



Thornhill Secondary School Grade 9 Paw Prints Special Edition



Thornhill Secondary School
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Trustee
Susan Geller

School Council Co-Chairs
Anna Sit and Tal Granite

June 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

To the Graduating Class of 2022, welcome to Thornhill Secondary School! We are delighted that you and your family are joining our dynamic school community. Our secretaries, technicians, teachers, educational assistants, community partners, caretakers and cafeteria staff look forward to meeting you and to supporting your success.

Grade 9 students will begin school on Grade 9 Day, September 4, 2018 starting at 8:35am. Parents are also invited to attend for the morning. Prior to Grade 9 Day, students are expected to pay their fees. Please see the list of purchase items overleaf. Families will have the option to pay anytime on line at <https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com> or to visit the school on August 28th to pay in person.

Once again, welcome to Thornhill Secondary School. Be assured that you matter to us: your personhood, your presence, your potential, your participation and your progress. We look forward to working with you to ensure excellence in your personal well-being, learning and achievement. On behalf of Debbie Ziegler – incoming Principal, Kandeephan Ganeshalingam – Vice-Principal, and Georgia Vatousis – Vice-Principal, I wish you an amazing summer and a terrific high school experience.

Sincerely,
David A. McAdam

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SCHOOL TIMETABLE

PERIOD 1	8:35	9:50
OPENING EXERCISES	9:50	9:55
PERIOD 2	10:00	11:15
PERIOD 3	11:20	12:35
PERIOD 4	12:40	1:55
PERIOD 5	2:00	3:15
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM 1	3:20	4:35
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM 2	4:40	5:55

LOOKING AHEAD

◆ August 28	Registration & Fees
◆ September 4	First Day of School
	Photo Day
◆ September 13	School Council
◆ September 24	PA Day
◆ September 26	Photo Retake Day
◆ September 27	Terry Fox Run/Carnival
◆ October 11	School Council
◆ October 12	Interim Reports
◆ October 25	Parents' Night



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines, schools will not charge fees for supplies relating to coursework that is necessary to meet graduation requirements; e.g., French workbooks, Family Studies food labs. The Fees Guidelines allows schools to charge fees for enhanced materials, i.e. enrichments beyond what is necessary to meet curriculum expectations such as: certifications; Iron Chef Competition; art kit; cedar wood in construction; and field trips. In classes that charge for enhancements, you will receive a letter from the teacher detailing what the fee covers. Payment of the enhancement fee is voluntary.

In addition, fees can be charged for participating in extra-curricular activities such as sports teams, clubs, dances, graduation, etc. Our School Activity Fee serves to engage students in the broader school community by providing a wide range of opportunities that occur before school, at lunch and after school. Monies collected will cover or subsidize the cost of various extra-curricular activities in clubs, teams, sports, and student groups such as the Students' Council. These groups, events and activities build school spirit and enrich the learning experience beyond the classroom and the designated subject curriculum. This is an important element in building and strengthening the sense of community at TSS. With the payment of the Student Activity Fee, students receive discounts for various events; e.g., Semi-formal and Prom.

STUDENT FEES:

Student Activity Fee ... In sponsorship of Student Council Activities, Clubs, Speakers, Carnival, Spirit Days, Sports Teams, School Newspaper, Socials, etc.	\$ 45.00
Student Price Card (SPC) for retail discounts at student-price	\$ 10.00
School Yearbook ... Every student is encouraged to purchase a yearbook.	\$ 40.00
Physical Education Uniform (mandatory) ... shorts only ... shirt only TSS Athletic Attire must be worn by all students enrolled in Physical Education courses	\$ 25.00 \$ 12.00 \$ 14.00
Grade 9 Orientation Day ... includes lunch, snack, t-shirt & social or movie ticket	\$ 20.00

*We encourage that you pay through School Cash Online at <https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>
Instruction on how to use School Cash Online can be found at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/boarddocs/Pages/SchoolCash-Online-Parents.aspx>*

If you prefer to pay by cash or cheque, staff/students will be available on Tuesday August 28th, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to accept your payments. Cheques are to be made payable to Thornhill Secondary School. A \$20 NSF charge will be added to all cheques returned to the school. We cannot accept credit or debit cards. Student timetables and locker information for the 2018-2019 School Year will be emailed to parents and students' yrdsb gapps account on August 21, 2018. Photos will be taken during the first week of school.

Hey new cubs, The Board of Student Senators(BOSS) is proud to have you on board this September. Our school has a welcoming and supportive environment for you to express yourselves, and BOSS is here to have your backs. Throughout the year, the BOSS will have a variety of events planned out for you to have fun, we will start the year with Terry Fox Run/ Carnival, open mic night, and movie night. We would also like for you to enjoy our school's cultural diversity, which is a great way to make friends from all around the world. We encourage you to get involved with councils, clubs and events. With over 40 different clubs, there has to be one that intrigues you; if there is none, start your own to provide more opportunities for you and others. Thornhill Secondary School is a great place to practice your leadership skills with our annual leadership conference. TSS is a place filled with fun and happiness, but there will be challenging times, and BOSS would be more than happy to lend a hand. We are so excited to meet you in the upcoming semester, enjoy your summer.

 Bob Pang, President and Janice Baek, Vice-President, 2018-2019

Welcome to Student Support Services!

Our department goal is to help ensure that our identified students have a smooth transition to high school. Approximately one in three students at Thornhill Secondary School is identified as having an exceptionality and has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to help ensure success. Although accommodations listed on an IEP can help, another way of achieving success is choosing the appropriate courses and levels. To this end, *Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC)* meetings are held yearly with students and their families to determine appropriate levels of support, and to help ensure a smooth transition. Timetabling is a crucial step in the process and we work on personalizing each student's timetable according to the discussion and decisions made during the IPRC process. We welcome you to Thornhill and look forward to assisting in your success at the secondary level.



Welcome to ESL at TSS!



Thornhill Secondary School has a vibrant and expanding English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Our ESL program supports the integration of new English language learners into the school and our community. In addition to our ESL classes, we also offer subject-specific courses in grade 9 Geography and Science. In this way, students will develop language and literacy skills in a variety of academic settings. We have many courses designed with the English language learner (ELL) in mind. For example, we have a course for beginner ELLs (English language learners) called "Presentation and Speaking Skills". It has been a great success and the students have had the opportunity to focus on improving their pronunciation and presentation skills. TSS also has an active ESL Club, called the "Hand in Hand Club". This year they successfully celebrated Asian New Year in February, the Persian New Year (Naw Ruz) in March, and hosted a massive Asian Heritage Festival in May where our own Asian Heritage Band performed. As well, they welcomed many new VISA students to our school

throughout the year. The club has several exciting events planned for the 2018-19 school year. We look forward to welcoming you to the ESL Department at TSS.

Academic Awards

There are many special proficiency awards, individual subject awards, memorial scholarship and York Region awards available to you at TSS. You

are welcome to make an appointment with a guidance counsellor to seek information about these scholarships, awards and prizes.

Generally, to qualify for school awards and scholarship, students must be registered on a full-time basis at TSS, and be in good standing.



Thornhill Secondary Parent Council

Candidate Nomination Form

2018-2019

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Email: _____

I am the parent/guardian of _____ currently registered in Grade ____ at Thornhill Secondary School.

Executive Role of Interest:

Council co-Chair _____

Council co-Secretary _____

Council Treasurer _____

OR

Non-executive voting member: _____

*Please complete this form and bring it to our first meeting of the 2018/2019 school year on **Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:15pm** in the school. For more information please contact Debbie Ziegler, Principal at 905-889-5453.*

Responsibilities of Non-executive voting members:

1. All voting members are expected to attend the majority of meetings and make every effort to give 24 hours notice if they are not able to attend.

Responsibility of Executive roles:

1. Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues.
2. Regularly attend council meetings
3. Act as a communication link between the Council and the community by encouraging the participation of all parents and of other people within the school community.
4. Solicit input from parents on issues facing Council
5. Adhere to the constitution
6. Initiate and support fund raising activities each year for the purpose of funding the scholarship and any other items as decided by council.



The School Council

The School Council is a group of dedicated parents who are interested in learning more about their children's education and providing support to the school environment. We meet a maximum of 9 times per school year and have speakers on current topics affecting our students, hear monthly reports from TSS Admin and get information on EQAO, College/ University application process amongst other things. It's a great way to get involved with your children's education and meet other members of our school community. More information will be available when school begins. We look forward to having all new parents join us.



TSS House System

Thornhill Secondary School is home to a communal and spirited body of student leaders. As a school we strive to continuously improve school spirit, mental health, student involvement, as well as the atmosphere within the school. For the first time in Thornhill SS history we are proceeding with a whole school House System that will consist of 4 houses and will provide students with an opportunity to connect with peers from various Grades and be involved in school events. With this House System we aspire to strengthen our school community as well as provide new leadership opportunities for the students of Thornhill Secondary.



DRESS CODE

All staff and students at Thornhill Secondary School are expected to maintain an appropriate mode of dress befitting a respectful workplace. Please note the following guidelines which also apply to trips and other school activities:

No hoods on the head or bandanas

No gang-related paraphernalia

Cleavage, midriffs, backs and bottoms must be covered and not visible

No spiked accessories/jewellery that can cause physical harm

No see-through clothing

Lower garments (e.g. shorts & skirts) should be a least mid-thigh or finger-tip level in length

No undergarments showing

Clothing must be free of tears or rips, offensive or provocative visuals, slogans or comments

No garment that promotes violence or harm to humans, animals or the environment



EQAO TESTS

Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

All students working toward a credit in Grade 9 Academic or Applied Mathematics are required to participate in the EQAO math test in the semester they take their Math course. These tests evaluate how well students are meeting the curriculum expectations of the Grade 9 Academic or Applied Mathematics courses from *The Ontario Curriculum*.



Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

The *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)* measures whether or not students are meeting the minimum standard for literacy across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

Successful completion of the literacy test is one of the requirements to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Information and additional resources about the OSSLT can be accessed through EQAO's website: <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/parents/Pages/parents.aspx>

Students are encouraged to continue developing their reading and writing skills throughout their courses.

For more information about each of these tests, and to view sample test materials, visit www.eqao.com >

Student Resources.

Communication

Effective communication between home and school is a high priority for members of TSS. Here are some ways in which we can communicate about specific individuals' needs, and for families to keep up-to-date on events at Thornhill:

Guidance Counsellors and Vice-Principals – Every student is assigned a Guidance Counsellor and a Vice-Principal. Apart from your Homeroom Teacher, these two individuals are your key communication contact. Student contacts are determined alphabetically, by last name.

School Council – At regularly scheduled meetings, parents and guardians have a forum to receive information about the school, and to share input on school matters. Please join us. Meeting dates are listed on the school's website.

Information Evenings – This is a chance to visit the school and to learn about important topics. Among other things, you will have a chance to tour the school, to meet school staff and/or presenters from post-secondary institutions.

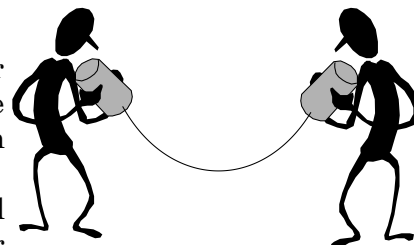
Parent-Teacher Interview Nights – You will have opportunity to meet with each of your child's teachers once each semester, to discuss your child's progress. These meetings are by appointment.

Teacher Meetings/Conferences – You are welcome to phone your child's teachers at the school with queries or to share information. You may wish to arrange a meeting time to address your concerns.

Electronic Updates – Parents may access progress reports on TeachAssist. As well, visit the school's website at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornhill.ss/Pages/default.aspx> to access news items and current information about activities, athletic events, department programs, calendars, et cetera.

Newsletters and Bulletins – School newsletters are distributed four times a year (with each report card).

Weekly announcements and reminders are shared with parents electronically. Be part of our mailing list. Submit parent/guardian email address to thornhill.ss@yrdsb.ca



A message from your Guidance Department

Welcome future Grade 9 students! We look forward to working with you over the next 4 years at Thornhill Secondary School.

Your Guidance counsellors are here to assist you in many ways. We provide academic support by helping you select courses in the appropriate pathways during course selection and throughout the year; we can work with you to develop organization and time management strategies; we can also help you identify your short and long term goals.

The Guidance Department facilitates a peer tutor program, as well as provides up-to-date information on volunteer opportunities. When it comes time to researching your post-secondary destinations, Guidance will help ensure that you are familiar with all of your options. We will also provide information to help you choose the appropriate high school courses to assist you.

In addition to academic counselling, we provide personal and crisis counselling. We are here to listen, to support you and to connect you with additional resources outside the school if necessary. Whether you are experiencing anxiety over school work, relationship concerns with friends or family, or simply need someone to talk to – we are available.

Our Guidance Office is located directly across from the Main Office, and we hope that you will visit us and take advantage of the many supports we offer.

The Individual Pathway Plan (IPP) is a program to support students' learning and growth. Students are assisted in developing a clear plan for their initial post secondary destination. The IPP uses a four-step process that encourages students to answer the following questions: Who Am I?, What are my opportunities?, What do I want to become? and What are my plans for achieving my goals? By contemplating these questions and developing the IPP, students take responsibility for their learning and for planning their future. On two separate occasions next year, students will be developing their IPP. Please stay tuned for more information.



Community Involvement Hours

All secondary school students must complete 40 hours of community involvement as part of their graduation requirements. These hours may be completed at any time prior to graduation, beginning in the summer following grade 8.

Steps for completing your Community Involvement:

1. Review which community involvement activities are considered eligible and ineligible.
2. Search for volunteer activities that meet the criteria on the eligible list.
3. Complete the **Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities** form for **PRE-APPROVAL**.
4. **PRE-APPROVAL** can be completed by your Grade 8 teacher, Grade 8 office staff, or Thornhill Secondary School's Main Office during the summer months.
5. Complete your volunteer placement.
6. Submit the completed form to Thornhill Secondary School's Guidance Secretary in September.



A NOTE TO PARENTS: STARTING WELL



Research indicates that students who have a good start in Grade 9 tend to be more successful during their entire high school career. Knowing the importance of this strong start, we focus intentionally on our youngest students. We value and welcome the input of parents and guardians in making sure that our Grade 9 students have a great year. Here are some things which you can do:

- Hold reasonably high expectations for your child;
- Help your child stay organized and effective with time management. Encourage daily use of the Student Agenda Book;
- Encourage your child to become involved in extracurricular activities. The more students get reasonably involved, the more connected they will feel, resulting in greater commitment, pride and confidence;
- Establish a regular work time for your child to complete homework and study;
- See to it that your child attends school regularly and on time;
- Notify the school of changes in your contact information, or of changes in your child's health;
- Consult the school if you have concerns about your child's progress;
- Familiarize yourself with school expectations, codes and procedures in the Student Agenda Book;
- Acquaint yourself with course expectations in course outlines; and get involved in the School Council.

On behalf of the staff at Thornhill, we welcome you to the school community and thank you for your continuous involvement. Let us work together to ensure that the next four years bring much success and fulfillment to your child's goals and dreams.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Timetable changes will be made for exceptional reasons only and by completing a request to change your timetable form.

See a Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible if you:

- ◆ Have a blank space on your timetable;
- ◆ Are missing or have too many compulsory courses in one semester



OFFICE HOURS

On Tuesday, July 3rd summer hours will begin. The school office will be open Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Please note that the office will be closed from July 27th to August 3rd.

PARENT e-MAIL

Parents are requested to supply the school with a current e-mail address for at least one parent or guardian. E-mail information is kept confidential and is used solely for the purpose of keeping all parents informed about school events, student attendance, minutes of school council meetings, school newsletters, bulletins, schedules, etc. Parent e-mail addresses should be sent to thornhill.ss@yrdsb.ca

If your email address changes during the year, then please remember to notify the school of the change as soon as possible.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Detailed information about learning opportunities, behavioural and course expectations, student responsibilities, school year calendar, and various procedures is contained in the Student Agenda Book. Students and parents will be required to sign-off that you have reviewed start-up package and the policies at the start of the school year. This information is also posted on the school website.

TEXTBOOKS

Teachers will distribute textbooks at the start of each semester. Students are responsible for keeping books in good condition, and for returning them at the end of the semester. Replacement costs for lost or damaged textbooks are the responsibility of the student.

TRANSPORTATION

Generally, no busing is provided for secondary school students who live in an area served by public transit. Students who are eligible for transportation will be placed on a school bus run jointly by the York Region District School and Separate School Boards. Information is available at

www.schoolbuscity.com



Thornhill Secondary School is accepting online payments through School Cash ONLINE!

School Cash Online provides the following benefits:

- A convenient fee payment option that saves time
- Reduces paper
- No more need to send cash or cheques to school
- A quick way to register. It takes less than 5 minutes to register.

Parents that opt to participate will receive notification via email of student fees owed (both required and optional), and can make secure online payments by credit card or Interac and receive a receipt.

To view a presentation about the program, go to <http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies/ParentRegEnglish/>.

Step 1: Register

- Click on the School Cash Online button on our school's website at <http://thornhill.ss.yrdsb.ca/> and select the "Get Started Today" button.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps

***For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.**



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be automatically forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.

Step 3: Find Student

NOTE: A STUDENT NUMBER IS REQUIRED

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Student # and Last Name
- Select **Continue**
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**
- Your child has been added to your account

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items For Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

NEED HELP?

If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen or contact School Cash Online – Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 or parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com.



GRADE 9 ORIENTATION DAY

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4th, 2018



We are so excited to welcome all our Grade 9's to Thornhill Secondary School on September 4th. Our Grade 9 Orientation Day is an awesome day where our newest T.S.S. Tigers can ease into their high school life. This is a day where students will build community and get to know the staff and student leaders at T.S.S. Only our Grade 9's are at school and we take pride in showcasing the amazing things we do here at Thornhill. Students will have the opportunity to

participate in workshops and activities that will help them enjoy success (and have fun!) while at Thornhill. We are very excited about Grade 9 Day and look forward to ALL Grade 9's participating in our full school day. Parents and guardians are welcome to the morning session starting at 8:35am.

Have a great summer!

What does the day look like?

8:15 – 8:35

Arrive to school and go to gymnasium

8:35 - 9:35am

Welcome Assembly for Parents/Guardians & Students in the Gym

- Opening Remarks
- Welcome from School Council and Administration
- Welcome from United Councils of Thornhill (TSS Student Leaders)
- Guidance Services
- Outline of the Day
- Wrap Up

9:40 - 10:40am

Parent/Guardian Information Session in the Library

Meet and Greet with Administration & Guidance Counsellors -

Department Representatives will also be available to share Grade 9 subject curriculum information. Come to learn about the Grade 9 curriculum & ask teachers program-related questions.

STUDENT SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

9:35 - 9:50am

Students: Refer to your timetable (which was emailed to your GAPPS account and your parents/guardian), then, make your way to your Period 1 class.

Period 1	9:50 - 10:20am
Period 2	10:30 - 11:15am
*Period 3 - LUNCH. Provided by Thornhill SS in the school cafeteria/courtyard	11:15- 12:15pm
Period 4	12:15 - 12:50pm
Period 5	1:00 - 1:35pm
Team Activities	1:45 - 2:50pm
Closing Ceremony	2:55 - 3:15pm

The staff and student leaders at Thornhill Secondary School are looking forward to meeting you!

*If you require dietary accommodations (allergies, vegetarian, etc.), please inform the Main Office via email (thornhill.ss@yrdsb.ca) as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday, August 29th, 2018.



IN THE WORDS OF STUDENTS: ADVICE TO NEWCOMERS

The advice that I would give to the incoming Grade 8 students is to get involved in the school as early as possible. It's a great way to meet new students and teachers and helps to establish a sense of belonging in the community. Plus there are clubs for just about everybody; and if a club doesn't exist, they can always create it. (from J.B.)

Read a couple of books over the summer, especially *Romeo and Juliet*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, since this will help you to become familiar with the plot of the 2 books used in the grade 9 English curriculum, especially if you aren't a fast reader.

- Don't search up "what is high school like" on Google/don't worry or be scared: stereotypes of high school tend to be negative, TSS is nothing like those stereotypes
- make changes a week before school resumes, wake up as if you were to go to school, as this will prevent an abrupt change in your sleeping schedule when the semester starts
- on Registration Day, pick up your timetable and Agenda Book. They are really, really helpful.
- make sure you have all your school supplies - binders, dividers, papers etc.
- In the beginning of summer, decide on 1 habit that you want to fix by the end of the break: It is proven that it takes 21 days of consciously not repeating a habit to fix it. (from G.E.)

Many will tell you the exact same thing; that high school is the hardest thing you will go through. I have to disagree. High school is and will be the best four years of your life, if you choose to apply yourself in all areas. There will be a time to play, a time to talk and a time study; however it's how you choose to use those times that will bring you to the finish line. As a graduating student, I have grown not just in height but also in maturity over the last four years and I'm happy to say high school has put me on the right path to success. (from K.L.)

Congratulations and welcome to TSS. Sure high school is new journey in your life, it can be intimidating, but once you know what you expect from high school, you will make good friends, and achieve a new level of school work. So be prepared, work hard, stay focused on your grades, join different clubs. Don't be afraid to make new friends. (from M.L.)

The next four years will be fast. Don't miss your chances for things as they happen - go on a school trip, attend a BOSS event, join every club you ever wanted! These things aren't a cringe-filled waste of time - you'll thank yourself later. Figure out what experience you want from high school and live it. By the time you are in Grade 12, you won't necessarily like the person you were in Grade 9 - but that's because you're going to grow up a lot in the next four years. Be confident. You will make mistakes, but what you choose to do in those times will define you. Best of luck, and don't wait for someone to tell you to do something - just do it. (from P.M.)

