



Thornlea Secondary School

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

Bi-Weekly e-Bulletin

December 9, 2022

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 6	OSSLT (First Time eligible)
Dec. 26 - Jan. 6	Winter Break
Jan. 9, 2023	First Day back to school in 2023
Jan 10 - Jan 13	Graduating Class Photo Week (By appointment only)

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Meeting Time: 7:00pm
Meeting Location: Library
(across from the office)
& Online

Meeting Dates:
Tuesday Feb 21, 2022
Monday April 17, 2022

SCHOOL email:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

ATTENDANCE email:

thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHANGE:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Thornlea Families,

It has been a busy week at Thornlea particularly for our grade ten students who wrote the OSSLT which is a graduation requirement. A huge thank you to our literacy teacher Ms. Rai for her work in supporting and preparing our students for the test. The results of the test will be available in March of next year. When we return from our winter break our grade nine math students will be involved in EQAO testing as well. The tests will take place on January 18th and 19th. Only those currently enrolled in grade nine math will be writing the test. If your child has grade nine math second semester they will write in June 2023.

In the world of sports our Sr. Girls Volleyball team is off to a great start and they remain undefeated this year and have not lost a set all year. Our Sr. Boys Basketball team is also undefeated in league play this year. Our ski and snowboard teams are waiting for the snow to fly so that their season may begin.

While the World Cup has been taking place TWIC has set up an Indoor Soccer tournament at lunch and there have been large crowds watching at lunch. The next event scheduled at lunch is a Volleyball tournament for students. This will also be organized and run by our students. TWIC stands for Thornlea Wellness Initiative Council and is our largest student club at Thornlea with over 120 active members. They plan physical activities that promote wellness and mental health in our students and staff.

During our two week winter break that starts on December 26th and runs until our return to school on January 9, 2023 there will be no homework or assignments for our students. There will be no tests or assignments due until Thursday January 12th. We would like all our students to have a relaxing winter holiday spent with their family and friends.

Warmest regards,

Joe Foti

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STUDENT MEDICAL FORMS:

[Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)
[Asthma Health Care Plan](#)
[Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)
[Epilepsy Health Care Plan](#)
[Self Administration Of Medication](#)
[Staff Administration Of Medication](#)

YRDSB LINKS:

[What is De-Streaming](#)
[York Region Public Health](#)
[COVID-19 Mental Health](#)
[Resources for Students and Families](#)

USEFUL LINKS:

[YRDSB Website](#)
[Thornlea Website](#)
[Thornlea Calendar](#)
[Thornlea Instagram](#)
[York Region Public Health](#)



Attached is our new mural that adorns the entrance to our gym. A huge thank you to our Head of Technology Rob Belchevski who designed the mural. Future plans for the hallway include upgrading the display cabinets and a plaque and display for athlete of the month.

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CLASSROOM CONNECTION



In 2021 Thornlea's Tech Design students completed a live edge river run conference table that was plagued by multiple delays due to Covid.

This year Tech Design student Marcus Y. took on the challenge of building a matching console table. The design, construction and delivery of the console table took several weeks, but thanks to his diligence and dedication Thornlea now has a beautiful addition to its conference room for decades to come.



Mme De Luca and Mr. Cuda's Civics students enjoyed a fun, immersive and educational experience visiting the legislative assembly at Queen's park.

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55 Newkirk Road, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3G4 • Tel (905) 508-4761 • Email: rhfoodbank@bellnet.ca

November 21, 2022

Thornlea Secondary School
Attention: Principal
8075 Bayview Avenue
Thornhill, ON
L3T 4N4

Dear Principal, Staff and Students

On behalf of the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to you for co-ordinating a very successful food drive that resulted in a significant amount of food being donated to assist our food bank's mission.

Our Food Bank currently serves over 2,000 persons each month and the demand to provide food to meet this need has become increasingly challenging. The Richmond Hill Community Food Bank would not be able to meet this urgent community need without the kind support of donors such as the good people in our community.

Thank you again for taking the initiative to help your community and for partnering with us to provide urgently needed assistance to those in need.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lee Reynolds
General Manager
Richmond Hill Community Food Bank
(905) 508-4761
rhfoodbank@bellnet.ca

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GUIDANCE NEWS

Hello from the Guidance Department

This year's Guidance team consists of:

N. Alkins (Head of Guidance)

nizam.alkins@yrdsb.ca

Student Surname:

A - JAM

L. Rai

lovleen.raai@yrdsb.ca

JAN - MOR

T. Gord

andrea.tse@yrdsb.ca

MOS - Z

J. Muench (Guidance Secretary)

joanne.muench@yrdsb.ca

Students are encouraged to connect with us in-person or on-line please complete the 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>

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

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzQ1MzAxNDUxMDUw?cjc=wrhpcgg>

Grade 12 Code: **wrhpcgg**

- The transmission to the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) was on Nov. 18th, 2022.
- The transmission to the Ontario College Application Services (OCAS) was on Nov. 18th, 2022.
- The next transmission for OUAC and OCAS will be February 16th, 2023.

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. 12th 2023.**

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Ontario College Application Seminar:

You can apply to an Ontario College today! **Deadline for equal consideration is Feb. 1st 2023.**

www.ontariocolleges.ca

The next OUAC University grades transmission is scheduled for **February 16, 2023.**

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

(Reminder: Equal Consideration Deadline for applications to Ontario Universities is January 12, 2023 (It is highly recommended to pay on-line with a credit card)

Equal Consideration Deadline for applications to Ontario Colleges is February 1, 2023.

[OUAC IMPORTANT DATES](#)

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THORNLEA SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Thornhill, ON L3T 4N4 Fax: 905.889.2991
Email: thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca Website: <http://thornlea.ss.yrdsb.ca>

Friday, December 9, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Re: Upcoming EQAO Assessments

On Wednesday, January 18 and Thursday, January 19, 2023, Thornlea students currently enrolled in a Grade 9 math class will be taking part in the provincial Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics created by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario. This assessment is administered to all students in Grade 9 MTH1W1/3 course in Ontario's publicly funded school system.

The assessment consists of two test booklets, and students are given 60 minutes to complete each booklet. Extra time will be permitted where needed under a teacher's supervision. Both booklets are to be completed **online** in school using a YRDSB device.

EQAO assessment questions are directly based on the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Therefore, your child does not need to prepare in any special way. Students will write the test in a designated location that has computers with their regular teachers (where possible) and can prepare as they would for any other secondary school test.

Please note that this test, or part of it, will also be graded by your child's math teacher and will count towards 5% of their class mark.

In September 2023, EQAO will send our school a report on your child's achievement on the assessment, and we will send it home at that time. Your child's results are private and will give you an indication of his or her achievement in relation to Ontario's high provincial standard. The standard, or Level 3, represents the range from 70% to 79%. Meeting the standard means your child has a solid grasp of the required knowledge and skills, which is a good indication that he or she will be ready for math work in Grade 10.

You can use the information that EQAO assessment results provide about your child's strengths and areas needing improvement to celebrate and monitor your child's progress. It can also help you in discussions with teachers. As a school community, we use these results, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives. This benefits not only your child but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, you are encouraged to visit www.eqao.com.

Sincerely,


Joe Foti
Principal

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Your Portrait Session

Carry on the Canadian tradition of marking your graduation accomplishments with a classic portrait! Your professional portrait session includes traditional gown and sash poses on contemporary and traditional backgrounds.

**Sit fee details available online when you book your session.*



More Options

Your comfort and enjoyment are our top priority when you are at the camera. We want all students to let your true colours shine. Your sitting options may include: more poses, casuals, and Vintage Hollywood poses. **View details on all your sitting options at bookmygrad.ca**

B.Y.O.P

Depending on the school, Edge may or may not provide props during your photo shoot. Please feel free to bring your own flowers, books, etc. to be photographed with during your session. There's no limit to your creativity!

**Poses and backgrounds may vary.*



Graduating Class Composite

Just like the ones you stared at in your high school hallways, you'll receive your very own copy of a graduating class composite. Composites are typically handed out at Convocation or at the end of the school year.

A traditional portrait with a blue background will be provided to your school for the composite and yearbook.

**Composite size and folder inclusion vary by school. Details provided upon booking.*



Book your session TODAY!

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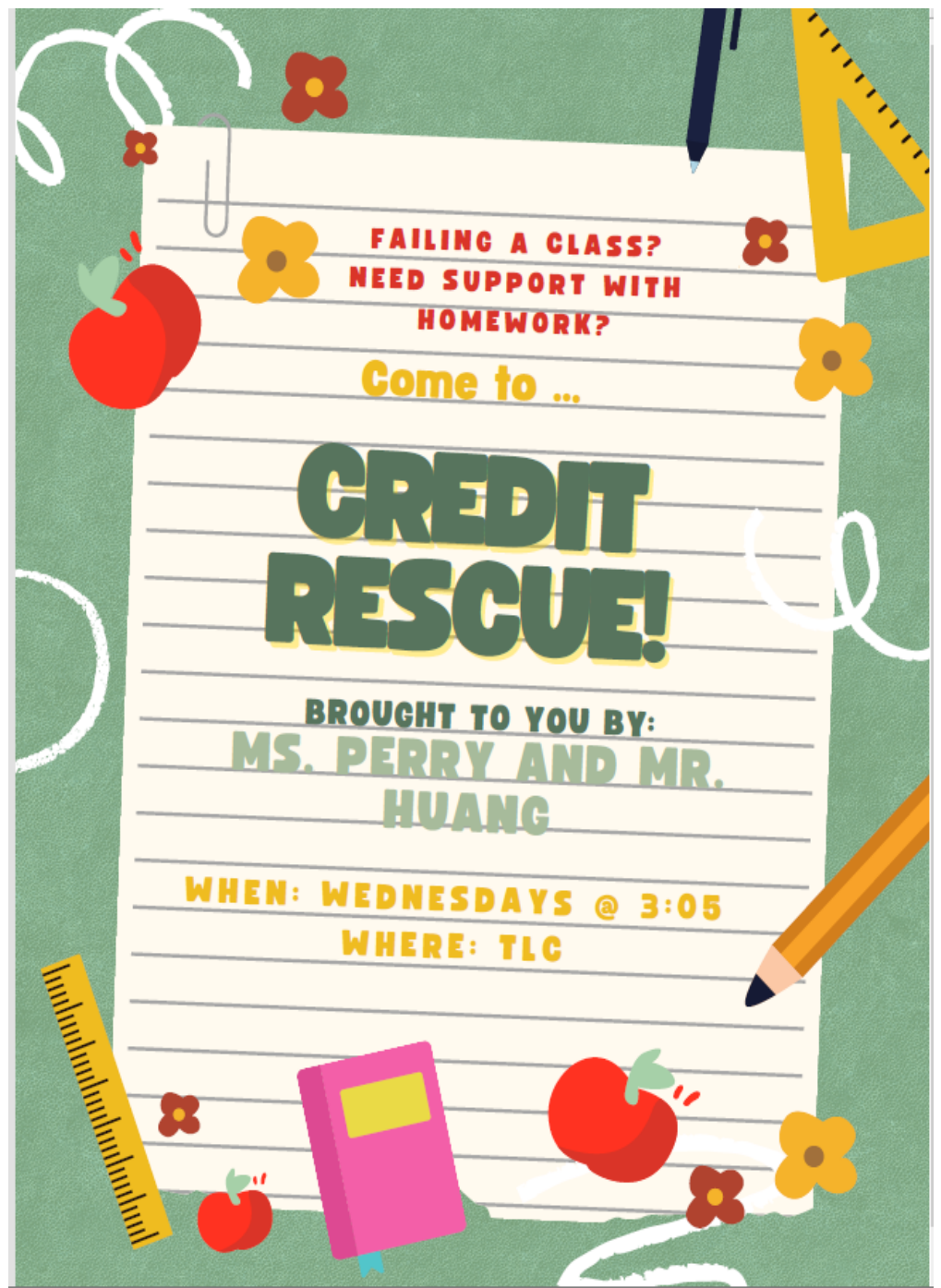


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Message From Our Trustee

December 2022

I am happy to serve as your trustee on the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, my role includes being an advocate for quality public education in York Region, and I want to assure you that I am committed to that work. Every one of our students deserves to be learning in an environment where they feel safe, valued and supported in learning and achieving success.

Part of our role as trustees includes making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and setting our priorities as an organization through a [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). Our board will work hard to keep students at the centre of our decision making, and to build collaborative relationships with the families and communities we serve. The education of our students, your children, is a partnership and the relationships we have with families is an essential one.

Communicating with families and members of the public is also an important part of our role, and I look forward to connecting with members of the school community in the coming weeks and months. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will be sharing information with you throughout the school year, and letting you know more about our work and priorities as a school board. You can also visit the board website at www.yrdsb.ca or follow on social media.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates in December for different faiths and cultures, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. I hope everyone has an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, relax and recharge, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Jenny Chen
Trustee, Markham Wards 1 and 8



Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

December 2022

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

Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy

A closer look at the concept of “Between and Around”

Dear Families,

In the [November edition of the Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#) We took a closer look at the concept of **Within**. In this edition, we continue to focus on the [Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy \(SMHAS\): A Holistic Approach to Mental Health, Within Us, Between Us, Around Us](#) by taking a closer look at the concept of **“Between”** and **“Around”** and the associated priority actions.

More than words on paper, the SMHAS strategy is created to be action-oriented. With an understanding that actions, accountability and collaboration are needed to foster [identity-affirming](#) and [healing-centred](#) spaces that enhance mental health.

To uphold the collaborative process of our strategy development and honour the voices and contributions of students, families, communities, organizations and staff who shared their wisdom with us, we have co-created a multifaceted, holistic framework informed by many voices. This framework encompasses mental health and wellness that is inclusive of the whole person and the many intersections (intersectionality) and relationships that are encompassed within their social identities. This speaks to the key concepts of Between and Around.

Between:

Between can be explained as the social aspect of our relationships with other people, our families, and communities. This includes but is not limited to our connections and relationships with faith groups, elders and beyond. The Between action areas focus on building capacity, understanding and resources with people, families, and communities in YRDSB to address trauma, racial trauma and other forms of harm while supporting healing and growth. We approach the development of the Between priority actions with an understanding that we, as a school board,



are not the experts in the lives of our students and families. We are not the gatekeepers of knowledge and wisdom. As such, we will learn from, with and alongside students and families. With the ongoing exploration of how wellness is supported and affirmed across communities?

Some of the ways in which we hope to co-learn together are through the

Between Family/Community Priority Actions: [Action 2.7](#)

This includes but is not limited to

- *Collaborating with family and caregiver groups to learn how to best support culturally responsive gatherings and learning opportunities for families.*



Around:

Around can be explained as the families, communities, and learning/social environments that surround us. This can include connections to land, water, ancestors, and other meaningful relationships. The Around can also encompass many factors and experiences that can impact wellness, such as experiences of different life events and systemic factors such as oppression, colonialism and racism, discrimination and marginalization. The Around priority area is supported through priority actions that work towards building safe, mentally healthy, and inclusive learning environments where students feel they matter and belong and create Identity Specific collaboration and care and pathways that are responsive to students and families.

Around Family/Community Priority Actions: [Action 3.9](#)

This action focuses on building and supporting identity-affirming, [culturally responsive](#), mental health-focused partnerships with families.

This can include but is not limited to:

- *Continued partnership with community groups to develop and offer mental health promotion events and initiatives for families and caregivers that are culturally and linguistically relevant and responsive.*

Within Between Around

The concept of Within, Between and Around encourages us to honour the different ways of knowing, being, healing and growing. Along with understanding the many relationships, factors/experiences that may impact a person's mental health. Through healing-centred engagement and identity-affirming practices, we hope to create learning environments that center on student and community strengths, wisdom, and excellence, building and sustaining positive relationships and creating learning environments where children and families can bring their whole selves to school.



To learn more about the SMHAS and associated priority areas/actions, please visit [Student Mental Health and Addiction Strategy \(SMHAS\): A Holistic Approach to Mental Health, Within Us, Between Us, Around Us](#).

A call to action:

As we work towards enhancing student mental health and well-being and creating spaces that honour, affirms and uplifts students for who they are, we invite you on the journey with us. Families are invited to use the prompts below to continue exploring the concept of **Between** and **Around** through conversations about relationships and experiences.

Inward reflection: What are the relationships and connections that are meaningful to me? How do these relationships and connections support my mental health and well-being?

Outward consideration: How might I support connections and relationships that strengthen and support positive mental health for my child or someone I care about?



Actions we can take that foster positive relationships Around us:

"Everything you do and say is a little clue to the people around you as to how approachable and trustworthy you are..... Being inclusive, compassionate, helpful, and a good listener in your daily interactions signals to others that you care about people and you're a safe person to reach out to...." [Be There resource](#)

How might we show care in our interactions with those around us and those we encounter? A little care and compassion goes a long way.

- Offer a smile, a wave, a hello
- Offer a helping hand and or words of encouragement if and when you can
- Take time to check in on someone
- The [Be There resource](#) offers many ways we can demonstrate care
- School Mental Health Ontario shares [Skills for students: Having healthy relationships with others](#)
- At home: Make time to connect in a way that is meaningful for your household, to listen, to eat, to play...
- Engage in conversations from a place of understanding
- Take time to build relationships and learn about others with care and curious

We continue to learn from and with students, families and YRDSB communities and continue to look forward to a year of learning, discovery, and joy alongside you.

Supportive Resources:



[YorkHills Here to Help Line](#) (905-503-9561)

The Here to Help Line is a free service available to children, youth (0-18) and their parents, caregiver or adult supporters.

[YRDSB Mental Health Resource Page](#)

Continue to check out the [YRDSB website](#) for updated information as well as the Twitter account [@YRDSB](#)

Follow YRDSB Mental Health on Twitter [@MH_YRDSB](#)

[Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#)

[Indigenous Education And Equity Strategy](#)

Free YRDSB and community events:

Parent/caregiver series supporting students of Chinese Heritage.

Dec 14th, 2022 at 6:00 pm-8:30 pm

Armada Community Centre 2401 Denison Street, Markham, ON L3S 1E7

[Registration for Cantonese](#)

[Registration for Mandarin](#)

Patricia Marra-Stapleton, M.Sc., C. Psych. Assoc.
Mental Health Lead

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