

Issue 26 September 19 2014

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Parents and Pupils

The term has started at the proverbial gallop and, from what I have seen, the children have returned full of energy and enthusiasm ready to bring the curtain down on the 2014 academic year. As always, we have a full programme of events, activities and happenings that are bound to affect all of you at least some of the time. In this regard, I would alert you to the third term calendar and ask that you diarise well in advance all that has a direct bearing on you and your child.

'I CAN because I CARE', is the theme in this eNewsletter. The emphasis on the word CARE is an important one as it will help us to drive home to the children that, and here the old adage rings true, without a will there won't be a way. To this end, we are making every effort to encourage the children to direct their efforts at looking after their homes and their school. Picking up litter, switching off lights, or turning off taps as every little bit helps. Looking after and preserving our environment is going to take a meaningful and deliberate effort from everyone and a special form of caring – and for the children one of the best places to start is right here at Thornhill.

An article on the subject of 'Nelson Mandela's 67 minute Challenge' was brought to my attention. The following paragraph caught my eye:  
"... But this isn't about 'doing our bit'. It also isn't about having to make excuses, or feeling 'guilted' into action. It's about a fundamental change in how we view the world around us. It's about recognising that in order to live the life we wish for our children and us, we have to – by absolute necessity – work consistently to improve the communities in which we live. Not just on one day – all year round. It is about agreeing that our prophesies of doom-and-gloom will almost certainly come true unless each of us participates in the solution."

## Term 3 Curriculum Information

All parents will have received a Term 3 curriculum information booklet. Please read through and familiarise yourself with the information. I trust the document will help you understand the curriculum requirements, so that you can provide support for your child.

## Withdrawal of Children from Thornhill

If your child will be leaving Thornhill at the end of the year, please ensure I am advised, in writing, as soon as possible. School policy requires and remains a terms notice for any leavers.

## Sponsored Walk

The Sponsored Walk prize giving took place at the final assembly last term. An amazing P132 000 was raised during this event and the PTA would like to thank the entire Thornhill Community for their continued support and wonderful generosity.

Due to the fact that we raised more than P90 000 and that I lost my bet with the children, I duly changed the colour of my hair (what was evident after 'substantial' growing) during the first week of term 3 to red! This chased away many potential parents, staff and children alike! Friday's assembly (in week 1) saw me shave it all off much to the delight of my wife and children.



## Lost Property

Another plea to parents to make sure that all your child's school clothing, sports kit and personal belongings are legibly and clearly marked. 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.

**Register for eNews and SMS Alerts**

Type in: [www.thornhillprimary.ac.bw/datacollection.html](http://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](http://thornhillprimary.wordpress.com)

## Afternoon Activities

Afternoon activities start on Monday 22 September. Please ensure that you are aware of your child's programme. It remains a concern how many children are left unattended after school waiting for parents to collect them from school. I would like to remind parents that it is your responsibility to be on time. A member of the senior and middle management are on duty until 17h00, Monday to Thursday.

House Points Trophy:

The end of Term 2 saw Shashe walk away with the honours, followed closely by Chobe, Notwane and Limpopo respectively.

## Pupil Achievements

Asmita, Anam, Akofang and Sai have raised P6 000 toward rhino conservation. Well done on this fantastic initiative girls!

A big thank you to everyone who made an effort and encouraged the Kingsley Holgate Rhino Art project! We collected 346 beautiful art pieces to send off overseas and P2 200 to sponsor a rural school to do the same.

## Thornhill Rhino Rangers

The Thornhill Rhino Rangers have been very busy and active in raising funds and awareness for rhino conservation of late. They recently were involved in the Mokolodi Fete and raised an amazing P6 200. They have set their target on P40 000 this year and will be hard at work this term selling raffle tickets and working at the various fairs.

The rangers have donated education material to the value of P10 000 to Khama Rhino Sanctuary and we are very proud of all those children and families involved.

I was disappointed by the number of children absent on the last day of the second term. Even though the last day of the term is a short day, it is still regarded as a school day and I would appeal to parents to respect this and ensure that their children attend school. Should your child be absent from school or require to miss school at any stage during the term, then policy is that a letter is written and addressed to the Headteacher. I look forward to your cooperation in future.

I look forward to seeing you all supporting your children during the term.

Before I sign off on this newsletter, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish our Std 7 children good luck for a successful last term at primary school. They have reached this milestone at Thornhill and I trust they will make the most of every day that is left here at Thornhill. I hope they realise the wonderful opportunity they have before them and relish every moment.

**"Some people come into our lives and quietly go. Others stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never the same".**

**I Greaves**

Headteacher

# Fun Sports Day

This event took place at the end of last term and the children had great fun and enjoyed the activities on offer. Results were as follows and well done to all who participated:

- 1 Shashe
- 2 Chobe
- 3 Notwane
- 4 Limpopo



# Maths Olympiad



On Friday 12 September, Std 5, 6 and 7 pupils were selected from each class to represent their respective Houses in a Maths Olympiad, held in the HMM Hall.

The teachers from each standard set challenging lateral thinking problems to be solved. Each group was given only 10 minutes in which to solve the given problem. Groups who completed the set task within the time could increase their score by solving a Bonus problem.

Everyone had a great deal of fun. The results were:

Std 5	Shashe
Std 6	Shashe
Std 7	Shashe and Chobe

Well done to all the children involved in this challenge.

Mrs Vinen

# Holiday Upgrades



The following upgrades and maintenance was performed during the last holiday:

- Replacing the paving next to the tennis courts
- Laying synthetic grass in the area next to the tennis courts
- Painting of the blocks in general
- Refurbishing the stage in the HMM Hall
- New flooring in the Foundation Hall
- Top soil and fertilizer on the field



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Thornhill ICT Department