



# Thornlea SS

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**Principal: Joe Foti**

**February 26, 2016**

**Vice-Principal: Kim Tavares**

**Vice-Principal: John Sebastiano**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Community Members:

Despite all the recent snow, spring is on its way. One of the signs of spring is the annual literacy test which is a graduation requirement for our students. The test will take place on March 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 8:50 a.m. On that day only students writing the test will attend school in the morning; all other students will start class at 12:30 p.m. The one exception is for those students in our special education community classes who will arrive at school during their regular time. To help support students there are a number of activities taking place. We have whole school activities and after school literacy classes set up to support our students. For further information on the test and supports for the test please contact our literacy teacher Ms. Anderson.

We would also like to acknowledge the great job that our students did last semester. We had over 420 out of 740 students receive an average of over 80% and appear on the honour roll. We also had 120 students with an average of 90% or better who appeared on the Principal's List. Congratulations to our students and staff for their dedication and hard work. Last Thursday we held subject awards assembly for students in grade nine to eleven. Thank you to the many parents and guardians who came to join us on the day to honour individual excellence. Grade twelve subject awards will take place in June during our graduation ceremony. Last Thursday an old Thornlea tradition returned to our school. Our student council staged a talent show to benefit 360 Kids, an organization that supports homeless youth. SWE (some wonderful entertainment) raised \$400 for 360 Kids. Thanks to our student council president Syvanne Avitzur for organizing the evening.

We would like to acknowledge the great season that our Sr. Boys Basketball team had. The team lost in the YRAA Tier one final to Vaughan by two points. It was a thrilling final played before a packed house. The Sr. Girls Volleyball team also had a great season winning a number of tournaments and qualifying for the playoffs. The team just missed making the YRAA finals. A number of spring sports have started practicing indoors prior to the arrival of spring. Rugby for boys and girls has started and Boys baseball is also underway. For more information on spring sports please contact Ms. Dawe in the Physical Education department.

Finally, I would like to thank our Vice-Principal John Sebastiano for the great job that he did at Thornlea. He will be moving to Maple H.S. after March Break to take over as Principal. A warm Thornlea welcome is extended to our new Vice-Principal Barbara Caravella.

Warmest regards,

Joe Foti



**March 2016**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

**RE: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Modified School Day**  
**Thursday, March 31, 2016**

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has scheduled **Thursday, March 31, 2016** as the day for students across the province to complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). To assist in creating the best environment possible for the students writing the test, the Board has agreed to a modified school day structure for the day in which the OSSLT will be written. This practice is very similar to that followed by other GTA school boards.

Thornlea Secondary School has a regular start time of 8:50 am. This year, students writing the test will come to school as per their normal start time and complete the test. Students **not** writing the OSSLT would be asked to commence their school day approximately **three and a half hours later**, i.e. **12:30 pm**, to coincide with the conclusion of the OSSLT on Thursday, March 31, 2016. Students requiring accommodation will continue to write their test during an extended test-taking period. School will finish for all students at the normal time.

Please note students in Self-Contained Special Education Classes (Developmentally Delayed, Autistic, Orthopaedic, Section 23, Intensive Support, and Acquired Brain Injury) and Elementary Music will follow their normal schedule.

Student Transportation Services has been advised of these arrangements and will adjust bus schedules as follows:

- Students who are eligible for school bus transportation and are writing the OSSLT, will be picked up in the morning at their regular service time.
  - Students who are eligible for transportation and are not writing the OSSLT test will be picked up 3 ½ hours later than their regular service time.
- All students will be transported home at regular service times.

We anticipate that student achievement will be enhanced by this modification since the entire school staff will be available to administer the test and supervise students; ample classroom space will be available, eliminating the need to write in specialty rooms; and sufficient technology will be available to support students receiving accommodation. In addition, a calmer student environment during the OSSLT designated writing time will result as only students writing the test will be in school.

We wish every student success on the OSSLT.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rashmi Swarup, Superintendent of Schools.

Sincerely,

Joe Foti  
Principal



For the first time in NBA (National Basketball Association) history, the leagues annual All-Star Game – and all of the associated festivities – was held in Toronto. Growing up as a student-athlete, with a genuine love for the game, I watched every NBA All-Star game, hoping to one day participate in the event. Last week, that dream came to fruition.

As a teacher with the York Region District School Board and as the Director of Under Armour Canada Elite (an elite youth basketball program), I had the opportunity to work closely with NBA and Jr. NBA officials as well as representatives from Footlocker Canada and Under Armour to develop outreach programs for the All-Star weekend. Students throughout the Greater Toronto Area participated in these events, including on-court activities for over 2500 students at the Jr. NBA Day. I was fortunate enough to coach a group of 44 student-athletes who had an opportunity to engage with the reigning Most Valuable Player in the NBA, Stephen Curry. Across the city, another group of 30 student-athletes worked out with Toronto's very own, Terrence Ross.

These were once in a lifetime experiences! To top it all off, I attended the All-Star festivities on Saturday and Sunday. The Air Canada Centre came alive during the annual Slam Dunk Competition where the NBA stars put on an electrifying show!

I would like to thank the York Region District School Board and my Principal, Joe Foti, for supporting this Health and Wellness initiative. It was a privilege to promote activity while sharing the sport I love with those around me.

SHANE JAMES



The NBA graced our city with its presence on Allstar weekend. What a pleasure. It was a weekend of glitz, glamour and good times for many adults, but a day of benevolence and excitement for children, because the NBA was here, and so was the Jr. NBA.

The Jr NBA brought together more than 2500 elementary and junior aged students from across the province to take part in a basketball clinic. I put them through a collection of my most challenging and engaging drills for shooting, passing, dribbling, and defense. They were also guided through the drills by some of the biggest names in basketball like Tamika Catchings, Anthony Davis and Stephen Curry. It was a truly an exciting and inclusive experience for the kids and a learning experience for me.

As an educator and a coach, the impact of this experience was felt when I looked past the glitz and the glamour, I saw what true collaboration really looked like...on the children's faces. I'd like to thank my principal Joe Foti and the York Region District School Board for this opportunity.

MOHAMED SALEH



More than 400 students from the York Region District School Board, representing 48 elementary schools, participated in the Jr. NBA Clinic on February 5<sup>th</sup> led by current and former NBA, WNBA and NBA Development League players.

The event at Ricoh Coliseum was part of the NBA All-Star Weekend activities taking place in Toronto and the clinic attracted 2,500 students from across the Greater Toronto Area.

When Nizam Alkins played basketball at the YMCA, when he was around eight years old, he recalled his father gave him some words of encouragement, saying he would some day get an opportunity to be in a NBA All-Star Game. How prophetic those words turned out.

Alkins, who currently teaches and coaches the junior boys' basketball team at Thornlea Secondary School, was involved in this year's NBA annual extravaganza in Toronto.

While Alkins will not be on the Air Canada Centre hardwood court with the likes of LeBron James or Kobe Bryant, he was on the floor in one of the auxiliary events to be held at the Enercare Centre. Along with fellow Thornlea Secondary School teachers and senior boys basketball coaches Shane James and Mo Saleh, the trio were among 40 coaches selected to take part in the Junior NBA Day.

"We want to promote basketball and junior development of the game," Alkins said. "It's like a basketball field trip for the kids."

In looking ahead to his participation in this event, Alkins feels honoured.

"For me, it's a highlight. An event like this (NBA All-Star Game) doesn't come to Toronto that often and it might not even return in my lifetime. It should be an exciting weekend in Toronto," he said. On Jr. NBA Day, We had Matt Bonner! I got to work with him. I had 2 assistants, a student/athlete from Seneca College and one from Mohawk College Mens' Basketball Team. St Paul catholic elementary school (43 students grades 4/5) from Newmarket. 5 teachers from that school in the photo chaperoned. We had an amazing time and Matt signed every kids Jr NBA T-shirt. He also gave away a signed autographed basketball. Matt Bonner was amazing , first class, talk about giving back...he is the man! There were over 2500 students in the building that day at the Enercare Centre. What a special day for the kids and all involved; promoting Health and Wellness through basketball was the foundation of this entire day.







We would like to congratulate 7 more current grade nine students that have already completed their Graduation Requirement of 40 Community Service Hours. That brings our new total to 21 Grade 9's that have earned VIP status and our now a member of the "40" - Niner Club.

They have given back to various community organizations, such as Clubs at Thornlea, Camps, Community Festivals, Community Sports, Religious Centres, and other Not-For-Profit organizations.

Sara Mojdehi  
 Chloe Seixas  
 Sara Rafiei  
 Connor Durfy  
 Kaitlyn Chung  
 Howard Tseng  
 Adrian Kok  
 With Ms. Tavares



The Lunar New Year Celebration at Thornlea Secondary School was a great success and welcomed the year of the monkey through various events planned in collaboration with The Ambassadors' Club along with our School Settlement Workers (SEPYR).



To kick start the celebrations, there were a variety of performances such as singing, playing the guitar, and beat boxing. After being entertained, students participated in many games and activities such as calligraphy writing, guessing riddles, using chopsticks to pick up marbles, throwing arrows and playing cham cham.



Students were also able to taste delicious treats that are traditionally served during the New Year and each took home a lucky red pocket!

This was truly a wonderful opportunity to support the transition of our newcomers into our learning community and a great start to the year of the fire monkey!



### Thornlea Student Daraja Williams meets Booker Prize-Winning Author Marlon James!

Gr. 11 Thornlea student Daraja Williams met and spoke with the 2015 Booker Prize-winning author Marlon James on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bram & Bluma Appel Salon at the Toronto Reference Library. Daraja won 2 tickets to go see the famous author after participating successfully in our school's Black History Knowledge Quiz.



Daraja was an audience member in the theatre while the now world-famous author of the novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, Marlon James, was interviewed by TIFF artistic director, Cameron Bailey.

Despite the fact that *A Brief History* is NOT a brief book, Daraja was surprised to learn that James' original manuscript was even longer than the final version, and that James' publisher convinced him to remove an entire chapter before publication. After that, the only thing James would agree to was a reduction of font size!

So that he could get our Library's copy of *A Brief History* signed and dedicated to the students of Thornlea Secondary School, Daraja waited in

line patiently for over one hour after the interview in order to meet Marlon James. Daraja also purchased a signed copy of the book for himself!

James' ambitious novel is almost 800 pages long, and is a fictitious account (written from multiple points of view and styles, including Jamaican patois) of the attempted assassination in the 1970s of singer Bob Marley in Kingston, Jamaica.



Daraja was also surprised to see that the audience was very multicultural. Daraja expected the live interview would draw mostly Torontonians of Jamaican heritage, but now realizes that **the great thing about reading** is that it reaches across race, nationality, and culture to attract *all* people who want to feel more connected to the wider world.



### Please Donate Items to Thornlea's Breakfast Club

Thornlea runs a Breakfast Club five days a week, from 8:15 until 8:40 a.m. All students are welcome. Staff and student volunteers, and one parent volunteer (Malcolm MacNeil), are involved in the running of the Club. The Breakfast Club menu is as follows:

Day of Week	Menu	Student Volunteers	Staff Volunteers
Monday	Cereal, milk, and fresh fruit	Anabel Pisarevsky	Mathan Mahalingam
Tuesday	Bagels, cream cheese, fruit yogurt, and fresh fruit	Mark Ma	Ralph Moghaizel, Jamie Scott, & Marisa Karounos
Wednesday	Cereal, milk, and fresh fruit	Martin Ma	Guisou Daneshmand, Jamie Scott, & Marisa Karounos
Thursday	Waffles with syrup, yogurt, and fresh fruit	Ian Peng	John Sebastiano & Bryan Barker
Friday	Cereal, milk, and fresh fruit	Cora Ma	Viviane Estafanos & Marisa Karounos

If you would like to donate any of the following items to Thornlea Breakfast Club, please drop them off at the Main Office:

2% milk	fruit-flavoured yogurt (pack of 6 or 12 small)
dry cereal (Multigrain Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Special K, Rick Krispies, Chex, etc.)	cream cheese (light plain, strawberry, herb & garlic, garden vegetable, chive & onion)
plastic spoons, knives, or forks	frozen waffles
small paper plates	small foam (disposable) bowls
paper napkins	small, clear plastic cups



## Thornlea: *Just for the Health of It!* Health & Wellness Day Update

If you received the previous E-Bulletin and/or found our February 3rd "Letter to Parents" at the bottom of your child's knapsack, you may know that April 20<sup>th</sup> will be Thornlea's very first Health & Wellness Day. The staff has worked hard to plan this day in order to relieve student stress and promote student health & happiness! **April 20<sup>th</sup> is a regular school day, and student participation is required.**

More information about the different activities is available on the school website at: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/thornlea.ss/info/Pages/Health-and-Wellness.aspx>

Sign-Up ended February 26<sup>th</sup> but **ONE LAST opportunity** is being provided, so please ensure your son/daughter signs up for an activity if they have not already done so! Health & Wellness permission forms are available in the Main Office and in the Library. **Students can sign up before or after school in the Library on Mon., Feb. 29, Tues., March 1, and Thurs., March 3.**

**All Health will break loose at  
Thornlea's 1st Health & Wellness  
Fun Day  
Wednesday, April 10th, 2010**

**Let's get the Health  
out of class!!**

**EVENT SIGN UP IN CAF  
IS NOW OVER, BUT  
THERE IS ONE FINAL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
SIGN-UP:**

Students can sign up  
before or after school in  
the Library on:

Monday, Feb. 29  
Tuesday, March 1  
Thursday, March 3

Ensure your son or  
daughter has signed up  
by March 3rd, the latest!

Let's take a break from work, due dates,  
commitments, and personal life stresses, to  
have fun with friends, classmates & staff.

Sign up for Events ...

**Why the Health not?**

### Students Interact with 'Banned Books' Display in Thornlea Library

Thornlea teacher Carina Schneider has created an interactive display in the Library in honour of *Freedom to Read Week*, which took place between February 21 and 27. This display invites students to pick up books wrapped in white paper and labeled only with the reasons for which they were banned. Can you guess the book?

1. 
  - offensive language
  - unsuited to age group
  - violence
  - demeaning to women
  - rape
2. 
  - "sympathetic to the Jewish cause"
3. 
  - racism
  - inappropriate language
  - violence
  - physical abuse
  - "anti-white"
4. 
  - sexually explicit
  - violently graphic
  - morally corrupt
  - "profane language, anti-Christian overtures, violence, and sexual degradation"



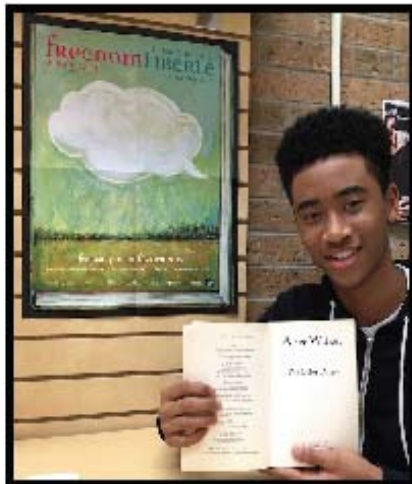
Students peek beneath the white wrapping of the book to discover its title and author:



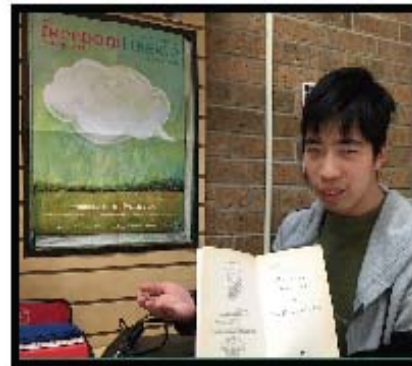
1. Iva Pivalica uncovers *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini



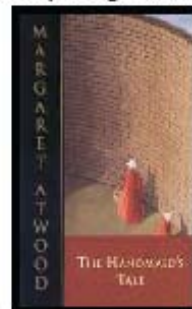
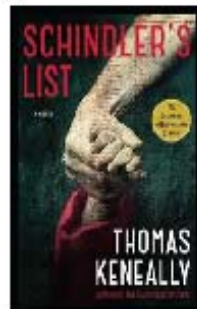
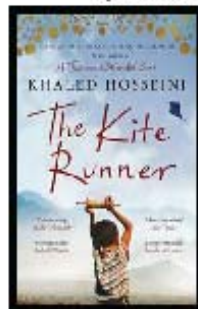
2. Mitchell Patriarche uncovers *Schindler's List*, by Thomas Keneally



3. Dylan Sinclair uncovers *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker



4. Timothy Chow uncovers *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood





Tara Jam, Amber Snider, & Timonhy Chow work amongst the Banned Book Display

Thanks for creating this very cool Library display on Banned Books, Ms. Schneider!



### **Melanie Seabrook's Artwork Official LOGO for Science Olympics**

Gr. 11 student Melanie Seabrook has won first place in the YRDSB's Science Olympics Logo Competition. As a result her work is now the official logo for the YRDSB 2016 Science Olympics, an annual competition that is held at York University. This year's theme is Mission to Mars. Submissions had to be in black and white. Below is Melanie's stunning work:





## **Guidance News**

**Hello all from the Guidance Department! Our team has been busy with providing our students with their course request for next year. Please make sure your child has submitted a signed course selection form to their Home-room Teacher or the Guidance Department. A Course Selection Verification Sheet will be distributed after the March Break, at that time students can request a change on this sheet.**

A reminder that the Guidance Team this year consists of Mr. Paul Stephenson (Counselor/Student Success), Ms. Andrea Tse (Counselor & Head of ESL), Ms. Joan Walker (Counselor & SHSM Coordinator), Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance (Counselor) and Ms. Gail Burdett (Guidance Secretary).

The Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) deadline has now passed. Currently 130 Thornlea students have applied. We wish them all the best and will continue to answer their questions on the University selection process. The next marks transmission for OUAC will be on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Guidance will continue to monitor and support the College application process. Currently, 42 Thornlea students have applied. No PinCodes are distributed for College Applications; students will create their own on-line at [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca). Please note that the "equal consideration" deadline has passed (Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>), but students can still apply. The next marks transmission for OCAS will be on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

As for Scholarship information, please make an appointment to see Mr. Stephenson in the Guidance office.

Two great websites to find out more information on scholarships are:

<http://www.studentawards.com/>

<http://www.electronicinfo.ca/en/page.php?id=21>

**Important Notice for all grade 12's that have applied to OUAC for university! Your grades from semester one have been processed by OUAC and sent to the Universities to which you have applied. Please log on to your online application in order to review your academic information. This verification is especially important if OUAC does not have a valid email address on file, or you are not able to receive emails from OUAC/your Universities because of a junk-mail setting with you inbox. If you see an error in your OUAC file, it is very important that you contact your Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible to have it corrected.**

College and University Spring Open Houses are a popular way for prospective students to visit various Post-Secondary Institutions and evaluate them prior to applying and/or choosing. It is never too early to begin the search. The Guidance Department encourages all students, especially in grades 11 and 12 to attend the open house program of any potential future University/College. Please visit the University/College website to confirm Open House schedules during March Break. Spaces can be limited. We also would like to remind students of the process for making guidance appointments. If any student would like to make an appointment with their "Alpha/Program" identified counselor, they should come to the Guidance Office before school starts (8:30 to 8:55), during their lunch, or after school (3:00 to 3:30).

We would also like to remind students that there is a new process in place for Community Service Hours (CSH). All students must complete 40 community hours to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The Guidance department must approve your community service opportunity before you start your hours. Please see your counselor for a CSH sheet and pre-approval. **Finally, a reminder to all grade 12 students; that they should hand in their community service hours as soon as possible before the next OUAC transmission.** For more information on volunteer opportunities, please come down to the Guidance Office and pick up a Community Service Hours form and please take a look at our "**Volunteer Bulletin Board**" for current opportunities to fulfill this Ministry of Education requirement.

Mr. Paul Stephenson (A-M), Mr. Nizam Alkins (N-Z)

Follow us on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/thornlea\\_ss](http://twitter.com/thornlea_ss)



## Sign Up for the York Regional Police **CRIME PREVENTION ACADEMY**

Interested in learning about how to keep you and your family safe and secure? Community members are invited to register for a four-week program that offers presentations from our specialty units on:

- When to call police
- Fraud prevention & senior safety
- Home security
- Personal safety
- Internet safety
- Vehicle crime
- Resources including Road Watch program, Crime Map & Neighbourhood Watch
- Fire Prevention in partnership with Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

Seminar dates & times:

Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Seminar 1: April 6

Seminar 2: April 13

Seminar 3: April 20

Seminar 4: April 27

Where: York Regional Police, #4 District Headquarters – 2700 Rutherford Road, Vaughan.

There is no cost to participate but registration is required. Applicants must live, work or attend school in York Region and be 18 years of age or older. Registrants are subject to a police background check.

To register, please contact Constable Jennifer Bujan at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7406 or email [1510@yrp.ca](mailto:1510@yrp.ca).





**سمینار آشنایی با  
ساختار دروس و واحدهای دبیرستانی،  
شروط فارغ التحصیلی و  
مسیر راهیابی به دانشگاه، کالج و  
مشاغل فنی حرفه ای**

**Date:** Sunday, March 6, 2016  
**Time:** 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm  
**Address:** North York Civic Centre  
 Council Chamber  
 5100 Yonge St.  
 M2N 5B7



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 Our Youth, Our Future  
 جوانان ما، آینده ما

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AND DIPLOMA  
REQUIREMENTS SEMINAR  
& PATHWAY TO UNIVERSITY,  
COLLEGE & TRADE**

For High School Students (Gr. 7-12) & Parents/Guardians

We invite all students from Grade 7 to 12 and their parents to attend this seminar. The seminar will be conducted by the Head of Mathematics Department at Tomy Douglas Secondary School, Mr. Roozbeh Termei, OCT

بدین وسیله از همه خانواده ها و دانش آموزان کلاس ۷-۱۲ دعوت می شود در سمینار آموزشی 'نحوه انتخاب دروس در دبیرستان جهت راهیابی به دانشگاه و شیوه های موفقیت در دبیرستان و همچنین آشنایی با وب سایت [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) شرکت نمایند

**این سمینار به زبان فارسی برگزار می شود.**      **Presentation will be offered in Farsi.**

**Topics will include:**

- Credit course choices in grades 9-10 & 11-12
- High school courses and curriculum
- Diploma requirements
- University/College pathways
- Career options related courses
- Mature students

**موضوعات مورد بحث:**

- برنامه ریزی درست در کلاس ۷ و تاثیر آن در کلاسهای بالاتر
- دانش آموزان در کلاس های ۹-۱۰ چه انتخاب هایی دارند
- دانش آموزان در کلاس های ۱۱-۱۲ چه انتخاب هایی دارند
- شروط فارغ التحصیل شدن از دبیرستان
- مسیر راهیابی به دانشگاه، کالج و مشاغل فنی حرفه ای
- شرایط مربوط به دانش آموزان بالغ

**COME JOIN US! MEET THE PROFESSIONALS! GET THE RIGHT ADVICE!**

**Afrouz Sarmadi, OCT**  
 York Region  
 District School Board

Refreshment will be Provided.  
 Please register through following E-mail:  
[afrouz.sarmadi@yrdsb.ca](mailto:afrouz.sarmadi@yrdsb.ca)

**Roozbeh Termei, OCT**  
 Head of the Mathematics Department  
 Tommy Douglas Secondary School

**لطفا از طریق آدرس ایمیل فوق ثبت نام نمایید**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 8	Interim Reports Home
March 14-18	March Break
March 21	School Council Mtg. 7:15pm
March 24	TSAC Assembly
	Charity Basketball Game & Buy In Period 4
March 25-28	Easter
March 29	OSSLT Assembly
March 31	OSSLT
March 31	Parents' Night
April 4	Spirit Assembly
April 5-8	Drama Show
April 14	Term 1 Ends
April 15	Term 2 Begins
April 18	School Council Mtg. 7:15pm
April 22	Health & Wellness
April 22	Campaign Week
April 26	Mid-Term Reports Home
April 27	Election Speeches Assembly
April 28	School Dance
May 4	Full disclosure
May 5	MADD Assembly Gr. 12's
May 6	PA Day
May 6	SAC Car Wash
May 11	Spring Concert
May 11-13	Outdoor Ed Trip
May 16	School Council Mtg. 7:15pm
May 19	Prom
May 23	Victoria Day
May 26	Thornstock
May 27	Thornstock Rain Date
June 3	PA Day
**ADDITIONAL DATE**	