

Issue 23 June 02 2014

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

I would like to start this newsletter by extending a particularly warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families who have joined us this term. Thornhill prides itself on being a truly family orientated school and we hope you all feel the sincere warmth of this extended embrace and that your child's time with us will prove to be wholesome, enriching and happy. Welcome back to our existing parents and pupils after the break, the children have certainly returned with typical enthusiasm and energy. We trust the holiday allowed for some blessed, restful, family-focused time away together. As always, the second term promises a full programme, which will offer an array of activities that, by design, are sure to keep everyone on their toes. In this regard, I would direct you to the attached term calendar and encourage you to keep up to date with the numerous happenings.

When I sit down to write a newsletter, I generally try to think of a topic that is current or related to something that has just happened or about to happen. More importantly, I try to write it from the heart. This time is not dissimilar and I would like to pay homage to a special group of people, who in my opinion are the unsung heroes of society and creators of all great leaders in the world, without whom, I know, I personally would not be the man I am today, you would not be the person you are today, and who are paving the way your children will be in the future. Our teachers, hated or loved school – either way, I have no doubt that there are some teachers who will always for the right, or even perhaps for the wrong reasons, remain fondly remembered and have moulded our souls.

A wealthy boss of a large firm who, at a dinner party, criticised the mentality of school teachers. He asked derisively, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided their best option in life was to become a school teacher?" He went on to remind guests what they say about teachers, "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

To stress this point he said to another guest, "You're a teacher, Susan. Be honest. What do you make?" Susan, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make? I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could, and on my best days, I even make them enjoy doing it. I make a C student feel like the winner of the Congressional Medal of Honour and an A student feel like he is destined for greatness beyond his wildest dreams. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of study in absolute silence. You want to know what I make?" she went on, "I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them criticise, constructively. I make them apologise, and mean it. I make them write. I make them read, read, read.

I make them understand that if anyone ever tries to judge you by what you make, you pay no attention to them because they're the ones who just couldn't or wouldn't learn." Susan paused for a moment then continued, "Teachers make EVERY other profession possible.

You want to know what I make? I make a difference. So just what, may I ask, do you make, sir?"

The answer was dead silence.

For me, the joy of being able to assist a child struggling blindly through a mathematical concept, and then visibly see the lights switch on as the mystery and fear of maths dissipates, or working on the off drive in a nets session and then seeing that very same boy hit a beautiful cover drive in a match trumps any personal achievement each and every time. There truly is no more rewarding feeling and no amount of money, which can buy that privilege – it is priceless and exactly the reasons why we became and remain teachers. I thank God every day for giving me these special opportunities, and although whilst being a headmaster, I sadly do not have as many hours or moments as I did whilst I was a class teacher, I do still feel blessed and cherish all the interactions I do still manage to steal!

But, being a teacher is not easy and if it wasn't for the reward we get from the children there is very little other acknowledgement. More often than not as a parent, we will only make contact with a teacher if there is a problem with our child. We must remember, teachers play a critical role in the lives of our children. It takes a lot to give a lot. Patience, understanding and kindness are constantly required to nurture a class full of young minds and personalities. Teachers also play a very important

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role in promoting self-discipline in our children and in establishing guidelines and rules for participating in a classroom or group. Their guidance helps our children develop social skills and become competent in group situations. For many formative years, teachers are one of the most important adults in a child's life and that's why it's important for parents to remember those little, often overlooked qualities that make teachers such special people in our children's lives.

One thing that parents probably don't think about is that the "quality time" teachers spend with our children is just as important to them as it is for parents. Quality time for teachers means teaching. Often teachers are asked to assume a range of clerical, administrative and other school duties that take time away from teaching our children. And so, when you advocate for teachers, advocate for giving teachers the time they need to teach. Look for ways to eliminate non-teaching tasks such as making sure your child's homework is done or asking them to look for lost property.

There is nothing to stop you letting your child's teachers know how much you appreciate them at any time of the year! A quick "thank you" note or email takes a moment to write and send, but the pleasure it gives is enormous. Teachers don't do this for the thank you, but they do go a long way so, on behalf of all my staff, we thank you for giving and trusting us with your child.

Staff News

I would like to welcome Mrs Denton to Thornhill, as she takes up a part time position in our Special Needs Department in the second term. Mrs Denton is no stranger to Thornhill and it is great to have her back. I know she will enjoy her time with us.

Uniform Shop – Change of Opening Days

Please be informed that the Uniform Shop will be open on the following days:

Monday – 12:00 to 14:00
Wednesday – 12:30 to 16:00

The changes will come into effect from the beginning of June 2014. Should you have any queries then please feel free to contact me.

Holiday Work and Upgrades

The PTA agreed to upgrade the area alongside the tennis courts as follows:

- Shading – completed
- Paving next to the tennis court and alongside the toilet block – August holiday
- Astro grass between the above paved areas – August holiday

My thanks and appreciation is extended to the PTA for the hard work, time and dedication to the school.

You will see that we have purchased new benches and tables and these are evident around the school. I hope you make use of these when you wait for your children.

Soccer Friday

We will be starting with 'Soccer Friday' as part of the awareness for the up-and-coming Soccer World Cup starting on Friday, 06 June and ending on Friday, 11 July. Children can come to school wearing any country's soccer shirt. Children, parents and staff are invited to join in and enjoy the following 'Soccer Fridays' with us: 06/06, 13/06, 20/06, 27/06 04/07 and 11/07.

Children can wear their PE shorts with their favourite soccer jersey, and in the event of it being cold, their school tracksuit, fleece or jersey. I look forward to much excitement and fun.

Afternoon Activities

Afternoon activities will start on Monday, 02 June. Please ensure that you are aware of your child's programme. Children must be collected timeously after activities are completed. Children are not allowed to stay at school after their activity and I hope I have your full support with regard to this matter. It is far too cold and dark to leave children unattended at school.

Marking Clothes and Lost Property:

Once again, we issue a plea to all parents to mark all items that come to school. With winter around the corner, lost property remains a huge and unnecessary problem. With a greater sense of responsibility and an awareness of value, I hope to see an improvement in this area. Please check your child's clothing and return any items that do not belong to them to your child's class teacher.

Std 7 News from Term 1

Std 6&7 Vulture Talk

On Monday, 07 April, the Std 6 and 7 children attended a talk by Ms Jenyva Turner, on the importance of conserving vultures. The talk was most informative and the children learned a great deal about the vital role vultures play in our environment. BirdLife Botswana was present and they were most impressed by the interest of the children and were thrilled that so many children joined the society – the budding conservationists of the future! They were also delighted with the cheque that Thornhill handed over to them. This donation was made possible by the efforts of the Std 7s through their fund-raising activities.

Std 7 Lateral Learning Week

The Lateral Learning Week gives the Std 7s an opportunity to explore things beyond their normal curriculum. They were given the chance to develop an awareness of the environment through an excellent talk on the importance of vultures. Their physical and mental well-being was seen to as they were given an introduction to yoga, and different muscles were used through the strenuous but enjoyable Zumba class. Life lessons were learned as they took advice on how to deal with stress. They watched the fascinating development of the foetus and the life of an Aspergers sufferer. An interesting presentation on "toilet etiquette" reminded them of the importance of hygiene. All in all, a great experience was had by everyone.

We would like to thank the following people for giving up their time to share their expertise with the children:

Ms Jenyva Turner, Mrs Addanki, Mrs Britz, Mrs Watt-Pringle and Mrs Graves.

Mrs Schaerer

Belated Happy Mother's Day

I would like to wish all our Thornhill Mothers a happy and memorable Mother's Day! I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic day with those close to you.

Hair

Please may I draw your attention to the following rules 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 cap or school hat. Hairbands, clips or 'scrunchies' should be green, white or black.

I hope you all enjoy this busy term and make the most of the wonderful opportunities that will present themselves. I would like to leave you with these words:

"If it is important enough to you, you will find a way. If it is not, you will find an excuse."

I Greaves

Headteacher

Term 2 Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Time	Place
JUNE				
Week 4				
Mon	02	Afternoon Activities Start Std 5 CIE Exam Week Trinity Music Examination Practice	TBC	HMM Hall
Tues	03	Std 4G Picnic at Livingstone Kolobeng Trinity Music Examinations Cross Country	From 11:00 From 13:30	HMM Hall Crescent
Wed	04	Std 4A Picnic at Livingstone Kolobeng Girl Guides – Knitting Project	13:30	Mokolodi
Thurs.	05	Std 4F Picnic at Livingstone Kolobeng		
Fri	06	Soccer Friday – Whole School		Francistown
Sat	07	U13 Soccer and Netball Festival Soccer and Netball - U11 ISSA Fixture	TBC TBC	Acacia Thornhill
Week 5				
Mon	09			
Tues	10	Std 5 Outdoor Excursion Leaves for Camp Nelu (RSA) Cross Country	From 13:30	Legae
Wed	11	U9 B&C Soccer and Netball Tournament	From 13:30	Northside
Thurs.	12	Soccer and Netball vs Crescent	From 13:30	TBC
Fri	13	Std 5 Outdoor Excursion Returns From Camp Nelu Soccer & Netball vs PTA Soccer Friday – Whole School	TBC	Thornhill
Sat	14	U11 Soccer and Netball Festival	TBC	Baobab
Week 6				
Mon	16	Std 6&7 Exam Week Begins		
Tues	17	Prefects Tea Cross Country Std 3&4 Concert	10:15 From 13:30 18:00	TWR Thornhill HMM Hall
Wed	18	Std 2E Trip to the Cultural Village U9A Soccer and Netball Festival Std 3&4 Concert	From 13:30 18:00	Broadhurst HMM Hall
Thurs.	19	Std 2P Trip to the Cultural Village Std 7 Merit Tea Soccer and Netball vs Legae Council AGM	10:15 From 13:30 18:00	HMM Hall TBC HMM Hall
Fri	20	Std 2J Trip to the Cultural Village Soccer Friday – Whole School		
Sat	21	SCSA - U13 Soccer and Netball Trials	TBC	Northside
Week 7				
Mon	23	Athletics – Interhouse Field Events	TBC	Thornhill
Tues	24	Cross Country Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 1	From 13:00 12:30 – 13:30	Raserura Library/Reception
Wed	25	Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 2 U9 B&C Soccer and Netball Tournament	12:30 – 13:30 From 13:30	Library/Reception Baobab
Thurs.	26	Std 3 Visit the BSPCA Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 3 Soccer and Netball vs Bothale	12:30 – 13:30 From 13:30	Library/Reception TBC
Fri	27	Soccer Friday – Whole School		

Week 8				
Mon	30	School Holiday		
JULY				
Tues	01	Public Holiday - Sir Seretse Khama Day		
Wed	02	Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 4 Sunbeams & Cubs – My Granny and I Girl Guides – Bob a Job	12:30 – 13:30 13:30 13:30	Library/Reception HMM Hall
Thurs.	03	Planetarium Visit – Std 5& 6 Athletics – Long / Middle Distance Track Finals Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 5 Soccer and Netball vs Dayspring	TBC 11:45 – 12:45 12:30 – 13:30 From 13:30	HMM Hall Thornhill Library/Reception TBC
Fri	04	Soccer Friday – Foundation Phase Athletics – Interhouse Track Events Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 6 Movie Night – Std 5,6&7	10:00 12:30 – 13:30 18:00 – 20:00	Thornhill Library/Reception HMM Hall
Sat	05	Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 7 Reception 2015 Assessment – Session 8 Falcon College (Zim) Entrance Testing SCSA – U13 Soccer and Netball Practice U8 Wimpy Soccer and Netball Festival	08:30 – 09:30 10:00 – 11:00 TBC TBC TBC	Library/Reception Library/Reception HMM Hall Broadhurst Northside
Week 9				
Mon	07	School Photograph Week		
Tues	08	Cross Country	From 13:30	Acacia
Wed	09	U9 B&C Soccer and Netball Festival	TBC	Thornhill
Thurs.	10	Soccer and Netball vs Northside	From 13:30	TBC
Fri	11	Soccer Friday – Whole School SCSA – U13 Soccer and Netball Practice	14:00	Northside
Sat	12	PTA - Sponsored Walk & Polar Bear Swim	From 09:00	Thornhill
Week 10				
Mon	14			
Tues	15	Foundation Sports Day	10:00	Thornhill
Wed	16	Athletics – SCSA Interschool Field Events	TBC	Crescent
Thurs.	17	All Reception 2015 Offers Finalised Thrift Shop Sale Soccer and Netball vs Acacia	12:00 – 13:15 From 13:30	Uniform Shop TBC
Fri	18	Std 6 Climb Kagle Hill Reports to Parents	TBC	
Week 11				
Mon	21	Public Holiday – President’s Day		
Tues	22	Public Holiday – President’s Day Holiday		
Wed	23	Student Led Conference	10:45 to 13:45	Thornhill
Thurs	24	Reception S to Visit Young Chefs Afternoon Activities Finish Std 3F Shopping Soccer and Netball vs Baobab	From 12:00 From 13:30	TBC
Fri	25	North vs South – Soccer and Netball Civvies Day – Collection for ‘Love in a Box’ Initiative	TBC	Broadhurst
Sat	26	North vs South – Soccer and Netball	TBC	Broadhurst

Week 12				
Mon	28	Reception H to Visit Young Chefs		
Tues	29	Reception C to Visit Young Chefs Prefetes Tea Community Service – Std 6 to Visit St Peter’s	10:15 13:00	TWR St Peter’s
Wed	30	Athletics – SCSA Interschool Track Events	TBC	UB Stadium
Thurs.	31	Reception R to Visit Young Chefs Std 7 Merit Tea	10:15	HMM Hall
AUGUST				
Fri	01	Std 3 Visit the Flying Mission Thornhill Production – Dress Rehearsal (Foundations)	10:00	HMM Hall
Sat	02	North vs South – Cross Country	TBC	Orapa
Week 13				
Mon	04	Std 7 Lateral Learning Week		
Tues	05	Std 1B Visit to the Bakery Thornhill Production	18:30	HMM Hall
Wed	06	Std 1K Visit to the Bakery Fun Sports Day – Std 3 to 7 U13 Soccer and Netball vs Staff Girl Guides – Nature Expedition Thornhill Production	09:00 10:45 13:30 18:30	School Field Sanitas HMM Hall
Thurs	07	Std 1T Visit to the Bakery Administration Office closes at 13:00		
Fri	08	Assembly for the whole school School Closes at 10.00	09.15	

TERM 2	
Tuesday, 13 May 2014 to Friday, 08 August 2014	
<i>Thursday 29/05</i>	<i>Ascension Day</i>
<i>Monday 30/06</i>	<i>School Holiday</i>
<i>Tuesday 01/07</i>	<i>Sir Seretse Khama Day</i>
<i>Monday 21/07</i>	<i>President’s Day</i>
<i>Tuesday 22/07</i>	<i>President’s Day Holiday</i>
TERM 3	
Tuesday, 09 September 2014 to Friday, 05 December 2014	
<i>Monday 29/09</i>	<i>School Holiday</i>
<i>Tuesday 30/09</i>	<i>Botswana Day</i>
<i>Wednesday 01/10</i>	<i>Public Holiday</i>
<i>Friday 31/10</i>	<i>Mid Term Break</i>
<i>Monday 03/11</i>	<i>Mid Term Break</i>

Important Information for all Parents

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Wanting to view photographs of the School Events

Then visit our Flickr site by typing in: www.flickr.com/photos/thornhillprimary

Please note, certain events and dates might change during the course of the term. If this occurs, all parents will receive due notice of the change.



Std 3 & 4 Concert

17 & 18 June 2014

HMM Hall at 1800hrs (Tickets P10 each)

Thornhill Primary School