

Issue 27 October 30 2014

Thornhill enews



Dear Parents and Pupils

When you read this article there will be less than 30 school days left of the 2014 academic year. This year seems to have flown by in a flash and November holds many events and functions, as we head down the final straight.

What makes our children successful

I ask the question, "What is it that makes us, as parents, periodically oblivious to the myriad of factors that play into our children's lives, AND the lives of the other children around them?" In other words, it is so easy to become blinkered and one-dimensional in interpreting the experiences of our children. Yet, it is our heart's desire to prepare them for the time when they will have to stand on their own two feet, receive praise and handle the knocks.

If I may say so and perhaps admit myself, I think we have tended to become a society of parents that is generally unable, in many situations, to differentiate between the challenges best left to our children to solve and those where our intervention will be of long term value to the child. I'm in the very fortunate position to see the growth and development of so many individuals, and I have to say that whilst there are a few influencing factors, there is a very definite common denominator with those children who are confident, self assured and strong in their identity.

In my experience, this would be the encouragement of problem solving as opposed to problem fixing. If I use the analogy of a hatchling bird, having to struggle to free itself from the confines of the egg-shell, but in so doing, strengthening itself for immediate survival. The mother bird has every opportunity to step in and remove the shell and "help" the hatchling, but knows that it would be denying a growth opportunity.

Over the years, I've seen the excellent survival rate of those who are "left" to problem solve. The tough situations are of course when we feel sorry for the child. (I've left my books at home). May I suggest that the pride that will well up in the long run having seen a strong, self assured individual emerge, will way surpass that achieved by a short term solution. The author Danny Silk calls it, "Loving your child on purpose", others call it, "tough love". I believe it works!

Staffing

It is with a sad heart that we will bid farewell to Mrs O'Halloran, who will be relocating to Graaff Reinet in South Africa at the end of the year. Mrs O' Halloran has headed up our Reception Unit and has been involved in moulding and nurturing the lives of the new generation of children who start at Thornhill each year. Mrs O' Halloran will be sorely missed, but we know that the next chapter of her life will be filled with happiness and prosperity. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Helen, Peter, Tessa and Erin good luck!

Std 6 Community Service

The Std 6 children have enjoyed a rewarding year with the children of St Peter's in 2014. We have visited them twice each term, we played games, read stories, played chess and did jigsaw puzzles too. We also took treats to share at tea time.

In the winter term they came to play with our Reception children and the Std 6 children helped in the play-ground and helped serve the food.

In November, we are planning a Christmas party for them with party food and presents for all. We are looking forward to this final event where they perform their Nativity play for us.

We are proud of our children and their caring attitude towards our very special friends from St Peter's.

Mrs. Whitfield

Rhino Civvies Day

On Friday, 19 September all the Thornhill students dressed up in Red and Black to represent all the helpless Rhinos in Africa and we all donated P5.00 or more to give to the Rhino Rangers to help save and help all the endangered species. On Rhino Civvies Day, there were so many students who dressed up, and not just to show off their clothes, but also because we all want the next generations to come to see our wonderful animals. Here is a very interesting quote : "Unicorns are real but here they are grey, fat and we call them Rhinos".

Sunniva 7S

Pupil Achievements

Recently, the Std 6 children were involved in revising for their Cambridge examinations and Nikhil 6W produced this piece, which we would like to share with you.

Why Scotland?

Scotland is a beautiful and peaceful country. It is filled with special moments you will never forget. From north to south, it is packed with spectacular sights that will surely take your breath away.

Edinburgh - The Capital

This rather Victorian city has a unique buzz, hard to find anywhere else. As you walk around, you hear the calming sound of a piper playing very traditional Scottish music. There are many guided tour buses, which will take you through the fascinating history of the capital. They will explain, in detail, the facts about every statue to every building.

The Highlands

This wonderful part of the country offers absolutely brilliant views you won't see anywhere else. To enjoy the scenery, a trip by road is recommended. You can explore the legends of Loch-Ness and the rare beauty of Urquhart castle in just 3-4 hours. It is best to take a warm clothes so you don't feel the cold. The snow-capped mountains make an ideal venue for skiing or snowboarding. You can also just have fun in the snow.

Scotland is a really charming place. If you're a keen tourist, this visit is a must. The staggering views and the amount of fun will really steal your heart.



I look forward to you all supporting your children at the up-and-coming events and functions during November. Please note, as we lead into the final run in to the end of the term, that I expect all children to attend school regularly, which includes the last day of school. The final assembly is an important part of the school calendar and one I place a big emphasis on. I trust I have your full support on this matter.


2015 will see Thornhill celebrate its 50th birthday and it is with this in mind that we have a new emblem on our letterhead. We look forward to a wonderful year as we celebrate 50 years of 'World Class' education!

On closing, I leave you with these words:

"Life is not about finding yourself. It is about creating yourself."

I Greaves
Headteacher

Junior Engineers for Africa



The beginning of the term saw a team of Junior Engineers for Africa (JEFA) arrive at Thornhill for their annual visit. The children from Reception to Std 7 all enjoy a wonderful 'hands on' programme with the various facilitators. Together with this, there is an exciting afternoon programme for those interested children.

Here is what Jack 5V had to say about his experience:

Over a week period, the Std 5 children had two morning JEFA lessons. We had lots of fun building catapults with our friends then having cool competitions for massive chocolate bars.

I liked building the cars best of all, then racing them down a ramp. We had one lesson when we built loom bands. It was fun learning how to make cool new designs for the bracelets.

The facilitators were our best friends during that week of fun. We learnt many new things about Lego and I can't wait for next year!



Std 1 Visit to the Dairy



The Std 1 children visited Sally Dairy last week. This is what the children thought:

I liked it when we went into the freezer. I also liked it when they put the stickers on the bottles and when the machine filled the bottles up. Lincoln 1B

I liked it when we got to see all of the bottles wrapped in plastic and put through the packaging machine. I liked it when we went into the freezer. Sally 1B

I liked the machines that put on the lids and filled up the bottles. I liked the packaging machine. Marli 1K

I liked it when they put the juice in the bottles. They used a machine to put the lid on. They put stickers on the bottles. Losika 1K



Std 2 Visit the Game Reserve



The Std 2 children visited the Gaborone Game Reserve this week. A variety of activities were organised and the children thoroughly enjoyed these and participated enthusiastically. The game drive was very exciting and the children stayed focused and were very fortunate to see so many wild animals. Here are a few reports from the children:

I enjoyed the Scavenger hunt because we were very busy looking for so many different things and we had to work in our groups and help each other. Maya 2J

I loved the whole trip because we were learning lots of amazing things and then we went on a Scavenger hunt and we had to find so many interesting things. I also loved the landscape although it was dry. Faiz 2J

I was amazed that the huge anthill was so strong and our group could actually stand on and around it. It is unbelievable that ants actually built it. Mikaela 2J

Marimba Festival

On Saturday, 20 September, 7 schools arrived at Thornhill bright and early to take part in the 2014 Thornhill Marimba Festival. The children from Baobab, Botlhale, Crescent (Lobatse), Kidz Academy (Kanye), Letlhabile, Northside and Thornhill were then mixed into groups and took part in marimba, mbira, drumming and dance workshops throughout the course of the day. All of the teachers and children worked hard, but also had a lot of fun.

Late in the afternoon, the groups all got together to prepare for the public concert in the evening. This concert was a fantastic display of talent and a great way to showcase all that had been learned during the day, as well as providing an opportunity for the individual school marimba bands to perform. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Many thanks to Mr Kamwi, Mr Sibindi, Ms Chabedi, Mr Manzungu, Ms Kamwi, Mrs Chidhau and Mr Dube for the time and effort they put in to running all the workshops, helping the Thornhill Music Department to make the 2014 Marimba Festival such a huge success.
Mrs. Price



Foundation Fun Day

The Foundation Phase Fun Day was held on Friday, 3 October. The Std 7 children were grouped and tasked with thinking up and organising an activity that would:

- challenge participants
- provide fun and entertainment
- include all Foundation Phase children.

The year group responded positively and a variety of activities were arranged to keep the 'little ones' occupied for two hours.

Some of the activities / games included: Tricycle Terror, Scooter Rally, Water War, Rugby Academy, Sponge War, Soccer Challenge, Makeover and many others.

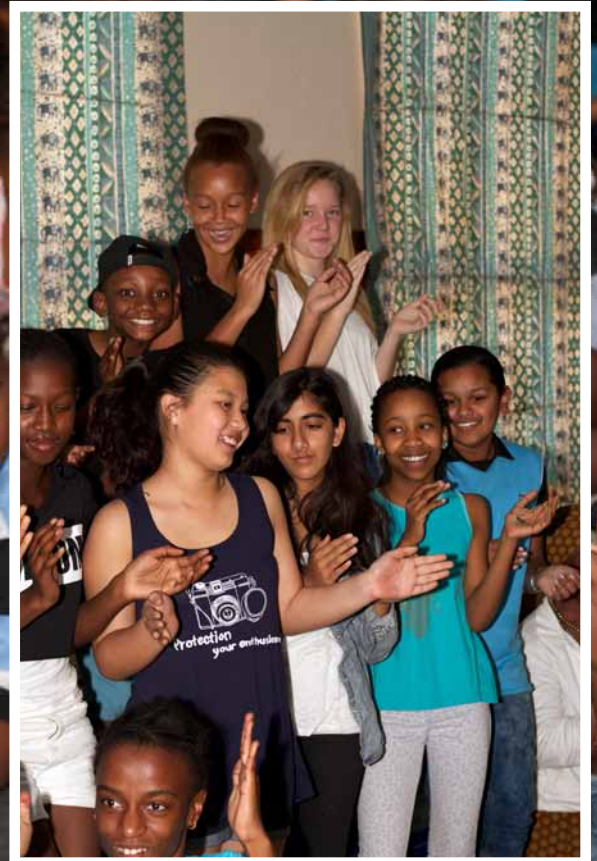
The Std 7 children had to organise and purchase prizes together with providing eats for sale at the tuckshop. Thank you to all parents who assisted with some or all of the above.

Before we knew it, the two hours had elapsed and the little ones were gathered and taken back to their respective classrooms.

A 'big thank you' to the Standard 7 group for your efforts. By all accounts, a successful event that you coordinated, organised and ran successfully. Well done, we are proud of your efforts. Mr. Jogee



Botswana Day Celebrations



Thornhill celebrated Botswana's 48th birthday in fine style. We held a Foundation and Junior assembly and the children dressed up in the colours of the flag. There was great excitement and the children performed songs and a short play, which was well received by all. Thank you to those parents who attended the assemblies and I trust you thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Botswana's special day with us.

Thornhill Golf Day



I would like to thank all those who sponsored or played in our annual golf day last month. The atmosphere and camaraderie on the day was fantastic and all those who took part enjoyed a successful event. Thank you to the PTA, staff and golf committee members who assisted in the organisation of this successful event.

Softball

vs Broadhurst

U11G lost 7 - 16

U13G lost 4 - 20

U11B won

U13B won 18 - 10

Player of the Match: Rhys Skinner

vs Baobab

U11 Girls won 14 - 9

U11 Boys won 8 - 7

vs Northside

U11G lost 7 - 16

U11B won 19 - 6

U13G won 15 - 10

U13B 'B' lost 17 - 22

Player of the Match: James Freeman

vs Legae

U11 Girls won 17 - 3

U11 Boys won 22 - 2

*Thornhill U13 Hedgehogs 18
beat Thornhill U13 Ostriches 12

U11 Boys Softball

Recently, the Thornhill U11 boys softball team were invited to play in a softball festival at Baobab. Thornhill found themselves in Pool B, with Crescent, Broadhurst, Legae and Acacia. Due to excellent fielding and superb batting from the Thornhill boys, they managed to win all their games. The team had a great deal of fun and enjoyed the experience. Andile 6C

U11 Girls Softball

The girls played 5 games, won 2, lost 2 and drew one. They were all mostly girls from Std 3 and 4 and they played exceptionally well. Many positive comments were heard from the other coaches as to how well they played and how much they knew about the game. Well done to all the girls. Mrs. Tweed



Chess

vs Northside

We played very well and astounded Northside with a score of 16 - 5. Well done to all the players. We are looking forward to our next match. Kalidas 5V



vs Thomas More

We were privileged to host Thomas More (KZN - RSA) who brought both U11 and U13 cricket teams to play against a combined Thornhill and Northside (Thornside). The young players were exposed to different formats of the game and this took the game to a new level for some of our boys. Results for the week were as follows:

30 Over Game:

U11 Thomas More 140 runs
U11 Thornside 73 all out
Thomas More won by 67 runs

T20 Game:

U13 Thomas More 105 for 3
U13 Thornside 107 for 6
Thornside won by 4 wickets

25 Over Game:

U13 Thornside 117 for 9
U13 Thomas More 86 for 9
Thornside won by 31 runs

T20 Game:

U11 Thornside 86 for 8
U11 Thomas More 87 for 4
Thomas More won by 6 wickets

Time Game:

U13 Thornside 135 for 6
Thomas More 84 for 7
Match Drawn

U11 Thomas More 151 for 6
U11 Thornside 97 for 2
Match Drawn



Basketball

vs Raserura

U13 Girls won 18 - 6

U13 Boys lost 21 - 22



7 NOVEMBER 2014
17H00 - 20H30



THORNHILL PTA FETE



MECHANICAL BULL
ROCKET, FOOD
JUMPING CASTLE
ZORBO BALL
STALLS, FOOD & MORE

October 30 2014
Thornhill ICT Department

ADMISSION
P10 ADULT
P5 CHILD

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