



# Thornlea SS

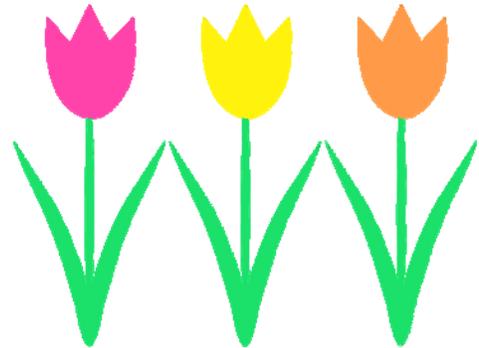
Principal: Joe Foti

Vice-Principal: Kim Tavares

Vice-Principal: John Sebastiano

February 5, 2016

## Trustee Greetings February 2016



### *Message from our Trustee Susan Geller*

Although winter still feels far from over some days, we are now halfway through the school year. With report cards coming home, this is a good time to review progress and celebrate what your children have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. This is also a good time to set goals for the months ahead.

One of our goals set out in the Board of Trustees' [Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning." Developing this supportive culture includes engaging parents/guardians and other members of the school community in public education and working together to create safe and supportive school environments that enable students to thrive.

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can get engaged in your child's education and support their learning, including talking with them about school, communicating with teachers, attending school events or school council meetings, and volunteering in the school. However you get involved, know that you are making a difference.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you all the best an enjoyable and successful second term.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Community Members:

As I write this message we are ending our first week of semester two at Thornlea. Student report cards will be handed out in homerooms on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. If you do not receive your child's report card, please feel free to contact us.

As a school we were very impressed with our students' overall performance last semester. Over forty percent of our students were on the honour roll with an average of 80% or better and of those, 120 students were successful in achieving a mark of 90% or higher, making the Principal's List. To celebrate academic success from semester one there will be an awards assembly for our students and their families on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Invitations to this event will go home on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

There have been quite a few changes to the teaching staff at Thornlea SS over the course of the last few weeks. Huge congratulations to Georgia Vatousis, our Head of Science, who is moving to Thornhill Secondary School where she has been named Vice-Principal. Congratulations also go out to Tamar Stein, Head of English, who has been named Vice Principal at Dr. Denison Secondary School. You will be missed. We would like to welcome the newest members of our school teaching community: Valerie Awad, Bryan Barker, Guisou Daneshmand, Kristen Haire, Ralph Moghaizel, William Schwan, and Carina Schneider. Thornlea is happy to have you and we look forward to learning with you!

Course selection for the 2016/2017 school year has begun at Thornlea and each grade will be called down for a course selection presentation by our Guidance Department.

There are a number of activities planned for the students this month. Please note that semester two Picture Day will take place on February 17<sup>th</sup>. A student dance is being planned and run by our Student Council for Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Our student council will also sell roses as part of their Valentine's Day celebrations.

Also, please remind your child that sign-ups for Health and Wellness Day activities begin on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Students wishing to go to Skyzone need to go to the cafeteria at lunch to register. It's first come, first serve. If there is an activity that your child would like to take part in and cost is an issue, please contact Mr. Foti, Ms. Tavares or Mr. Sebastiano. We want all students to get involved and take part – **JUST FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!**

In the world of athletics, our winter sports are heading towards the playoffs. Thornlea's basketball teams are closing the season in busy fashion. The senior team is playing in the Hill Academy tournament on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Both junior teams are entered in the Kawartha 64 team Madness in Peterborough, Ontario on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, and the JBC in March. The juniors are competing in their final league games on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. It is possible that this year's YRAA basketball championship will feature Thornlea in the finals of all three tiers: Junior Tier 1, Senior Tier 1. Stay tuned! The Senior Girls' Volleyball team has had a great season so far and is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Tier 1 Central-West Zone.

They won the McGivney Invitational Tournament for the third year running as well as the Stouffville Spartans Classic tournament in January. The team is hoping to qualify for the YRAA Championship tournament to be played on February 22.

In terms of Spring Sports, the Varsity Boys' Baseball had their organizational meeting and sign-up on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Try-outs will begin indoors in the Main Gym on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> during the lunch hour. Those student-athletes who are interested in trying-out for the team should contact the Head Coach, Mr. D. Jirik, in the HPE Office. The Junior and Senior Girls' and Boys' Badminton teams had their organizational meeting and sign-up on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Try-outs for the Junior Girls' and Boys' teams will be held in the Main Gym and begin at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Try-outs for the Senior Girls' and Boys' teams will be held in the Main Gym and begin on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> during the lunch hour. Those student-athletes who are interested in trying-out for the various teams should contact the Coaches, Mr. D. Jirik or Mr. S. Hutchison, in the HPE Office. For more information on athletics please contact our Physical Education department.

Our next school council meeting will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> in our library at 7:15 p.m. All parents and guardians are welcome. There has been a series of events and presentations that have taken place this month to celebrate Lunar New Year and Black History Month.

Also, we would like to thank all the students and families that supported the S.O.S Clothing Drive and Auction. More than \$1500.00 was raised to support Syrian refugee families moving to York Region.

Finally, a reminder that Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> is Family Day and the school will be closed. I hope that all our students and their families have a relaxing break.

Warmest regards,

Kimberley Tavares  
Vice-Principal

## THORNLEA'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

On Thursday, February 25th  
we will be recognizing students who achieved  
academic excellence during Semester 2 last year  
and Semester 1 of this school year.  
Students invited will be notified  
by February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Parents are invited to attend our ceremony  
and witness the presentation of certificates  
in the Gymnasium from 9:00 - 11am



## Guidance News

Welcome to the start of a new semester from the Guidance Department! Our team has been busy with providing our students with timetable request changes for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. We saw over 200 students re-requesting changes, and we tried our best to support each student's request.

**The Course Selection process for next year has begun! We had our grade assemblies to provide information on this process. The On-line course selection process deadline is Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. After students have selected their courses, they must SUBMIT, and then PRINT, then get it SIGNED by a parent/guardian. Then they need to hand it in to their HOMEROOM teacher on Wed February 24<sup>th</sup>; or if they have a spare period 1, to the **Guidance Department**. Thank you.**

The Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) deadline has now passed. Guidance will transmit their Semester 1 Final Marks on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Currently 130 Thornlea students have applied. We wish them all the best and will continue to answer their questions on the University selection process.

Guidance will continue to monitor and support the College application process. Guidance will transmit their Semester 1 Final Marks on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. Currently, 30 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).

A reminder that the "equal consideration" deadline has passed (Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>), but students can still apply.

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>

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" 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 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.

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

Follow us on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/thornlea\\_ss](http://twitter.com/thornlea_ss) or your child's Career Cruising Account.

## Parent Council Corner:

From co-chair: Mrs Geneviève Seabrook

Hello everyone,

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, our special guest, Robyn Papoff, from George Brown College started our meeting with a valuable presentation on scholarships and bursaries available to students going to college or university.

The presentation was split into two parts:

Part I: Some general information

- The cost per year to go to university or college (first four years), in average \$23,631.00/ year.
  - The average College/University student will graduate with \$24,000.00 - \$29,520.00 worth of debt.
  - Scholarship and awards, bursary, grants and loans were also presented.
- Don't forget to check with your work place/company if they offer scholarships.
- Tips on how to save money.

Part II: **O**ntario **S**tudent **A**ssistance **P**rogram in more details. Go to [www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca) for the info.

At the end of the meeting, our principal Mr. Joe Foti mentioned how students, teachers and administrators were busy with the exam weeks.

Our next school council will be on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15PM in the library. The new school plan will be on the agenda and you'll be able to meet our new VP Mrs. Barb Caravella.

Useful websites presented during the presentation:

Autismontario.ca  
 Canlearn.ca  
 Ontariocolleges.ca  
 Cra-arc.gc.ca  
 Contestscanada.net  
 Cassac.ca  
 Dosomething.org  
 Fundyourfuture.ca  
 Smartsaver.org  
 Higheredpoints.com  
 ldao.ca  
 Neads.ca  
 Osap.gov.on.ca  
 Electronicinfo.ca  
 Scholarshipscanada.com  
 Scholarship-grants.org  
 Yconic.ca  
 Disabilityawards.ca  
 Equals6.com  
 Loblawsscholarship.ca  
 Ontransfer.ca

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

On Wednesday, February 3, the school's **Health & Wellness Team** and **Student Council representatives** held an **early-morning promotional blitz** to launch the very first **Thornlea Health & Wellness Day: Just for the Health of It!**

To promote this **April 20, 2016 Health & Wellness Day**, students entering the school on February 3<sup>rd</sup> were greeted with balloons, bubbles, flyers & banners, music, special announcements, and more! Then, in homeroom, students received information about the April 20<sup>th</sup> event, including a package to take home and share with parents/guardians.



**We hope your son/daughter has already shared this important information package with you**, and talked with you about the Health & Wellness Day activities that are being offered. Some activities are in-school; some are off-site. Some activities have a cost; others are free. **Consider the options with your son/daughter.**

**Activity Sign-Up** takes place between **February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 25<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that there is a *different sign-up date for each activity*, and places will be reserved for students for each activity on a *first come, first served* basis.

**All off-site activities are full day.** All activities that are taking place at Thornlea are  $\frac{1}{2}$  day activities, so the student must select two: 1 a.m. activity and 1 p.m. activity.

**In order to sign-up for an activity, the student must bring to the Cafeteria, at lunch, on the appropriate sign-up date:**

- a field trip form that has been signed by a parent or guardian
- a cheque made out in the correct amount to Thornlea Secondary School, or cash in the EXACT amount (for activities with a cost)
- proof of online waiver completion (only for True North Rock Climbing and for SkyZone Trampoline)

## Community Immunization Clinics

York Region Public Health is offering evening and weekend immunization clinics in convenient locations for students that need to catch up on their vaccinations.

If you recently received a letter from York Region Public Health requesting immunization information, the community clinics are a great way for your child to get immunized. Clinics are offered in Keswick, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan. To book an appointment, visit [york.ca/immunizations](https://york.ca/immunizations) and click on **Community Immunization Clinics**.

If your child has received their vaccines, you can update your child's immunization records in one of the following ways:

- Online at <https://eimmunization.york.ca>
- Call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73456
- Fax documents to 905-895-6066 or 1-866-258-2026



Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



TSS Literacy Corner:

Hello Parents and Guardians,

My name is Nicole Anderson and I have taken over the position as Literacy Lead from Georgia Vatousis. I look forward to working with your child to support their preparation for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

Just a few reminders:

- Successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement for all students who are working towards their diploma.
- The OSSLT will take place on March 31, 2016. Details about the schedule for the day will be shared with you soon.
- Reminder that the on-line version of the OSSLT will not take place this year (except for students who have special accommodations)
- As part of our on-going preparation for the test students in grades 9 and 10 will continue to take part in 4 preparation sessions called Whole School Initiatives (WSI)
- Dates for the WSI are: Feb 11 - period 1, Feb 24 - period 2, March 9 - period 3, and March 23<sup>rd</sup> - period 4
- Beginning February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 we will be offering an after school preparation course to further support student preparation. Please contact Nicole Anderson (ext 693) for more information. Students can pick up a registration form from the main office
- Samples of literacy test materials can be found on the [EQAO website](#)

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Nicole Anderson**

## **2016 DONATIONS FOR MAPLE'S CLOSET**

Maple High School is proud to be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Maple's Closet Diva Ball events on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Maple's Closet has helped provide graduation attire to over 400 grade 8 and 12 students. Our objective is to provide a graduation dress, suit and accessories to every female or male York Region student in need.

We accept donations of gently used formal wear and accessories for the event. We are in need of the following items:

- Prom / Graduation dresses
- Shoes
- Purses / Clutches
- Toiletry / Make-Up bags
- Jewelry
- Suits
- Dress pants
- Shirts
- Ties
- Belts

Each guest receives a takeaway package as a thank you for his/her participation. We also accept donations of new/unused:

- make-up
- nail polish
- men's socks
- toiletries (combs, soap, brushes, etc.)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Maple High School  
Presents  
*Maple's Closet Diva Ball*

Maple High School is proud to present the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Maple's Closet Diva Ball. Maple's Closet has helped provide graduation attire to over 400 grade 8 and 12 students. Our objective is to provide a graduation dress, suit and accessories to every female or male York Region student in need.

**If you would like to make a referral** of a York Region student to Maple's Closet, please complete each section of the referral form found at <http://goo.gl/forms/PzeENIX3ZQ> by **March 11, 2016**. If you would like further information, contact Maria Luongo-Cassar at Maple High School (905-417-9444) or at [maria.luongo-cassar@yrdsb.ca](mailto:maria.luongo-cassar@yrdsb.ca).

**If you would like to make a donation**, please contact Maple High School. Donations (dresses, suits, and accessories) would be appreciated by **Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

**Diva Ball / Maple's Closet**

Female students referred to Maple's Closet are invited to attend the Diva Ball event, which will be held on **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, from 9:00 am – 11:30 am at Maple High School. Males referred will be invited to Maple's Closet on **Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, from 9:00 am – 11:30 am.

The students will enjoy a variety of activities and refreshments as they choose formal attire and accessories for graduation night. Students will be able to participate in activities such as etiquette, make-up application, jewelry making, hairstyling, tying a tie, etc., provided by the Maple High School community.



# UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ATTENTION DISORDERS

**Date:** Tues. Feb. 9, 2016

**Time:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Location:**  
**Milliken Mills High School**  
 7522 Kennedy Road  
 Markham, ON L3R 9S5

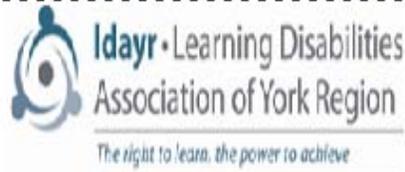
Presentation will be in English with translation services in Mandarin & Cantonese.

**Child minding services** will be offered by request.

For more information and to **register**, please contact:

**YRDSB (Mandarin/Cantonese)**  
**Cathy Ng**  
 905-884-2046 ext. 267  
 Cathy.Ng@yrdsb.ca

**LDAYR (English)**  
 905-884-7933 ext. 23  
 info@ldayr.org



**Presented by**  
**Learning Disabilities Association of York Region**  
 in collaboration with  
**Inclusive School and Community Services**  
**York Region District School Board**



**Workshop Information:**  
 The workshop will help parents and students better understand Learning Disabilities.

- ◊ What are Learning Disabilities/ADHD?
- ◊ Advocating for children/youth
- ◊ How to teach self-advocacy skills
- ◊ Problem solving model
- ◊ Building resiliency and well-being skills
- ◊ Mental Health awareness and stress management strategies
- ◊ Programming to support children, youth and families

**Presentation Speakers:**

**Renee Flannery (LDAYR)** is a Resource Facilitator with the LDAYR. Renee has provided support and guidance to parents for over years.

**Stephanie Gatti (LDAYR)** is a Program Coordinator and Resource Facilitator at the LDAYR.



# UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ATTENTION DISORDERS

## 了解学习困难症及注意力不足過動症

**日期/Date:** Tues. Feb. 9, 2016

**時間/Time:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**地點/Location:**  
 Milliken Mills High School  
 7522 Kennedy Road  
 Markham, ON L3R 9S5

提供普通话和粤语翻译  
 Presentation will be in English with translation services in Mandarin & Cantonese

可要求托儿服务  
 Child minding services will be offered by request

报名及查询, 请致电  
 For more information and to register, please contact:

(Mandarin/Cantonese) YRDSB  
 Cathy Ng  
 905-884-2046 內線/ext. 267  
 电邮: Cathy.Ng@yrdsb.ca

(English) LDAYR  
 905-884-7933 ext. 23  
 info@ldayr.org



**Presented by**  
**Learning Disabilities Association of York Region**  
 in collaboration with  
**Inclusive School and Community Services**  
**York Region District School Board**



**讲座内容: Workshop Information:**

The workshop will help parents and students better understand: 帮助家长及学生更了解:

- ◊ What are Learning Disabilities/ADHD 什么是学习困难症及注意力不足過動症
- ◊ How to teach self-advocacy skills 如何教孩子争取自己的权利
- ◊ Building resiliency and stress management skills, increase mental health awareness 如何教导孩子面对逆境, 处理压力, 和了解自己的心理及情绪健康状况
- ◊ Programming to support children, youth and families 学校提供给有学习困难症学生的服务

**讲员/Presentation Speakers:**

**Renee Flannery (LDAYR)** is a Resource Facilitator with the LDAYR. Renee has provided support and guidance to parents for over years.

**Stephanie Gatti (LDAYR)** is a Program Coordinator and Resource Facilitator at the LDAYR.



# UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ATTENTION DISORDERS

**Date:** Wed. Feb. 10, 2016

**Time:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Location:**

Coppard Glen  
Public School  
131 Coppard Ave,  
Markham, ON  
L3S 2T5

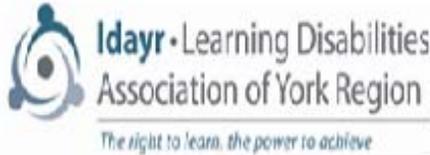
Presentation will be  
in English  
with translation services  
in Urdu.

Child minding services will  
be offered by request.

For more information  
and to register,  
please contact:

YRDSB (Urdu)  
Ayesha Syed  
905-884-2046 ext. 271  
Ayesha.Syed@yrdsb.ca

LDAYR (English)  
905-884-7933 ext. 23  
info@ldayr.org



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- ◊ Mental Health awareness and stress management strategies
- ◊ Programming to support children, youth and families

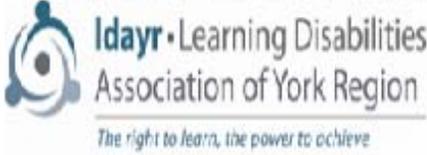
**Presentation Speakers:**

Renee Flannery (LDAYR) is a Resource Facilitator with the LDAYR. Renee has provided support and guidance to parents for over 20 years.

Stephanie Gatti (LDAYR) is a Program Coordinator and Resource Facilitator at the LDAYR.



# سیکھنے میں مشکلات اور توجہ میں خلل



**پیشکش**  
ادارہ سیکھنے سے معزورین کے لیے - علاقہ یارک  
تعاون دیا ہے  
مدرستہ شامل اور خدمات برادری  
ادارہ مدرسہ ضلع - علاقہ یارک



## مقاصد اجلاس

اجلاس کے منعقد کرنے کا مقصد ہے کہ طلبا اور والدین کو سیکھنے کی معنوری سے واقف کروانا ہے۔

- ♦ نہ سیکھنے کی معزوری کیا ہے \ADHD؟
- ♦ بچوں اور نوجوانوں کیلئے مشاورت
- ♦ خود مکتفی ہونے کیلئے احساس دلانا
- ♦ مشکلات کو حل کرنے کی مساعی
- ♦ اہل نرس کی کوشش میں آسانی اور صحت مند رہنے کا شعور۔
- ♦ دعا غی صحت سے آگہی اور ضغط / دباؤ کو قابو میں رکھنے کی حکمت عملی۔
- ♦ بچوں ، نوجوانوں اور خاندانوں کی فلاح کیلئے جدول

## مقررین

Renee Flannery (LDAYR)  
رینی فلانیری وسائل کی آسانی  
میں معاون ہیں اور بچھلے  
بیس سال سے والدین کو  
مشورے دیتی رہی ہیں۔  
Stephanie Gatti (LDAYR)  
اسٹیفنی گٹی نے اس پروگرام  
کو ترتیب دیا ہے اور وہ  
وسائل کی آسانی میں معاون  
ہیں۔

بتاریخ - 10 فیبروری 2016  
وقت - شام 6:30 تا 8:30  
بمقام - کاپرڈ گن پبلک اسکول  
کاپرڈ اوینیو 131  
مارکھم - انٹیریو - 5 ٹ 2  
س 3

پیشکش انگریزی  
زبان میں اور اردو میں ترجمہ  
کی سہولت

بچوں کی دیکھ بھال کی سہولت  
درخواست پر  
مہیا کی جاگی

مزید معلومات اور تسجیل کیلئے

رابطہ کیجیے

YRDSB (اردو)

عائشہ سید

905-884-2046 -ext 271

Ayesha.Syed@yrdsb.ca

LDAYR(English)

905-884-7933 -ext 23

info@ldayr.org

Parents Reaching Out Grants



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



United Way  
Toronto & York Region

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 9	Gr. 12 Course Selection Presentation
February 9	Sem1 Final Reports Home
February 15	Family Day—No School Today
February 17	Photo Day/Grad Retakes
February 25	Awards Assembly
March 2	Science Olympics
March 8	Interim Reports Home
March 14-18	March Break
March 25-28	Easter
March 29	OSSLT Assembly
March 31	OSSLT
March 31	Parents' Night
April 5-8	Drama Show
April 14	Term 1 Ends
April 15	Term 2 Begins
April 18	School Council Mtg. 7:15pm
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