

Issue 34 July 31 2015

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

Schools, as organisations, don't function in isolation. There is a great deal of input from many different sources - both internally and from the wider community. Teaching in today's society is a collaborative act. This means that parents and teachers are both engaged in educating and teaching the same child. In the interests of the education of the pupil, the contact and cooperation between parents and teachers should denote a partnership.

I believe that we at Thornhill are fortunate in these partnerships, but we must not become complacent in this regard. It is in this light that I say thank you to all our mums and dads for supporting in any way, big or small, the daily activities of our school and we hope that it continues throughout the year.

I would like to thank all my staff for their commitment and dedication to the children during the term and for ensuring that the children are always nurtured and taught with so much love and care.

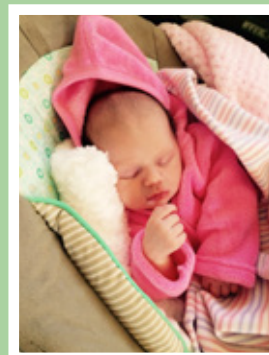
Staffing

I am sad to report that Mr and Mrs Baldwin will be leaving Thornhill at the end of the year, as they will be taking up teaching positions in Zambia. Both Mr and Mrs Baldwin will be sorely missed at Thornhill, but I hope that the next chapter of their lives is filled with much joy and happiness.

Mrs La Grange will be leaving Thornhill at the end of April 2016, as she will be relocating to the UK. Mrs La Grange has been a valuable member of our Physical Education Department, where she has been an integral member of this effective team.

Welcome Addition to the Thornhill Family

I would like to congratulate Mr & Mrs Gibson on the arrival of Riley Drew Gibson, born on 10/07/2015. I know that she will bring much joy and happiness to you both.



Administration Office Times

The School Administration Office will be opened as follows during the holiday:

07/08	Office will close at 11:30
10/08 to 12/08	Office will be open from 09:00 to 13:00
02/09 to 04/09	Office will be open from 10:00 to 14:00
07/09	Office will be open from 08:00 to 15:00

Normal office hours will resume from 08/09 – Finance Office closes at 15:30 and Administration Office closes at 16:00.

School Uniform Shop:

Please make use of the last week of school to purchase any school uniform that your child might need for Term 3. The School Shop will be opened as follows at the beginning of Term 3:

04/09	Shop open from 12:00 to 15:30
07/09	Shop open from 12:00 to 15:30
08/09	Shop open from 12:00 to 15:00
09/09	Shop open from 12:00 to 14:30

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

Pupil's Achievements

Leatile Bakwena attended a recent International Taekwondo Championship where Botswana were placed first overall. Leatile received both a gold and silver medal during this competition. Well done and congratulations, Leatile.

Congratulations and well done to Nikhil Iyer who was selected to represent the Botswana U15 Cricket team, who played three international matches against Namibia in Gaborone recently.

Congratulations to Batsomi Marobela on being selected for the Botswana Tennis Team, which participated in the ITF/CAT Junior African Circuit in Mauritius.

Congratulations and well done to the following children who have been selected to represent Southern Botswana this term:

Cross Country	Marang Mmelesi, Kese Ramsden, Leatile Bakwena, Unami Mosime, Megan Pieterse, Ryan Moir, Lefika Tabulawa, Tumo Matija, Michaela Bradford, Adina Egner, Phillip Clark, Calvin Van Zyl, Alice Denis, Wadza Seitibatso, Kgosi Molefe
Netball	Madison Bakkes Bunting, Mamello Makepe, Nicollette Chetty
Soccer	Farai Rugoyi, Andile Bekker, James Clark

Should your child perform in activities that are not part of the school planned activities then please drop me a mail, so I can record it.

Dates to Diarise before the end of the term

31/07	Student Led Conference from 10:45 to 13:30 Love in a Box Civies Day
01/08	SCSA Cross Country
05/08	Std 7 Presentation on Vultures Std 4 Egypt Day Foundation Civies Day Styd 5,6&7 Concert Auditions
06/08	Fun Sports Day U13A Soccer & Netball versus Staff
07/08	Final Assembly at 09:15

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** 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 hat.

Please ensure that all children return to school at the beginning of the term presented as stated above. I trust that you all enjoy the upcoming holidays with your child and that you get to have some good quality family time! I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday, 8 September.

I Greaves

Headteacher

St Peter's Visit Reception



The Reception children had a very busy morning playing and bonding with the St Peter's orphans recently. The St. Peter's children loved being pushed around the playground on tricycles and it was heartening to see our Reception children really caring and being gentle with these small and less fortunate children. All involved had a very happy morning and the highlight of the visit was warm pies, juice and fruit that were enjoyed by the children.



Std 1 Parents Maths Morning

On a cold June morning, the sounds of excitement could be heard sneaking out of the Std1 classrooms. In the classroom the children were divided into groups and playing games, but the parents were not allowed in yet. Mrs Stuart and Mrs Warwick met with the parents in the hall and discussed the use of Numicon and the importance of playing maths games with their children at home.

Once the talk was finished, the parents were allowed to join the children in the classroom to watch and see what could be done at home to help develop their child's maths skills. The games included Snakes and Ladders, Dominoes, Cards and Egg Box Bingo. The groups rotated and at the beginning the parents watched carefully, but by the end of the session some of the parents had succumbed and joined the children in their games. The games are easily made at home and help with learning number recognition, number value and bonds. These games will also help the busy parents take some time out and spend quality fun time with their children.

The games are played on a weekly basis in class and the number ranges are changed at various stages just to add to the excitement. The children enjoyed the time with their Mum and Dad and we know that these games will help develop each child's skills further.



Std 2 Cultural Village Visit



The Std 2 children visited the Bahurutshe Cultural Village. There was great excitement and the children could not wait to get there. Once we arrived, we were welcomed in the traditional Bahurutshe way, with a visit to the Kgotla. The children met the Chief of the village and listened and participated enthusiastically in a variety of cultural activities.

Marang, 2J, wrote the following report:
We greeted the Chief and the ladies. We learned how to make a hut and we even got to grind sorghum with two large stones. We made pots and hearts out of clay, while others went on a donkey cart for a slow ride to the chickens and goats. We fed the wild chickens and patted the goats. It was time for lunch and we were going home soon. It was the best trip ever!



Planetarium Visit

On Monday, 6 July, all the Std 5 classes were treated to a wonderful morning experience of 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 and that Sirius is the brightest star. 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 with them. It was fascinating to see how they have to be strapped down and how their food and utensils are either velcroed or magnetised 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. It was an amazing experience for us all!



Holy Cross Pre-School



The Std 5 children have been supporting the Holy Cross Pre-School in the Village for a number of years. This entails providing these children whose parents are terminally ill, with Easter Eggs and a party during Term 1, blankets and a party during Term 2 and Christmas gifts and a party during Term 3.

Mrs Graves held a free Zumba Session whereby all who attended made a contribution in the form of a toy, crayons, paper or other useful things that could be used by the school.

Visiting this school makes us all more appreciative of how privileged we are being pupils of Thornhill Primary School. We all enjoy seeing the joy on the children's faces when we present them with their treats and we love playing with them in their playground – their best toys are the used tyres, which we all run round with!



Std 6 Tantebane Trip

On Monday, 25 May, the Std 6 children went on their annual educational outdoor tour to Camp Tantebane outside of Francistown. The Std 6 children were happy and excited about the trip. It was a long, fun filled, six-hour trip up north!

When we finally arrived we were all very happy and could not wait to start the activities. We all had an awesome time and enjoyed all the activities. Here are the ones I enjoyed the most - Canoeing, Climbing the Kopi, Mud Bath, Fishing, Blow Darts and Water Balloon Volleyball. The food was so delicious and we always did a fun prayer before we ate.

The camp was the best I have experienced so far and everyone loved it. I will always remember it for the amazing and awesome atmosphere - a camp with beautiful surroundings, animals and friendly people!

In the end, everyone will miss Camp Tantebane for sure. Everyone will remember the last night as the most emotional. The atmosphere was filled with lots of happiness and sadness - a camp to REMEMBER!

We all learned valuable lessons from camp Tantebane, which is teamwork, communication and cooperation, as the camp motto goes LIVE MORE, LOVE MORE AND LAUGH MORE....

Ria 6C




Marimba Band



On 18 June, the Senior Marimba Band played at Westminster's House for the Queen's Birthday Celebrations. It was an amazing opportunity and we were all excited. We played all of our favorite songs, and the guests enjoyed it immensely. The Marimba Band had a great time and enjoyed the experience. Thank you to the British High Commissioner for inviting us.

Std 7 Adopt Rhino's



During the course of the year, the Std 7's are involved in many fund-raising activities. As a result of these, enough money has been raised for the Std 7 children of 2015 to launch into a new venture. We have "adopted" a mother Black Rhino, Bogolo and her one-year old calf. Our rhinos are resident in the Khama Rhino Sanctuary and our contributions, will ensure that they are safely housed and fed for the next three years. We are proud to be part of Botswana's efforts to conserve these noble creatures and are pleased that our money has gone to this worthy cause.

When we adopted Bogolo, the calf was unnamed and so Std 7 held a competition. Lebopo Isaacs won the competition and the calf was named Kutlwano, which means "Understanding". We hope that we can spread 'understanding' of the need to protect all our rhino.

Movie Night

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On Friday, 26 June, the Std 7 children held a 'Movie Night' for Std 5, 6 and 7. We all gathered together to watch Jim Carey in, "Mr Popper's Penguins". It proved to be a great success. Everyone sat eating their bag of popcorn and sipping on their cool drink, whilst laughing at the antics of Mr Popper attempting to control his unexpected visitors. Fortunately, everything ended well in the movie and all the children went home feeling full and satisfied having spent a light-hearted evening in the company of their friends. A substantial amount of money was raised, which added to our Std 7 fund raising, which contributed to us helping a group of orphaned children in the Ghanzi region.

St Peter's Winter Warmer



This year our Winter Warmer Campaign surpassed all expectations with many warm clothing and blankets being collected from our generous and kind Thornhill community. Our thanks to all who donated so generously, the St Peter's children were very grateful to receive these gifts.

A special thank you must go to the Hussein Family for their very generous donation of blankets, not only for St Peter's, but also for our industrial staff, guards and other school charities.

PTA Sponsored Walk



We recently hosted the annual Sponsored Walk and Polar Bear swim. The temperature dropped considerably for this event, but this did not deter our Thornhill families from coming out in large numbers to take part.

It was wonderful to see all the families walking and exercising together and the PTA and Tuckshop were on hand to cook delicious food. The Tea Garden was a hive of activity and my thanks must be extended to all who donated 'goodies' so generously.

The morning ended with the Polar Bear swim and there were only a few competitors this year, but I think the weather played a major factor in this.

Thank you to all involved in making this event such a success.

The following PTA events are coming up in Term 3: Golf Day – Sunday, 27 September at GGC & PTA Fete – Saturday, 7 November at Thornhill

Library Story Idol's

For many, many years, the history of a culture, even of a town, as well as the stories were passed down by word-of-mouth (also known as "the oral tradition") because first, people could not read or write, and second, paper was non-existent. This is evident throughout the world. The oral tradition preserved the past, as there was no other way to do so at the time.

Besides that, listening to stories is just plain FUN!!

It encourages children to become interested in more stories, and in reading books.

So, we decided to have a story telling competition amongst the Std 5, 6 and 7 pupils. Pupils had to choose and present a story that would be suitable for young children. They had to bear in mind all the factors resulting in successful story telling – like a clear voice, dynamic beginning and eye contact.

Great fun was had preparing and creating props and costumes, as well as practicing the telling of the stories.

The children's oral storytelling was exemplary and some of the winners told their stories in our Foundation assembly. Congratulations to all pupils involved.

Soccer

vs Northside:

U9 lost 1 - 7

U11A lost 1 - 2

U11B won 2 - 1

U13A lost 2 - 4

U13B lost 0 - 1

vs Broadhurst:

U9 won 5 - 2

U11A won 2 - 1

U11B won 2 - 0

U13A won 6 - 0

U13B drew 0 - 0

vs Westwood:

U9 won 7 - 2

U11A drew 0 - 0

U13A lost 1 - 2

vs ISSA:

U11 Boys lost 0 - 4

U9 Boys won 7 - 3

vs Northside:

U9 won 5 - 1

U11A won 5 - 3

U11B won 4 - 1

U13A drew 1 - 1

U13B won 4 - 1

U9A Festival at Broadhurst:

Won 3 drew 3



Netball

vs Northside:

U9A drew 9 - 9
U9B drew 1 - 1
U11A lost 4 - 5
U11B won 2 - 1
U13A lost 5 - 6
U13B won 8 - 5

vs Broadhurst:

U9A won 4 - 1
U11A lost 1 - 4
U11B drew 3 - 3
U13A won 10 - 8
U13B won 10 - 5

vs Westwood:

U13 won 16 - 0
U11 won 9 - 0
U9 won 14 - 0

vs ISSA:

U11 Girls lost 5 - 7
U9 Girls won 2 - 1

vs Northside:

U9A won 5 - 2
U9B drew 0 - 0
U11A drew 4 - 4
U11B won 4 - 3
U13A lost 5 - 6
U13B won 6 - 5

U9A Festival at Broadhurst:

Won 3 drew 2 and lost 1





CELEBRATING



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