

Thornlea SS



January 29, 2021

Principal: Joe Foti

Vice-Principal: Sofia Papadatos A-L

Vice-Principal: Lana Fisher M-Z

Inside this Edition.....

Message from our Administration	3-4
Important School Hours Information	5-8
Message from our Trustee	9
Upcoming Events	10
Parents' Corner	11
Canadian Computing Competition	12
YRDSB Information	13
Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students	14
STEM	15
Has your CONTACT information CHANGED?	16

Message from our Administration

Dear Parents/guardians,

The end of semester 1 is upon us. Congratulations to our students for persevering despite the challenging times.

Some important information for our Semester 2 startup:

February 1: PA Day

February 2: *Credit Conferencing and Rescue*-Teachers will support students with completion of outstanding learning tasks. Further communication from the board about the details of this day are forthcoming.

February 3: **Semester 2 Begins-A.M. only**

Students attend their four classes following a modified morning schedule. Each period is synchronous and 30 minutes in length, with a 5 minute break in between classes.

February 4: ***IMPORTANT* NEW-Semester 2 Schedule during the school closure (up to Feb 10th and beyond, if the school closure is extended).**

Students will follow a traditional semester model of four 75-minute periods with a 5-minute break between periods 1 and 2 and between periods 3 and 4.

Period 1 8:50—10:05 (75 minutes)

5 minute break

Period 2 10:10—11:25 (75 minutes)

LUNCH 11:25—12:45 (80 minutes)

Period 3 12:45—2:00 (75 minutes)

5 minute break

Period 4 2:05—3:20 (75 minutes)

Timetables for Semester 2

Student timetables for Semester 2 will be updated and visible in Teach Assist on Friday January 29, 2021. For any student wanting to make a timetable change, please submit your request through bit.ly/Thornlesecondaryschool from Friday Jan.29 until Monday, February 1st 4:00 pm.

Please note that the form can only be submitted once.

To help with timetable needs of all students in YRDSB, the board is offering additional opportunities for students to earn their Gr. 11 and Gr. 12 credits through [Night School](#) and [Night School e-learning](#) and [Day School e-learning](#). If your child is interested in taking one of these courses, please connect with guidance through bit.ly/Thornlea or email their guidance counsellor directly. Night School registration opened on January 4th and is accessible through *myPathway* planner. Night School e-learning registration opened on Dec. 7th and will stay open until February 10th, 2021.

Course selection for 2021-2022 academic year

Guidance will host virtual grade specific presentations during the month of February to help our students navigate the course selection process. This opportunity is open to students in both models (virtual and adaptive). All information will be shared in the guidance google classrooms. Please encourage your child to enroll in their grade specific classroom.

Grade	Google Classroom Join Code
9	6g26xk4
10	bjvseyj
11	miroalj
12	aonjtop

Our master list of courses is available on our website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornlea.ss/guidance/Pages/Course-Offerings.aspx>

Students will be able to begin locking their course selection on February 16th at 9:00 am and all course selections must be complete by Friday, February 24th, 4:00 pm.

Upcoming Dates

A reminder that equal consideration for students applying to college is February 1st.

If you have any questions regarding the application process please encourage your child to connect with their alpha counsellor.

Sincerely,

J. Foti, L. Fisher, S. Papadatos



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**PLEASE NOTE THERE
HAVE BEEN
CHANGES MADE TO
SEMESTER 2 FORMAT**

**We are currently preparing to transition into Semester 2.
The following are some key dates for you to be aware of:**

Mon Feb. 1: PA Day

Tues Feb. 2: Credit Conferencing and Rescue Day

Some students will be involved in activities to support completion of Semester 1 courses.

Students are expected to attend only as directed by their teacher.

Wed Feb. 3: Online morning classes only

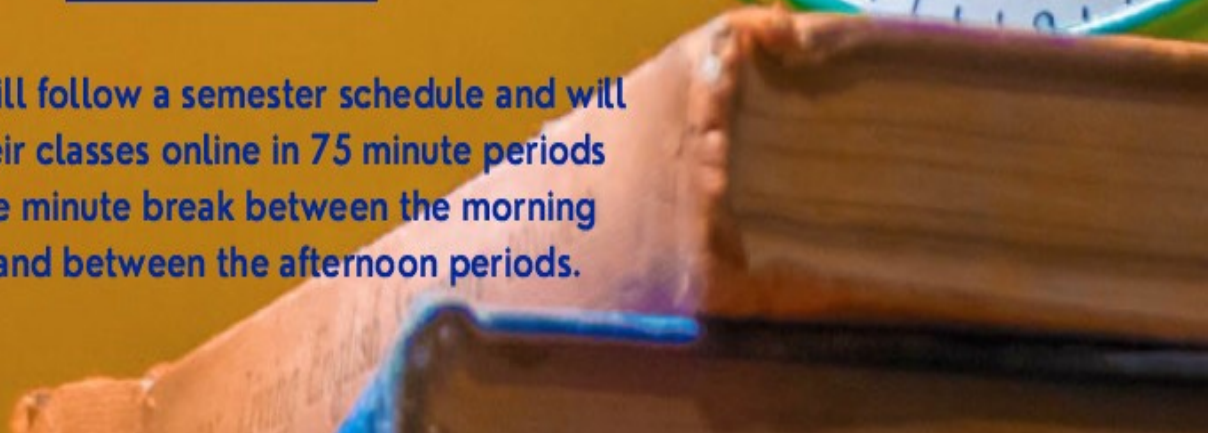
In the morning, all students will attend classes online for 30 minute blocks following their regular start time. Students will receive an invitation to their digital classrooms before their first period class.

In the afternoon, there are no classes scheduled.

Feb. 4 - 10: School Closure - All Classes Online

For the duration of the school closure, Adaptive (face-to-face) schools will follow a revised school schedule.

Students will follow a semester schedule and will attend their classes online in 75 minute periods with a five minute break between the morning periods and between the afternoon periods.





SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 3RD

PERIOD 1-8:50 AM-9:20AM

PERIOD 2-9:25 AM-9:55 AM

PERIOD 3-10:00 AM-10:30 AM

PERIOD 4-10:35 AM-11:05 AM

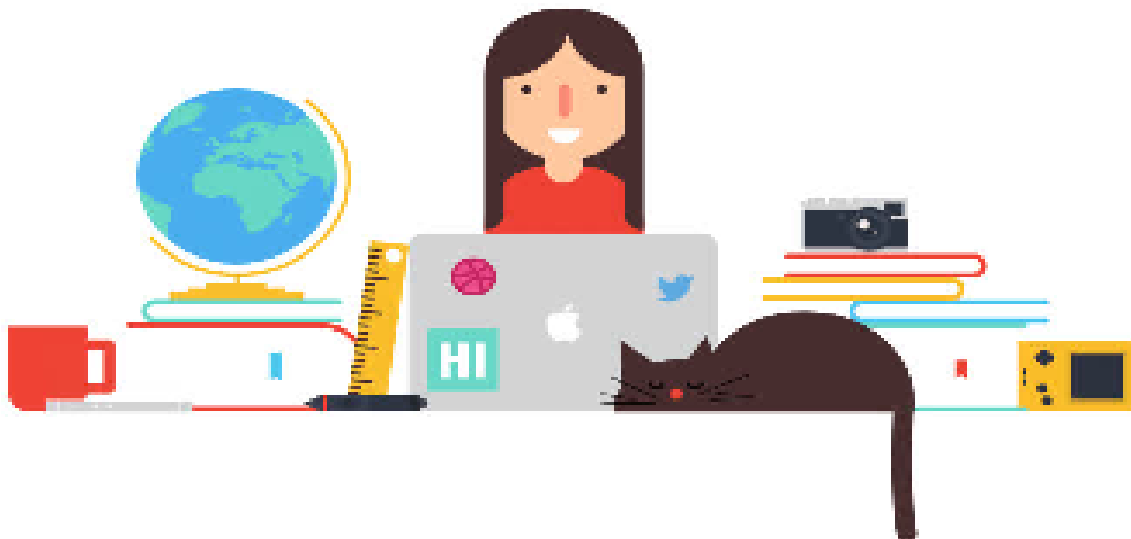
PM: PROMOTION MEETINGS
(NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS)

SCHEDULE FOR SEMESTER TWO: FEB 4 - FEB 10 (ONLINE)

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DAILY SCHEDULE
FOR SEMESTER TWO**

****THIS IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE ADAPTIVE MODEL
DURING THE SCHOOL CLOSURE BETWEEN
FEBRUARY 4 - FEBRUARY 10**

PERIOD	TIME
PERIOD 1	8:50 – 10:05
PERIOD 2	10:10 – 11:25
LUNCH	11:25 – 12:45
PERIOD 3	12:45 – 2:00
PERIOD 4	2:05 – 3:20



Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

I hope that you and your families are healthy and doing well. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their flexibility, patience and perseverance during the school closures. We understand that the pandemic is creating challenges and hardships, and we will continue to prioritize and do our very best to support the well-being, learning and achievement of our students during these difficult times.

There are resources on the Board website that students and families may find helpful, including tips for speaking with your child about COVID-19, support using technology, community and mental health resources and more at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

One of our [priorities](#) as a Board of Trustees is to Champion Equity and Inclusivity: we aim to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to remove barriers in support of all learners.

Anti-Black Racism

We want each and every one of our students to know that they are valued, welcome, safe and respected in our schools. We know that sadly that is not the reality for some students and that incidents of anti-Black racism continue to occur in our community and our schools. These incidents cause pain, make our students feel unsafe and affect their well-being and achievement. This is not acceptable.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing information and inviting you to participate in the *Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy: Creating anti-racist and Black affirming learning and working environments* virtual event. During this event we will be unveiling our Anti-Black Racism Strategy, which was developed in coordination with families, students, community partners, educators and members of our senior leadership team. The strategy was developed in response to continued evidence of anti-Black racism, and it will be a critical tool to support positive change in the system and to improve the experiences of Black students and staff.

A series of training sessions, webinars and opportunities for learning will also be made available. Future communication will provide registration options.

I want to thank the members of the Anti-Black Racism Committee for generously giving their time, sharing their difficult experiences and their voice. We are committed to ensuring that this strategy is more than a piece of paper and are committed to doing the work to create more equitable learning environments.

I also want to acknowledge that February is Black History Month, and while we take this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the incredible contributions made by Black Canadians, we will also be looking forward to launching our Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy. We will also be continuing our [celebration of Black excellence](#) in our community and I encourage you to take the time to read the stories of some of the inspiring individuals learning and working here in York Region.

We all have a role to play in creating a community that enables everyone in it to thrive, and in doing this work, we will create a more inclusive and positive environment for *all* of our students and families.

Upcoming Events



February 1

PA Day

February 2

Credit Conferencing &
Rescue Day

February 3

Semester 2 Begins

February 15

Family Day (no school)

February 16

School Council Meeting

March 15-19

March Break

April 2

Good Friday (no school)

April 5

Easter Monday (no school)

April 19

School Council Meeting

May 17

School Council Meeting

Parents' Corner:

Parents' School Council 2020-2021, 7:00PM

Our meetings will be virtual meetings until further notice. A link will be sent the week before the meeting.



Please mark your calendar.

➤ **February 16th 2021**

- Tamara Gord, Head of Special Education, to present a webinar to parents on how to best support their child in the online learning environment. Followed by Q&A.

➤ **April 19th, 2021**

- Dr. Bernardini: Teen stress and anxiety presentation.]

➤ **May 17th, 2021 TBD**

TBD: We'll provide the topics as soon as they are available.

*From: Geneviève Seabrook
Chair of Parents' Council*

Canadian Computing Competition by Waterloo

This year, Thornlea will not be hosting the CCC (Canadian Computing Competition by Waterloo) due to the lockdown, however students can still participate! The contest this year is on February 17th.

Parents will need to register their child through this link:

<https://cemc2.math.uwaterloo.ca/contest/Sigma/school/newHomeSchool.php?pageLang=E>

Parents will register, order the contest, and act as the supervisor for their child during the time of writing the competition.

Instructions:

1. On the site, parents will enter their own information as supervisor (registration deadline is February 9)
2. They will receive a CEMC school number and password
3. Students can then create their own CCCgrader account using the received school number.
4. Students will participate on the day of the contest at home (February 17) supervised by a parent/guardian

More information can be found on their website. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lee at kinbon.lee@yrdsb.ca

York Region District School Board Information

Tamil Heritage TASME Poster Contest

Secondary Students are invited to participate in this research-based poster competition through TASME that fosters ingenuity and creativity, encourages experimentation and teaches critical thinking and problem-solving. See [flyer](#) for further information.

STEM Information Session

ALL parents/guardians of YRDSB students are invited on February 9, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm to learn about careers related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as initiatives and resources available from Skills Ontario. Please refer to this flyer attached for more information.

Islamic Heritage Student Art Call for Entry 2020/21

Islamic Heritage Student Art Call for Entry. Theme: Islamic Heritage Month in the Canadian Context with a focus on Muslim Canadians past and present who have made an impact in our country. Deadline: March 1, 2021. See flyer for further details. Please check the flyer included for additional information.

Secondary GSA Google Classroom

Secondary school students who identify as 2SLGTBQI+ and their allies are invited to join a virtual GSA secondary classroom. The classroom will be moderated by our caring and dedicated GSA advisors, who will make sure the space is following ground rules, safe space guidelines and confidentiality. The classroom is now open and accepting student registrations. Interested students must register using their YRDSB GAPPS account at <https://bit.ly/SecondaryGSA>

The GSA Google classroom will bring the social and educational aspects, and fun of a GSA online. It will include discussion boards, community services and resources, group social sessions and various supports as students need.



THE ALLIANCE OF EDUCATORS
FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS

YRDSB and the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students (AEMS)

Islamic Heritage Student Art Call for Entry 2020/21

Theme: Islamic Heritage Month in the Canadian Context

Overview: We are excited to introduce our first ever student contest! We want to focus on Muslim Canadians past and present who have made an impact in our country. The submissions will be compiled into an online resource that AEMS will share with schools. This online resource of Muslim student artwork can be used inside and outside the classroom year round for culturally relevant learning. Educators are encouraged to use the student artwork for discussion points and to make curriculum connections.

Topic: Which Canadian Muslim stands out as a leader to you?

Why an Islamic Heritage Contest:

- To celebrate Islamic heritage and identity
- To recognize Canadian Muslims who have made a significant contribution to Canada
- To provide an avenue for Culturally Responsive and Relevant Teaching/Learning

Qualifying Submissions:

- Open to all York Region District School Board students K-12
- One entry per student
- Must be the original work of the student
- Entries must be received by March 1st, 2021
- Submission through [Google Form](#)

Criteria:

- Consistency with theme, creativity and originality
- Portraits, abstract, digital art etc. all accepted.

Decisions:

- Outstanding participants will be celebrated via social media outlets

Questions? Wahid Khan by email wahid.khan@yrdsb.ca or 437-984-7778



@AEMSyr



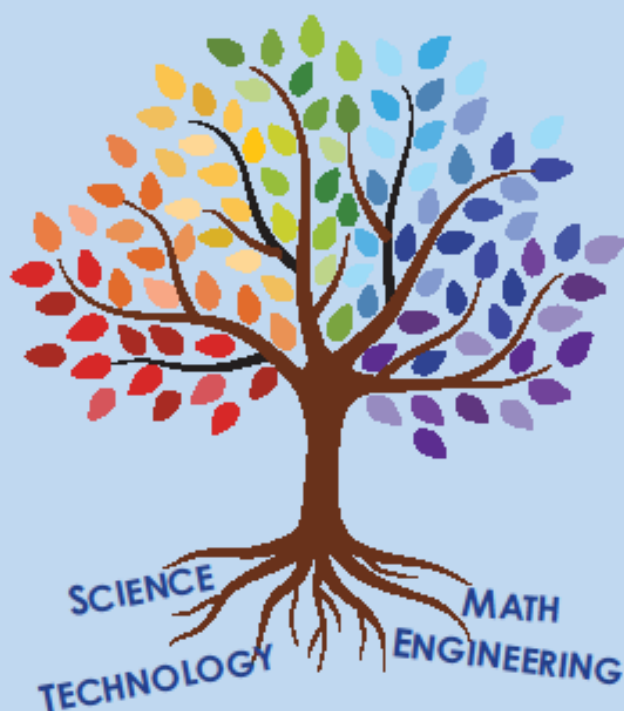
@aemsyorkregion

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD & SKILLS ONTARIO
INVITE YOU TO AN INFORMATION SESSION ON

STEM

THE ROOTS OF SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm



We are inviting **ALL** YRDSB parents/guardians of YRDSB Elementary and Secondary students to join **York Region District School Board's Pathways Team & Skills Ontario** on **Tuesday, February 9, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm** to learn about careers related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as initiatives and resources available from Skills Ontario.

GOOGLE STREAM

***Please note:** you will need to log into your child's YRDSB Gapps account to access the online webinar stream. ***Register in advance:** [BIT.LY/YRDSB-STEM](https://bit.ly/YRDSB-STEM)



Dear Parents/Guardians:

If your contact information has changed,
please don't forget to let us know



Email any changes to:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

Thank you!