



# Thornlea SS

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**Principal: Joe Foti**

**February 7, 2020**

**Vice-Principal: Anthony Hu**

**Vice-Principal: Sofia Papadatos**

The word 'FEBRUARY' is rendered in large, bold, red 3D block letters. The letters are partially submerged in a pool of blue water, which is depicted with realistic ripples and reflections. The water is a vibrant blue color, and the reflections of the letters are clearly visible on its surface.

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# Message from the Vice-Principal

Dear Families and Community Members,

Second semester has been off to a great start as all students settle into the routine of their classes this semester. Any student timetable issues should have been resolved. If there are still concerns with timetables, students may see Guidance or speak to an administrator in the main office. Semester one report cards were sent home yesterday. Students who were absent or have a spare may come to the main office to get a copy of their report cards.

There's been some great accomplishments in athletics at Thornlea Secondary School. The junior girls volleyball team is currently sitting in 4th place in Tier 1 with two regular season games left to play before playoffs. Playoffs will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup> - Go Thunder! At the YRAA Championship Swim Meet in December, Brynn Armstrong and Meredith Liu both qualified for OFSAA provincials to be held at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre in March. Here are the specifics of their YRAA finishes: Brynn Armstrong: 1st place finish in 100 metre butterfly which is a top in York Region! Meredith Liu: 1st place finish in 200 metre individual medley which is also a top in York Region! She also had a 3rd place finish in 200 metre freestyle which was fast enough to qualify for provincials! Overall, the team did really well this year. Lots of veteran swimmers continued to do well and helped train the novices. Thanks to Brynn, who volunteered to share her expertise by helping coach the team, and also to Ms. Emily O'Connor who also lent a hand!

As we begin semester two, it's time to start thinking about the upcoming 2020/2021 school year. On February 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, Guidance will be conducting grade-specific course selection assemblies during which time they will guide students through the process and timelines of selecting courses for the next school year. As a reminder, all course selections will take place on [myBlueprint.ca](https://myblueprint.ca). Students can submit their course selections on the site February 12<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alkins in the Guidance Office.

Family Day will be taking place on Monday February 17<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the administration of Thornlea Secondary School, I would like to wish all families a safe and enjoyable holiday. The following day, on Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a School Council meeting in the library at 7:15 pm. All families are invited and welcome to attend.

Wishing all students a fun and successful semester!

Sincerely

Anthony Hu

Vice-Principal

## Message from Our Trustee

As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our [priorities as a school board](#).

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create [healthy schools](#) and promote [mental health](#) and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.

- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with [community partners](#) to serve the diverse needs of our students.

- Developing a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.

- Educating students about the risks of [substance use and misuse](#), including [vaping](#) and [cannabis](#).

- Providing strategies and supports for students in [preparing for exams](#) and [managing stress](#).

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the [Healthy Schools and Workplaces](#) policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the [roles of trustees](#), and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the [policies under review](#) and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of [new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions](#). We are committed to Indigenous Education in our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

David Sherman

Trustee, Markham/Vaughan

Markham Ward 1/Vaughan Ward 5

## 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!**

## **Bus or School Cancellations**

With winter weather already here, we want to share some important reminders for families.

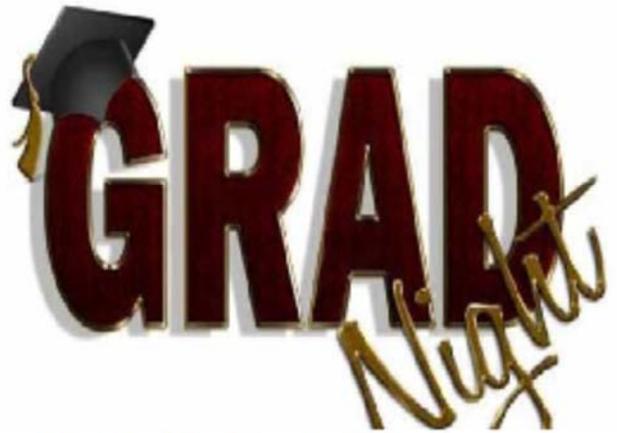
When an **inclement weather** or **extreme cold** or day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) are cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency winter events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, Board and school website and on twitter @YRDSB.

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's Severe Weather policy, which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All policies available for comment are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.

*June 25, 2020  
Mark your  
calendars!*



**Graduation Fee Includes:**  
**Cap & Gown**  
**Venue**  
**Printing Costs**  
**Decorations**  
**Refreshments**

**Graduation Fee is \$75.00 per GRAD  
 2 Guest Tickets Per Grad**

**If you need more tickets, contact Ms. Burdett at x207 in  
 Guidance Office**

The Graduation Ceremony will be at  
 Bellvue Manor  
 8083 Jane St, Concord, ON L4K 2M7

If you have NOT YET PAID the fee and will be attending  
 graduation on June 25, 2020, please pay now and make sure  
 to include the size of your gown.

If you need to pay by CASH, or CHEQUE, please see  
 Ms. Tremblay in the main office.

**GRADUATION FEES ARE DUE NOW!**

## Parents' Corner:

### Parent School Council 2019-2020

- **September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**
  - Principal and teachers updates
  - Parent Council Election
- **October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**
  - "Universities and Colleges" All you need to know. Presented by Thornlea's Head of Guidance, Mr. Alkins
- **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**
  - "Ways to Pay". All you need to know about scholarships and bursaries". Presented by Suzanne Tyson.
- **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
  - Principal and teachers updates
- **April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**
  - TBD
- **May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
  - "Understanding Mental Health – Mental Illness". Presented by Dr. Silvia Bernardini
- **June 2020: Principal's Update (To be confirmed)**  
Please mark your calendar.  
We'll let you know if there are any changes.



*From: Geneviève Seabrook  
Chair of Parent Council*

## Coffee & Course Selection

What do coffee, and course selection have in common...In our efforts to build a strong community, Thornlea teachers host information sessions for parents/ guardians of English language learners; and the school learns a lot from its partners/audience in return. Our parents/ guardians' meetings have been oriented so parents/ guardians direct topics, while teachers teach content - this time around, after a discussion about course selection, a parent volunteered to share her talent with the group.

Mrs. Son, along with the translation from our school settlement worker Esther Kang, taught us the art of latte crafting. Mrs. Son is formally trained as a barista in Korea - and taught us about coffee types and pouring techniques, and the perfect temperature to



enjoy our caffeinated beverages. The metaphor was not lost on us- while regionally coffee might go through different processes, it is essentially a bean that with enough care can develop into a delicious cup of coffee. Our diverse parent/guardian group speaks many languages and have varied statuses in Canada. Despite the differences, we are ultimately just people who thrive with strong and friendly networks of support (and good coffee). Some might argue that they cannot

function without coffee, similarly, we need each other to move forward and go further. We look forward to what other skills our parent/ guardian population will share in the future!



## Honouring Tamil Heritage Month - January

York Region District School Board is fortunate to have a wealth of diversity in our schools - diversity that we celebrate with various events and celebrations throughout the year. Each month, we recognize the various heritage months at our Board. In January, we honour Tamil Heritage Month.

Tamil Heritage Month celebrates the richness of the Tamil language and its literature, as well as highlights the vibrant traditions, histories, arts and cultures of the Tamil people. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic and political spheres. According to the Tamil calendar, January 14, begins the month of "Thai" and the start of the Tamil New Year. Tamils will also celebrate Thai Pongal (Tamil harvest festival) in January.



Thai Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. It is a time to give thanks for the blessings of the previous year and a time to look forward to the New Year. There are a number of events planned to celebrate Tamil Heritage across York Region. Many of these events will take place in YRDSB schools: Middlefield Collegiate Institute will be the site of Tamil Canadian Diaspora: Distress and Resilience, a training seminar for frontline services providers, educators and health providers; Stouffville Secondary School will host the Stouffville Tamil Community Thai Pongal celebrations on January 31; and on February 22, Bill Hogarth Secondary School will be the site of the Tamil Student Conference: Grades 5-8 in partnership with Markham Tamil Organization. These are just some of the events that are taking place in January.

**On January 17, Bill Hogarth Secondary School was the site of Thai Pongal celebrations, hosted by the Markham Tamil Organization and Tamil Student Associations. I was lucky enough to join in the celebration as a representative from Thornlea SS.**

Honouring Tamil Heritage Month and working to support students of Tamil heritage is part of our commitment to create an inclusive learning environment that supports the achievement and well-being of all of our students. On behalf of the Educators for Tamil Students' Success(ETSS) of YRDSB, I am happy to celebrate January as Tamil Heritage Month.



# Student Staff Hockey Game!

Hello,

I am writing to inform you about an event, the first of its kind: Thornlea Hockey Team vs. Thornlea Teachers buy-out hockey game! The game will take place from 2:30-4pm on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Thornhill Community Centre West Arena.

Attendance procedures will not be affected, as students will meet in the cafeteria at the end of period 3. Students attending the event must meet in the cafeteria at 1:45pm to be escorted to the TCC by teachers. Students must be supervised on the way to the Thornhill Community Centre.

The hockey team will be selling tickets for \$5 in the next few weeks and tickets will only be sold at school (no ticket sales at the door). Parents do not need a ticket to attend the game and are welcome to join.

There will be additional details closer to the date, however, should you have any questions, feel free to ask.

Thanking you in advance of your support for Thornlea's first ever hockey team.

Regards,

**Mr. Barmak Badie, Teacher/Coach**

barmak.badie@yrdsb.ca



# Tobogganing Field Trip!

Ms. Bendavid's class





## 2020 March Break Youth Engagement Program

### Who is Suitable for this Program?

- This program is geared to mature students in Grade 9 – Grade 12 who may be interested in Policing or working within a Police service (not mandatory).
- This program is very structured and has a physical fitness component which all participants will be involved in.
- This program is designed to assist students in gaining self-confidence, self-discipline, self-awareness and resiliency.

### Students Must Be:

- Resident of York Region
- Between the ages of 15-18 years old
- Currently in Grade 9 – Grade 12
- Currently attending a York Region Secondary School
- Complete an Essay and submit with the application
- All students must have their own transportation to this program – public transit is not an option

### Our Goal:

- To have a week of learning and to experience a small portion of what the recruitment process may be like when applying to York Regional Police
- To enable you to get to know yourself better, your strengths as well as areas you can enhance
- To have you meet other students with similar goals and form lasting friendships
- To have you interact and work with Officers who will continue to mentor you during this week

### How to Apply:

- Interested applicants please **email** [csv@yrp.ca](mailto:csv@yrp.ca) requesting a copy of the application
- Applications must be completed digitally and emailed back to [csv@yrp.ca](mailto:csv@yrp.ca)

For more information or further questions contact:

Debbie Robinson #5459, Supervisor, Community Safety Village, York Regional Police by email at [csv@yrp.ca](mailto:csv@yrp.ca)

## Aquatic Leadership Program – Winter 2020

*Be certified as a lifeguard ready for employment*

### Program Information:

The Aquatic Leadership Program – Part 2 is offered in partnership between the York Region District School Board, Continuing Education and the City of Markham and the Town of Aurora. The program will be offered in two locations and uses a blended learning format consisting of pool instruction, face-to-face instruction and on-line learning to deliver a Ministry of Education credit while earning qualifications to be a trained lifeguard and swim instructor.

### Winter 2020 Part 2: City of Markham and Town of Aurora

Upon completion, successful students may earn the following courses and certifications:

- Secondary School Grade 12 Credit - Recreation and Healthy Active Living Leadership - PLF4M
- National Lifeguard Certification
- Lifesaving Society Swim and Lifesaving Instructor Certifications (Markham) or Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and Lifesaving Society Lifesaving Instructor Certifications (Aurora)

	Town of Aurora Part 2	City of Markham Part 2
<b>Location</b>	Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex 1400 Wellington St. East Aurora, ON L4G 7B6 905-726-4770	Milliken Mills Community Centre 7600 Kennedy Rd Markham, ON L3R 9S5 905-477-6410
<b>Date</b>	<b>Mondays and Wednesdays</b> February 10, 2020 to June 17, 2020 <b>Saturdays Online</b> February 22, 2020, February 29, 2020, March 28, 2020 and May 23, 2020	<b>Tuesdays and Thursdays</b> February 11, 2020 to June 18, 2020 <b>Saturday Online</b> March 28, 2020
<b>Time</b>	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
<b>Pool and Classroom Dates</b>	February 10, 12, 19, 24, 26 March 4, 9, 23, 25, 30 April 1, 8, 15, 22, 27, 29 May 4, 6, 11, 13, 20, 25, 27 June 1, 3, 8, 10, 15	February 11, 13, 20, 25, 27, March 3, 5, 10, 24, 26, 31 April 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 30 May 5, 7, 12, 19, 21, 26 June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16,
<b>Online Only Dates</b>	February 22, 29 March 2, 11, 28 April 6, 20, May 23 June 17	February 18 March 12, 28 April 28, May 14, 28 June 18
<b>Eligibility</b>	Participants must be 16 years or older by June 2020 exam date and hold Bronze Cross certification and Standard First Aid.	Participants must be 16 years or older by June 2020 exam date and hold Bronze Cross certification and Standard First Aid.

Students must pass the final exam for each aquatic course including the in-water examinations in order to receive their Lifeguarding and Swim Instructor qualifications. Credits and aquatic certifications may be granted independently.

For more information visit: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/ALP-Overview.aspx>

Contact: YRDSB Continuing Education Services at (905) 884-3434 or [aquaticleadership@yrdsb.ca](mailto:aquaticleadership@yrdsb.ca)

# School Year 2019-2020

## Calendar of Events

February 6	Semester 1 Final Report Cards Home
February 12	Wellness Day
February 14	Immunization Clinic 9am
February 17	Family Day
February 18	School Council Meeting 7:15pm Library
March 9	Semester 2 Photo Day for New Students
March 11	Wellness Day
March 12	Interim Report Cards Home
March 16-20	March Break
March 24	Student-Staff Hockey Game
March 26	Parents' Night
March 30	Semester 2 Thunder Rally (Assembly Timetable)
March 31	OSSLT
April 2	Paris-Barcelona Pre-Departure Meeting @6pm Library
April 10	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Monday
April 16	MADD Assembly
April 21	School Council Meeting 7:15pm Library
April 22	Wellness Day
April 24-May 2	Paris-Barcelona Trip
April 29	Mid-term report cards home
May 1	PA Day
May 6-8	Student One Act Plays
May 7	AMR Full Disclosure Date
May 13	Music and Arts Night 7pm
May 18	Victoria Day
May 19	School Council Meeting
May 21	Thornstock—Rain date May 22
June 2	Last Day for Field Trips
June 2	Luminary Awards Night 6pm
June 4	PROM
June 8-10	EQAO Math
June 9	Last Day for Assessments
June 10	Athletic Banquet
June 17-23	EXAMS
June 24	Exam Review Day
June 25	Graduation