

Issue 24 July 23 2014

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

As I sit preparing to write this newsletter it made me think about where we come from and where our children come from - the influences they have in their lives, the guidance people give them, and the love that they receive. It dawned on me that there is nobody who performs this job better than a parent, but being a parent is tough. There is no job in the world more difficult, more tiring and with no monthly pay – only long-term benefits, if the job is done well. However, we do it, we love it and as a father of two myself, I would not want to be anything else. So to all you parents, thank you for what you do for your child: they are all amazing and your love and support is greatly appreciated – even if they do not know it yet!

I came across this tongue-in-cheek job but found many truths in it as well:

PARENT JOB DESCRIPTION

POSITION:

- Mum, Mom, Mommy, Mama, Ma, Dad, Daddy, Dada, Pa, Pop

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Long term, team players needed, for challenging, permanent work in an often-chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organizational skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call.
- Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments! Travel expenses not reimbursed.
- Extensive courier duties also required.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The rest of your life.
- Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs P250.
- Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly.
- Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 kph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf.
- Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets and stuck zippers.
- Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars and coordinate production of multiple homework projects.
- Must have ability to plan and organise social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks.
- Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, an embarrassment the next.
- Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices.
- Must always hope for the best, but be prepared for the worst.
- Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product.
- Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTION:

- None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills, so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:

- None required, unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

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

WAGES AND COMPENSATION:

- Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent.
- When you die, you give them whatever is left.
- The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more.

BENEFITS:

While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life if you play your cards right.

APPLICATION:

For all the PARENTS, in appreciation for everything they do on a daily basis, letting them know they are appreciated for the fabulous job they do... or for anyone thinking of applying for the job.

FOOTNOTE.... THERE IS NO RETIREMENT - EVER!!!

Cancer Civvies:

I would like to thank all the parents and children for their generous participation and support in the above civvies day. The school was filled with pink and the money raised went towards the Journey of Hope.

The Journey of Hope, Botswana, focuses on bringing Breast Cancer awareness to women in Botswana and assist with treatment and care of Breast Cancer Patients.

Mission Objectives for the journey:

- To raise awareness of Breast Cancer to women throughout Botswana
- To empower the women of Botswana with the knowledge that Breast Cancer can be beaten if detected and treated early enough
- To enable, where ever possible, women who lack medical aid and financial resources to undergo treatment for breast cancer
- To collaborate with other organizations working for the same cause. • Attend to selected major cities and outlying areas in Botswana
- Organise fundraising events to support the awareness campaign

This year's ride sees the team leaving Gaborone on Sunday, 10 August from the Grand Palm at 8:30am and travelling straight to the Tuli Block to Moremi Gorge. We are going to cover villages/towns in and around the Moremi Gorge area this year spreading the message of Breast Cancer Awareness. For updates on the ride follow the team on: <https://www.facebook.com/Journey.of.hope.Botswana>

New Council Members:

Congratulations to the following parents who were voted onto the Thornhill Council at the recent AGM:

Mr Jose Xavier

Mr Siphon Ziga

Mr Ignatius Tyolo

Student Achievements

Congratulations to the following children who were selected to represent the south later on this term:

Netball: Sebaga Thipe, Madison Bakkes Bunting and Erin O' Halloran

Soccer: Benjamin Egner, Dale Egner and Tally Tshekiso

PTA Soccer and Netball vs Staff

Recently the 'great challenge' took place and, after 'much' stretching the two teams took to the netball court first. The staff team was in rampant form and Mrs Scoltes and Mrs Graves proved why they are the netball coaches with deft touches and accurate shooting. The staff side ran out winners.

At the completion of the netball, the soccer challenge began. The staff team started off well and quickly went into the lead with an early goal. The PTA equalised just before half time and went into the break one all. The second half saw the staff team take full advantage of their opportunities to run out victors.

It was a great afternoon spent together and well done to all who were brave enough to come out and take part.

Presentation at Assembly by Mr. Matheou – Red Cross

Mr. Matheou heads up the Gaborone branch of the International Committee of the Red Cross. We were privileged to have him take time off from his busy schedule to talk to the school about the important work that the Red Cross does worldwide. He got children to perform a skit showing how a soldier (Henri Dunant) was appalled by the lack of care and concern for the wounded during a conflict, that he took the Swiss flag and created what is today the most recognisable flag and organisation that assists with humanitarian and relief work.

He also told the children how the Red Crescent is the same organisation, doing the same work in Arab countries. Other salient points in his presentation included how the organisation derives most of its funding from sponsors and donations and how both sides in a conflict pause to allow the Red Cross to do their work. Men and women are involved in the Red Cross.

It was an educational and informative presentation that was well received by the entire school.

Mr Jogee

Dates to Diarise

25 July North vs South Soccer & Netball – Broadhurst
26 July North vs South Soccer & Netball – Broadhurst
30 July Athletics - Interschool Track Events at the UB Stadium

I thank you all for your continued support and trust you will continue to enjoy the term.

I Greaves
Headteacher



2014 Africa Youth Games

We were so proud of our ex Thornhill students who were part of the 2014 African Youth Games. Congratulations and well done to the following:

Tara Matija (Netball)*

Kitso Matija (Swimming)

Amantle Mogara (Swimming)

Orefilwe Healy (Rowing)

Refilwe Seema (Rowing)

Eric Sentonga (Basketball)

Andre Van der Merwe (Swim & Triathlon)

He broke his arm 2 weeks before the competition but was the only athlete in the games to be chosen for 2 sports.

Naomi Ruele (Swimming)

She got 2 silver medals in the 50m Free and 50m

Back

* Captain of the Team



St Peter's Blanket Drive



We were blown away by the generosity and kindness shown by the Thornhill community during our 'Winter Warmer Drive!' Mrs Whitfield and the Std 6 children managed to take blankets, jerseys, warm pyjamas etc etc to St Peter's and make many a cold young child smile. The children of St Peter's are so grateful for all the generosity shown by all the parents of Thornhill.

St Peter's visited Thornhill (article further on in the e-News) recently and were dressed in their blue fleeces that were donated to them 2 years ago. It certainly brings much joy and delight to see how much it means to these small children!

Std 4 Picnic to Kolobeng

The standard fours were filled with excitement to go for a picnic at Livingstone Kolobeng in Kumakwane Village. It is the memorial site for David Livingstone, who was a missionary and explorer. The students were excited to see the ruins of the first school, first church and first four-cornered house to be built in Botswana. The tour guide gave detailed information of how the structures were constructed. The students enjoyed listening to interesting facts about events that took place a long time ago, though it was surprising to them that the world of technology was non-existent, even the things we consider as basic nowadays. There was a mixture of laughter and amazement from the students to learn that Mary, the wife of David, would give a baked scone to anyone who attended her school. As a result many people attended school. The day ended with an enjoyable picnic, overlooking beautiful and rocky scenery. Though the students were tired and exhausted, the picnic was a success.

Mrs Masheka



Trinity College Music Exams

On Tuesday, 3 June, a group of very nervous, but excited children sat their Trinity College Music Exams. For many it was their first individual exam and they all performed extremely well. The standard expected is very high and to achieve a pass, you must obtain 60 to 74 %, to achieve a Merit your mark must be between 75 and 86% and a Distinction is 87% and above.

Well done to everyone involved in these exams, the Music Department is very proud of you.

Mrs Price

The complete results were as follows:

Nikhil Iyer	Grade 1 Piano	Pass
Alta Malherbe	Grade 1 Violin	Pass
Siana Brealey	Grade 1 Violin	Pass
Thobo Kentshitswe	Grade 1 Violin	Pass
Clarisa Gonzalez	Grade 1 Violin	Pass
Hannah Britz	Grade 1 Violin	Merit
Diabi Tebogo-Maruping	Grade 2 Recorder	Pass
Nathan Brahmhatt	Grade 2 Recorder	Merit
Lebopo Isaacs	Grade 3 Clarinet	Pass
Lebopo Isaacs	Grade 4 Recorder	Pass
Leon Palframan	Grade 4 Recorder	Merit
Mrs. Price	Grade 8 Piano	Distinction

Reception Parent Morning

It was rather a chilly morning on Friday, 13th June! But that didn't bother the Receptions at all as that morning they all arrived at school warm and snug in their pyjamas!

There was great excitement around as all arrived. Mum and Dad were invited to stay and picnic in the hall on a warm blanket, with some steaming hot chocolate and their breakfast.

After that, the children took their parents to their classrooms. They had made a special sounds game to play with their parents and also read their "Floppy phonics" readers to them.

The children beamed with pride as they shared their knowledge with their even more proud parents!

The morning ended with a special "sing - song" back in the hall and also a special poem for all the Mums and Dads.

Mrs O'Halloran



Std 5 Camp Nelu

This year the Std 5's were able to enjoy their annual camp, at Camp Nelu, situated in the Magaliesberg, during winter. Unfortunately, we could not do the zipline because the water is high in the dam and freezing cold, but we were lucky enough to experience the awesome giant swing!

We woke up at 7:00 am and enjoyed being warm inside, away from the cold morning air. Our exciting activities consisted of riflery and archery in which our aim was tested.

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 and above all, we all thoroughly enjoyed it. 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.

Our lateral thinking abilities were challenged when we had Mission Impossible to conquer. We learnt that teamwork is vital in this task. Low Ropes taught us to trust others to assist us no matter what.

The food was delicious and the facilitators were caring and informative. We all adored the Giant Swing and all of our activities were most interesting. Everybody had a wonderful time and we are most grateful to our teachers for taking us to Camp Nelu and to Camp Nelu for having us, we all really enjoyed it.

Mrs Scales



Netball

vs Crescent

U13B drew 5/5

U13A won 16/6

vs ISSA

U13B lost 7 - 0

U11A lost 7 - 2

U13 Festival at Acacia

won 2, lost 2 & drew 1

U11 Festival at Baobab

won 2, lost 3

vs Legae

U9A lost 9 - 0

U9B lost 3 - 0

U11A lost 3 - 1

U11B lost 7 - 4

U13A won 9 - 6

U13B drew 3 - 3

vs Botlhale

U9 won 7 - 0

U11 lost 12 - 8

U13 won 13 - 5



Soccer

vs Crescent

U9A drew 1 - 1

U11A won 4 - 0

U13B won 5 - 0

*Thabiso scored 4 goals

U13A won 1 - 0

vs ISSA

U9 lost 5 - 1

U11A won 2 - 0

U13B lost 5 - 3

U13 Festival at Acacia

won 3, lost 1 & drew 1

U11 Festival at Baobab

won 2, drew 2, lost 1

vs Legae

U9 won 3 - 2

U11A drew 1 - 1

U11B drew 2 - 2

U13A drew 0 - 0

U13B won 1 - 0

vs Botlhale

U9 won 4 - 2

U11 won 2 - 1

U13 drew 2 - 2





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Thornhill ICT Department