



Thornlea Secondary School

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

Bi-Weekly e-Bulletin

February 2, 2024

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 2	PA Day
Feb 5	Semester 2, Term 1 Begins
Feb 8	YRPH School Immunization Clinic in Thornlea Library

SCHOOL COUNCIL

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

Meeting Dates:
Tuesday Feb. 20, 2024
Monday Apr. 15, 2024

SCHOOL email:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

ATTENDANCE email:

thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca

CONTACT/TELEPHONE CHANGE:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

THORNLEA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THORNLEA ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE



Hello Thornlea Families,
There are many things I love about working in education, but one of my favorites is the opportunities and optimism a new semester offers. Both in September and February, we hit reset and start again. For students, it is a chance to embark on new courses, new learning opportunities, make new friends, and, most importantly, pursue new successes.

As a teacher, I always welcomed the chance to improve upon what I did last semester and to learn and grow so that I could engage and challenge my students a bit more.

Now that I have completed one semester at Thornlea, I am reflecting on the things I will improve upon, change, and learn from so that this semester can be even better. I am beginning to understand the great strengths of the school. Additionally, I am identifying areas where we can better serve our students and community. I will be spending this semester working to put some of those things into action as well as continuing to learn and grow.

I am looking forward to a great restart and wishing all of our Thunderful students a fantastic semester as well.

Sincerely,

Paolo Burzese
Paolo.Burzese@yrdsb.ca



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Leonie Patrick leonie.patrick@yrdsb.ca (M-Z)



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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

Has your contact information changed?



Please email:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

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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](#)

YRDSB LINKS:

- [18+ Consent Form](#)
- [What is De-Streaming](#)
- [YRDSB Guide to the School Year](#)

USEFUL LINKS:

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

Staff PA Day Plan for Friday, February 2, 2024

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Violence Prevention Training on Student Safety and Violent Incident Prevention

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Online module developed by Board staff, facilitated by Administration.

Description: Staff will be engaging in learning related to:

- developing relationships and identity-affirming working and learning environments;
- identifying warning signs that a person's behaviour may be escalating;
- responding to escalations using specific strategies;
- exploring case studies;
- following reporting procedures; and accessing support and resources.

Topic: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders. Topics will vary by subject and may include:

- preparation for Semester 2
- high yield instructional strategies in the de-streamed math, science, or English classroom
- data analysis for school improvement.

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic: Curriculum Implementation

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration and Board based personnel

Description: Equitable assessment practices, MLL learning, and SIP/Department Meetings

Details: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders. Topics will vary by subject and may include:

- embedding strategies to support teaching multilingual language learners into the curriculum
- embedding subject specific high yield strategies into instruction and assessment
- data analysis for school improvement.

School Teams will continue to engage in School Improvement Planning that supports the implementation of equitable assessment practices, curriculum changes and instructional strategies to support students in the de-streamed classroom.

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GUIDANCE NEWS

Applying to College or University?

Applications are now open! Start your application today by clicking on the links below for next steps.

University Information Link

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

College Information Link

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

[Thornlea Guidance Webpage](#)

Semester 2 Information

- **Feb. 15** is the OUAC transmission of final grades for Ontario Universities.
- **Feb. 16** is the OCAS transmission of final grades for Ontario Colleges.
- **Feb. 15** is the start of course selection for September 2024, students must submit by **Feb. 23rd**.
- Summer school registration will open in late April, date to be announced.

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Welcome to Thornlea Guidance Services!

Students are assigned a counsellor according to their surname.

To connect with your Guidance Counsellor, please scan the QR CODE or use the bit.ly below.



bit.ly/ThornleaGuidance

SCAN ME

SEMESTER TWO ALPHA DISTRIBUTION

N. Alkins (Head of Guidance) A - IQ

L. Rai (SHSM Lead) IR - PR

A. Tse (Head of ESL) QIN - WIL

L. Ceausu (Head of History) WONG - Z

Once you have submitted the form, your Guidance Counsellor will connect with you via your GAPPS email to set up an appointment.

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Night School

Night School registration for the Winter session is now open through my Pathway Planner and will close at noon on Thursday, February 1, 2024. It will re-open on Friday, February 2, 2024 and students can register in limited courses that show availability up until the second night of classes which is Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Please be advised that our traditional in class face-to-face [Night School program](#) (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm) will continue to use a remote learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous).

The first night of class is Thursday, February 15, 2024 and the program ends Thursday, June 6, 2024. In order to help expedite the registration process, we ask that Guidance Counsellors approve course selections as soon as possible. Students who register prior to Thursday February 8, 2024 will receive a Welcome email. Students with unapproved course requests will not be registered.

Kindly note course offerings are not guaranteed as they are subject to sufficient enrolment and teacher availability. Should a course be cancelled, YRDSB students will receive an email through their gapps account while non YRDSB students will be contacted by phone. Kindly encourage students to check their gapps account or my Pathway Course Planner and visit our [course offerings](#) to see if their selected course has been cancelled.

We also ask that guidance counselors continue to monitor and keep track of those students who have signed up for a Night School course. Students are asked to update their guidance counselors if they are withdrawing from a course.

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Vaccine Eligibility for Students - York Region Public Health

On **February 8th, 2024**, YRPH will offer catch-up immunization clinics to students in grades 9 through 12 in the library of Thornlea Secondary School.

Ontario's [Immunization of School Pupils Act \(ISPA\)](#) requires students to be vaccinated against nine designated diseases or have a valid exemption. The immunization clinics are convenient opportunities for students to get caught up on missing vaccine doses prior to future school suspension campaigns.

Parents/students will be notified by mail in January of missing routine immunizations they are eligible to receive at their in-school immunization clinic in February. Also, students who missed an in-school clinic may visit their health care provider or book an appointment at a to obtain any missing routine immunizations. [YRPH Clinic Locations](#)

The parent/school letters sent out will also include a link to a [YRPH consent and Immunization Record Upload](#) and stored securely by YRPH. We will also post all immunization information about the high school clinics, including the e-consent form on york.ca/immunization.

For more information, please contact us at 1-877-464-9675 about any questions related to routine immunizations and the clinics.

Please make sure your child's consent was filled out at YRPH and are aware they will be receiving a vaccine on February 8th.

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Message from Our Trustee

February 2024

As we start the second semester and second half of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to share some updates about upcoming dates, events and initiatives taking place across our system with you. I also want to thank everyone who contributes to building a strong educational community in York Region District School Board - the students, families, staff members and community partners who come together in support of student learning, achievement and well-being.

February is **Black History Month**. In addition to a number of [events taking place](#) within the school board and local community, the school board is once again Celebrating Black Excellence through its Black Voices campaign. **Black Voices** aims to centre and celebrate the Black members of our YRDSB community and share their voices. For families looking to learn more about school board and community events and programs for Black students and families, you can [subscribe to the Centre for Black Student Excellence mailing list](#) to receive regular updates.

Later this month, we will also recognize the [Lunar New Year](#) and wish all students, staff and community celebrating Lunar New Year a happy and joyful celebration.

While we have seen milder **winter weather** this year, I also want to remind families that we have protocols in place for [severe weather](#) and school transportation cancellation in the case of inclement weather, and want to ensure families are aware. You can find more information on the Board website. We also continue to encourage families to use active school travel all year round, including during the winter months. Early in February, we will be celebrating [Winter Walk Day](#), and be sharing tips as well as the benefits and joys of winter walking.

This month, students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote in the [Student Trustee Elections](#). I want to congratulate and thank all of the students in Grade 10 and 11 who applied for this position. Student Trustees play an important role representing student voice at the Board meetings and we greatly value their voice and contributions. Students who are eligible to vote will receive information in their GAPPs accounts about how to vote. This is a great opportunity to participate in the democratic process and to have their say about who will represent their voice in the next school year.

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[Kindergarten](#) and [French Immersion](#) registration opened in January for fall 2024. For students looking at **course selection** in secondary school, there are lots of great resources available at www.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb that let students learn more about courses, programs and opportunities that relate to their interests.

You can also stay up-to-date with what's happening around the Board by visiting our [newsroom](#) - some of the latest stories feature schools in our area - or by listening to the Board's award-winning [podcast Tune In YRDSB](#), including recent and upcoming episodes on what to expect in Kindergarten, how Student Trustees represent student voice, Tamil Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and more.

As the governing body of the York Region District School Board, trustees are required to establish an annual **Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)** to guide system direction for a four-year period. The MYSP is a reflection of emergent priorities identified by our educational communities. Over the coming months, we will be conducting extensive consultations with YRDSB students, staff, families and community members to collect input and feedback to develop our revised MYSP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us in building a strong publicly funded education system that delivers a high-quality education for your children. You can learn more about my role as a school trustee and [how you can reach me](#) on the Board website www.yrdsb.ca.

Jenny Chen, Trustee, Markham Wards 1 and 8

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Celebrating Black History Month / BHM365 Events 2024

* Dates and Events subject to change

Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
Student Events and Family Engagement		
February 8, 2024	A Discussion for Families of Black Children on Pathway Opportunities for Students and Families. Register Here	Dr.Bette Stephenson Cafeteria
February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Dr.Joi Spencer and Dr.Kerri Ullucci Register Here	Online Register to Receive Link
February 29, 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - Open to All: Student & Families Light refreshments will be served. Register In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration. Register Here	Dr Bette Rm 113



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