looking slightly to his right with a gentle expression. Behind him, a group of young school children, mostly girls, are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing green school uniforms with white piping. The word 'Thornhill' is visible on the front of one of the jackets. The background is bright and slightly out of focus.

We were all buzzing with excitement when we were told that a special guest would be coming to our school and would be giving us a speech. We entered the hall and to our surprise, saw ex-president, Sir Ketumile Masire, standing before us, looking much younger than his 91 years. He gave us a once in a lifetime speech on his past in Botswana and his presidency. He talked for over an hour, treating us as if we were his own children. I think all the children in the hall walked away with a warm feeling in their hearts and a smile on their faces. If I could say one thing after that speech, it would be, "When can you come again?" Jack 7S

The Former President Masire also spent time with the children from Std 5 to 7, who attend first language Setswana. He interacted and played Setswana Games with them at our Kgotla in school. This will be an experience that the children will never forget!

Former President Masire's visit was organised by our Setswana Department, as part of the Bots50 celebrations. This was such a successful event and we look forward to more in the future.

Interhouse Quiz



About 40 of our pupils with the best general knowledge stepped away from their class-room for an hour on Tuesday 9th August to represent their houses in the inter-house quiz.

The ultimate quizzers who succeeded in representing their houses were:

CHOBE:	Naomi Walsh	Maya Tekie	One Kenosi
LIMPOPO:	Rohan Santilale	Numair Harry	Sanku Damodar
NOTWANE:	Andrew Hart	Philip Clark	Minakshi Kelat
SHASHE:	Ogone Moyo	Adrian Cornet	Sahana Sivaramakrishnan

These pupils made it through some really vigorous and competitive preliminary rounds in order to secure a place in the finals. Their enthusiasm must be applauded!

Always difficult to answer a question fired at you while in the spotlight, our quizzers began nervously, but gathered momentum, answering general knowledge questions, World news and Current event questions, constructing a balloon tower, matching baby photographs to teachers, choosing categories, and answering questions about snip-pets of pop music.

We finished off with Shashe as our winners eating handfuls of jelly beans from the estimation question where they had to guess the number of jelly beans in a glass cube. Second place went to Notwane, third to Limpopo and fourth to Chobe. Congratulations Shashe!

Reception Petting Farm Visit

Excited little people, along with our lunches packed in baskets, hopped onto the school bus on a Tuesday morning. We had a long, exciting bus ride to The Petting Farm in Oodi.

When we arrived, we were greeted by the owner, Lilly, who eagerly asked if we would like to pick up animal poo! A shocked group of children yelled, "no" and "oh yuck!" The adults had a good chuckle at their reaction. We sang 'Old Macdonald had a farm' as we walked to see the animals.

Lilly introduced us to our tour guide, who walked with us and told us interesting facts about the different animals. He took us to the geese first. They were very loud and aggressive and wanted to bite us. We had to stand a distance away from them! We saw many different birds like quails, chickens, turkeys, peacocks and fancy pigeons.

The children touched the chicks, the little hamsters and rabbits. They also experienced petting and feeding real farm animals like the big pig, goats and kids, sheep and lambs, which was a wonderful hands on experience.

The highlight of the trip was the lovely donkey ride on a dusty road around the farm!



Foundation Sports Day

Reception, Standard One and Standard Two children were rearing to go on Friday morning on the 22 July 2016. Knowing that their parents were going to be there to support them was even more exciting. It was important to show that all the practising and preparation for Botswana's 50th birthday would be spectacular!

And it was! The PE department outdid themselves. The field was beautifully laid out with Botswana 50th anniversary emblem, a huge banner, happy birthday posters and fluttering flags. There were Botswana's blue black and white caps laid out for each child to pick up and wear. A map of Botswana was covered in blue, black and white cupcakes for the children to commemorate the auspicious celebration.

The children danced in wearing Botswana 50th T-shirts and settled in their places ready to show their clever control and marching skills. They were outstanding. In cooperation, the music department through Ms Kamwi led the drumming, boom whackers and percussion instruments. It is always remarkable to see 250 little children perform so well together.

With the support of the teachers, the children dispersed to their activity centres and the demonstration of skills commenced. All the children showed their balancing, running, hopping, climbing and even high jump skills. The ball skills included rolling, bouncing and soccer skills. The children performed for the parents and were very happy to work in teams and displayed their skills at every activity.



Orchestra Festival

A young boy with dark hair is shown in profile, focused on playing a violin. He is wearing a white shirt and a green sweater. His hands are positioned on the violin and the bow. In the background, other musicians are visible, including one playing a saxophone. The setting appears to be an indoor music practice room or rehearsal space with music stands and other instruments in the background.

On Thursday, 14 July, the Thornhill Orchestra was invited to participate in an Orchestra Festival hosted by Northside Primary School. After weeks of practice, we all arrived at The Travel Lodge on Thursday morning to practice our Mass and Individual items with Northside School and the Botswana Company Orchestra, with Guest Conductor, Mr David Slater. It was an amazing experience to play with so many musicians and the children performed extremely well.

The Northside Early Year orchestra opened this event in front of a full audience. Thornhill was up next, and had the audience entertained with their well-prepared Mma Ngwane Mpulele, followed by Tjilo and Tango Chacabuco and ended on a high note with the popular, Game of Thrones Theme song. Northside and the Botswana Company Orchestra completed their pieces accordingly.

The evening ended with all the different orchestras playing together in the Mass songs. It was a wonderful experience and the Thornhill Orchestra did extremely well and we are very proud of their performance. Thank you to Northside for inviting us and to all the children for their hard work and dedication to the orchestra.

Std 5 & 6 Planetarium



On Tuesday, 5 July, all the Std 5 and 6 classes were treated to a wonderful morning experiencing being in a planetarium! The planetarium is an enormous dome that is set up in the HMM Hall.

This is very exciting as one feels it is night-time, looking into the starry night sky. We learnt about the Earth and the Sun as well as the many constellations of the galaxy. We also learnt how constellations are viewed differently from the Northern and Southern hemispheres. We now know that Pluto is no longer considered a planet as it is too small. It is fascinating to hear how scientists and astronomers are making new discoveries all the time.

An added interest this year was learning about the International Space Station. Astronauts live here for nine months at a time and need to take their food and everything else they require. It was fascinating to see how they have to be strapped down and how their food and utensils are either velcroed or magnetized to their eating tray so these do not float away. At night they are zipped firmly into sleeping bags and then strapped to the side of the room.

Every year, Sean, our presenter adds new information, keeping us up to date with the latest discoveries. It was an amazing experience for us all.

Soccer

vs Baobab

U9 lost 1 - 2

U11A won 3 - 2

U11B lost 2 - 8

U13A lost 0 - 1

U13B lost 0 - 1

SCSA North versus South Soccer

On the weekend of the 22 and 23 July, the Southern Schools Football teams hosted their Northern counterparts at Westwood School. Thornhill Primary School was well represented in the Southern Squad, contributing four players.

Shane played in goals for the Southern 'B' team, while Brandon, Anthony and Ompilo represented the 'A' team. All four players made vital contributions in the overall Southern victory, and did the school proud. They are not only to be congratulated for their selection, but for the way they conducted themselves both on and off the field.

The results were as follows:

Southern B vs Northern B - 1 all

Southern B vs Northern A - 1 nil to the South

Southern A vs Northern B - 1 all

Southern A vs Northern B - 3 goals to 1 for the South



Netball

vs Baobab

U9 lost 1 - 3
U11A won 5 - 2
U11B lost 2 - 8
U13A won 17 - 3
U13B won 17 - 0

SCSA North versus South Netball

SCSA netball was held on 22nd and 23rd July 2016 at Westwood International School.

Results were as follows:

Friday 22nd July 2016

South A vs North B won 21 - 8

South B vs North A - lost 8 - 18

Saturday 23rd July 2016:

South B vs North B - won 18 - 8

South A vs North A - lost 19 - 20

Overall the South won by 12 points for the first time in 10 years! Well done and congratulations to all involved!



Staff Soccer & Netball

Thornhill vs Botlhale

On Wednesday, 27 July, the Thornhill Staff Football team played a match against Botlhale Staff in front of 30 000 spectators at the Thornhill Stadium.

It was pleasing to note that while the transfer window is still open, there were talent scouts from Manchester United, Real Madrid and Township Rollers amongst the spectators. Our three-pronged strike attack of Mrs Tweed, Mrs Smith and Mrs Price were devastating. Mr S on the wing managed to 'bamboozle' both the opposition and himself with dazzling footwork. Mr Jogee in mid-field showed that he has lost none of his silky skills, or his versatility, by being both a player and referee. In defense, the solid Mr Greaves and the nifty Mr Chetty were commanding in the 1st half. However, in the second half when Mr Greaves or Mr Chetty panicked, which was often, the agility and cat-like reflexes of the Thornhill Keeper, Mr 'Shark Net' Newbery, saved them. The final score was Botlahale 3 Thornhill 5.

- Mr Newberry

PTA versus Staff Soccer & Netball

Recently, we competed in our annual fixture against the PTA. We took to the netball court and were up against a formidable and skilled PTA team. Try as we may, the PTA came out winners on the day.

Once the netball was completed and valuable and much needed stretching was done, we started the soccer. I am happy to say that the tables were reversed and the staff came away with a sound victory.

Cross Country

On the 28 June and 5 July, we ran cross country at Crescent and Thuto Schools respectively.

The Cross Country Team won both of these events, running against 9 other schools. Our runners have had an incredible term, with 17 children from our squad making the Southern Schools Cross Country Team.

At Crescent, the following children came in top three places U8 Rayhan, U9 Marang, U10 Leatile, U11 Lefika, Ryan and Tumo U12 Philip, Shane, Maxine and Michaela, U13 Calvin, Adina and Maxine Tuffek.

At Thuto, the following children came in the top three places U8 Rayhan, U11 Lefika, U12 Shane, Philip and Michaela U13 Adina.

Congratulations to all our runners for an outstanding effort and teamwork keeping the scores low for overall wins for each race and season.

SCSA North versus South Cross Country in Orapa

This was the second time this event was held at this venue. In 2014 the North were convincing winners, however, it was a different story this year. Thornhill had 16 runners in total representing the South. They all did very well running their best and some of our runners managed to gain some top places on what was a tough course with a gradual uphill to the finish line. In the end the North came out on top but the difference in points was marginal.



Southern Schools Selection

We are very proud of the following children who have been selected to represent Southern Botswana – well done and congratulations to all of you!

SCSA Soccer

Anthony
Umphilo
Brandon

SCSA Netball

Tabitha
Natasha
Tara
Opila
Kaylenne

SCSA Cross Country

U8 Girls: Kathryn

U8 Boys: Rayhan
Joshua

U9 Girls: Marang

U10 Girls: Renee

U10 Boys: Leatile

U11 Girls: Megan

U11 Boys: Lefika
Tumo

U12 Girls: Michaela
Abigail

U12 Boys: Shane
Phillip

U13 Girls: Adina
Maxine

U13 Boys: Calvin



BOTSWANA

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August 12 2016
Thornhill ICT Department