



Thornlea SS

Principal: Joe Foti

Vice-Principal: Kim Tavares

Vice-Principal: John Sebastiano

January 15, 2016



January 22—28

**Schedule For Exam Review Day
January 29**

Teacher Meetings All Morning

Period 1 1:00-1:25

Period 2 1:30-1:55

Period 3 2:00-2:25

Period 4 2:30-2:55

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Community Members,

Happy New Year to all our students and their families!

Two weeks into 2016, our students and their teachers are preparing for final course culminating assignments and exams. Exams begin next **Friday, January 22** and run through to **Wednesday, January 27th**. All exams are written at **10:00 a.m.** Please re-view the exam letter that was sent out to families and distributed to students at the start of December for more information. A special schedule is in place for Exam Review Day on **Friday, January 29**. On this day, classes will run for 25 minutes each from **1:00 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.** consecutively. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Our January School Council meeting is on **Monday, January 18** in the school library at **7:15 p.m.** Our special guest, Robyn Papoff, will be providing valuable information about a number of scholarships and bursaries available to students. We invite all families to join us to learn more about what support their children may access.

Families are invited to attend and participate in *Clothing for a Cause*, a community auction with the goal of sponsoring a refugee family, on **Saturday, January 23**, from **1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Thornlea S.S. is supporting the effort by offering gently used clothing for the auction. An additional, large scale fundraising event is planned for early spring and further details will be announced once plans are finalized. In the meantime, please see the additional information about the auction found in this bulletin and consider contributing to the cause.

Monday, February 1st is a PA Day. No classes are scheduled. Students will return to school on **February 2**, when Semester 2 begins. The start of each semester provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the past semester and to set new goals. Especially at the start of Semester 2, when students will be asked to think about and select courses for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year, parents and guardians can support their children by prompting them to think about their interests, their strengths, and their post-secondary plans. As the semester begins, we encourage parents and guardians to engage their children in conversations about their classes, their learning about setting clear, achievable goals and about accessing relevant information and support from their teachers and Guidance Counsellors.

May 2016 bring much success and happiness to our Thornlea community.

Warmest regards,

John Sebastiano

School Council Meeting
Monday, January 18 at 7:15pm

In the Library

\$\$SHOW ME THE MONEY\$\$
Scholarships & Bursaries

Guest Speaker
Robyn Papoff

Thornlea Secondary School
8075 Bayview Ave
Thornhill, ON
L3T 4N4

Phone: 905-889-9696
Email: thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca
<http://thornlea.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

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 12th.

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



Clothing for a Cause—Link to Article

<http://m.yorkregion.com/news-story/6228818-thornhill-clothing-auction-offers-sos-to-refugee-families>

You're invited to our...

"Clothing for a Cause" Auction

To Raise Funds for S.O.S. (Support.Outreach.Sponsorship.)
'Welcoming Families to a Peaceful Future'

Bidding starts at \$1.00

All money raised goes directly to the sponsorship of a refugee family.



When: Saturday, January 23rd, 2016

What: Women's, Men's and Children's gently used Clothes, Jewellery and Accessories

We will also have new items donated from local retailers to bid on thanks to **Tom's Place, Gossip Accessories and ReadySetRecycle** who connected us with a generous wardrobe donation straight off the set of *Single Ladies* (season 4)!

Why: The purpose of the event is to raise funds for the sponsorship of a refugee family to resettle in the GTA, through the auction of used items. Attendees are asked to donate items in advance to be included in the auction and bring cash to the event bid! Bidding starts at \$1.00 and varies on the value, quality and desirability of the item. All monies collected will be donated directly to the S.O.S. fund.

If you have nothing to donate, but would like to come to bid on items and walk away with new treasures, we would love for you to join us!

Where: Thornlea Secondary School - Cafeteria
8075 Bayview Ave., Markham, ON

Time: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

If you have items to donate, please contact Marissa at (416) 400-3542. We can arrange for pick-up!

Those who are unable to attend but would like to support the cause are encouraged to donate through our crowdfunding campaign at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/sos-supportoutreachsponsorship/>

For more info on S.O.S. visit <http://facebook.com/SupportOutreachSponsorship>

Author Eric Walters Visits Thornlea Library

On January 11th the Thornlea Library hosted one of Canada's top authors, Mr. Eric Walters. Eric has published more than 100 novels and picture books. He has spoken to over 1.8 million students worldwide and co-founded his own organization helping disadvantaged youth in Kenya.

We at Thornlea were very lucky to have him visit. We also invited two Grade 8 classes from Adrienne Clarkson Public School.

Mr. Walters spoke for over an hour telling the students how he wrote his books and revealing to them the stories and adventures behind each novel.

Students were very inspired by his messages of Canadian pride and his motivational messages about helping others.

The event was moderated very well by two top Thornlea Students, Melanie Seabrook and Ezra Amon.

Creation of Hope

- Eric Walters and his son travelled to Kenya in 2007 to visit with the family of a close Kenyan, Canadian friend. This project then began because of a chance meeting with a young orphan boy – Mutuku – in the marketplace of Kikima, Kenya. Subsequently Eric discovered that Mutuku was one of more than 500 orphans spread across the Mbooni district in rural Kenya. Outreach to this one orphan became four, and then 40, and the project currently supports over 400 orphans and impoverished children throughout the area.
- Visit creationofhope.com to donate.



Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) launched the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in 2006 to raise critical funds and awareness of African grandmothers who are raising their orphaned grandchildren in the world's most affected communities dealing with ravages of HIV/AIDS.

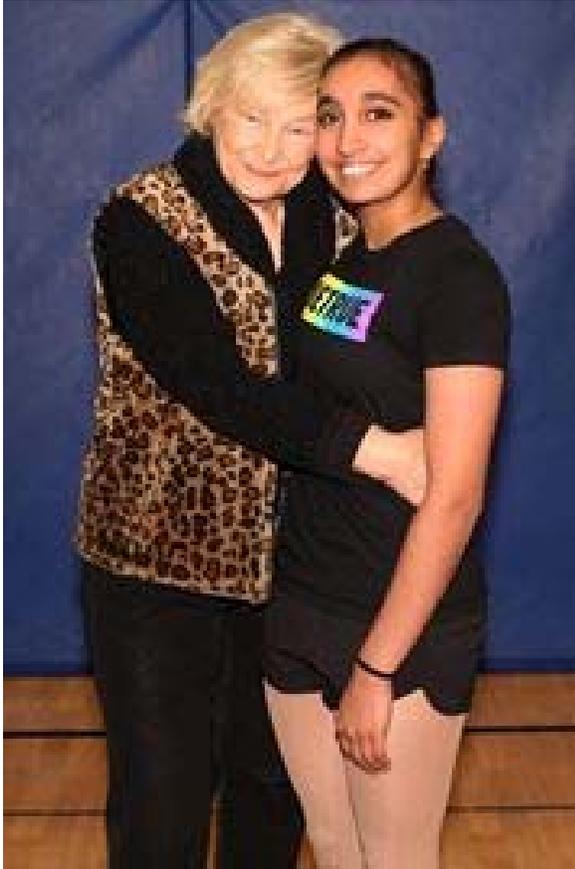
Jo-Anne Page recently visited Thornlea to tell staff about her journey as one of the 22 Canadian grandmothers recently selected to visit the Foundation's community based projects to see how the monies raised goes directly to grassroots needs in Ethiopia, Rwanda and South Africa.



All 22 grandmothers covered their own costs and committed to raise funds and awareness of the Campaign upon their return, by spreading the word of the African grandmothers through speaking engagements. If you would like Jo-Anne to share this experience with your workplace/organization, please contact her at: victorpage@rogers.com

If you would like to donate to this initiative, please visit The Grandmothers Campaign at: <http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org/>





"Rising star"

Young gymnast stepping out on world stage

Zareen Husain has been involved in rhythmic gymnastics over the last six years.

But last year she elected to move into a rhythmic discipline, known as aesthetic group gymnastics.

The Grade 10 student at Thornlea Secondary School is glad she did.

Training with Kalev Estienne since she began rhythmic gymnastics at the age of nine, Husain is now in her second year as a member of Canada's aesthetic group gymnastics team and is gearing up to perform on the international stage at the upcoming World Cup IV and Finals and Challenge Cup IV and Finals in Barcelona, Spain from May 5 to 8.

Aesthetic group gymnast Zareen Husain, seen here with her coach Evelyn Koop.

After that, she will take part in this year's World Championships in Brno, Czech Republic from June 10 to 12.

"I am very excited to represent my country at such a prestigious international competition," Husain said.

"However, since it is such a large event, I'm a bit nervous as well. Not every athlete is fortunate to get this opportunity and so I am grateful to be part of a wonderful team. Competing at a World Cup or World Championship is very different from provincial or national competitions. It's a different atmosphere and there is a palpable excitement knowing the world is watching."

During the competition, Husain will take to the floor as part of a six-member team, comprised of Sophia Wang, Michelle Qin, Ksenia Judeikin, Olya Lysenko and Zoya Shkotkina and coached by Diana Kwon.

Aesthetic group gymnastics differs from traditional rhythmic gymnastics in that it does not require an apparatus, such as a ball, rope, hoop, ribbon or clubs.

Instead, it's based more on body movements.

“There is more of a dance element to aesthetic group gymnastics as compared with rhythmic gymnastics,” she explained.

While European countries have dominated competition, Husain was quick to point out Canada has placed in the top 10 the last few years.

“The team would like to ensure we maintain a strong performance and earn a place at the podium for the upcoming competitions as well to continue with the tradition,” she said.

In earning a berth to compete in this event, Husain pointed out her club, Kalev Estienne, is one of two in Canada registered with the International Federation of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics.

As a result, the team is usually formed via invitation from the club.

For Husain, 15, her rhythmic gymnastics experience was a big reason why she was selected to the Canadian team.

But aesthetic group gymnastics combines all the elements she enjoys.

“It involves gymnastics, dance and performance. To be involved in aesthetic group gymnastics has allowed me to compete at higher level competitions,” she explained.

Along with her parents and teammates, she's quick to credit club founder and head coach Evelyn Koop as a driving force behind her accomplishments.

“Without her encouragement and faith in my ability, I might have not have considered competing internationally,” Husain said. “In the past, on occasion, we trained with the senior team who were amazing and so talented. That definitely motivated me to stay disciplined, train hard, and push myself so that one day I could be a part of the senior team.”

Husain hopes she can remain actively involved in the sport as long as she can and wouldn't rule out coaching in the future.

But for now, she wants the sport to gain a higher profile and Canada and to become a top contender in the world.

To do that though, requires additional support from the provincial and federal governments, she said.

“At this time, the World Cup and World Championships are the highest level of competition in this sport,” she said. “I would like to remain a part of the team as long as I can.

“In the future though, I would still like to stay involved with this sport and advocate for better government level funding, better training facilities and support for the athletes to keep representing Canada. This beautiful sport is not very well known and I would love to coach, spread the word and inspire more girls to discover it.”

Thornhill Liberal December 21, 2015

By Michael Hayakawa

Happy New Year from the Guidance Department!

Our team has been busy with providing our students with information about the University and College Application process, scholarship and community involvement hours and timetable requests for 2nd semester.

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 Thornlea students have applied. We wish them all the best in their exams next week and will continue to answer their questions on the University selection process.

Guidance has offered several College Application work-shops. No Pin Codes are distributed for College Applications; students will create their own with their Ontario Education Number (OEN) at www.ontariocolleges.ca. A reminder that the “equal consideration” **deadline** is **February 1st**.

Final marks will be automatically sent to Universities and Colleges from the School.

The next OUAC University grades transmission is scheduled for February 11th, 2016.
The next OCAS College grades transmission is scheduled for February 12th, 2016.

We will have a special presentation on **Monday January 18th at 7:15pm in the Thornlea S.S. Library**. Topics will include Scholarships, Bursaries, and OSAP. All parent(s)/guardian(s) and students are welcome to attend.

As for Scholarship information, please make an appointment to see Mr. Paul Stephenson. Two great websites to find out more information on scholarships are:
<http://www.studentawards.com/>

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

Course selections for next year will start on Wednesday February 3rd. There will be grade assemblies to provide information on this process. Grade 9(Feb 3), Grade 10(Feb. 4), Grade 11(Feb. 5), Grade 12(Feb. 9). Course selections in Career Cruising are to be completed and submitted by Monday Feb. 22nd.

If students are planning on making a request for a timetable change for 2nd semester, they should make an appointment with their counselor ASAP.

We also would like to remind students of our 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 (8:25 to 8:45), during their lunch (11:30 to 12:30), or after school (3:05 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. *A reminder to all grade 12 students; that they should hand in their community service hours by Friday January 29th, 2016.*

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.

Night School Course registration starts Jan. 5th – register through Career Cruising www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/Night-School-Credit-Courses.aspx

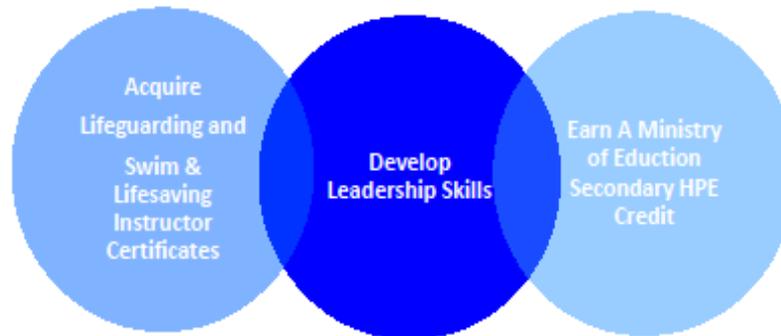
Night School E-Learning Course registration starts Jan. 18th.
www.yrdsb.ca/schools/e-learning/programs/Pages/Winter-Catalog.aspx

Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance and Career Education

Follow us on Twitter: http://twitter.com/thornlea_ss

Aquatic Leadership Program – Part 2

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. The program uses a blended learning format consisting of pool instruction, face-to-face instruction in class and on-line learning. Upon completion, successful students may earn the following courses and certifications:

- Secondary School Grade 11 Credit - Healthy Living and Aquatic Activities – PAQ301
- National Lifeguarding Certification (Lifesaving Society)
- Swim, Emergency First Aid and Lifesaving Instructor (Lifesaving Society)

An examiner from the Lifesaving Society will evaluate the final aquatic skills examinations for the lifeguarding and swim and lifesaving instructor certifications. Students must pass the final exam for each aquatic course including the in-water examinations in order to receive their lifeguarding and swim and lifesaving instructor qualifications. Credits and certifications may be granted independently.

For specific details about the Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Standard First Aid, Lifesaving Instructors, Swim Instructors and National Lifeguard Qualifications, visit the [City of Markham](#) or the [Lifesaving Society](#) website.

Dates: February 9, 2016 to June 14, 2016

- Pool instruction and face-to-face instruction will occur on specifically scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Milliken Mills Community Centre.
- There will be two Saturday classes from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on May 7, 2016 and June 4, 2016.
- The remaining curriculum expectations will be delivered through on-line learning when face-to-face instruction is not required.

Location: Milliken Mills Community Centre, 7600 Kennedy Road, Markham ON. L3R 9S5

Minimum Requirements: Participants must be 16 years or older by June 7, 2016, hold Bronze Cross or equivalent qualifications and Standard First Aid.

Cost: \$200 includes all course materials and training manuals.

All Aquatic Leadership Courses through the City of Markham recommend 100% attendance. Late admission cannot be granted. For this reason, cancellation requests must be submitted a minimum of five business days prior to the start of the first class in order to receive a refund. No refund will be issued for late requests.

Contact Number: (905) 884-3434 or 1-877-280-8180

For more information visit <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/e-learning/programs/Pages/YALP-Overview.aspx>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18	School Council Mtg 7:15pm
January 19	Gr. 9 EQAO Math
January 21	PJ Day
January 22-28	EXAMS
January 23	Clothing for a Cause 1-4pm
January 29	EXAM Return Day
February 1	PA Day
February 2	Semester 2 Begins
February 3	Gr. 9 Course Selection Presentation
February 4	Gr. 10 Course Selection Presentation
February 5	Gr. 11 Course Selection Presentation
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 22	Spirit Assembly
February 25	Awards Assembly
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