

Principal: Joe Foti October 1, 2021

Vice-Principal: Michelle Dor A-L

Vice-Principal: Leonie Patrick M-Z

# **Happy Thanksgiving**



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### Message from the Principal

Dear Thornlea Families;

The weather is starting to change and we have moved into the month of October as I write this message. There have been several challenges to overcome this school year due to the pandemic. We have found it difficult to hire teachers for our vacant classes. All our classes now have a teacher assigned to them. I want to let you know that as vacancies arise throughout the year this will continue to be an issue.

I am pleased to see that sports, clubs and drama have returned to Thornlea. At the present time we have tennis, boys' soccer and cross country running as part of our fall sports program. We have the volleyball team practicing but they are not playing due to restrictions placed by Public Health. On Tuesday of this week we ran our annual club fair and had a large turnout of students. This year the fair was held outside during our lunch break. We will post a list of all the clubs that are running this school year. When Public Health sets out the guidelines for winter sports we will let our entire school community know what sports will be running during the winter season. At present we are also running Volleyball and Basketball drop in sessions in our gym during the lunch hour.

Our next School Council will take place on Monday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. an invite will be sent out a week before the event. During the meeting we will select our School Council for the year and hear a presentation on applying to University and College. The presentation will be of particular interest for parents/guardians of graduating students. The presentation will be made by our head of guidance Nizam Alkins. The same presentation will take place at school for our graduating students.

This year Parent's Night will be Virtual for all our families. Bookings for Parent Night will take place through Teach Assist from October 18<sup>th</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Parents Night will take place on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to remind parents that the area in front of the school is a Fire Route. This area is monitored by the Town of Markham and they frequently give \$200 tickets to cars stopped there. If possible please park at the back of the school in a parking space or on an adjacent street. As always if you have concerns please feel free to contact me.

Warmest Regards,			

Joe Foti

# Parents' Corner:

Our meetings will be virtual meetings until further notice. A link will be sent the week before the meeting.

High School & Beyond

### Please mark your calendar:

- ➤ September 14, 2021
  - Principal's update
  - Parents' Council Election
- ➤ October 18, 2021
  - "Universities and Colleges" All you need to know
- ➤ November 15, 2021
  - "Ways to Pay". All you need to know about scholarships and bursaries.
- ▶ January 17, 2021
  - TBD
- ➤ February 21, 2021
  - TBD
- ➤ April 18, 2021
  - TBD
- ➤ May 16, 2021
  - TBD

### **Dear Parents/Guardians:**

If your <u>contact information</u> has changed, please don't forget to let us know



Email any changes to:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

Thank you!

# Student Attendance:

## If your child is absent, please inform us by:



Calling 905-889-9696

Press 1 for attendance

OR

Emailing <u>thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca</u>

# **COVID Student Screening Tool**

# Student Screening Tool

If you answered YES to any of the questions on the Self-Assessment Checklist STAY HOME.



Before coming in to school, ensure you complete the form. SCAN THE QR CODE using your Camera on your phone or QR Scanner. A confirmation email will be your ticket in the door.

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http://bit.ly/ThornleaSSCheck



### NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT





### JOIN OUR "PASSION FOR FASHION" CLUB

### **Turn Your Passion Into Purpose!**

Kate Morozova Gr. 12 (Club President)
Check this link to Watch Our Promo Movie

### **5 Reasons Why You Should Join Our Fashion Club!**

- FREE Starter Kit!
- Learn Entrepreneurial skills, get a head start on your Career in Design and Creative Business;
- Qualify for exclusive scholarships and Advanced Placement Portfolios;
- Help to address Socio-Economic challenges in our Community and earn your Community Hours;
- Make new friends who love expressing their creativity too!





If you want to sign up, please email Mme Bern: <u>ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca</u>.

We are looking forward to an ARTful and productive school year!!!

## We are looking forward to an ARTful and productive school year!!! NEWS FROM ARTS DEPARTMENT



# Pre-AP and AP Art Portfolio Workshops for Grade 11-12 students

Dear Students and Parents/ Guardians,

The Advanced Placement Studio Art Portfolios workshops on Drawing and Painting, 2- D Design and 3-D Design are designed for students who are interested in the practical experience of art. We offer Advanced Placement Art Portfolio Workshops to help our Grade 12 students have their AP Art portfolios ready for submission by April, 2022. Our Grade 11 students will also benefit from this learning opportunity and can start working on their Art portfolios this year. Please join our in-school AP Portfolio workshops on Wednesdays at Lunch to work on a variety of projects for Arts portfolios (Portraiture, Anatomy/ Figure Drawing, Architecture, Sculpture, Printmaking, Graphic Design, Animation and more). If your child would like to upgrade his/ her portfolios, please encourage them to join us. If you are interested in attending the meetings or have any questions, please email Mme Bern at: ilana.bern@yrdsb.ca





# **Morning Announcements**

Please visit the site below for a recap of our daily announcements.

Thornlea Daily
Announcements:

https://sites.google.com/site/ thornleabulletins/



# STUDENT VOTE AT THORNLEA SECONDARY SCHOOL Monday September 20, 2021



In recognition of this year's Federal Election, which occurred on September 20, 2021, students at Thornlea Secondary School participated in a school wide Student Vote Election.

**Student Vote** provides youth, under the voting age, with an opportunity to experience the voting process firsthand and build the habits of active and engaged citizenship. Students learn about government and the electoral process, and research the issues, parties and candidates through classroom learning, campaign activities, media consumption and family dialogue.

Thornlea's Student Vote occurred on Election Day – September 20, 2021. As a tribute to the election process, the results of the Student Vote are now being shared following the close of the polls. Due to COVID19, this year's student vote occurred virtually with the ballots being conducted anonymously through a google form.



### AND THE RESULTS ARE IN!



5,478 schools participated in this year's Student Vote, representing all 338 electoral districts.

#### **SCHOOLS CANADA WIDE:**

In the Student Vote results, the Canadian Liberal Party won a minority government with 117 seats. The NDP came in second with 107 seats and will become the official opposition. The Conservatives won 91 seats. The Green Party of Ontario won three seats.



#### THORNLEA:

Here at Thornlea Secondary School, the vote was based on the **Markham – Thornhill Electoral District**. The results were:

The actual votes tallied from Election Night indicated that the winner of the Markham – Thornhill Electoral District was Mary Ng (Liberal Party of Canada).

We encourage all our students here at Thornlea to continue to speak their minds and strive for change in the future. Until next time Thornlea, remember student voice matters!

Go Thunder!
Mrs. Ceausu (Department Head of History)





### Register now for OPSOA's SOQP Modules 1 and 4!

## Post-Pandemic Promotion Save \$200 per module

### Fall 2021 - Module 1: Personal Leadership Perspective

October 14 (3 hours), October 22-23, October 30 (these sessions will be virtual)

Registration deadline: September 15, 2021

Fall 2021 – Module 4: System Leadership Perspective
October 14 (3 hours), October 22-23, October 30 (these sessions will be virtual)
Registration deadline: September 29, 2021

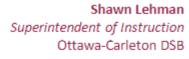
#### OPSOA's SOQP....

- ★ Brings renowned provincial leaders and presenters to candidate discussions
- ★ Provides time in small mentor groups for candidate reflection, sharing and networking
- ★ Engages experienced and provincially recognized supervisory officers as mentors
- ★ Allows for highly interactive, engaging and thought-provoking learning discussions

### OPSOA'S SOQP Mentors - Fall 2021



Jacqueline Spence
Superintendent, Equity, AntiOppression and Early Years
Toronto DSB





Jeff Pratt
Associate Director & Treasurer
(Financial Services, Human
Resources, Capital Planning)
Thames Valley DSB

Camille Logan Associate Director of School Improvement and Equity Peel DSB



Visit OPSOA <u>SOQP webpage</u> for more information and to register!

If you have questions, please contact us at <u>soqp@opsoa.org</u>.

We welcome candidates who have taken modules with other providers.

### 360°kids

80F Centurian Drive, Suite 200 Markham, ON L3R 8C1

T: 905.475.6694

F: 905.475.5733

E: info@360kids.ca

Charitable registration #89703 6620 RR0001

To learn more or to make a donation please visit 360kids.ca









### Housing

At 360°kids we believe that each individual is valuable and unique and deserves a nurturing environment to call home. Targeted towards youth 16-26 years old.

#### Nightstop

is a temporary housing program providing a safety net to youth forced to leave their home. Nightstop places young people in a safe and warm home for the night or up to 3 weeks, provided by a vetted and approved volunteer host family.

Contact the Nightstop team at 905-475-6694 prompt 6.

#### Connections

Connections is the first emergency housing facility in the southern part of York Region for homeless youth. The facility offers 14 single-occupancy rooms for youth, 7 days a week and provides basic needs, wraparound services; and assistance finding appropriate, affordable, and stable housing.

#### **Residential Youth Homes**

Our youth residence is a voluntary program that offers a combination of housing and support for youth who are facing a housing crisis. We have two residential homes with 13 beds located in East Markham. Youth are accepted from anywhere in York Region.

### For all inquiries about our youth housing programs please contact:

360°kids Housing Worker | 647.205.3070 10415 Yonge St., Suite C. Richmond Hill, ON L4C 0Z3

### S.T.A.Y. (Supportive Transitional Apartments for Youth)

This is a voluntary transition to independent living program for youth where clients pay rent and are able to stay for up to one year. 360°kids provides opportunities for youth to participate in recreation, health and fitness, cooking, skills upgrading, and employment programs. A Youth Mentor is available to support with goal setting and accomplishment, problem solving and achieving success.

#### **HOPE Program**

Human trafficking is not just a problem that is present in many remote areas of the world. There has been a heightened awareness of the issues around human trafficking and sexual exploitation in our community. In 2014, 360°kids launched the HOPE program to provide supportive housing to female victims of human trafficking.

#### **Transitions**

Transitions is our extended transitional housing program for youth. The program works on a graduated market rent concept with case management support. Youth are able to live at Transitions for a period of up to 3 years or when their goals for independent living are accomplished and they have determined that they are ready to move on.

For more information contact 647.467.0356





@360kids\_york 360kids.ca

If you or someone you know needs help, we're here.





### Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter

September 2021

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel

#### The ABCs of Mental Health

Welcome back to our outstanding students, staff, families, and community members. We are thrilled to have you back and excited to share the first Mental Health Newsletter of the school year with you. Our September Newsletter will focus on sharing how the YRDSB is centering on Mental Health, emotional connections, and Well-being through the ABCs of Mental Health Framework & Lesson Series.

We recognize that many emotions may be associated with starting a new school year, especially as we continue to respond to the global pandemic that has brought many new experiences, changes, challenges, and learning for us all. In particular, we recognize that joy, excitement, worry, fear, and uncertainty may be common experiences for students, families, staff, and communities.

During this time, supporting a safe return and centering on <a href="Mental-Health">Mental Health</a> and wellbeing is vital. We know students thrive and are better able to succeed when they learn in an environment where they feel safe, heard, validated, and know they matter and belong. This contributes to overall positive mental health and is central to academic learning, one's ability to cope with change, daily stressors, and establish meaningful connections and relationships, among other things. To highlight this and intentionally create spaces where all students are affirmed, validated, and successful, the YRDSB has created the ABCs of Mental Health Framework and ABCs student lessons series.

#### What are the ABCs?

The ABC Framework guides our collective efforts in supporting student and staff mental health and wellbeing. The Framework aids educators and leaders in laying a foundation where all can see themselves reflected and for learning environments in which caring relationships, trust, and healing are centred. We acknowledge that students and staff do not exist in isolation; and are part of families and communities. Thus, we endeavor to continue this work and learn from and learn with our staff, families, and communities.

The Framework includes Acknowledge, Bridge, and Connection:

**Acknowledge** feelings and life experiences over the pandemic (and prior) and how these affect our mental health as individuals and communities.

**Bridge** (or link to) to personal and community assets and strengths as a way to build mental health and wellness.

**Connection** with our community and with those around us who can help support mental health and wellbeing.

As part of these lessons, students engage in varied opportunities to: (learning opportunities and lesson delivery will be appropriate to the grade and developmental abilities of the student):

- Express themselves through connections to classmates, educators, and supports that affirm students' identity, feelings, interests, and abilities.
- Co-create affirming learning spaces with peers and educators that acknowledge experiences from the past and present-day, so all students know they matter and belong.
- Identify and acknowledge the positive experiences, strengths, and skills ALL students bring to the class and school community.
- Identify resources that they can access to support their mental health.
- Learn to notice the signs that they're not feeling well.
- Explore the things (strategies, people, places, activities, habits, family/community traditions) that make us feel healthier
- Taking steps to put those things in place and to ask for support when we need it

### Why is centering on Mental Health in our schools important?

Students are using their voices, and we are listening. Research by School Mental Health Ontario about what secondary students in Ontario said about their priorities regarding mental health indicates that 97% of respondents(students) want to learn more about mental health at school, including early warning signs of a mental health problem, ways to cope with their thoughts and emotions, how and where to ask for help.

Beyond this, we know children and youth thrive when their personal, social, and cultural strengths are affirmed and seen as assets in the classroom. When their identities are reflected and represented in positive ways in the learning. When connections and relationships are transformative. When they feel cared about, accepted, and applauded for who they are and what they can contribute to their environment. These considerations solidify the importance of the ABC Framework and lessons which seek to build capacity around these factors and ensure all students feel a sense of mattering and belonging.

There remains much work to be done and we invite you (families, community members, and staff) to work with us as we co-learn and co-create ways to support students and each other.

# To learn more about the ABC Framework & lesson series please visit <u>YRDSB ABCs.</u> Mental Health COVID-19 Page

The link below is dedicated to supporting student mental health during this pandemic. Resources for students, parents/guardians as well as community resources are listed. In addition, there are various links to YRDSB mental health supports as well as community supports available during the school closure. Please consider taking some time to familiarize yourself with the Mental Health and Community Supports During COVID. Continue to check out the YRDSB website for updated information as well as the Twitter accounts @YRDSB and @YRDSB SS.

No Problem Too Big or Small: This is a resource made by students for students. Throughout the resource, there are positive affirmations and reminders for students that there is help around and no problem is #TooBigOrTooSmall to reach out and ask for help. Download Reaching Out (designed for screen readers) or a print version Reaching Out.





### Parent Engagement Panel Discussion (In Tamil session)

தமிழி ெப ேறாட ஓ கல ைரயாட

- Overview of Student Services Supports
   மாணவ க கான ஆதர
- Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services and Psychological Services பே, ேகடம் உளவய ேசைவக பறியத்கவக வழக்.
- Growth Plans, IPRC, IEP etc.
  IEP IPRC போறவறிைனபயப வதா ஏப வள சி
  - Parent Voice in the Implementation of the IEP IEP
     சைய ப வதி பெறோ ர

Date / திகதி, October 7, 2021 Time / **மாைல** 6:00 - 8:00 pm வைர Registration பதி செய்ய இைண்LIL

If you have any questions please contact:

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Nageswary Srikumaraguru/ Community partnership Developer Inclusive School and Community Services (YRDSB):

nageswary.srikumaraguru@yrdsb.ca

In support of Ontario families this school year, TVO has assembled free K-12 learning resources and tools to complement in-class learning or to be used on their own.

Along with tvompower.com, we recommend bookmarking these websites or sharing them with anyone

who might appreciate the support when it's needed.

- TVO Learn (Grades 1-8) | TVO Learn has expanded to include new adultguided Learning Activities for Grades 1 through 8 math, language, science and technology and social studies. More are coming soon.
- TVO Mathify (Grades 6-11) | TVO Mathify offers free, 1:1 math tutoring with Ontario Certified Teachers. From September 20 until August 2022, Ontario students in Grade 11 will also be able to use the platform.
- TVO ILC (Grades 9-12) | High school students in Ontario can access 144 courses developed by Ontario Certified Teachers. These not-for-credit courses are designed for independent study or study support.
- TVOkids (K-Grade 6) | The TVOkids Power Hour of Learning will air weekdays at 1 pm on TVOkids until September 8, and anytime on TVOkids.com, TVOLearn.com and YouTube. There's also How Do You Feel?, a series that helps young viewers work through their thoughts and emotions.
- TVO current affairs | Parents can also rely on daily COVID-19 updates and insight on the status of Ontario schools via TVO.org and TVO's newsletters.

# **Engagement Matters**

Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PEAC)

Advisory Committee Newsletter



- · School Council Forums
- · PEAC Meetings
- · Chalk the Walk
- Supportive Resources for New Families
- . Fundraising Ideas
- Contacting Us
- · Policy Review

### Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Learning continues, even during a pandemic. Schools play a critical role in supporting students' learning, as well as children's emotional health and overall well-being. Throughout the pandemic, YRDSB staff, teachers, students and their families showed resilience and an incredible ability to overcome many challenges. With this experience, we are hopeful that together we will be able to make the most of this upcoming year and enjoy it to the fullest!

#### Save the date...

School Council Forums - please save the date for your respective area. Events run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More details will be posted on the <u>PEAC website</u> closer to the date, and shared with your school administrators and school council chairs.

North/Georgina Wednesday, November 3, 2021
North/Newmarket Monday, November 8, 2021
East Wednesday, November 10, 2021
West Monday, November 15, 2021
Central Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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### Join our PEAC Meetings

PEAC meetings are public events, and all are welcome to attend. Do you and your school council have a positive practice that you would like to share with our Board and other school councils? <u>Let us know</u>, and you may have an opportunity to speak at one of our upcoming meetings, or be featured in a future edition of Engagement Matters. I

September 23, 2021
November 25, 2021
December 9, 2021
(Joint EIAC and PEAC meeting)

2022 January 20, 2022 March 10, 2022 May 19, 2022



### Supporting New Families with a Family Ambassador Program

Each year, we welcome new families to our schools, and we can all relate to the feeling of when you are new to a school and there is so much unknown and uncertainty ahead. In addition, having English as your second language, or being a newcomer to Canada, can be a stressful time.

To help our new families, consider launching a Family Ambassador Program at your school. This program is aimed to connect families seeking support in the new community to families who are willing to give them that support. To do that, you will need to create a database to connect volunteers with new families and support the process.

#### Steps to creating a Family Ambassador Program

- Security opports to the for Ambassagors and one for the new families seeking supports
- Have a volunteer maintain a database of people and connect them to one another
- Include information about the program in the school information package, and promote it in your school newsletters
- Seek feedback on what is working and what is not, and adjust the program accordingly

#### Examples of the Forms

Use these forms to help guide you when setting up your program.

- Ambassador Form
- New Family Form



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### Fundraising During a Pandemic

Many schools engage in fundraising as a way to help enhance their students' academic experience. Fundraising during a pandemic may require some creative thinking, but it is still a fun and potentially profitable way to engage your school community. Here are some tips, ideas and guidelines to help you with your efforts.

#### Guidelines and tips...

- At this time, lunch programs are not permitted.
- If you are selling packaged goods, find vendors who can deliver the product directly to the consumer's home through the mail or a courier company.
- Remember that Public Health safety guidelines must be followed when planning and hosting a fundraiser or event.
- Guidelines to inform the school's fundraising plan and activities can be found in the YRDSB Policy and Procedure #676, School Fundraising and Administration of School Generated Funds

#### Fundraiser Ideas

Have a virtual Read-a-man Hold a technology fund drive

Setup a Mabel's Labels account for your school and receive a portion of the sales

Greate a distal rearbook added a areathe art

Host a virtual games night (bingo, trivia)

Plan a virtual walk, run and ride

coliticique book side

Join an online fundraising program with a retail outlet, such as Chapters short a scholastic



Promote everyday essentials. such as detergent and socks, and receive a portion of the sales

Host an art night and sell kits from (art kits) or make your own

Help sprout a green thumb with the sale of fresh, local, organic vegetables for the garden with Plantables.ca

Be creative! Reach out to your schools staff and families for new and exciting ideas specific to your community.

You got this! Best of luck with your fundraisers!

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### Communicating with School Councils and PEAC



Your voice matters, especially when it comes to your child's education. Finding ways to be involved, sharing your ideas, and learning more about how to support your child are just some of the ways that you can enhance your engagement with the school. Here are some access points to help you connect with your school council or PEAC. You may also contact your school office for information that is specific to your school council.

Who	What	How
PEAC	Great for board-wide resources, Ministry documents, calendar of events, meeting links, newsletters, inspiring ideas	Email: leadership development engagement@yrdsb.ca Website: YRDSB PEAC Website Phone: 905-727-0022 ext 3650 Twitter: @leadershipyrdsb Instagram Id_yrdsb
School Councils	Great for activities and resources specific to your school, volunteering, staying upto-date with your school community, sharing your ideas.	Email: 'schoolname'@scyrdsb.ca Website: link on school's webpage

### Supporting Policy Review

Policy #238, Parent, Family and Community Engagement, and Policy #262, School Councils, are currently under review, and we are asking for your feedback. Share your ideas and suggestions by following this link, Policy Review and Feedback.

York District School Board 2021-2022 Learning Calendar

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# **School Council Information**

Thank you to all parents/guardians that attended the first School Council meeting on Tuesday September 21<sup>st</sup>. At the meeting the School Council Candidate Nomination Form for positions on this year's School Council was shared. As well, this form was included as part of the 2021-22 School Start-Up Package that was emailed directly from the Board.

School Council Regulation requires at least a14-day notice of the date, time, and location of the School Council elections in advance of the election date. Elections will take place at our next School Council meeting scheduled for Monday October 18th at 7:00 PM. The nomination process along with descriptions of elected positions can found in the <a href="YRDSB">YRDSB</a> School Council Handbook.

Recognizing the nature of the school reopening this fall, and that everyone may not have received the information, we are providing another opportunity to submit nominations. Please include on the nomination form the position that you are seeking or nominating someone else for. Email completed forms to Principal Joe Foti, joe.foti@yrdsb.ca. A copy of the nomination form is attached.



Student (PRINT)	
Teacher (PRINT)	
Grade	

### SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM Please complete Part A or Part B

### Part A: I am declaring my candidacy: I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council: who is currently I am the parent/guardian of \_ (print name of student) registered in Grade\_\_\_ I am an employee of York Region District School Board. Name Address: Home Phone: Business Phone Email: Part B: I am nominating a candidate I wish to nominate for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the school council. is the parent/guardian of \_ (print name of nominee) (print name of student) who is currently registered in Grade\_\_\_ The person I have nominated is an employee of York Region District School Board. Name Address: **Business Phone** Home Phone: Email: Nominator's Date Signature:

Please include a brief (4-5 sentences) biography of the candidate on the next page.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Education Act as amended, and will be used to manage the disclosure of individual personal information. Contact the school principal for more information.

File: ADM-School Councils

Valid for 12 months after date of last use/application

Please include a brief (4-5 sentences) biography of the candidate.

# Upcoming Events

October 11 Thanksgiving Monday

October 18 School Council Meeting

(Virtual)

October 18-21 Parents' Night

**Appointment Bookings** 

through TeachAssist

October 28 Virtual Parents' Night

Interviews 6:00-8:30pm

November 15 School Council Meeting

(Virtual)

November 19 PA Day

December 20-December 31 Christmas Break

January 17 School Council Meeting

(Virtual)

February 4 PA Day