



# Thornlea Secondary School

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

Bi-Weekly e- Bulletin

March 4, 2022



## March Break Monday March 14-18, 2022

Principal: Joe Foti  
[joe.foti@yrdsb.ca](mailto:joe.foti@yrdsb.ca)  
Vice-Principal: Laurie Herman  
(A - L)  
[laurie.herman@yrdsb.ca](mailto:laurie.herman@yrdsb.ca)  
Vice-Principal: Leonie Patrick  
(M- Z)  
[leonie.patrick@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leonie.patrick@yrdsb.ca)

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		summer	
		false fall	
		second summer (1 week)	
		actual fall	
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## Message From the Principal

Dear Thornlea Families,

As the weeks progress into semester two more and more activities return to Thornlea. Mr. Stone who retired from Thornlea at the end of January returns this week to work with our Sr. drama students and direct them one last time in the Sr. Drama show. The YRAA has announced that both girls and boys rugby will be taking place in the spring with the seven a side version of the sport being played. I can confirm that Ms. Bendavid will be coaching our girls' team and that I will be running the boy's team. Information about tryouts and practices will take place after March Break. As I write this we have two girls' volleyball teams competing in the YRAA and two boys' basketball teams. They all have something in common they are all in first place and undefeated in league play. I would like to thank our players and coaches for a great season and wish them the best of luck in the playoffs which will commence after March Break. This week is Spirit Week at Thornlea and TWIC and our Student council have a number of activities planned for the week including a staff student dodge ball game.

I am also pleased to announce that after consultation with York Region Public Health and the YRDSB that Thornlea will have an in person graduation ceremony for the first time in two years. Our graduation ceremony will take place on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Once a venue has been selected we will let our entire school community know the location. As of yet we have not been informed about the possibility of holding Prom this year. However I am more optimistic as the case count in Ontario continues to decline and that is a good thing for everyone.

Student Interim report cards will be coming out at the end of March and Parent teacher interviews will also take place at the end of month. Information on how to sign up for an interview will be shared shortly. Finally, I would like to wish all our students a relaxing and fun March Break. I hope that you get to relax and have fun with your friends and family. As it is a holiday there will be no homework or assignments due over the break or when we return to school.

Warmest Regards,

Joe Foti  
Principal



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## School Council Corner

### Upcoming Meetings:

**April 19, 2022**

**May 16, 2022**

We wanted to send a friendly reminder about our online fundraiser, **FlipGive**. Thank you to those of you who have registered but we need more people to sign up. Remember, it's virtual and at no cost to you. **FlipGive** can be used for when you're buying gift cards for any occasion; Birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter, Ramadan, Mother's Day or Father's Day, Teacher Appreciation, Graduation. **It can also be used by you for everyday purchases** at Wal-mart, Sobey's, Loblaws or Staples or staying at a Hotel. There are so many stores to choose from.

➤ **Join online at:** <https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=5FLXC7>

Use this code: **5FLXC7**

Please share the link with your family, friends & coworkers to help support our school.  
All proceeds will be used to support our students.



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## Absence Protocol

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](mailto:thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

Has your contact information changed?



Please email:

[thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca)



## Classroom Connection

Maya Lekhi, a grade 12 Thornlea student, was the winner of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association 2021 Certificate of Recognition! The OPSBA Awards Program strives to recognize some of the outstanding contributions made by students and educators across Ontario to our educational system. The OPSBA awards honour dedicated people who demonstrated their own commitment to public education and leadership. Nominations for the 2022 OPSBA awards are now open! Check it out at <https://www.opsba.org/what-we-do/awards-programs/>



Our robotics students hard at work building the robot for the upcoming FIRST robotics competition. Some students are working on fabrication and assembly of the robot, others are working on the electricals, while others work on the software and programming for the robot.



## NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT



### Thornlea Celebrates Black History and Heritage!

We want to celebrate our alumni student, **Brandon Baghaee's** success with you all! In 2020, Brandon graduated from our Arts Program and this is his second year in OCAD. He is already having his personal exhibition "Celebrating Black", featuring his cultural identity and his connection with the community. Last Friday, Brandon came to share his new Artworks with our Grade 12 Arts students. Brandon continues to create work that reflects and educates students on Black experiences, stories, and Black histories to create social change.





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## NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT

### JOIN OUR EQUITY COMMITTEE/ ARTS COUNCIL!



We are inviting you to join our Thornlea's Equity Committee and Art Council.

We meet on *Wednesdays at lunch in Room 217.*

We will be working together to make a positive impact on the Arts in our community, which helps to enrich all lives.

### CELEBRATE WITH US THE NEW "SPORTS INSPIRATIONS" MURAL

Our Arts Council and Equity Council students are finishing painting beautiful **SPORTS INSPIRATIONS MURAL** which will include 20 large wood canvases.



**UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH** - We organize field trips to religious institutions and temples, educating our students about different cultures and spiritual and religious values and symbols.

1. In celebration of **ASIAN/ SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE**, we invited Carol Nguyen and Jennifer Su, Toronto-based Asian filmmakers, to come to our school to speak about a variety of social issues and filmmaking approaches such as documentary, drama, and animation.



2. **EXPLORING HINDU SYMBOLS** – we are planning another educational Field Trip to Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. Our learning experiences will be translated into beautiful cultural heritage murals that are great examples of visual storytelling.

### Learn, Earn and Give back to Your Community!

Help us with planning and organizing Thornlea's Fundraising Events: Arts and Music Nights, Fashion Shows, Digital Media/ Animation Workshops, Arts Field Trips and Exhibitions and Paint with us Community Murals to beautify our school.

If you want to sign up, please email Mme Bern: [ilana.bern@ydrsb.ca](mailto:ilana.bern@ydrsb.ca).



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Community Spotlight: Thornlea student Maya Lekhi is the President of Project 5K, a youth organization based in the GTA dedicated to connecting youth with meaningful volunteer opportunities and increasing interest in the beautiful world of volunteerism amongst our community. In Project Valentine, she and her team led 250 volunteers in the creation and distribution of over 2500 Valentine's Day cards containing kind messages to brighten the day of individuals that were most impacted by the pandemic. They were able to deliver cards to 10 recipient organizations and secured a government-funded Rising Youth Grant for their work. They worked with the York Region Paramedics, the TTC, Shoppers Drug Mart, the Richmond Hill Food Bank, the York Region Food Bank, Mon Sheong Senior Home, Markhaven Home for Seniors, Cedarcrest Manor, Juliette's Place, and Sunrise of Unionville. They also worked with teachers from two schools in York and the Toronto Region: St. Augustine Catholic High School and North Bridlewood Junior Public School.



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*Mardi Gras*  
celebrations

Mme Pilaram's grade 10 Core French class got into the Mardi Gras spirit by making masks and listening to traditional New Orleans music. The only thing missing were some yummy pancakes and crepes. Happy Mardi Gras!



## Celebrating Black Excellence in The Thornlea Library

We have had an exciting and busy Black History Month in the library. We filled our displays with our over 100+ amazing books by Black authors. On our library television



we played a looping slideshow featuring book covers and author photos from both Canadian and international Black writers. With the help of our photography Co-op student, Aidan, we posted daily book selections on all our social media platforms,



Twitter and Instagram. The library hosted an amazing Zoom guest speaker, Nicholas Barham, author, student family advocate, coach, and child and youth worker. He spoke about overcoming adversity, advocating for yourself, and the power of perseverance. Thanks to Mr. Sims for organizing, moderating, and inviting classes.





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## Student Success Corner



Student Success is proud to congratulate ALL students on a successful completion of semester 1. We look forward to supporting all of our students in semester 2.

If you need to get in touch with us please email our Student Success Guidance Counselor:

[Viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca)



**The Student Success Team is happy to continue offering ...**

Thornlea's Mentorship Program for the year 2021-2022.

Session #4 for our grade 9 students is taking place on February 24 from 3 to 4 PM.

Thornlea's Breakfast Club Program. We continue to offer pre-packaged breakfasts daily from 8:30 to 8:50 AM. (Available for pick up at the school's main entrance)

- Thornlea's Tutoring Program will restart on Thursday February 17 after school. Students can receive extra support every Thursday after school in TLC (Thornlea Learning Centre-Room 213) or daily during lunch.

*Thank you for your continued support!*  
*The Student Success Team*



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## Message From Guidance

Guidance Team Members	Student Surname:
N. Alkins (Head of Guidance - ) <a href="mailto:nizam.alkins@yrdsb.ca">nizam.alkins@yrdsb.ca</a>	A - ION
L. Rai - <a href="mailto:lovleen.raai@yrdsb.ca">lovleen.raai@yrdsb.ca</a>	IRE – MOF
T. Gord - <a href="mailto:tamara.gord@yrdsb.ca">tamara.gord@yrdsb.ca</a>	MO – TON
V. Estafanos - <a href="mailto:viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca">viviane.estafanos@yrdsb.ca</a>	TOO – ZOM
G. Burdett (Guidance Secretary) - <a href="mailto:gail.burdett@yrdsb.ca">gail.burdett@yrdsb.ca</a>	

### Course Selections

- Our team has been extremely busy with providing our students with their course request for next year. Please make sure your child has submitted a signed course selection form.
- **Next:** A Course Selection Verification Sheet will be distributed after the March Break, at that time students can request a change on this sheet.
- Summer School registration will begin in **early May**

Students are encouraged to connect with us in-person or online - 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.

### University Applications:

- The next OUAC University grades transmission is scheduled for **April 28, 2022**.
- Click on the link for **OUAC Important Dates - Jan - June 2022**

### College Applications:

- The “Equal Consideration” Deadline for your Ontario College Application was February 1st, 2022. Students can still apply. Please see your counselor if you need support.
- Please check your OCAS account for offers of admission and check your emails, including your spam and junk, just in case.



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→ The next OCAS transmission will be in late April 22, 2022.

## 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.

Please access information through our Thornlea Guidance Webpage:

[Thornlea Guidance Webpage](#)

[Ontario University Slide Deck Presentation](#)

[Ontario College Slide Deck Presentation](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance and Career Education



## Information from YRDSB

### Supports for Community Members with Family and Loved Ones Impacted by Events in Ukraine

In solidarity with all of those in our community with family and loved ones impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.

The following are some services currently available to families:

- [LifeWorks 24/7 Free Support Crisis Line for Those Impacted by the events in Ukraine](#): 1-844-751-2133
- [Ukrainian Enquiries Phone Line for Clients in Canada and Abroad](#): 613-321-4243 (Collect calls accepted)  
More [information about Canadian immigration measures](#) for people affected by events in Ukraine are available online by [Canadian Immigration and Citizenship](#).
- [Jewish Immigrant Aid Services \(JIAS\) | ukraine@jiastoronto.org](#)
  - Services for newcomers of all faiths and cultural affiliations.
  - Currently supporting with family sponsorships.

- [Emergency Hotline for the Ukrainian Jewish Community](#)

Info, Guidance & Assistance (Hebrew, Ukrainian and Russian)

Provided by The Jewish Agency & The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews

- From Ukraine: 0-800-504-504603 (Toll Free)
- From Israel: 1-800-228055 x4 (Toll Free)
- [Assistance Request Form](#)

150,000 - 300,000 Jewish people live in Ukraine. Ukraine is home to the 5th-largest Jewish community in Europe and one of the poorest Jewish communities in Europe. It is also home to the largest Chabad Centre and Jewish complex in the world.

- In-School Settlement Worker, Olga Joukova  
Supporting Newcomer Families in York Region (Ukrainian, Russian & Hebrew)  
[ojoukova@ccsy.org](mailto:ojoukova@ccsy.org) | 416-616-6789  
Provided by [Settlement Education Partnership in York Region \(SEPYR\)](#)  
[Catholic Community Services of York Region \(CCSYR\)](#)

\*Services for newcomers of all faith affiliations.



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To assist Canadians concerned about their loved ones in Ukraine, effective immediately, the following phone providers will be waiving all Home Phone and consumer Mobility Postpaid Long Distance charges for calls from Canada to Ukraine until Mar. 31, 2022:

- Bell Canada
- Fido - including long distance SMS to Ukraine and roaming fees are also waived.
- Freedom Mobile - including long distance SMS to Ukraine and roaming fees are also waived.
- Rogers - including long distance SMS to Ukraine and roaming fees are also waived.
- Telus - waiving all additional charges for long-distance calls and texts to Ukraine until March 12th
- Virgin Plus

These changes will be applied automatically during the month of March. No action is required by customers.

## [Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter - March 2022](#)



<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/node/2990>

## **Prime Minister's Awards**

### [Awards for Teaching Excellence and Teaching Excellence in STEM](#)

### [Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education](#)



## [2022 Markham Summer Camp Recruitment](#)

2022 SUMMER CAMP RECRUITMENT



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## YRDSB Helpful Links:

- [What is De-Streaming](#)
- [COVID-19 Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#)
- [School Mental Health Ontario](#)
- [COVID Community Resources for Behaviour, Mental Health and Financial Supports](#)

## Upcoming Events

Graduating Class Photo Week	Begins February 28, 2022 By Appointment ONLY
March Break	March 14 - 18, 2022
Interim Reports Distribution	March 30, 2022
Virtual Parents Night	March 31, 2022
Virtual School Council Meeting	April 19, 2022
Virtual Parent-Teacher Interviews	March 31, 2022
Virtual School Council Meeting	May 16, 2022
Graduation	June 27, 2022
PA Day	June 30, 2022