



# Thornlea SS

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**Principal: Joe Foti**

**November 12, 2021**

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

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



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# Message from the Principal

Dear Thornlea Families,

I want to make you aware of a couple of upcoming events. This Monday is a Professional Activity Day and the school will be closed on that day, reopening on Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup>. On Monday night, our School Council will meet virtually. There will be a presentation on scholarships from a former university admissions officer. A link to the school council presentation is enclosed in the bulletin. This Thursday will be the Ontario Literacy test. Writing the test will be our current grade 11 students and non-graduating grade 12 students. In the spring, our grade 10 students will have their opportunity to write the test.

Last week we send home a letter announcing that basketball for Jr. and Sr. boys and girls will take place during the winter season. In addition, there will also be girls' volleyball, coed curling and boy's and girl's skiing and snowboarding. There have been many students trying out for our teams and it is nice to see so many activities taking place at school this semester. We would like to congratulate the SR. boys' soccer team for a strong season. They made it all the way to the Tier 1 quarterfinals of the YRAA.

For the past three weeks, Thornlea has welcomed about thirty Afghan refugees to our school. I would like to thank our students who went out of their way to welcome them to our school, show them around, and explain how a Canadian High School operates. The group has been moved to Toronto and we wish them the best as they learn about our country and education system.

In the newsletter, you will see a detailed explanation on how to change their learning model. Those students wishing to move to remote learning may do so after our mid-semester reporting is complete. If you have any questions or concerns about this please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Finally, I would like to thank the Head of our History department, Laura Ceausu, and her group of student volunteers who put together our virtual Remembrance Day presentation. Hopefully this will be the last year that we are required to do our presentation in a virtual format. I wish everyone a safe and relaxing weekend.

Warmest Regards,

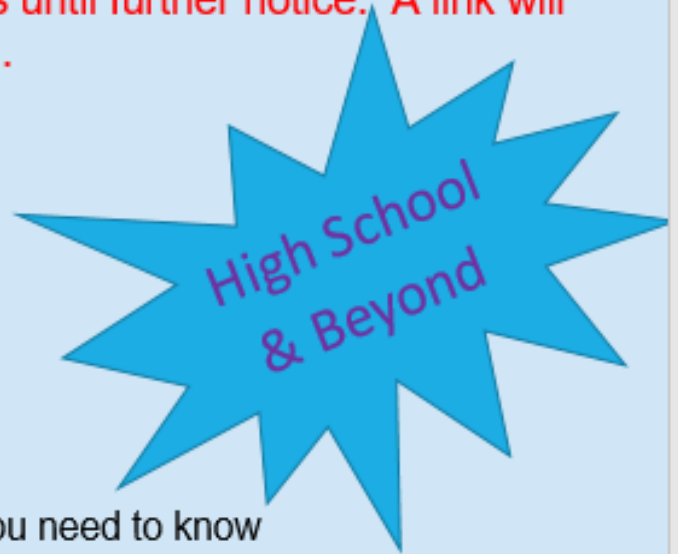
Joe Foti

## *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



## School “Parent” Council

*At Thornlea S. S., the School "Parent" Council is made up of parents and school administrators, established to represent the interests of all parents/guardians, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. We are here to help communicate between parents/guardians and the school administrators. We meet in the evening, a few times a year to discuss what is going on at the school, to be the voice for parents on various topics such as Healthy Schools, Curriculum, etc. and plan and run fundraising events that support student learning and the school community.*

***To do this we need YOU!*** We need voting members at large to join the Council as well as any other parent interested in learning what is happening in the school or interested in volunteering, providing feedback or just to listen. In addition, we are looking for a couple of members to fill in two positions. These include treasurer and fundraising chair. If you would like to be a part of this amazing Council, please send an email before **Monday November 15th** to [thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornlea.ss@sc.yrdsb.ca) with your name, email and the interested position.

*Please join us this Monday, November 15, 2021 at 7pm for our next Parent Council meeting.*

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/969428781>

# SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

## **SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION – NOVEMBER 15 at 7:00 p.m. ET**

Join former Admissions Officer Janet MacDonald for “What You Need to Know About Scholarships”. Janet will provide information on the different kinds of scholarships available for high school students, plus key pieces of information students and parents need to know, such as how to find them, and when and how to apply for them.

The information is suitable for students in Grades 11 and 12, and their parents. It could save you thousands of dollars!

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Janet MacDonald has over 10 years of experience with university admissions and scholarship coaching. Janet was an Assistant Registrar of Admissions at Dalhousie University and an Admissions Officer at The University of British Columbia.

For six years she was the Program Coordinator for a national science and engineering research scholarship program.

Through her company, **mycampusGPS** (<https://www.mycampusgps.ca/>), Janet has helped Canadian students save hundreds of thousands of dollars. She loves her job! Janet’s blog was named one of the top education blogs in Canada.

**The Guidance Department**

# 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:lobleen.rai@yrdsb.ca">lobleen.rai@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.

Full Disclosure for Grade 11 and Grade 12 Courses For 2021/2022, the course withdrawal date (Full Disclosure) will be 5 instructional days after the mid-semester report is issued. The Full Disclosure date for Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses is December 6, 2021. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course

prior to December 6, 2021, then the course will not be recorded on the Ontario Student transcript. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course after the Full Disclosure date, a withdrawal (W) is entered in the credit column, and the student's mark at the time of withdrawal will be recorded as a percentage in the achievement column of the transcript.

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.

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

## **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

# Secondary School Newsletter Communication

## Learning Model Changes

In September, we shared that we would provide families further information to support switching between in-person and remote learning models prior to mid-semester.

Students learning remotely may request to return to face-to-face learning by contacting the school. Changes will be facilitated within 1-2 days. Transportation may require additional time to initiate.

Requests may also be made to move from in-person learning to remote learning. Please contact the school to request a switch to remote learning. Staff from the school will make arrangements to contact you to review the request and share information about the hybrid learning model.

- Learning model changes for students affected by COVID-19 will be facilitated within 2-3 school days.
- Model change requests will be facilitated as soon as possible and prior to mid-semester reporting.

After mid-semester reporting, students and families may request a short-term COVID-19 related model change or a long-term model change for other circumstances by contacting the school.

Families can continue to access COVID-19 related information from the Board at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening), including frequently asked questions.



A MESSAGE FROM

# Thornlea's History Department

On November 11th, students and staff at Thornlea participated in a virtual Remembrance Day to pay tribute to the fallen in the service of their country, and to acknowledge the courage of those who still serve.

Please view our Virtual Assembly on our YOUTUBE Channel:

<https://youtu.be/Utn3skN6dec>

Lest we forget. N'oublions pas.

## NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT



### Pre-AP and AP Art Portfolio Workshops for Grade 11-12 students

Dear Students and Parents/ Guardians,

The Advanced Placement Studio Art Portfolios workshops on Drawing and Painting, 2-D Design and 3-D Design are designed for students who are interested in the practical experience of art. We offer Advanced Placement Art Portfolio Workshops to help our Grade 11 and 12 students work on their AP Art portfolios. Our Grade 11 students will also benefit from this learning opportunity and can start working on their Art portfolios this year. Please join our virtual Portfolio classes on **Wednesdays after school (3:30-5:00 pm)** to work on a variety of projects for Arts portfolios (Portraiture, Anatomy/ Figure Drawing, Architecture, Sculpture, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Animation and more). If your child would like to upgrade his/ her portfolios, please encourage them to join us.

If you are interested in attending the virtual meetings or have any questions, please email Mme Bern at: [ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca](mailto:ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca)



## NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT

### GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

### GRADE 11/12 ARTS AND SHSM STUDENTS!

Mark your Calendar for **Wednesday, November 24th at 3:30-5:00 pm**

You are invited to attend a **Virtual Portfolio Development workshop** for Arts and Media Design students with **Professor Brandon Vickerd** from York University (School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design).

This is the time of year where senior high school students begin to consider applying for university visual art programs and often attend in person workshops or National Portfolio Day. The ongoing pandemic has led to the cancelling of these events, and we recognize that this leaves many students with unanswered questions about how to prepare their portfolios for university applications. In response to this, York University AMPD department is offering to conduct the **Portfolio preparation workshops** via zoom. You will also **earn your Reach Ahead Experience SHSM credit**. If you have any questions, please email Mme Bern at: [ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca](mailto:ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca).

**Topic: Thornlea SS Portfolio Workshop**

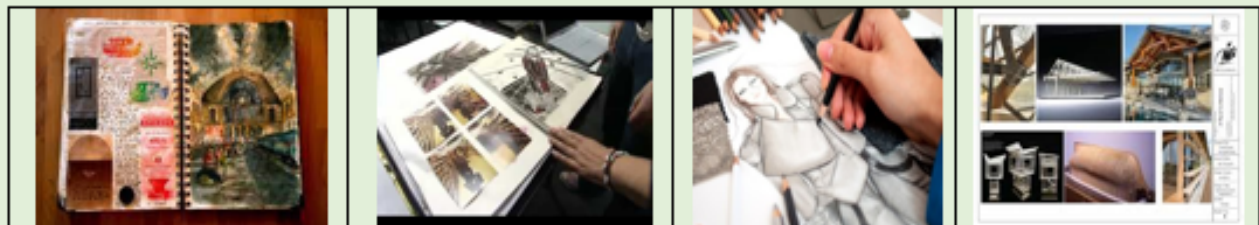
**Time: Wednesday, Nov 24, 2021 03:30 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://yorku.zoom.us/j/96940708009?pwd=eVhGRlk1WnQ1N05uNnZIWDV1VFdZdz09>

Meeting ID: 969 4070 8009

Passcode: 948381



## Thornlea's Twenty-Fourth Student One Act Play Festival

After a twenty month hiatus the Thornlea Drama Department is so excited about performing again. There is such a buzz happening about the twenty-fourth **S.O.A.P Festival**.

As always, this festival is student-directed and student-cast with one special staff-acted play thrown in for fun!



We were able to chat with two of the student directors.

Julia Petrucci, director of "Cheque Please", is so excited to see how her one act play will come alive on stage with her peers. She overcame the challenges of rehearsing with masks and social distancing in order to get the most out of her cast.

Evie Carrier, director of "The Proxy", is looking forward to seeing how well her multigrade cast of students perform. She worked hard at balancing regular school work with high-energy rehearsals.

This year's **S.O.A.P Festival** will take place on December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for a full house student audience.

Good luck to all cast and directors. Stay tuned for a full post-festival report.

Photo by: Aidan A

## Award-Winning Author, June Hur, Visits Grade 9 English Class

Ms. Kim's Grade Nine English class just finished reading June Hur's stunning novel, *The Silence of Bones*, and were so lucky to have a Virtual visit by the author this month.

June spoke about her journey of becoming a writer of Korean historical fiction and her ten year journey of rejections that finally led to her first novel, *The Silence of Bones*, being published.

June shared her writing process, the daily life of a writer, and how to become a published writer. She also went on to explain exactly how an author earns a living.

Students asked a lot of questions about the decisions she made in the novel -- how she came up with the characters, plot, and why she made certain choices.

One of our students pointed out a plot hole in her book. June explained that her own copy editor had made the same observation, but she had argued to keep it because it helped with the aesthetic of her book.

June also talked about her two upcoming novels soon to be published -- students asked if they could get early access to them. She said she would think about it!

Stay tuned for our next author class visit and please come to our library to borrow one of June Hur's other books.



## Thornlea Learning Centre Wellness Box Project

Photos and Article by: Aidan A

In order to acknowledge how hard the pandemic has been for some of us **TLC** encouraged students to make a wellness box.

A wellness box is made and designed yourself. You fill it with personal objects and items which have a positive meaning to you.

When you are feeling down or need a boost of positivity you reach in and take out a random object and focus on the memory or feeling that it brings.

Students met at lunch on November 4th to build their wellness box and discuss mental health awareness.

Why not try to make a wellness box for yourself?

Come and visit **TLC** if you want any tips or advice.





## Scotiabank Giller Prize Guess-the-Winner Contest Winners!

Over 130 students voted in our Library Scotiabank Giller Prize Guess-the-Winner Contest.

We randomly chose three students who guessed the winner correctly.

Congratulations to Emily Ing, Billy Zheng, and Maya Yoshida. They each chose a wonderful book giveaway prize.



Also, Congratulations to author Omar El Akkad for winning the Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Please come to the library and be the next to sign out one of his amazing novels.

Visit the library and follow us on all our socials to find out about our next contests @thornlreads.

## Ms. Shariff's ASD Class is YouTube Famous

Ms. Shariff's class have just finished reading book one of the **Neil Flambe Capers Series**, *Neil Flambe and The Marco Polo Murders*.

It is an exciting series about a teen chef who also helps solve crimes. The class of hard-working students took part in weekly workshops with Mr. Capilongo in the library culminating in a YouTube Book Review showcasing all their hard work and reactions.

Please click on the photo below to watch the video and stay tuned for more as they start to read book two, *Neil Flambe and The Aztec Abduction*.



NOVEMBER 23RD, 2021

# TWIC'S COFFEE HOUSE

WATCH FOR SIGN-UP DETAILS COMING SOON TO  
OUR INSTAGRAM AT THORNLEAWELLNESS

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## MOVIE NIGHT

TIME: 3:15 - 5:30 P.M

SNACKS 4 PURCHASE

~

## TLC's

Stress Management Workshop

3:15 - 4:00 P.M.

Free Snacks & Giveaways



## 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>





# Supporting children with special needs in a home child care setting

Join York Region Early Intervention Services and York Region Preschool Speech and Language Program to learn about programs and services to support children with special needs in your care.

-  **TUNE IN** for this free interactive webinar for home child care providers in York Region
-  **EXPLORE** core philosophies and interventions to support child development
-  **NETWORK** with child care professionals and participate in a professional development workshop

**Thursday, November 18, 2021**  
**Workshop: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

This session will be facilitated online via Zoom.  
Learn more and sign up at [york.ca/homechildcare](http://york.ca/homechildcare)



[york.ca/children](http://york.ca/children)  
#StartswithkidsYR



# 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.





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](#)



[Autism Ontario](#)



[Children's Treatment Network](#)



(905) 722-8947

[Community Living - Georgina](#)



[Community Living - Central York](#)



[Community Living - York South](#)



[Down Syndrome Association of York Region](#)



[Easter Seals Ontario](#)



[Learning Disabilities Association of York Region](#)



[VIEWS for the Visually Impaired](#)



[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!

- School Council Forums
- PEAC Meetings
- Chalk the Walk
- Supportive Resources for New Families
- Fundraising Ideas
- Contacting Us
- Policy Review

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!

## 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><br><a href="mailto:leadershipdevelopmentengagement@yrdsb.ca">leadershipdevelopmentengagement@yrdsb.ca</a><br><b>Website:</b> <a href="#">YRDSB PEAC Website</a><br><b>Phone:</b> 905-727-0022 ext. 3650<br><b>Twitter:</b> @leadershiptyrdsb<br><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<br><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](#).

# Upcoming Events

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| November 15             | PA Day  |
| November 15             | School Council Meeting<br>(Virtual)               |
| November 18             | Ontario Secondary School Literacy<br>Test (OSSLT) |
| November 18             | Asynchronous Learning Day                         |
| December 20-December 31 | Christmas Break                                   |
| January 17              | School Council Meeting<br>(Virtual)               |
| February 4              | PA Day  |