



Thornlea SS

Principal: Joe Foti

Vice-Principal: Anthony Hu

Vice-Principal: Sofia Papadatos

September 28, 2018



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

Dear Families and Community Members,

It's been a wonderful start to the school year. I personally want to extend greetings, well wishes, and a warm welcome to all grade nine students and new students to the Thornlea Secondary School community. As I write this message to you all, it's hard to believe that we are wrapping up the first month of the school year already.

On September 4th, it was our pleasure to welcome all grade 9 students and their parents to high school with the Grade 9 Orientation Day. The morning began with a welcome message from Principal Mr. Foti on behalf of the school's administration, Ms. Genevieve Seabrook who is Chair of our School Council, and Mr. Nigel Cole, our School Resource Officer. Grade 9 students then had the opportunity to learn about high school through interactive morning sessions while their parents had the opportunity to attend a Q & A session hosted by Mr. Foti. The students then experienced a day filled with a scavenger hunt around the school before meeting all their teachers for their semester one classes in the afternoon. Their welcome and transition to high school continued on September 13th at the Grade 9 FIT Day which took place at Green Acres Camp. Students benefited from icebreaker and team-building activities all day while also having the chance to meet other students and build new friendships.

We are also very thankful to all staff and students who are involved in the numerous extra-curricular clubs and activities that are available to everyone in the school. Clubs at Thornlea Secondary School had the opportunity to showcase themselves at the annual Clubs Fair which took place during lunch on September 18th. Although in the past this event took place in the hallways, this year's Club Fair took place in the cafeteria and was a huge success. Students had the opportunity to find out more information about the clubs and to register for activities available at Thornlea.

Athletics and physical activity have been well underway as well. On September 20th to raise awareness and to fundraise for cancer research, all staff and students participated in the annual Terry Fox Run which raised \$662.95. On September 26th, the Girls Basketball and Boys Volleyball teams won their season opener games. The Boys Soccer team lost their season opener game on September 26th, but are looking forward to a great season. The Boys 7's Rugby Team went undefeated in their first tournament and the Girl 7's Rugby team had one win at their first tournament. In addition, Cross Country had their first meet on September 26th.

Our school's Picture Day took place on September 7th and the school's Breakfast Club program which provides all students in the school with breakfast every morning launched for another school year as well. On September 17th we had our first School Council meeting of the school year. As I write this message, we are wrapping up Safety Week which included safety assemblies for each grade which outlined expectations of behaviour for all students in the school.

Looking ahead at the following weeks, look forward to the following important events:

For those who were absent for Picture Day, Photo Retake Day will be taking place on October 9th. Interim Report Cards will also be distributed to students on October 9th which is a progress report for all students in their classes up to this point in the semester. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the progress of their children on an ongoing basis and connect with the classroom teachers if there are any questions or concerns.

Lastly, if you are willing to assist by offering breakfast to students in the morning each day, we will gratefully accept any donations that you can provide. If you would like to donate food such as yogurt, cereal, oatmeal, milk, bagels, or frozen waffles, we invite you to drop them off in the main office and we will ensure that they are used by our Breakfast Club.

As we prepare for a new season and cooler temperatures, we would like to wish our students a successful semester one.

Warmest Regards,

Anthony Hu
Vice-Principal



THE EDUCATION CENTRE - AURORA

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September 2018

Dear Families,

Student voice is important to us. In November 2018, the York Region District School Board will invite all students to participate in the *Every Student Counts Survey (ESCS)*. The purpose of this census survey is to better understand YRDSB's diverse student population as well as students' experiences in school and outside of school. The survey results will be used to help improve our schools and to:

- Identify and eliminate systemic barriers to student success;
- Create more equitable and inclusive school environments; and,
- Improve student achievement and well-being.

CCI Research has been contracted to work with the Board to conduct the survey and to ensure data privacy, security and adherence to all relevant legislation. To ensure that the surveys are age-appropriate, two surveys have been developed. The surveys are voluntary and confidential.

Survey for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6

Families with a child in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to complete the survey online with their child at home. In November, a school letter will be sent home with a link to the online survey along with instructions. Families with more than one child in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be asked to complete one survey per child. The online survey will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Tamil, Urdu, Vietnamese. If, for accessibility reasons, you require the survey on paper, in large print or braille please contact CCI Research at 1-866-450-4907 no later than October 9, 2018.

Survey for students in Grades 7-12

In November, all students in Grades 7-12 will be invited to complete the survey online during class time. The online survey will be available in English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Russian, Tamil and Urdu. For accessibility purposes the survey will also be available in paper, large print and braille. Accommodations for students who need assistance completing the survey will be arranged by school staff in advance. Participation in the survey is voluntary. Students can skip questions that they do not want to answer. If you are a parent/guardian of child(ren) in Grades 7-12 and do not want them to participate in the survey, please contact CCI Research at 1-866-450-4907 no later than October 9, 2018.

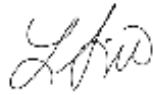
As one of the main purposes of the survey is to identify and eliminate barriers to student achievement there will be a unique code on each survey for YRDSB to link the survey data with student achievement data. To ensure confidentiality, no directly identifying information (such as your child's name) will be on the survey. A summary of the results

(grouped data only) will be available at schools and on the Board's website in Spring 2019.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact your school principal. Additional information about the survey (i.e., FAQs and survey questions), is available at www.yrdsb.ca/escs.

This important initiative will help us work together to create equitable and inclusive school environments. Parents and guardians are our strongest partners in education and we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

If you would like a translated copy of this letter please visit the Board's website at www.yrdsb.ca/escs

Translations are available in the following languages:

Simplified Chinese
Traditional Chinese
Farsi
Gujarati
Hebrew
Korean
Punjabi
Russian
Tamil
Urdu
Vietnamese

Dear Parents/Guardians:

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



Email any changes to:

thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca

Thank you!



LITERACY CORNER

Education Quality and
Accountability Office



Hello Parents and Guardians,

I wanted to update you about the progress in the school's preparation for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

The OSSLT will take place on **March 27, 2019**.

OSSLT Lessons for Grade 10 Students Only:

- ⇒ Currently, Grade 10 students are learning how to use strategies to answer multiple-choice questions for grammar & for narrative and graphic texts.

'Whole School Initiatives' (WSIs):

- ⇒ All Grade 9 & 10 students (including Grade 11 & 12 students without the requirement) will write a WSI. Each WSI will focus on providing students with an opportunity to practice the reading & writing tasks from past OSSLTs.
- ⇒ The first WSI session is:
Period 2 on **October 11** = focus is on Multiple-Choice Questions

After School Literacy Program:

- ⇒ We are planning to offer at least two sections of the After School Literacy Program in 2nd semester for Grade 10 – 12 students who are preparing to write the OSSLT.
- ⇒ The benefit for students to enroll in the Program is that:
 - each session will focus on one or two tasks from the test,
 - students will learn to apply specific strategies and tips for each type of reading and writing task, and
 - they will receive guidance from the teacher through instruction and immediate feedback on the sample tasks.

The dates and times for the After School Literacy Program = To Be Announced

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

Salutations 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. Julie Scott (Student Success) Voicemail 476

Ms. Maria Merecoulias (Student Support for ESL students) 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.

We will be speaking to grade 12’s in early October, with respect to what Guidance Services offer, the Post-Secondary application process, course selections and community service hour requirements. Date and time to be announced.

As for Scholarship information for grade 12 graduating students, please make an appointment to see Ms. Rai in the Guidance office.

Two great websites to find out more information on scholarships are:

<http://www.studentawards.com/>

<http://www.electronicinfo.ca/scholarships>

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 21st 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.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nizam Alkins, Head of Guidance and Career Education

Post-Secondary Information – Important Dates:

Ontario University Fair – September 28, 29, 30 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre

St. Andrews College Canadian Universities' Fair on October 3, starts at 4:30 pm to 9 pm

Study and Go Abroad Fair – Sunday Oct. 14 www.studyandgoabroad.com @ MTCC

Ontario College Info Fair – Tuesday Oct. 23 and Wednesday Oct. 24 at the Enercare Centre

Student Life Expo – Oct. 27, 28 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre

University/College Visits at lunch in room 229:

Please listen to the morning announcements, review the list sent to you earlier, check your career cruising account email.

Many Post-Secondary Institutions (Universities and Colleges) will be coming to Thornlea to speak to our senior students in the first semester. We have scheduled Ryerson, Queen's, York, Waterloo, McMaster, Wilfrid Laurier, U of T, Ryerson, Western, Seneca, Humber and Centennial, just to name a few. The dates and times of these information sessions was in the 1st E-bulletin. There will be more than 35 Universities/Colleges that are scheduled for the Months of September, October and November, please listen to the announcements, and check the bulletin boards outside of the Guidance Office, check your E-mail that is linked to your Career Cruising account, or check with your Guidance Counselor.

DEAR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS AND STAFF MEMBERS,
WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR
DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS CLUB.
YOU ARE ALL INVITED!!!



Our Digital Arts Club Hands-On Workshops will take place
ON THURSDAYS

AFTER SCHOOL (3:30 – 4:30 PM) IN ROOM 223.

Please choose the session/ sessions that you would like to attend and send an email to: ilana.bern@vrdsb.ca. We will contact you in the next few days to confirm Workshops dates and your attendance.

Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Digital Arts Club Hands-On Workshops:

- Surreal Collages in Photoshop
- Learning Illustration in Illustrator
- Animated E-Cards using Flash MX
 - Simple Movie in Flash MX
 - 3-D Animation in Blender 2.68
- Website Design in Dreamweaver (using Flash MX /Photoshop)

Best Regards,

Mme Bern and Digital Media Arts Team

Get FREE HELP with your school work!

Visit Thornlea Peer Tutors



in the Library

Tuesdays at lunch

Wednesdays after school



NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED!

Tuesdays at lunch get help with:	Wednesdays after school get help with:
Gr. 9-11 Math	Gr. 9-11 Math
Gr. 9-11 English	Gr. 9-11 English
Gr. 9-11 French	Gr. 9-11 French
Gr. 9-11 Sciences	Gr. 9-11 Sciences
Computer Science	



Attention, parents and guardians!

Thornlea Breakfast Club
is up and running for 2018-2019!

Breakfast is available every morning
in Room 150 from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.

Fresh Fruit available in main office
and TLC (213) all day!

Everyone is welcome at Breakfast Club!

This Thornlea Wellness Initiative is generously funded by:
Student Nutrition Central Ontario East, Food for Learning,
and President's Choice Children's Charity.

Donations of the following items are welcome:

dry cereal (nut free, unsweetened or slightly sweetened)
nut-free instant oatmeal
disposable bowls, side plates, and cutlery
bagged pre-cut bagels (for freezing)
cream cheese
nut-free granola bars
frozen waffles



Thornlea Wellness Initiative Council would like to thank our staff and student volunteers who make Breakfast Club possible. A special thank you to Malcolm MacNeil, who is returning this year as our parent volunteer and who is the individual most responsible for the success of Thornlea's Breakfast Club. He does all of the inventory, shopping, record-keeping, paper work, and organizing, despite the fact that his daughter graduated from Thornlea over 3 years ago!



***The Terry Fox run this year was a success!
Thornlea students and staff all walked/ran on
Sept. 20, and raised \$662.95 for cancer research.
The class that raised the most money was
Ms. Magic's with \$65.25 raised.***




Great job this year Thornlea!

Please donate to our new Foreign Language Book Collection!

Thornlea Library has started a small foreign language collection to support our ELL Learners.

Studies show that ELL Learners who continue to read in their 'language of origin' become better readers in general, both in their language of origin and in English.

To this end, Thornlea Library is requesting from its parent-community donations of **books in excellent condition that would appeal and are appropriate for teenage readers**, and are in any of the following languages:

-  Mandarin
-  Korean
-  Persian

It means a lot to our ELL learners when they walk into our Library and see a book in their 'home language' on display. It's like a little message that says, "We see you and we like you." Please help us send this positive message to our ELL learners!



Make a Commitment to Walk This October

IWALK month starts October 3, 2018.

International Walk to School Month (IWALK) is an annual mass celebration of active transportation taking place around the world every October.

The benefits of walking include:

- Helps prepare children for learning
- Keeps students physically and mentally fit
 - Builds friendships
- Improves air quality and the environment
 - Creates safer neighbourhoods
-

Join the movement!

We encourage all our students to
Walk or Wheel for the month of October.



Reena is a non-profit organization which promotes **dignity, individuality, independence, personal growth** and **community inclusion** for people with developmental disabilities within a framework of Jewish culture and values. Our volunteers play a vital role in the success of the agency, supporting the individuals that Reena serves.

VOLUNTEER OPTIONS

- Join us for Social & Recreational Activities
- Visit a Reena Home
- Assist Staff in Our Day or Outreach Programs
- Share Your Administrative Skills
- Help Organize Special Events

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

A commitment of 6 months and 50 hours with the exception of specific time-limited program sessions, activities or events

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Reena “Rec Buddy” Volunteers

****Swim Club ~ Tuesday evenings beginning October 16 for 8 weeks at Garnet Williams CC** ****spots are limited**

Fall 2018 volunteer spots are full in the following programs however, winter programs begin the week of January 6, 2019. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering in any of the following winter programs:

Sunday Friends Club ~ Sunday afternoons

Athletic Club ~ Monday evenings

Special Olympics Basketball & Cooking Club ~ Thursday evenings

Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre
927 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, ON L4J 8G6

  @reenafoundation | reena.org

For more information and to apply, email:
volunteering@reena.org

Calendar of Events

October 2	Post Secondary Application Process Assembly Grade 12's Period 4
October 3	Thornlea Hosting ESP
October 8	Thanksgiving Day
October 9	Interim Reports Go Home
October 9	PHOTO Day for New Students and Retake's for anyone who missed our First Photo Day
October 15	Parent Council Mtg @ 7:15pm
October 18	Student Success Ceremony (by invitation only)
October 22	PD Day
October 25	Parents' Night Make sure to book teacher interviews on Edsby
October 29	Spirit Assembly