



Thornlea SS

Principal: Joe Foti

March 10, 2017

Vice-Principal: Kim Tavares

Vice-Principal: Barb Caravella



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL	3
AWARDS CEREMONY INFORMATION	4
MARCH 30 - MODIFIED SCHOOL DAY	5-6
PARENTS' NIGHT INFORMATION	7
GRADUATION STUDENT INFORMATION	8
MARCH TRUSTEE GREETINGS	9
MARDI GRAS - CORE FRENCH CLASS	10
NOWRUZ CELEBRATION AT THORNLEA	11
SYRIAN REFUGEE VISITS LIBRARY	12
THORNLEA ALUMNI SPEAK TO STUDENTS	13
PROM - MAY 18	14
COSMETOLOGY UPDATE	15-16
HOMESTAY	17
GUIDANCE NEWS	18-19
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	20

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Community Members,

Spring is on its way! One of the signs of spring is the annual literacy test which is a graduation requirement for our students. The test will take place on March 30th beginning at 8:50 a.m. On that day **only** students writing the test will attend school in the morning; all other students will start class at 12:30 p.m. The one exception is for those students in our Special Education Community classes who will arrive to school at their regular time.

To help support students prepare for the test, there are a number of activities taking place. We have whole school activities and after school literacy classes set up to support our students. For further information on the test and supports for the test please contact our literacy teacher Ms. Rai.

We would also like to acknowledge the great job that our students did last semester. We had over 471 out of 850 students receive an average of over 80% and appear on the honour roll. We also had 158 students with an average of 90% or better who appeared on the Principal's List. Congratulations to our students and staff for their dedication and hard work. On Wednesday March 22, 2017 we will hold our Subject Awards Assembly for students in grades nine to eleven to celebrate their achievements; grade twelve subject awards will take place in June during our graduation ceremony. We hope to see you there!

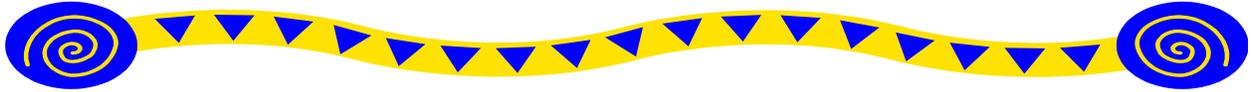
Interim reports went home on March 9th, along with important information regarding Parents' Night and Instructions on how to book interview times online. We encourage you to book appointments with your child's teachers so that you keep informed of their progress, strengths and needs.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our Sr. Boys Basketball team on their tremendous season! The team made it to the OFSAA finals and placed second. It was a thrilling final played before a packed house in Sault Ste Marie. Congratulations to the boys and to their coaches, Mr. Alkins, Mr. James, Mr. Saleh, Mr. Barham and Mr. Moghaizel.

We wish you a safe and wonderful March Break and look forward to returning to classes on March 20, 2017.

Warmest regards,

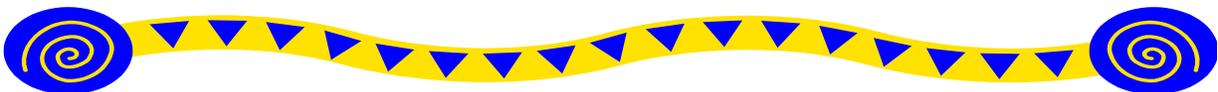
Joe Foti



THORNLEA'S ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

On Wednesday, March 22, 2017
we will be recognizing students who achieved
academic excellence during
Semester 1 for the 16-17 school year.
By Invitation Only.

Parents are invited to attend our ceremony
and witness the presentation of certificates
in the CAFETERIA from 9:00am - 10am





March 1, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Modified School Day
Thursday, March 30, 2017

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has scheduled Thursday, March 30, 2017 as the day for students across the province to complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). To assist in creating the best environment possible for the students writing the test, the Board has agreed to a modified school day structure for the day in which the OSSLT will be written. This practice is very similar to that followed by other GTA school boards.

THORNLEA SECONDARY SCHOOL has a regular start time of 8:50 am. This year, students writing the test will come to school as per their normal start time and complete the test. Students not writing the OSSLT will be asked to commence their school day approximately **three and a half hours later**, at 12:30pm, to coincide with the conclusion of the OSSLT on Thursday, March 30, 2017. Students requiring accommodation will continue to write their test during an extended test taking period. School will finish for all students at the normal time. **Please note, there will be no cafeteria service on this day.**

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

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

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

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

We wish every student success on the OSSLT.

If you have any questions, please contact the school's administrative team.

Sincerely,

Joe Foti
Principal

OSSLT SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 30

Period 1 12:30—1:45

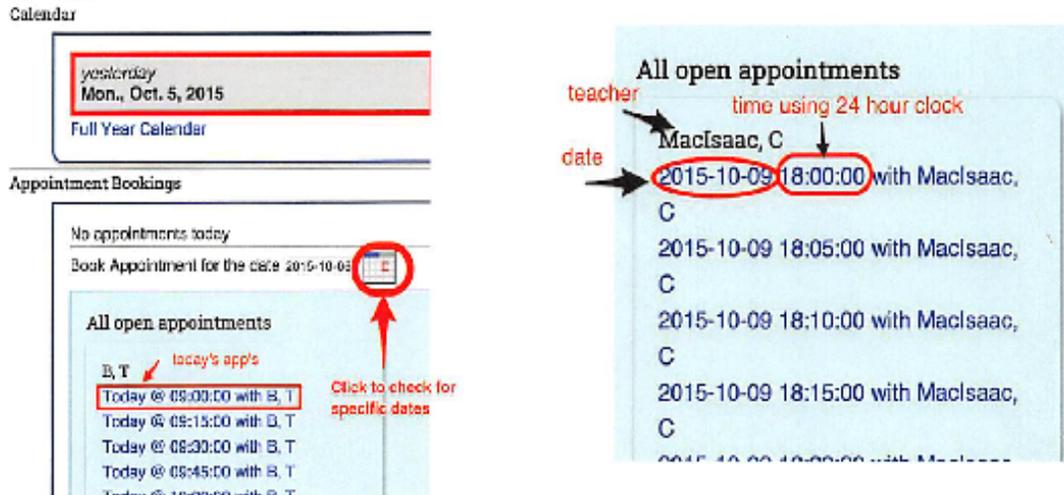
Period 2 1:50—3:05

THORNLEA SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENTS' NIGHT INSTRUCTIONS TO BOOK
TEACHER APPOINTMENTS VIA TEACHASSIST APPOINTMENT MANAGER
PARENTS' NIGHT ON THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH FROM 6:30-8:30PM

The online tool teachassist has the ability for parents/guardians to book appointments for Parents' Night. You will be able to book your appointments via Teachassist.

To book an Appointment with your classroom teacher who has set up appointment slots with TeachAssist:

1. Students or parents go to ta.yrdsb.ca . Use student's username (student number) and password to log in to Teachassist.
2. Once logged in scroll to the bottom of the page and if a teacher has created Appointment slots they will be visible on the page.
3. Click on the calendar to select the appropriate date for Parents' Night, For this Semester it is on **Thursday, April 6, 2017.**



4. Click on the time you would like to select. Please note that teachassist uses a 24 hour clock, and appointment times are 10 minutes in length.
5. A confirmation of your appointment time and date will appear on your screen. You can change or cancel your appointment at any time, depending on the teacher's availability.
6. It is recommended to allow travel time between appointments in order to reach the next classroom.

[Back](#)

Appointment Bookings on 2015-10-09





Attention Students Graduating this year:

Please make sure to complete the Graduation Gown/ Ceremony form and make sure to pay the \$40.00 fee. You may pay online via Cash On Line or Cash or Cheque (Payable to: Thornlea Secondary School).

Check with Ms. Burdett in the Guidance Office if you aren't sure if you have already paid or completed the gown order form.



March 2017 Trustee Greetings

With spring approaching and the hours of daylight increasing, now is a good time to enjoy the outdoors and our natural environment. Did you know that our Board has five [outdoor education centres](#), and students have opportunities to visit them and other outdoor learning spaces throughout their schooling? This is part of our commitment to giving students an opportunity to learn in and about the natural world. This learning supports students in gaining a deeper appreciation for nature and the importance of environmental sustainability.

“Modelling continuous environmental sustainability” is one of the goals outlined in our [Board of Trustees’ Multi-Year Plan](#). We believe that we all have a role to play in reducing waste and protecting our environment. Our students, staff members and families continue to show leadership when it comes to supporting student learning and initiatives to reduce our ecological footprint.

Spending time outside as a family also provides a great opportunity to support and enhance your child’s learning outside of school. Whether visiting a park or museum, reading with your child in your home language or asking questions about their day at school - know that there are many ways you can support their education and that you are making a difference.

I hope you all have a happy and safe March Break and enjoy the warmer weather ahead.

MARDI GRAS!



This year Mme Pilaram's grade 11/12 Core French class celebrated *Mardi Gras* (Fat or Shrove Tuesday) in many traditional ways. We had fun listening to Carnival music, making masks and breaking some *rules*, the custom during this time. The only thing missing was the customary feast of fatty treats such as *beignets* (donuts) or pancakes.



Nowruz Celebration at Thornlea



Calling all parents and community members who would like to volunteer and attend Thornlea's first Nowruz celebration being held on Wednesday March 22nd during lunch (11:30-12:25pm)

Nowruz is celebrated by a range of ethno-linguistic groups around the world and for many marks the beginning of the New Year. This day is usually celebrated on March 21st or the day before/after depending on where it is observed.

These are just some of the items you would see displayed on an Iranian Nowruz table or *Haft-sin*: goldfish (life, the sign of Pisces), hyacinth (the beginning of Spring), garlic (medicine/health), apples (beauty), sprouts *sabzeh* (rebirth), coins (prosperity), wheat germ pudding *samanu* (affluence/sweetness), sumac (the colour of sunrise), vinegar (age and patience) and others.



Please RSVP to Ms Pilaram by March 15th (neda.pilaram@yrdsb.ca) if you would be interested in contributing in any way. This will be a potluck with music and entertainment and is open to Thornlea students, staff and families.

Syrian Refugee Visits Thornlea SS Library

by: Rahim Moorani, Library Communications Co-op Student



Ousama, a Syrian refugee, speaks to Thornlea students about his experiences in the war-torn country of Syria.

Thornlea Amnesty International Book Club, founded in 2016, is a club that reads books and then plans events related to the books' central themes. Their most recent novel, Chris Cleave's *Little Bee*, focuses on a Nigerian refugee's experiences as she flees her country and the struggles she faces after landing in Britain. Inspired by this novel and by the conflict in Syria, the Book Club decided to invite a Syrian refugee to Thornlea to speak about his experiences.

On February 28th, students from three classes each paid \$2 to the Book Club to come to the library to hear a Syrian refugee speak about his life. Ousama, the speaker (who has asked for his personal details to be changed in order to protect his family in Syria), arrived in Canada eight months ago when a Toronto-based church sponsored his journey. The money raised by the Amnesty International Book Club will be donated to a joint project by Har Zion, a local synagogue, and the Imam Mahdi Islamic Centre, a local mosque, to provide aid to another family of eight Syrian refugees.

Ousama opened his presentation by teaching some startling facts to the audience. One such fact: 6.2 million people have been forced out of their homes into refugee camps within Syria, while 4.8 million Syrians have been pushed out of their country altogether. Ousama said that, to escape this conflict, many Syrians attempt dangerous trips to neighbouring countries, but many don't survive. He is one of those people who has moved through many countries to stay safe,

having lived in Syria, Jordan, and Turkey, among others. He also explained that the war in Syria is the worst humanitarian crisis since WWII and that it's not likely to end soon because the conflict is very complex, involving many countries with many dissonant interests.

The speaker spent a lot of time telling the audience personal stories to give them a better idea of what life is really like in the Syrian war. In Syria, he has a mother and two sisters, but, for his safety, they forced him to leave them behind after the Syrian government identified him as someone who had smuggled medicine into besieged areas. (Fortunately, his family in Syria is now safe.) Ousama became very emotional when telling some of his stories. One story that nearly brought him to tears was that of a young boy in a refugee camp he volunteered at who happily dug his nails into the mud to write because the camp lacked the pencils and paper he needed to practice his math. When Syria becomes more peaceful, Ousama wishes to go back to help rebuild the country and heal all those who have been affected.

Ousama closed his presentation with advice to students on how they can help the situation in Syria. They can befriend refugees who have come to Canada to make them feel welcome, donate to a humanitarian organization, and use social media to attract the attention of politicians who can push for a ceasefire. Students can also volunteer to help refugees in many ways: they can teach new Canadians English, they can help them adjust to their community, and they can work with the humanitarian organizations in Toronto. Ousama warned students not to jump to conclusions about the Syrian conflict based on what the media says; much of it does not provide in-depth coverage of the issue and often paints the countries involved in a good light even if they are harming civilians. Finally, he encouraged the audience to work hard with other young people to clear corruption out of politics and work even harder to keep politicians honest. We wish Ousama and his family the best going forward and thank him for his time.

Thornlea Alumni Return to Speak with Graduating Class

by: Rahim Moorani, Library Communications Co-op Student



Speakers, left to right: Ben Shendelman, Duaa Zahra, Iva Pivalica, Jonathan Gould, Kiana Courtney, Courtney Tidd, Davena Montague, Sumayya Datoo, Kaiyu Gao, Andrew Seto, Brandon Kan, Rachael Bull, Alexander Dover.

On February 22, thirteen former Thornlea students paid a visit to their high school to discuss their experiences in college and university with current grade 12 students.

The alumni, like good friends, made sure to keep the mood light, making jokes frequently and speaking highly of both Thornlea and their present schools. They offered a lot of advice to our Grade 12s, notably to learn to manage their time & money, to use the help offered by their college or university (although it will be their responsibility to find it), and not to be shy with their professors. Learning how to make & keep good friends while staying in touch with old ones was another topic that was discussed. Although they warned of some of the challenges posed by university, such as stress and the commute, the alumni reassured any nervous students that success is possible for those who work hard.

“It was good to hear, especially from people who are in university, what that life is like and what to expect,” said Anthony Landry, a student who was in the audience. In general, the speakers encouraged the grade 12 students to go to college or university, saying that it is a good place to learn and that the freedom and independence are a welcome change. Hopefully, some of the students who were in the audience will come back to Thornlea next year to share their experiences with next year’s graduating class.

Thornlea Prom Presents



May 18th

*Château le Jardin
8440 Hwy 27*

*Tickets on sale March 20th-24th
on the cafe stage*

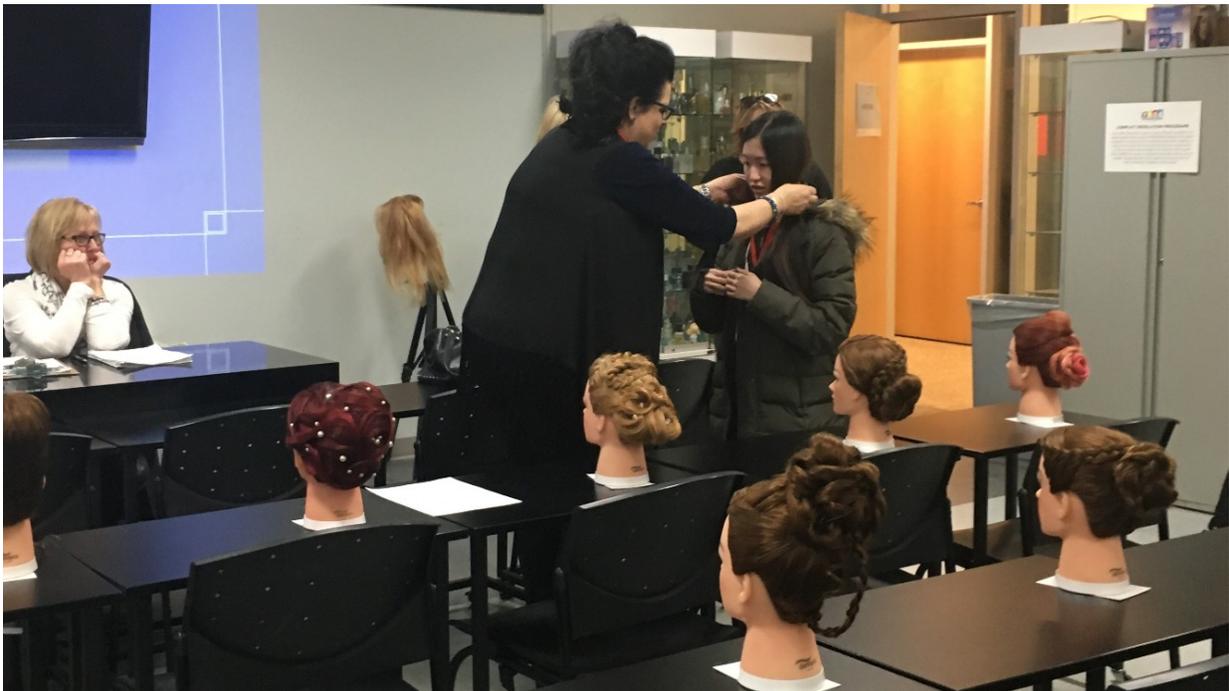
\$90

Cosmetology Update

Thornlea Wins A Gold Medal!

Congratulations to Audrey Kim, a grade 10 Hairstyling and Aesthetics student who participated in the Skills Canada Regional Hairstyling competition on March 2nd at Seneca College. Audrey was among 9 students who competed in the Elegant Evening Style and Ladies Trendy Day Style categories. Her hard work training with Ms. Walker over the past month paid off placing her 1st in both categories!

We wish Audrey continued success as she prepares for the Skills Canada Provincial Hairstyling Competition on May 2nd in Toronto.





JOB
INTERVIEWING

Senebeca
College

HAIRSTYLING

GRAPHIC DESIGN
STUDIO
PRODUCTION



SKILLS CANADA
Ontario

York Region
District Champion

HOMESTAY

Did you know that York Region District School Board offers a **homestay** program for international students attending its schools? Many families in your area host students, and this exciting opportunity is available to you if you qualify. If you want to find out more, visit the website: www.yrdsb.ca/homestay

Hello all from the Guidance Department! Our team has been busy with providing our students with their course request for next year. Please make sure your child has submitted a signed course selection form to the Guidance Department.

A Course Selection Verification Sheet will be distributed after the March Break, at that time students can request a change on this sheet.

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

College and University Spring Open Houses are a popular way for prospective students to visit various Post-Secondary Institutions and evaluate them prior to applying and/or choosing. It is never too early to begin the search. The Guidance Department encourages all students, especially in grades 11 and 12 to attend the open house program of any potential future University/College. Please visit the University/College website to confirm Open House schedules during March Break. Spaces can be limited.

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

Special Announcement:

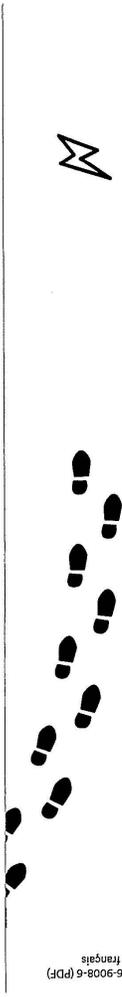
Course Verification

All returning students will be receiving a **Student Course Selection Verification** from their HOME-ROOM Teacher (or the Guidance Office if they have a spare period 1) on **Tuesday March 21st**. This will list the courses each student chose for the 2017-2018 school year. We ask that every student and Parent/Guardian **carefully examine** this report to verify the following:

That every course selected is correct.

Students **only** need to submit this form **to the Guidance office** (with required signatures) if a **correction or change is necessary**. The directions for corrections and changes can be found on the verification form. The **deadline** for submitting an altered **Student Course Selection Verification** to the **Guidance office** is **Wed. March 29th, by 3:00PM**. If **no changes** are needed, just keep the form for your own records.

Printed on recycled paper • ISBN 978-1-4606-9007-9 (Print) • ISBN 978-1-4606-9008-6 (PDF)
 © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2017 • Cette publication est disponible en français



THE NEW OSAP

If your parents' income is under \$50,000 a year, your tuition is covered. Even if they earn more, the new OSAP is still there to help you.

See how much you can get.
ontario.ca/osap



ontario.ca/osap



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 13-17	MARCH BREAK
March 22	Awards Ceremony (By Invite)
March 30	OSSLT
April 6	Parents' Night 6:30-8:30 (See online appointment instructions in this bulletin)
April 14	Good Friday (No School)
April 17	Easter Monday (No School)
April 18-21	Student ONE ACT Play Festival
April 24	School Council Mtg 7:15pm Library
April 26	Mid-term reports Home
April 27	Wellness Day for Health
May 5	PA Day (No school for students)
May 8-12	Outdoor Ed Trip
May 10	Spring Concert
May 15	School Council Meeting 7:15pm
May 18	Prom
May 22	Victoria Day
May 25	Thornstock 2017