

Thornhill PS Email Information: Monday, September 23, 2024

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, September 23-26

- *Treaties Recognition Week*
- *Safety Week*

Thursday, September 26

- Terry Fox Run @ 1:30 p.m.
- School Council Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Friday, September 27

- PA Day – No school for students

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Monday, September 30

- *Truth and Reconciliation – Wear **Orange***

Tuesday, October 1

- *Pizza Day – for those who ordered*

Thursday, October 3

- *Subway Sandwich Day– for those who ordered*

TERRY FOX FUNDRAISER

Last year, our community showed how much they care and how much they can give back by raising over \$1100 for the Terry Fox Foundation! This year, let's try to match or beat that goal. This year we hope to raise \$1270. We will be participating in the Terry Fox run on Thursday, September 26th. Please make donations online at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/ThornhillPSThornhill>

HOT LUNCH PROGRAMS

As a part of our fundraising efforts to support school-based initiatives, TPS is pleased to offer Pizza Pizza, individually boxed cheese pizza slices and Subway sandwiches for sale. Yesterday will receive a message from School Cash Online for Pizza and Subway Lunches. Please see [this attached flyer](#) for more information. If

you need to set up School Cash Online, please see [instructions here](#). The deadline to order is September 22nd.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to distribute pizza on Tuesdays from 11:45-12:15 p.m. Please email Lisa.Hascal@yrdsb.ca if you are able to assist.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

We are so excited to announce our school has received a healthy schools grant! With this grant, we will be running a healthy snacks program for the whole school.

Each classroom will receive a bin of healthy snacks (granola bars, and fruit to go) to be kept in the assigned classrooms and will be replenished on a weekly basis by the healthy schools Liaisons (Ms. Soudack, Ms. Di Matteo, and Ms. Savage). Our students in our Community classrooms will demonstrate their independent, leadership skills by delivering our snack bins to our school-wide community when they need to be replenished.

The snacks will be there for the days when your child is a little extra hungry and needs something more to get them through the school days. It is not going to be used when your child does not like what is packed for lunch. This conversation will be had as a classroom, please continue to carry the conversation at home if it comes up.

MINISTRY SURVEY

On May 30, 2024, the Ministry of Education announced that it would be launching consultations in fall 2024 with students, parents, job creators, educators and other stakeholders on the practical life skills students need to build a strong foundation for future success through modernized home economics education. To learn more visit [Province Introduces New High School Graduation Requirements for a Stronger Ontario Diploma](#).

The Ministry has asked school boards to assist in the promotion and collection of feedback on the practical life skills that parents, students and educators think could be included or strengthened.

The anonymous [Ministry Survey: Launch of Life Skills Consultation](#), designed by the Ministry, will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will remain open until September 24, 2024. Administrators can share this link in their communication with families.

FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING is Thursday, September 26th, 2024

All parents/guardians/community members are welcome to attend our first school council meeting. It is held from 7:00 – 8:30 pm in our school library. Elections for executive positions will be held that evening – nomination forms will be shared by the Board in the new electronic Start-Up package (information to come).

RENEWED COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT), families with children enrolled in our Board have the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. Applicants must live in Ontario, have a student enrolled at YRDSB and either receive government assistance payments or qualify as a limited income earner under the limited income cut-off standards*.

Below is a limited income grid for your reference.

Family size	Annual income*
2 people	\$30,286
3 people	\$37,234
4 people	\$45,206
5 people	\$51,272

6 people	\$57,286
7 people +	\$64,381

This year, there are different packages available for purchase. Please reference the [online application page](#) for the current available package offerings. Please note that there are three options for delivery.

1. If you would like for the computer to be delivered directly to your home, there is a \$25 charge for laptops and a \$35 charge for desktops. Families who choose this delivery option will have their order shipped when it is ready, roughly 3 weeks from date of order.
2. If you would like the device shipped to your child's school there is a \$20 delivery charge. If you choose this shipping option, the computer will be delivered to your child's school **after** the end of the promotion period. Please indicate the name of the school on the form when selecting this option.
3. You may choose to pick up the computer from the RCT Mississauga Warehouse, for free, located at **945 Meyerside Drive, Mississauga**. Families who choose this option will have their order ready for pick up roughly 3 weeks after the date of order.

Parents and legal guardians may apply for one computer per student, with a limit of two per household. Please see below for a full list of device specifications.

If you are interested in applying, please complete an online application at <https://www.jotform.com/210054491659255> using the group code on the attached program flyer. The application period is from September 12, 2024 – November 22, 2024 with delivery to schools taking place in December.

Please note - There are sections in the RCT Online Application that are no longer applicable:

- Requirement of Proof or Documentation of Income
- Requirement to participate in training prior to receiving your computer/laptop

The Section on Course of Study can pertain to elementary or secondary. If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, please contact the administration team at your school for assistance.

For inquiries related to the RCT application process, devices and delivery, please contact Alexander Oliver (Aoliver@rcto.ca) and for inquiries related to support from YRDSB, please contact Yvonne Kelly (yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca)

For more information, including complete application and payment instructions, please refer to the [attached program flyer](#) and checklist.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a designated day of remembrance to honour victims and survivors of Canada's Indigenous residential school system. The federal government declared this day in 2021, also known as **Orange** Shirt Day.

It is a day to continue learning about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and our roles and responsibilities towards reconciliation as students, educators, researchers, and community members. The day is part of a larger conversation on the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization and systemic inequalities (including in education) that continue to marginalize Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

The Orange Shirt Day movement started in 2013 to highlight the pain and suffering of thousands of Indigenous children who were sent to residential school throughout the last century. The colour of the shirt is connected to the experience of Phyllis Webstad who was sent to Cariboo Residential School near Williams Lake, BC, in 1973.

Six-years old at the time, Phyllis went to her first day of school wearing a new bright orange shirt. New clothes were a rare thing for the young girl, who was being raised by her grandmother. However, upon arriving at the school, the nuns stripped her of the shirt, forcing her to wear the school's institutional uniform.

Webstad has felt the impact of that event long after it occurred, “that feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel that I don’t matter.”

The shirt has since gone on to become a symbol of a national movement that recognizes the suffering of Indigenous children at residential schools across the country and to show a renewed commitment to ensure that every child matters.

On Monday September 30th, if possible, please send your child to school wearing an **ORANGE shirt.**

SAFETY WEEK

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 23 to 27, 2024) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practise various safety drills, including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to [Board Policy #669.0](#) for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

General Supports for Emotional Well-Being

- [310-COPE: 905-310-COPE \(2673\) or 1-855-310-COPE \(2673\) - available 24/7](#)
- [KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7](#)
- [Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7](#)

- [York Hills Help Phone Line](#): 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [Black Youth Helpline](#)
- [Naseeha Helpline/](#)
- [2SLGBTQ+ Youthline](#)

SCHOOL START UP PACKAGES

Each year, we ask all parents/guardians to complete important forms. These forms are available online. [Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms](#) through your child's YRDSB Google account.

Translations are available in:

- [Arabic - العربية](#)
- [Farsi - فارسی](#)
- [Gujarati - ગુજરાતી](#)
- [Hebrew - עברית](#)
- [Korean - 한국어](#)
- [Punjabi - ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#)
- [Russian - Русский](#)
- [Simplified Chinese - 简体中文](#)
- [Tamil - தமிழ்](#)
- [Traditional Chinese - 繁體中文](#)
- [Turkish - Türk](#)
- [Urdu - اردو](#)
- [Vietnamese - Tiếng Việt](#)

Please note:

- You can access your child's YRDSB Google account via a web browser. For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile phone.
- The username is your child's YRDSB Student Number. Your child will receive their login information from the school at the start of the year. If you or your child do not know the password to log in to their Google account, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.
- Frequently asked questions and additional information on [how to complete the forms](#) are available on the Board website under [Family Resources](#) (click on the “Need Help” link for Family Start-Up Forms).

It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms. The forms are to be completed for all students. Your child's school will access the information.

Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. Secondary school students will also be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPS account.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact your school office.

School Year Information

At the start of the year, schools share with families a package of information about the school. Please ensure you review this important information. Families are also encouraged to review the online [Guide to the School Year](#).

Thank you.