**WEEKLY SCRIPTURE**

**Christmas Hope**

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, Romans 15:13 (NKJV)"

With the start of our Christmas holiday this week many people are hoping for good food and good times with family, while most children hope for new toys. "Hope" is a common theme during Christmas. It is seen on holiday cards, posters, clothing, and can even be heard in many favourite Christmas songs. On Christmas Day, we celebrate that Jesus came into the world. With Jesus, we received the hope of everlasting life. Our peace and joy comes from the Lord of Hope. During the holidays, it becomes easy for us to catch the thrill of food, presents, and festivities and we forget this is the season in which our hope came to earth. Even one of my favourite Christmas songs, *O Holy Night*, makes reference to Jesus as “a thrill of hope” in which the whole world rejoiced. Let Jesus be our thrill this season.

Dear Lord, I pray that during this busy time, we will keep our focus on you. Help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas: *Because our Saviour was born into the world, we have received everlasting love and life*. Thank you for the hope that you have given us. Amen.

I wish all the very best to you and yours in this special season. God bless.

(Devotion adapted from *Living Rock Academy*)

---

**Mums Who Pray**

We would like to encourage our TMC Mums to join the ‘Mums Who Pray’ every Thursday at 7.30am in the Great House Indaba Room ~ All are welcome. Tea/Coffee provided. The mums are diverse, approachable, and an always willing to help group of ladies. Join them as they pray for our children, parents, teachers, school and country.

Contact Laura O'Loughlin on 079 3317672 for more info.
**News from the Editor**

**Hillcrest / Waterfall bus** (mornings only) – we have some space available on this morning’s only bus. Please refer to the resources tab of the communicator or the website for the application form.

**Stock Shop Appointments**
Uniform Fitting appointments open until Tuesday 11 December. Call the Stock Shop on 031 764 8640 between 12pm and 3pm to schedule your appointment.

**2019 Access Discs**
We have the 2019 Access Discs and new durable holders available for collection. Please fill out your details [HERE](#). Unfortunately, we are unable to issue discs without your vehicle registration details.

**Campus Shutdown**
During the December holiday period [Saturday 15 December to Sunday 6 January] the campus will be closed to all access. Security staff have been given instruction not to allow anyone on to campus, unless by prior arrangement with school management. We apologise for the inconvenience, but thank you for your understanding.

**Future Academy - Holiday workshops**
Reminder: Future Academy is running some morning courses in the holidays, geared towards kids. Come and join us in Santa’s Workshop (HS Design Technology Workroom) for a variety of homemade Christmas gift options. Each day is from 8:30am to 1pm and includes a mid-morning snack and all materials required for the activity. Bookings for each day will close at 3pm the day before.

For more details and to book your spot, please click on the following link: [https://www.quicket.co.za/organisers/12745-future-academy/](https://www.quicket.co.za/organisers/12745-future-academy/)

**Health/Wellness Facility**
An opportunity exists for a Physiotherapist or a Wellness Clinic to operate a business on the Thomas More College campus.

Terms of the agreement:
- An annual premises lease agreement will be signed, with the option for renewal.
- A rent will be payable for the use of the premises.
- The business is not limited to the Thomas More College community.
- The premises may be used during school holidays.
- Advertising on the Thomas More College platforms will be facilitated through the Thomas More College Marketing Department.

Any interested parties should email their Business Plan to the Business Manager – [cwoodley@thomasmore.co.za](mailto:cwoodley@thomasmore.co.za)

**Closing date - Tuesday 15th January 2019**
Thomas More College reserves the right not to fill this position. Only short-listed applicants will receive a reply and be interviewed. An application will not in itself entitle the applicant to an interview or appointment.

**Marketing**
Juliet Hartley, in Admissions, will be taking over the role Marketing Co-ordinator: Communications as of next year, so all correspondence can be sent to her – [jhartley@thomasmore.co.za](mailto:jhartley@thomasmore.co.za)

Thank you to you, the Thomas More Family, for your continued support over the last 10 years. Wishing you all much joy, safe travels and well wishes for this festive season. I bid you farewell.

Kim Hooper
Marketing Co-ordinator: Communications
[khooper@thomasmore.co.za](mailto:khooper@thomasmore.co.za)
MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL HEADMASTER

Thus another dynamic, full and robust year of living and learning at Thomas More College draws to an end. It has been a year of a range of changes and shifts in our organisational profile, from staff changes to academic changes. The year has demanded agility, perseverance and commitment from our staff to ensure that Thomas More College continues to entrench its identity as a leading co-educational, independent school in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

These past three years have afforded me the opportunity to appreciate and deepen my understanding of the profound privilege it is to be associated with the Thomas More College community. I have often remarked on the magic that is Thomas More College in my More Talk articles and on other platforms. My interactions with staff, parents, pupils, past pupils and many others who are associated variously with our schools have led me to appreciate some fundamental truths about our “Magic”. I wish to mention two of these recurring themes here with you as we prepare to close for the year:

1. Relationships – these remain our core economy here. Pupils ranging across all decades of our school’s history repeat this truth about their time at Thomas More College when I meet them. I know all schools should have relationships interwoven within the tapestry of their narrative. However, our Thomas More College experience is deep and lasting BECAUSE of the relationships and how they made (and continue to make) people feel.

2. Connectedness – this feeling of connectedness is a direct benefit from our Relationships. You don’t simply “come to school” at Thomas More College. One engages deeply at – and with – Thomas More College. It is a space in which belonging is valued. Individuals matter, regardless of how taxing such a commitment to the individual is.

Relationships and their consequent connectedness make us a resilient community. It allows us to weather the storms and challenges we face, together. And so, I must thank all our staff, support staff, members of the Board, Manco, the Past Pupils’ Association, the Parents’ Council, all parents and pupils, Mr Grant Benson and his team, Mr Louis Thom and his team, Mrs Michelle Wight and her team, Mrs Lisa Moffat and her team, Mr Stephen Ireland, Mrs Debbie Kerdaichi, Mrs Lisa Paterson, and all our many friends of Thomas More College for the multi-faceted, deeply dynamic and relationship-based time and energy afforded our wonderful school.

I wish all Thomas More families a richly blessed Christmas and holiday. If you are travelling, please do so safely. We wish the 2018 Grade 12 pupils safe journeying in 2019.

“Wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving.”

Dave Wiggett
HS Headmaster
dwiggett@thomasmore.co.za

NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL HEADMISTRESS

We have finally come to the last school day of 2018- and the holidays are about to begin. It is amazing to think that another year has all but come and gone! Our Grade 7s of 2018 left with fanfare, through a tunnel of children from the SP! They were tearful- and we are sad to see them leave us, but know they are well equipped for High School and what the future holds. We wish them sincere best wishes and trust they will stay in touch!
Thanks to those who supported their children on Friday evening at the Sport and Cultural Awards prize giving, and a very big thank you once again to Mr Jason Brimelow, Mrs Roberta Ramasamy and Mr Gary Balarin and their respective sport and cultural departments, as well as to all the staff and coaches on a great year of extra- mural activities and events. Thanks too for the interesting arrival- we always have fun while learning in the Senior Primary!

My appreciation as well, to those who were able to attend our Final Assembly on Monday morning when academic certificates for merit, effort and progress for the combined 3rd and 4th term results were handed out. We also appreciate the effort Mr Gary Balarin put into this, assisted by Mrs Carol Mbili, Mrs Hajira Dladla and Ms Claudia Levarelli, with the certificates. Special thanks to all of our teachers for consistently trying their best in the best interests of the special young people with whom we work.

We also wish to pay tribute to all those involved in “When He Came”, our very special Carol Service which took place on Sunday evening. In particular, thanks to Mrs Roberta Ramasamy who co-ordinated it all, ably assisted by Mr Sherwin Ganase, as well as to Mrs Lizana Watson for the choreography, Mrs Colette Jagles, Mrs Annette de Klerk, Mr Gary Balarin as well as Mrs Shylo Pereira involved with the High School for the many hours of practice which went into this event to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Also thanks to Jeanne Dets, who supported with costume making and hunting, and to those backstage or behind the scenes, with light and sound, and to our SP staff who took part in the production. The Junior and Senior Primary choirs as well as the High School Retrobeats and Adult Choir (parents you were awesome!) were superb and the singing really touched my heart. Furthermore, the Community Orchestra also impressed and added much value, accompanying the community singing and many of the individual items. This was a special occasion when we give thanks to our Lord for His many blessings, in particular the gift of His son, Jesus Christ, whom we commemorate this Christmas season. Thank you to all the participants, and those who supported it and contributed to the donations for Orphan Aid. It is indeed a most fitting way to thank God for all He does, and for holding our school in the palm of His hand.

Last night was the finale of the special occasions, our Senior Primary Speech Night or Final Prize Giving. It was a very special occasion and a fitting way to end our year. This special evening is always tinged with nostalgia as our school year draws to a close. Thank you to Mr Gary Balarin for co-ordinating this, ably assisted by Mrs Gail Purdon and once again Mrs Dladla and Ms Levarelli.

Reports will be available from 13:00 this afternoon on the parent portal of Ed-admin.

As this is our last newsletter, I wish to pay tribute to and sincerely thank all those who have played a part in and contributed to the success of the Senior Primary School of Thomas More College, whether as a staff member, parent or pupil. With your support it has been a pleasure to head this realm of Thomas More College.

Special thanks too to our Board of Trustees, and to my fellow Manco members for all the work and passion you give to TMC. We truly value it!
To our management team and our teaching staff – thank you for going beyond the call of duty, for your commitment, loyalty, dedication and hard work. Despite the demands placed on you in today’s world, you have risen to each challenge in the classroom, on the sports field and everywhere where you have served the school academically, extra-murally, culturally and spiritually. Our appreciation also goes to our admin, catering, cleaning, estate and support staff who support us in multitudinous ways.

We are also most grateful for our parents for the many ways you have assisted us, from serving on the Board, working on sub-committees of the Board, being on the Parents’ Council, being a class rep or reading mom, the Moms who Pray, those who work in the library, coach sport, or support with transporting children to and from matches, on outings, taking photos, and assisting in various ways, at school activities and special functions. We are most grateful for ALL you do!

Thank you, too, to our pupils for being such special young people and for generally contributing to life at Thomas More in a positive way, especially to our Grade 7s who are leaving the Primary School for High School, and the few pupils who are relocating or moving. You will be missed, but we are glad to have been a part of your life and shall follow your future with interest. We wish you well and trust you will stay in touch with all of us at the Primary School and stay true to our ethos and Christian based values.

It is always sad at the end of the year to say farewell to much loved and valued staff members. We bid farewell to Mrs Edith Haynes, who has been a most valued colleague and very special teacher for the past twelve years, and thank her for her stalwart commitment and zealous dedication to Thomas More as a Grade 7 class teacher and for all she has done developing and overseeing our Equestrian team, assisting with our After-Care and Eco School programs and in her role as Grade 7 Dean of Girls this year. She will be sorely missed! God’s richest blessings as you relocate to Ireland to join your family there.

We have appreciated having Mrs Jenny Tully with us in Grade 7 this year as the Afrikaans support teacher and have valued the input she has made into the Afrikaans progress of those children needing further support. We also are grateful for the role she played in the AEU, and wish her well for her Grade 7 class teacher position next year at Waterfall College.

It has been a privilege working with Mrs Gigha Kelly in the latter part of this year. She has slotted in so easily into our team, and been a valued locum in Grade 4 in Mrs de Leeuw’s class while she was on maternity leave. We know we can call on her when we need someone special to do a locum for us.

We also wish Ms Tanya Paul all the very best in her intern position next year at Westville Boys’ High. We have so appreciated having her with us in the SP as a Grade 6 and EMS intern, even though she has decided High School teaching is for her. We shall miss her and her beautiful smile!

We also say farewell to Mr Stephen Tshuma who has decided to go into the business world and thank him for being our Grade 5 intern this year, for his special RE assemblies and for taking both the Junior and the Senior JIM (Jesus and Me) groups at break. God bless.

We also wish to say a big thank you to Mrs Belinda Bentley for the caring, compassionate role she has played as our school nursing sister for the past four and a half years. She too will be missed not only by our staff but also by the pupils for whom she has cared. We trust she enjoys spending more quality time with her husband and wish her well for her adventures!

Last, but not least, thank you to Mrs Kim Hooper for all she has done in her marketing role over the past ten years. All our photos, magazines and reminders, to name but some, are areas we, as the SP, have truly valued her. She is always professional and a person of integrity and we shall miss her. We wish her well for her teaching post next year, as she returns to her first career choice.

It has been a real blessing seeing our children grow, blossom and achieve so much over the last twelve months. We wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year, and trust you will have precious time to spend with your loved ones over the holidays. If you are going away, over the holidays, please take care. We look forward to seeing you back at Thomas More on Wednesday, 16 January 2019! God’s richest blessings and best wishes to you all!

Barbara Taljard
PS Headmistress
btaljard@thomasmore.co.za
It feels like it was just yesterday that we welcomed you to a brand new year and here we are saying thank you and sending well wishes for the festive season!

As usual, our year has been jam packed with all sorts of activities that aim to provide opportunities for a balanced lifestyle for our children and it has been wonderful to see each child achieving personal success, not only academically but in every sphere. To you our parent body, thank you for all you have given this year - it really is noticeable that "it takes a village to raise a child". We appreciate you collaborating with us to make the successes possible.

It has been an absolute privilege to have shared in each and every child’s growth this year and I thank you for entrusting your precious treasures to us. To those leaving the TMC family, we wish you nothing but the best in your new journey and hope that you will stay in touch.

Deni Hornsey  
FP Headmistress  
dhornsey@thomasmore.co.za

**Dance & Gymnastics**

Congratulations to Makayla Harland who has participated in a number of events in the last few months:

- IATS showcase in October for dance and modelling, and was selected for the US showcase.
- Modern - October 2018 passed her Elementary Modern Exam
- Ballet - American Academy of Ballet Performance Awards - where she achieved a Silver with Double Distinction
- Dance Studio Awards - Certificate of participation for Ballet/Modern/Hip Hop & Acro
- Teacher’s Choice Award - Good work ethic in every class

We also congratulate Tamryn Harland who has also competed and received the following accolades:

- Represented KZN in the Gymnastics Games in Pretoria in October
- Modern - October 2018 passed her 4th Grade Modern Exam with Distinction
- Tap - October 2018 passed her Bronze Lower Exam
- Hip Hop - Participated in Natal Dance Festival 2018 where she did a duet and received a silver medal
- Dance studio Awards - Certificate of participation Modern/Tap & Hip Hop
- Teacher’s choice awards - Commitment & Drive
- Certificate of excellence - Outstanding performance and achievements throughout the year
- Hip Hop Trophy - Most Outstanding Junior/Teen

Well done girls!

**Karate**

Congratulations to Connor Harris who competed at the Commonwealth Karate Championships with 700 athletes from 12 countries which ran over 5 days. Connor made it all the way to the third place play-off for kata, but unfortunately lost to a competitor from India. The really great news though is that he received a BRONZE medal for kumite (fighting). He won 3 fantastic fights in the draws, but then lost to a fellow South African to get third place. Well done Connor.
Ballet

Congratulations to Alexandra White who completed her Level 8 American Performance Ballet Exam on Thursday (29 November) and she received a silver double distinction. Well done Alexandra.

Congratulations to Emma Beyers after her annual audition, has been accepted, for the 3rd year in a row, into the KZN Dance Academy for 2019. Well done Emma.