



Thornlea Secondary School

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

Bi-Weekly E-Bulletin

January 31, 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 3	Semester 2 Term 1 Begins
Feb 10-13	Safe Schools Assemblies
Feb 13	Report Cards eDistribution
Feb 17	Family Day School Closed

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Library
(across from the main
office)

Meeting Dates:

Tuesday February 18, 2025 &
Monday April 7, 2025

SCHOOL email:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

ATTENDANCE email:

thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca

CONTACT/TELEPHONE CHANGE:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

YRDSB LINKS:

[18+ Student Consent Form](#)

[SchoolCash Online](#)

[What is De-Streaming](#)

[YRDSB Guide to the School Year](#)

THORNLEA ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE

Dear families,

As the new principal, I would like to welcome you to a new semester and to introduce myself.

In education, each month or season has its own character and commitments. February signifies a fresh start and the time when we begin planning for the next school year. As you know, course selection will be due this month. Consultation with our expert staff during the course selection process will be a priority as Thornlea continues to take pride in our academic program. And I have no doubt that our students will be just as engaged in Thornlea clubs and athletics this semester and into the future. All school programs are made possible only by the talented people who build and sustain them. The staff at Thornlea will continue a culture of care, empathy and high expectations.

Coincidentally, in the year 2000, I began my career in YRDSB at Thornlea SS. As an English teacher at the time, I learned about literature circles, response journaling, inquiry, critical thinking, and culturally relevant pedagogy. At that time, Thornlea had already established a reading program where student voice and choice were honoured. From there, I went on to Middlefield CI as an English/Drama teacher, Bur Oak SS as Subject Head of English, Stephen Lewis SS as Vice-Principal, and Unionville HS as Vice-Principal.

Now in 2025, I cannot wait to serve the Thornlea community in my capacity as a principal along with our dedicated vice-principals, Ms. Johnson-Lee and Ms. Sandercock.

I am looking forward to meeting students, parents and staff and working collaboratively to carry on an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive and achieve.

Sincerely,

Mr. Patrick Belmonte

Principal

Patrick Belmonte patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principals

Victoria Johnson-Lee victoria.johnson-lee@yrdsb.ca (A-L)

Jacqui Sandercock jacqueline.sandercock@yrdsb.ca (M-Z)



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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](#)

USEFUL LINKS:

[Thornlea Calendar](#)

[Thornlea Instagram](#)

[Thornlea Website](#)

[York Region Public Health](#)

KIDS HELP PHONE
1-800-468-4008
www.kidshelpphone.ca

YSSN
YOUR SUPPORT SERVICES NETWORK
1-855-310-COPE (2673)

Suicide Prevention Canada
Call 1-800-273-8255
Text 1-800-273-8255

360 kids
24/7 helpline: 1-800-468-4008
www.360kids.ca

youthline
1-877-424-4271
www.youthline.ca

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
MORE RESOURCES

Mental Health Resources

Thornlea Secondary School
shop!

FEATURED CATEGORIES



TO SHOP: See link below

[Thornlea Merchandise](#)

Black History Month

We want to extend an invitation to the community to join the YRDSB for an inspiring Black History Month Celebration on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at Tommy Douglas SS. Please see the information poster below and register [here](#).

Black History Month Celebration

Join us for an inspiring evening as we celebrate Black History Month with interactive performances, student showcases and dinner.

Dates: Monday, February 3, 2025, at Dr. J.M. Dennison H.S.
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at Bill Hogarth S.S.
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at Alexander Mackenzie H.S.
Thursday, February 27, 2025, at Tommy Douglas S.S.

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This event will feature:

- Interactive Performances
- Student Showcases
- Dinner will be provided

Please join us to celebrate the rich history and contributions of the Black Community while creating meaningful connections and memories together. Looking forward to celebrating together!

To Register

Please fill out a [registration form](#) by **January 31, 2025**.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to blackstudentexcellence@yrdsb.ca



FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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Message from Our Trustee

February 2025

Welcome to the start of the second half of the school year.

Congratulations to secondary school students who have completed exams and culminating activities and are ready to start a new semester, and to elementary school students for all their hard work in the first term. I want to remind families that when report cards are available, you can now access your child's report card through the [Family Dashboard](#).

For students looking at [course selection](#) for next year, the [Experience YRDSB pages](#) on our website will let you explore the areas that interest you and learn more about the courses, programs and opportunities available in your secondary school.

At the end of January, we recognized [Lunar New Year](#), commemorating the first day of the Lunar calendar. Throughout the month, we also recognized [Tamil Heritage Month](#). In February, we recognize Black History Month, I encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#) for upcoming events to celebrate Black excellence and recognize the contributions made by Black Canadians. You can also find information about other upcoming significant dates and events for families.

The [Student Trustee election process](#) is underway for the 2025-2026 school year. Student Trustees play an essential role in our system, representing student voices at the Board table when we are making important decisions, and we greatly appreciate their contributions to our discussions. I would like to congratulate all of the students who put their names forward for the position and encourage all students in Grades 5-12 to take the time to vote.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank current Student Trustees Hayden Lai and Mitusaan Kugathan and Indigenous Student Trustee Natalie Pitawanakwat for their hard work, leadership and commitment to student voice.

As a Board of Trustees, we have several important roles that affect the daily life in our schools and Board.

One of those responsibilities is to set the [policies](#) that govern the operation of schools in YRDSB. Policies cover important topics, such as [assessment and evaluation](#), [field trips](#), [homework](#), [dress code](#), [caring and safe schools](#), [health supports](#), [student leadership](#) and more.

Principal

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We regularly review Board policies to ensure they are updated and reflect the current context, [priorities](#) and needs of our community and system. An important part of this process is inviting feedback from the community, including families. You can find a [list of all policies and those currently out for comment](#) on our Board website and I encourage you to take a look.

Trustees are also responsible for setting the Board [budget](#). As we prepare to plan for the 2025-2026 school year budget, we will be once again reaching out to families and inviting you to share your input and feedback. Please take the time to review this information when you receive it; your voice is an important part of the process.

We are also working through the District Action Plan to reflect and align with the new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan outlines how we will achieve the priorities set out in the Strategic Plan and focus on serving all students.

I wish everyone all the best as we go into the second half of the school year.

Jenny Chen

Trustee, Markham Wards 1 and 8

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REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Our main office is here to help you regarding student absences. Here are a few notes:

Edsby does not support absence reporting for high school students.

To report a student's absence, parents or guardians can either email thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca or call 905-889-9696.

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



Call 905-889-9696
Press 1 for Attendance
Or

Has your contact information changed?



Email:

Thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca

Email:

Thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

When sending an email or leaving a message, please provide the following details:

- 1) Student Name (First & Last name)
- 2) Student #
- 3) Current Grade
- 4) Absent date and/or period
- 5) Reason

ANTICIPATED ABSENCE FORM

If your student will be absent 5 days or more, please come to the office to obtain the anticipated absence form. It must be completed by their teachers then signed by the parent. This form needs to be returned to the office **BEFORE** their absence.

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BUS OR SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

With winter weather here, we want to share some important reminders for families.

When an inclement weather or extreme cold day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is canceled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when emergency winter events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school websites and on [X@YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days is outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#).

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CLASSROOM CONNECTION

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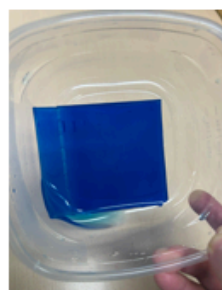
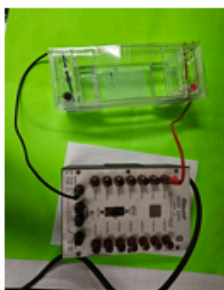
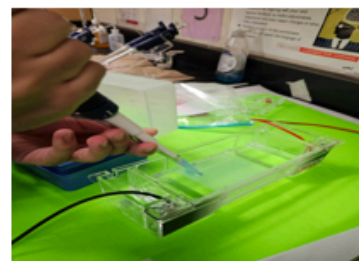
Ecoteam

The hydroponic system, and water pump filter have been cleaned and are working. We are ready to plant Snake plants into the system as we seek LED hydroponic light systems to use with this system.



Science

Students learn a variety of transferable skills in their classes. In Grade 9, students explored their ecological footprints and were asked to create a plan to reduce their footprint in terms of energy usage. As well, in the energy unit, students learned how to put together a circuit. Grade 12s used biotechnology skills in the Molecular genetics unit. Students had the opportunity to use micropipettes to load a gel for electrophoresis.



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GUIDANCE NEWS

Thornlea's Guidance Department provides a broad range of programs and services for our students, their parents/guardians, and the school community.

Guidance counselors address questions and concerns regarding high school program planning and academic success, post-secondary educational alternatives and career choices.

Students are assigned a counselor according to their surname.

Students can now book a guidance appointment with their counsellor using their Teach Assist account.

Please go to 'Appointment Bookings' and click on the calendar icon.

Choose the desired date to see counsellor availability. Counsellors are assigned by student last name as in the chart below.

Under the appropriate counsellor, click on the desired time for your appointment.

Choose the reason for the appointment request and select 'Submit Reason'.

The appointment is now made! You may cancel the appointment by selecting 'cancel' in the Appointment Bookings section.

Please notify your teacher at the start of class that you have an appointment with your counsellor. PLEASE GO TO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE AT YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME, YOU WILL NOT BE CALLED.

Here is a list of guidance counsellors and the surname alphabet they service.

Counsellor	First Letter of Student Last Name
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Mr. Alkins	A-KAL
Ms. Rai	KAM-NON
Ms. Tse	NOO-SMI
Ms. Daneshmand	SO -WIL
Ms. Khan	WO-Z

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Please note that guidance appointments on teachassist will remain closed while counsellors are reviewing students' course change requests and supporting new registrations for semester 2. They will open for appointments starting on Tuesday, February 18th at 9:00 am.

If you need support from your counselor and it is NOT for a course request change, please email them directly. Please follow your schedule, until you are contacted by your counselor, if you requested a change.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Your Semester 2 guidance counsellor, is by your last name, as outlined below:

A to KAL	nizam.alkins@yrdsb.ca
KAM to NON	lovleen.rai@yrdsb.ca
NOO to SMI	andrea.tse@yrdsb.ca
SO to WIL	guisou.daneshmand@yrdsb.ca
WO to Z	nabeeha.khan@yrdsb.ca

Your Guidance Team

Reminder:

Equal Consideration Deadline for applications to Ontario Colleges (OCAS) is February 1, 2025.

Course Request Changes - the google form to request a timetable change will be emailed to all students on Tuesday Jan. 28th at 9:00 AM - there are very limited choices, and you can only submit the form once.

Feb. 13 is the OUAC transmission of final grades for Ontario Universities.

Feb. 14 is the OCAS transmission of final grades for Ontario Colleges.

Feb. 13 at 8:45 AM is the start of course selection for September 2025, students must submit by Feb. 21st at 4:00 PM

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Summer school registration will open on myBlueprint in late April, date to be announced.

[Info Sheet - Applying to an Ontario College](#)

[Info Sheet - Applying to an Ontario University](#)

[Slides - OCAS Applications](#)

[Slides - OUAC Applications](#)

Useful Websites:

Apprenticeship in Ontario -

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/apprenticeship-ontario>

Introduction to Apprenticeships - YRDSB -

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/student-support/guidance-and-career-education/introduction-apprenticeships>

Ontario Colleges - <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en>

Ontario Universities' Info - <https://www.ouinfo.ca/>

Undergraduate Application Guide -

<https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/undergrad-guide/>

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G.I.V.E!

Get Involved. Volunteer in Education!

2025 Winter Session

Join our workshop series and discover how you can make a difference in your child's education by volunteering in schools. Empower yourself to support our school community and enrich your child's learning experience!

You will learn more about:

- The role of a volunteer
- Transferable skills
- Equity and Inclusive education
- Self care and well-being
- Human Rights
- Employment readiness
- School information and community resources

We will help you:

- Expand your network
- Effectively communicate with school staff
- Contribute to student learning and parent engagement
- Gain volunteer experience in schools
- Build healthy communities
- Boost Professionalism

Location: Ellen Fairclough Public School, 33 Brando Ave, Markham, ON L3S 4K9

Dates: February 24 to 28, 2025 (Monday to Friday)

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All parents, guardians, caregivers are welcome to join this free training program!

Space is limited, please scan the QR code or visit the [Registration Link](#) to sign up.



This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. For more information, please contact Inclusive School and Community Services (ISCS) at iscs@yrdsb.ca or Victoria Chung vchung@ccsyrr.org 416-568-2252 or Eman Hasan ehasan@ccsyrr.org 905-884-3434 #322.



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MARCH BREAK CAMP

Active and Fun Camp

with many sports and team-building activities



DONCREST PUBLIC SCHOOL
124 BLACKMORE AVE,
RICHMOND HILL ON L4B 2B1

Pricing:
\$195/week

FOR AGES 5 - 12

**SCAN &
REGISTER:**



March 10-14, 2025



Starts From Ends At
08:30 am - 04:00 pm

**Extra care and meal
plans are not available**

York Region Educational Services (YRES) is a registered non-profit organization.



(416)-475-6622



info@yorkeducation.ca



yorkeducation.org/marchbreakcamp

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