



Thornlea Secondary School

8075 Bayview Ave., Thornhill L3T 4N4
Phone: (905) 889-9696, (647) 795-7692

Bi-Weekly e- Bulletin

February 4, 2022



Principal: Joe Foti

joe.foti@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal: Michelle Dor (A - L)

michelle.dor@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal: Leonie Patrick (M- Z)

leonie.patrick@yrdsb.ca

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**We look forward to welcoming students to semester 2!
Classes begin Monday February 7th.**



Thornlea Celebrates Black History Month



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Message From the Principal

Dear Thornlea Families,

As a school we are looking forward to the start of a new semester on Monday. There have been many challenges semester one and there will be many to overcome this situation. We have had many families move to online learning to complete semester one. If you would like to change your status to either online or in person please send me an email with your request and we will accommodate. Our guidance department has provide our students with a link on their Gapps School email account. If your child would like a course change please have them make the request and guidance will start making changes next week. I need to let parents know that there has been a large turnover of staff at Thornlea due to leaves of absence and retirements. We are doing our best to replace those teachers that departed our school but several classes will start semester two without a permanent teacher on Monday.

We are hoping that with the easing of restrictions in the province of Ontario that more sports, clubs and student centred activities will return to our school in semester two. We hope to have permission to start badminton indoors and prepare for our spring outdoor sports once the weather changes. All of our winter sports are unfortunately still on hold. In February the schools photographers will be allowed to enter the school and retakes of school pictures will take place and Grad pictures are also being scheduled.

Our next School Council meeting will take place on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. A link to the virtual meeting will be sent out closer to the date of the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me at any time.

Warmest Regards,

Joe Foti
Principal



Message From Our Trustee

Dear families,

Thank you for your patience and support as schools closed to students and we moved to remote learning in January for two weeks after the winter break, following direction from the Government of Ontario.

It has been almost two years since the pandemic was declared and schools closed to students for the first time. Since then, we have all experienced significant changes and challenges in the way we live, work and learn. As a school board, we continue to be guided by public health advice and guidelines, our values as an organization and the goals set out in our Multi-Year Strategic Plan, all of which centre the well-being, learning and achievement of our students. We remain committed to sharing information with you as it becomes available. We also continue to update the Board website with resources and information, at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

On the website, you can also find information about the Board of Trustees, including more about my role as your trustee, committee meeting dates, and information about public participation and how you can attend public board meetings. Following a review completed earlier this year, trustees approved some changes to committee structures and delegation process to create a stronger governance model. As a Board, we are committed to good governance, serving the needs of our community and upholding the values of York Region District School Board.

With winter well underway, I want to remind families that this year schools will close when an inclement weather day is declared. This is as a result of the pandemic and the importance of adhering to public health guidelines.

There is much to look forward to in the months ahead.

This month, students in Grades 5 to 11 will have an opportunity to vote for the students who will represent their voices next school year, during the student trustee elections. Student trustees play an important role in our system, including participating in board and committee meeting discussions. The election process also gives students an opportunity to learn more about and participate in the voting process. Learn more at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees.

Throughout February, we recognize Black History Month. In addition to recognizing the contributions of Black Canadians throughout history, we are continuing to Celebrate Black Excellence in our own community. I encourage you to read or watch the stories of some of the many outstanding individuals in York Region, or nominate someone. You may also be interested in some of the episodes available on our TuneIn YRDSB podcast, exploring Black History Month and beyond.



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Later in February, our schools will become a sea of pink as we acknowledge Pink Shirt Day and stand together against bullying. Learn more about our work to prevent and address bullying and create equitable and inclusive learning environments.

Family Day and March Break are also approaching, and I wish you and your families a healthy, restful and enjoyable break.

As we move closer to the spring and summer months, many families who have children graduating this year are beginning to wonder what graduation ceremonies will look like in June. We all want to be able to celebrate this important milestone with our graduating students in person. It is a special occasion, recognizing their years of achievement and hard work. We recognize that it has been deeply disappointing to students, families and staff that we have not been able to hold in-person ceremonies as we have done in the past, as we adhere to health and safety guidelines. School board staff continue to meet regularly with public health and to review provincial guidelines, and as more information becomes available, we will continue to provide you with updates.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that as an education community, although we have faced many challenges and changes in the past few years, we have also seen our community come together in many ways to support our students and one another. I am proud to be part of this community and I want to thank our students, families and staff for the effort and care they have demonstrated.

David Sherman
Trustee, Markham Ward 1, Vaughan Ward 5



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School Council Corner

Upcoming Meetings:

February 22, 2022

April 19, 2022

May 16, 2022

Inclement Weather Day

We would like to remind families that for the 2021-2022 school year when an Inclement Weather Day is announced:

- information is communicated through local media outlets, the Student Transportation Services website, School Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001, the Board's website and Twitter account and on the Board and school's voicemail recording.
- to have alternate child care arrangements planned for IW days when schools are closed to students.

If your child is going to be absent, please inform us.



Call: 905 889-9696
Press 1 for Attendance

or

Email

thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca

Has your contact information changed?



Please email:

thornleas.ss@yrdsb.ca



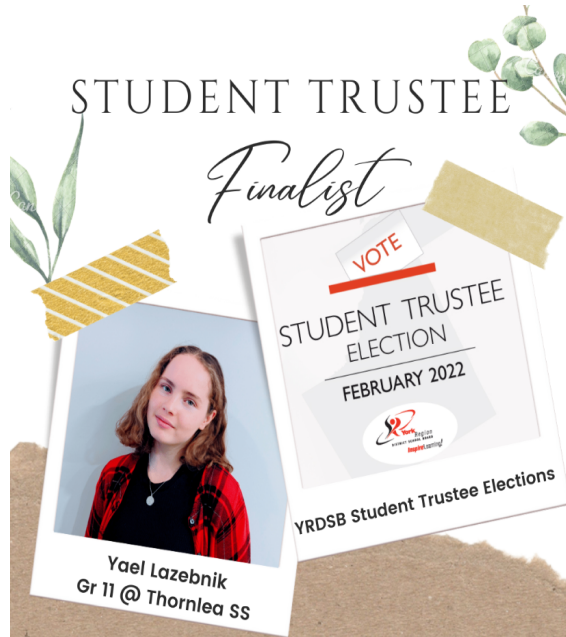
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Classroom Connection



Each year, students in Grades 5-11 have the opportunity to vote for the two student trustees who will represent their voice across York Region District School Board. Four finalists (one from each region of the Board (North, East, West, Central) are selected.

We are pleased to announce that one of the final four candidates is none other than Yael Lazebnik, a Grade 11 student at Thornlea Secondary School.

Congratulations to all four finalists:

Meihuan Yu - [@meihuan.vote](https://twitter.com/meihuan.vote)

Prisha Bhavsar - [@voteprisha](https://twitter.com/voteprisha)

Teerka Baskaran - [@voteteerka](https://twitter.com/voteteerka)

Yael Lazebnik - [@yael.yrdsb](https://twitter.com/yael.yrdsb)

Learn more: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/StudentTrustees/Pages/default.aspx>

Voting begins on Monday, February 14, 2022 and closes at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

The results of the election will be shared with the four candidates at a predetermined time on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

We wish Yael the very best of luck in the debate and during the campaign. #gothunder



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Message From Guidance

Guidance Team Members	Student Surname:
N. Alkins (Head of Guidance -) nizam.alkins@yrdsb.ca	A - ION
L. Rai - lovleen.rai@yrdsb.ca	IRE – MOF
T. Gord - tamara.gord@yrdsb.ca	MO – TON
V. Estafanos - viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca	TOO – ZOM
G. Burdett (Guidance Secretary) - gail.burdett@yrdsb.ca	

Students are encouraged to connect with us in-person or online please complete the bit.ly/Thornlea form. Once you have submitted the form, your alpha guidance counselor will connect with you via their school Gapps email to set up an appointment.

Please access information through our Thornlea Guidance Webpage:

[Thornlea Guidance Webpage](#)

[Ontario University Slide Deck Presentation](#)

[Ontario College Slide Deck Presentation](#)

→ For Scholarship information for grade 12 graduating students, please check the Scholarship section for updates on the grade 12 Guidance Google Classroom.

University Applications:

We would like to wish the best to our 252 grade 12's that have applied through OUAC as of January 14th, if you have any questions, please reach out to your guidance counselor.

- The next OUAC University grades transmission is scheduled for **February 10, 2022**.
- Note: The OUAC still processes applications received after this date and distributes them to the universities; however, specific university deadlines will apply. The initial application includes all final grades from completed Grade 11 and 12 courses and a list of all current-year courses in progress.
- [OUAC Important Dates - Jan - June 2022](#)



Message From Guidance

College Applications:

The “Equal Consideration” Deadline for your **Ontario College Application is February 1st, 2022** (highly recommended to pay online with a credit card)

www.ontariocolleges.ca

- The next OCAS College grades transmission is scheduled for early **February 10, 2022**.
- Please see your counselor for support with your Ontario College Application.

Timetable Changes

If students are planning on making a request for a timetable change for 2nd. semester, they should contact their counselor.

- Guidance will send out the electronic form to request a timetable change on **Monday, February 7th at 9:00 am** to all students.

Course Selections

- Course selections for next year 2022/23, will start on **Wednesday, February 16th at 9:00 am to Friday, February 25 at 4:00 pm** through their personal myBlueprint account.
- There will be zoom assemblies in early February by grade (dates, times to be announced) to provide information on this process.
- Course selections in myBlueprint are to be completed and submitted by **Friday, Feb. 25th** this is the Equal Consideration Deadline.

Continuing Education:

There are 2 options for taking a course at night school in semester 2:

1. Online Night School will run from February 16 to May 31. The course will follow the asynchronous model with 1 synchronous session every week. Students can register for a course on myBlueprint between **January 25 to February 23, 2022**. You can check course options using the link below.

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/online-learning-formerly-e-learning/online-learning-night-school>



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2. Remote Night School will run every Tuesday & Thursday from 6:30 to 9:45 pm from February 17 to June 14. The course will follow the synchronous model. Students can register for a course on myBlueprint between January 17 to January 27, 2022. You can check course options using the link below.

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/adult-learning/night-school-credit-courses/night-school-courses-offered>



Black Foundation of
Community Networks
(BFCN)

**Scholarship
Application
Workshop**

[**BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop**](#)



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Celebrate Black History Month

STUDENT AND FAMILY ADVOCATE PROGRAM PRESENTS
2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION: BUILDING FAMILY & MICRO-ENTERPRISES

FEBRUARY VIRTUAL EVENT SCHEDULE

- Tuesday February 1 @ 6:30pm**
Candle Making Workshop - Catherine Chambers- Let'sMakeIT
- Thursday February 3 @ 7pm**
Parents & Guardians Wellness Workshop - Kamilah Clayton
- Saturday February 5 @ 6:30pm**
An evening of Musical Giants - DJ Benjamin
- Tuesday February 8 @ 6:30pm**
Caribbean/African Folklore - Sandra Whiting
- Thursday February 10 @ 6:30pm**
Tie & Dye Workshop - Catherine Chambers- LetsMakeIT
- Tuesday February 15 @ 6:30pm**
Mental & Emotional Health
- Thursday February 17 @ 6:30pm**
Keeping the Family Safe- Chief Adam Grant - Markham Fire Emergency Services

EACH EVENT IS AN INFORMATIVE INTERACTIVE HOUR FILLED WITH PRIZES AND SURPRISES
VISIT MACCA1987.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Black History Events - Visit MACCA](#)

YORK REGION ALLIANCE OF AFRICAN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES PRESENTS

5th Annual Black History Month Event

Date: February 19, 2022 Black Health, Well-Being, and Resilience
Time: 11am - 2pm through Ubuntu - I am because we are!

Keynote Speaker: Ms. Ginelle Skerritt
First Black CEO of YRCAS, public speaker, published author, dedicated to principles of diversity, inclusion, positive identity and social justice.

Breakout Sessions / Entertainment
Mental and Physical Health Resilience
Resilience through Community
Financial Resilience
Online Bullying - Social Media Resilience
Drumming, Poetry, and More

Venue: Virtual Event

Registration at: YRAACCBHM2022.eventbrite.ca

For more information: (647) 280 - 9879 [Info@yorkregionaacc.ca](mailto:info@yorkregionaacc.ca)
Visit www.yorkregionaacc.ca/events for more details.

[To Register, press this link](#)

SkillsCompétences Canada Ontario

Skilled Trades & Tech
UMOJA Series

A conference for Black youth and families to learn about post-secondary pathways leading to successful careers in skilled trades and technologies industries.

Learn about what skilled trades and technologies have to offer! Through inspiring stories from speakers, let's explore the opportunities in these pathways together!

Register at skillsontario.com/dei

Grades 7 & 8
February 2, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm EST

Grades 9-12
February 9, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm EST

Parents & Guardians
February 10, 2022 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm EST

UMOJA
The first principle of Kwanzaa, a 7-day annual celebration from December 26th to January 1st. This celebration is rooted in African harvest festival traditions.
Umaja means UNITY.

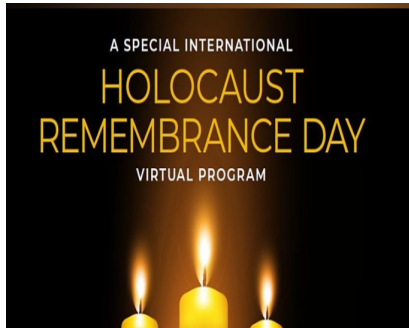
Visit skillsontario.com/dei or email dei@skillsontario.com for more info

Program Partners:

[Skilled Trades & Tech](#)



Information from YRDSB



[Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)



Tune In YRDSB is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. Here we will explore a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond. We look forward to inspiring learning through storytelling
Tune In YRDSB

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Census Community Supporter Toolkit

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/census/census-engagement/community-supporter>



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Information from YRDSB



February 8, 2022 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

[Register Today](#)

SEX TRAFFICKING

York Region District School Board in a collaborative partnership with Women's Support Network is hosting a virtual information session about sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

This session will provide awareness and information about:

- *What is sex trafficking
- *How to identify signs of someone who may be in the process of being recruited or is already being trafficked
- *Who is at risk
- *Available resources and supports in the community

Crime Stoppers of York Region

Crime Stoppers of York Region in collaboration with the York Catholic District School Board and York Region District School Board are proud to present the **12th Annual Crime Stoppers Symposium (Virtual) and Media Awareness Contest** for secondary students on **February 24, 2022** streamed live through the Crime Stoppers YouTube Channel. The theme for this year's event is **Stop the Crime of Human Trafficking**.

Crime Stoppers is dedicated to assisting in the efforts of combating human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of Humans. In many cases, men, women and underage boys and girls are victims of crime, having been forced into the sex trade. Crime Stoppers of York Region provides an option to anyone involved in the sex trade who may be looking for a way out or who may require assistance to escape these dangerous circumstances to seek help **ANONYMOUSLY**.

Three inspirational guest speakers will virtually interact with students to deliver their message live, covering a wide range of content including: human trafficking, social media/internet safety awareness, and personal growth development/motivation. We are looking for students to represent our school along with our teacher Rep Ms. Magic. Additionally, Specialist High Skills Major students across the YCDSB & YRDSB will be invited to attend through the support of the YCDSB & YRDSB SHSM Regional teams.

Please contact Ms. Magic or ROC V.P. Ms. Herman if interested.



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YRDSB Helpful Links:

[What is De-Streaming](#)

[COVID-19 Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#)

[School Mental Health Ontario](#)

[COVID Community Resources for Behaviour, Mental Health and Financial Supports](#)

Upcoming Events

PA Day	February 4, 2022
Photo Retake Day in Cafeteria 8:45 AM	February 8, 2022
Virtual School Council Meeting	February 22, 2022
Final Semester 1 Report Cards	February 10 to February 14, 2022
Graduating Class Photo Week	TBD
Virtual School Council Meeting	April 19, 2022
Virtual School Council Meeting	May 16, 2022