



# Thornlea Secondary School

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

Bi-Weekly e- Bulletin

February 18, 2022



Principal: Joe Foti

[joe.foti@yrdsb.ca](mailto:joe.foti@yrdsb.ca)

Vice-Principal: Laurie Herman (A - L)

[laurie.herman@yrdsb.ca](mailto:laurie.herman@yrdsb.ca)

Vice-Principal: Leonie Patrick (M- Z)

[leonie.patrick@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leonie.patrick@yrdsb.ca)

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**Monday February 21, 2022**



## Message From the Principal

Dear Thornlea Families,

We are entering the third week of semester two and it has finally started to settle down at Thornlea. There have been many new teachers hired this semester and I can finally report that we now have hired replacements for all our teachers on leave. As I have previously stated it has been a much longer process than in previous years due to Covid 19.

Our guidance department has finished course changes for those students who needed to adjust their semester two timetables and our current students are in the process of selecting their courses for the 2022-2023 school. If your child needs support please have them contact their guidance counselor, they would be happy to assist them. Next year, Thornlea will be running a new course NBE3U1 it is a native studies course that can take the place of grade eleven English. The students will learn how to write essays, study literature and poetry as they would in an English course. The difference will be that the readings and poetry studied will be written by Indigenous writers. If your child is interested in this course please have them contact Ms. Livi and Ms. Gord who will be visiting grade ten classes next week.

On Thursday afternoon I went down to the gym to watch our Jr. and Sr. Girls Volleyball teams practice for the first time since last December. It was nice to see students having fun and playing sports again at school. As the week continues more sports, clubs and drama activities will return to Thornlea. Starting next week our peer tutoring program will resume in room 213 after school on Wednesdays. Students in grade 9 and ten can meet up with a grade twelve student and get extra help in math, science and English. If your child is interested in helping out or needs support please have them reach out to Ms. Estafanos in room 213 for more information.

On Tuesday February 22nd school council will meet at 7:00 p.m. virtually. A link was sent home today and I hope that you are able to join us if you are free. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a relaxing long weekend and I hope that you have an enjoyable Family Day on Monday.

Warmest Regards,

Joe Foti  
Principal



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## School Council Corner

### Upcoming Meetings:

February 22, 2022

April 19, 2022

May 16, 2022

We wanted to send a friendly reminder about our online fundraiser, **FlipGive**. Thank you to those of you who have registered but we need more people to sign up. Remember, it's virtual and at no cost to you. **FlipGive** can be used for when you're buying gift cards for any occasion; Birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, Ramadan, Mother's Day or Father's Day, Teacher Appreciation, Graduation. It can also be used by you for everyday purchases at Wal-mart, Sobey's, Loblaws or Staples or staying at a Hotel. There are so many stores to choose from.

➤ **Join online at:** <https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=5FLXC7>

Use this code: **5FLXC7**

Please share the link with your family, friends & coworkers to help support our school.  
All proceeds will be used to support our students.



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## 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](mailto:thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

Has your contact information changed?



Please email:

[thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca)



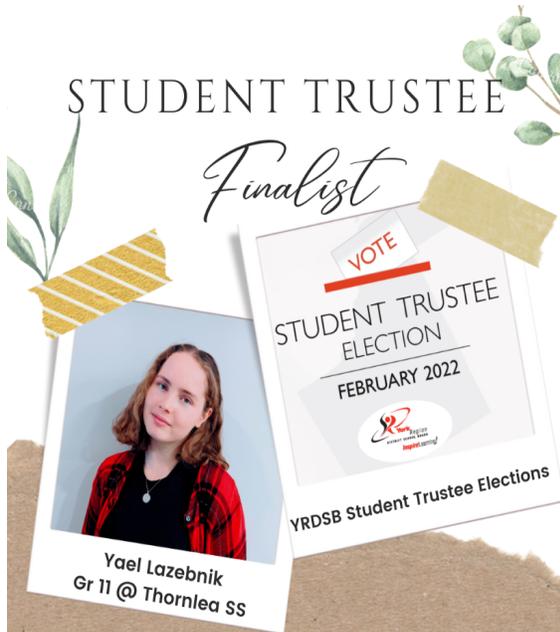
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## Classroom Connection



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

Prisha Bhavsar - @voteprisha

Teerka Baskaran - @voteteerka

Yael Lazebnik - @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



Our robotics students, working on the robot build for the FIRST Robotics Competition. Our students are building and programming robots to compete against teams of high school students from across Ontario for the upcoming robotics competition in March.

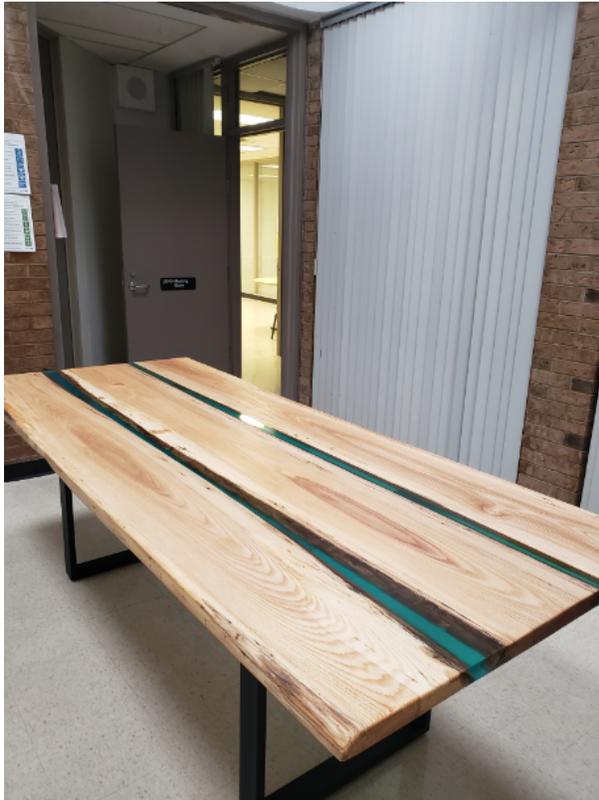


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Well it's been a long time in coming. This project was started in 2019 by former students Max and Khush who have since graduated and have yet to see the fruits of their labours. As it has with so many other areas of our lives, Covid was a constant barrier in finishing this table until a few weeks ago. Current Technological Design students Sadie and Morgan put many hours into sanding and finishing this table to get us to the final stage.

It's made of live edge ash and epoxy, is 42" x 96" and is a welcome addition to the school's conference room. It will be joined by a console table made of the same materials. Hopefully this one won't take as long to construct.

Thanks to Max, Khush, Sadie, Morgan and several others who contributed to creating a conference table that will be here for decades to come.



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Rejoicing in the return of sports, Thornlea's Curling Team overcomes the odds.

What an epic game! With the unexpected absence of two key players, our designated spare Nathan saved us the embarrassment of default by stepping into the lead role on an hour's notice while Alex and William moved up the chain into the vacancies left by vice Sean and skip Matthew.

The team now met the minimum requirement of 3 players, but there remained the intimidating challenge of facing a tier 1 Huron Heights team. Nonetheless, our valiant curlers set a goal of having fun regardless of the drubbing they were likely about to suffer.

Not unexpectedly, the team lost the first end by a seemingly insurmountable 5 rocks. However, Thornlea's Specialist High Skills Curlers blanked the second end, won the third by 2, and took each of the next three by 1 point each. The optimism and perseverance never waned, and after 2 freezing hours, the team had clawed their way back to earn a tie.

As mentioned at the top: epic!



## NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT



### Black History Month - Celebrating our Student's Success:

**Brandon Baghaee** graduated from Thornlea last year. He is currently studying at OCAD and he is actively involved in student life and in his College's community. Last year, he displayed his beautiful Portraits collection "Celebrating Black" at the Toronto Exhibition. This year, he was commissioned by Toronto City Council to paint large format portrait paintings for Black History Month. These paintings are now being displayed at 53 ice rinks in Toronto, including Toronto City Hall! We are all very proud of Brandon's accomplishments and his willingness to give back to our community. It is amazing to see how he can touch many people's lives through the power of his Art. We are celebrating Brandon's success and looking forward to seeing more of his amazing artworks soon.





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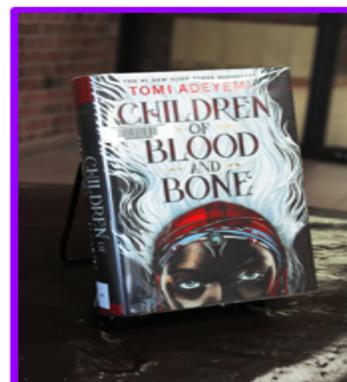
## Outdoor Creative Writing



Mr. Capilongo's Grade 12 Writer's Craft class is studying how to write Haiku Imagist Poetry. They took the wonderful opportunity of sunshine and snow to try to capture the moment. It was fun, cold, and creative!

## Black History in Thornlea Library

Come see our displays with over one hundred books by Black Authors in our library! We are also posting a book choice of the day on all our social media. Photos by our Co-op Student @aidPhotography Please follow us @thornleareads





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## Student Success Corner



Student Success is proud to congratulate ALL students on a successful completion of semester 1. We look forward to supporting all of our students in semester 2.

If you need to get in touch with us please email our Student Success Guidance Counselor:

[Viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca)



**The Student Success Team is happy to continue offering ...**

Thornlea's Mentorship Program for the year 2021-2022.

Session #4 for our grade 9 students is taking place on February 24 from 3 to 4 PM.

Thornlea's Breakfast Club Program. We continue to offer pre-packaged breakfasts daily from 8:30 to 8:50 AM. (Available for pick up at the school's main entrance)

- Thornlea's Tutoring Program will restart on Thursday February 17 after school. Students can receive extra support every Thursday after school in TLC (Thornlea Learning Centre-Room 213) or daily during lunch.

*Thank you for your continued support!  
The Student Success Team*



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## Message From Guidance

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

Welcome to the start of a new semester from the Guidance Department! Our team has been busy with providing our students with timetable request changes for 2nd semester. We consulted with **over 400 students** requesting changes, and we tried our best to support each student's request

### Course Selections

- The Course Selection process for next year began on Wednesday February 16th at 9:00 AM. We had our ZOOM grade assemblies on Tuesday February 15th to provide information on this process. All this **information can be found on each grade guidance google classroom**. Course selections in myBlueprint are to be completed and submitted by Friday Feb. 25th this is the Equal Consideration Deadline.
- Summer School registration will begin in early May

Students are encouraged to connect with us in-person or online - please complete the [bit.ly/Thornlea](https://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.

### University Applications:

- The next OUAC University grades transmission is scheduled for **late April, 2022**.
- **OUAC Important Dates - Jan - June 2022**



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## College Applications:

- The “Equal Consideration” Deadline for your Ontario College Application was February 1st, 2022. Students can still apply. Please see your counselor if you need support.
- **The next OCAS transmission will be in late April 2022.**

## 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.

Please access information through our Thornlea Guidance Webpage:

[Thornlea Guidance Webpage](#)

[Ontario University Slide Deck Presentation](#)

[Ontario College Slide Deck Presentation](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance and Career Education



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## Celebrate Black History Month



**Black Foundation of  
Community Networks  
(BFCN)**

**Scholarship  
Application  
Workshop**

[BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop](#)

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:** First Black CEO of YRCAS, public  
**Ms. Ginelle Skerritt** 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:  
[YRAACBHM2022.eventbrite.ca](http://YRAACBHM2022.eventbrite.ca)

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

[To Register, press this link](#)

**Family  
CookOut**

With Chef Maxine Knight

Journey to the Caribbean in this virtual storytelling with recipe demonstration workshop featuring Chef Maxine Knight, RHN. In this workshop, Chef Maxine will walk us through making a Bajan "Soup with Dumplings" as we dive into the origins of the provision grounds and its historically connection to slavery in the West Indies.



Date: Friday, February 25, 2022  
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Zoom (link to be provided prior to event)

**Register Now!** <https://bit.ly/MaxineKnight>



[Register Now!](#)

<https://bit.ly/MaxineKnight>



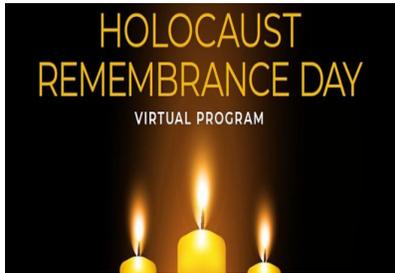
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## Information from YRDSB



### [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

### [Tune in YRDSB](#)

#### **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 **12<sup>th</sup> 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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**PITCH YOUR BIZ  
MARKHAM**

**Slide Deck and Video Pitch  
Competition**

**Prize Categories**  
Gr. 9 & 10 | Gr. 11 & 12 | Post-secondary

As an individual or up to a group of 3, submit a slide deck showcasing a potential business idea and get the **chance to win \$500!**  
Bonus \$200 prize for winning video pitch.  
Submit your idea or learn more at: [markham.ca/msbc](http://markham.ca/msbc)

**MARKHAM** **Seneca HELIX**



February 23, 2022

Session A: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session B: 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



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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

Virtual School Council Meeting	February 22, 2022
Graduating Class Photo Week	Begins February 28, 2022 By Appointment ONLY
Virtual School Council Meeting	April 19, 2022
Virtual School Council Meeting	May 16, 2022