

INTO THE WOODS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2018



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Poems Of The Months

By: Jerry D

September - Our Choice

Optimism is a lie
I don't believe that
you can change our school
with optimism
You may be surprised, but
"Optimism allows us to
shine a positive light on
our community"
Is a lie, and
"Positivity is useless "
My school will learn that
I know what's right
pessimism
will triumph over
Optimism
Let me tell you
I know that i will go to a
school of my own making
Optimism is useless
It is foolish to believe that
My peers and i care about
our school
A problems not a problem
until we see it as one

October - Best Efforts

Your best may not be enough, but that's
ok
As long as you tried your hardest that's
what they always say
Even the best can't stop the passing of
time
For we as humans slip from our prime
In our best efforts at least we can take
pride
In and of that fact that we tired
Though only names of winners that
most recall
Feel happy that you gave it you all
So many winners in business and in
sports
Yet also so many that just fall short
For every that makes the headline news
So many it seems are destined to lose
world will keep on spinning whether
you laugh or you cry
But what's important is at least you've
tried
Put your best into anything you do
Or else what's the point of doing it too?

Cross Country

By: Leo F. - Gr.8

One of the amazing clubs we have here at Thornhill Woods is the Cross Country Club. The Cross Country Club is a great opportunity for students from grades 4 to 8 to stay fit, as well as have a great time. The students in the club this year performed exceptionally both at Area and Regionals and on top of that had a great time doing it. Not only is Cross Country running fun but it is a great pastime even if a student isn't planning on becoming a professional runner or something along those lines. It teaches important skills that can be transferred into the classroom, other sports and just life in general. An example of this is that while at the area meet, we were caught off guard by the weather as it was extremely hot that day. The students there persevered through it though and ran great races nevertheless. This just goes to show you the determination of the students because they didn't give up and kept running. Perseverance and confidence are great skills to have because it's important to be able to persevere and be determined so you can reach your goals. On top of that, studies have actually shown that running, can help lower stress as well as make students more confident in themselves. This is a great skill to have as confidence is required to face and overcome your fears. Furthermore, you can only achieve your goals if you can have confidence and believe in yourself. Another great skill you learn from running is alertness. When running runners have to pay attention to make sure they don't lose their footing or get hurt. The ability to stay alert and pay attention is extremely important in both in and outside of the classroom so that you can learn and grow as a person. Cross country, like any other sport, is not easy. Considering through the advantages gained from it, I think that it's worth it. You get to learn great skills, stay fit and on top of it, all have fun. Next year the club will be starting back up, so why not consider joining it and having an awesome time.



SPIRIT DAY

BY: AIDAN HARRIS

On October 18, Thornhill Woods Public School participated in an event known as Spirit day. It is a day of celebrating acceptance and differences, and focuses mainly on getting rid of any hate that is directed at sexual and gender minorities (LGBTQ+ community). In

2010, Britney McMillan, a Canadian high school student, wore purple to support the thousands of youth lost due to homophobia, transphobia, and other kinds of discrimination directed at the LGBTQ community. She thought it was important for us to practice “ally behaviour”, for example, not using slurs and terms to insult specific groups, but most of all, care for everybody, no matter who they are. At our school, We aim to make Britney’s vision a reality with impactful lessons. Teachers gave their students an extensive lesson that aimed to teach students about acceptance, being aware of bullying, and teach students about gender identity and expression or will read their classes picture books that relate to spirit day. Over the next 6 weeks, our school will continue to learn about acceptance in a variety of activities that force students to think about what it would be like if they were placed in a situation that involves discrimination towards the LGBTQ community, and they will learn how to solve many of these situations. The older students will learn about the harm of using homophobic or transphobic slurs, while the younger students will learn about self expression. Hopefully, after these sessions, the important lessons that Britney McMillan tried to pass on to the world will stick with the students, and make our school a happier, safer, and in general, better place to learn.

The Learning Commons

By: Yutong W

During the summer our school library underwent a great change. The shelf that once divided the library into two has been moved and turned into three smaller shelves to accommodate more activity space. By moving the bookshelf the library looks much more spacious. There is also the new addition of couches and bar stools offer more seating space for students in the library. New books have also been added to our school's already vast collection of books. Ranging from non-fiction books on bugs to fictional books on a dystopian future. The furniture in the library has been painted a pleasant lime green to give off a cheerful and vibrant look. Apart from changing looks, our school's library also underwent many other changes. For the new school year, Ms. Gould is our new librarian, and there is no doubt that she will do an outstanding job taking care of the books. Ms. Wagman, our old librarian, still remains at our school, but has switched to teaching music and other subjects. The library is now called the "Learning Commons", which is a more appropriate name since now it is not just a library. Students can go into the learning commons not just to borrow books, but to study in a quiet environment and learn new topics as well.



DEBATE CLUB

By: Githmi I. - Gr.8

The Debate Club is a club where students grades 6 - 8 get to have some fun and debate! With the help of Mrs.Black, we will be debating upon interesting topics throughout the year. I know that there are many students who are interested in debating and sticking to their opinion. The debate club gives a great opportunity to those students who are shy, to speak up when debating upon a topic. We will be debating in a respectful manner with interesting topics that students enjoy. Each week a new topic will be chosen and a debate will be held with one side and the rebuttal side. Students get to have fun communicating with each other and debating with each other about what they think is right!

GR.8 FIELD TRIP

BY: MARCUS S. AND YUTONG W.

On Thursday, September 20, 2018, the grade 8 students of Thornhill Woods went on a field trip to Cold Creek Nature Reserve. They left planning to leave early in the morning, but there was a small issue with the buses. Only two small buses came which were not big enough to fit three grade, 8 classes. After waiting for approximately forty minutes, another bigger bus came, and the problem was solved. The grade 8s arrived at Cold Creek with a small delay, but were still able to participate in the activities. The activities included team building activities, high ropes, and trust activities. Each student got an opportunity to climb a high rope of their choice, the catwalk, the three line bridge, the rickety bridge, and Tarzan. Some students may have gotten a second opportunity from correctly answering trivia questions. The students also did activities requiring cooperation using a large purple elastic material. The students also received “handcuffs” made out of rope and had to undo them without taking them off. It was a great challenge, and many students had trouble figuring out the solution. In the afternoon, the grade eight’s did activities, requiring the trust and assistance of their friends and classmates. The students were split into three different groups, one person from each group was selected to climb to a platform while the rest were helping to belay. The grade eights felt that this field trip was a genuinely incredible experience. After spending a day working together, the students have become more collaborative and cooperative.



THE LEGO ROBOTICS CLUB

Marcus Shen & Kabir Patel

The Lego Robotics club has been running at Thornhill Woods since 2016, and has been led by Mrs. Black. Grade 6 to 8 students have been participating in annual challenges, showing off their skills to other schools. Last year, we placed 11th out of 24 schools in the area tournament, and hope to improve this year. Students will learn about team building, being creative, and of course, robotics, throughout the course of the year. With heads held high, we hope to accomplish our goal, of making it in the top 5 teams. The Lego Robotics team will be looking forward to the 2018 - 2019 area tournament, which will be held at our very own school.



A decorative border of yellow school buses is arranged around the central text area. The buses are shown from a front-three-quarter perspective, facing towards the center. They are yellow with black grilles, red emergency lights on top, and black tires. The background of the border is a light blue color.

BUS SAFETY

SAFETY FIRST

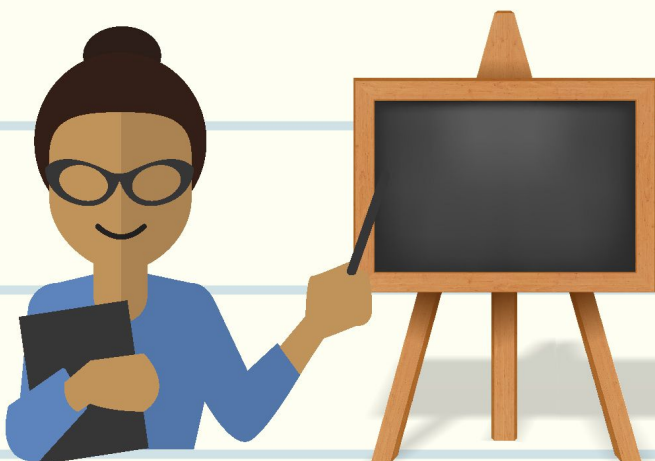
By: Vineth I - Gr.8

When it comes to students and transporting, there are a lot of safety rules that come into factor. Especially when students take the bus to come or go from school daily. With safety being our number one priority, it is vital for students to know and practice bus safety, just in case if an accident occurs. On Friday, November 2nd, our school participated in a lesson on bus safety. The lesson consisted of practicing bus evacuations outdoors and an educational video about bus safety to watch in the library. Overall, students learned about the various danger zones around the bus and factors to keep aware of when boarding, riding and exiting the bus.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Nick Chen & Marcus Shen

On Wednesday October 9, 2018, Curriculum Night took place at Thornhill Woods. The evening started off by parents and students eating a barbeque dinner. Parents got the chance to meet their children's teachers and see the school, as well as some of the amazing artwork produced by students. They learned about their child's school curriculum and progress. Some parents will be receiving emails from their child's teacher. This was an excellent way to gain knowledge on their students curriculum.





The HOSA Club is a club that's intention is to prepare students for high school. HOSA stands for Health Occupations Students of America. This club is held under the supervision of Mrs. Garvin in term 1 and by Mrs. Lau in term 2. This is a club where we will focus on the healthcare field and discuss health terminologies. With grades 6 - 8 students, they will learn about many things they will need in high school. I know that in my sister high school, they have a HOSA program, and this prepares students who are interested in the healthcare field. Students will have a chance to do weekly presentations or tests, educating them about what they need to know for high school. I ensure that the students are having fun and not just sitting there feeling bored. My goal is to make sure that students are having fun with learning about the healthcare field.



Raise Your Voice

By: Githmi I. - Gr.8

Raise Your Voice is a choir consisting of grade 5 - 8 students, where Thornhill Woods students receive a chance to embrace their voices and show their true colours to our school. I, Githmi Illamperuma, have organized this club for my love and passion for singing and to keep this club going on for the future years. I noticed that there was an immense amount of students who had signed up, which showed me how many students have a passion for singing. With the guidance and direction of Mrs. Whyte, we do many vocal warm-ups and many songs known to the modern generation. During the whole of term 1, we are singing songs such as Hallelujah, by Leonard Cohen, Wings, by Little Mix, and Rise Up by Andra Day. Mrs. Whyte and I have decided to enter for the CBC Music Challenge, where our school will be competing with other schools around Canada. This choir will definitely show how much passion Thornhill Woods Students have.



TERRY FOX WALK

BY: NICK C

Terry Fox was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on July 28, 1958. He was raised in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. He became an athlete at a young age. When he was in grade eight, he was on his school basketball team. In his first season, he was on the court for only one minute, but this did not affect Terry at all. Two years later, Terry was the star player on his team. By the time he graduated, he became one of the two athletes who received the school's highest athletic award.

However, all of that was about to change. At the end of his freshman year of university, he noticed a pain in his right knee. One morning Terry woke up to find that he could no longer stand up, and a week later, he found out that it was not just an ache. In fact, he had a tumor. His leg was amputated six inches above the knee. His doctor told him that his odds of his survival were from fifty to seventy percent. The night before his operation, a former coach, from Terry's track and field days brought Terry a magazine featuring a man who ran a marathon after he underwent a similar operation. In Terry's next sixteen months he met some young people suffering from cancer and was inspired. He never forgot what he saw and felt a responsibility to run his marathon across Canada. When Terry got out of the hospital, he wrote to companies asking for sponsorship. Terry soon started training and made himself stronger by pushing his wheelchair. He would push himself until his hands bled. Two years after Terry started his training, he got an artificial leg. He trained for fifteen months and every day he ran 23 miles. Terry was always determined and as a payoff for his hard work, Terry received a sponsorship. On April 12 1980, he dipped his artificial leg in the Atlantic ocean of the coast of St. John's Newfoundland, to mark where he began to run the marathon. Later, his cancer came back and ultimately killed him, but the Terry Fox run is still ran across Canada today to finish Terry's journey.

Thornhill Woods Public School also participated in the walk on September 25, when we walked around the community to remember Terry Fox and raise money for cancer awareness. During the walk, students went around the neighborhood and passed many of our homes. We were very organized; everyone walked together; and cars honked at us as we went by to show their support. All students participated and worked together to finish the walk. The teachers worked as crossing guards and did a very good job at keeping all the students in line. Near the end of the walk some of the students got tired, but after a short break they kept going. In conclusion, We should appreciate Terry's cause, and maybe, one day in the future, his wish for a cure to cancer will come true.





THE FOOTBALL TEAM

By: Adam L

For the first time ever, T.W.P.S has made a co-ed flag football team! This made many of the intermediate students very excited. The team was decided and the coaches were very happy with the players. They played their first game vs Nelly Mclung Public School and won. They then signed up for a flag football tournament in Mount Albert Lions club and placed 2nd in their division. The players were motivated and excited to play, especially since it's the first official flag football team at our school. The final game was at our home field against Rosedale Public School. The show of people there was amazing. The parents and students were very enthusiastic. We ended up winning that game and finished the season with a great ending. A big thanks to Mr. Crooks and Ms. Fischer for being amazing coaches



DRUMMING ENSEMBLE

BY: Aidan H, Kabir P, & Marcus S

The Drumming Ensemble is a great opportunity for students to learn more about music and have a lot of fun. Run by Mrs. Whyte, the drumming ensemble is being run for its second year, after a huge success last year. It consists of students in grade six to eight playing West African drums, accompanied by percussion instruments. The music selection that we are playing is also extremely diverse, including pieces from both Cuba and Africa. Although we have only had a few practices, it is already blatant that this year's drumming ensemble will be extremely successful, culminating with a performance in the Winter Concert in December of this year. We hope to have another successful year with the drumming ensemble and hope to learn many new things.



SOCIAL CHANGEMAKERS

By: Vineth I. and Aidan H. - Gr.8

The Social Change Makers Team is a group of intermediate students that strive to celebrate and acknowledge our differences here at TWPS. Consisting of students from grades 7-8, and led by Mrs. Gallop, the group is extremely active in the school. On October the 18th, a group of students from the Social Change Makers created a lesson focused on stopping hate towards the LGBTQ+ community. In November, some students will be attending a conference at Maple high school focused on mental health awareness and equitable education. Also, groups of students from the social change makers will be running the Remembrance Day assembly and a lesson to teach students about Ontario treaty week, a time when we acknowledge Canada's past, and how we got where we are today. In the future, the Social Changemakers will be running many events, such as World Autism Awareness Day in April, and Pride Month in June. Eventually, the Social Change Makers aim to change the school for the better permanently and to establish a sense of acceptance and friendship at TWPS.



INTO THE WOODS

- Marcus S.
- Kabir P.
- Yutong W.
- Ryan S.
- Ethan F.

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- Daniel G.
- Ethan Z.
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If you wish to submit an article for the newsletter, you can send them through google drive to the following email:
335690426@gapps.yrdsb.ca or speak to Mr.Birenbaum to drop any articles or suggestions. Thank you!