



# Thornlea SS

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**Principal: Joe Foti**

**March 1, 2019**

**Vice-Principal: Anthony Hu**

**Vice-Principal: Sofia Papadatos**



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**Please note important date changes in calendar of events:**

- **Interim reports home**
- **Parents' Night**

# Message from the Vice-Principal

Dear Families and Community Members,

It's been a wonderful and busy start to second semester as we look towards March Break which will be taking place in a week.

As part of Thornlea Wellness Initiative Council's continued efforts to promote positive mental health and well-being in the school, we continue to have Wellness Wednesdays where teachers devote a few minutes in a period during the day to complete an activity with students that helps foster mental health and well-being.

As we look ahead to the 2019/2020 school year, the Guidance department has been working hard to support students with their course selections for next school year. It has been a busy time for everyone as we transitioned to the myBlueprint platform.

For athletics, the Senior Boys Basketball team won the AA YRAA finals and are headed to OFSAA. The senior volleyball program also has had tremendous success so far this year. The senior boys won the AA York Region championship in November and attended OFSAA, placing 12th overall in the province. The senior girls also won the AA championship in a very close match last week. They head to OFSAA next week in Windsor. Both teams made Thornlea history by being the first teams to win senior Tier 1 championships in volleyball and go to OFSAA. Congratulations to our student-athletes and coaching staff, Mr. Hutchison, Gradan Clemens, Jacqueline Quirke, Dylan Sinclair and David Kang. The Junior Girls volleyball team has posted 5 wins in their regular season so far. Due to the inclement weather days the finals have been pushed to after March Break.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks, please note the following important dates:

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, our School Resource Officer, Mr. Cole will be conducting an Anti-Bullying presentation for all grade 9 and 10 students.

Interim Report Cards will be distributed to students on March 19<sup>th</sup> which is a progress report for all their classes. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the progress of their children in each of their classes and to connect with the classroom teachers if there are any questions or concerns. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be taking place on March 28<sup>th</sup> between 6:30—8:30pm. To book an appointment with your child's teachers, you can access the scheduler on EDSBY beginning March 18<sup>th</sup>. Alternatively, students can speak with their teachers who can manually book an appointment for them or contact Ms. Muench in the main office ([joanne.muench@yrdsb.ca](mailto:joanne.muench@yrdsb.ca)).

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will be taking place on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Only grade 10 and Previously Eligible students who are writing the test are required to be at school. There will not be regular classes for students in grades 9, 11, and 12. Students will be dismissed upon completion of the test. The OSSLT will begin promptly at 9 AM.

On behalf of the administration team at Thornlea Secondary School, I would like to wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable March Break.

Sincerely,

Mr. Anthony Hu  
Vice-Principal



Dear Families,

As you may be aware, there has been recent media attention on an Internet challenge that may cause concern for families. The Internet provides access to many engaging learning opportunities, but requires responsible use and digital citizenship. Parents play an important role in ensuring their child's safety, including on the Internet. It's important for parents to talk to children about the importance of being safe, protecting their personal information and stressing that they should never disclose personal details that would allow someone online to contact them in real life.

Here are 12 tips to promote safe online behaviour:

Children should never give anyone their name, address, telephone number, computer password, or any other personal information on the Internet without parental or guardian consent.

Children should only use social media and websites approved by their parent or guardian.

Internet use should be encouraged in a central place in your home where you can supervise children's online activities.

Don't allow a webcam in a child's bedroom.

Watch for children quickly minimizing sites when you enter the room.

Reinforce that people online may not be who they say they are.

Consider using parental controls like Internet filters or blocking software.

Remind children that everything said online stays in cyberspace forever, whether or not it is deleted.

Talk to your children about Internet safety and clearly define your rules.

Never respond to messages that make them feel confused or uncomfortable.

Pay attention to the games your children may download or copy.

Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet online.

**Reinforce a sense of safety.** Some Internet content can evoke a sense of fear or lack of safety in your child. It can be difficult for some children to discern fact / fiction online. Try to offer reassurance that your child is safe. Children and youth take their emotional cues from the significant adults in their lives. Your reactions can help to model calmness to your child. Recognize that some children may be concerned about something bad happening to themselves, family or friends. Explain to them the safety measures in place and reassure them that you and other adults will take care of them.

**Be a good listener and observer.** Let children guide you to learn how concerned they are or how much information they need. If they are not focused on the issue, do not dwell on it. However, be available to answer their questions to the best of your ability. Young children may not be able to express themselves verbally. Pay attention to changes in their behaviour or social interactions.

**Reach out.** Reach out to the school if you feel that your child may be showing a significant reaction to online material. We may be able to offer some classroom strategies that could help reduce stress. It may also be important to seek additional support from a school mental health professional (i.e., social worker or psychologist) to cope with overwhelming feelings experienced by children and youth.

Sincerely,

Joe Foti



## ***Message From Our Trustee***

I hope everyone has had a great start to the second half of the school year. Over the past few months, I have had an opportunity to connect with families, students, staff members and with our broader community. I have seen a lot of exciting opportunities for students to explore their interests, celebrate their identities, and develop skills and knowledge that will benefit them in the future.

Many students are participating in [skills competitions](#) or other events where they problem-solve, innovate, collaborate and further develop their technical skills. Students compete in robotics, construction, hairdressing, transportation, 3D animation and much more. These events are among the many options available to help students explore different careers and [pathways](#), and gain valuable experience. We are grateful for the support of community partners in helping to provide these great learning opportunities to our students.

I also want to express my appreciation to our broader school community. One of the priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to build collaborative relationships. The relationships that our schools have with families is so important. There are many different ways you can be involved - talking to your child's teacher, asking your child about homework, or volunteering on a field trip or the school council. Your contributions make a difference to your child's success and to the success of our schools.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable March Break.

David Sherman  
Trustee



CASHIUS MCNEILLY NIKOLA JOKIC

## Thornlea Players at NBA All Star Weekend

The NBA All Star Weekend took place in Charlotte North Carolina from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Thornlea was honored that two of their student athletes were selected for the Basketball without Borders program sponsored by

the NBA and FIBA. Cashius McNeilly and Keeshawn Barthelemy were chosen as two of the top forty Basketball prospects in the world. On the weekend they were flown to North Carolina and practiced and played under the direction of NBA coaches, players and scouts. They also were the NBA's guests at the Skills Competition, Rising Stars' game and finally the ALL Star game on Sunday. In the above pictures Cashius McNeilly is pictured with Denver Nuggets starting Centre Nikola Jokic. Keeshawn is pictured with Phoenix Suns forward Deandre Ayton.



KEESHAWN BARTHELEMY

# Hello from the Guidance Department!

The Guidance Team this year consists of:

Mrs. Gail Burdett (Guidance Secretary) Ext. 207  
 Ms. Lovleen Rai (French Immersion Counselor/Scholarship Lead/Literacy Lead) Ext 254  
 Ms. Viviane Estafanos (Student Success/Credit Recovery/AP Exam Lead/F.I. Teacher) Ext 251  
 Ms. Andrea Tse (ESL Counselor/Head of ESL Teacher) Ext 178  
 Ms. Maria Merecoulias (English Language Learner Support Teacher) Voicemail 689  
 Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance (Counselor) Ext 330

We also would like to announce the process for making guidance appointments. **First**, please see Mrs. Burdett, our Guidance Secretary. If any student would like to make an appointment with their “area” identified counselor (French Immersion, ESL, Other), they should come to the Guidance Office before school starts (8:30 to 8:45), during their lunch (11:30 to 12:30), or after school (3:00 to 3:30) to make their appointment.

**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.**

The Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) deadline has now passed. Currently 198 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 25<sup>th</sup>**.

Guidance will continue to monitor and support the College application process. Currently, 15 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>**.

Guidance already offered a College application seminar. If you need further assistance please see Ms. Lovleen Rai in the Guidance Office.



**Important Notice for all grade 12's that have applied to OUAC for university and OCAS for College.**

***Your grades from semester one have been processed by OUAC and OCAS and sent to the Universities and Colleges 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.

**Community Service Hours**

We would also like to remind our learning community that there is a process in place for Community Service Hours. 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 pre-approval. It should be at a Not-For-Profit organization.

We also would like to announce the approved initiative to all our **grade 9** students. Grade 9 students that complete their 40 community service hours in their grade 9 year will receive a special certificate of completion. This is for grade 9's only. The 40 hours must be submitted into our Guidance Office by **Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> to Qualify.**

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 opportunities to fulfill this Ministry of Education graduation requirement.

***A reminder to all grade 12 students; that they should hand in their community service hours ASAP. Before the next OUAC/OCAS transmission.***

Summer School Registration will begin in late April.

*Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance and Career Education*



## LITERACY CORNER

Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



Hello Parents and Guardians,

**The test will take place on March 27.**

### **Information Assembly:**

- ⇒ There will be an Information Assembly for all eligible OSSLT writers on March 22:  
PERIOD 1 = all grade 10 students  
PERIOD 2 = all grade 11 & 12 students without the requirement
- ⇒ Students will learn about the structure of the day, which room they will write in and will receive some quick tips to prepare for the day

### **'Whole School Initiatives' (WSIs):**

- ⇒ All Grade 9 & 10 students (including Grade 11 & 12 students without the requirement) will write a WSI, which will provide students with an opportunity to practice writing a news report from a past OSSLT.
- ⇒ The last WSI will take place on **March 4**.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact me either by phone or email

Lovleen Rai  
905-889-9696 Ext/254  
Lovleen.rai@yrdsb.ca

# ***Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test***

## ***Modified School Day***

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

As we prepare for the Ontario School Literacy Test (OSSLT), this is a friendly reminder that:

**On March 27<sup>th</sup>, only grade 10 students and Previously Eligible students who are writing the test are required to be at school.** There will be **no regular classes** for students in grades 9, 11, and 12.

Self-contained special education classes [e.g., developmentally delayed, autism, complex needs, multiple exceptionalities, PEAK, York Academy-Section 23 (Care and Treatment) programs, Intensive, Intensive Resource Support, and Acquired Brain Injury] and Elementary Music will follow their regular schedule.

Students writing the test should come to school on **March 27<sup>th</sup> by 8:45a.m.** and proceed to their writing room.

We anticipate that many students will finish writing the OSSLT in about 3 hours. Students will be dismissed upon their completion of the test.

A study hall will be available in the school (Room 235) for students who need to remain at Thornlea until regular dismissal time.





# Hello Graduates of 2019!

The graduation ceremony will be on June 27, 2019  
at Hazelton Manor.

There is a fee of \$75.00 to attend the graduation ceremony.

Fee includes the following:

Venue

Sound/Lighting

Décor

Gown/Cap to keep

Refreshments

Programme printing

Make sure to pay your fee via CASH ON LINE and  
include your gown size.

**DEADLINE DATE to pay your fee is: March 8, 2019**



In Thornlea's first-ever playoff appearance, the select varsity co-ed team of Matthew Rowley (grade 9) Grace Gagnon (grade 10), Julia Bell (grade 11), and skip/coach Madeleine Mungal (grade 12) defeated top seeded Sutton DHS by a score of 9-3, earning a spot in the final to be played on March 6th. The team's success was made possible by the dedication of the complete roster of players which also included Alex Groiser, Elizabeth Katkova, Jaime Sit, Julia Nam, and Alyssa Hung. Every player contributed to the fun, excitement, and success of this banner season. We were also happy to introduce the roaring game to Sherman Yau, Laura Ross, Jordan Salsky, [Brandon Lau](#), Brandon Shim, Nathan Lee, and William Chen, forming the balance of the Thornlea Curling Club, learning the game with the generous assistance of Mr. John Bell of the Thornhill Club.

Mr. Chan

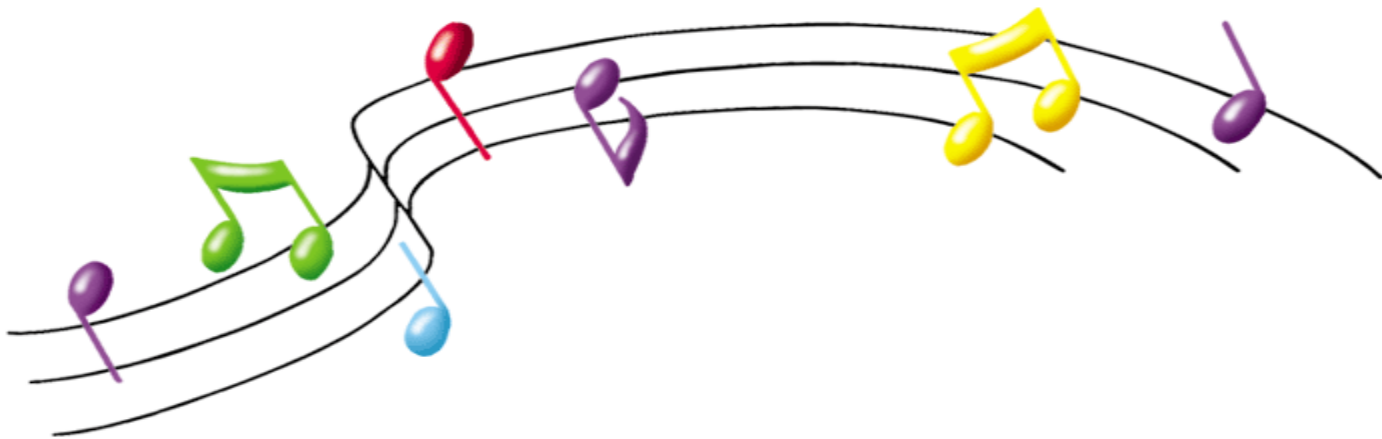
# Students Teaching Students



Buses are cancelled, taxi service is suspended, attendance dips down and cars slip up Bayview, while snowflakes fall sideways across the icy sky. Despite it all, there is always time for chemistry.

*Alternative Education Department*





*Dear Parents, Staff and Students!*  
*Please come and sing with us every Friday, after school (Room 248)*

*We are the Thornlea Vocal Ensemble "Les Voix"*  
*We perform Chamber music, Opera, Jazz, Rock and Pop music.*

*Vocal Types:*  
*Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone and Bass*



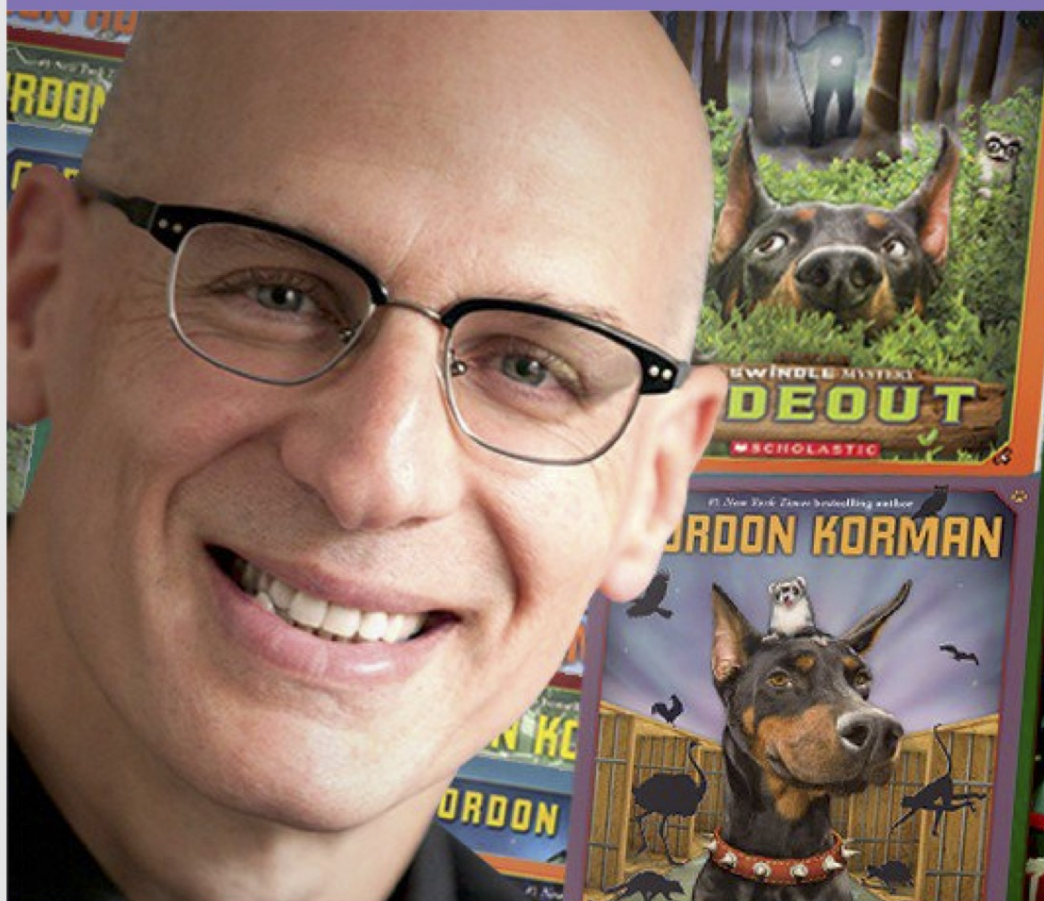
*JOIN OUR VOCAL ENSEMBLE "LES VOIX"*  
*TO GAIN CONFIDENCE AND FIND YOUR VOICE!*

Welcome to our second installment of the E-Bulletin Series:

## Who Inspires You, Thornlea?

In each E-Bulletin, we publish brief bios of two Thornlea graduates who are distinguishing themselves in their post-high school lives. If you know of someone you feel deserves to be profiled in this series, please contact [debra.hanff@yrdsb.ca](mailto:debra.hanff@yrdsb.ca)

# THORNLEA GRAD



# GORDON KORMAN

Author of over 80 books, including his first book which was loosely based on Thornlea Secondary School, *This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall*. Gordon has sold over 28 million books during his 40 year career, and has appeared as #1 on the *New York Times Best Seller List*.



# THORNLEA GRAD



KAI  
SOREMEKUN

Canadian filmmaker and actor. She is best-known for her role in the film *Regarding Henry* (1991), which starred Harrison Ford and Annette Bening, the film *Heat* (1995), which starred Robert De Niro and Al Pacino, and for the ongoing webseries, *CHICK: Within Me Lives a Superhero*.

Drop by our school library and check out our Thornlea Grad Wall.





## Health Canada's 'Know More Awareness Tour' teaches Thornlea Students about the Dangers of Opioids

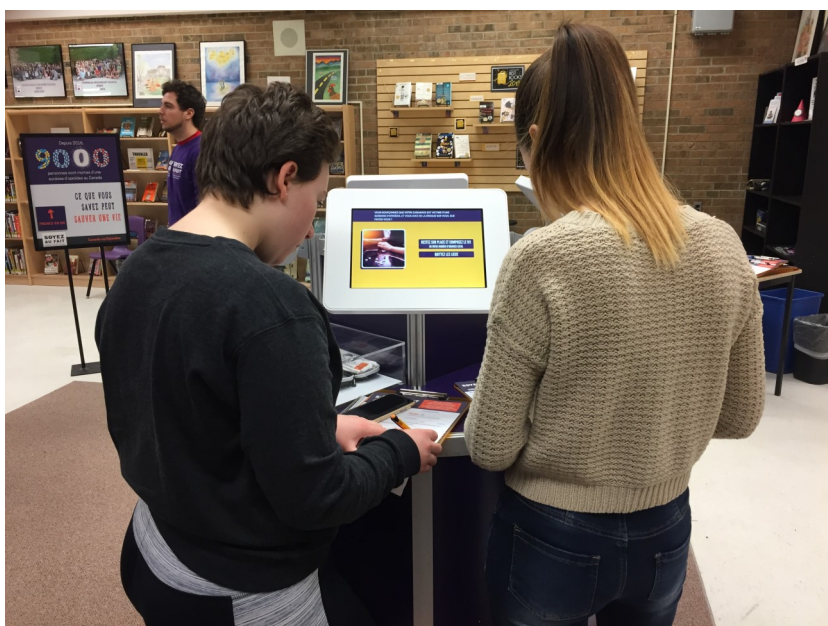
A team of young and enthusiastic Health Canada educators spent a full day at Thornlea on Friday, February the 15th to teach Thornlea students about the dangers of substance abuse, specifically opioids. They accomplished this by setting up a 5-station, interactive, bilingual display for students to explore.



Opioids are strong medications prescribed by doctors for people coping with severe pain. These medications are opiate-based narcotics and can be extremely addictive. Over the last 17 years, Canada has been experiencing a prescription drug crisis, beginning with OxyContin, which spawned the first wave of addiction and overdose deaths throughout Canada in the early 2000s. OxyContin was removed from most drug plans, but replacements (such as hydromorphone, fentanyl, and heroin) rose in popularity as a result. In recent years, people obtaining prescription opiates and heroin to get high are sometimes unknowingly consuming fentanyl, sold as fake OxyContin pills or laced with other substances. Because fentanyl is so powerful (eighty times more potent than morphine, and hundreds of times more powerful than heroin) the risk of accidental overdose is high and the consequences can be deadly.

**Since 2016, 9000 Canadians have died as a result of an opioid overdose.**

Students  
engage with  
interactive  
stations to  
learn about  
opioids.



Health Canada's  
'Know More Awareness Tour'  
visited Thornlea free of charge.  
To learn more about opioids  
go to:  
<http://www.Canada.ca/Opioids>





A photograph showing two men at a trade show booth. The man on the right, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, is pointing towards a white first aid kit mounted on a stand. The man on the left, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and a backpack, is holding a clipboard and looking at the kit. The first aid kit is open, revealing various medical supplies like band-aids, ointments, and a first aid manual. The booth has a purple and white color scheme.

**A Health Canada representative helps a student identify the opioid-containing prescription drugs which should be under lock and key, not easily accessible**



Three Thornlea Wellness Initiative Council (TWIC) representatives who helped support the 'Know More Awareness Tour' pose with one of the Health Canada representatives who visited Thornlea on February 15th.

TWIC members from left to right are:



## Thornlea Alumni Return to Speak with Graduating Class

On Tuesday, February 19, fourteen former Thornlea students paid a visit to their high school to discuss their experiences in college and university with current Grade 12 students.

It was encouraging to hear the alumni thank specific Thornlea teachers and programs for preparing them so well for post-secondary school academics. They also offered a lot of advice to our Grade 12s, notably to learn to manage their time and money, to use the support services offered by their college or university (although it will be each student's responsibility to find this help), and not to be shy with their professors. Although they warned of some of the challenges posed by university life, such as stress and the commute, the alumni reassured any nervous students that success is possible for those who work hard.





## Thornlea Alumni Return to Speak with Graduating Class

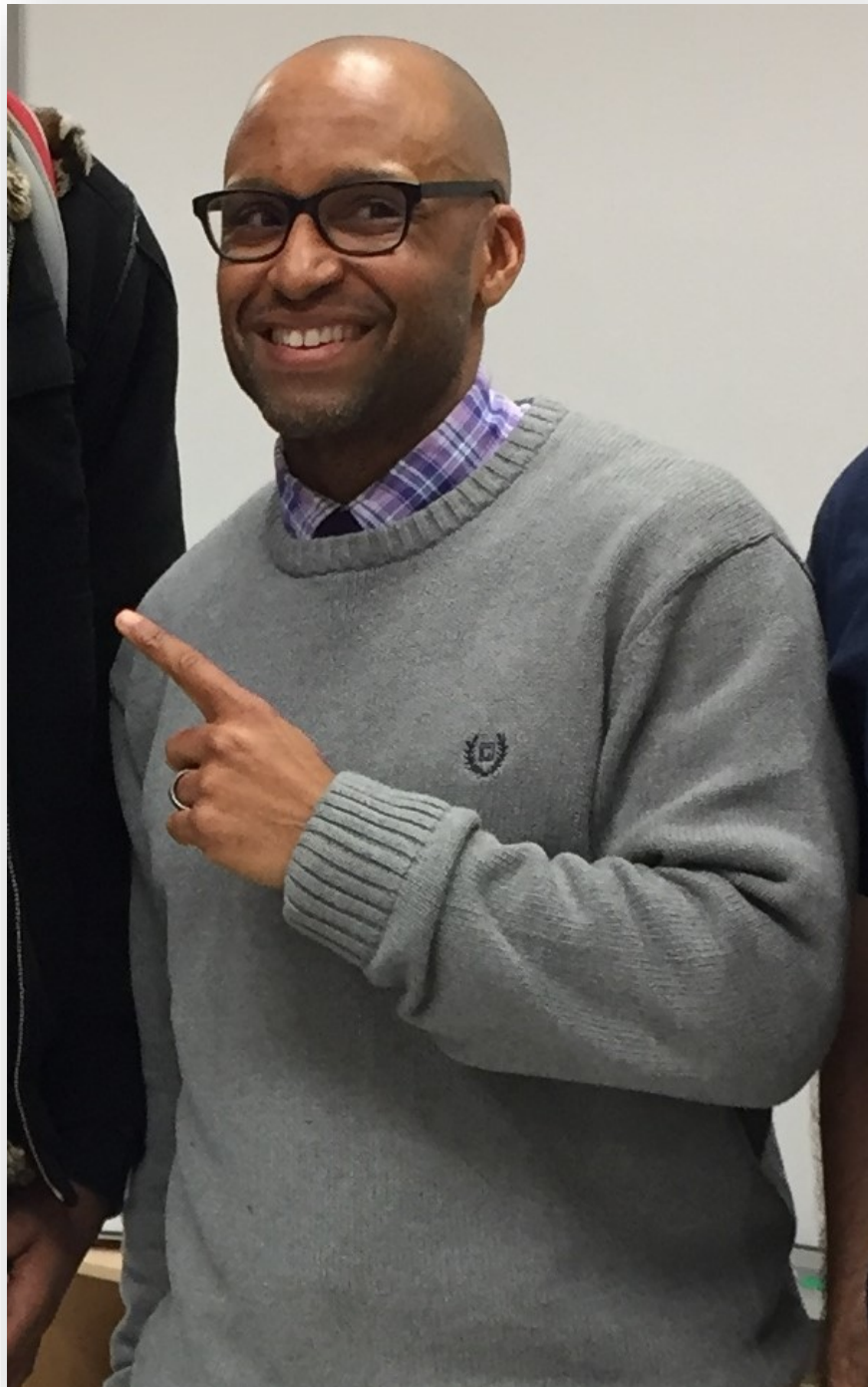
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## ***Toronto Star Sports Journalist Visits Thornlea***

On Thursday, February 21, **Morgan Campbell** visited Thornlea as part of our **Library Speaker Series** to talk to students about the intersection between journalism, sports, race, gender, and more! Our students were inspired by Mr. Campbell's intelligence and insight. He gave students the opportunity to ask him questions, and gave very honest answers about the state of journalism today and about his ideals, values, and work ethic. If you want to go into journalism, it had better be because you have a passion to tell stories, and you need





## Spoken Word Poet Patrick de Belen Inspires our Students

On Thursday, February 21, at the invitation of our Interim Drama Head, Joanna Lambert, the talented spoken word poet Patrick de Belen entertained and informed over 120 Thornlea students, inspiring them to 'free write' their own poetry and then perform it in an 'open mic' format. He spent period 2 in the Library with over 60 students, and spent periods 3 and 4 working with individual classes.

Students were charmed by Patrick's stories and poems about high school and 'the real world,' and by his honest and humorous speaking style. Participating teachers observed a sea of happy and engaged students. Even students who used to think 'poetry is a drag' had their views reformed in the course of Patrick's performance and workshop.



# TALKING WITH YOUR TEEN ABOUT VAPING

## A TIP SHEET FOR PARENTS



### BEFORE THE TALK: GET THE FACTS

#### Vaping is not harmless

- > Vaping can increase your exposure to harmful chemicals.
- > Vaping can lead to nicotine addiction.
- > The long-term consequences of vaping are unknown.
- > It's rare, but defective batteries in vaping products have caused fires and explosions.

#### Risks of nicotine

Nicotine is a highly addictive chemical. Youth are especially susceptible to its negative effects, as it is known to alter their brain development and can affect memory and concentration. It can also lead to addiction and physical dependence. Not all vaping products contain nicotine, but for those that do, the level of nicotine can vary widely. Some mixtures have very low levels, while others can contain more nicotine than in a typical cigarette. Even if a vaping product does not contain nicotine, there is still a risk of being exposed to other harmful chemicals.

Vaping nicotine can alter teen brain development.

#### Vaping versus smoking

For smokers, vaping is less harmful than smoking. However, it is not safe for youth to use any nicotine products, including cigarettes and vaping products. If you suspect your child is addicted to nicotine, talk to your healthcare provider.

### Vaping liquids

The ingredients typically found in vaping liquids include glycerol, flavours, propylene glycol and varying levels of nicotine. The long-term safety of inhaling these substances in vaping products is unknown and continues to be assessed.

There is no burning during vaping, instead, the liquid is heated. This process can cause reactions and create new chemicals, such as formaldehyde. Some contaminants, such as metals, might also get into the vaping products and then into the vapour.

#### Quick facts

- > Vaping is intended to help smokers quit tobacco. Vaping is not for youth and non-smokers.
- > Vaping is not harmless, yet Canadian teens are trying vaping products. Data from a recent Health Canada survey showed that 23% of students in grades 7–12 have tried an electronic cigarette.
- > There are characteristics that can make vaping products more difficult for you to recognize or detect: devices come in a variety of shapes and sizes, some resembling a USB flash drive; liquids can have high levels of nicotine and come in a variety of flavours; and vaping may not leave a lingering identifiable smell.
- > Vaping products have many names, such as: e-cigarettes, vape pens, vapes, mods, tanks, and e-hookahs. They may also be known by various brand names.





**My Robotics team** and I had a wonderful day today in the YRSC 2019 at Seneca College. Actually, the Robotics team did quite well and scored pretty decent, compared to the limited time and resource that we had. Hopefully, next year we will be more prepared before the competition.

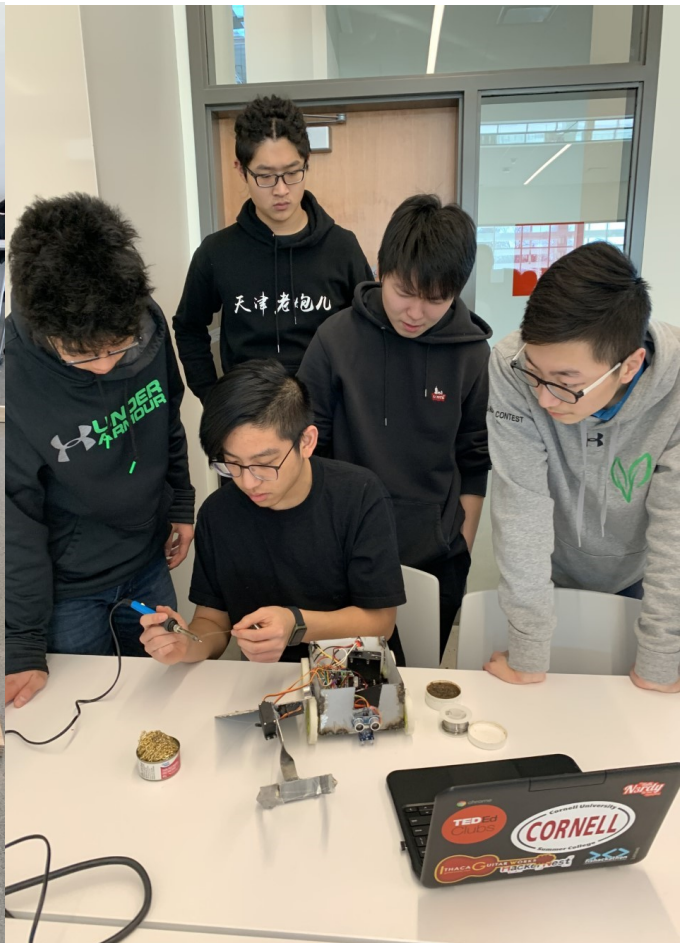
Just sharing some of our moments! The students worked really hard this past few days and learned a lot from this experience.

Regards,

Mrs. Zereen









# Fine Arts Trip to Royal Ontario Museum

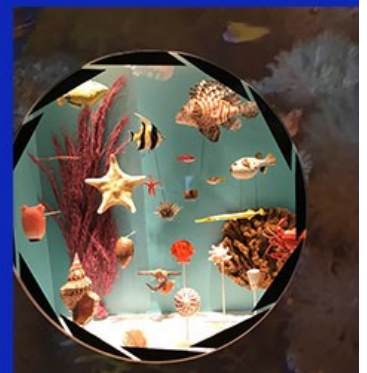
*Our students visited the ROM's fascinating galleries.  
We had a great day filled  
with unique learning experiences.*



Ms. Shariff, Ms. Casullo,  
Mr. Ackerman, Mme De Luca,  
Ms. Correale, Mr. Scott, Mme Bern



*WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY -  
A GREAT EXHIBITION WORTH VISITING*



# Calendar of Events

March 4	Anti-Bullying Presentation Grade 9—Period 1   Grade 10—Period 2
March 11-15	Spring Break
March 18	EDSBY site opens
March 19	<b>Interim Reports Home-NEW DATE</b>
March 22	OSSLT Assemblies
March 25	Thunder Rally
March 27	OSSLT-Modified Day Schedule
March 28	<b>Parents' Night—NEW DATE</b> <b>6:30-8:30pm</b>
April 1-5	Student One Act Play
April 5-14	Greece/Italy trip
April 18	MADD Assembly
April 19	Good Friday
April 22	Easter Monday
April 23	School Council Mtg 7:15pm
April 25	Mid-term reports home
May 2	PROM
May 3	PA Day
May 7-14	AP Exams
May 13-17	Outdoor Ed Trip
May 15	Music Concert
May 20	Victoria Day
May 21	School Council Meeting 7:15pm
May 24	RELAY for Life
June 5-7	EQAO Math
June 6	Athletic Banquet
June 11-14	Senior Drama Show
June 19-25	EXAMS
June 26	EXAM Review Day