

# Thornlea SS

**Winter Break**

**December 21-January 1**

**December 11., 2020**

**Principal: Joe Foti**

**Vice-Principal: Sofia Papadatos A-L**

**Vice-Principal: Lana Fisher M-Z**

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# Message from our VP's.....

Dear Parents/guardians,

Guidance will be offering a workshop for Gr. 11 students on Tuesday Dec. 15 or Wednesday Dec. 16 from 3:20 to 4:00 pm. The workshop will provide information on Pathways and Sectors for Post-Secondary program. More information can be found on a Gr. 11 Guidance Google classroom. Please encourage your Gr. 11 student to join, if they are not part of this classroom. The code to join: **miroalj**  
This workshop is also open to Gr. 10 students.

YRDSB is offering additional opportunities for students to earn their Gr. 11 and Gr. 12 credits through [Night School](#) and [Night School e-learning](#). If your child is interested in taking one of these courses please connect with guidance through [bit.ly/Thornlea](http://bit.ly/Thornlea) or email their guidance counsellor directly. Night School registration will open on January 4<sup>th</sup> through myPathway planner. Night School e-learning registration opened on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and will stay open until February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Many post-secondary programs now require students to complete a supplementary application. A supplementary application can consist of a questionnaire similar to a resume (Queen's University Concurrent Education, <https://educ.queensu.ca/pse>) or specifically designated questions related to a discipline of a students' choice. Here is example of a supplementary question being asked this year by the University of Toronto, Commerce program, "What accomplishments or endeavours outside of the classroom are you most proud of?" (<https://rotmancommerce.utoronto.ca/future-students/our-supplemental-application/>). Another example of a supplementary can be a leadership profile and/or writing exercise or a timed-video submission (York University, Schulich Bachelor of Business Administration program (<https://forms.schulich.yorku.ca/myfilestart>)). The supplementary application deadlines vary from school to school. This year, some of the applications have an early deadline of December 10 or January 15<sup>th</sup> or a regular deadline of February 3, March 15 or March 31. We encourage students to set-up and check the university portals of their choice for more up-to-date information, once they apply through the Ontario Application Centre (OUAC).

## OSSLT 2021 Update

In a recent memo, the Ministry of Education indicated that the literacy graduation requirement will be waived for all students graduating during the 2020-21 school year.

The Ministry is continuing to explore a field test of the online OSSLT in Spring 2021, which could allow the opportunity for non-graduating students to write the test and have successful attempts counted on their transcript. Further instructions on next steps regarding the online OSSLT in Spring 2021 will be forthcoming.

## **Upcoming Dates**

Full disclosure date for all Gr. 11 and Gr.12 courses – December 16<sup>th</sup>

*Equal consideration University Application deadline (OUAC) – January, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

*Equal consideration College Application deadline (OCAS) – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

***Book an appointment with a guidance counsellor [bit.ly/Thornlea](http://bit.ly/Thornlea) or administration if you require assistance with your application***

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Lana Fisher and Sofia Papadatos

## **Support for Learners**

The government is providing financial support to help parents and guardians with additional costs during the 2020-2021 school year during the second wave of COVID-19.

Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of:

- \$200 for each child up to age 12
- \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 years with special needs

This is a new program, and all parents or guardians who are residents of Ontario with eligible children will need to submit a new application for each child.

As of today, eligible parents or guardians can go to [Ontario.ca/SupportforLearners](https://Ontario.ca/SupportforLearners) for more information and to apply for the one-time financial support. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.

## **York Region District School Board Information**

### **Tamil Heritage Month 2021 Poster Competition**

YRDSB and the Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action: Tamil Heritage Month 2021 Poster Competition. Deadline is December 14. See the [flyer](#) for all the details.

### **Parents for Children's Mental Health (PMCH)**

PMCH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. A virtual meeting about ADHD will be held on Monday, December 14 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Please review this [link](#) for additional information.

### **YRDSB - BFCN - Kwanzaa & Cultural Celebrations - December 18**

### **BFCN - Scholarship Application Workshop - January 22**

BFCN is inviting students and their families to their end-of-year celebration to learn about Kwanzaa and the importance of cultural traditions on Friday, December 18 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. This online workshop is free but there is limited space available, register via Eventbrite ASAP: [bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopDecember18](https://bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopDecember18)

BFCN is also inviting Black students and their families to join them for an online edition of the BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop on Friday, January 22, 2021 from 7 PM - 9 PM. The workshop is offered free of charge as the goal is to share our collective knowledge so that Black students and their families can make informed decisions about post-secondary education. Note that the Scholarship Program Coordinator will also be present to answer any questions. The online workshop is free but there is limited space available so please register via Eventbrite ASAP: [bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopJanuary22](https://bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopJanuary22)

Registration via Eventbrite is mandatory in order to participate for both workshops. A Zoom link and further details will be sent to all those who register. For more information, please connect with BFCN [info@bfcn.ca](mailto:info@bfcn.ca) or 416-566-2731.

# Thornlea Secondary School

## Student Achievement Awards Winners

Every year the *Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation* and the *Fédération des enseignantes et des enseignants de l' Ontario* host the Student Achievement Awards in honour of Marion Drysdale, a secretary at OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Office for twenty-two years, for her dedicated work..

The Student Achievement Awards are a creative arts and bilingual writing competition open to all secondary school students in Ontario. Each year students are asked to focus their work around a selected theme. This year's theme is, ***Kindness is a Renewable Resource***.

Judging is held at the school, District, Regional and Provincial levels. Nine provincial winners are awarded \$1000 each in prizes and will be invited to the Annual General Meeting in March where a video showcasing their work will be shown.

Thornlea had many wonderful school entries this year. Each first place winner moved on to the District finals. Their work is on display in our Trophy Hallway.

Here are our school winners:

Thornlea Winners	Categories
Yael Lazebnik 1st Place Alanna Lee 2nd Place Taymiyyah Hammami 3rd Place	Gr. 9 -10 Academic Poetry & Prose
Alisa Loboda 1st Place	Gr. 11 - 12 University Poetry & Prose
Narges Movahedian Nezhad 1st Place	Gr. 11 - 12 College Poetry & Prose
Morgan Ling 1st Place Emily Zichan Kong 2nd Place Rozhin Ansari	Gr. 9-10 Visual & Media
Emily Younwoo Kim 1st Place Mikayla Astroff 2nd Place Narges Movahedian Nezhad 3rd Place Sarah Meskes 4th Place	Gr. 11 -12 Visual & Media



Three of our first place winners won the District 16 finals and will move on to the Regional level. We wish the best of luck to **Morgan Ling, Narges Movahedian Nezhad, and Yael Lazebnik.**

# 2020-2021 Inclement Weather Day Procedure for Secondary Schools

The decision to declare an Inclement Weather day will be made by the Director of Education, or Designate in consultation with appropriate staff. The Director of Education is the only Board representative who may officially close a school for extreme circumstances.

This year, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, our Inclement Weather Day Procedure has been adjusted based on direction from York Region Public Health.

In the event school bus transportation is cancelled local media will be notified by 6:00 a.m.

- All F2F elementary and secondary schools will be closed to students.
- All student learning will be remote.
- Student attendance will be recorded centrally, as students will be expected to log into their online classes through their appropriate Google classrooms.

## **F2F Secondary Schools:**

- All credit classes will be taught synchronously on-line for the day (a change only for Block 1 as afternoon Block 2 – 4 classes are on-line).
- The schedule for the day will remain as is set.
- Teachers of Community Classes will provide asynchronous learning by posting/sharing age, grade, learning appropriate activities and/or assignments aligned with current student learning, while being available to students through the day as per their schedule.

## **Virtual Secondary School (SVS):**

- Classes/courses will carry on as planned/scheduled, given they are already fully online.

# Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and well. 2020 has been a challenging year in so many ways, and the global pandemic has affected individuals and families in different ways.

I want to reassure you that we continue to work closely with York Region Public Health and to prioritize the health and well-being of our students, staff members and families. It continues to be important that we adhere to the health and safety measures in place to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can learn more about what schools are doing at [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening).

While we have seen cases in some of our schools, we continue to work with public health to respond quickly, identify cohorts that need to self-isolate as a precautionary measure and take all appropriate measures. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their diligence in adhering to the public health recommendations and health and safety measures in place in our schools.

One of our priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to foster well-being and mental health. As a result of the pandemic, many of us are facing changes and new challenges that can take a toll on our mental health. It is more important than ever that we check in on one another and practice self-care. There are [mental health resources for students and families](#) on our Board website that address the unique nature of our current situation. You can also find information about our [Mental Health and Addiction Strategy](#) and the [work we are doing in schools](#) to promote positive mental health and provide support for students.

While there are challenges, we also continue to have so many reasons to feel positive. Our students continue to impress us with their kindness, creativity, innovation, resilience, courage and perseverance. Visit us on [YouTube at YRDSBMedia](#) to see just some of these stories.

In the coming weeks and months, many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays, and I wish you all the very best for the season. While we may be celebrating a little differently this year, I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back into our in-person and virtual schools in January.

# Upcoming Events



December 16-17

Wellness Day

December 21-January 1

Winter Break

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*

January 18

School Council Meeting

February 1

PA Day

February 15

Family Day (no school)

February 16

School Council Meeting

March 15-19

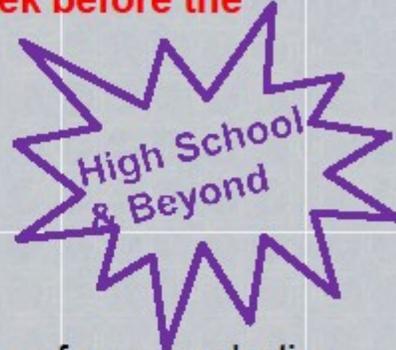
March Break

## *Parents' Corner:*

**Parents' School Council 2020-2021, 7:00PM**

**Our meetings will be virtual meetings until further notice. A link will be sent the week before the meeting.**

Please mark your calendar.



➤ **January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- Principal overview/presentation of course selection for Semester 2 and projections for 2021-2022. Followed by a Q&A

➤ **February 16<sup>th</sup> 2021**

- Tamara Gord, Head of Special Education, to present a webinar to parents on how to best support their child in the online learning environment. Followed by Q&A.

➤ **April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021      TBD**

➤ **May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021      TBD**

TBD: We'll provide the topics as soon as they are available.

*From: Geneviève Seabrook  
Chair of Parents' Council*

## NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT

## ***Happy Holidays, Thornlea Community!***

### ***Commission an Artwork!***



*Dear Staff, Parents/ Guardians,*

*Our Grade 10-12 Arts students are willing to draw or paint commissioned artworks (please see samplings of their artwork). Artworks will be commissioned in a variety of sizes with a choice of background.*

*Just send your photographs/ reference images, and our Artists in Residence will draw/ paint your picture in any medium of your choice (pencil, charcoal, acrylic, pastels). Please support our Thornlea Art Council and Equity Team's efforts to raise money to make our school an even more inclusive place.*

***Funds raised will be used to support our military and veterans and for planning Art Shows, cultural events and celebrations.***

*If you have any questions, please email Mme Bern at: [ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca](mailto:ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca).*

*Your support would be greatly appreciated. With gratitude,*

*Visual Arts classes and Student Art Council*



### NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT

Thank you for commissioning artworks from our emerging artists and supporting our ever-growing Arts Program here at Thornlea.

### HURRY UP! WINTER ART SALES!

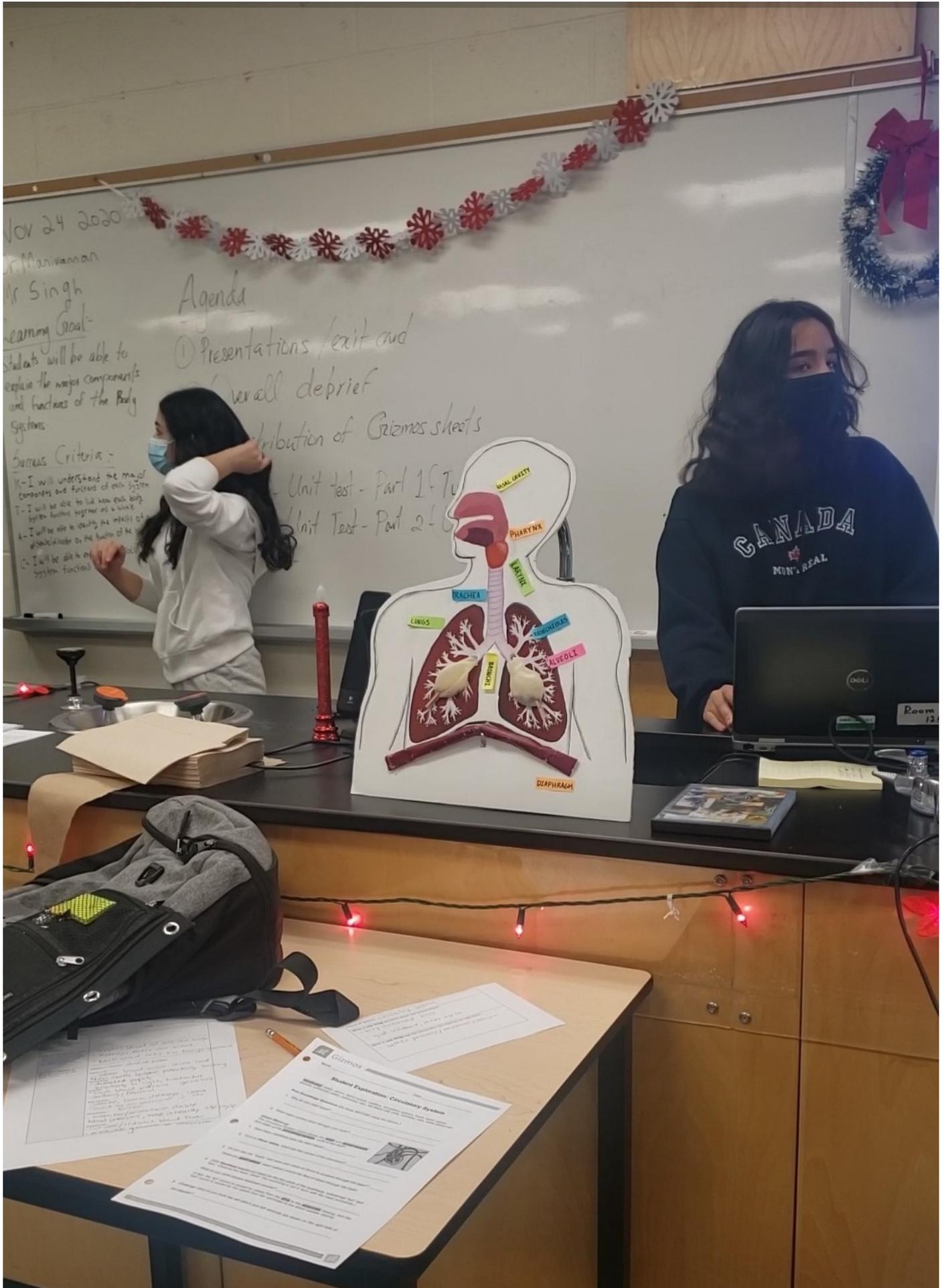


## Thornlea Science Fair

This past November 25<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup> of 2020, grade 10 students from Dr. Manivannan's class put together a science fair, exploring the human body systems with creative models, powerpoint presentations, videos, songs, and interactive games in an inquiry-based project. This project was part of a STEM initiative project which was student-led and peer-guided. They excitedly presented their findings to their peers, guests and judges in the most fun way despite the current pandemic situation. While Dr. Manivannan and her student teacher, Lakhveer Singh congratulate our grade 10 students for their excellent job done, the models are on display in room 125 (Dr. Manivannan's classroom) for viewing for the school community.

*Dr. Tharsini Manivannan*





# A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM THE CANADIAN LEGION



A huge thank you to Thornlea Staff and students for their donations this year. In total our Thornlea community raised **\$872.35** for our veterans. During such difficult times our donation has been greatly appreciated by the Canadian Legion and should be acknowledged. We thank our Thornlea community for their generosity in support of our veterans past and present.

-Thornlea's History Department



## Thornlea Secondary School COHORT CALENDAR 2020

September						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10A	11B	12
13	14A	15B	16A	17B	18A	19
20	21B	22A	23B	24A	25B	26
27	28A	29B	30A			

December						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1A	2B	3A	4B	5
6	7A	8B	9A	10B	11A	12
13	14B	15A	16B	17A	18B	H
H	H	H	H	H	H	H
H	H	H	H	H		

October						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
				1B	2A	3
4	5B	6A	7B	8A	9B	10
11	H	13A	14B	15A	16B	17
18	19A	20B	21A	22B	23A	24
25	26B	27A	28B	29A	30B	31

January						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					H	H
H	4A	5B	6A	7B	8A	9
10	11B	12A	13B	14A	15B	16
17	18A	19B	20A	21B	22A	23
24	25B	26A	27B	28A	29B	30
31						

November						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2A	3B	4A	5B	6A	7
8	9B	10A	11B	12A	PA	14
15	16B	17A	18B	19A	20B	21
22	23A	24B	25A	26B	27A	28
29	30B					

A=Cohort A

H=Holiday (no school)

B=Cohort B

PA=PA Day (no school)

**Thornlea Secondary School**  
**2020 – 2021**

Schedule		Time (minutes)
<b>8:50 - 11:20</b>	<b>In Person - Block 1</b> (Alternate between face-to-face and online daily)	<b>150</b>
<b>11:20 - 12:50</b>	Travel Home / Lunch or Lunch / Study Hall	<b>90</b>
<b>12:50 – 1:40</b>	Synchronous Online - <b>Block 2</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>1:40 – 2:30</b>	Synchronous Online - <b>Block 3</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>2:30 – 3:20</b>	Synchronous Online - <b>Block 4</b>	<b>50</b>

Course Rotation for 4 Period School								
Rotation	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Dates	Sept 14- Sept 25	Sept 28- Oct 9	Oct 13- Oct 26	Oct 27- Nov 9	Nov 10- Nov 26	Nov 27- Dec 14	Dec 15- Jan 13	Jan 14- Jan 29
F2F	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Block 2	2	1	4	3	2	1	4	3
Block 3	3	3	1	1	3	3	1	1
Block 4	4	4	2	2	4	4	2	2