

Issue 36 December 04 2015

# Thornhill enews



# Dear Parents and Pupils

This term is always a very busy time for the teachers, parents and pupils. It is a time for us all to reflect on what has been achieved and whether these achievements are to our satisfaction. It is also a time of joy when we see how each child has developed and grown.

## Leavers

In keeping with every other year, the Class of 2015 leavers has touched the life of our school in their own really special, highly energetic and remarkably talented way. From the classroom and the sports fields to the cultural pursuits and their areas of leadership and service, they have worked hard to stake their claim as a senior class above the norm. Their many and varied achievements and awards certainly bear testimony to their praiseworthy successes and to a legacy that will prove to be both significant and long lasting. The children have gelled together well as a group and have developed relationships that will hopefully stand the test of time. Well done to each and every single one of you. I am confident that you will go on to your senior schools ready and able to make a difference, to play your part and to build on the foundations that have been laid here at Thornhill over the years. I have no doubt that down the road, you will be noticed and looked up to as young leaders of character, integrity and principle. God speed as you take on the next chapter of your life.

To the many parents leaving, we shall miss you too, and wish you well. Thank you for entrusting your children to us for these IMPORTANT years and for your support.

## Thank You

Thank you to all parents, who have contributed to the many collections this term. You have shown your generosity and unfailing kindness to the children of St Peter's and the Std 6 children were able to deliver gifts to every child.

You gave willingly and generously to our Estate staff collection to thank these men and women for what they do on a daily basis for our children and school.

You supported the 'Save the Rhino' campaign and ensured that we gave a substantial amount of money to the well being and caring of our rhinos.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and generosity and hope that you are all blessed abundantly.

## French DELF Examination

Congratulations to the following students who were brave enough to go beyond the normal school French curriculum and take up an examination with the Ministry of Education of France. Adrian Cornet sat and passed with merit, in his DELF A2 level. Nikhil Iyer (passed with merit), Nathan Brahmhatt, Joseph Bile and Silas Charama sat and passed their DELF A1 level. We are very proud of their achievement.

Looking back on the year, I can confidently say it has been challenging, rewarding and successful in all spheres. Schools do not function in isolation or in a vacuum. In order for schools, as organisations, to be successful, a team effort is required. It is in this vein that I would like to thank all our parents and friends of Thornhill for their continued support and all the extra effort put in, for both the children and the school.

**I Greaves**

Headteacher



# 50th Anniversary Celebration

Thornhill celebrated its 50th Anniversary at a function held at the Avani Hotel. Past pupils, past and present staff members, parents and friends of Thornhill were all invited to mark the 50 years of Education Thornhill has offered the Gaborone community.

The enthusiastic and lively Thornhill Marimba Band, a welcome drink and a small memento of the evening greeted guests on arrival.

A magnificent projection of photographs taken throughout the years and a photographic display of Thornhill through the ages brought many fond recollections and exclamations of how young we all looked back then. A selection of Art contributed by our present pupils was also on display.

Ex-Headmistress, from 1983 to 1993, Bernie Mullen, made an entertaining and amusing speaker and served to underline how very far Thornhill has progressed since its inception in 1965. Her hilarious tales of young Gaborone brought back many fond memories of life then.

The Honourable Tshekedi Khama, proposed a toast to the school, acknowledged the enormous contribution that Thornhill has made to the development of Botswana, and amused those present with tales of his exploits as a young boy at Thornhill.

The evening proceeded with much fun and laughter and those present, enjoyed reminiscing & camaraderie. The fun photographs taken in the 'photo booth,' will remain to tell many a story in the years to come, as we celebrated 50 wonderful years of Education in Botswana.

Congratulations Thornhill on achieving this milestone and best wishes for the next 50 years.





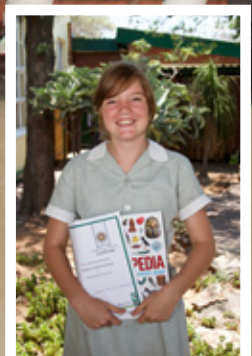
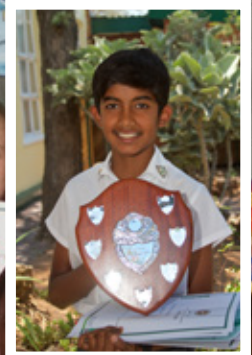
# Prize Giving



The Standard 4 and 5, and 6 and 7 Prize Givings were well attended and Mr Justice Dipeba was our Guest of Honour. Both events went off very well and the many prize winners were very proud of their achievements. Well done and congratulations to all involved and especially to those who, through hard work and determination, were acknowledged.

Major Prize Winners in Standard 7 were as follows:

Bruce Blewett – Lebopo Isaacs  
Greaves Fellowship Trophy – Nikhil Iyer  
Dylan Petyt Dux Trophy – Lebopo Isaacs  
Sportswoman of the Year – Madison Bakkes-Bunting  
Sportsman of the Year – James Clark





# Std 4 Assembly



The Std 4's entertained the school with energetic dances performed by Mrs Graves's Mixed Style Dance Group and a 'Fashion Show' with a difference.

The theme for the Mixed Style Dance Group was "Dances From Around The World" and we travelled to countries like America to see what a traditional country line dance looks like and France where the ever-popular Can-Can originated.

One of the topics that we cover during the third term in Std 4 is "Caring for our Environment" and we look at the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling our waste. The Std 4 children were then challenged to design an outfit or item of clothing made exclusively from recycled materials. Great fun was had by all in the designing of costumes and we presented the school with a unique look at what future fashion might be like.





# A Toast to the Year

Our Orchestra ended off 2015 in style with their "Toast to the Year" concert.

The evening started perfectly, when the area outside the hall was transformed into a beautiful venue for drinks and snacks and our Senior Marimba Band provided excellent entertainment.

The concert was a wonderful showcase of talent, with solos from our very own Adrian, Lebopo, Andrew, Leungo and Kaiyah, as well as our Music Department and various invited guests, who added tremendous value to the evening and gave our children something to aspire to.

Our Standard 2 girls were also a huge asset to the show and sang beautifully along with some of our choir children.

The orchestra, which has grown considerably in size over the past couple of years, performed very well and there was also a special tribute to the Standard 7 children in our Orchestra, who will be leaving at the end of the week and will be sorely missed.

Mr David Slater, our guest conductor for the evening, definitely brought the best out of our children, and the finale, "Flying Free" was a very special performance and a fantastic way to round off both the evening and the year.





# Ko Bethlehemema

All enjoyed a magical evening recently, when the Foundation phase children performed Ko Betlehema.

What a wonderful way to celebrate Thornhill's 50th anniversary. The pool sparkled, the coloured lights set the African theme and the children rose to the occasion again and sang like angels.

The story was told by various narrators in Standard Two and was acted out by all the Foundation phase children. The show was thoroughly enjoyed by all, both children and adults. There was no better setting than around the swimming pool with floating candle stars and angels all around.

A big thank you goes to Mrs. Stuart for coordinating and organising the play, as well as the music staff for all the effort they put into the play and for making sure all the songs were learnt in time. The biggest congratulation goes to all the children for performing so well. What a wonderful way to bring in the Christmas cheer with the children, parents, extended families and friends.



# 50 Year Time Capsule



As part of the 50 year celebrations, it was decided to collect items from 2015 and put them in a "Time Capsule" to be opened in 10 year's time. This will be kept in the Archives until then.

The contents of the "Capsule" were revealed to the entire upper school on the 16 October. Amongst the items were: a Standard 5 diary, the Prospectus for 2015, videos of the Foundation Sports' Day of the Music Concert and the Sponsored Walk. Posters advertising these events are also there to be seen in 2025!

Items of the present school uniform such as: a fleece, tracksuit, dress, shorts, swimming costumes and a hat are also there for the future generation to remember.

The Standard 7's have all signed a shirt and have written poems about Thornhill 2015. A recorder is also something all children will have "fond" memories of, while at Thornhill – we wonder whether in 2025 all pupils will still be playing the recorder – we certainly hope so and that the wonderful Music Department will still be nurturing Music at Thornhill.

Thoughts pupils have had about 2025:

Will we all have iPad's? Or something else?  
Will work be emailed instead of having text books?  
Will we all have kindles instead of going to the library?  
Will we still have diaries?

Many thoughts about Thornhill 2025 have been passing through the minds of the Thornhill Community. What will Thornhill be like in 2025? Will you be here when the "Time Capsule" is opened?



# Std 1 Visit to the Museum

Two lines of quietly excited Standard 1 children made their way into the National Museum. The first exhibit was on fossils and humanoid remains. The class was very excited to find a fossil of a dinosaur claw and another of owl droppings.

The children saw exhibits on Baswara life, life on the Kgalagadi Pans and in the Okavango Swamps. I think the exhibits that excited them most were of the animals especially the Cape Vultures from Otse and the lions.

The children asked lots of questions, but the one they kept asking was "Where are the dinosaurs?" The children enjoyed the outing and a lot of them said that they would like to go back and have another look. So parents, here is an activity for the holidays!





# U11 Softball

## Vs Northside

U13 Girls won 8 - 5

U13 Boys won 11 - 1

U11 Boys lost 11 - 7

U11 Girls won 9 - 1

## Vs Westwood

U13 Boys won 15 - 6

U11 Girls won 26 - 3

U11 Boys won 12 - 4

## Vs Acacia

U11 Girls won 20 - 8

U11 Boys won 18 - 8

U13 Girls won 30 - 7

U13 Boys won 22 - 10





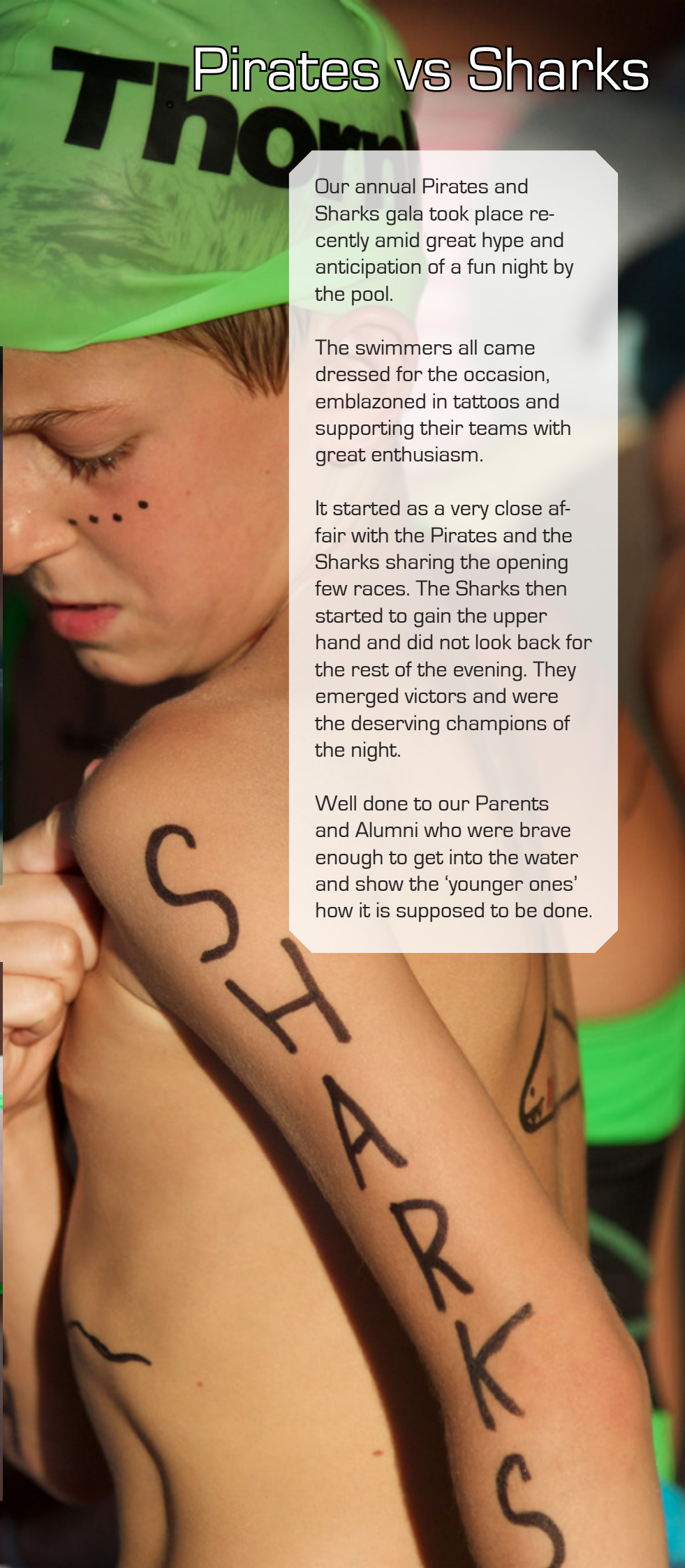
# Pirates vs Sharks

Our annual Pirates and Sharks gala took place recently amid great hype and anticipation of a fun night by the pool.

The swimmers all came dressed for the occasion, emblazoned in tattoos and supporting their teams with great enthusiasm.

It started as a very close affair with the Pirates and the Sharks sharing the opening few races. The Sharks then started to gain the upper hand and did not look back for the rest of the evening. They emerged victors and were the deserving champions of the night.

Well done to our Parents and Alumni who were brave enough to get into the water and show the 'younger ones' how it is supposed to be done.





# Tennis



The Thornhill Tennis Championships were played as a knockout tournament. For some, this was their first time to participate in this type of tournament. All U11 and U13 team players, regardless of their age were able to enter and fight for the position of 'top' boy and girl in the school. There was an excellent display of skill and determination. This year, we also had a good number of players competing for the girls' title and the final was a very closely contested battle. Megan Freeman was runner up and Abigail Tuffek, made history once again by being the youngest player to win this title and trophy.

In the Boys' section, the runner up was Shane Tapera, who lost 6-3 in the final. Silas Charama was the deserved winner, winning his third title. The boys displayed tennis of an exceptionally high level! Well done to all who participated.





# Basketball

Vs Dayspring

U13 Boys won 6 - 2

U13 Girls won 22 - 0

Vs Crescent

U11 boys won 19 - 1

U11 girls won 28 - 4





# Chess

## Southern Chops Open Chess Championship

On Saturday, 21 November 2015, 9 members of the Thornhill Chess Team took part in the Southern Chops Open Chess Championships. 32 boys and 13 girls from six different schools participated in the tournament. The tournament was played over 7 rounds and I am very pleased to report that the Thornhill children did really well. Kalidas Rayirath won the boys' section and was awarded a gold medal. Theo Molokwane came second and was awarded a silver medal. In the girls' section Apele Butale came second and was awarded a silver medal and her sister, Wathobo Butale came third and got a bronze medal. The other players that took part in the tournament were Ahmed Ali Hussain, Advait Panicker, Tumo Matija, Letang Kereng and Sharan Velambath.





CELEBRATING



1965 - 2015

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December 04 2015  
Thornhill ICT Department