



Thornlea SS

Principal: Joe Foti

November 26, 2021

Vice-Principal: Michelle Dor A-L

Vice-Principal: Leonie Patrick M-Z



Inside this Issue

Message from the Principal	3
Parents' Corner	4
School "Parent" Council	5 - 6
Inclement Weather Day	7
News from Guidance	8 - 9
Graduating Class of 2022	10
News from the Arts Department	11 - 12
School Events	13 – 16
Has your contact information changed?	17
Student Attendance/Covid Student Screening	18 - 19
For Families	20
Upcoming Events	38

Message from the Principal

Dear Thornlea Families,

It has been a busy week at Thornlea with a lot of activities taking place both inside and outside the classroom. The student's in Ms. Ross's grade eleven Biology class painted images using genetically engineered E. coli bacteria. The students are preparing for a Biotechnology competition on December 6th and we wish them good luck. Our basketball and volleyball teams have been practicing and are anxiously looking forward to the start of the season. Our students and staff have been preparing for the Twenty-Fourth One Act Play Festival performances take place December 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Our classes will be attending the performances all next week and we wish that we could invite the Thornlea community to attend. Here is hoping that we will be able to perform in front of friends and family soon.

As most of you have heard we will be returning to our traditional four period day starting on December 6th. We will send home a detailed email next week with our period start and end times. What will not change will be our start and end times they will remain the same. School will begin at 8:50 a.m. and the school day will end at 2:55 p.m. The return to our regular schedule will be beneficial to our students and staff who for the most part have found our current model a challenge.

We will be having photo re-take day on February 8 for those students who missed getting their picture taken the first time or would like to take another photo. We have also scheduled Grad Photo's from February 28th to March 4th. Due to Covid regulations individual graduation gowns must be purchased on Cash Online. It is our intention in June 2022 to have an in person graduation for our graduating class. If we are unable to book a venue due to Public Health regulations then our plan is to hold an outdoor graduation on our field.

The school also has send home our Mid-Term report cards electronically. If you have not received a copy or have a question please let us know. I wish all of you a safe and fun filled weekend.

Warmest Regards,

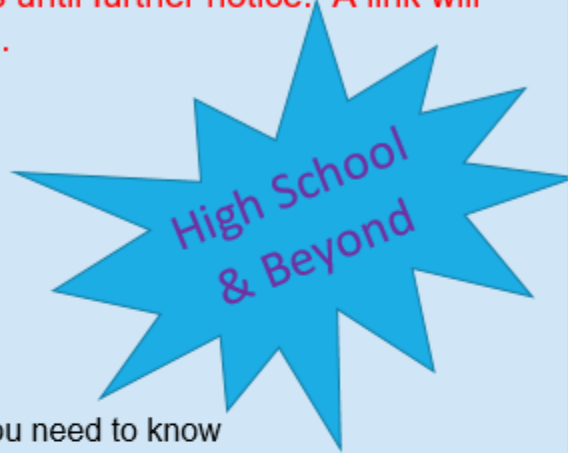
Joe Foti

Parents' Corner:

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

Please mark your calendar:

- September 14, 2021
 - Principal's update
 - Parents' Council Election
- October 18, 2021
 - "Universities and Colleges" All you need to know
- November 15, 2021
 - "Ways to Pay". All you need to know about scholarships and bursaries.
- January 17, 2022
 - TBD
- February 22, 2022
 - TBD
- April 19, 2022
 - TBD
- May 16, 2022
 - TBD



Message From Our Trustee – December 2021

With case counts remaining relatively stable, I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, families and staff members for continuing to adhere to health and safety protocols. Your efforts are appreciated and important to protecting the health and safety of our school community members. As we have since the start of the pandemic, the school board continues to meet regularly with public health and follow their guidance. Families looking for more information or resources on COVID-19 and our schools, including health and safety guidelines, frequently asked questions and mental health resources, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening or York Region's www.york.ca/safeatschool.

In November, we held the **school council forums**. I appreciated the opportunity to participate in shared learning with school council representatives on priority topics including the ABCs of mental health and actioning anti-racism practices. Thank you to all of the participants and to all school council members for your partnership. There are so many valuable [ways families help to strengthen our schools and support student learning and achievement](#). We value the partnership that we have with families, and thank you for your ongoing support.

As partners, we want to support you in supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. The **Family Resources** page on the Board website provides quick access to online tools such as Google Classroom, School Cash Online, Edsby and more. It also provides links to information to support you in engaging in your child's learning - resources like translation tools, IT support for families and tips on protecting your child's privacy online. It also includes links to other information you may find helpful. Find it at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources or from the link on the homepage.

Over the past few months, York Region District School Board has been conducting a review of its Trustee Areas. The boundaries of the areas that school board trustees represent change over time. The goal of the **Trustee Determination and Distribution Study** is to ensure fair and equitable representation of all public school supporters. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation on the proposed options. The final report will be presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 8. You can find more [information about the study and the recommendations on the Board website](#).

The upcoming winter season is a time of celebration for many, and I want to wish you and your families a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. I hope that over the winter break, you find time to rest, relax and rejuvenate and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

David Sherman

Trustee – Markham Ward 1, Vaughan Ward 5

Hello School Council Members,
We hope that you and your school council are having a great start to the new council year!

On behalf of the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC), we want to thank you for volunteering your time with the school council. We believe that when parents are engaged, good schools become better schools, and YOU are the reason that this is possible!

PEAC is here to help support you and your school. One way we do this is through our quarterly newsletter, [Engagement Matters](#). In the September edition, you will find useful information about:

- Running a Family Ambassador Program;
- Hosting a Chalk the Walk event; and
- Fundraising guidelines during the pandemic.

Newsletters are posted on our [PEAC webpage](#), where you will also find other relevant information about our committee. We encourage you to share your success stories and ideas with school councils through our newsletter. Please reach out to us by sending an email to leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca.

We would also like to extend an invitation to you to our upcoming Parent Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee Meeting on November 25th, 2021 at 7pm.

If you are interested in attending please register using the Public Link:

- [Public, listen only, telephone only access, if needed, is via 647-497-9385 and Access Code: 304-418-931#.](#)
- [Public / general attendee link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8765620475893444879>](#)

Furthermore, we have updated the [School Council Forum webpage](#) to include the Fundraising and the ProGrant presentations. The other presentations will be added as soon as they are available.

We welcome you to share this information with your fellow school council members. Thank you.

Kindest regards,
Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory (PEAC) Committee Members

Leadership Development and Engagement | ✉ 300 Harry Walker Parkway S., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 8E2
| ☎ 905-727-0022 ext.3626

Follow Us!



InspireLearning!

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.

Salutations from the Guidance Department!
This year's Guidance team consists of:

	Student Surname:	
N. Alkins (Head of Guidance)	A - KAN	nizam.alkins@yrdsb.ca
L. Rai	KANI - PIN	lovleen.raai@yrdsb.ca
T. Gord	PIR-TAN	tamara.gord@yrdsb.ca
V. Estafanos	TAY-Z	viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca
G. Burdett (Guidance Secretary)		gail.burdett@yrdsb.ca

Students are encouraged to connect with us in-person or on-line 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:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornlea.ss/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>

Our Ontario University Slide deck presentation is also ready to view along with our Ontario College Slide deck. Please see links below:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornlea.ss/guidance/Pages/University.aspx>

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornlea.ss/guidance/Pages/College.aspx>

Grade 12's have now received their special OUAC access code/pin on Friday October 22nd it was sent to their school email Gapps account, along with their OEN for Ontario College applications.

Full Disclosure for Grade 11 and Grade 12 Courses For 2021/2022, the course withdrawal date (Full Disclosure) will be 5 instructional days after the mid-semester report is issued. The Full Disclosure date for Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses is December 6, 2021. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course prior to December 6, 2021, then the course will not be recorded on the Ontario Student transcript. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course after the Full Disclosure date, a withdrawal (W) is entered in the credit column, and the student's mark at the time of withdrawal will be recorded as a percentage in the achievement column of the transcript.

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

The transmission to the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) was on **Nov. 19th, 2021**.

The transmission to the Ontario College Application Services (OCAS) was on **Nov. 19th, 2021**.

Important Notice for all grade 12's that have applied to OUAC for university and OCAS for College.

Your mid-term grades from semester one have been processed by OUAC and OCAS and sent to the Universities and Colleges to which you have applied. Please log on to your online application in order to review your academic information. This verification is especially important if OUAC does not have a valid email address on file, or you are not able to receive emails from OUAC/your Universities because of a junk-mail setting with your inbox. If you see an error in your OUAC file, it is very important that you contact your Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible to have it corrected.

University Applications:

You can select as many University programs as you would like (\$50.00 each), but, you can only choose a **maximum of 3 programs** per University. For example:

Only 3 choices can be used for all University of Toronto campuses, for example (St. George, Scarborough, Mississauga) can have one program each or all 3 at Scarborough or any combination adding up to 3.

Waterloo University, you could only select a maximum of 3 programs. If you wanted to add a 4th you cannot.

If you need clarification on this process or have questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's counselor. Deadline for **equal consideration is Jan. 13th 2022.**

Ontario College Application Seminar:

You can apply to an Ontario College today! Deadline for **equal consideration is Feb. 1st 2022.**
www.ontariocolleges.ca

Please see your counselor for support with your Ontario College Application.

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

Community Service Hours

We would also like to remind our learning community that there is a process in place for Community Service Hours. All graduating students must complete 20 community hours to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The Guidance department must approve your community service opportunity before you start your hours. It should be at a Not-For-Profit organization.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please check your grade level guidance google classroom.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance and Career Education



Graduation Gowns are required as an individual purchase, due to COVID, for graduation PHOTOS.

These need to be ORDERED BY: December 15th, 2021 !

Graduation Photos will be the week of February 28th, by appointment only. More information to come.

See Graduation Tickets Class of 2022 in Schoolcash Online

<https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

Dear Thornlea Students,
*Are you thinking to join
Thornlea Vocal Ensemble "Les Voix"
to sharpen your musical and vocal skills?*

We'd love you to join in!

*You will have a terrific opportunity
to improve your rhythmic skills,
your vocal range, your listening skills,
your confidence, and your
all-round musicality:*

Sight Reading

Ear-Training;

Healthy Vocal Techniques;

Basic Music Theory;

Vocal Exercises and more..

*We will be singing songs
and musicals in different languages.*

*Our first meet up will be
on Tuesday, November 30th at lunch.*

*If you want to join the Vocal Club,
please sign up in Room 223.*

Can't wait to see you all there.

On se voit là-bas!



NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT



Pre-AP and AP Art Portfolio Workshops for Grade 11-12 students

Dear Students and Parents/ Guardians,

The Advanced Placement Studio Art Portfolios workshops on Drawing and Painting, 2-D Design and 3-D Design are designed for students who are interested in the practical experience of art. We offer Advanced Placement Art Portfolio Workshops to help our Grade 11 and 12 students work on their AP Art portfolios. Our Grade 11 students will also benefit from this learning opportunity and can start working on their Art portfolios this year. Please join our virtual Portfolio classes on **Wednesdays after school (3:30-5:00 pm)** to work on a variety of projects for Arts portfolios (Portraiture, Anatomy/ Figure Drawing, Architecture, Sculpture, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Animation and more). If your child would like to upgrade his/ her portfolios, please encourage them to join us.

If you are interested in attending the virtual meetings or have any questions, please email Mme Bern at: ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca



Thornlea's Twenty-Fourth Student One Act Play Festival

After a twenty month hiatus the Thornlea Drama Department is so excited about performing again. There is such a buzz happening about the twenty-fourth **S.O.A.P Festival**.

As always, this festival is student-directed and student-cast with one special staff-acted play thrown in for fun!



We were able to chat with two of the student directors.

Julia Petrucci, director of "Cheque Please", is so excited to see how her one act play will come alive on stage with her peers. She overcame the challenges of rehearsing with masks and social distancing in order to get the most out of her cast.

Evie Carrier, director of "The Proxy", is looking forward to seeing how well her multigrade cast of students perform. She worked hard at balancing regular school work with high-energy rehearsals.

This year's **S.O.A.P Festival** will take place on December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for a full house student audience.

Good luck to all cast and directors. Stay tuned for a full post-festival report.

Photo by: Aidan A

Enlightenment Salon

Our amazing History Department is at it again!

This time Ms. Ceausu's World History Class attended their very own Enlightenment Salon in the library.

Each student took on the role of an historical figure who shared and debated their ideas and philosophies of the time.

It will be exciting to see what they do next!



Bacteria Grows at Thornlea!



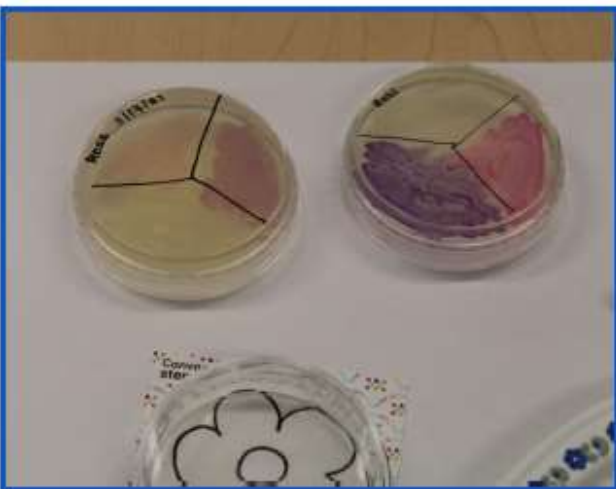
Last week, Mrs Ross' Grade 11 Biology class prepared for the YRDSB Biotechnology Competition to be held on Dec. 6. The students painted images on agar using genetically engineered E.coli bacteria.

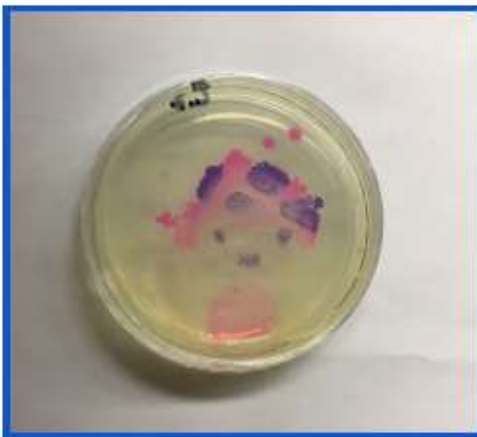
On the first day, students in the class made agar plates on which the bacteria would grow.

On the second day of the experiment, students created their painting palette by "streaking" genetically engineered bacteria onto one of the agar plates. These bacteria have been engineered to produce pigments of different colours; magenta, cyan and purple.

On the last day, students used their colourful painting palette of E. coli bacteria and painted images they designed onto other agar plates.

(Photos by Aidan & Ms. Ross)





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!

Student Attendance:

If your child is absent, please inform us by:



Calling 905-889-9696

Press 1 for attendance

OR

Emailing thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca

COVID Student Screening Tool

Student Screening Tool

If you answered **YES** to any of the questions on the Self-Assessment Checklist **STAY HOME.**



Before coming in to school, ensure you complete the form. **SCAN THE QR CODE** using your **Camera** on your phone or **QR Scanner**. A confirmation email will be your ticket in the door.

<http://bit.ly/ThornleaSSCheck>





2SLGBTQ+ Drop In Consultation

Please join us on **Monday, December 13th from 4:00-5:00 PM** for our second 2SLGBTQ+ Drop in Consultation. This consultation will provide an opportunity for YRDSB staff to ask questions regarding 2SLGBTQ+ supports and best practices. It is our hope that these recurring consultations will continue to move the work forward in supporting our 2SLGBTQ+ YRDSB community.

These consultations will be attended by staff from Caring and Safe Schools, Social Work Services, Inclusive School and Community Services, 2SLGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group and Elementary and Secondary GSA Leads.

Featured breakout rooms: Elementary GSAs, French Resources and Questions, Names and Pronoun Questions

Please feel free to share the [Zoom link \(https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/9493973479\)](https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/9493973479) for the drop-in consultations.

It will remain the same for each time we meet.

You are welcome to [submit a question](#) beforehand. Questions will be answered at the very beginning of the drop-in.

For any questions, please contact [Missy Sturtevant Mae-Ng](#).

Meet Joanne Robertson

Author of *The Water Walker*

Part of the Ancestral Voices Author Series



Thursday, December 2, 2021 10:30 a.m.

- Join Joanne Robertson, author of the acclaimed children's books *The Water Walker* and *Nibi Is Water*

AnishinaabeKwe author Joanne Robertson wrote and illustrated the *The Water Walker*, which won the Indigenous Literature Award. Joanne will share her work for the water walks beginning with Grandmother Josephine-ba Mandamin. We will learn why water walkers walk and who they walk for. She will share stories and images that inspired *The Water Walker*.

Ancestral Voices is an author series presented by NPL, in collaboration with Maxine Gordon Palomino and Kim Wheatley. It features Canadian authors of Indigenous, Caribbean and African ancestry and descent.

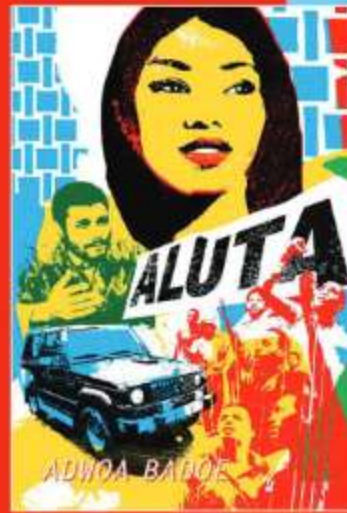
Join us for this free online program. For more information
905-953-5110 Ext. 4770. Register at <http://bit.ly/nplrobertson>

Meet Adwoa Badoe author of *Aluta* & *Between Sisters*

Part of the Ancestral Voices Author Series



Photo: John Wood



Thursday, December 9, 2021 7:00 p.m.

- Join Adwoa Badoe, author of acclaimed Young Adult novels *Aluta* and *Between Sisters* for an engaging author event for ages 14 and up

Adwoa Badoe is a storyteller who has published young adult novels, as well as the collection, *The Pot of Wisdom: Ananse Stories*, and several picture books for young children. She is an oral storyteller, specializing in the folktales and legends of Africa. Adwoa has also taught and performed African Dance and practiced medicine. Adwoa will be showcasing her book *Aluta*.

Ancestral Voices is an author series presented by NPL, in collaboration with Maxine Gordon Palomino and Kim Wheatley. It features Canadian authors of Indigenous, Caribbean and African ancestry and descent.

Join us for this free online program. For more information
905-953-5110 Ext. 4770. Register at <http://bit.ly/nplbadoe>

NACCA
est.2018



Tune In YRDSB: Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

The latest Tune In YRDSB podcast episode focuses on the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. Schools, please feel free to share with families:

Interested in learning more about some of the many exciting Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program opportunities available to our secondary students? There are over 150 skilled trades for our students so that they can explore their interests and pathway options. [Listen to the latest episode of Tune In YRDSB](#) and join members of the YRDSB Curriculum team and current and former students as they share more information about the program.

Tune In YRDSB is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario. The podcast explores a wide range of topics related to education in York Region and beyond.



York Region District School Board's Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS) presents

Reflections on Antisemitism: Past, Present & Future



“Antisemitism has no place in Canada—or anywhere else. It is unacceptable that Jewish communities and people still face violence, hate, and discrimination in our country. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to continue to take concrete action to combat antisemitism in all its forms. Only together can we build a Canada where we celebrate diversity, compassion, and inclusion as our strengths.”

—The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

The York Region District School Board is hosting a series of professional development

We live in a time where Jews are facing a sharp rise in antisemitism. This intensifying hate is a profound risk to the Jewish community and to all oppressed and marginalized communities.

Jewish Canadians are the most **targeted religious group for hate crimes** in the country (Statistics Canada). In York Region, the Jewish community was the **victim of 79% of reported hate crimes** motivated by religion, and more than **18% of hate crimes overall**.

Building on the pillars of the Director's Action Plan, this session is an opportunity for all YRDSB staff to explore antisemitism from its roots to its present incarnation, and to discover ways to become allies in countering the world's oldest form of discrimination.

Goals and Objectives

- Introduce and build an understanding of the historical roots of antisemitism
- Investigate how antisemitism has adapted over the years and how it continues to manifest itself today
- Understand how antisemitism fits into the greater context of other forms of hatred and intolerance
- Build tools that help identify and address antisemitism in educational settings

Strategies to Fight Antisemitism

1. Name it.
2. Educate yourself.
3. Be an ally.
4. Stand Up. Speak Out.
5. Reach out.

Check out and register on [Connect2Learn](#) for session dates and times [Connect To Learn](#)
For more information, please contact iscs@yrdsb.ca



Community Connections

The YRDSB and SEAC have established many community partnerships to provide seamless supports for all students with exceptionalities and their families. Click on the text to access the websites of these partnerships.

ABC Ontario



[ABC Ontario](#)



Autism ONTARIO
see the potential

[Autism Ontario](#)



Children's
Treatment Network

[Children's Treatment Network](#)



COMMUNITY LIVING
Georgina
(905) 722-8947

[Community Living - Georgina](#)



COMMUNITY LIVING
Central York

[Community Living – Central York](#)



COMMUNITY LIVING
York South

Inspiring Possibilities

[Community Living - York South](#)



[Down Syndrome Association of York Region](#)



[Easter Seals Ontario](#)



Idayr • Learning Disabilities
Association of York Region

The right to learn, the power to achieve

[Learning Disabilities Association of York Region](#)



VIEWSON.ca
VIEWS for the Visually Impaired

[VIEWS for the Visually Impaired](#)



FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

[Voice for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children](#)



[Early Intervention Services of York Region](#)



[York Support Services Network](#)



For more information please visit the [York Region Special Education Advisory Committee \(SEAC\) webpage](#).

Free Virtual Group Mentoring Programs Information to be shared with Parents/Guardians



Free Virtual Group Mentoring Programs Information to be shared with Parents/Guardians

Brothers Big Sisters of York (BBBSY) is offering free virtual group mentoring programs designed to empower youth while keeping them connected to their peers. Please see information about each program below with links to register your child. If requested, participants may be placed in groups with classmates or friends. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Congiusti at Sara.Congiusti@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

Virtual Go Girls! is designed to connect and empower female-identified youth between 6-15 years old. Facilitated by trained Mentors, participants are provided with the opportunity to engage in fun and interactive discussions and activities. The program promotes physical activity, balanced eating, self-confidence, and stress management. It is delivered once a week for 6-8 consecutive weeks, depending on the age group, using a secure online platform. Each group will be coordinate so similar aged participants are paired together.

- To enroll your child in Virtual Go Girls! Please complete our <https://york.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/online-go-girls/>

Virtual Game On! Supports male-identified youth between the ages of 10-15. Facilitated by trained Mentors, participants are provided with the opportunity to engage in fun and interactive discussions and activities. The program promotes physical activity, positive nutrition, stress management, and building relationship skills. The program runs once a week for 8 consecutive weeks and will be delivered using a secure online platform.

- To enroll your child in Virtual Game On! Please complete our online registration



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

December 2021

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

The ABCs of Mental Health: A focus upon Bridge & Connection

In this Newsletter, we continue our focus on the [ABCs of Mental Health framework](#) with a closer look at **B-Bridge** and **C-Connect** both at school and at home.

Acknowledge, Bridge and Connect are interrelated and work one with the other. *Acknowledge* helps us center and validate the lived experiences and realities of students, staff and families. In our previous [Newsletter](#), we noted that acknowledging lived experiences and realities is the beginning, but is not enough. In this effort, *Bridge* and *Connection* aid us in creating learning environments where growth and healing can occur. As we continue to navigate COVID-19, these are important now more than ever.

B- Bridge

Bridging centers on the fact that your children/our students, staff and families possess personal, cultural and community assets and strengths. When we all learn about these assets and strengths, we can better build meaningful and affirming connections and enhance growth, healing, and shape student/family support opportunities. When we Bridge, we honour and value varying ways of knowing, being and doing in the world. Children and families are seen as the experts in their lives. Their interests, assets, unique beliefs, traditions, experiences and strengths are valued, respected and reflected in the learning environment. Beyond this, when we Bridge, we affirm that families and communities are essential and valuable allies.

C- Connect

Connect encourages us to build connections based on the strengths, assets and interests shared by our students, staff and families. Establishing positive connections is vital and fundamental to the experience of mattering and belonging. This is equally important both at school and at home. Caring is at the core of forming positive

connections and relationships. We consider the difference between "caring for" and "caring about." [Geneva Gay](#) invites us to consider, "while 'caring about' conveys feelings of concern for one's state of being, 'caring for' is active engagement in doing something to positively affect it." Caring *for* encompasses a combination of concern, compassion, commitment, responsibility, and action. When we engage in the action of caring *for* one another, the outcome is a sense of mattering and belonging. It tells our children /students, staff and families that:

I belong here
I matter here
I am valued here
I am cared for here

Connection and relationships must be cultivated, and care must be actioned. By this, we mean relationships require attention, intention, and ongoing effort. Care must be seen and felt.

We invite you to consider and do One Small Thing that demonstrates **caring for someone**.

"A simple call to a friend brightens someone's day - it's a small thing."

-YRDSB Student.

YRDSB Mental Health acknowledges the importance of cultivating positive relationships and building community not only with students and staff but with families and community members. We understand that to best support students and strengthen our school board's mental health supports; we must listen, learn from, and collaborate with families and community members. In this effort, we have created a [feedback form](#) as a starting point to hear your voice as parents and caregivers and learn how we can shape and improve supports and resources that enhance students' mental health and wellbeing.

We look forward to creating pathways for caring connections and meaningful relationships with parents, caregivers, and families. Share your voice by using this [feedback form](#), and let's pave the path forward together.

What are students saying about the ABCs of Mental Health? Have a look at this [Video](#) To learn more about the ABC Framework & lesson series, please visit [YRDSB ABCs](#)

We invite you to consider the following **free seminar** focused on Connection:

Getting Teenagers Connected - Help your teenager develop good, supportive friendships. You'll learn ways to build their confidence, encourage social skills, help them to plan and meet commitments and encourage them to take care of others. [Click here to register.](#)

Mental Health COVID-19 Page

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health. Resources for students, parents/guardians, and community resources are listed. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the [Mental Health and Community Supports](#). Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter accounts [@YRDSB](#) and [@YRDSB_SS](#).

Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.

Mental Health Lead

patricia.marra-stapleton@yrdsb.ca

Hoshana Calliste, MSW, RSW

Assistant Coordinator of Mental Health

hoshana.calliste@yrdsb.ca

Morning Announcements

Please visit the site below for a recap of our daily announcements.

Thornlea Daily

Announcements:

<https://sites.google.com/site/thornleabulletins/>

In support of Ontario families this school year, TVO has assembled [free K-12 learning resources and tools](#) to complement in-class learning or to be used on their own.

Along with [tvompower.com](#), we recommend bookmarking these websites or sharing them with anyone who might appreciate the support when it's needed.

- [TVO Learn \(Grades 1-8\)](#) | TVO Learn has expanded to include new adult-guided Learning Activities for Grades 1 through 8 math, language, science and technology and social studies. More are coming soon.
- [TVO Mathify \(Grades 6-11\)](#) | TVO Mathify offers free, 1:1 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers. From September 20 until August 2022, Ontario students in Grade 11 will also be able to use the platform.
- [TVO ILC \(Grades 9-12\)](#) | High school students in Ontario can access 144 courses developed by Ontario Certified Teachers. These not-for-credit courses are designed for independent study or study support.
- [TVOkids \(K-Grade 6\)](#) | The TVOkids *Power Hour of Learning* will air weekdays at 1 pm on TVOkids until September 8, and anytime on [TVOkids.com](#), [TVOLearn.com](#) and [YouTube](#). There's also [How Do You Feel?](#), a series that helps young viewers work through their thoughts and emotions.
- [TVO current affairs](#) | Parents can also rely on daily COVID-19 updates and insight on the status of Ontario schools via [TVO.org](#) and [TVO's newsletters](#).

Hello School Council Members,
We hope that you and your school council are having a great start to the new council year!

On behalf of the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC), we want to thank you for volunteering your time with the school council. We believe that when parents are engaged, good schools become better schools, and YOU are the reason that this is possible!

PEAC is here to help support you and your school. One way we do this is through our quarterly newsletter, [Engagement Matters](#). In the September edition, you will find useful information about:

- Running a Family Ambassador Program;
- Hosting a Chalk the Walk event; and
- Fundraising guidelines during the pandemic.

Newsletters are posted on our [PEAC webpage](#), where you will also find other relevant information about our committee. We encourage you to share your success stories and ideas with school councils through our newsletter. Please reach out to us by sending an email to leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca.

We would also like to extend an invitation to you to our upcoming Parent Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee Meeting on November 25th, 2021 at 7pm.

If you are interested in attending please register using the Public Link:

- Public, listen only, telephone only access, if needed, is via 647-497-9385 and Access Code: 304-418-931#.
- Public / general attendee link:
<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8765620475893444879>

Furthermore, we have updated the [School Council Forum webpage](#) to include the Fundraising and the ProGrant presentations. The other presentations will be added as soon as they are available.

We welcome you to share this information with your fellow school council members. Thank you.

Kindest regards,
Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory (PEAC) Committee Members

Leadership Development and Engagement | ☒ 300 Harry Walker Parkway S., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 8E2
| ☎ 905-727-0022 ext.3626

Follow Us!



InspireLearning!

September 2021

Engagement Matters

Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PEAC)
Advisory Committee Newsletter



Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Learning continues, even during a pandemic. Schools play a critical role in supporting students' learning, as well as children's emotional health and overall well-being. Throughout the pandemic, YRDSB staff, teachers, students and their families showed resilience and an incredible ability to overcome many challenges. With this experience, we are hopeful that together we will be able to make the most of this upcoming year and enjoy it to the fullest!

- School Council Forums
- PEAC Meetings
- Chalk the Walk
- Supportive Resources for New Families
- Fundraising Ideas
- Contacting Us
- Policy Review

Save the date...

School Council Forums - please save the date for your respective area. Events run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More details will be posted on the [PEAC website](#) closer to the date, and shared with your school administrators and school council chairs.

North/Georgina	Wednesday, November 3, 2021
North/Newmarket	Monday, November 8, 2021
East	Wednesday, November 10, 2021
West	Monday, November 15, 2021
Central	Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Join our PEAC Meetings

PEAC meetings are public events, and all are welcome to attend. Do you and your school council have a positive practice that you would like to share with our Board and other school councils? Let us know, and you may have an opportunity to speak at one of our upcoming meetings, or be featured in a future edition of Engagement Matters. |



Chalk the Walk

Chalk the Walk is a fun community event where people come together to write positive messages and draw pictures with a simple sidewalk chalk.

It is a low cost event because everyone can bring their own chalk. You can safely follow COVID protocols and social distance requirements by inviting students, staff and families to come throughout the day to avoid a large crowd.

Simply make a drawing and wait until the next day to see the smiles on everyone's face as they enter the building. It is very easy to organize. Just spread the word and watch the miracle happen!



Supporting New Families with a Family Ambassador Program

Each year, we welcome new families to our schools, and we can all relate to the feeling of when you are new to a school and there is so much unknown and uncertainty ahead. In addition, having English as your second language, or being a newcomer to Canada, can be a stressful time.

To help our new families, consider launching a Family Ambassador Program at your school. This program is aimed to connect families seeking support in the new community to families who are willing to give them that support. To do that, you will need to create a database to connect volunteers with new families and support the process.

Steps to creating a Family Ambassador Program

- Set up two Google forms (one for Ambassadors and one for the new families seeking support)
- Have a volunteer maintain a database of people and connect them to one another
- Include information about the program in the school information package, and promote it in your school newsletters
- Seek feedback on what is working and what is not, and adjust the program accordingly

Examples of the Forms

Use these forms to help guide you when setting up your program.

- [Ambassador Form](#)
- [New Family Form](#)



Fundraising During a Pandemic

Many schools engage in fundraising as a way to help enhance their students' academic experience. Fundraising during a pandemic may require some creative thinking, but it is still a fun and potentially profitable way to engage your school community. Here are some tips, ideas and guidelines to help you with your efforts.

Guidelines and tips...

- o At this time, lunch programs are not permitted.
- o If you are selling packaged goods, find vendors who can deliver the product directly to the consumer's home through the mail or a courier company.
- o Remember that Public Health safety guidelines must be followed when planning and hosting a fundraiser or event.
- o Guidelines to inform the school's fundraising plan and activities can be found in the YRDSB Policy and Procedure #676, [School Fundraising and Administration of School Generated Funds](#).

Fundraiser Ideas

Have a virtual
Read-a-thon

Hold a technology
fund drive

Setup a Mabel's Labels
account for your school
and receive a portion of
the sales

Create a digital yearbook,
cookbook, or creative arts
book

Plan a virtual walk, run
and ride

Host a virtual games
night (bingo, trivia)

Promote everyday essentials
such as detergent and socks
and receive a portion of the
sales

Join an online fundraising
program with a retail outlet,
such as Chapters.



Start a Scholastic
catalogue book sale

Host an art night and sell
kits from (art kits) or
make your own

Help sprout a green thumb with the
sale of fresh, local, organic vegetables
for the garden with Plantables.ca

Be creative! Reach out to your school's
staff and families for new and exciting ideas
specific to your community.

You got this!

Best of luck with your fundraisers!

Communicating with School Councils and PEAC



Your voice matters, especially when it comes to your child's education. Finding ways to be involved, sharing your ideas, and learning more about how to support your child are just some of the ways that you can enhance your engagement with the school. Here are some access points to help you connect with your school council or PEAC. You may also contact your school office for information that is specific to your school council.

Who...	What...	How...
PEAC	Great for board-wide resources, Ministry documents, calendar of events, meeting links, newsletters, inspiring ideas	Email: leadershipdevelopmentengagement@yrdsb.ca Website: YRDSB PEAC Website Phone: 905-727-0022 ext. 3650 Twitter: @leadershiptyrdsb Instagram: id_yrdsb
School Councils	Great for activities and resources specific to your school, volunteering, staying up-to-date with your school community, sharing your ideas.	Email: "schoolname"@sc.yrdsb.ca Website: link on school's webpage

Supporting Policy Review

Policy #238, **Parent, Family and Community Engagement**, and Policy #262, **School Councils**, are currently under review, and we are asking for your feedback. Share your ideas and suggestions by following this link, [Policy Review and Feedback](#).

