

Thornlea SS

May 31, 2019

Principal: Joe Foti Vice-Principal: Anthony Hu Vice-Principal: Sofia Papadatos





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Message from the Vice-Principal

Dear Families and Community Members,

It's been a busy few weeks as the month of May draws to an end and as we anticipate the last month of the school year.

On April 30th, two of our students, Santhosh Bhuvanaratnam and Abishek Bhuvanaratnam were recognized at the Tamil Students' Achievements at Uukkamathu Kaividale – Tamil Award Ceremony.

On May 2nd, grade 12 students celebrated Prom at the Venetian Banquet Hall in Concord. It was a cold, but wonderful evening as everyone in attendance had a fun and entertaining time. The night was filled with a delicious dinner, great music, and a lot dancing. The next event for grade 12 students will be on June 27th for their graduation ceremony which will be taking place at Hazelton Manor.

On May 10, 2019 the Grade 12 Native Studies class hosted guest speakers, Debra Richardson (Deputy Minister of Indigenous Affairs of Ontario) and Bob Goulais (Cultural competency consultant), who are respectively, representatives of the Miq Maq and Anishinaabe communities. They came to share their knowledge and culture with students and staff. The audience was thoroughly engaged by participating in a smudging ceremony, seeing and holding artifacts, encouraged to ask questions about the Indian Act, residential schools, and the Truth and Reconciliation efforts to rebuild the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada.

On May 15 was the Wellness Walk which took place in support of and to promote mental health and well-being in the school. Staff and students had a wonderful walk outside and enjoyed a cool treat to celebrate the completion of the walk.

In the evening of May 15 was Thornlea Music Night. Under the leadership of Mr. Chan was an evening filled with traditional folk, sentimental folk, sentimental pop, post-punk pseudo-grunge, and neo-classical music.

The Outdoor Education class went on the annual Algonquin Park Canoe Trip from May 21-24. A long-standing tradition at Thornlea, the trip acts as the culminating activity for students enrolled in the course. For 4 days and 3 nights the class paddled and portaged throughout the south of Algonquin, camping in the backcountry and sleeping under the stars. Highlights of the canoe trip included campfires, singing songs, telling stories, conquering long portages and paddling lakes and tiny streams...and of course experiencing the pristine Canadian wilderness.

On May 24, Thornlea Student Activities Council (TSAC) under the supervision of Ms. Awad coordinated and held the Relay for Life event, a fundraising event to support the Canadian Cancer Society. It was a fun-filled event for a great cause which raised over \$40,000 for cancer research.

On May 21 at the School Council Meeting, Psychologist Dr. Silvia Bernardini presented about Mental Health including having balance in life and coping with anxiety and depression. Her presentation was followed by a panel discussion which included our staff from our school and from the School Board.

During lunch on May 23, student group from Live Well, Take Action in collaboration with the Thornlea Amnesty Book Club conducted a student panel about mental health and Asian Heritage.

The Girls Rugby Team ended their regular season with 3 wins and 1 loss, and is now headed into the YRAA Tier 2 semi-finals next Thursday, June 6th at Huron Heights Secondary School. GO THUNDER! The Varsity girls soccer team ended their season great with a 4-2 win against St. Robs. The ladies played an amazing season throughout. GO THUNDER! Spring athletics are winding down, and both athletes and coaches are looking forward to celebrating an excellent year in Athletics at the Athletic Banquet on Wednesday June 12th at the Shangri-la Convention Center in Markham.

As we enter June and the last month of school, we hope and encourage all students to enjoy the time and finish the school year well. It's going to be a busy month ahead as we look forward to many events including: Luminary Awards on June 4th, Grade 9 EQAO Math assessments on June 7th and 10th, and the Senior Drama Show on June 13th and 14th.

Sincerely

Anthony Hu Vice-Principal

Message From Our Trustee

As we near the end of the school year, this is a good time to celebrate your child's learning and achievements throughout the year. Supporting the growth of our students is a partnership with families and communities, and I want to thank you for all that you do to help strengthen our schools and support your child's education.

Over these past months, I've had the chance to meet many of you at our events, join you at school councils and listen to your ideas and input. I look forward to continuing to build relationships with families over the summer months and in the 2019-2020 school year. As we go into the summer, I invite you to explore the many <u>summer learning programs</u> we offer for our students. I hope that whatever you have planned, you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

I would also like to offer a special congratulations to the graduating class of 2019. We wish you all the very best as you embark on this exciting new chapter in your lives. We look forward to welcoming back all of our new and returning families in the fall.

David Sherman

Trustee, Markham Ward 1 - Vaughan Ward 5

Memo

- To: Students and Families
- From: Joe Foti, Anthony Hu, Sotie Papadatos
- Date: May 23, 2019
- Re: Semester Examination Schedule for June 2019

Thomlea students will write their semester examinations at the end of June. Our exam schedule is on the back of this page. All exams are written at 10:00 a.m. from Thursday June 20th to Tuesday June 25th 2019. Please review the examination rules below, and determine the days on which your examinations are scheduled.

York Region District School Board Exemination Rules

Examination Schedule:

All students must write their examinations at the scheduled time. <u>Vacation, employment</u> and/or appointments must not be scheduled during the examination period. <u>Students</u> must be available throughout the exam schedule in the unforeseen event that any exams need to be rescheduled.

It is the responsibility of each student to confirm the scheduled examination time, date, and location.

If a student has a valid medical certificate detailing why he/she was unable to write the final examination on the assigned day, the school's administration will address the situation on a case by case basis.

<u>Should any exam day be cancelled, all evaluations of that day will be re-scheduled during the exam period. In such an event, check the website to learn when postponed exams will be written.</u>

On the day of the examination:

- 1. Bring any remaining course textbooks to your examination to return to your teacher.
- Arrive at the assigned examination room by 9:50 a.m.
- Textbooks to be returned to the teacher should be placed on the floor baside your dask and specific devices that a teacher has instructed you to bring beyond the pen, pendil and eraser normally required.

During the examination:

- You must not talk or communicate with any student in the evaluation room once the evaluation has begun.
- You must remain in the evaluation room for one full hour and you may not leave during the last fifteen minutes of the evaluation time.
- 3. No Items may be borrowed/shared during an exam.
- 4. Any student cheating on an evaluation or trying to pass information to another student will have their test paper immediately confiscated by the teacher and will be referred to administration who will determine the grade received on a case by case basis.

After the examination:

- Vacate the building as soon as your examination is completed. There is no cafeteria service during this time and teachers are occupied marking.
- Exam Review Day is on June 26th from 8:55-11:30 am. Please see below for the schedule.

End of Semester Calendar for June 2019

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Period 2	9:35 - 10:10 arc
Period 3	10:15 - 10:50 am
Period 4	10:55 – 11:30 am
Teacher Meetings	All Afternoon

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ne 25, 2019 (Tuesday)	Shart Time 10:00 am
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<u>Attention:</u> All Graduates attending the Graduation Ceremony

June 27th, 2019 Ceremony 7:00 p.m.



Graduates to arrive at 6:00 pm In FULL GOWN and CAP

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Light Refreshments to follow after the ceremony Information ASSEMBLY for all GRADUATES ATTENDING Is on JUNE 12 @10:45 a.m. IN THE CAF

MANDATORY Ocker Cleanout June 13 Beginning of Period



LOCKS MUST BE LOCKED AND REMAIN ON LOCKERS STUDENTS WILL USE THE SAME LOCK & LOCKER NEXT YEAR

We will have garbage cans around the school for any waste.

ALL TEXTBOOKS and personal belongings are to be removed from lockers and students must RETURN TEXTBOOKS to subject teachers.

Anything left in lockers will be donated.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Grade 10 students on their field trip to Queens Park:











2019 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM

On behalf of the Thornlea community, we would like to congratulate Jacqueline Ross, Head of Science, for her outstanding achievements in teaching. Ms. Ross is the recipient of the prestigious Regional Certificate of Achievement for the 2019 Prime Minister's Award (PMA) for Teaching Excellence in STEM. Winning a Prime Minister's Award is a tremendous honor. The school, students, parents and community are proud of her accomplishments.



Photo by: Rob Ackerman, Teacher/Photographer





RELAY FOR LIFE! MAY 24th 2019

On Friday May 24th, Thornlea hosted its very own Relay For Life event, in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. I am proud to announce that we have raised over \$40,000 for cancer research in hopes for a long awaited cure to this disease that hits too close to home for most.

Our Relay for Life participants set up tents on our field for 12 hours, while relaying on our track throughout the day. The event included a survivor's speech and lap, in honour of those close to us who are battling or have battled cancer. Our very own Ms. Devorah Salsberg shared her recent journey with breast cancer, which touched us all.

Participants enjoyed an inflatable obstacle course, jousting and a colour run. In addition, there were a variety of food trucks for all to enjoy different tastes of the world. A former student Navid donated haircuts to all our participants who cut their hair for cancer. Our very own principal Mr. Joe Foti, shaved his hair off in honour of our event and cause. We were also honoured with performances by our teacher band and student bands!

The Markham Fire Department made an appearance and showed off their life saving equipment by soaking everyone – the ultimate refreshment for the wonderful weather we had. After a day filled with fun activities, games and raffles – Relay For Life concluded with the Luminary Ceremony. We lit up our track with luminaries in honour of our loved ones who have been touched by cancer.

I would like to thank Thornlea's Student Council for being a phenomenal team to work with this year, without these amazing students – events such as this could never happen. Thank you to all students, staff, parents/guardians, community/family members and friends who donated and participated, every donation certainly counts! A special thank you to our top 3 fundraisers Tyler MacFarlane, Madeline Kumar and Katie Krishnasamy. With all your help, we are one step closer to finding a cure for cancer!

Ms. Valerie Awad



















We would like to congratulate Maddy Henry on being one of the two recipients of the 2019 Roseanna Mandarino Award in YRDSB. Maddy was nominated by Dr. Manivannan, the staff advisor for her contributions for the Empowered Student Partnerships Program(ESP)! This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of students across the Region in helping to make a difference in their community. As an award recipient, Maddy joins the ESP planning committee along with Dr. Manivannan to serve as a student representative for ESP for 2019/20120 school year at the board.

Award Benefits:

- Award presentation during the ESP Year End Celebration.
- Full member in standing with the ESP Steering Committee for the next school year serving the role of Student Representative. Approximately four to six meetings are held annually and award winners are expected to attend or FaceTime the meetings.
- As the Student Representative, the winners will be responsible for communicating with ESP Committees in their school board to bring the student voice to the meetings.
- \$500.00 bursary upon proof of acceptance into a post-secondary school program.
- Master of Ceremonies for ESP Kick-off and ESP Year End Celebration for the next school year.
- Winning student will be given the option of returning for a second year as a member of the ESP Steering Committee and will assume the role of "Past Student Representative". This will allow for continuity of leadership and succession.

On Tuesday, May 28th, students of East Asian descent from schools across YRDSB met at Thornhill Secondary School for a celebration of student work. The program, *Live Well, Take Action*, was an 8-week afterschool program that sought to inform students about how they can be advocates in their community. Over the weekly workshops, we covered topics like racism, Asian stereotypes, leading social change, and mental health. The end-of-program Student Celebration allowed students to share their final outreach projects which aimed to spread awareness about East-Asian issues such as LGBTQ+ Asians, comfort women, the model minority myth, and many more. The event was a great success with many attendees, various guest speakers, and large community participation. We thank the teachers and schools for supporting their students in participating in this empowering program. To learn more about *Live Well, Take Action* or see the outreach projects, visit @livewelltakeaction on Instagram or <u>www.livewelltakeaction.com</u>.

By: Destiny Chan



Canadian Ballroom Dance Superstar

Our grade ten student, Nicole Konchin, has been dancing since before the age of three. For the past several years she and her dance partner have been Canadian Champions in Ballroom (waltz, tango, foxtrot, Viennese Waltz, Quickstep) and Latin (chacha, samba, rumba, Paso, Jive).

This June they will be representing Canada for the third time at the Ballroom Worlds Championship in Paris, France.

Nicole will be competing in the Under 21 Category but feels ready and confident that she and her dance partner have improved so much this season and are looking forward to represent Canada.

We wish them the best of luck!





On Wednesday May 29th, Singles and Doubles Varsity Boys and Girls teams, from all over the region, came together at the Markham Pan Am Centre to compete in the **2019 YRAA Table Tennis Championships.**

Upon entering the venue, sounds of whispering teammates strategizing, shoes squeaking against the blue gym floor and the pitter patter of ping pong balls, hit us from all directions.

The tournament began immediately after the early morning coaches meeting and announcements for the participants. Thornlea's Tables tennis team was made up of 2 Boys Singles and 2 Boys doubles. They competed in a double elimination style tournament.

Thornlea had two top ten finishes in the Varsity Boys Doubles Bracket. Amir Ozhan and Barman Chamani finished 2nd, while Parsa Sajadi and Anrei Hirdea took 7th. Erfan Hocouri and Amir Faghihi held their ground in the fiercely competitive Varsity Boys Singles Bracket.

The team is looking forward to next year's YRAA Table Tennis Championships, where they aim to bring home the team pennant.

Mr. Saleh Coach



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May's ELL Parent / Guardian Lunch & Learn

Monthly meetings with the parents / guardians of our English language learners (ELL) facilitate a symbiotic relationship between Thornlea staff and our community. The most recent session focused on informal discussions with Thornlea Staff. Some takeaways from the meeting were:

-parents/guardians are encouraged to check Teach Assist frequently;

-the value of checking rubrics before and after assignments, noticing strengths and areas for improvement, seeking clarification from teachers about feedback, and asking questions.

We value our parent and guardian community and hope our monthly sessions continue to build opportunities to collaborate and learn from one another. Many parents / guardians have become friends and meet for coffee after our sessions, they have created a support network to navigate the school system. Our final meeting for this school year will take place on **Thursday June 13th**, we look forward to seeing you there!

Calendar of Events

June 4	Last day for field trips
June 4	Luminary Awards 6pm in the Gym
June 6	Peer Buddies PROM
June 7 & 10	Gr. 9 EQAO Math
June 11	Last day of assessments
June 12	Athletic Banquet
June 12	Graduation Information Meeting 10:45am CAF
June 13	Locker Cleanout Day Beginning of Period 4
June 13-14	Senior Drama Show
June 19-25	EXAMS
June 26	EXAM Review Day
June 27	Graduation Ceremony
June 27-28	PA Day

For Students Returning Next Year On July 1, online registration is open. Please make sure to pay your fees!