



# Thornlea SS

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**Principal: Joe Foti**

**October 29, 2021**

**Vice-Principal: Michelle Dor A-L**

**Vice-Principal: Leonie Patrick M-Z**

## **Fall colours!!**



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# Message from the Principal

Dear Thornlea Families,

Today has been a lot of fun at Thornlea. Fun is something that has been in short supply around here the last eighteen months. Our students participated in a Zombie walk today thanks to the makeup skills of Ms. Geronikolos's cosmetology class. Today also happens to be picture day at school and some students might be sporting a slightly different look than their families are accustomed to seeing. Our stage crew turned one of our music classrooms into a Haunted House and it was nice to see our students wearing Halloween costumes, laughing and having a good time.

In the world of sports, we have had several of our Cross Country runners qualify for the OFSSA finals in Peterborough and we wish our athletes good luck. Our boys' soccer team continues to advance in the league and are preparing for the playoffs. We will have a curling team this year and are awaiting word on what other winter sports we can offer this year.

Our Grade 12 students have all been issued a pin number and are now able to apply through OUAC to Ontario universities. The guidance department is working with individual students in helping them apply to university, college or helping them with an apprenticeship. If your child needs support through the process, please have them contact a guidance counselor.

This year, take a grade nine to work day occurs on Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our grade nine students will be at their parent or guardians workplace either in person or virtually that day. On November 9<sup>th</sup> Thornlea will have a Virtual Open House for Grade eight students that are thinking of attending our school. Parents will be able to speak to our AP, FI and ACAM coordinators and learn how to apply for these programs.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our next School Council Meeting and the topic will be Scholarships and how to apply for them. A link for the meeting will be sent closer to the date of the meeting. I wish everyone an enjoyable and safe weekend.

Warmest Regards,

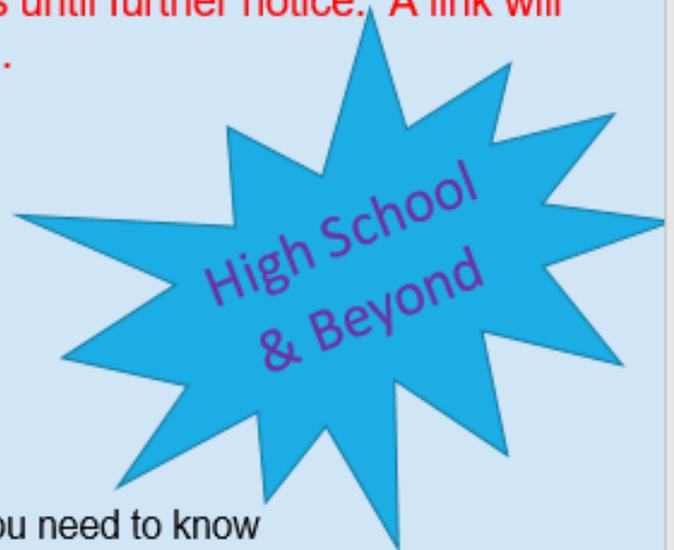
Joe Foti

## *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, 2021
  - TBD
  
- February 21, 2021|
  - TBD
  
- April 18, 2021
  - TBD
  
- May 16, 2021
  - TBD





## THORNLEA SECONDARY SCHOOL

8075 Bayview Avenue, Tel: 905.889.9G9G  
Thornhill, ON L3T 4N4 Fax: 905.889.2991  
Email: thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca Website: <http://thornlea.ss.yrdsb.ca>

### Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

We hope this correspondence finds you and your family well.

"Take Our Kids to Work" (TOKW) is a national initiative that provides grade 9 students with the opportunity to OBSERVE a work environment or ENGAGE in pathways planning for one day. As suggested by the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel Report, the Take our Kids to Work program will support students to begin planning their future career path by helping them better understand the world of work.

On Wednesday, November 3, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., grade 9 students will take part in activities that will support them with their pathways planning. Grade 9 students, with the support of their parent/guardians, will have the opportunity to participate in one of the following TOKW opportunities:

- For students who wish to arrange for a virtual/in-person job shadow placement, we ask that parents/guardians review this [Family Guide](#) with their child. We also ask that the student provide their selected work location with the [Workplace Guide](#), or
- Students, who would like to participate in a series of dynamic and engaging "Live Stream" webinars **from home** on a variety of Career pathways, will be invited to join the Learning Partnership and the Pathways Team, Curriculum and Instructional Services, for a livestreamed session. Students will also engage in reflection activities and learn how to use the Pathways Planner and work on their IPP. For more information, please visit the YRDSB Take Our Kids to Work Day [events page](#) at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

**All** grade 9 students will receive an email from their home school in their GAPPS account with the required links for the livestreamed event as well as the schedule for the day.

Please be advised that permission forms to participate in Take our Kids to Work Day will be sent to your child's GAPPS account. We ask that you review the form with your child and then sign off as per the instructions.

We recognize that you and your child may have questions regarding this information. If it is helpful for you to connect with a staff member from the school, please contact a guidance counsellor or administrator to discuss your questions.

Please take care,

Joe Foti  
Principal

Dear Grade 9 Students, Parents and Guardians,

**SAVE THE DATE for Take Our Kids to Work Day! - Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021!**

"Take Our Kids to Work" (TOKW) is a national initiative that provides grade 9 students with the opportunity to OBSERVE a work environment or ENGAGE in pathways planning for one day. TOKW will kick-start your future career path by virtually showcasing different careers.

**You have 2 options on how to get involved in Take Our Kids To Work Day:**

**Option One:**

**Option One:** Participate in a virtual/in-person job shadow with parent/guardian, family member/neighbour

**OR**

**Option Two:**

**WHO:** WHO: Join the Pathways and Student Success Team in a dynamic LiveStream event from home.

**WHAT:** WHAT: Participate in a Provincial Student Launch and a series of webinars on a variety of career pathways such as Diversity in the Skilled Trades, The Coming Creativity Boom (French and English presentations), Pathways to Entrepreneurship, Careers in Tech, and Unsung Heroes in Science.

**WHERE:** Join the LiveStream (link: [bit.ly/TOKW2021](https://bit.ly/TOKW2021))

**WHEN:** WHEN: Wednesday, November 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
- Live Student Launch will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and run until 12:00pm.  
- Asynchronous Activities can be completed from 12:50 pm - 3:30pm.

**HOW:** Please ensure that the **Informed Consent Google Form** <include link to your school google form> that was provided in an earlier email has been completed by a parent/guardian. Students and parents/guardians are asked to please review the [Family Guide](#).

**On the day of the event:** Join the Live Stream at 9:00am at [bit.ly/TOKW2021](https://bit.ly/TOKW2021). To access all links, students will be given a student guide that will be shared during the livestream via a QR code.

**More Information about Option Two: A student guide will be shared with a QR code for students to access live during the event.**

Session	Description	Activity/Reflection
9:00 - 9:40a.m.	<p>Join the Pathways Team and Student Success Team in the YRDSB Student Launch of Take Our Kids to Work Day</p> <p><b>Plenary Session: <i>You Belong Here</i></b> is an inspiring, 20-minute pre-recorded event that is a great way to kick off to the day! Hear from a range of workplaces and professionals who will share messages of hope and resilience and bring to life the real-world skills that have led to their success.</p> <p>In addition, learn about YRDSB Pathways programs and opportunities available to students!</p>	<p>JOIN US @ <a href="https://bit.ly/TOKW2021">bit.ly/TOKW2021</a></p> <p>Have a Question about Pathways? <a href="https://bit.ly/TOKWquestion">https://bit.ly/TOKWquestion</a></p>
9:40 - 10:30 a.m.	<p><b>Diversity in the Skilled Trades</b> Want to learn more about hands-on careers on the leading edge of technological innovation? Own your own business? This session highlights diverse opportunities in the skilled trades. You Belong Here!</p> <p>Learn about the OYAP and Accelerated OYAP programs within YRDSB!</p>	TBD - will be posted in student guide
10:30 - 11:20 a.m.	<p><b>The Coming Creativity Boom in French!</b> Creativity is going to be a critical skill through the 2020s, as we re-emerge, re-build and re-invent, delivering ideas at a rate never seen before right across Canada. Learn more about how creativity is a critical skill for any job and how to cultivate it. You Belong Here!</p> <p>Learn about the SHSM Program and opportunities within YRDSB!</p>	<p>English session will be at 12:50pm</p> <p>TBD - will be posted in student guide</p>
11:20 - 11:50 a.m.	<p><b>Pathways to Entrepreneurship</b> Entrepreneurship is one of the fastest growing career paths, but how do you get started? This session will highlight the range of pathways entrepreneurs took to create and run their own businesses, with a spotlight on Indigenous Entrepreneurs across Canada. You belong here!</p>	TBD - will be posted in student guide
11:50 - 12:00 p.m.	<b>YRDSB Live Wrap Up and Instructions for Asynchronous Activities in the afternoon</b>	TBD - will be posted in student guide

12:50 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>Pathway Planning Activity using ‘My Pathway Planner’ and Asynchronous Activities and videos.</b>	<a href="#">Take our Kids to Work Reflection</a>
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The following session videos will also be posted here and on the following [YouTube link](#) once the live afternoon sessions have ended:

12:50pm-1:20pm Live, video available on <a href="#">youtube channel</a> above after 1:30pm	<a href="#">The Coming Creativity Boom (English version)</a>
1:40pm-2:10pm Live, video available on <a href="#">youtube channel</a> above after 2:15 pm	<a href="#">Careers in Tech Sponsored by IBM</a>
2:30pm-3:00pm Live, video available on <a href="#">youtube channel</a> above after 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Unsung Heroes In Science By Johnson and Johnson</a>
Asynchronous Activities (Please <b>make a copy</b> prior to entering your answers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity: <a href="#">Setting your Goals and Expectations</a></li> <li>• Activity: <a href="#">Your Personal Brand</a></li> <li>• Activity: <a href="#">Managing your Online Reputation</a></li> <li>• Activity: <a href="#">Exploring Career Mentor Profiles</a></li> <li>• Final Reflection with My pathway Planner <a href="#">Take our Kids to Work 2021</a></li> </ul>

**Take Our Kids to Work Day 2020 (videos from last year’s event you may wish to watch)**

Description	Video Recording Link on YouTube
Plenary Video: <b><i>Your Future, Now.</i></b>	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/tlpofcanada">www.youtube.com/tlpofcanada</a>
Skilled Trades	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAaBOB2UILE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAaBOB2UILE</a>
Innovation and Entrepreneurship	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvsCjGQ4w3E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvsCjGQ4w3E</a>  Innovation & Entrepreneurship Activity Sheet: <a href="https://bit.ly/TOKWinnovation">https://bit.ly/TOKWinnovation</a> and <a href="https://bit.ly/TOKWinnovation">Building Your Personal Brand</a>
Healthcare	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saOUz1LKVI4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saOUz1LKVI4</a> Healthcare Activity Sheet: <a href="https://bit.ly/TOKWhealthcare">https://bit.ly/TOKWhealthcare</a>
Technology and Finance	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wJ8pMkgWew">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wJ8pMkgWew</a>

	<p>Technology Activity Sheet:  <a href="https://bit.ly/TOKWfinance">https://bit.ly/TOKWfinance</a> and <a href="#">Managing your Online Reputation</a></p>
360 Tour of YTV Studio and Corus Entertainment	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2971EDqkxz4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2971EDqkxz4</a></p>
Virtual Work Experiences with EdgeFactor	<p><a href="https://edgefactor.com/take-our-kids-to-work">https://edgefactor.com/take-our-kids-to-work</a></p>
Pathways Videos	<p><a href="#">Pathways Programs and Opportunities</a></p> <p>Follow us on Twitter: <a href="#">@yrdsb_pathways</a> and Instagram <a href="#">@yrdsb.pathways</a></p>

**GRADE 8**  
**VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**



Tuesday  
November 9,  
2021.

**6:30 - 8:00pm**  
Presentation

Q&A

**LEARN ABOUT OUR UNIQUE PROGRAMS**

- Advanced Placement (AP) & Pre-AP
- Academy of Creativity & Multimedia (ACAM)
- French Immersion

Click here to join our ZOOM meeting

Meeting ID: 921 6410 0850 Passcode: 781668



NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT

		 <p><i>Please support our Thornlea Art Council efforts to raise money to make our school an even more inclusive place.</i></p>	 <p><i>We will draw/ paint your picture in any medium of your choice (pencil, charcoal, acrylic/ oil paints).</i></p>
			

  	      
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## JOIN OUR ARTS COUNCIL!



Dear Students,

**We are inviting you to join our Thornlea's Art Council.**

We will meet on *Wednesdays at lunch in Room 217.*

We will be working together to make a positive impact on the Arts in our community,

which helps to enrich all lives.

### Learn, Earn and Give back to Your Community!

**Elizabeth Lee Gr. 12** (Art Council President)

5 Reasons Why You Should Join Arts Council!

**1. Help with planning and organizing Thornlea's Fundraising Events: Arts and**

**Music Nights, Fashion Shows, Digital Media/ Animation Workshops, Arts Field**

**Trips and Exhibitions;**

**2. Paint with us Community Murals to beautify our school;**

**3. Learn Entrepreneurial skills, get a head start on your Career in Arts, Design**

**and Creative Business;**

**3. Qualify for exclusive scholarships and Advanced Placement Portfolios;**

**4. Help to address Socio-Economic challenges in our Community and earn your**

**Community Hours;**

**5. Make new friends and create beautiful Art to make your life more meaningful!**

*Funds raised will be used for raised will be used to support our community's most*

*vulnerable including children, those living with a mental illness, and victims of violence.*

**If you want to sign up, please email Mme Bern:  
ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca.**

# Salutations from the Guidance Department!

This year's Guidance team consists of:

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

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

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 22<sup>nd</sup> it was sent to their school email Gapps account, along with their OEN for Ontario College applications.

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

The next transmission to the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) will be on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The next transmission to the Ontario College Application Services (OCAS) will be on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 13<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

### **Ontario College Application Seminar:**

You can apply to an Ontario College today! Deadline for **equal consideration is Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.**

[www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)

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

### **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

## King Henry VIII Visits Thornlea

Ms. Ceausu's Grade 12 University World History class had a very special visit this month. For their Renaissance Unit each student did research on important historical figures, dressed up as them, and then put King Henry VIII on trial for his actions.

Mr. Joe Foti took on the important role of King Henry VIII all too well! He was challenged by former wives, popes, allies, enemies, and put them all in their place!

We look forward to what future visits from this amazing and dedicated history class will bring. (Photos by Library Co-op

Photographer Aidan A.)



## Thornlea Indigenous Plant Project

Ms. Ross's Grade 9 Science class had an amazing visit by guest speaker, Mr. Alan Colley, owner and creator of Toronto Aboriginal Eco Tours.

Mr. Colley visited the class via Zoom from the forest near Ashbridges Bay.

He spoke about Indigenous traditions, practices, all the plants that grow around us, and what they are used for in Indigenous communities.

It was a wonderful and educational experience which really helped the students in their current assignment where they will use Library Databases to research plants and their uses.

(Photos by Library Co-op Photographer Aidan A.)



## Freewheelin' Photography Fridays



(photo: Ollie Zhao)

You may recall reading about the themed book photoshoot in Mr. Ackerman's photography classes (Oct. 15 e-bulletin article).

Students spent a "Freewheelin' Friday" photographing books and props in whatever compositions they could imagine.

Have a look at some of the great work that came in! Congratulations to everyone on their creative results!

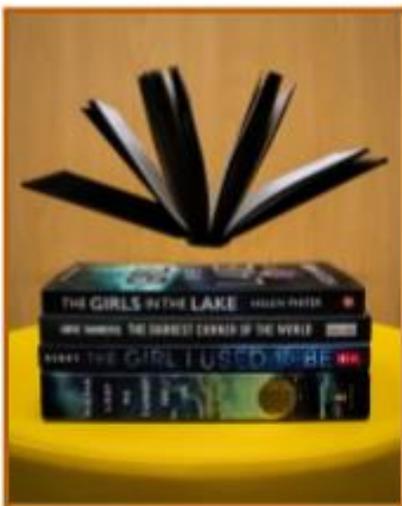
(photo: John Michael)



(photo: Kate Fischer)



(photo: Alex Minuk)



(photo: Kalli Meusi)



(photo: Nikki Luo)



## The Scotiabank Giller Prize 2021

We are proud to announce our annual Guess-The-Winner of the Giller Prize contest is well underway.

We have over 130 entries and counting. Students research each finalist novel and then guess the winner in a Google Form.

The winner will be announced on Nov. 8th and fun library prizes will be awarded to Thornlea student winners. (Photos by Library Co-op Photographer Aidan A.)

There's still time to enter here: <https://forms.gle/UusQDkzstGiCM83P7>



## Thornlea Mentorship Program

Every month The **Thornlea Learning Centre** runs a Mentorship Program where student mentors consisting of Grade 11s and 12s make workshops for Grade 9 students to help involve them and make them feel more welcome within the school community.



Mentors met for training and team building events before meeting the Grade 9 students. Their first event was an exciting break out room.

Stay tuned for more future events.

(Photos by Library Co-op Photographer Aidan A.)



## Great Things Cooking in Family Studies



Family Studies's Students are cooking up a storm this year at Thornlea.

Despite rock hard avocados, Ms. Salsberg's Grade 9 class completed a Teenage Party Food Cooking lab of yummy guacamole as well as chocolate covered strawberries, and chocolate drizzled popcorn.

Ms. Magic's Grade 11 class finished their Introductory unit where they learned kitchen safety skills and ended by baking some delicious muffins.



Ms. Salsberg and Ms. Magic's Grade 11 students are presenting their research on their Indigenous Food and Culture Unit. They used Thornlea Library Databases and research skills to deep dive into culture. Presentations will be completed this coming week. We look forward to learning about these wonderful cultures.

These amazing classes have been filling the halls with great cooking smells for weeks! (Photos by Library Co-op Photographer Aidan A.)



## Zombie Walk Halloween Madness

Ms. Geronikolos's Grade 11 Hairstyling and Aesthetics class completed their Special Effects Makeup Unit by doing a Zombie Walk.

They practiced all week and then used volunteer students as zombies.

On Friday, October 29th the Zombies walked through the school and office to showcase their Makeup and Special effects.

It was a great event to help start the Halloween weekend.

It will be fun to see what's next for this talented class of students.

(Photos by Co-op Photographer Aidan A.)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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>





Welcome to **Week 4** of the four-week K-12 Cyber Awareness Month (CAM) campaign, running from **October 4 to 29, 2021**.

This year's campaign theme, **"Cyber awareness as self-care"**, has the objective of helping everyone in K-12 education – teachers, staff, students and parents – be safer and more secure online. The campaign provides resources to help everyone understand pertinent cyber threats and know a few simple steps to protect themselves, their workplace, learning space, and their devices.

The campaign is divided into weekly themes which highlight different aspects of cyber security, online privacy and online (cyber) safety, as all three areas are of equal importance to K-12. For each weekly theme, resources from multiple reputable sources are provided.

All listed resources are also available in [French](#).

## **October 25 to 29, 2021**

### **Week 4: Be mindful of your online presence and digital footprint**

***It's important to manage your online presence and digital footprint!***

This past year, kids have faced unique challenges, as many of their in-person activities have been replaced with an increased use of technology. This has resulted in an unprecedented increased online presence and digital footprint for most of us, adults and kids alike.

Everyone should assume that what is shared online will remain online forever. Every action you take online, and information posted about you contributes to your "digital footprint" which can straddle our personal, student and professional lives. Improving our awareness of the traces of data we leave online and recognizing how our individual digital footprints vary can help to improve the protection of our data online.

#### **Topics and tips for Week 4 include:**

Access the embedded links to find out more (links will take you to different websites):

- Understand what you post shapes your [online reputation](#) and becomes part of your [digital footprint](#). Always strive to [establish a positive presence online](#).
- Minimize the risk of being a target of online harassment. [Avoid sharing too much information online](#) and [be safe on social media](#).
- Know that posts are [not always private](#).
- Delete accounts (and associated information) that you no longer need – old accounts and data can be a risk.
- Navigate safely. Take the [quick self-assessment on Internet Safety](#).

#### **Videos**

The CAM videos created by ECNO and the Ministry of Education are perfectly tailored to be played on school hallway/atrium TVs. With simple yet effective animations, and close captions/subtitles embedded into the videos, they can easily be played on repeat with no sound distractions. They can be found at the below links:

# 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.

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# The Weight of Freedom

In Conversation with Holocaust Survivor Nate Leipciger

Nov. 3, 2021 | 7:00pm - 8:15pm

Please register using the [online registration form](#).  
Registration is open to YRDSB staff, educators and parents/guardians.

Brought to you by The Azrieli Foundation - Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program

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In honour of Holocaust Education Week, please join us when author and Holocaust survivor Nate Leipciger will speak about his personal experiences during the Holocaust in an online presentation, which will take place over Zoom on November 3rd, 2021, 7:00PM - 8:15PM.

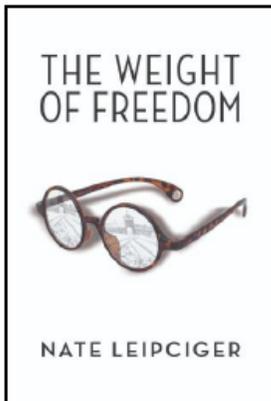
Registered YRDSB staff and educators will receive a copy of Nate Leipciger's memoir, *The Weight of Freedom*, and the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program's 2021 Educator Catalogue of all the books and resources offered to educators at no charge.

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## Biography:

Nate Leipciger was born in Chorzow, Poland, in 1928. He immigrated to Toronto in 1948, where he eventually obtained a university degree in engineering. Nate was a member of the International Council of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum for fifteen years and has been an educator on the March of the Living for nineteen years. Nate lives in Toronto with his wife Bernice, their children, many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Nate is the author of the memoir, *The Weight of Freedom*.



## Book Synopsis:

Nate Leipciger, a thoughtful, shy eleven-year-old boy, is plunged into an incomprehensible web of ghettos, concentration and death camps during the German occupation of Poland. Demonstrating incredible strength of character as he struggles to survive, he forges a new, unbreakable bond with his father and yearns for a free future. With memories that remain etched in tragedy and pain even as he looks optimistically to the future, Nate builds a new life in Canada. Introspective and raw, yet ever hopeful, *The Weight of Freedom* is Nate's vivid journey through a past that can never be left behind.



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](mailto: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](#)



AutismONTARIO  
see the potential

[Autism Ontario](#)



Children's  
Treatment Network

[Children's Treatment Network](#)



(905) 722-8947

[Community Living - Georgina](#)



[Community Living - Central York](#)



*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  
VIEWIS for the Visually Impaired

[VIEWIS 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](mailto: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

# 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](#).

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

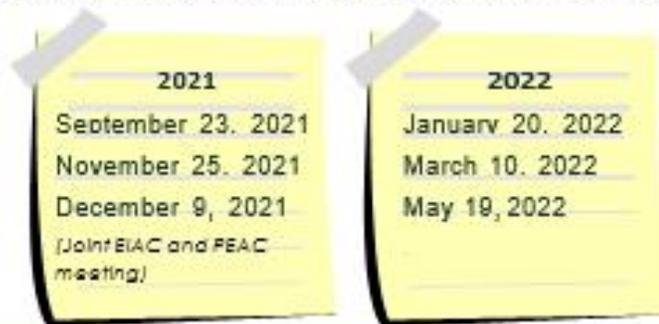
## Save the date...

**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. |

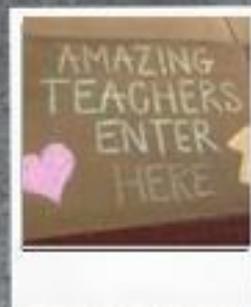


## Chalk the Walk

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!



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## 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 schools  
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...
<b>PEAC</b>	Great for board-wide resources, Ministry documents, calendar of events, meeting links, newsletters, inspiring ideas	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:leadershipdevelopmentengagement@yrdsb.ca">leadershipdevelopmentengagement@yrdsb.ca</a> <b>Website:</b> <a href="#">YRDSB PEAC Website</a> <b>Phone:</b> 905-727-0022 ext. 3650 <b>Twitter:</b> @leadershiptyrdsb <b>Instagram:</b> id_yrdsb
<b>School Councils</b>	Great for activities and resources specific to your school, volunteering, staying up-to-date with your school community, sharing your ideas.	<b>Email:</b> "schoolname"@sc.yrdsb.ca <b>Website:</b> 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](#).

# School Council

## **Fall 2021 Invitation to School Councils for Policy**

Policy#238, Parent, Family and Community Engagement, and Policy#262, School Councils, are currently under review until November 1, 2021. Parents and families can read the policies and provide feedback using two separate Google forms on [the policy and review webpage](#).

# Upcoming Events

November 3

TOKW – Grade 9s

November 3 (NEW DATE)

Virtual Parents' Night

Interviews 6:30-8:30pm

November 9

Grade 8 Virtual Open House

6:30 to 8:00 pm

November 15

School Council Meeting

(Virtual)

November 19

PA Day

December 20-December 31

Christmas Break

January 17

School Council Meeting

(Virtual)

February 4

PA Day